

**CLIPPINGS FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

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*No stories*

**B. DA FAMILY**

**BUSINESS MIRROR**

**Study endorses exploring cashew potential for improved returns**

**PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER**

**Shellfish Bulletin No. 26 (Series of 2023): November 10, 2023**

**THE PHILIPPINE STAR**

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## Study endorses exploring cashew potential for improved returns

**P**HILIPPINE cashew farmers are burdened with a low return on capital for their work. The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture [Searca] and the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Agricultural Research [DA-BAR] partly attribute this to the underutilization of the components of the cashew fruit," said Science Secretary Renato Solidum Jr. in his message at the conference themed "Advancing Cashew Industry through Green Technology" held last November 3 at a hotel in Makati.

Convened by the Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute, the conference is a culminating activity of the DOST and the Ministry of Science and Technology China project titled "Green Oil and Phytochemicals from Cashew," Searca said.

The project uses green technologies to extract oil from cashews and apply it to various food, pharmaceutical, and cosmetic products.

The DA-BAR-funded Searca research

showed that cashew farming in the Philippines has traditionally focused on the nuts, particularly in Palawan, the leading cashew-producing province, where cashew is the "One Town, One Product."

Through its Emerging for Innovation for Growth Department, Searca is proactively fostering the development of technology-based innovations among local enterprises in the Philippines. This initiative aligns with Searca's 11th Five-Year Plan, which is focused on accelerating transformation through agricultural innovation (Attain).

Titled "Technology and Investment Profile of Cashew Products," the Searca study highlighted cashew products, such as wine, prunes, jelly, jam and salted nuts, which offer different ways to maximize the utility of the cashew fruit using various technologies.

However, the study found that Palawan's cashew farmers have struggled with low returns on their investments. This issue is partially linked to the underutilization of the cashew apple's flesh, which constitutes a

substantial 90 percent of the fruit, Searca said.

The primary reason for this underutilization is a lack of awareness about the cashew fruit's processing potential.

"The study further suggests that this may be addressed by exploration of the fruit's potential in processing or manufacturing," Solidum said during the International Conference on Green Oil.

"To address this challenge and boost cashew farmers' income, the Western Philippines University initiated product development for cashew apples," said Searca Director Dr. Glenn Gregorio.

The DA-BAR and the Department of Agriculture-Palawan Research and Experiment Station (DA-PRES) supported further improvements in cashew nut and apple products.

DA-PRES's research project titled "Cashew Products Processing, Packaging, and Labeling" focused on processing cashew apples and introduced modern packaging materials. Various products from cashew apples,

including those featured in the study, have been developed by DA-PRES.

"Cashew apple, once undervalued, has gained economic value surpassing four times that of cashew nuts," Gregorio noted.

He said the study also outlined strategies to enhance the marketability and commercialization of these products. DA-PRES has contributed by organizing promotional campaigns and farmer training sessions, stimulating interest in value-adding activities.

The study used financial evaluation tools, including net present value, benefit-cost ratio, and financial internal rate of return, to conduct a thorough assessment of the financial viability of each product.



The results of this analysis indicated that all cashew products exceeded the pre-defined criteria for financial viability. These findings strongly suggest that cashew wine, prunes, jelly, jam and salted nuts all exhibit considerable promise as lucrative investment opportunities, Searca said.



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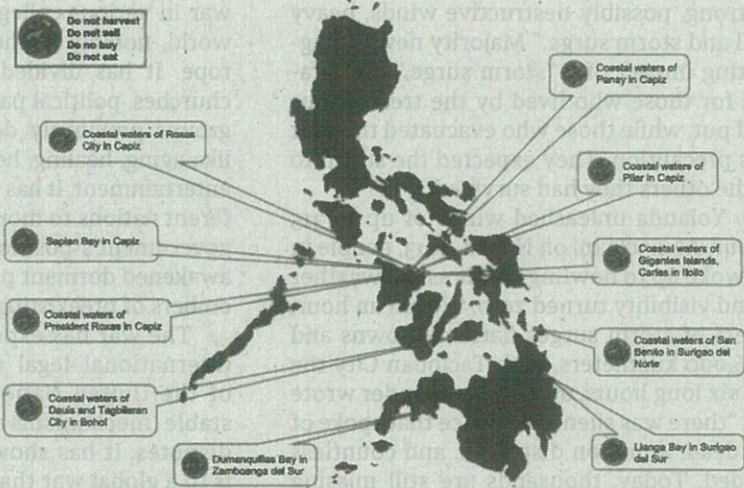


