

PCC Newsletter

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Championing CDP thru
PARTNERSHIPS

PCC, DTI continue to fortify ties for
DAIRY DEVELOPMENT THRU SSF PROJECT

PCC, GK partner to build
FILIPINO DREAMS IN THE DAIRYARD PROJECT

**1st NATIONAL CARABAO
CONFERENCE** highlights

Celebrating
PARTNERSHIPS in championing the
CARABAO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



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The PCC Newsletter welcomes industry-related articles not exceeding 800 words, with photo(s), and corresponding caption.

Success stories of farmers, cooperatives, and other beneficiaries and stakeholders of the Carabao Development Program are preferred.

PCC encourages reproduction of articles from this publication with proper acknowledgment.

Topic suggestions and comments are also welcome.

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about the cover



The average income of a dairy farmer per lactating animal ranges from Php48,000 to Php62,000 for a 10-month period. Out of this daily cash flow, farmers were able to send their children to school, get better health care for their families, purchase new household appliances and vehicle, save additional fund for house improvement, expansion of animal pen and forage areas, and purchase new farm implements. (Photo by: Marvin Lim)



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Farmers' associations in South Cotabato receive dairy buffalo modules from PCC

By Ludivina J. Estimo



Officers and members of the Sto. Niño Dairy Farmers Association (SNDFA) witness the MOA Signing and turn-over ceremony of Italian dairy buffaloes awarded to them by the Philippine Carabao Center. Seated from left to right are: South Cotabato Board Member Agustin Demaala, Municipal Mayor Antonio Damandaman, SNDFA President Aquino Perida, National CBED Coordinator Ericson N. Dela Cruz, and PCC at USM Center Director Benjamin John C. Basilio.

Two dairy farmers' associations in South Cotabato recently received dairy buffalo modules from the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) valued at Php9 million.

The Philippine Carabao Center at University of Southern Mindanao (PCC at USM) awarded 14 Italian buffaloes to Canahay Dairy Farmers' Association in Surallah and 15 Italian buffaloes to Sto. Niño Dairy Farmers' Association in Sto. Niño; both towns are in South Cotabato. The separate turn-over ceremonies were conducted last December 14.

Both occasions were highlighted with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between the PCC and the respective local government units (LGUs).

A total of 29 farmer-recipients signed a contract under the "Modified Paiwi Scheme" where farmer-recipients can have full ownership of the animals after fulfillment of obligations stipulated therein.

Specified in the contract is PCC's counterpart in terms of technical support provision in the areas of health management, breeding, dairy production, record keeping, product development and marketing for a sustainable Carabao-based Enterprise Development (CBED). The Provincial Veterinary Office will complement this role in terms of providing other animal health-related services.

The LGUs, on the other hand, expressed their full support to the dairy associations and committed to fund the needed infrastructure and purchase of milking machine. This commitment is expected to boost the envisioned goal of the dairy enterprise such as to produce fresh milk and milk-based products and make these available in the two municipalities and nearby areas, consequently increasing incomes for the families and their respective communities.

Among those who attended the occasion were: South Cotabato Governor Daisy Avance Fuentes of South Cotabato Province, Surallah Mayor Antonio O. Bendita, Sto. Niño Mayor Antonio F. Damandaman, 2nd District Congressman Fedinand L. Hernandez, Board Member Agustin Demaala, Provincial Veterinary Officer Dr. Flora D. Bigot, Municipal Agriculturists Hernie S. Labordo (Surallah) and Ofelia P. Duco (Sto. Niño), DA-RFO XII representative Engr. Norberto Leysa, National CBED Coordinator Ericson N. dela Cruz, PCC at USM Center Director Benjamin John C. Basilio, and Dr. Jeffrey Atok of USM. Sangguniang Bayan members, barangay captains, officers and members of the two recipient dairy associations, and staff members from DA-LGU and PCC at USM also witnessed the ceremony.

Muñoz City hosts Nueva Ecija's 9th Gatas ng Kalabaw Festival

By Ma. Cecilia C. Irang

The 9th edition of Nueva Ecija's annual "Gatas ng Kalabaw (Carabao's Milk) Festival" was celebrated anew on December 9 as the province continues its relentless pursuit to be recognized and declared as the "Dairy Capital of the Philippines".

With the Science City of Muñoz acting as host, this year's celebration coincided with the city's 15th charter anniversary and the 3rd Uhay Festival.

The festival is aimed at promoting dairy buffalo milk not only for economic benefits but also for the enhancement of health and nutrition among small-hold dairy farmers and their families as well as the consumers in general.

The celebration started with a parade participated in by officials from government agencies, local government units (LGUs), and dairy cooperatives from Gen. Natividad, Llanera, San Jose City, Science City of Muñoz and Talavera towns.

"This festival aims to showcase the importance of carabao's milk not only to farmers but also to all of us," Dr. Nestor L. Alvarez, mayor of Science City of Muñoz, said in his opening remarks during the

program held at the city's gymnasium.

Highlight of the celebration was the symbolic "tagay pugay (toast of salutation)", a simultaneous milk toasting and drinking featuring school children and representatives from partner private institutions and government agencies. It underscored the significance of multi-sectoral efforts in promoting and uplifting the local dairy industry in Nueva Ecija, which is the National Impact Zone (NIZ) of the Carabao Development Program (CDP) of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC).

The PCC also prepared a 6x4-foot kesong puti (white cottage cheese) which was served with *pan de sal* as breakfast fare for the participants.

