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DA-BPI awardees take the stage to be recognized during the 94th-anniversary celebration for their commitment and excellence demonstrated in the different projects of the Bureau for 2023

Bureau of Plant Industry Marks 94 Years of Agricultural Excellence: A Celebration of Innovation, Growth, and Sustainability



The Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) celebrates its 94th year of pioneering advancements and significant contributions to the Philippine agricultural landscape on January 25, 2024, with a theme of "Modernisasyon sa Paghahalaman, Susi sa Masaganang Kinabukasan."

The event, held at the DA-BPI headquarters in Malate, Manila, brought together government officials from different departments, diplomatic corps, agricultural experts, farmers, partners from the private sector, and enthusiasts to commemorate nearly a century of dedicated service in sustainable agriculture and ensuring food security in the country.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr., noted the vital role of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in the bid of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., to boost food production and modernize the country's agriculture sector.

In his message, he highlighted the agency's contributions to upgrading agricultural practices, including providing better seeds and planting materials, innovating farming technologies, controlling plant pests and using biological control agents, promoting safe and sustainable crop production, and licensing and accrediting private sector partners for development.

"For nearly a century, DA-BPI has been at the forefront of agricultural innovation, stewardship, and progress in our nation. We are here to celebrate not just the longevity of this institution



Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban (left) presents the Plaque of Appreciation to Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. (right) for delivering a keynote address during the 94th anniversary of the Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI)

but also the milestones, advancements, and commitment it has shown towards the modernization of agricultural practices in our country," said Secretary Tiu Laurel.

Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban Ph.D., the Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, shared insights into the bureau's accomplishments over the past year and outlined strategic



Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. (left) with Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban (right) leads the ceremonial tree planting of "MAKASIM," the first calamansi variety registered with the National Seed Industry Council (BPI-NSIC)



Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. (center right) and Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban (center left) officially open the exhibit featuring the divisions and centers of DA-BPI, with Assistant Director Herminigilda A. Gabertan (left) for Research, Development, and Production Support Services and Assistant Director Ruel C. Gesmundo (right) for Regulatory Services



Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. explores the exhibits prepared by the divisions and centers of DA-BPI, showcasing their accomplishments and produce from their respective areas





DA-BPI's 94th anniversary celebration draws a distinguished audience, including employees, awardees, government officials from various departments, members of the diplomatic corps, and esteemed partners from the private sector

plans for the future.

"We are pushing for the modernization of our crop farming practices to increase the country's food production. Our commitment to modernization has translated into tangible achievements in our pursuit of development and excellence," Panganiban shared.

He stressed the need for collaborative efforts between the government, industry players, and farmers to implement modern farming practices effectively.

"Looking ahead, we anticipate future

collaborations with local and international organizations. These collaborations will create more opportunities for innovation, knowledge exchange, and technological advancements that will shape the future of Philippine agriculture," he added.

Director Panganiban also emphasized the impact of the bilateral relationships between the Philippines and BPI's partner market export countries with the export of durian to China, fresh Hass avocado to South Korea, mangoes to Australia, and pili nuts to Germany.

A Legacy of Innovation

Established in 1930, DA-BPI was founded with an important mission: to drive agricultural progress through research and development, and oversee the plant industry of the country.

Since its early days of addressing its current focus on modernization and technological advancements, the DA-BPI has consistently adapted to the needs of Filipino farmers and the challenges facing the agriculture sector.

The Bureau has evolved over the years, embracing a holistic approach, offering a wide array of services that encompass the areas of research and development, production support and regulatory services.

Significant contributions

Under the leadership of Director Gerald Glenn Panganiban Ph.D., and Assistant Directors Herminigilda A. Gabertan Ph.D., for Research, Development, and Production Support Services and Ruel C. Gesmundo for Regulatory Services, DA-BPI has achieved the following significant milestones:

With the mandate to ensure the availability of high-quality seeds and planting materials, DA-BPI produced 191,015 kg and distributed 190,359 kg of high-quality seeds for 2023. The Bureau also preempts the adverse effects of erratic climatic conditions on farmers by

securing seed reserves and having buffer stocks of a total of 236,007.20 kg of seeds.

DA-BPI has registered 31 crop varieties with superior yield and agronomic characteristics and protected 44 varieties.

