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DA foresees Q4 agri output growth

By CATHERINE TALAVERA

The country's agricultural output could grow in the fourth quarter of the year due to more favorable weather conditions, according to an official of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

"Based on the initial data that we are seeing, it is possible that it will increase because we have no major calamity, not so much typhoons," Agriculture assistant secretary and spokesperson Arnel de Mesa said in Filipino during a Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon interview yesterday.

He also noted favorable production in the country's crops sector.

"We expect that the growth of the livestock and poultry sub sectors will continue and hopefully we can recover

in the fisheries sector because in the third quarter, this was the subsector with the largest decline," De Mesa said.

"We're hoping that in the fourth quarter, the sector will really recover," he said.

Latest data from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) showed that the country's farm production declined by 0.3 percent in the third quarter, due to lower outputs in the crops and fisheries sector, marking the second consecutive quarter that farm production declined.

In July to September, the value of agriculture and fisheries production amounted to P412.41 billion from July to September.

The 0.3 percent decline was lower than the 1.2 percent drop in the second quarter, but a reversal of the 1.6 percent growth

recorded in the same quarter last year.

PSA data also showed that from January to September, the farm output inched up by 0.2 percent.

In an earlier statement, Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel said the farm sector was showing signs of recovery despite the slight contraction in the third quarter.

"As we look at the data more closely, we could see positive signs in the rice, corn, and onion harvest, as well as in our production of tilapia and galunggong — all important food items for the Filipino masses," he said earlier.

"With the growth numbers in the first three quarters, we remain optimistic agriculture could still contribute positively to the broader economy," he said.

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'BELOW PRODUCTION COST'

NEGROS SUGAR PLANTERS SEEK GOV'T HELP AS PRICES PLUMMET

By Carla Gomez
@carlagomezINQ

BACOLOD CITY—Sugar industry players have called for a "much-needed intervention" from the national government following the drop of millgate sugar prices way below the comfortable profit margin for producers, particularly small farmers.

Manuel Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines, asked for the intervention of President Marcos and Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr. as millgate sugar prices continued to plummet at P2,500 per 50-kilo bag in the past two weeks in Negros and even lower at P2,300 in Bukidnon.

The provinces of Negros Occidental and Bukidnon are the country's two leading sugar producers.

The current prices were below the price levels of P3,200 in the same period last year, he said.

'Disconcerting'

"This is very disconcerting because millgate prices are now at P50 per kilo, which is way lower than our production costs," Lamata said in a statement on Sunday.

According to Lamata, the cost of producing a bag of sugar already averages at P2,500.

On the other hand, retail prices continued to remain at P80 to P85 per kilo and the farmers were clearly not profiting from the local market prices, he noted.

Lamata also pointed out that fuel and fertilizer prices were on the rise and "if this continues, we cannot sustain the situation and farmers may

not be inclined to produce for next year's milling season."

'Help us'

He said that consultation among the various sugar associations under their umbrella has led to an urgent appeal for the national government to intervene and buy their sugar.

"Please help us and the five million dependents of the sugar industry who will clearly not be enjoying the holidays under this condition and we fear that many workers will be displaced and their dependents will go hungry," Lamata said.

He said most farmers were hoping that the pronouncements of the President that sugar prices should not go down below P3,000 will start to kick in.

"We know President Marcos' heart is with and for the farmers, as he has told us so, and we are calling for his intervention on this matter," he added.

Enrique Rojas, National Federation of Sugarcane Planters president, said they were not happy with the way sugar prices had turned out.

"We were expecting that prices will recover to within the P3,000 per bag level, but it appears unlikely," he said.

"More mills are now operating, adding more sugar supply to what has already been in the warehouses since the middle of this year. More supply is becoming available in the market, but demand remains the same," Rojas added.

Aurelio Gerardo Valderama, president of the Confederation of Sugar Producers, said the millgate prices have dropped because there is too much sugar in the market. INQ



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DA sees rebound in farm production

FARM output will likely bounce back in the last quarter of 2023 due to favorable weather conditions, a senior Agriculture department official said on Monday.

"Based on the initial data that we see, [growth] is possible ... because there is no major calamity and typhoon," Agriculture Assistant Secretary Arnel de Mesa told reporters.