Other activities involved were ecumenical service, trade fairs, milk feeding program and cooking demo on how to make mozzarella and pastillas tart.

Meanwhile, PCC deputy executive director Dr. Felomino V. Mamuad encouraged everyone present in the celebration to help uplift the dairy industry in the country and help improve the volume of carabao milk produce in Nueva Ecija for it to be declared

as the "milk capital of the Philippines".

He also extended PCC's gratitude to the LGUs of Nueva Ecija and other agencies that are supporting PCC's endeavors to develop and strengthen the local dairy industry for the benefit of local dairy farmers.

Spearheaded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in partnership with the Science City of Muñoz LGU, the carabao milk festival is also aimed at promoting local products and for the people to be aware of and patronize the province's locally produced commodities.

The festival, which was initiated in 2007, involves technical working groups headed by PCC, DTI, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Agriculture (DA) as well as provincial and LGUs.

The LGUs of San Jose, Llanera, Talavera, General Natividad, and the Science City of Muñoz are involved in the hosting of the festival as part of the efforts to promote the one-town-one-product (OTOP) system.

DTI Provincial Director Brigida Pili reiterated to the audience the quest of the province to be recognized as the "Dairy Capital of the Philippines".

(continued on page 8)



(l-r) Jocelyn O. Ramones, Department of Agrarian Reform Provincial Agrarian Reform program officer I; Brigida Pili, Department of Trade and Industry provincial director; Board Member Joseph Ortiz, 2nd district of Nueva Ecija; Mikki Violago, spouse of Rep. Joseph Violago; Dr. Felomino V. Mamuad, Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) deputy executive director; Science City of Muñoz Mayor Nestor L. Alvarez; and city councilor Dr. Edmond J. Balmeo initiate the ceremonial slicing of the 6x4 -feet 'kesong puti' (white cottage cheese) prepared by PCC. The activity was one of the highlights of the celebration of Nueva Ecija's 9th Gatas ng Kalabaw (Carabao's Milk) Festival hosted by Muñoz City along with the celebration of its 15th charter anniversary and 3rd Uhay Festival.

Bohol holds 1st Dairy Festival

By Leinefe B. Libres



National Dairy Authority Administrator Grace Cenas (3rd from the left) led the symbolic milk toast during the 1st Bohol Dairy Festival held on December 9, 2015 at the Farmers' Trading Post, Lomangog, Ubay, Bohol. On the picture are: Hon. Galicano Atup (1st from the left), mayor of Ubay, Mr. Boy Pernia (2nd from the left), representative of Cong. Aris Aumentado of the 2nd District of Bohol, Hon. Edgar M. Chatto (4th from the left), governor of Bohol, Shirley Molina (5th from the left), chairperson of Bohol Dairy Producers Association, Dr. Stella Marie Lapiz (6th from the left), Provincial Veterinarian, and Dr. Caro Salces (7th from the left), Center Director of Philippine Carabao Center at Ubay Stock Farm. The toast implied 3 things: 1. Celebrate the province's local milk production of 1,000 liters/day; 2. Celebrate strong multi-sectoral partnerships; and 3. Celebrate to more thousands of milk in the years to come.

Over 600 hundred individuals gathered to celebrate the first-ever Bohol Dairy Festival at Barangay Lomangog, Ubay, Bohol last December 9.

The celebration carried the theme "Celebrating Milestones of the Bohol Dairy Industry".

In his welcome address, Ubay Mayor Galicano Atup expressed his gratitude in hosting the event. He said that the event is a confirmation that a vision when acted upon will come true.

"Aside from promoting the health benefits of drinking milk, the event was launched to create public awareness on the province's daily milk production of 1,000 liters of milk per day from cows and carabaos," Dr. Caro B. Salces, center director of the Philippine Carabao Center at Ubay Stock Farm (PCC at USF), explained.

The celebration started with a mass at the Farmer's Trading Post in Lomangog, followed by a ceremonial blessing and ribbon cutting for the newly established milk processing plants of PCC-USF and National Dairy Authority (NDA), the office of the Bohol

Dairy Producers Association (BoDPA), and the NDA dairy farm.

One of the highlights of the celebration was the symbolic milk toast, led by NDA Administrator Grace Cenas, involving industry partners from private institutions, and government agencies. The ceremonial milk toast recognized the significance of a harmonious multi-sectoral partnership in promoting the local dairy industry in the province.

"It was a long dream of the province that is now realized," Bohol Governor Edgar Chatto said. He emphasized how the province had been waiting to establish a robust dairy industry long before his governance, "but because we dreamed, our efforts have paid off. And this wouldn't have been possible if not for the efforts of all the stakeholders especially the farmers."


Related to this vision, Bohol has formally crafted its Dairy Development Plan last 2010 in which the collaboration of PCC, NDA, Department of Agriculture (DA), provincial local government unit, and the municipal and barangay local government units clearly

detailed out.

A turnover ceremony of native dairy animals to beneficiaries under the Department of Social Welfare and Development – Sustainable Livelihood Program (DSWD-SLP) was also held. Other activities included provision of milk cans to BoDPA, launching of other dairy programs, products tasting, trade fairs, and farm tours.

Aside from the key partners in the dairy program, canteen managers and principals of schools under the project "Gatas sa Eskwelahan para sa Kabataan ug Katawhan", and the dairy cooperatives from the municipalities of Ubay, Mabini, San Miguel, Dagohoy, and Alicia also actively participated in the festival.