As a hub for innovation, DA-BPI embraces modern technologies through the provision of infrastructure and machinery necessary to boost food production. It aims to empower farmers to integrate modern tools into their traditional farming methods, enhancing overall efficiency. To set an example, the Bureau is producing 16-20 kg/sq.m. of leafy vegetables from the productive area within the institution through indoor cultivation.

DA-BPI reported to have lowered Fall Armyworm infestations from a high of 20,759.04 ha (0.81%) in 2020 to 13,667.83 ha (0.54%) in 2023 for approximately 2.5 M ha of corn production area. The figure shows a decrease in infestation rates of 0.27%. This year and in the coming days, the Bureau will be implementing pest management as support for the mango industry.

In marking its 94th year of existence, the Bureau of Plant Industry is positioned to sustain its efforts in ensuring that the Philippine agriculture sector is capable of withstanding challenges and contributing to the nation's food security and economic development.



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EDITORIAL

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Value chain in vegetables

WHATEVER happened to the vegetable value chain project of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in partnership with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)?

We are prodded to ask this question because we cannot just look the other way and pretend that all is well in vegetable farming, marketing, and trading nationwide. The fact is, something very bad is now happening in the vegetable industry, as evidenced by the glut in cabbage harvests in the vegetable basket of Benguet and in the cabbage-producing towns in Cebu.

In Baguio and elsewhere in the highlands of northern Luzon, many farmers have opted not to bring their harvests of cabbage to the lowlands because of very low prices being offered by traders. Instead of suffering huge losses in transport expenses, they would rather not harvest their crops at all.

'With a new DA secretary in the person of Francisco Tiu Laurel, we hope the department will fast-track this value chain project and operationalize it for the benefit of our farmers and consumers.'

Local officials in northern Luzon point to the fact that vegetable middlemen would rather buy in the lowlands of Pangasinan and La Union instead

of going all the way to Baguio and the Cordilleras. What they buy are cheap, imported and sometimes smuggled, vegetables.

Along E. Rodriguez Blvd. near St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City, one can see a sign put up by the Episcopalian Church saying they are helping the farmers of Benguet market their cabbage for P20 a kilo. This church is one of the philanthropic institutions helping the farmers sell their produce physically and online, and is requesting the public to chip in by buying the vegetable for their use.

In a Cebu market, members of a civic organization bought cabbage in bulk and gave them to passers-by. The Cebuano farmers are struggling with the same problem of low farm-gate prices.

A former official of the Department of Agriculture said the farmers themselves are to blame; for they planted the same crop simultaneously and so they have to harvest at the same time. We doubt if this explanation will hold water, since rampant smuggling of onions, garlic, cabbage and carrots is more to blame.

Before President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. left the Department of Agriculture, the agency joined hands with JICA to implement a five-year project that would enhance the vegetable value chain in the country.

Dubbed Market-Driven Enhancement of Vegetable Value Chain in the Philippines (MV2C), "this technical cooperation project aims to improve the Philippine vegetable value chain, therefore encouraging higher yield and income for farmers and achieving food security, availability, accessibility, and affordability to every Filipino," the DA said.

Under the project, a vegetable value chain roadmap will be developed to identify problems and solutions in the value chain, as well as determine the roles of every stakeholder. The MV2C pilot projects will be implemented in vegetable-producing provinces like Benguet and Quezon, where a value chain survey has been conducted.

With a new DA secretary in the person of Francisco Tiu Laurel, we hope the department will fast-track this value chain project and operationalize it for the benefit of our farmers and consumers.



Citizen Barok
Louis 'Barok' Biraogo

Rice catastrophe of epic proportions

IN THE darkened corners of agricultural policies and governmental apathy, the Philippines stands as a glaring example of negligence, crowned with the dubious honor of being the world's top rice importer in 2024.

The recent report by the United States' Department of Agriculture paints a grim portrait of a nation drowning in the repercussions of decades-long indifference towards its agricultural backbone.

As the USDA projects the Philippines to import a staggering 3.8 million metric tons of rice this year, it's not merely a figure; it's a damning indictment of a system that has failed its farmers and its people. The Bureau of Plant Industry's disclosure the country imported 3.22 million metric tons of rice in 2023 only underscores the urgency of addressing the deep-rooted issues plaguing our agricultural landscape.

