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Farmers' Livestock School pilot class graduates, now ready to apply new learnings in dairy buffalo production

BY MA. CECILIA C. IRANG



Thirty-six dairy farmers in Nueva Ecija recently graduated from the very first "Farmers' Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP)" in the Philippines and are expected to implement good practices in their dairy buffalo production systems to increase efficiency and income.

The said FLS graduation was held last February 10 at the City Hall of San Jose City in Nueva Ecija. Those who graduated were 29 dairy farmers from San Jose City and seven from Guimba-Talugtug cluster in Nueva Ecija.

According to Dr. Eric Palacpac, project leader, FLS-DBP is primarily aimed at developing extension modalities and strengthening technology adoption among village-based dairy buffalo farmers.

"This graduation day is proof that we have an output in our effort to strengthen extension support to buffalo farmers. We expect to see significant improvements in

your practices on dairy buffalo production that will result in higher income. If you don't adopt and practice the knowledge you gained from this project, our efforts will be futile," Dr. Palacpac said as he welcomed the participants and guests in the ceremony.

Select farmers shared their respective testimonies on how the project helped them improve their practices on dairy buffalo production.

Emily Velasco of Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Producers Cooperative (SIPBUPCO) said the FLS helped her explore other benefits of carabao dairying. She shared that she now gets additional income not only from milking her dairy buffaloes but also from vermicomposting using carabao manure.

"I will definitely regret it if I didn't join this project. It helped me a lot. Even though I have personal activities to attend

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PCC-SEARCA study identifies weaker players in value chain for carabao, carabao-based products; interventions supplied

BY MA. CECILIA C. IRANG

In the production of carabao and carabao-based products up to the marketing aspects, who gets the least benefits?

Mostly those in the production site, who are the farmers and the producers, studies revealed.

"They are the identified weaker players," results of the studies on the Value Chain Analysis (VCA) said.

The study, according to Zadieshar Sanchez, Administrative Officer V of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), was conducted in Luzon in Nueva Ecija, which is the designated National Impact Zone for carabao industry, in La Union (Region 1), Cagayan Valley (Region 2), Central Luzon (Region 3) and CALABARZON (Region 4a).

Sanchez said the study was part of a commissioned research project of PCC in collaboration with the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture. It was led by World Bank consultant Dr. Flordeliza Lantican, a renowned agricultural economist with distinct specialization in agricultural marketing and price analysis.

The study was meant, eventually, to identify those that need intervention the most in the value chain.

Those in the distribution side get the higher incomes than those on the production side, the study indicated.

"It also endeavored to help find ways toward achieving inclusiveness in the value-addition activities along the chain," he said.

Provision of interventions

Corollary to the research results, each of the cooperatives and



The Memorandum of Agreement for the project "Strengthening Milk Testing Facilities of Selected Dairy Cooperatives" in Region 2 was signed last March 2.

associations involved in the study, thru the help of the PCC regional center chiefs and carabao-based enterprise development (CBED) coordinators, submitted one project proposal indicating the interventions needed.

They, however, underwent a series of capability building trainings before being asked to package their respective proposals and to become ready for the implementation of their respective projects.

Subsequent developments proved beneficial for the proponents.

"Upon thorough evaluation of five proposed projects and on-site validation of their readiness to receive such interventions, the projects have been approved for funding under the PCC-SEARCA project," Sanchez said.

A total of 12 groups, composed of 10 cooperatives/associations and two federations in Luzon, eventually received the interventions needed.

The signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the project in Region 1 titled, "Enhancing the Carabao-based Enterprise (CBE) Partners' Capability in Sustaining

Animal Feed Supply through Proper Farm Waste Utilization" was held last February 16 with PCC at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (PCC@DMMMSU) as the lead proponent.

The cooperatives and associations involved in the project are the Bantog Samahang Nayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Rosario Dairy Producers' Association, and Organic Pares-Pares Multi-Purpose Cooperative. They received one unit of motorcycle with two-side car (kolong-kolong), three pieces of forage cutter, and 2,000 plastic bags with a 50-kg capacity each.

The MOA signing for the projects in Region 3, on the other hand, happened last February 23 and 24.

The Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives in Region 3 received one unit of stainless milk cooling tank as proposed in the project.