Agriculture and fisheries production grew by 2.1 percent in the first quarter but then fell by 1.2 percent in April-June. The contraction continued in the third quarter but narrowed to 0.3 percent.

At constant 2018 prices, production for the July-October period amounted to P412.41 billion from the year-earlier P413.6 billion.

"Hopefully, the fisheries sector will bounce back because this is the sub-sector that recorded the biggest decrease," de Mesa said.

Last year, agriculture, forestry, and fishing contributed the least to the national economy among the three major economic sectors.

Gross value added of the sector reached P1.78 trillion, accounting for 8.9 percent of gross domestic product in 2022.

In comparison, services accounted for 61.4 percent and industry, 29.7 percent.

"[W]e're hoping at the end of the fourth quarter, once the data has been released early next year, the agriculture sector will really rebound," de Mesa said.

JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL



EDITORIAL

Dumping tomatoes, again

If the government wants to entice people to engage in agriculture, it will have to show that it is a viable livelihood. What the nation is seeing instead are farmers lamenting their losses and tons of produce going to waste because of oversupply.

During harvest time in the past years, the nation has seen farmers dump their tomato produce as farmgate prices plummet. In April this year, the farmgate price of tomatoes dropped to P3 to P5 per kilo amid an oversupply, with farmers in Cagayan Valley and Central Luzon among the hardest hit, according to a **Department of Agriculture** official.

This has happened again in recent days as prices fell to as low as P5 per kilo, forcing farmers in the Cordillera Administrative Region and Nueva Vizcaya to dump their tomatoes. A report said even if the tomatoes are not yet overripe, market storage space is limited so the older stocks have to make way for fresher harvests, which middlemen naturally prefer.

The proposals of farmers' groups to deal with such problems are not new. Apart from the obvious need for more cold storage facilities nationwide, they have been pushing for an accurate inventory of agricultural production for a wide range of crops. This shouldn't prove to be mission impossible; affordable technology is now widely available for this. In countries such as Israel, drones have been used for years for farm production inventories.

Agriculture officials have also been talking for a long time about cutting the number of middlemen for speedier farm-to-market access and possibly greater earnings for producers. The dumping of tomatoes, however, indicates slow progress in this area. The government cannot even identify where overpricing is most likely happening along the value chain. Producers of sugarcane and upland vegetables, for example, have complained recently about low farmgate prices even as retail prices for refined sugar and vegetables such as cabbage have refused to go down.

Apart from improved access to markets, the government can assist marginal farmers in ensuring buyers for their crops. Tomatoes can be processed into a wide range of products starting with sauce and ketchup. Small-scale farmers can be assisted in growing the right varieties under specific environments that processed food manufacturers require for their product quality control.

Local government officials, who are supposed to know more about the economic activities and the needs of farmers in their areas, can take the lead in boosting small-scale agricultural production. Local government units can also help ensure a measure of accuracy in agricultural inventories, and assist the national government in promoting crop rotation. Better agricultural management will not only raise farmers' income but also stabilize food supply and prices.

Agriculture output seen recovering in Q4

BY JED MACAPAGAL

AGRICULTURAL production is expected to bounce back this quarter due to the absence of any major weather disturbance.

"Based on data that we are seeing... Initial data show it is possible to grow since we don't have a major calamity, not much typhoons as well. Crops production is also good. We also expect continued growth in the livestock and poultry sub-sectors and hopefully, fisheries can recover as well as its decline in the third quarter is quite substantial," said Arnel de Mesa, DA assistant secretary for operations, at the Bagong Pilipinas Ngayon public briefing yesterday.

The Philippine Statistics Authority is scheduled to release the agricultural production performance for the fourth quarter and full year 2023 in January.

Agriculture production value in the country dropped 0.3 percent in the third quarter pulled down by the crops and fisheries subsector.

In the first nine months of the year, the value of production in agriculture and fisheries at constant 2018 prices registered a 0.2 percent increase.

The fisheries sub-sector recorded the biggest drop in the third quarter of 6.1 percent in value of production at constant 2018 prices. For the nine-month period, the sub-sector contracted by 7 percent.