Dr. Salces supported this call saying that Bohol, indeed, has a great potential to achieve this vision with the collective effort of all industry stakeholders and partners.

Dr. Stella Marie Lapiz, the provincial veterinarian of Bohol, challenged everyone who are present in the event to achieve the province's 2020 vision: "Bohol to be the Milk Capital of the Visayas." 

Importance of the Philippine Carabao underscored anew

By Khrizie Evert M. Padre



Undersecretary for Operations (Livestock) Jose C. Reaño has reiterated the significant role of the carabao or the swamp buffalo in Philippine Agriculture.

“The carabao is a major contributor in the agricultural industry. It provides us meat and dairy products for consumption and contributes to a more sustainable agriculture. Being an agricultural nation, we must give importance to carabao as it is owned by almost 99% of smallholder-farmers,” he pointed out in his message delivered during the opening program of the 1st National Carabao Conference held last Dec. 3-4 at the national headquarters and gene pool of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

The conference was attended by some 300 key stakeholders who are actively involved in the PCC’s Carabao Development Program (CDP), which included farmers, local government officials and representatives from various government agencies and private organizations.

Among the leading government officials who graced the opening program were Rep. Mark Llandro L. Mendoza, chairperson of the committee on agriculture and food at the House of Representatives, and Rep. Mark A. Villar of the lone district of Las Piñas City.

The gathering focused on the theme:

“Celebrating Partnerships in Championing the Carabao Development Program.

Usec Reaño also stressed the importance of attaining the complete value chain of commodities by being productive.

“Productivity is never an accident. It is always the result of a commitment to excellence, intelligent planning, and focused effort”, he pointed out, quoting the late Paul J. Meyer, a noted entrepreneur and author.

For his part, Rep. Mendoza reiterated the importance of close cooperation and linkage between farmers and government agencies, such as PCC, to sustain development programs that will help boost the livestock sector, and address the food security and nutritional status of the farming communities.

Meanwhile, Dr. Arnel N. del Barrio, PCC acting executive director, expressed the hope that the 1st National Carabao Conference will lead to a positive result.

“This activity aimed to share information about the best practices and technologies in the dairy sector and we hope that this gathering becomes a dynamic and major contributor to agricultural development through the active participation of stakeholders of the livestock industry in its pursuit of achieving national food security, particularly through the Carabao Development Program,” he stated.

“We hope that this conference will become an avenue where key stakeholders of the carabao industry convene to formulate and implement appropriate measures based on informed and collaborative decision-making to address the current dairy issues and concerns,” Del Barrio added.


The conference featured presentations by various experts on the following topics: Value Chain Analysis of Carabao and Carabao-based products in Luzon; Performance of the Carabao Industry; PCC programs in relation to food security; Industry Strategic Plan (ISP) for Dairy Buffalo; Impact Assessment of the PCC’s CDP; of the PCC-Dairyard Concept GKEF; Building the Filipino Dream through Private and Public Partnership; The Carabao Slaughter Ban: A Revisit, and Carabao Industry Advocacies and Legislative Agenda; and Climate Smart Strategies in addressing the El Niño phenomenon.

The conference participants were also provided with insights on government-funded activities and PCC partnerships with the local government units in the conduct of CDP through the following topics: Shared Service Facility Scheme of the Department of Trade and Industry for Dairy; The DSWD Sustainable Livelihood Program for Dairy, and Partnership Milestones in Nueva Ecija, Bohol and in some provinces of Region II.

Further, select cooperative chairpersons that have shown considerable success in raising buffaloes and engaging in carabao-based enterprises shared their unique strategies and experiences in dairying.

Other activities were a tour of PCC’s major facilities and a product exhibition.

The gathering was capped by a planning workshop that focused on solutions to key issues and concerns in the carabao dairy industry.

The National Carabao Conference is envisioned to be an annual activity as part of continuing initiatives to promote and enhance the development of the Philippine carabao industry with a view of making it a significant contributor to the overall efforts to alleviate poverty, improve nutrition, enhance equitable income distribution and boost people empowerment. 

PCC researchers bag awards in international conference

By Chrissalyn L. Marcelo

Two researchers from the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) bagged international awards during the 12th Annual Conference of the Asian Reproductive Biotechnology Society (ARBS) held in Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) in Hanoi, Vietnam last November 24-29.

Senior Science Research Specialist Dr. Flocefida Aquino won in the best research poster category while Science Research Specialist Excel Rio S. Maylem won as best oral presenter (for “student-presenter” category). Both researchers are staff members of PCC’s Reproductive Biotechnology and Physiology Unit.

Aquino’s poster on “In Vitro Maturation (IVM) of Bubaline Oocytes Using Bubaline (Swamp Buffalo) Follicular Fluid (BFF)” promoted the use of the swamp buffalo’s follicular fluid as a substitute medium in IVM process of oocytes for embryo development. It competed among the 130 research poster entries in the ARBS and was awarded as one of the 10 best research

posters.

Maylem’s presentation on “Evaluation of Sperm Kinematics of Fresh and Frozen Water Buffalo Semen using Computer Assisted Sperm Analyzer”, on the other hand, studied the movement of sperms and its possibility to be used as a mode of selection for semen donor bulls of the PCC for its National Artificial Insemination Program.


