



RDC-1 CHRONICLE



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...your stories

THE CHRONICLE

The RDC Chronicle is published quarterly basis by RDC-1. It highlights the region's economic performance, status of project proposals and projects implemented, and news and feature stories from the RDC members particularly the local government units and line agencies.

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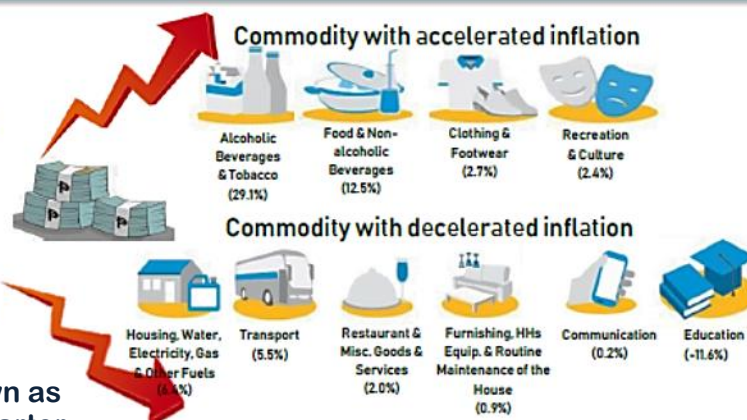
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Snapshot of the Region's Economy 4th Quarter CY 2018

Inflation

moved at a faster pace

Inflation moved at a faster pace at **7.8%** compared to the last quarter as commodity prices of Food and Non-Alcoholic Beverages; Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco; Clothing and Footwear; and Recreation and Culture went up during the fourth quarter of 2018. Inflation is expected to slow down as observed in the last 2 months of the 4th quarter.



Agriculture & Fishery Production increased



Higher agriculture & fishery production in the region was recorded during the period at **1,376,173.94 MT.**

The region's increased production was due to seasonally higher production.

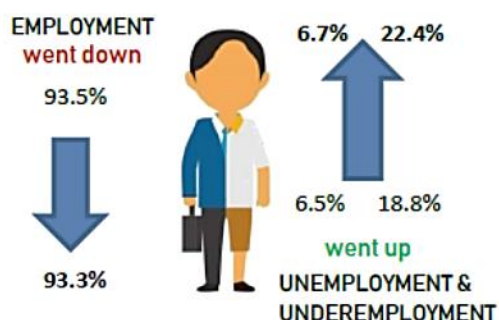


Export Receipts increased significantly



TOBACCO is the Region's major export commodity with **95.7%** share and a total of **USD 18.4M** worth of export receipts.

Employment Status slightly declined



Investments decreased

Ilocos Region recorded a total of **PHP 2,041.7M** worth of investments during the fourth quarter of CY 2018.



The top 3 investments during the quarter were from **Agri-based** (P 217.9 M), **Construction** (P 43.7 M) and **Food Processing** (P 40.4 M).

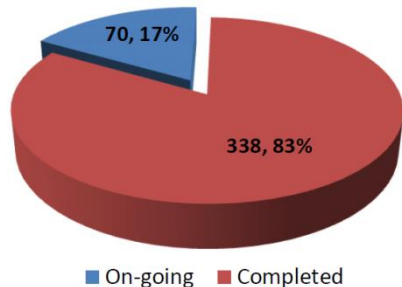
CY 2018 Fourth Quarter RPMES Project Monitoring Report

A total of 408 projects were enrolled in the RPMES Monitoring Plan by 25 implementing agencies - 16 RLAs, 3 SCUs, 3 PLGUs, 2 GOCCs and 1 hospital.

As 2018 ended, 338 or 83 percent of the total number of projects enrolled for monitoring during the year were completed and 70 or 17 percent were in various stages of completion. Three of the ongoing projects were within schedule and seven were ahead of schedule. Of the 60 projects behind schedule, 39 projects with negative physical slippage of 15% or higher were subjected to a problem-solving session during the first quarter meeting of the Regional Project Monitoring Committee last 27 February 2019. Most of the concerned implementing agencies have committed to complete their delayed projects within the first quarter of 2019.

OVERALL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STATUS

Total No. of Projects for CY 2018 = 408



The region posted an overall physical accomplishment rate of 96.29 percent, missing its target for the year by 3.71 percent. Across sectors, the Social Development Sector surpassed its target, registering an accomplishment level of 107.26 percent. The Environment Sector also exceeded its target for the year, recording an accomplishment level of 104.11 percent, ditto for the Governance Sector with an accomplishment rate of 100.28 percent. The Economic Development Sector, meanwhile barely missed its target for the year, recording a negative slippage of one percent. The Infrastructure Sector, on the other hand, needs to catch-up in 2019, as the sector missed its target by 14.1 percent as 2018 ended.

The 408 enrolled projects had a combined programmed amount of P9.418 billion for 2018. As the year ended, approximately P7.468 billion was released for a funding support of 79.29 percent. Total expenditures amounted to P7.326 billion for an expenditure rate of 98.09 percent. Only the Governance Sector posted a 100 percent expenditure rate. The Social Development and Environment Sectors reported almost 99 percent expenditure rates. The Infrastructure and Economic Development Sectors had similar expenditure rates of roughly 96 percent.

Sector	Allocation (P M)	Releases as of the quarter (P M)	Funding Support (%)	Total Expenditure (P M)	Expenditure Rate (%)
Economic Dev	1,049.69	1,048.23	99.86	1,000.93	95.49
Social Dev	4,230.19	3,969.07	93.83	3,966.50	99.93
Infrastructure	3,889.55	2,203.83	56.66	2,113.14	95.88
Governance	1.180	1.207	102.20	1.207	100
Environment	247.90	245.97	99.22	244.27	99.31
OVERALL	9,418.51	7,468.307	79.29	7,326.047	98.09

The implementation of the 408 enrolled projects made possible the employment of 168,693 persons. Similar to the previous years, the Infrastructure Sector employed the most, contributing about 94.25 percent of the total employed generated by the enrolled projects.