The USDA's report places the Philippines ahead of China, Indonesia, the European Union, Nigeria, and Iraq in rice imports.

This dubious distinction is not a testament to our economic prowess but a shameful reflection of the government's inability to prioritize and invest in domestic agriculture.

The looming specter of rice inflation, reaching a 14-year high at 19.6 percent in December 2023, is not merely a number; it's a tangible manifestation of the hardships faced by ordinary Filipinos.

Agriculture Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel Jr.'s plea for a staggering P1.2

trillion investment in the rice sector over the next three years is a desperate cry for help.

His admission that no major post-harvest facility has been funded by the government in the last 40 years is a stark confession of negligence.

Small and piecemeal efforts, he asserts, are irrelevant and useless — a damning assessment of a government that has failed to build a sustainable foundation for its agricultural sector.

The consequences of this negligence are manifold.

The rising local prices of rice, hitting a 14-year high, not only burden the pockets of ordinary citizens but also contribute to a broader economic instability.

The projected rice imports, primarily from Vietnam, signal a dangerous dependency that compromises our food security.

The USDA report should serve as a wake-up call, a relentless alarm

The ill-effects of continued neglect are not confined to the realms of statistics; they manifest in empty stomachs, stunted growth, and shattered dreams

echoing through the chambers of power that demands immediate action.

It is in the darkest hour that we must find the strength to demand change.

The Department of Agriculture cannot escape scrutiny; their silence in response to this crisis is deafening.

The Filipino people deserve more than empty promises and paltry excuses.

We must rise as a collective force, demanding accountability, transparency, and a radical shift in priorities.

The ill-effects of continued neglect are not confined to the realms of statistics;

they manifest in empty stomachs, stunted growth, and shattered dreams.

We must not be passive observers to this unfolding tragedy.

Let our collective voice be a relentless storm that harasses the government into action.

Immediate steps are non-negotiable. Allocate substantial funds for the rice sector, not as a token gesture but as a genuine commitment to revitalizing agriculture.

Invest in modern irrigation systems and post-harvest facilities, acknowledging the future of our nation

lies in the fertile fields tended by our farmers.

Break free from the shackles of short-sightedness; build a legacy that future generations can cultivate.

Let this thought be a spine-chilling tale that jolts our collective conscience.

The horror of agricultural neglect is real, and only through a united front can we script a different ending for our beleaguered nation.

The clock is ticking, and the rice fields of the Philippines demand our immediate attention.



BUREAU OF PLANT 94 YEARS OF AGRICULTURAL EXCELLENCE

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Bureau of Plant Industry marks 94 years of agricultural excellence

A Celebration of Innovation, Growth, and Sustainability

By DA-BPI

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"For nearly a century, DA-BPI has been at the forefront of agricultural innovation, stewardship, and progress in our nation. We are here to celebrate not just the longevity of this institution but also the milestones, advancements, and commitment it has shown towards the modernization of agricultural practices in our country," said Secretary Tiu Laurel.

Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban Ph.D., the Director of the Bureau of Plant Industry, shared insights into the bureau's accomplishments over the past year and outlined strategic plans for the future.

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Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr., in his keynote speech at the 94th anniversary of the Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI), acknowledges the institution's role in advancing the progress of the Philippine agriculture sector

tions from a high of 20,759.04 ha (0.81%) in 2020 to 13,667.83 ha (0.54%) in 2023 for approximately 2.5 M ha of corn production area. The figure shows a decrease in infestation rates of 0.27%. This year and in the coming days, the Bureau will be implementing pest management as support for the mango industry.

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Director Gerald Glenn F. Panganiban delivers his report on the accomplishments of the Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) for 2023 and outlines upcoming plans for the modernization of the Philippines' agriculture sector



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DA to launch tobacco roadmap

BY JANINE ALEXIS MIGUEL

THE Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to launch a five-year roadmap focusing on collaborating with local government units (LGUs) to expand tobacco production areas in the country.

In its bid to elevate the tobacco industry in the country, the DA's National Tobacco Administration (NTA) crafted the five-year Sustainable Tobacco Enhancement Program (STEP) with a focus on Mindanao.

Mindanao accounted for 7.5 million kilograms (kg) of tobacco produced in the country in 2023, which sold for an average price of P379 per kg, data from the NTA showed.