The annual conference that carried the theme “The Future of Reproductive Biotechnology and Stem Cell Medicine for Sustainable Development and Human Health” highlighted presentations on cutting-edge technologies in the field of reproductive biotechnology and stem cells research. The event also provided a venue for constructive debate on the mobilization of available resources for North-South integration, consequently encouraging and fostering their translation and application.

The other PCC researchers and scientists who participated in the annual conference were Dr. Edwin Atabay, Dr. Eufrocina Atabay,

and Dr. Lerma Ocampo.

Other participating countries were Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Singapore, Bangladesh, Taiwan, Laos, Cambodia, Iran, Mongolia, Brunei, and United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The event was co-organized by the ARBS, Institute of Biotechnology-VAST, National Foundation for Science and Technology Development (NAFOSTED)-Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam; Ho Chi Minh City Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Association (HOSREM); Southeast Asian Biotechnology Center (SABC), Southeast Asian Research Association of Vietnam (SEARAV); and Hanoi National Hospital of Obstetrics and Gynecology (NHOG)- Ministry of Health.

The ARBS, established in 2004, is a non-profit organization that seeks to promote the educational and scientific interests of the reproductive biotechnology research community throughout Asia. 



PCC Senior Science Research Specialist Dr. Flocefida Aquino (6th from right), and Science Research Specialist Excel Rio S. Maylem (3rd from right), bagged international awards during the 12th Annual Conference of the Asian Reproductive Biotechnology Society (ARBS) held in Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology (VAST) in Hanoi, Vietnam last November 24-29. The two researchers won the best research poster category and best oral presenter (for “student-presenter” category), respectively.

Carabao dairy farmers converge to discuss 2M liters milk target for 2016

By Ma. Cecilia C. Irang

Carabao farmer-members of dairy cooperatives being assisted by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in Nueva Ecija province recently met in a general assembly to discuss their respective contribution in attaining the target of two million liters of milk for 2016.

A total of 53 participants joined the November 4 assembly held at the PCC national headquarters and gene pool in the Science City of Muñoz. Of this number, 38 are chairs and representatives of various dairy co-ops in Nueva Ecija, which is the PCC's national impact zone. The rest are PCC staff members.

The activity was organized by PCC's Dairy Herd Improvement Program-Enterprise Development/National Impact Zone (DHIP-ED/NIZ) team.

"Pinakita namin sa kanila 'yong performance bawa't kooperatiba noong 2014 at 2015. Mula doon, malalaman natin kung ilan ba dapat ang maging targets nila para makacontribute sa target na dalawang milyong litro ng gatas para sa 2016 base sa kung ilan yung animals nila at ilan ang dapat mabuntis at magatasan (We presented the 2014 and 2015 performance analysis of each cooperative. From there, we'll be able to determine their respective targets to contribute to the two-million liters of milk target for 2016 based on their animal holdings, the number of animals that should be impregnated and milked.)," Wilma Del Rosario, PCC Senior Science Research Specialist, explained.

She added that the assembly also served as a planning session for the dairy co-ops to address gaps and problems they have in their groups and animals to ensure improved milk production.

Dr. Peregrino G. Duran, DHIP-ED/NIZ coordinator, provided updates on the overall analysis of NIZ operation, such as animal inventory and herd performance. He also urged dairy co-ops to actively work together in attaining the two-million liter milk target.

DHIP-ED/NIZ extension veterinarian Dr. Cecilio Castañeda, livestock specialist Genaro Candelaria and Science Research Specialist II Dr. Lester S. Verona discussed matters related to animal health, breeding and calf production, respectively.

Mario Delizo, Project Development Officer II, provided a synthesis of the topics covered and gave additional pointers on how the two-million liter target can be met.

Meanwhile, Dr. Felomino V. Mamuad, PCC Deputy Executive Director, emphasized the importance of milking twice daily to attain the targeted milk production.

"Ang dalawang milyon na litro ng gatas ay hindi natin maaabot kung hindi kayo gagatas ng dalawang beses sa isang araw. Magtulongan tayo para makamit natin 'yang target na 'yan. Pangarap ko pa nga para sa inyo ay magkaroon kayo ng anak na mapag-aaral ninyo ng entrepreneurship para matuto sa pamamahala at pagpapatakbo ng kooperatiba. Turuan ninyo ang inyong mga anak, sila rin balang araw ang magtutuloy ng nasimulan niyo (We cannot attain the target


of two million liters of milk if you will not practice twice-a-day milking. Let us all work together to reach that target. I even dream for all of you to have at least one of your children be able to study entrepreneurship so that they will learn how to manage and run a cooperative. Teach your children. They will someday continue what you have started)," he said. The assembly participants came from Aglipay Dairy Producers Cooperative, Agpapa Irrigators Association, Angat Buhay Producer Cooperative, Bibiclat Dairy Producers Cooperative, Cabisuculan Dairy Cooperative, Casile Dairy Producers Cooperative, Catalanacan Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CAMPC), Dimasalang Sur Credit Cooperative, Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EPMPC), Guiset Organic Farmers Credit Cooperative, Kabulihan Farmers Producers Cooperative, Kadre Development Cooperative, Kapitbahayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Makabagong Kooperatiba ng Bantug PMPC, Nag-iisang Masikap MPC, New Mamandil Cooperative, PAO Producers Cooperative, Pulong Buli PMPCI, Rizal west CASCI, Samahan Sto. Monica para sa Likas kayang pag-unlad, San Rafael Dairy Producers Cooperative, Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Producers Cooperative, San Vicente Dairy Producers Cooperative, United Farmers Producers Cooperative, Licaong Dairy Producer Cooperative, NEFEDCCO, Caudillo Gulay at Prutas Producers Cooperative, Punla MPC, and Bagong Pag-asa sa Bagong Talavera. 