Sector	Employment Generated
Environment	5,234
Governance	-
Infrastructure	158,998
Social Dev	2,802
Economic Dev	1,659
OVERALL	168,693

Complete report may be accessed at <http://124.107.243.174/uploads/PMED/2018/CY-2018-Q4RPMES.pdf>

By: Project Monitoring and Evaluation Division, NEDA RO1

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

RDC-1 Endorses 51 Resolutions Relevant to Socio-Economic Development

The Regional Development Council (RDC) 1, chaired by Hon. Juan Carlo S. Medina of Vigan City, endorsed 51 resolutions relevant to socio-economic development in the region during its 1st Full Council Meeting on March 28, 2019 at the Villar Hall, Concord Bldg., Philippine National Police, Regional Office I, San Fernando City, La Union. Among the priority resolutions were the endorsement of the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget of 22 Regional Line Agencies and six (6) State Universities and Colleges in the region which amounted to Php118,977,934,925.69. Likewise, the convergence projects of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) with the Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and Department of National Defense for infrastructure development were endorsed by the council.

Gearing towards economic development, the RDC-1 also endorsed to concerned entities the following proposals that emanated from the EDSECOM: (a) of the Poro Point Management Corporation's Establishment of a Multi-purpose Passenger Terminal with floating pier within Poro Point; (b) Mariano Marcos State University's (MMSU) Establishment of the National R&D and Training Center for Garlic; and (c) Request to the Office of the Department of Agriculture Secretary to Waive the Certificate of Inspection and Verification Requirements of the Philippine Coconut Authority in relation to the Land Use Reclassification of the proposed Suyo Economic Zone in the province of Ilocos Sur. RDC-1 also endorsed resolution requesting the DILG to enjoin the Local Government Units (LGUs) to expand the functions of their Local Housing Boards (LHBs) to cover comprehensive housing and urban development concerns and the DENR to expedite the issuance of Proclamation/Reservation and Special Patent for Housing and Resettlement Purposes as proposed by the Regional Social Development Committee (RSDC).

Moreover, RDC-1 approved the following for implementation of RDC members concerned: (1) poverty reduction convergence programs for Lidlidda, Ilocos Sur; (2) prevention and control of measles; (3) utilization of *Pinggang Pinoy*; (4) *Listahanan* project of the DSWD; and (5) creation of *plantilla* for positions for Local Economic and Investment Promotion Officer (LEIPO) and Environment and Natural Resources Officer (ENRO) by the LGUs. Likewise, the following were adopted by RDC-1: (1) provisional guidelines for the midterm updating of the Regional Development Plan (RDP) 2017-2022 of Ilocos Region; (2) music and lyrics of the Region 1 Hymn; and (3) Region 1 Sustainable Development Goals Indicators.

During the meeting, Secretary Raul L. Lambino, Presidential Adviser for Northern Luzon, recognized the important role of the RDC in fast tracking development in the countryside especially in the delivery of services to the people.



RDC-1 Chairperson, Hon. Juan Carlo S. Medina (middle) of Vigan City presides the 1st Regular RDC-1 Full Council Meeting on March 28, 2019. Also in the photo (L-R) are RDC Vice-Chairperson, Regional Dir. Nestor G. Rillon of NEDA-RO1; Presidential Adviser for Northern Luzon, Secretary Raul L. Lambino; RDC-1 Secretary, Asst. Regional Dir. Donald James D. Gawe of NEDA-RO1, and PSSupt. Flynn E. Dongbo of PNP-PRO I.

By: Zenaida Garcillan

Region 1 Executives Update Secretary Ernesto Pernia on Socio-Economic Development

Region 1's prime socio-economic movers conducted a dialogue with the Socioeconomic Planning Secretary and Director-General of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Ernesto M. Pernia, and his team composed of Undersecretary for Regional Development Office, Dr. Adoracion Navarro, and Dir. Allan Ancheta of the Office of the Secretary, on February 8, 2019 at the Thunderbird Resort's Clubhouse, San Fernando City, La Union. In the dialogue, the regional stakeholders apprised the Secretary on the socioeconomic situation, status of key projects, and development challenges in the region. They also benefited from his views on sustaining the gains and addressing some development issues.

As input to the dialogue, the President of the Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), Atty. Felix Racadio, presented the various programs and projects in the Poro Point Freeport Zone (PPFZ) to promote economic development particularly of Northern Luzon while ensuring the protection of the environment and natural resources. He also pointed out various accomplishments of the PPMC in transforming the PPFZ as a thriving center for tourism, commerce and trade, and investment. Meanwhile, Ms. Racquel Atawe and Ms. Marissa Gorospe of NEDA Regional 1 presented the socioeconomic situation in the region and status of priority projects as of December 31, 2018, respectively.

In the open forum, Mayor Eulogio Clarence Martin de Guzman raised the difficulty faced by the Local Government Units (LGUs) in applying for Special Economic Zones. He shared the initiative of LGU Bauang in setting aside a land parcel brought about by accretion. Secretary Pernia assured the local chief executive to raise the concern to PEZA and underscored the thrust of the government to ease doing business. In addition, Usec. Navarro advised Mayor de Guzman to seek assistance from the

Regional Development Council (RDC) 1's recently created Technical Working Group (TWG) on Ecozone development. On the declaration of the land mass formed from accretion as alienable and disposable, she suggested that the Mayor discuss the details with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) which is represented in the dialogue by Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Leduina Co.