DA Undersecretary Deogracias

Victor Savellano emphasized the potential of indigenous tobacco as an exportable product and its potential to boost the country's foreign exchange reserves.

Savellano added that the industry can also support local economies while sustaining the livelihoods of tobacco farmers.

The NTA said the tobacco industry has been supporting the livelihoods of at least 2.1 million Filipino workers and is one of the primary sources of government revenue, generating P160 billion through excise tax collections in 2022.

The DA Regional Field Office

in Cagayan de Oro (DA-RFO 10) said that major stakeholders in the tobacco sector, including tobacco growers and provincial government leaders from Mindanao, convened on Thursday to discuss and coordinate efforts for the implementation of Mindanao's Tobacco Industry Development Plan.

"Under the STEP, NTA is set to rev up Mindanao's tobacco industry by closely working with LGUs to strengthen and expand the existing tobacco areas, aiming for sustainability of the industry," the DA-RFO 10 said.

Over the next five years, NTA

targets to undertake initiatives like enhancing irrigation and water management, supplying agricultural equipment, offering support for value-added processing and marketing, and providing credit and financial aid as outlined in Mindanao's tobacco industry development strategy.

Tobacco-producing provinces in Mindanao include Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon, Zamboanga Sibugay, Maguindanao del Sur, North Cotabato and Agusan del Sur.

Savellano said that the meeting aimed to address key national strategies for boosting indigenous

tobacco cultivation in the southern region of the country.

In 2022, approximately P74 billion from tobacco excise taxes was allocated for the government's universal health care initiative.

The NTA earlier said that it targets to increase local production of tobacco by up to 12 percent for the next few years.

The previous year's tobacco production was recorded at 43 million kg. According to the 2022-2023 data from the NTA, the country has 40,482 hectares of land dedicated to tobacco and 25,188 supervised tobacco farmers.



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Agri produce worth ₱136.5 M affected by shear line

By GABRIEL CHRISTEL GALANG

The Department of Agriculture (DA) reported that many farmers in Davao and Caraga suffered production losses in agriculture and

fisheries due to the shear line.

In a statement, the DA-Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) recorded around ₱136.56 million in losses, affecting 6,923 farmers in the two regions.

Over 1,141 metric tons (MT) of agriculture production within 9,043 hectares, which was composed mostly of rice and corn during its beginning stages, were damaged by the weather phenomenon.

The DA has begun assessing the damages by providing the worth of rice, corn, and other vegetable seeds that cost ₱18.5 million for replanting.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) has also made a loan program available for the affected farmers with the Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan.

According to the agency, the SURE loan would allow farmers to borrow up to ₱25,000 with a three-year term repayment at zero interest.

Lastly, the DA ensured that the Quick Response Fund (QRF) would assist with the rehabilitation of the damaged lands in the Davao and Caraga regions.



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Nasalanta ng shearline **Higit 6K magsasaka sa Davao at Caraga, aayudahan — DA**

Aayudahan ng Department of Agriculture (DA) ang may 6,923 magsasaka na nawasak ang pataniman at nalugi ng may P136.57 milyon makaraang salantahin

ng shearline sa Davao at Caraga Regions.

Ayon sa DA, karamihan sa nasalanta ng shearline sa naturang rehiyon ay magsasaka ng palay at mais.

Nagsasagawa na ang DA ng assessment sa pinsala at nawasak ng damage shearline sa agriculture at fishery sector doon.

Patuloy ang paki-

kipag-ugnayan ng DA sa mga apektadong LGU-counterparts at ibang DRRM-related offices para madetermina ang kailangang interventions bilang suporta sa mga apektadong magsasaka at mangingisda.

Ilan sa available interventions ng DA sa Davao at Caraga regions ay ang ipamamahaging punla ng palay at mais na may halagang P18.50 milyon, Survival and Recovery (SURE) Loan Program mula sa Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) na may loanable amount na P25,000 na babayaran sa loob ng 3 taon na walang interest at Quick Response Fund (QRF) para sa rehabilitasyon ng mga apektadong lugar.
(Angie dela Cruz)



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Marcos' Vietnam trip to boost food security

FOOD security will be high on the agenda during President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.'s state visit to Vietnam this week, a senior Trade department official said.