Muñoz City hosts... *(continuation from page 5)*

"There are also other provinces which are aiming for the title whereas, for me, but I am not lifting our own chair, I know and PCC knows that Nueva Ecija has the most number of carabaos and the most number of liters of milk produce. So, what are we waiting for? Let's help each other achieve

our dream of becoming the 'dairy capital of the Philippines'. I fervently hope that the determination and commitment would come from all of us," she emphasized.

During the program, the DTI provincial director revealed that to date the agency has awarded milking machines to 13 dairy

cooperatives. She also announced that before the year 2015 ends, it will award Php300,000 worth of equipment to Catalanacan Multi-Purpose Cooperative as part of DTI's "Shared Service Facilities" program. 

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PCC staff, dairy farmers take part in international conference on agribusiness and cooperatives

By Ma. Cecilia C. Irang

Selected staff of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) whose work functions are related to business and cooperatives and five chairs of dairy cooperatives in PCC's National Impact Zone (NIZ) participated in the Joint International Conference on Agribusiness and Cooperatives held last October 14-17 in Davao City.

The PCC-led delegation was composed of Alvin David of the Planning and Information Management Division (PIMD), Zadieshar Sanchez and Jan Czarina Salas of the Business Development and Commercialization Unit, Patrizia Camille Saturno of the Central Dairy Collection and Processing Facility, Honeylyn Palileo of Milka Krem, Estella Valiente of the NIZ coordinating unit as well as Melchor Correa of Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EPMPC), Leoncio Callo of Catalanacan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CAMPC), Gerardo Delos Santos of Casile Dairy Producers Cooperative (CDPC), Teody Nieva of Guiset Organic Farmers Credit Cooperative (GOFCC), and Allan Benitez of Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Producers Cooperative (SIPBU), all based within the province of Nueva Ecija.

"I recommended the participation of coop chairmen and PCC staff with business and coop-related functions for them to acquire new insights on cooperative roles and performance, business strategies, and emerging industry standards," Dr. Liza G. Battad, PIMD chief, said.

The international conference was organized by the University of the Philippines, through the joint efforts of the UP Los Baños-Institute of Cooperatives and Bio-Enterprise Development (UPLB-ICOPED), College of Economics and Management (UPLB-CEM), and the UP Mindanao School of Management (UPMin-SOM). It was held in connection with the celebration of the Centennial Year of Philippine Cooperatives this year and in cooperation with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).



Melchor Correa, chairman of the Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EPMPC), narrates how their group evolved from being a resource-deficient cooperative into the best dairy cooperative in 2014 and 2015 during the Joint International Conference on Agribusiness and Cooperatives wherein he was one of the invited speakers and representative of dairy farming families. The event was held Oct. 14-17 in Davao City. The EPMPC is an assisted dairy co-op of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in Nueva Ecija province, which is PCC's National Impact Zone (NIZ).

The event, with the theme "The Future of Agribusiness and Cooperative Enterprises: Examining Local and Global Contexts," also hosted joint conferences: the 7th International Conference on Agribusiness Economics and Management (ICAEM) of UPMin-SOM and the 2nd International Conference on Cooperatives (ICoop) of ICOPED.

According to philcoop.net, the conference was aimed at highlighting the important role of cooperatives in agribusiness and enterprise development as well as opportunities for mainstreaming cooperative enterprises in the agribusiness sector. It also sought to build and strengthen linkages among the local and international stakeholders in the field of agribusiness and cooperatives.

EPMPC chairman Correa, as

representative of the smallholder farming sector during the event, shared with fellow participants the experience of how their cooperative started, and how they overcome all the trials they have encountered with the help of PCC and other government agencies.

"By the grace of God, we can overcome our problems. First we tackled the lack of market; we looked for it and looked beyond milk feeding programs. We talked to PCC and used their linkages in looking for new markets. We thanked the Lord for every new client we found. We also negotiated the price of raw milk. In fact, some of our members managed to send their children to college while some already purchased service vehicles because of dairying. Right now, we also help fellow dairy cooperatives and associations by buying their milk," Correa narrated. 🌈

PCC trains 15 individuals to pilot FLS-DBP project

By Chrissalyn L. Marcelo



Participants of the “Learning Workshop on Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP)” went through a hands-on session on processing of carabeef burger patty led by Dr. Rosalina Lapitan, meat processing expert and former supervising research specialist at PCC-UPLB. The training-workshop was held Sept. 14-Oct. 6 at the PCC national headquarters.

A group comprising 15 individuals recently underwent a three-week training preparatory to the piloting of a study titled “Farmer Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP)”, which is part of a three-year R4D project of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC).

Those who completed the training were six dairy farmers (Melchor Correa, Eliseo C. Misleng, Freddie P. Carlos, Allan O. Dayag, Lumicio DC. Magtala, Teody G. Nieva), one village-based artificial insemination technician (VBAIT) (Arnolfo B. Corpuz), four extension workers (Geneveve V. Suliva, Ailin E. Battad, Daniel De Vera, Gina G. Tuquero), and four PCC staff from Nueva Ecija and Ilocos Norte (Catherine P. Dabalos, Hannah Lois C. Paraoan, Estella P. Valiente and Ma. Theresa R. Sawit).