On connectivity, Dir. Martin Valera of the Department of Tourism raised the need to look into improving the seaport to cater to cruise ships to further boost trade and tourism in the region. The PPMC officials responded that they have proposed to the Bases Conversion Development Authority and the Department of Transportation to build a multi-purpose passenger terminal which will be located at the Baywalk to support the Tri-city Ferry System initiative of the RDC.

Dir. Armando Ganal of the Department of Science and Technology apprised Sec. Pernia and his team on the institutionalization of the Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committee, formerly Regional Research Committee, which serves as the research arm of the RDC that includes various research consortia. Sec. Pernia suggested the establishment of primary, secondary and intermediate regional centers to support the various industries in the region. The establishment of centers of innovation may be done by tapping universities with strong research experience to provide assistance to the smaller universities in upgrading their capabilities using the "small brother-big brother" concept.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES

Usec. Navarro also commended the institutionalization of the said committee and suggested to identify potential enterprises which can be helped through innovative activities. She also urged the regional stakeholders to use an ecosystem approach for helping specific industries and enterprises through a tripartite collaboration among government, industry and academe. “A workable approach is identifying a specific product or service where industry players or the private sector can help to innovate such,” she added.

During the discussions, the body also received information on the on-going rally in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan due to non-payment of right-of-way (ROW) along the Pozorrubio-Rosario section of the Tarlac Pangasinan La Union Extension (TPLEX) project. Sec. Pernia tasked the DPWH to apprise all concerned agencies regarding the ROW acquisition issue and NEDA Regional Office (RO) 1 Director Nestor G. Rillon to closely monitor the matter and provide feedback on the result of the negotiations.

Capt. Mac Raul Racacho of the Philippine Navy raised concerns on illegal fishing while Director

Erma Yapit of the Commission on Population and Development (CPD) raised the high level of teenage pregnancy in the region. Usec. Navarro also noted the high malnutrition rate in the region which may have negative effect on maximizing the potential gains from the demographic dividend. Sec. Pernia also noted the concern raised by Dir. Yapit of the CPD on teenage pregnancy which he said is a factor that could result later on in malnutrition among children. He called on the officials of the region to push for strengthening sexuality education in the region and vigorous implementation of the family planning program.

The Secretary expressed his appreciation for the fruitful dialogue and hoped to visit other parts of the region soon. He also encouraged the Region 1 attendees--9 Regional Directors (RD), 4 ARDs, and 32 Regional Line Agency (RLA) and LGU representatives—to continue building on the gains they have made in the region.

By: John Gagucas



Sec. Pernia (3rd from left) speaks before the RDC officials during the dialogue. Other personalities include Usec. Navarro (3rd from right), PPMC President Racadio (2nd from right), NEDA RD Rillon (2nd from left), NEDA ARD Donald James Gawe (rightmost), and Dir. Jennilyne Role of PIA (leftmost).

NEDA RO 1 Directors and NGP Team visit NGP sites

Regional Director (RD) Nestor G. Rillon, Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Donald James D. Gawe and the National Greening Program (NGP) Team of the National Economic and Development Authority Regional Office 1 (NEDA RO 1) visited two (2) NGP sites of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources Regional Office 1 (DENR RO 1) on January 24 and 25, 2019. This is in line with the project/study, *"Third-Party Monitoring of CY 2015 NGP-Established Plantations of 100 Hectares and Above,"* which aims to determine the survival rate of sixteen (16) NGP selected sites in Region 1. The project/study was awarded by the DENR RO 1 to NEDA RO 1 in 2018 and completed in March 2019.

The visit included meetings with Community Environment and Natural Resources Offices (CENROs) Alaminos and Urdaneta headed by CENR Officers Atty. Hipolito Salatan and Mr. Romeo Z. Pernia, respectively. The meetings tackled various NGP-related problems and challenges encountered and best practices in the implementation of the program. Some of the identified problems and challenges were animal entry to sites, forest fires, weak community participation and commitment, and other social trap issues. With this, it was resolved that the DENR RO 1 will prepare and present the following proposals to the Environment and Natural Resources Sectoral Committee (ENR SeCom): 1) Social Fencing as a Strategy Towards Sustainable Development in Region 1, 2) Best Practices of Model NGP Sites, 3) Resolution of Issues Encountered in the NGP Implementation, and 4) Integration of Reforestation Projects as an Indicator in the Seal of Good Local Governance.

Meanwhile, the team met with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Infanta led by Municipal Administrator Leopoldo R. Merza and LGU San Nicolas headed by Mayor Rebecca M. Saldivar. In both meetings, the necessity to appoint a Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer (MENRO) to oversee the management, conservation, preservation and protection of the environment and natural resources of the two (2) municipalities was emphasized. Both LGUs are constrained to hire



Top Photo: RD Nestor and ARD Donald together with the members of the Pita Farmers Association; Bottom Photo: RD Nestor, ARD Donald and NEDA RO 1 NGP Team together with staff from DENR and members of the Malico Indigenous People Development Organization.

their MENRO due to the budgetary cap on Personal Services (PS) stated under Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Local Budget Circular No. 98, Series of 2011. This resulted in the appointment of their Local Budget Officers as Acting MENROs, in addition to their current positions. Herewith, a position paper on the possible lifting of the PS cap for the creation of MENRO positions in the LGUs will be prepared and presented to the ENR SeCom.

Furthermore, the team proceeded to the NGP sites located in Brgy. Pita, Infanta, Pangasinan and Brgy. Malico, San Nicolas, Pangasinan to monitor the condition and status of both NGP plantation areas. RD Rillon and ARD Gawe likewise interviewed the People's Organizations (POs) of both barangays on the implementation of the NGP in their respective sites. The team also passed by the long stretch of the Malico-Sta. Fe Road which connects the provinces of Pangasinan and Nueva Vizcaya. As of October 2018, the Region 1 component of the project was still in progress (91.89% actual accomplishment) while the Region 2 component is already completed.