Speaking on ANC' "Market Edge" program on Monday, Trade Undersecretary Maria Blanca Kim Bernardo-Lokin said a rice deal was a particular priority given the El Niño weather pattern's expected impact on domestic

output.

"[W]e do have challenges from the weather and ... this is an immediate measure or intervention that the President is taking," she said.

Vietnam is the country's biggest supplier of rice and Bernardo-Lokin said that Marcos was also looking to tap its expertise in other areas of agriculture.

"[I]t is the aim of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to be able to modern-

ize agriculture and to be able to bring in partners that could help us in modernizing our agriculture sector and at the same time [ensure that] our goals in the 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda are met," she said.

The government, she continued, is also looking for "new industries that we can leverage on, we can tap or we can bring in" even as the country moves

➤ Food B3

■ SECURITY FROM B1

Marcos' Vietnam trip

to shore up its strengths in electronics, information technology, and business process outsourcing.

Marcos left on Monday for Hanoi, accompanied by First Lady Marie Louise Araneta-Marcos and other key Cabinet officials, on the invitation of Vietnamese President Vo Van Thuong.

During the two-day trip, the President will also meet Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh and National Assembly Chairman Vuong Dinh Hue "where discussions

on the multifaceted relationship and ways of exploring deepening of cooperation across different fronts will be expected."

Talks are expected to include the issue of the South China Sea where both countries have overlapping claims and where China has aggressively staked its presence.

Marcos will also meet with the Filipino community in Vietnam before he returns to Manila.

FROM A REPORT BY
JENICA FAYE GARCIA



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Marcos assures food for all amid El Niño

Gov't to expand irrigable lands, increase farm support, combat smuggling, bribery

By JOSEPH PEDRAJAS

President Marcos is ramping up his efforts to ensure food security amid threats of El Niño as part of his administration's new brand of governance.

In front of hundreds of thousands of Filipinos who attended the kick-off of Bagong Pilipinas (new Philippines) rally in Manila on Sunday, the President laid out his plans to assure them of enough rice supply in the upcoming ► **2**

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Marcos assures food for all amid El Niño 1◀

phenomenon.

He said the government would expand irrigable lands, increase farm support across the board for all crops, and incentivize urban gardening, including turning idle lands into vegetable plots.

He also said the government "will not tolerate smuggled food that impoverishes our domestic producers and puts our consumers at risk" as well as address "trading and transport bottlenecks."

"Itinigil din natin ang pangongotong sa daan at sa pantalan sapagkat ang tong ay nagiging presyong ipinapatong sa mga mamimili (We also stopped bribery because it is causing prices to shoot up in the market)," he said.

He also called on barangay officials to convert every piece of available land into urban gardens.

"The ultimate objective is to make food affordable to all, and one way to achieve this is to make it accessible to consumers," the President said.

Marcos made the pronouncement as he vowed that the Filipino farmers' produce "would not be drowned" amid threats of unpredictable weather conditions.

He said people should rather be drowned with support from the government.



PRESYO NG BIGAS SUKATAN SA PAGBABAGO

SA Bulacan at ilang parte ng Metro Manila, may nakausap tayong nilapitan at pinapirma ng mga nagsusulong ng People's Initiative o PI.

'Pag tinatanong ang mga nagpapapirma, katwiran nila, "para sa pagbabago."

Kapag tinatanong ang mga nagpapapirma kung ano 'yung "para sa pagbabago", kennana, wala umanong malinaw silang paliwanag.

Nagmamadali pa silang lumakad para makarami. Dito, hindi nakapagtatakdang sapat na umano ang bilang ng mga pirma para isalang sa Commission on Elections at maberipika kung peke o hindi ang mga pirma.

Maaaring kasunod na ito nang pagsalang ng Comelec sa plebisito o botohan ng 'yes' o 'no' kung mag-iisang bumoto ang mga kongresman at senador sa pagwawak sa Konstitusyong 1987.

Nais ng mga nagsusulong ng PI na wakwakin ang Konstitusyon upang maaalis umano ang mga bahagi nito na nagiging

sagabal sa pag-unlad ng Pilipinas at mapalitan ng mga nilalaman na makatutulong sa pag-unlad.