In addition, the Malibay Aggressive Cooperative, Lambakin Agricultural Producers Cooperative, and Labne Producers' Cooperative received various assistance as requested in their proposals. The latter, packaged by the PCC at



PCC Executive Director Dr. Arnel N. Del Barrio (in blue polo-shirt), (to his right) UPLB Chancellor Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr; UPLB-College of Agriculture and Food Science Dean Dr. Enrico Supangco, Laguna Provincial Veterinarian Dr. Mary Grace Bustamante, led the ribbon cutting during the soft-opening of Milka Krem at UPLB last March 9.

Milka Krem opens new branch store at UPLB

BY CHRISSALYN L. MARCELO

A new branch store of Milka Krem was recently opened at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (UPLB).

It was established to serve as a technology demonstration and learning hub and where the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) at UPLB and farmers could sell their dairy buffalo products.

Among the dairy products available at the said store are fresh milk, choco milk, coffee milk, fruit-flavored juices, white cheese, mozzarella, pastillas de leche, assorted flavors of yoghurt and yoghurt drink, flavored yema and ice cream. These are products of PCC@UPLB under the brand name Carabest and of the four dairy cooperatives and/or associations being assisted by the said center such as the General Trias Dairy Raisers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Rosario Dairy Raisers Association, Magdalena Dairy Raisers Association,

Llano Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative; and private entrepreneur from Balayan, Batangas.

“The creation of Milka Krem at UPLB upholds the PCC’s mandate in promoting food safety using quality control protocols and modern dairy processing technologies that can be adopted by private entrepreneurs and business sectors,” Dr. Arnel N. Del Barrio, Executive Director of PCC, said during the store’s soft opening on March 9.

Meanwhile, Dr. Flordeliza Lantican, UPLB retired professor and lead researcher of the “Value Chain Analysis for Carabao and Carabao-Based Products”, said that the creation of Milka Krem at UPLB is a great opportunity for farmers, cooperative and association in CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and the Bicol Regions to have an access to commercial market for bigger income.

“In our recently conducted study on the value chain analysis, we discovered that market is one of the problems of the key players in selling their milk and meat products to the public. With the creation of Milka Krem at UPLB, there’s no reason for them not to succeed in their dairying businesses,” Lantican emphasized in her talk during the event.

The 300 sq m facility worth Php10 M is located beside the UPLB’s Baker Memorial Hall. Its soft opening coincided with the UPLB-College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) 108th foundation day and PCC’s 24th anniversary celebration.

Also present during the event were UPLB Chancellor Dr. Fernando C. Sanchez, Jr; Dean Dr. Enrico P. Supangco of UPLB-CAFS; National Dairy Authority Representative Warren C. Pagdato; and some staff from the PCC national headquarters and its regional centers. **R**

PCC, DSWD, partner-LGUs launch milk supplementation program for daycare pupils in Region 10

BY MA. THERESA R. SAWIT

The DA-Philippine Carabao Center and Department of Social Welfare and Development recently launched a pilot convergence program on milk supplementation for Region 10 in cooperation with the local government units (LGUs) of Maramag, San Fernando and Damulog, Bukidnon. The said launching was held at the Maramag Gymnasium in Bukidnon last January 31.

A ceremonial awarding of check amounting to Php13,324,080 to PCC and cooperating LGUs highlighted the launch. The said amount was transferred by DSWD to PCC on November 29, 2016 to cover the purchase of milk that will be provided to 10,094 children registered in the target pilot Child Development Center (CDC) areas in Regions III, VII and X for 120 days.

The launch was also highlighted with a showcase of talents by the children-beneficiaries through dance performances and poetry recitals.

Present in the event were Dr. Enrico P. Garzon, Department of Agriculture Assistant Secretary for Livestock; Manuel M. Borres, Assistant Regional Director for Administration; Atty. Jose Doromal, Vice Mayor of Maramag; guests from the central office of DSWD and PCC, 200 children-beneficiaries and their parents, CDC workers, and staff from participating LGUs.

In his speech, Asec. Garzon encouraged government agencies to find ways to collaborate and significantly contribute to the present administration's goal of ending hunger and poverty in the country through accessible and affordable food for all.

"This partnership program of PCC and DSWD will not only provide an opportunity for the children of less privileged families to improve



Assistant Secretary for Livestock Dr. Enrico Garzon (right) shakes hands with DSWD Assistant Regional Director for Administration Manuel Borres during the ceremonial awarding of check amounting to Php13, 324,080 which will be used to fund the "Pilot Nutrition and Livelihood Interventions Through a Milk Supplementation Program" under the Supplementary Feeding Program (SFP) and Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) of DSWD in partnership with PCC.

their nutritional status but will also motivate farmers to produce more milk because there is ready local market where they can supply their products. Through partnership, government agencies will be able to reach more sectors of our society," Asec. Garzon explained.