By: Project Monitoring & Evaluation Division, NEDA RO1

Vigan City Officials Participate in the Master Plan Inception Workshop

Vigan City Mayor Carlo S. Medina, City Administrator Atty. Joanne Formoso and other key officers of the City Government attended the Inception Report Workshop for the Sustainable Infrastructure Master Plan held on February 15, 2019 at the Vigan Conservation Complex in Vigan City. Also in attendance were representatives from the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Central and Regional Office 1.

Mayor Medina expressed his gratitude to NEDA for choosing the Heritage City of Vigan as one of the study areas for its master plan formulation initiatives. He said that he personally thanked Sec. Ernesto Pernia for this during the latter's visit in the region. He assured the NEDA representatives and attendees of the workshop that the master plan will be utilized in all its planning endeavors, particularly in updating the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). As a manifestation of his support to the project, the Mayor said he will form a team that will serve as the counterpart of the consultants and provide assistance in data gathering and validating the draft output.

Architect Oscar Molina, the Project Team Leader, informed the participants that participatory planning shall be the primary tool in preparing the master plan. He added that the Master Plan shall be aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Philippine and Regional Development Plan 2017-2022, the National Spatial Strategy (NSS), and the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan (PDPFP) of Ilocos Sur, among others. The Sectoral experts also

presented the initial sectoral assessment, the proposed procedures and methodologies, and the sectoral outputs as a component of whole Master Plan for comments by the participants.

NEDA RO1 Asst. Regional Director (ARD) Donald James D. Gawe requested the consultants to expound on the methodologies in coming up with their expected output as he encouraged the City officials to ask questions. He conveyed the full support of his office and committed to seek the support of RDC members in providing data and/or information needed for the study. He shared that NEDA RO 1 has also started introducing the project to local officials of the adjoining municipalities and the Provincial Government of Ilocos Sur to get their support in providing the necessary data and information.

The workshop was convened to level off expectations on the expected output; explain the methods on delivering the output; identify possible issues in the implementation of the project; and, get the commitments of the officials of Vigan City. The sectors presented during the workshop include Tourism and Recreation, Transport and Connectivity, Infrastructure and Utilities, Flood Management, GIS and Information and Communication Technology, Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction Management, Housing and Settlements, Institutional Development, Governance and Policies, and Communication and Public Participation.

By: Rey B. Ferreria



All together for the Vigan City Master Plan. Vigan City Mayor Juan Carlo S. Medina, PRIMEX SVP Baby Gutierrez, NEDA RO1 ARD Donald James D. Gawe, NEDA CO-IS Christine Danao, pose for photo op with the participants during the Inception Report Workshop.

HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS: LGU Laoac Housing Program

Laoac is a 4th class municipality belonging to the 5th district of Pangasinan province. Its main economic activity is agriculture. It is a home of 31,497, as of 2015, inhabitants distributed in 6,160 households. Average household size is 5.

The need for housing is evident among the impoverished and landless sector. They live in disaster and hazard prone areas. This predicament is worsened by the financial capability of the municipality. In an effort, however, to provide hope for the homeless, the Local Chief Executive (LCE) had initiated a fund convergence strategy. This required partnering with private individuals and organizations with common interest of providing a decent housing for them. Financial support is pooled then the LCE provides an LGU counterpart fund. *Fund complementation* is an inherent mechanism practiced by the administration in order to speed-up initiation of projects. For a stable settlement area, the LGU initially buys land for the project.

The LGU Laoac Housing program caters to ease environment and economic related concerns, namely funding and natural calamities.

The Housing Projects that are now in place are as follows:

1. Core Shelter (Paraiso Village)

Twenty-four (24) elevated single unit model is in Sitio Paitan, Barangay D. Alarcio. A unit costs 120,000 pesos. The unit serves both as residential and an evacuation unit. Located in a flood prone site, sturdy posts were raised. The flooring is elevated to free them from reach of flood water.

2. Namnama Village (Gawad Kalinga)

In Barangay Anis, there are already 12 occupied units, the target is 30. Cash cost per unit is 140,000 pesos.

Considering the design, the costs were miraculously low. Why? The labor component is contributed by the beneficiaries, private individuals and other NGAs and GOs. *Bayanihan* at its best.

One of the recipients, Aida de la Cruz, does not mind doing a man's job. From hauling to concrete mixing. "*Kayat ko nga talaga ti adda balay na, Madam Mila (Laoac MSWDO)*" said Aida, a widow-family-head beneficiary. Number of hours spent in the *bayanihan* is one of the award criteria.

3. Angat Bahay, Sagip Buhay

Angat Bahay and Core shelter are custom built houses. They are climate change adaptive. Unlike "Core Shelter", which is located in one site, "*Angat Bahay*" is distributed in flood prone neighborhoods in selected barangays. *Angat Bahay* model costs around 150,000 Php.

When a family recipient is chosen, a house with sturdy concrete post and roofing is built for him with an agreement that during calamities, his house could serve as refuge. The house serves as *evacuation-on-site* for the residents and other flood and typhoon prone families in the nearby neighborhood. The evacuees can stay until flood recedes, which by experience could only last a day or at most 2. "*No layos, ay ket aglulubbon kamin a dita ngato, sir,*" said one of the neighbors. "*Dakkel nga tulong kaniami data nga balay.*"

It is noteworthy that the Local Chief Executive always emphasizes fund utilization efficiency in projects and is better achieved if implemented by administration. LCE Alarcio believes that the housing project could sustainably serve the homeless sector of LGU Laoac.

To better improve sustainability, livelihood as a component of the housing project was introduced. Such, were meant to augment the meager income of the beneficiaries. For the farmer beneficiaries, a piece of land is available for them to cultivate, either individually or in group.