Titled “Learning Workshop on FLS-DBP”, the training activity was held at the PCC national headquarters and gene pool in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija from September 14 to October 6.

According to Erwin Valiente, one of the FLS-DBP researchers, the training module, which was developed by a team of experts from various PCC operating units, consisted of six courses, namely, preparing facilitators for FLS Implementation, mobilizing communities for FLS, raising healthy and productive dairy buffalo, building enterprises from buffalo, participatory technology, and participatory tools to measure FLS effects

and impacts.

The sub-topics for each course were the following:

Course One: 1) understanding adult audiences: first step in facilitating adult learning in FLS; 2) facilitating adult learning in the FLS: the necessary skills; 3) taking cues from adults’ non-verbal gestures; and (4) games: effective mood setters and session starters.

Course Two: 1) understanding FLS-DBP; 2) helping farmers understand their realities; and 3) understanding the potentials of DBP.

Course Three: 1) forage and feed production; 2) feeding at different physiological stages; 3) reducing mortality through health management; 4) improving breeding management; 5) increasing milk production and improving quality.

Course Four: 1) milk handling and storage; 2) milk quality test; 3) basic financial management; 4) allied enterprises in DBP, such as forage based enterprises, manure-based enterprises, milk based production, and meat-based enterprises.

Course Five: 1) helping the farmers to choose the option to adopt technology; 2) allowing farmers to test option for eight weeks; 3) participatory monitoring and field coaching.

Course Six: 1) measuring the effects and impacts of the FLS; and 2) evaluating the conduct of the FLS.

The team of PCC technical experts that

developed the module included Dr. Eric Palacpac, Dr. Edwin C. Atabay, Dr. Grace Marjorie Recta, Rovelyn T. Jacang, Erwin M. Valiente, Dr. Annabelle S. Sarabia, Dr. Peregrino Duran, Dr. Ester Flores, Dr. Daniel Aquino, Dr. Nancy S. Abes, Dr. Cyril P. Baltazar, Wilma T. Del Rosario, Phoebe Lyndia T. Llantada, Khrizie Evert M. Padre, Meriam Cabling, and Florencio Malicad

“The training module was developed with assistance from Marie Alo, Supervising Science Research Specialist of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD),” Valiente added.

PCAARRD is assisting PCC in the FLS-DBP study, which is one of two studies under the agency’s research project titled “Extension Methods for Adoption of Dairy Buffalo Technology in Selected Barangays in Nueva Ecija and Ilocos Norte.”


According to Dr. Palacpac, the research project is primarily aimed at developing modalities for the holistic delivery of extension services and strengthening technology adoption among village-based dairy buffalo farmers.

The other study involves the mobilization of a mobile team of communicators of innovations.

“The PCC has trained 15 individuals recently to have pilot trainers on FLS-DBP. They will serve as trainers and/or facilitators to other dairy buffalo farmers in selected barangays in Nueva Ecija and Ilocos Norte,” he explained.

“Moreover, the FLS training proper will actually start early next year. The fifteen individuals will be subdivided into three teams with five members for each team,” he said.

Team One will be composed of Correa, Misleng, Carlos, Tuquero and Sawit; Team Two: Dayag, Magtala, Nieva, De Vera and Valiente, and Team Three: Corpuz, Suliva, Battad, Dabalos and Paraoan who will facilitate FLS-DBP in San Jose City, Guimba and Talugtug, Nueva Ecija and in Ilocos Norte, respectively.

“The FLS is actually a school without walls. It is a participatory, hands-on, interactive, experiential adult learning and decision-making approach engaged in by a group of farmers in a training program and conducted right in the farmers’ field or locality,” Palacpac further explained. 

EDITOR'S NOTE

ERIC P. PALACPAC

Partnership Matters

“One can do anything better than none - it’s indisputable. Two can do some things better than one. Three is often even better than two. The more help you get, the better for you.” I can still remember these catchy lines from a classic Sesame Street song of my childhood. Its message is very clear i.e., you can usually achieve more with partnership, collaboration, or cooperation than when in isolation.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) knows this basic tenet very well. That is why, over the years, it anchors the Carabao Development Program (CDP) and its specific activities on strategic partnerships with various institutions and entities across the country. Such strategy is consistent with and supports the national government’s call for a public-private-partnership (PPP) in pursuing development goals particularly involving infrastructure and other services.

In this issue of the PCC Newsletter, we featured some of the more successful partnerships that PCC has established specifically towards the implementation of the genetic improvement program and the carabao-based enterprise development (CBED) initiatives. In particular, the PCC’s partnerships with the local government units (provincial and municipal), other national livestock agencies, and private individuals (e.g., village-based AI technicians) made possible the institutionalization of the carabao upgrading program (CUP) by way of a more unified approach in artificial insemination (AI), as complemented by the natural services via the bull loan program. These CUP efforts and outputs in the form of crossbred buffaloes are already evident in many areas of the country but with particular success in Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and Central Visayas.

Similarly, the CBED program hinges on strong and sustained multi-agency collaboration between and among PCC and various government and non-government instrumentalities, financial institutions, and farmers’ organizations. Such linkages facilitate access to credit, equipment, market, and other support or service facilities, which have already benefited thousands of dairy buffalo farmers in the country. Success indicators are now noticeable in many regions where there are strategic partnerships, as manifested by increasing volumes of milk traded, revenues generated, and personal testimonies of participating dairy buffalo farmers.