In the third quarter, the crops sub-sector experienced a 0.4 percent decline in value of



Ready for rebound? The fisheries sub-sector recorded the biggest drop in the third quarter of 6.1 percent in value of production at constant 2018 prices. (DA Photo)

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AGRICULTURE

production at constant 2018 prices while its value for the first nine months of 2023 was up 0.9 percent.

The poultry sub-sector had the biggest increase in production in the third quarter of 2023 equivalent to a growth of 2.9 per-

cent while its value for January to September 2023 is equivalent to a 2.5 percent increase.

Livestock enjoyed a 2.5 per-

cent increase in the third quarter and a 2.4 percent growth in the first three quarters of the year.



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Former DA-BAR officials liable for P4.5M vehicle purchase

BY PETER TABINGO

AN appeal filed by former officials of the Department of Agriculture (DA) - Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) failed to convince the Commission on Audit to lift the notice of disallowance on their P4.52 million payment for the acquisition of motor vehicles and health benefits in 2010.

The COA Commission Proper denied the motion for reconsideration filed by BAR director Nicomedes Eleazar, assistant director Teodoro Solsoloy, accountant Roberto Quing Jr., and budget officer Judith Maghanoy.

In a previous decision dated March 27, 2015, the COA had already dismissed the petition for review of the BAR executives for

being filed beyond the six-month reglementary period.

The group, however, insisted that their arguments be considered, invoking the Supreme Court's pronouncement in Metro Rail Transit Corp. vs. Court of Appeals and Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue that it is preferable to decide a case on merits based on substance rather than on pure technicalities.

However, the COA held that the dismissal of the petition was proper since the appellants did not offer any valid justification for the late filing.

It noted that the BAR officials violated the deadlines twice – first when they filed their appeal on the notice of disallowance 70 days after the limit, and second, when

they filed the petition for review 92 days after receiving the COA resolution.

“Dir. Eleazar et al. violated the procedural rules, not only once, but twice. (The) late filing of the appeal for the second time is a clear disregard of this Commission’s procedural rules,” the Commission said.

But even if the case is decided on its merits, the COA said its ruling will not vary.

It noted that BAR had no budget for capital outlay specifically for the procurement of motor vehicles and its use of the Central Luzon State University Foundation Inc. as conduit was an indirect contravention of laws.

Republic Act No. 9524 or the General Appropriations Act for

2009 provides that purchase of motor vehicles was not allowed unless these were medical ambulances, military and police vehicles, motorcycles for utility, and road construction equipment.

“In the procurement of the subject motor vehicles, the BAR used the CLSUFI as a conduit which, in effect, violated Section 15(b) of the GP of RA No. 9524, especially that said motor vehicles were purchased without the authority of the department or agency head and the Secretary of Budget and Management,” the COA said.

It added that the records of the transaction would be turned over to the Office of the Ombudsman for the conduct of an investigation and filing of criminal charges if necessary.

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Report: Rice imports down 14% as prices remain high

By JASPER EMMANUEL Y. ARCALAS [@jearcalas](#)

THE Philippines's rice imports from January to November fell by 14 percent year-on-year to a little over 3 million metric tons (MMT) as higher global grain prices dented local traders' appetite.

The latest Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) data showed that the country's rice imports during the 11-month period reached 3.033 MMT, about 492,000 metric tons (MT) lower than the 3.526 MMT recorded in the same period last year.

The decline in rice import volume was caused by the elevated global rice prices due to tight world supply on the back of India's rice export ban, pundits and industry players noted.

This is the third year that the country's rice imports breached the

3 MMT mark. The figure was also hit in 2019 and 2022.

Vietnam remained as the Philippines's top rice import source, accounting for 2.689 MMT followed by Thailand and Myanmar with 161,990.67 MT and 127,818 MT, respectively, based on BPI data.

BPI data showed that rice imports from Pakistan reached 34,625.21 MT while those from India and Cambodia reached 13,734.79 MT and 3,615 MT, as of end-November.

The country also imported 1,000 MT of rice from Taiwan, 12.36 MT from Italy and nearly 1 MT from Spain, according to BPI data.

BPI data indicated that the country's rice top importer from January to November was Bly Agri Venture Trading with a total import volume of 221,938 MT.

It was followed by Davao Solar Best Corp. with 218,348 MT and Orison Free Enterprise Inc. with 184,733.8 MT.