Figure 1. Core Shelter Model House, Sitio Paitan, Barangay D. Alarcio, Laoac, Pangasinan, 2018; **Figure 2.** Aerial View of the 24 core shelter units, Sitio Paitan, Brgy. D. Alarcio, Laoac, Pangasinan, 2018; **Figure 3.** Namnama Village apartment type Housing Model, Brgy. Anis, Laoac, Pangasinan, 2018; **Figure 4.** Angat Bahay original model at Brgy. Nanbagatan, Laoac, Pangasinan, 2018; **Figure 5.** Beneficiary-improved “Angat-Bahay” unit. The ground floor will now be better used during non-calamity period; **Figure 6.** New Angat Bahay design.

MSWDO provides livelihood financial assistance to the beneficiaries if only to stabilize their settlement.

The leading fund contributors were *Gawad Kalinga*, Rotary Club of Urdaneta, E-Rotary, Pangasinan Brotherhood-USA, Laoac Golfer's Association, Laoac Global Reunion, Laoac Association of Northern California, Laoac Association of Southern California and Severiano and Carlota Aradanas and Maybelene Gregorio, DILG-BUB and LGU Laoac; Mr. and Mrs. Ron Gamalinda, Pete and Sol Montilla, Mel Velasco, Frank Adamo and Ernie Delfin (in their individual capacity).

Issues and Concerns/Challenges

In the Anis case, qualified beneficiaries from other barangays refuse to be resettled. They are, however, landless in their present domicile. It is the plan of the present administration to build additional units in other areas, and if possible nearest to where they are needed by most.

The design of units in Sitio Paitan solves relocation problem. *Angat Bahay, Sagip Buhay* implies evacuation in place. Elevated and sturdy houses significantly reduce hazards brought about by flash floods and strong winds. A more elegant model, as shown in Figure 6, will be implemented for the new units.

*By: Artemio M. Rebugio, Ph.D.,
Municipal Administrator, LGU Laoac, Pangasinan*

DA-RFO I, Rice Board and LGU Pangasinan launch 8th National Rice Technology Forum

Rice sufficiency is one of the major goals of the Department of Agriculture hoping that in the coming years, this will be achieved through the adoption of hybrid rice technology.

One of the strategies of DA to intensify campaign on the adoption of hybrid rice technology in the regions is the conduct of National Rice Technology Forum (NRTF). This year's 8th NRTF was hosted by Region I in March but initially launched the activity on January 24, 2019 in Asingan, Pangasinan.

It is a joint effort of the Rice Board (RB) and DA Ilocos in partnership with PhilRice and the local government units of Asingan and Urdaneta City, Pangasinan. The techno demo area established for the NRTF activity is so far the largest demo area compared to previous demo areas showcased through the NRTF in other regions. A total of 37.5 hectares was established in Brgy. Bactad East, Urdaneta, Pangasinan and Domampot, Asingan, Pangasinan which showcases different hybrid rice seed varieties.

With 85 participating farmer cooperators, the demo farms were established in collaboration with agri-companies namely Advanta, Aljay, Bayer, Biorice, Bioseed, SeedWorks, Longpin, Corteva Agriscience, SL Agritech Corporation, System Rice Intensification Pilipinas, Syngenta, PhilSCAT, and Yara alongside the Department of Science and Technology.

For the first time, the DOST also participated in the technology demonstration introducing the use of carrageenan, a seaweed extract used as a plant growth regulator for rice to increase yield. The research on this technology is a collaborative project of DOST and DA.

Based on the old Ilocano adage "diak kita, diak pati" (to see is to believe), the farmers are given the opportunity to choose which among the best practices and technologies introduced by the agri-companies are applicable to their farm conditions. Results were seen during the 8th National Rice Technology Forum last March 20-22, 2019.

The techno demo showcases different hybrid rice varieties and top inbred varieties using different rice transplanting methods such as mechanical, manual, and direct seeding.

Meanwhile, Mr. Recher E. Ondap, Rice Board President explained that it is the mission of their organization to bring to farmers the latest technology in rice production noting that it can only be achieved through collaborative efforts with the national government, LGUs, the private sector and the farmers.



Former DA Secretaries Dr. William Dar (in red polo shirt) and Dr. Santiago R. Obien (extreme right) grace the launching of the 8th National Rice Technology Forum hosted by the Ilocos Region. Together with the two former Secretaries are the officials of Rice Board, LGU representatives and officials of Asingan led by Asingan Mayor Heidi Chua.

As a top 3 rice-producing province in the entire country, the Provincial Government of Pangasinan showed its support to the mission of RB. “We aim to increase from 11% to as high as 50% the adoption of hybrid rice seed technology by our farmers in Pangasinan,” said Mr. Nestor Batalla who represented Gov. Amado Espino III.

Since 2013, DA is set on attaining rice sufficiency, however, it is yet to be realized due to calamities, land conversion, and increasing population, explained DA Ilocos RTD for Operations Erlinda F. Manipon adding that aside from sufficiency, DA also has to consider security by which rice must be available, accessible, and affordable at all times and must be safe and nutritious.

On the other hand, Dr. William Dar, former DA secretary, also shared that the rice sector must scale up into an industry and not limited to production only but must also include in their rice enterprise drying, milling, prior to selling and better yet with value-adding. One of his identified areas to be considered in establishing a competitive rice industry is mechanization thus encouraging farmers to join farmers’ associations (FAs).

“Yung labor cost mataas so dapat ang mga farmers mag-mechanize na. Hindi kaya ng isang farmer na may isang traktora that’s why it is necessary for collective action to be a major approach in this intervention of mechanization,” said Dar.