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Shellfishes collected and tested from **Sapian Bay (Ivisan and Sapian in Capiz; Mambuquiao and Camanci, Batan in Aklan); coastal waters of Panay; Pilar; President Roxas; Roxas City in Capiz; coastal waters of Gigantes Islands, Carles in Iloilo; coastal waters of Dauis and Tagbilaran City in Bohol; Dumanquillas Bay in Zamboanga del Sur; Lianga Bay in Surigao del Sur; and coastal waters of San Benito in Surigao del Norte** are still **positive** for Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) or toxic red tide that is beyond the regulatory limit.



**All types of shellfish and *Acetes sp.* or alamang gathered from the areas shown above are NOT SAFE for human consumption.** Fish, squids, shrimps, and crabs are safe for human consumption provided that they are fresh and washed thoroughly, and internal organs such as gills and intestines are removed before cooking.

The following areas continue to be **FREE from toxic red tide**: coastal waters of Cavite, Las Piñas, Parañaque, Navotas, Bulacan, and Bataan (Mariveles, Limay, Orion, Pilar, Balanga, Hermosa, Orani, Abucay, and Samal) in Manila Bay; mariculture areas in Infanta, coastal waters of Bolinao, Anda, Alaminos, Sual, and Wawa, Bani in Pangasinan; mariculture areas in Rosario, and Sto. Tomas in La Union; coastal waters of Pampanga; Masinloc Bay in Zambales; Pagbilao Bay, Pagbilao, and coastal waters of Walay, Padre Burgos in Quezon; Honda, and Puerto Princesa Bays, Puerto Princesa City, and coastal waters of Inner Malampaya Sound, Taytay in Palawan; coastal waters of Milagros, and Mandaon in Masbate; Sorsogon Bay, and Juag Lagoon, Matnog in Sorsogon; coastal waters of Borongan, San Dionisio in Iloilo; coastal waters of Altavas, Batan, and New Washington in Batan Bay, Aklan; coastal waters of E.B. Magalona, Talisay City, Silay City, Bacolod City, Hinigaran, and Victorias City in Negros Occidental; Tambobo, and Silt Bays, Siaton; and Bais Bay, Bais City in Negros Oriental; coastal waters of Daram, Calbayog, and Zumarraga, San Pedro, Maqueda and Villareal Bays in Samar; coastal waters of Guiuan in Eastern Samar; coastal waters of Leyte, Calubian, Ormoc, Sogod, Carigara Bay, and Cancabato Bay, Tacloban City in Leyte; coastal waters of Biliran Island; Tantanang Bay in Zamboanga Sibugay; Murcielagos Bay in Zamboanga del Norte and (Sapang Dalaga, and Baliangao) in Misamis Occidental; Panguil Bay, Tangub City, and coastal waters of Ozamiz City in Misamis Occidental; coastal waters of Baroy in Lanao del Norte; Tagulines Lagoon, Benoni, Mahinog in Camiguin; Balite, and Pujada Bays, Mati City in Davao Oriental; Malalag Bay in Davao Occidental and Davao del Sur; and coastal waters of Hinatuan, and Cortes in Surigao del Sur.

**ATTY. DEMOSTHENES R. ESCOTO**  
Director

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## DA reminds consumers to look for NMIS seal when buying frozen meats

By JEL SANTOS

With the peril posed by "hazardous" frozen meat to the health of the public, the Department of Agriculture (DA) advised shoppers anew to look for the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) seal to ensure that the meat they are purchasing is safe.

Frozen meat in markets can be hazardous to human health without the appropriate refrigeration facilities, and a lack of know-how among vendors on handling frozen meat, the agriculture department said.

In a statement, Agriculture Undersecretary Deogracias Victor B.

Savellano said they were partnering with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) to purge public wet markets of health-hazardous frozen products.

"This is dangerous to human health. Shoppers should look for the NMIS food safety seal and of local government unit's slaughterhouse documents. Imported frozen meat is not the problem, but their handling as fresh food in wet markets," he said in Filipino.