Agriculture officials had said that the country's total rice import volume this year would be lower than the record-high 3.8 MMT volume last year due to elevated global rice prices.

Agriculture Undersecretary for Rice Industry Development Leocadio S. Sebastian earlier said the country's rice imports for 2023 could settle at around 3.1 MMT, about 700,000 MT lower than the 3.826 MMT recorded last year as higher world rice prices discouraged importers from bringing in foreign stocks. **(Related story: <https://BUSINESSMIRROR.com.ph/2023/10/17/costlier-world-grains-to-slash-rice-imports/>)**



Agri output seen likely to expand in Q4 — DA

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) said farm output will likely post positive growth in the fourth quarter, citing preliminary estimates.

"Based on initial data that we are seeing, it is possible that (agri-sector growth in Q4) would go up, because we did not have major calamities. There have not been too many typhoons," Agriculture Spokesman Arnel V. de Mesa said in an appearance on PTV, the government broadcast network.

A positive growth outcome would reverse the 0.3% contraction reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in the third quarter.

"Crop production is good, we are (also) expecting growth in the livestock and poultry subsector," Mr. De Mesa said.

"Hopefully fisheries will recover, because in the third quarter this was the sector that saw the biggest decline" alongside the crops segment, he added.

Crop production, which accounts for 54% of farm produc-

tion, dropped 0.4% in the third quarter.

Fisheries, meanwhile, declined 6.1% in the three months to September.

"We are hoping... (that by) early next year the agri sector will really recover," he said.

The PSA is due to release agricultural output data for the fourth quarter in January.

The DA set a target of 2.3%-2.5% for agricultural output growth for 2023.

Additionally, Mr. De Mesa said that the DA is currently monitor-

ing commodity prices during the year-end holidays.

He added that well-milled rice prices have fallen to the P51 per kilogram (kg) level from P52 previously, while regular-milled rice prices remained steady.

"Most of the prevailing (prices) are ranging from P51 to P52 per kg," he said.

"As for supply, the harvest is almost 100% over. We are also expecting the rice imported from India amounting to 295,000 metric tons (MT)," he added.

The Indian government allocated a quota of 295,000 MT of non-basmati white rice for the Philippines, after having declared a freeze on such exports to safeguard its own domestic supply.

Separately, Bantay Bigas Spokesperson Cathy L. Estavillo said rice prices have not declined during the harvest.

"Prices have jumped to P52 per kg... It is not only in Metro Manila that prices are higher but in rice-producing provinces and municipalities (as well)," Ms. Es-

tavillo said in an appearance on *One News*.

Mr. De Mesa said that the agricultural damage and losses brought about by shear line conditions in Southern Luzon and the Visayas, as well as the earthquake in Mindanao, have had little effect on agricultural prices.

"Those who were affected had just started planting and we have given them seed. So, there is no effect on the recent harvest," he said. — **Adrian H. Halili**



Food service sector generates \$13B

BY PAUL ICAMINA

FILIPINOS have a hearty appetite for food service, food retail and food processing.

Food service involves upscale restaurants, local and international quick-service restaurants (QSRs), cafes and kiosks. For convenience, labor-saving and consistent supply, most require imported processed vegetables, including potatoes and tomatoes.

In 2022, the Philippines food service sector generated \$13 billion in revenue, according to the latest Market Brief on Processed Vegetables released by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).

It projects an annual growth rate of 8 to 10 percent over the next five years. Notably, QSRs accounted for over half of the total revenue share.

Food retail is dynamic, with a diverse mix of traditional retailers and modern grocery channels. With more stores in rural areas, the surge in grocery delivery services and the increasing adoption of e-commerce, the sales value of food retailing in the country reached \$33 billion in 2022, according to the

USDA report.

Food retail is expected to maintain steady annual growth of 6 to 7 percent over the next five years.

While mid- to high-income consumers seek a wide variety of vegetables to meet their dietary needs and enhance their culinary options, garlic and onion are the two staple aromatics without which almost every Filipino dish would be incomplete.

Food processing and the gross value added it generates reached \$32 billion in 2022. It is projected to expand at a rate of 5 to 6 percent annually over the next five years, driven by rising incomes.

Processors are constantly seeking reliable sources of vegetable ingredients to develop new product lines that cater to consumer demands, including recent trends such as immunity boosters and plant-based foods.