To achieve competence among the farmers, he also noted the importance of modern technology adoption specifically hybrid, financial stability through credit sources supporting FAs to provide necessary inputs for their farms, and continuous capacity building that will entice the youth to engage in farming.

The first National Rice techno forum was held in PhilRice, Maligaya, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija in 2013. The upcoming main event of the 8th National Rice Technology Forum in Asingan, Pangasinan in March drew a crowd of about 1,300 consisting of rice stakeholders from all over the country after this launching activity surpassed the expected number of 350 farmer attendees to 600.

By: Department of Agriculture RO I



The 14 seed companies showcase their technologies in hybrid rice production through the establishment of techno-demo participated in by 85 farmer-cooperators from Asingan and Urdaneta City, Pangasinan.

San Fernando City produces 25 farmer-graduates

Twenty five farmers completed a short course on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on vegetable production cum Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) training last February 7, 2019 at the 9th Season-Long Farmers Field School conducted by the City Agriculture Office.

Joan Pasca, Officer-in-Charge of the City Agriculture Office, said that the four and a half months of training which started on September 2018 highlights the use of organic pesticide and fertilizers as good agricultural practices. These include the creation of biopesticide and biofertilizer by making use of excess crops like kangkong, papaya, banana stem, and others. Aside from biopesticide and biofertilizers making, other skills training include soil analysis, land preparation, seed growing, seed sowing, and transplanting.



Nelly Pimentel, one of the graduates, said that for several years as a farmer, she is grateful for the City Government through the City Agriculture Office for giving them opportunities to widen their knowledge on good agricultural practices. She said that the use of organic fertilizers and organic methods of planting helped them transform excess crops as well as harvest greener and healthier crops than when they were still using inorganic or synthetic chemical compounds. She particularly mentioned the use of fermented chili, onion, neem tree, and madricacao as biopesticide.

Mayor Hermenegildo Dong Gualberto in a local Iloko speech acknowledged the farmer graduates as vital partners of the City in ensuring that adequate and healthy crops are provided to the people of the City. He said that the Season-Long Farmers Field School is an opportunity for them to adopt and improve practices and make a better living to sustain their families. He also encouraged them to share these knowledge to other farmers and constituents.

Aside from Mayor Dong, City Councilors Hon. Antonio Jucar, Hon. Ferdinand Verzosa, Hon. Jessie Miranda, Hon. Arnel Almazan, Hon. Rizaldy Laudencia, La Union Provincial Ramon Laudencia, and Barangay Officials headed by Brgy. Capt. Joselito Pimentel were present in the graduation ceremony held at Barangay Cabarsican, City of San Fernando, La Union.

By: Erwin Beleo, LGU San Fernando City

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Solsona is a recipient of AMIA Project

The Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture or AMIA is a project that aims to mainstream climate change mitigation strategies in agriculture. It will likewise address the issues on the adverse effects of climate change in the agriculture sector.

In Ilocos Region, AMIA was first piloted in the municipality of San Emilio, Ilocos Sur in December 2016. Since AMIA has developed the area into a climate-resilient village, the project was expanded in Solsona, Ilocos Norte. The municipality is composed of 22 barangays with a vast agriculture sector and a leader who is a farmer by heart.

Solsona Mayor Alexander Calucag informed that their municipality was selected as recipient of AMIA project because their focused agenda is agriculture. The municipality is engaged in crop-livestock integration which is an important component of a climate resilient agriculture. In addition to this, the upscaling of AMIA in their

area includes the provision of farm machineries that aids in their labor-intensive activities.

“When the evaluators came here, they saw that we have a multiplier farm wherein we use and produce our own silage,” said Mayor Calucag, “so when they introduced AMIA project, I immediately accepted it because with this, it will speed up farm activities and we can cater more farmers through harvesting their corn with the use of the machines,” he added.

A total of nine million (P9M) pesos was downloaded to the LGU-Solsona by DA-System Wide Climate Change Office (SWCCO) headed by Director Unicols Manalo for the procurement of machineries and facilities that will be used to mitigate the contribution of crop and livestock production in gas emission.

As of now, the harvester with baler machine is being used by the rice farmers. It is a machine used to compress a cut and raked crop such as hay or silage into compact bales that are easy to handle, transport, and store.

Other machineries and facilities provided under the project include the four-wheel drive tractor with 100hp, generator set, and a storage facility for rice and corn silage amounting to P1,000,000. These machineries will be part of the multiplier farm project of the LGU and will serve as a common service facility to be used by farmers in the locality.

By: Department of Agriculture RO I

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DENR – I and PENRO – La Union conducted Dalaw Turo in Celebration of World Wildlife Day 2019

In line with the celebration of the World Wildlife Day this 2019 with the theme “Life Below Water: For people and planet”, which focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of marine wildlife, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Region I (DENR-1) through the Conservation and Development Division (CDD), Regional Public Affairs Office (RPAO), and

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources – La Union (PENRO- La Union) jointly conducted Communication Education Public Awareness (CEPA) through Dalaw Turo activity highlighting the importance of wildlife. The activity aims to educate the children about the importance of marine life and the need to conserve and protect the wildlife.

The said activity was held at Taboc Elementary School, San Juan, La Union last March 1, 2019 which was attended by 78 primary students and teachers headed by their Principal, Mrs. Charmaine F. Potente.

Renelita Santos, Chief, RPAO, urged the students and teachers to seriously embrace during their class sessions regarding science subject matters, like aquatic life, the importance of wildlife and the benefits we derive from them.

Santos stressed that, teachers need to further strengthen the wildlife awareness and let them grasp the worth of these wildlife including their protection and their environment.