Vice Mayor Borres, on the other hand, said the province of Bukidnon is fortunate to be the pilot site of the milk supplementation program.

"Each of the project stakeholders should see himself/herself as part of the project with a role or purpose to perform. The project gives meaning to the lives of the stakeholders when their purpose and involvement is clear," he added.

Mary Joy Embate, one of the parent-representatives, expressed her gratitude and thanked the implementing agencies for extending nutrition support to their children. It makes her feel secured knowing that her child is well taken cared of in the child development center.

"Every time I ask my child after fetching her from the center, 'What would you like to eat?', my child

answers, 'I'm fed and full, Mom', " Embate says.

The pilot DSWD-PCC convergence project consists of two components: milk supplementation and livelihood.

The milk supplementation component aims to improve the height and weight for age of the children using the Child Growth Standard (CGS) by providing the children with 200ml of toned milk for 120 days in addition to the daily regular meals they receive from the Supplementary Feeding Program of DSWD. The livelihood component, on the other hand, aims to improve the socioeconomic conditions of sustainable livelihood program (SLP) beneficiaries or poor/smallhold dairy farmers with the acquisition of profit generating enterprises or employment in carabao-based enterprises (CBEs). If found successful, there is a possibility that the project will be replicated in other areas to continually promote rural and value chain development as well as human capital development, which are two of the 10-point agenda of the Duterte administration. **R**

6th Karabag-o Festival celebrates in Bago City

BY ERIC P. PALACPAC



Bago City Mayor Nicholas Yulo gives his welcome address emphasizing the significant contribution of the City to the supply of local milk because of the dairy carabao program.

"Here in Bago City, we have something to be proud of as we are already contributing to the supply of local milk because of our program on dairy carabaos", proclaimed by Mayor Nicholas Yulo during the opening program of the 6th Karabag-o Festival held last February 19 at the Manuel Y. Torres Sports Center, Bago City in the Negros Island Region.

The festival, held annually since 2012, was jointly celebrated with Bago City's 51st Charter Anniversary, and carried the theme "Buas-Damlag sang Mangungumang Bagonhon: Masanag kun may Karabaw kag Gatas" (Future of Bagonhon Farmers: Brighter if there are Carabao and Milk). Among the festival's highlights were a motorcade in the city, carabao race (with and without cart), and search for: most beautiful buffalo

calves (male and female) born out of artificial insemination (AI); and most numbers of buffalo calves produced by AI.

In addressing the farmers and other guests in attendance, Mayor Yulo underscored the resolute commitment of PCC@La Carlota Stock Farm under the leadership of Center Director Ariel Abaquita in providing stewardship in Bago City, which serves as its impact zone. The city government, for its part, has also demonstrated its serious intentions to further the cause of carabao development in the area by establishing the Karabag-o Nucleus Farm with facilities that include animal corral, milking parlor, milk processing plant, and even a slaughterhouse. It has also recently approved fund allocation for the purchase of crossbred buffaloes that will be maintained in the nucleus farm. **(R)**

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Central Luzon State University, was titled "Strengthening the CBED Partners' Capability: Introduction of a Systematic and Hygienic Collection and Storage of Buffalo Milk in San Miguel, Bulacan".

They received one unit of motorcycle with two-side cars (kolong-kolong), one unit of mobile milking machine, two-bucket milking machine with lines, 300-L capacity milk cooling tank, two stainless cans, and two pails.

Last March 2, the MOA for the project "Strengthening Milk Testing Facilities of Selected Dairy Cooperatives" in Region 2 was signed. Assisted by PCC at Cagayan State University, the beneficiaries are the Integrated Farmers' Cooperative, San Agustin Dairy Cooperative, Namnama Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and Cagayan Valley Federation of Dairy Cooperatives.

They received one unit of Porta SCC reader, one unit of water bath, three units of water distiller, three units of ecofat analyser, six pieces of lactometer with thermometer, three pieces of hand held pH meter, anti-biotic test kit, three packs of test strips, three packs of glass test tubes, and three packs of plastic test tubes, and others.

"The pieces of equipment are for the supply side in the value chain, which means they are either in the area of producing forage for their carabaos or milking their carabaos," Sanchez said. "After one year, the team will conduct an economic impact analysis to assess how the beneficiaries' income and profitability have improved," he added.