All three sectors show growth, the USDA report observed, citing figures from Euromonitor, a London-based market research analyst.

Obviously, the processed vegetables that have the best

prospects are the vegetable varieties that are not extensively produced locally. But so are cooking staples like garlic and onions, which are susceptible to price shocks, and those that offer convenience and wellness.

Effective marketing efforts from American suppliers should highlight the extended shelf life, convenience, consistency, cost savings, improved food safety, ability to overcome seasonal limitations and year-round availability of processed vegetables, the USDA report recommended.

The US faces strong competition due to a tariff disadvantage, as the Philippines applies a Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariff rate on imported products that are not sourced from any of the country's free trade agreement partners. The MFN tariff rates range from 3 to 15 percent.

However, despite the higher prices resulting from this disadvantage, Filipinos generally prefer US processed vegetables due to their superior quality and assurance of food safety, the USDA report observed.



UP scientists warn of infectious parasites in raw veggies, seafood

Scientists from the University of the Philippines (UP) are reminding the public to thoroughly wash and cook their market-bought fresh produce and seafood as a precautionary measure against parasites.

The parasite that causes toxoplasmosis, called *Toxoplasma gondii* (*T. gondii*), is one of the most infectious parasites in the world: it affects almost a third of the world's population, most especially vulnerable groups such as the pregnant and immunocompro-

mised. While most people infected with the disease do not present any symptoms, some may suffer flu-like symptoms, such as fever, headache and muscle aches. But in severe cases, toxoplasmosis can cause inflammation of the brain and blurry vision. Infected parents' newborn infants may suffer from excessive fluid in the brain and developmental issues. Fortunately, treatments are available for toxoplasmosis, hence symptomatic individuals are advised to seek timely medical attention.

Cielo Emar M. Paraoan, Ren Mark D. Villanueva and Marie Christine M. Obusan of the UP Diliman College of Science's Institute of Biology (UPD-CS IB) found that *T. gondii* is fairly common in vegetables and oysters they sampled from local markets in Central Luzon. Among the vegetables tested were lettuce, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower and mung bean sprouts.

Six out of 60 collected vegetable samples contained traces of *T. gondii*, with leafy vegetables found to be more

contaminated than root vegetables. Similarly, for oysters, four out of 44 samples were also contaminated. The researchers noted that the *T. gondii* traces found in both vegetables and oysters are of Type I genotype. The researchers aim to investigate further the genotypes of *T. gondii* that will be detected in the country, as Asia is reported to have a high degree of genetic diversity.

The study provides evidence that *T. gondii* may be transmitted through vegeta-

bles and oysters that are being sold in supermarkets and public markets. However, researchers noted that they only tested a small sample size, and more studies with bigger sample sizes must be conducted. At present, they have an ongoing study that detects the parasite in environmental samples.

The study also underscores the importance of adequately preparing fresh produce and seafood to eliminate not just *T. gondii* but also other parasites that may

be present. The authors also emphasized the need for better management of biological pollutants.

"The most sustainable approach for reducing the risk of *T. gondii* exposure through the consumption of seafood should focus on reducing *T. gondii* contamination at its source, as well as mitigating the flow of contaminated runoff to water bodies," the authors said in their paper, published in the October 2023 issue of the Philippine Journal of Science.



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Well-milled rice averages P52.92/kg in mid-Nov.

THE national average retail price for well-milled rice in mid-November was P52.92 per kilogram (kg), according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

Prices rose 1.26% in the Nov. 15-17 period, which the PSA refers to as the second phase of the month, compared with prices between Nov. 1 and 5, or the first phase.

The highest retail price was P56.19 per kg in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or BARMM.

On the low end was the Ilocos Region where rice was retailing for P48.71 per kg during the period.

The PSA reported that regular-milled rice averaged P47.42 per kg, up 2.38% compared to the first phase.

The highest price for regular-milled rice was also recorded

in BARMM with an average of P51.75 per kg, while Cagayan Valley posted the lowest average price of P42.92 per kg.

During the second phase of November, the national average retail price for refined sugar was P91.59 per kg, down 0.37% from the first phase.

Prices in the Eastern Visayas were the highest at P103.58 per kg. The lowest price was reported in BARMM at P81.95 per kg.