Pero alam ba ninyo na hilong-talilong ang taumbayan kung ano-ano talaga ang mga wawakwakin at ang ipapalit?

Pero totoo kayang kabilang sa mga ibuburda sa Konstitusyon, eh, pagbebenta ng lupa sa mga dayuhan at magiging mayari na ng lupa ang mga ito?

Eh kung ibebenta ang mga palayan at iba pang lugar na taniman, alagaan ng mga hayop o pangisdaan, anong pag-unlad ang aasahan ng mga Pinoy?

Ang tiyak, darami ang magiging iskwater sa sariling bayan...at lalong masisira ang produksyon ng bigas, gulay at yamang-tubig sa bansa sa pagliit ng mga lupang agrikultural.

Ang totoo, isang malaking sukatan sa



pagbabago ang presyo ng bigas.

Sa palagay ba ninyo, kapag niretoke ang Konstitusyon, makaaasa tayo na magbubunga ito ng murang bigas, kasama na ang gulay at isda bilang pagbabago?

Lalo na kung magiging "for sale" ang mga lupang agrikultural sa mga dayuhan na maaaring magtayo ng negosyo, pabrika o kung agrikultural man, iluluwas nila ang produkto para sa sariling bayan ng mga dayuhan.

O pirma na para sa pagbabago, lalo na mula P100 hanggang tatlong libong piso ang suhol!

Kinnayu!!!



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Sulat kay Editor

Sampolan ang mga ismagler

Dear Editor,

Sadsad ang presyo ng sibuyas sa mga sakahan dahil tambak ang supply nito sa merkado dahil sa pagbuhos ng mga imported mula pa noong Disyembre. Sabi ng grupong Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura, dapat sisihin din dito ang mga ismagler dahil binaha nila ang supply ng sibuyas kung kailan nag-aanihan na ang mga magsasaka. Nagtataka tuloy ang grupo kung may napala ang Kamara de Representantes sa isinagawa nilang imbestigasyon noong nakaraang taon dahil patuloy pa rin sa kanilang operasyon ang mga smuggler, hoarder ng sibuyas at iba pang produktong agrikultura. Hindi na raw natatakot ang mga ismagler at hoarder dahil wala namang nakukulong.

Aprubado na ng Senado ang Senate Bill No. 2432 hinggil sa Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act. Pinaniniwalaan ng mga senador na ito ang puputol sa sungay ng mga ismagler at hoarder. Pero ang problema, dahil sa bangayan ng Senado at Kamara sa Charter change, hindi makapag-convene ang bicameral conference committee para mapagtibay ang panukala. Kaya ang mga magsasaka, patuloy sa pag-iyak dahil sa pagkalugi nila sa pagtatanim ng sibuyas. Buti sana kung bumalik ang kanilang puhunan. Unahin sana ng mga mambabatas ang pagpapatibay ng mahalagang panukala para sa kapakanan ng mga magsasaka upang masampolan na ang mga ismagler at hoarder sa bansa.

Concerned citizen

Date: 30 JAN 2024

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Editorial

Nakakaiyak na problema sa sibuyas, nagpapatuloy

NOONG Disyembre 2022, nagmistulang ginto ang presyo ng sibuyas na umabot sa mahigit P700 bawat kilo. Iyon ang unang pagkakataon na naranasan sa bansa ang sobrang mahal na sibuyas. At matindi pa na bukod sa mahal, walang mabibili. Nagkaroon ng kakapusan kaya naman itinuring na nagkaroon ng krisis sa sibuyas na nataon pa sa holiday season kung saan kabi-kabila ang pagluluto ng ihahandang pagkain.

Ayon sa mga magsasakang nagtatanim ng sibuyas, hindi naman dapat lumobo ng ganun ang presyo sapagkat wala namang kakapusan sa sibuyas sa bansa. Ayon pa sa mga magsasaka sagana sa sibuyas at ang kailangan lamang ay mga storage o bodega na pag-iimbakan ng mga sibuyas para hindi mabulok.

Nagkaroon ng imbestigasyon ang House of Representatives at Senado ukol sa krisis sa sibuyas. Nakilala naman ang mga traders na nasa likod ng krisis. Sila ang nagtatago at nagmamanipla ng presyo kaya nagmahal na parang ginto ang sibuyas.