Under DA Administrative Order 6-2012, frozen meats are prohibited to be sold in wet markets.

"Frozen meat should only be confined to hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets which have the refrigeration

facilities and handling expertise," the agency noted.

Meanwhile, the DA said they are also examining the price difference of poultry being sold in the market compared to farmgate prices.

"While poultry's price sold in the wet market has been increasing, farmgate price has actually been decreasing."

Savellano stated that poultry farmers have been complaining about the low price at which traders buy their produce.

The excessive dumping of frozen meat in the wet market may be the cause of why the farmgate price of poultry has been decreasing to the detriment of farmers, the agriculture department said.

# Abante

UNA SA BALITA

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## Surigao Sur, Norte binalot ng red tide

PINAG-IINGAT ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang mga residente sa ilang coastal areas ng Surigao del Sur at Surigao del Norte hinggil sa red tide contamination sa mga nabanggit na lugar.

Batay sa inilabas na bulletin ng ahensya nitong Biyernes, nananatili anilang positibo sa Paralytic Shellfish Poison (PSP) ang mga shellfish na nakolekta at nasuri mula sa baybayin ng Lianga Bay sa Surigao del Sur at San Benito sa Surigao del Norte.

"The PSP or toxic red tide in shell-

fish collected and tested in said areas are beyond the regulatory limit," nakasaad sa bulletin.

Nagbabala ang ahensya na ang lahat ng uri ng shellfish at *Acetes* sp., o "alamang" na nakolekta mula sa mga apektadong coastal waters ay hindi ligtas na kainin.

Pinaliwanag naman ng BFAR na ang mga isda, pusit, hipon at alimango ay ligtas na kainin ng tao kung ito ay sariwa at huhugasan lamang nang maigi at tatanggalan ng mga lamang-loob bago lutuin.



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## **ASF state of calamity in 5 more Mindoro towns**

A state of calamity has been declared in five more towns in Oriental Mindoro due to the spread of African swine fever (ASF).

The Sangguniang Panlalawigan approved the request of Gov. Humerlito Dolor for the calamity declaration in Bulalacao, Bungabong, Naujan, Bansud and Pinamalayan.

Last month, a state of calamity was declared in Mansalay and Roxas towns.

Dolor said the provincial government has procured more test kits to mitigate the spread of the swine disease.

He gave assurance that the spread of ASF in the province is under control.

Dolor said he directed concerned local government units to hire more personnel to focus on containing the spread of ASF.

Despite the spread of the swine disease in more areas in Oriental Mindoro, Dolor said the town of Naujan, which was previously classified under "red" zone or with confirmed cases, is now under "pink" or ASF-free.

The province has been ASF-free in the past four years.

— Romina Cabrera





## SUNDAY FEATURE

# Jollibee Group empowers farmers to become entrepreneurs

By KHRISCIELLE E. YALAO

**G**ALIMUYOD, Ilocos Sur – As the largest fast food chain company in the country, the Jollibee Group Corporation (JGC) through its corporate social responsibility arm Jollibee Group Foundation (JGF) is helping lift the lives of farmers in Ilocos Sur and integrating them into the larger supply value chains, including the Jollibee outlets.

The Farmers Entrepreneurship Program (FEP) is one of the JGF's initiatives targeting the agriculture sector, particularly in empowering smallholder farmers to become agro-entrepreneurs who can supply directly to corporate buyers and institutional markets like the Jollibee Food Corporation (JFC).

The JGF is mandated to provide production trainings, capacity-building, agri-technology funds for soil



Farmers water the land in Clinton Guieb's farm in Sta. Cruz, Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur.



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regeneration for instance, and help cooperatives or farmers receive PHIL-GAP certifications, as well as monitor their daily operations. They also build consolidation areas for groups to plan and sort their commodities, along with promoting food safety and good agricultural practices (GAP).

FEP also offers scholarships on agro-entrepreneurship and agro-enterprising to encourage farming among the youth.

Farmers of the Tagudin Agroentrepreneurs Association (TAA) in Tagudin, Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur with members of the media and officials from the Jollibee Group Foundation (JGF) during the media farm tour on Nov. 9, 2023.