A life of a Sea Turtle was dramatized dubbed “Si Zura at ang Straw” through a stage play prepared by personnel of PENRO La Union and CDD, which shows that pawikan’s life is endangered, triggered by wastes thrown at the ocean. However, the audience became intense when Malagrosa mascot appeared. Malagrosa was introduced to the audience as one of the Flagship Species of a living organism found in the coastal and marine ecosystem and serves as a symbol of marine conservation, protection and preservation.

In order to strengthen the objective of the activity, Ms. Zenaida L. Paday-os, Youth Desk Focal Person, discussed the topic “Faults in our Trash”, which shows the advantages and disadvantages of proper waste disposal, consequences and management.

The World Wildlife Day is globally celebrated every 3rd day of March, the day the landmark Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) was signed and adopted in 1973. **By: DENR RO I**

Piddig, Ilocos Norte celebrates triple successful programs or projects

Piddig, Ilocos Norte particularly in Brgy. Maruaya celebrated triple event which were; the Grand Opening of the Food Factory School, Agrotourism Farm and the graduation of the Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) Scholars on February 14, 2019.

“Malaki ang tulong ng project na ito sa mga farmers natin dito sa Piddig, sa ngayon we have around 30 farmers who are currently working here para sa maintenance ng area,” said Dr. Cresencio M. Figuracion, Ph.D – President, Piddig Organic Agriculture Practitioners Association pertaining to the Agrotourism farm which is the Sun Flower Maze Farm and the Pick and Pay of Organic Vegetables.

The Sun Flower maze in Piddig is the fourth sunflower farm in the country and second in Region 1, first farm is located in Tayug, Pangasinan.

Some organic vegetables available in the Pick and Pay area were: Upo, tomato, string beans, squash, bitter gourd, baguio beans, corn, among others. These vegetables were planted by the 69 graduates of TWSP scholars for the completion of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) course - Organic Agriculture Program NCII.

“At ang naipoproduce pa lamang dito sa food processing natin ay, pickled mushroom at coffee. But sooner gagawa na din tayo ng mga biofertilizers na gagamitin din sa mga tanim,” said Dr. Figuracion discussing about the food processing center of the Food Factory School in the site.

“It is really benefiting for the people, actually this Food Factory School was the idea of the Senate Committee Chairman on Agriculture - Sen. Cynthia Villar kaya we will sustain this project and to promote organic agriculture as well,” he added.

Meanwhile, former Mayor Eduardo “Eddie” Guillen and currently the Municipal Consultant who's behind the idea of this successful project, said that this convergence project was his way to ask funds from the National Government Agencies, his answer to the question why he put up a project like this in a remote area.

“Alam niyo I have reasons why I put this project here. Una, para icallege yung mga farmers because I told them that we will place a sunflower farm here. They insisted at first kasi hindi daw compatible ang sunflower sa area. But, tingnan niyo naman ang imposibleng akala nila ay naging posible,” Guillen said proudly.

“Secondly, this is my way para humingi ng pundo sa gobyerno. Tignan niyo naman madami pang puwedeng gawin para sa development ng project na ito especially the road coming here. We have 23 barangays in Piddig and we only have 20 million na fund, kulang ang almost 1 million sa isang barangay para sa ganitong project,” Guillen jokingly added.

This project as a whole is a convergence project of the different government agencies in the region and was graced by the Regional Directors and their representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and Municipal Mayor of Piddig, Ilocos Norte - Hon. Mayor Georgina Salazar-Guillen who spearheaded the formal launching of the project thru a ribbon cutting ceremony.

By: Department of Agriculture ROI

DA-INREC conducts 6 garlic-related researches to increase garlic production

Joining efforts to meet the increasing demand vis-a-vis addressing the declining supply of garlic commodity in the country, researchers of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office I through the Ilocos Norte Research & Experiment Center (INREC) based in Batac City, Ilocos Norte are currently conducting six garlic-related research studies that aim to expand potential areas for garlic production and enhancing the growth and yield of garlic in the region.

The research projects entitled “Multi-location Adaptability Trial of Garlic Varieties and Other Cultivars in Region I” and the “Selection, Purification and Multiplication of Garlic Cultivars for Planting Materials in Region I” are meant to identify suitable garlic varieties and other garlic cultivars as planting materials in the identified potential growing areas leading to the increase of the existing 2,014 hectares garlic production areas in Ilocos Region.

Using the seven registered garlic varieties and four garlic cultivars, the research study on Multi-location Adaptability Trial was established in thirteen sites in the region composed of three sites in Ilocos Norte, two sites each in Ilocos Sur and La Union and six sites in Pangasinan.

Ms. Sylvia Igarta, one of the project leaders of the two researches, identified the seven registered garlic varieties used in the studies to include among others the NSIC 2017 Gr01 to Gr07 such as Iloco White locally known as “Balitok”, Batanes Red, Ilocos Pink also known as “Gameng”, Mexican (Sanikua), VFTA 275 M76 (Bang-ar), Ilocos Tanbolters and the MMSU Gem (Miracle).



Ms. Sylvia Igarta, Senior Agriculturist and the Project Leader of the studies on garlic, helps farmers to identify which among the 7 registered varieties and 4 cultivars of garlic will give higher yield in a specific location using the technologies in garlic production.

“Aside from the seven registered garlic varieties, we also used four garlic cultivars collected for characterization, to be purified and multiplied and ultimately for registration later on to the Bureau of Plant and Industry,” Ms. Igarta said. She identified these four cultivars as the Native garlic, Sarang, Romblon and Batanes White which were planted in Batac station to evaluate their yield performances. “Upon evaluation of the yield performance of these cultivars, we may be able to encourage more farmers to plant garlic as we will distribute these cultivars to garlic seed growers for mass production. Hence, garlic farmers have ready and available planting materials,” Ms. Igarta added.