Sa kabila ng mga imbestigasyon ng Senado at Kongreso, walang nakasuhan sa mga ganid na traders ng sibuyas. Pawang pag-iimbestiga lamang ang nangyari kaya ang labis na apektado ay ang mga magsasaka ng sibuyas. Hindi na mabibili ang lokal na aning sibuyas dahil dumagsa ang mga imported na kagagawan ng mga ganid na traders.

Sabi ni Jayson Cainglet, director ng Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura, ang mga inimbestigahan ng Senado at Kongreso noon ay sila rin ang nasa likod ng mga nangyayaring krisis ngayon sa sibuyas. Sila pa rin ang nagmamanipla ng presyo at nagho-hoard ng sibuyas. Walang pinagbago sa nangyayari at mas lumulubha pa ang krisis.

Nagpapatuloy din umano ang smuggling ng agri products at kabilang dito ang sibuyas. Isa rin ang smuggling kaya tumataas ang presyo ng sibuyas. Dumadagsa ang smuggled na sibuyas mula sa China at saka iho-hoard ng mga tusong negosyante. Kapag wala nang sibuyas sa merkado saka ilalabas ang mga nakaimbak. Mataas na ang presyo na ang mga ito at walang magawa ang mamamayan kundi bumili ng gintong sibuyas. Tinukoy ng Senado noon ang isang naggangalang Luz or Leah Cruz na tinaguriang "Sibuyas Queen". Nasaan na ang taong ito?

Noong Hulyo 2023, sinabi ni President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. hahabulin ang smugglers at hoarders ng agri products. Hindi umano makakalusot ang mga nagpapahirap sa bayan at mamamayan. Hanggang ngayon, wala pang nakakasuhan.

Hanggang kailan ang nakakaiyak na problema sa sibuyas?



Ngayong araw na ito ang ibabahagi ko sa inyo ang isang natatanging garden na maraming beses ng nagwawagi sa landscaping competition sa

at marami pang iba.

Ayon kay Yhelen, marami rin silang pagsubok na pinagda-ranang mag-asawa noong nagsisimula pa lamang sila sa pagha-

mag-asawang Soco tulad ng landscaping job, delivery of plants, reef-raft, waterfalls at grotto, i-text o tawagan lamang ninyo ang mag-asawa sa kanilang number na

TV, Channel 1 ng TV-5. Mapapakinggan din po sa Radyo Singko 92.3 News FM.

Maaari rin kayong manood at mag-sub-scribe at mag-follow sa



Ang magandang landscape na obra ng Allen's Garden, muling itinanghal bilang champion sa katatapos lang na competition sa 26th Halaman Festival ng Guiguinto, Bulacan.

"Madaling kausap, maraming dagdag..."

ALLEN'S GARDEN, CHAMPION SA COMPETITION

Bulacan partikular sa bayan ng Guiguinto.

Ito ay ang Allen's Garden na pag-aari ng mabait, masipag at God fearing na mag-asawa na sina Yhelen at Alfredo Soco. Makikita ang naturang garden sa Tabang, St. Francis, Sta Cruz, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Ang Allen's Garden ay tinanghal muli bilang champion sa katatapos lang na ika-26 na taong pagdiriwang ng Halamanan Festival sa nasabing bayan.

Ayon kay Yhelen, limang competition na ang kanilang sinalihan at sila ang tinatanghal na winner.

Namumukod tangi, maliwalas, may pond, hagdan at maganda sa paningin ng bawat makakita sa obra ng mag-asawang Soco.

Bukod sa magagandang obra o gawa ng mag-asawa sa pagla-landscape ay madali rin silang kausap.

Nakalagay sa sign-board ng mag-asawang Soco sa kanilang garden ang salitang "MADALING KAUSAP, MARAMING DAGDAG".

Dahil pinagbubuti ng mag-asawang Soco at hindi nila tinitipid ang kanilang mga nagiging kostumer kaya "Through Word of Mouth" ay dumami ang kanilang mga suki.

Ilang sa mga naging porokyano at nagpa-landscape na sa mag-asawang Soco ay ang kilalang sikat na celebrity actor na si John Lloyd Cruz, Marikina City Mayor Marcy Teodoro, mga sangay ng Jollibee

halaman.