Partnerships even extend to R&D activities, as PCC engages with the academic and research institutions here and abroad in the conduct of scientific studies, development projects, and extension approaches that are of practical value to the livestock, particularly carabao, industry stakeholders.

As such, in this age and times, an individual or an institution cannot subsist and persist without harnessing social capital or social network. Instead, a more meaningful and productive life can happen through strategic, strong, and sustained alliances. As the old saying goes, “No man is an island, entire of itself”. Let’s leave that island to “Robinson Crusoe”.

Celebrating

PARTNERSHIPS in championing the **CARABAO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**







Championing CDP thru PARTNERSHIPS

BY KHRIZIE EVERT MARCELO-PADRE

Over the years, the Carabao Development Program (CDP) of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) has demonstrated that buffalo-based dairy enterprises can indeed lead to substantial economic and social gains for farmers and their families. These developments include strides in dairy animal herd build-up, increased incomes and job opportunities, and expanded tie-ups among key industry players.

The PCC's linkage with concerned stakeholders in the buffalo-based dairy industry continues to be highly productive and beneficial. Linkaging and partnership proved to be an effective strategy in pursuing PCC's development goals for the dairy industry, particularly in implementing its widescale carabao upgrading program (CUP)

through artificial insemination (AI), bull loan (BL) along with enterprise development initiatives. This strategy, is being sustained with partner agencies and local government units (LGUs) at the provincial and municipal levels.

The PCC's partnerships find significance in the context of its mandate as a research

for development entity focusing on the improvement of the genetic potentials of the Philippine Carabao for milk and meat as a means toward uplifting the economic and social well-being of smallholder farm families, and as the lead agency in livestock biotechnology R&D in the Department of Agriculture network.

Exemplary partners emerged from these partnerships who have already successfully implemented village-level dairy buffalo projects which can be found in the provinces of Nueva Ecija and Bohol and in Region 2.

Creating big impact thru partnership

Dairy farming in Nueva Ecija is now considered a progressive sector thru the collaborative efforts of PCC and its partner local government units.

Nineteen municipalities and cities in Nueva Ecija are consistently benefiting from the widescale CUP since the declaration of the province as the National Impact Zone (NIZ) of PCC for dairy buffalo enterprise development in 1998.

Through the NIZ template, the province became the country's major buffalo's milk producer. The NIZ promotes an integrative agribusiness system through the 25-dairy buffalo module. It served as the gear for speeding up the development of a viable carabao-based enterprise in Nueva Ecija. Also, the genetic improvement of the native carabaos through crossbreeding with the dairy breed was included in its goal.

As of December 2015, the total animal inventory in the NIZ is 3, 505 head of purebred buffaloes. Of this number, 2, 579 are female and 926 are male buffaloes.

Currently it has 51 dairy cooperatives with 1,051 farmer-trustees which constitute the Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (NEFEDCCO).

The federation was established as a marketing arm of the member-cooperatives. It facilitates all processes within the value chain from milk collection to marketing of raw and processed milk products in local and mainstream processors and consumers.

In 2015 alone, a total traded volume of 833,216.35 kilograms of milk is produced by the dairy cooperatives, which is translated to Php42, 177,041.66 amount of sales.

The average income of a dairy farmer per lactating animal ranges from Php48,000 to Php62, 000 for a 10-month period.

Out of this daily cash flow, farmers were able to send their children to school, get better health care for their families, purchase new household appliances and vehicle, save additional fund for house improvement, expand animal pen and forage areas, and purchase new farm implements.

Aside from the tangible benefits of daily income, access to everyday supply of fresh buffalo's milk has helped reduce malnutrition incidence in the province and some



The average income of a dairy farmer per lactating animal ranges from Php48,000 to Php62, 000 for a 10-month period. Out of this daily cash flow, farmers were able to send their children to school, get better health care for their families, purchase new household appliances and vehicle, save additional fund for house improvement, expansion of animal pen and forage areas, and purchase new farm implements.

localities. A total of 18,741 malnourished children were assisted from 2002 to 2007.

The dairy impact zone development framework has also generated additional jobs for farm families as well as the cooperatives, artificial insemination technicians, bull caretakers, milk collectors and delivery men, milk processors and many others involved in the dairy enterprise. These include ancillary businesses in the form of vermicomposting, effective microorganism (EM) organic fertilizer production, milk processing and private milk distribution.

Along these developments, synergy and critical support between and among dairy secondary stakeholders are maintained to ensure the sustainability of the success of the dairy sub-sector within respective municipalities. These stakeholders are composed of the Nueva Ecija Provincial Government (NEPG), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council (SMEDC), Department of Science and Technology and the local government units of Llanera, Talavera, General Natividad, San Jose City, Science City of Munoz, Guimba, and Sto. Domingo in

Nueva Ecija.

For example, with the help of DTI, the institutionalization of Gatas ng Kalabaw Festival in Nueva Ecija's became possible starting 2007. The localization of the event aimed to promote carabao's milk as the One Town One Product (OTOP) of Llanera, San Jose City, Science City of Munoz, Talavera, General Natividad, Guimba, and Sto. Domingo.

In its pursuit to create more avenues for opportunities and marketing support to dairy farmers in the province, PCC, with support from DTI and DAR, launched in 2015 a market venue called "Dairy Box Dairy Delicatessen" that showcases buffalo-derived products.