FEP has 25 farmer groups nationwide that supply and deliver over 10,000 metric tons of vegetables to JFC, majority of which include white onions, and varieties of bell peppers. Most of the groups are located in Luzon, with plans for further expansion to Visayas and Mindanao.

JGF Senior Program Officer Jan Paolo Vicente said they have begun forging further partnerships with farm groups in Ilocos Norte and Central Luzon, and are coaching five sets of new partners to deliver to the company under FEP. Next year, the foundation

seeks to increase its number of farmer partners.

#### FEP in action

One of JGF's implementing partners for the program in Galimuyod, Ilocos Sur is the Sacred Heart Savings Cooperative (SHSC) that supports over 61,000 members, 40 percent of which are farmers.

SHSC Business Development Center (BDC) Head Stephanie Labcaen said the cooperative primarily focuses on projects targeting the agriculture sector in the town to relieve the financial burdens of farmers, majority of whom apply for its loan offers.

FEP utilizes a clustering approach, with clusters consisting of 10 to 15 farmers, who supply the set volume and quality of produce, sent to JGF. Each farmer is required to deliver up to 2,500 kilos of their respective commodities per harvest season, which they call "commitments."

For 2024, SHSC aims to deliver 160 metric

tons of white onions from seven clusters, comprising 70 farmers, for the cropping season which occurs from October to March.

SHSC Consultancy and Marketing Specialist Mario Collado said they have begun to see the effects of El Nino, and are seeing a potential decrease in harvest due to the changing climate. To help farmers retain their commitments, they have reduced the individual requirements to 2,000 kilos.





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## 40 hectares of Iwahig Prison planted to hybrid rice – BuCor

By CZARINA NICOLE ONG KI

About 40 hectares of land in the vast reservation of the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm (IPPF) in Palawan have been planted to hybrid rice with over 450 more hectares to be devoted to other agricultural and livestock production.

Bureau of Corrections (BuCor) Director General Gregorio Pio P. Catapang Jr. said the agricultural and livestock production in IPPF was part of the Reformation Initiative for Sustainable Environment (RISE) project of the government.

Aside from hybrid rice, Catapang said that persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) have also planted vegetables and cashew.

BuCor will utilize 501 hectares of the 28,788-hectare IPPF reservation for the RISE project.

A total of 4.5 hectares will be devoted to vegetable growing, 30 hectares for

cashew, one hectare for fruit and vegetable herbs as edible landscaping, half a hectare for tilapia growing, 40 hectares for rice, 400 hectares for livestock and dairy production, and 25 hectares for yellow corn production, the bureau said in a statement.

Catapang said the project will also help address the agricultural sector's concern of aging farmers since the PDLs will be engaged and trained as the country's future farmers. This will help them live a normal and productive life after reintegration to mainstream society, he said.

"For there will come a time that agricultural produce will be sourced from BuCor lands tilled and farmed by PDLs," he pointed out.

"Magugulat na lang tayo na yung mga pagkain na nakahain sa ating mga lamesa ay tanim ng mga PDLs at pag nangyari yon ay tataas ang pag tingin natin sa atin mga PDLs dahil hindi na

natin sila ituturing na pabigat sa lipunan at pati pag tingin natin sa mga taga BuCor ay mababago (One day you will be surprised that the food served on our tables is grown by PDLs and when that happens, we will change the way we think about PDLs because we will no longer consider them a burden on society, and also the way we look at BuCor will be changed)," he said.

To augment workers in agricultural and livestock production, Catapang said BuCor will transfer an additional 200 PDLs from the New Bilibid Prison (NBP) in Muntinlupa City to IPPF. More than 1,000 PDLs had been transferred earlier, also as part of the program to decongest NBP, he said.

Catapang also said the participation of IPPF in the RISE project was reported to Justice Secretary Jesus Crispin C. Remulla during the latter's visit to the penal farm last Friday, Nov. 10.

Remulla was in Palawan when he

joined the launch in Puerto Princesa City of the 12th Justice Zone -- a project of the Justice Sector Coordinating Council (JSCC) composed of the Supreme Court, the Department of Justice, and the Department of the Interior and Local

Government.

A Justice Zone is a forum where judges, prosecutors, law enforcers and members of local government units meet to discuss problems and iron out solutions to attain an expeditious dispensation of justice.