The project team is currently evaluating project proposals from the Visayas and Mindanao areas for possible funding of the needed interventions under the PCC-SEARCA project. **(R)**

Selected dairy farmers undergo training on proper feeding, management practices of dairy buffalo calves

BY MA. CECILIA IRANG

Fourteen dairy farmers gained better understanding of the common issues on animal health and nutrition including the economic benefits of using alternative milk supplements thru a farmers' training on "Proper Feeding and Management Practices for Raising Buffalo Calves from Birth to Weaning" last March 7 at the PCC national headquarters, Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija.

The said training is in line with the project 1 component of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD)-funded research titled, "Development of Feeding Protocols and Practices to Support the Nutritional Requirements of Dairy Buffaloes".

"Having a successful calf raising operation is not only important financially, but also important for the future of the herd. This training will help them plan and manage their calves properly and economically thru the use of milk substitute," Dr. Daniel Aquino, project leader and center director of PCC at CLSU, said.

According to him, the use of alternative source of milk for calf like milk replacer is one of the strategies in increasing the income of dairy buffalo farmers because of the potential savings that it offers.

"Dairy farmers can sell all their harvested milk because calves are fed with milk replacer instead of giving them two liters of the dam's milk. This means additional income



Dr. Daniel Aquino (left) shows to the participants the proper way of mixing milk replacer with water during the training on "Proper Feeding and Management Practices for Raising Buffalo Calves from Birth to Weaning."

for the farmers," he added.

Based on the publication of Bovine Alliance on Management and Nutrition, high quality calf milk replacers, when correctly matched to the specific calf rearing systems and properly fed to calves, provide several benefits to the dairy producer and calf raiser. These benefits include improved biosecurity, calf performance, and economics.

PCC executive director Dr. Arnel Del Barrio, on the other hand, said that practicing proper feeding management can reduce high mortality rate among dairy calves.

The training comprised of lectures, workshops, and actual demonstration on how to mix milk replacer with water and the proper way of feeding this to calves.

"This one-day training only serves as an orientation for the participants. The project team will conduct an actual visit to their farms to thoroughly teach them and monitor their feeding systems since mixing the milk replacer is a crucial step," Christian Lacanilao, PCC science research assistant.

The training was attended by farmers from the different cities and municipalities in Nueva Ecija. The selection of the participants was based on their current number of calf in the herd, interest and commitment to participate, and their willingness to learn new things about calf rearing.

After the training, the participants were also given bags of milk replacers as an alternative source of milk for their calves for three months before weaning. **R**

PCC to celebrate 24th anniversary

BY MERVALYN O. TOMAS
Illustration by JAN CZARINA M. SALAS

With its unwavering commitment to enhance technologies and practices that conserve, propagate and promote the carabao as a source of milk, meat, and draft power for the benefit of small-holder farmers, the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) will be celebrating its 24th anniversary on March 22-31, 2017.

This event's theme, "Boosting milk and meat production for better income and nutrition", is in support of the basic mandate of the Department of Agriculture in securing the food supply of the country, according to Dr. Eric Palacpac, Chief of the Knowledge Management Division of PCC.

"Here at PCC, we are focusing on increasing the volume and quality of meat and milk from the carabao. This will lead to increased incomes for the farmers and other key players in the carabao industry, and better nutrition for the consumers of carabao's milk and meat," he explained.

Sen. Cynthia Villar, Chair of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food will serve as the keynote speaker during the anniversary program on March 28.

There will be an awarding of purebred buffaloes, equipment, and supplies to partner-farmer-cooperatives and institutions during the event.

The plenary sessions will be in the afternoon of the same day. The agency's "Partnership with DSWD on milk supplementation", "Value Chain Analysis of Carabao and Carabao-based Products in Visayas and Mindanao", "Status of carabao

industry and updates on listing of dairy enterprises", "MILK-P (Mga Impormasyon at Lokasyon ng Kalabaw sa Pilipinas) geo-tagging of carabaos and CBED (Sindangan Model)", will be presented.

Furthermore, the R4D pre inhouse review will be held in two parts, i.e., on March 24 and 29. This activity will present on-going and recently completed researches

that aim to address the carabao industry's gaps and concerns.

"We expect 500 PCC employees, farmers, and representatives from different government agencies and private entities to attend the event," Dr. Palacpac said.

The "Gabi ng Parangal", where awards will be given to outstanding employees of the agency, will be on March 30.

**BOOSTING
MILK
& MEAT
PRODUCTION
FOR BETTER
INCOME
& NUTRITION**

**PCC 24th
ANNIVERSARY
MARCH 22-31, 2017**