Brown sugar averaged P80.85 per kg, a 0.4% decline from the previous phase.

The PSA reported that brown sugar prices were highest in Calabarzon at P88.86 per kg during the period.

The lowest average price was reported in the Zamboanga Peninsula at P73.7 per kg.

On Sunday, sugar producers urged the government to intervene due to the continued

decline of raw sugar farmgate prices compared to market prices, according to Manuel R. Lamata, president of the United Sugar Producers Federation of the Philippines.

Mr. Lamata added that sugar prices have declined to P2,300-P2,500 per 50-kilo bag, which is below production cost levels.

The Sugar Regulatory Administration has said that it will be pushing for a suggested retail price for refined sugar of P85 per kg.

Meanwhile, the PSA reported that the average price for red onion rose 6.16% to P192.18 per kg compared with the previous phase of November.

Soccsksargen recorded the highest average retail price of P237.97 per kg, while the lowest was recorded in Central Luzon at P143.8 per kg. — **Adrian H. Halili**

Ngayon araw na ito ay ibabahagi ko sa inyo ang Beyond Fresh Garden na nagsimula lamang sa libangan hanggang maging malaking negosyo o from hobby to business.

Ang Beyond Fresh by Don Avelino na pag-aari ni Dr. Avelino Alomesen ay makikita sa 8000 V. Baltazar St., Brgy. Palatiw, Pasig City.

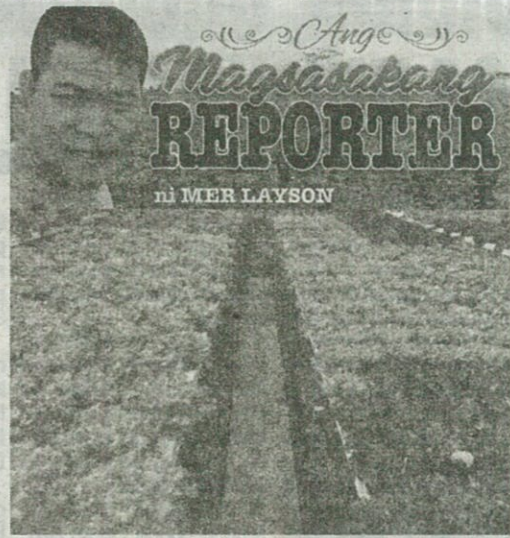
From Garden to table ang concept ng Beyond Fresh.

Ayon kay Dr. Alomesen, libangan la-

fresh clean green leafy," pahayag ni Dr. Alomesen.

Sa pagbisita ng Masaganang Buhay Team ng Magsasakang Reporter sa Beyond Fresh ay pumukaw sa aming paningin ang malawak na taniman ng iba't ibang variety ng lettuce.

Tuloy-tuloy ang harvest ng lettuce sa Beyond Fresh, dahil nakapag-program ang pagtatanim, may inaani, may malapit na anihin, may katamtaman ang laki, may bagong lipat



BEYOND FRESH: FROM HOBBY TO BUSINESS

mang niya noong una ang pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman lalo na ng iba't ibang variety ng lettuce hanggang maging negosyo niya.

"Beyond Fresh started as a hobby, which a small NFT Hydroponics purchase online was used primary intentions was to grow vegetables for personal consumption only," ani Dr. Alomesen.

Hanggang unti-unting lumaki ang taniman ng iba't ibang uri ng gulay sa pamamagitan ng hydroponics method.

Marami sa mga kaibigan, kakilala at mismong kabarangay



Ang malawak na taniman ng iba't ibang variety ng lettuce at iba pang gulay sa Beyond Fresh.

tanim at may bagong punla.

Pahayag ni Dr. Alomesen, anytime na mangailangan ng fresh lettuce ang kanilang

yondfreshfarm@gmail.com, utak.io/store/beyondfreshbydonavelino at sa kanilang page na Urban Farm.

Para makahingi

sa programang Masaganang Buhay TV at Radio Show ng Magsasakang Reporter.

Samantala, para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan, maaari po kayong manood at makinig ng aking tv at radio program na Masaganang Buhay tuwing Linggo, alas-7:00 hanggang alas-8:00 ng umaga sa OnePH Signal TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapakingan din po sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-subscribe at mag-follow sa aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook na Mer Layson at Facebook page na Ang Magsasakang Reporter, TV host Vlogger para sa iba pang kaalaman at impormasyon sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan.