The other four researches entitled “Growth and Yield Performance of Garlic Applied with Different Foliar Fertilizers and Growth Promoters,” Potential Yield of Garlic Using Goat Manure Tea in Combination with In-organic Fertilizer,” “Effect of Organic Foliar Fertilizer on the Growth and Yield of Garlic under GAP Management,” and “Enhancing Garlic Production through Good Agricultural Practices Interventions in Ilocos Norte” are all conducted to enhance the volume of garlic production using good agricultural practices and cost-saving technologies in growing garlic in the region.

Garlic, known to the Ilokano farmers as the most valued cash crop because of its high profitability especially during dry season, is currently facing major setbacks brought by the fluctuating price in the market, flooding of imported garlic, declining of area and production and the high price of planting materials.

With the conduct of these research projects, they could somehow contribute to the development of the industry to benefit not only the garlic farmers but also the consumers.

Aside from Ms. Igarta, other researchers who focused on the development of the garlic industry in the region were Ms. Wilma Ibea, Chief of INREC, Mr. Ireneo Mandac, Ms. Reinamae Banquirig, Mr. Jay-ar Baligat, and Ms. Vannesa Joy Marquez.

By: Department of Agriculture RO I

3rd Water Summit “cushions” impact of El Nino in Ilocos Norte

The Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN) through the Sustainable Development Center (SDC) and in coordination with the Ilocos Norte Water District (INWD), farmer and irrigator associations, crop grower federations, agriculturists, the academe, and other sector stakeholders gathered for the 3rd Water Summit at the Ilocos Norte Centennial Arena last March 15, 2019.

Officials and representatives of the Department of Agriculture (DA), National Irrigation Authority (NIA), and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) were also present, thus yielding almost 300 participants.

Engr. Cynthia Iglesias, Chief Meteorological Officer of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA) – Laoag City, oriented and updated participants on climate change issues and concerns, such as both drought and flooding, extreme heat, and even an increase in frequency and severity of tropical cyclones.

Meanwhile, Engr. John Teodoro, INWD manager, discussed issues on the supply of potable water and water safety and quality, tackling also the health risks to consuming contaminated water. This was followed by a session with Engr. Vic Dabalos of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) – Ilocos Norte on environmental protection, water management, and protection.

Dr. Marvin Quilates of the DA – Regional Field Unit 1 then lectured on good agricultural practices, organic fertilizer utilization, and best practices in water management, addressing primarily what farmers, irrigators, and crop growers could do hands-on in mitigating the problems arising from El Niño and other climate change effects.



Lastly, Dr. Nathaniel Alibuyog, Vice President for Research and Extension of the Mariano Marcos State University (MMSU) informed the participants of existing support facilities and programs available to aid in the sector's water management.

Mr. Edwin Cariño, head of the SDC, shared, "We have at least five measures that are readily implementable to cushion the impact of El Niño: rain harvesting, switching to short-gestation crops that do not require abundant water to grow – such as monggo (mung beans), watermelon, and pechay (Chinese white cabbage), the use of enhanced fertilizers having better water-retention properties, installation of pond liners to serve as reservoirs, and the use of gray water to avoid wastage and maximize water use."

The first Provincial Water Summit was held in 2014 to push for long-term water management planning and avoid any water crises or shortage in Ilocos Norte. This continues to be a priority bid of Governor Imee R. Marcos in ensuring sustainability of the province's agriculture sector and ensuring high quality of life for her constituents.

By: Edison Justin Deus, Mizpah Grace Castro

RDC Resolutions CY 2018 4th Quarter

RDC-1 Resolution No. 68, s. 2018	RESOLUTION OF THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUYO, ILOCOS SUR FOR PROMOTING THE INTERFACE OF THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS AND FOR HOSTING THE CY 2018 FOURTH REGULAR RDC-1 FULL COUNCIL MEETING
RDC-1 Resolution No. 69, s. 2018	APPROVING THE PROVINCIAL DEVELOPMENT CONVERGENCE FORUM AND ENJOINING THE SUPPORT OF PROVINCIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, REGIONAL LINE AGENCIES, BUSINESS SECTOR, CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS
RDC-1 Resolution No. 70, s. 2018	SUPPORTING THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE-MINDANAO AREA COMMITTEE RESOLUTION ON THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU) INCOME CLASSIFICATION, PUSHING, FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 234 AND HOUSE BILL 923
RDC-1 Resolution No. 71, s. 2018	APPROVING THE REGION 1 STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROMOTION PLAN 2018-2022
RDC-1 Resolution No. 72, s. 2018	INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISMS TO PROMOTE THE USE OF PRODUCTS OF ACCREDITED FILIPINO INVENTORS AND SCIENCE-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

RDC-1 Resolution No. 72-A, s. 2018	ENCOURAGING ALL CONCERNED GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES TO PATRONIZE AND PROMOTE THE USE OF THE PORTABLE SOLAR DRYER (PORTASOL) AS A POST-HARVEST FACILITY AND A COMPLEMENTARY SOLUTION TO DRYING PALAYS ALONG THE MANILA-NORTH-ROAD
RDC-1 Resolution No. 72-B, s. 2018	ENCOURAGING ALL CONCERNED GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES TO PATRONIZE AND PROMOTE THE USE OF THE DISASTER VISIBILITY INFORMATION SYTSEM (DVIS) TO ENHANCE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS EFFORTS AND STRATEGIES
RDC-1 Resolution No. 73, s. 2018	APPROVING THE DISASTER REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY PLAN FOR TYPHOON OMPONG
RDC-1 Resolution No. 74, s. 2018	RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (RDC) -1 CHAIRPERSON, MAYOR JUAN CARLO S. MEDINA OF VIGAN CITY, ILOCOS SUR FOR TOPPING THE NATIONAL CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE WRITTEN EXAMINATION (CES WE) HELD ON SEPTEMBER 02, 2018