Pero hindi sila tumigil sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng magagandang halaman at pagla-landscape.

Ipinagkatiwala rin nila sa Panginoon ang kanilang trabaho hanggang i-bless sila at na-overcome ang mga pagsubok.

"Lagi po akong nagdarasal dahil noong una ay wala pong naniniwala sa amin na magagawa naming mapaganda ang kanilang garden at bahay dahil nakamotor lang kami para dalhin ang mga halaman, pero noong matapos namin ang trabaho ay tuwang-tuwa ang may-ari



0917-631-44-42, 0936-671-58-16 at 0943-412-21-59.

Sabihin lang po ninyo na nabasa ninyo sa kolum ng Magsasakang Reporter ang tungkol sa kanila para bigyan pa kayo ng discount.

Nitong nakaraang Linggo, January 28, 2024, alas-7:00 ng umaga ay iniere ang panayam ng Magsasakang Reporter kay Yhelen sa TV at Ra-

aking Youtube Channel na ANG MAGSASAKANG REPORTER at Facebook profile na Mer Layson at Facebook page na Ang Magsasakang Reporter, TV host Vlogger, Tiktok na Magsasakang Reporter para sa iba pang kaalaman at impormasyon sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan.



Ang Magsasakang Reporter kasama si Yhelen Soco, owner ng Allen's Garden.

ng bahay at pinamalita sa kanyang mga kaibigan ang aming gawa hanggang dumami na ang aming mga kostumer," ani Yhelen.

Pahayag pa ni Yhelen, hindi sila mataas maningil o magbigay ng presyo sa kanilang mga suki pero sinusulit nila ang trabaho kaya sila binabalikan.

Sa mga nais magavail na serbisyo ng

dio Show na Masaganang Buhay.

Samantala, para sa iba pang tips at sikreto sa pagtatanim ng iba't ibang uri ng halaman sa pamamagitan ng organikong pamamaraan ay 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

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



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Indonesia to import more live cattle, frozen meat

JAKARTA- Indonesia will import 676,000 head of cattle this year as well as 320,352 metric tons of frozen meat to fulfil domestic demand, an agriculture ministry official said on Monday.

The government will soon issue import recommendations for cattle and meat, Inti Pertiwi Nashwari, a director at the Agriculture Ministry, said in a weekly government meeting on inflation that was broadcast online.

The imports would help to plug a supply gap as demand for meat is estimated to reach 720,375 metric tons this year, while domestic production is targeted at 422,649 tons, according to data from the ministry.

She did not specify the likely source of the imports. Australia is typically the biggest exporter of cattle to Indonesia.

Earlier this month, Indonesia's National Food Agency said it had appointed two state procurement firms to import 120,000 tons of beef from Brazil and India this year.

Indonesia's trade surplus nar-



A department of Agriculture and Food Security officer injects a cow with a dose of vaccine to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease at a cattle farm in Tangerang, Banten province. (Reuters Photo)

rowed in November to \$2.41 billion as imports increased more than expected, while exports extended their weakening trend, data from the statistics bureau showed on Friday.

Southeast Asia's biggest economy has seen its shipments declining by value in the past months due to falling commodity prices and slowing global demand.

In November, exports fell 8.56 percent on a yearly basis to \$22 billion versus expectations of 9.36 percent drop in a Reuters poll. -
Reuters

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Soybeans, corn fall

CANBERRA- Chicago soybean futures inched higher on Monday, but remained close to multi-year lows after rains in key suppliers Brazil and Argentina suggested that supply will remain plentiful.

Corn and wheat prices fell, with both markets being well-supplied.

The most-active soybean contract on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) was up 0.1 percent at \$12.10 a bushel after dipping to a two-week low of \$12.07 earlier in the day.

Aside from a handful of sessions this month, prices have not been this low since November

2021.

Weighing on prices are upcoming large harvests from South America and weak demand for soy meal and oil, said Ole Houe at IKON Commodities in Sydney.

"Soybean prices are still on the high side for market that's well-supplied," he said.

The Buenos Aires Grains Exchange last week raised its estimate of Argentina's soybean crop to 52.5 million metric tons, up about 1 percent from its previous forecast, and pegged the corn crop at 56.5 million tons, up nearly 3 percent. - *Reuters*