Tuwing araw ng Martes ay regular ninyong mababasa ang aking kolum dito sa Pilipino Star Ngayon (PSN) ng Star Group of Publications.

Sa mga tanong at komento ay maaari ninyo akong i-text, huwag po tawag, sa 09178675197.

STAY SAFE, HAPPY FARMING, GOD BLESS US ALL



Ang Magsasakang Reporter at Dr. Avelino Alomesen.

sa Pasig City ni Dr. Alomesen ang tumangkilik ng kanilang mga fresh harvest hanggang gawing negosyo.

Sa ngayon ay nasa 3000 square meter na ang taniman ng sariwang gulay ni Dr. Alomesen.

"Top Quality Hydroponic Farm that work

mga kostumer ay mayroon silang available na puwedeng mabili.

"All year round po ay mayroon kami maaani," ani Dr. Alomesen.

Sa mga nais bumili ng Fresh Lettuce sa Beyond Fresh ay i-text o tawagan lamang sila sa 0998-956-34-54

kayo ng discount sabihin lamang na nabasa ninyo sa kolum ng Magsasakang Reporter sa Pilipino Star Ngayon ang tungkol sa Beyond Fresh.

Sa darating na araw ng Linggo, December 17, 2023 ay mapapanoood ninyo ang panayam kay Dr. Avelino Alomesen at farm tour



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Kamara hindi isusuko murang bigas

Hindi titigil ang Kamara de Representantes na gawin ang lahat ng hakbang upang maibaba at maging abot-kaya ang presyo ng bigas, pagtiyak ni Speaker Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez.

"Hindi po kami titigil hangga't hindi naibaba ang presyo ng bigas sa halagang abot-kaya ng ordinaryong mamamayan," diin ni Romualdez sa kanyang mensahe sa Philippine Economic Briefing sa Iloilo City.

Ipinahayag ito ni Romualdez sa gitna ng ulat na nawala na sa mga pamilihan ang bigas na nabebenta sa

halagang P45 kada kilo sa halip nasa P50 kada kilo na ang mababang presyuhang.

"You may have noticed by now that the House of Representatives, perhaps for the first time, is exercising fully its oversight functions to fight the cartels involved in smuggling, hoarding and price manipulation of rice and other basic agricultural commodities. We are determined to help the administration of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. to make food accessible and affordable to Filipinos," dagdag ng lider ng Kamara. **(Eralyn Prado)**



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LOWER RICE PRICES

SPEAKER Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez has vowed that the House of Representatives would relentlessly pursue efforts to make rice available at affordable prices.

"Hindi po kami titigil hangga't hindi naibabaang presyo ng bigas sa halagang abot-kaya ng ordi-

naryong mamamayan," Romualdez said in his keynote message during the Philippine Economic Briefing in Iloilo City organized by the Marcos administration's economic managers to inform the city's private sector on the administration's achievements and development plans.

He made the commitment amid reports that low-priced rice, whose retail price President Marcos had capped at P45 per kilo, is now seldom available in the market, which is flooded with varieties selling at prices above P50 per kilo.

Jester Manalastas



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China corn output surges

BEIJING- China produced a record corn crop this year, up 4 percent compared to a year earlier, the National Bureau of Statistics said on Monday, with an increase in the area planted with the grain more than compensating for damage caused by summer typhoons.

Output of 288.84 million metric tons matched earlier forecasts by the agriculture ministry and adds to bumper corn crops from other big global producers that have weighed on global prices.

Corn production in China, the world's No. 2 grower, rose as Beijing continued to give subsidies to farmers planting staple grains in a

push for food security.

Corn acreage rose 2.7 percent, or 1.15 million hectares, from a year earlier to 44.2 million hectares (109 million acres), the most land sown with the grain since at least 2015.

The large crop has weighed on domestic prices and will help Chinese livestock farmers who have been losing money and who feed corn to the world's biggest herd of pigs.

The most-active January corn futures contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange has declined over the past three months to near a six-month low of 2,486 yuan (\$345.90) per ton. - *Reuters*