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**DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE**

## ***DOST tapped to boost agri production***

By **DANESSA RIVERA**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has teamed up with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to deliver organic pesticides from bamboo innovations to raise agricultural production, initially for onions.

The DA, through the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and the DOST, through the Forest Products Research and Development Institute (FPRDI), signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) earlier this month to implement a project titled "Bamboo LIQUOR Ph: Local Innovation for Quality Use of Organic Pesticide Resource in the Philippines."

The project aims to study the development of organic pesticides to help increase the produce of local onion farmers by eradicating onion armyworm (OAW) and cut-worms in local onion farms.

The BPI said a bamboo pyroligneous liquid (PL) formulation would be developed and validated in the actual farm setting to test its efficacy, commercial potential and applicability in minimizing the harmful effects of the cutworm and OAW in onion farms.

The project, funded by the DOST-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), strengthens the cooperation

and convergence of FPRDI and BPI in bamboo research and development, as well as in high value crops that are also a priority of the government.

Moreover, the partnership is part of ongoing efforts of the government to achieve food security and sustainable agriculture by collaborating with both public and private organizations.

The research project is part of the "Establishment of Philippines-China Joint Program on Bamboo Research" under a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between DOST-PCAARRD and Jiangxi Academy of Forestry (JAF), signed in September 2021.

The MOU was a product of the efforts of the DOST and China's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) to collaborate in identifying collaborative activities that will mutually benefit both agencies in bamboo postharvest processing.

Under the agreement, DOST-PCAARRD and JAF agreed to collaborate on establishing the Philippines-China joint laboratory on bamboo; research and technology promotion on advanced processing technology of bamboo resources; demonstration and showcasing of new technologies and products; and academic exchange, technical training, and capacity building services.

# Abante

UNA SA BALITA

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## DOLE kinalampag sa mga tambay na mangingisda

NANANAWAGAN ang isang kongresista sa Department of Labor and Employment na bigyan ng trabaho ang mga mangingisdang apektado ng umiiral na fishing ban.

Ayon kay Senior Citizen Party-list Rep. Rodolfo Ordanes, trabaho ang kailangan ng mga mangingisda sa Palawan at sa Western Visayas kung saan nagsimula ang tatlong buwang fishing ban ngayong Nobyembre.

Taunang ipinatutupad ng Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) ang fishing ban para magkaroon ng pagkakataon na maparami ang mga isda.

"The fishing bans are necessary to allow the fish to reproduce and repopulate. During the fishing bans, there must be alternative or off-season jobs for the affected fisherfolk. TUPAD for the fisherfolk should be in full swing while the fishing bans are in effect," saad ng kongresista.

Kasabay nito, iminungkahi rin ng kongresista sa DOLE na bumalangkas ng isang Elevated Inflation Adjustment Measures Program na makakatulong sa mga Pilipinong lubhang apektado ng mga mataas pa rin na presyo ng mga bilihan. (Eralyn Prado)





## EDITORIAL

## Agri pension fund

A BILL that reflects the concern over the welfare of the country's farmers and fishermen is pending consideration in the House of Representatives.

Authored by a party-list representative, House Bill (HB) No. 9455 seeks the creation of an agricultural pension fund for elderly farmers and fishers.

The author, Rep. Milagros Aquino Magsaysay, said the fund will serve as the foundation for social security benefits that these workers can access.

It is similar to the pension enjoyed by private and public employees upon their retirement, said Magsaysay of the United Senior Citizens Party-list.

The lady sectoral representative noted that agriculture is considered one of the primary drivers of the local economy, which was ravaged by the pandemic.

Note, however, that the administration of President Marcos is doing everything to reinvigorate the economy despite the many challenges.

And the agriculture sector is seen to play a crucial role in government efforts to speed up economic recovery.

In fact, farm workers are essential in ensuring that the Philippines achieves food security, which is one of the top priorities of the Marcos government.

That's why we cannot overemphasize the importance of ensuring the welfare of the country's millions of farmers and fishermen.

This, the Congress will do by hastening the approval of HB No. 9455.

Magsaysay said this is the least we could do for our farmers and fishers after they have given the best years of their lives, putting food on our tables.

Under the proposed legislation, the Social Security System (SSS) shall be the administrator of the Agricultural Pension Fund.