The one-stop-shop offers "pasalubong" treats and pastries made by Catalanacan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CAMPC) and other local dairy buffalo farmers' cooperatives.

This direction of partnership between PCC and its partner-agencies will continue to prosper toward empowering farmers as support is promised to continuously flow even with the change of leadership in their respective municipalities.

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Through the program “Strengthening the Philippine Carabao Research and Development” in 1981, PCC at CSU started the development of the carabao for milk, meat and draft purposes through crossbreeding with native carabaos. Program implementation was ensured to smoothly progress thru close partnership with various government and non-government agencies and organizations.

Strengthening regional development of CDP

Partnerships also continue to stimulate regional development in Region 2 and parts of the Cordillera Administrative Region along the areas of CDP promotion and advocacy.

Leading this mandate in the Northern Luzon development is PCC at Cagayan State University (CSU) covering the provinces of Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Viscaya, Quirino, Batanes, Apayao, Kalinga and Ifugao.

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As partnerships are continuously established, the protocol for CUP was steadily refined thru the help of reproductive technologies such as AI complemented with bull loan program (BLP). The organized efforts of PCC at CSU in the north began to pay off as tangible outputs became more visible on the ground.

From 1981 to 2014, the AI output totaled to 79, 313 animals or equivalent to 20.6% calf production rate. Through the launching of the Unified Artificial National Insemination Program in 2000, the service rate for the carabao population was increased while more AI technicians in the region were trained.

To fast-track the crossbreeding of native



With the right combination of AI and bull loan, production of crossbreds increased in the municipalities of San Agustin, Isabela, (1,794 crossbreds in 13 barangays), Solana, Cagayan (459 crossbreds), Amolong, Cagayan (375 crossbreds), Naguilian, Isabela (314 crossbreds), and Bagabag, Nueva Viscaya (127 crossbreds).

carabaos, purebred bulls were provided where AI service is not available. It was in 1994 when the BLP was implemented in various municipalities in Cagayan and Isabela and later on carried out to the provinces of Quirino, Nueva Viscaya and Batanes.

As of 2014, a total of 411 bulls were loaned out to these provinces with 4,309 crossbred calves produced.

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As more crossbreds are seen on the

ground, the CUP partners saw the need for developing carabao-based enterprises.

The carabao-based enterprise development (CBED) started in 1997 with the Dairy Multi Purpose Cooperative (DMPC). Tuguegarao City as the pioneering program recipient of 300 head of imported Bulgarian buffalos that arrived in Region 2 from 1999 to 2000. The animals were later awarded to eight dairy cooperatives and four government institutions in the region.

In 2000, the Carabao Strategic Development Zone was launched in partnership with DAR-02, Cagayan, DTI-02, Department of Science and Technology Region 2 (DOST-02), Tuguegarao, and National Economic Development Authority Region 2 (NEDA-02). This initiated the development of the impact zone concept.

To further guide the investment and development of the dairy industry in the region, the Integrated Regional Dairy Development Plan for the period 2006 to 2015 was approved in September 2007.

Members include NEDA, PCC, DAR, DOST, LGU, National Dairy Authority (NDA), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc. (PhilExport), Cagayan Economic Zone Authority (CEZA), State College and Universities, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), and Landbank of the Philippines (LBP).

The number of established dairy associations increased as an additional 28 dairy associations of crossbred owners were established from 2008 to 2014.

To enhance the capabilities of dairy farmers and others involved in the dairy enterprise, five Canadian expert volunteer advisers provided assistance through the support of DTI in the areas of dairy management, AI reproduction and health, milk processing, training and extension, packaging proposal for international funding assistance and study mission to Canada.

In order to achieve 25% growth rate of milk from 2010 to 2025, the DTI and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) through the National Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project (NICCEP) granted Php1 million fund assistance as its support to the industry dairy cluster capacity enhancement program that includes a study mission in Thailand and attendance to dairy business conference and trade fairs.

NICCEP is a three-year project that aims to enhance the capacity of selected industry



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clusters to plan, implement, facilitate service delivery, evaluate projects and improve industry competitiveness and business environment.

Another Php1.5 million was granted to PCC at CSU by the DTI Shared Service Facilities (SSF) program in 2013 to 2015 to provide equipment to the dairy cooperatives and associations that will help improve production and processing of milk to achieve better quality and increased shelf life.

The SSF beneficiaries include Integrated Farmers Cooperative (IFC), Dairy Multi Purpose Cooperative (DMPC), San Antonio Dairy Carabao Raisers Association (SADCRA), San Agustin Dairy Cooperative (SADACO), Bangag Carabao Owners Dairy Association (BCODA) and Sampaguita Livestock Producers Dairy Association (SLDPA).

The PCC-Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and PLGU also provided Php10 million fund assistance to SADACO in 2010 to 2013 to support the implementation of the CUP through the organization of dairy associations and cooperatives,

establishment of milk processing plant, AI, BL and CBED, deployment of Korean Overseas Volunteers, provision of processing equipment and mobility and construction of five milk barns.

All of these efforts resulted to the total milk production of 1,110,297 liters valued at Php49.9 million from 1999 to 2014.

In 2015, financial support amounting to Php505 million was also given by the World Bank through DARFU-02 and the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP) to support the dairy industry in the region.

Beneficiaries of PRDP include Integrated Farmers Cooperative (Dairy Buffalo), Malaya Development Cooperative (Dairy Cattle) and Rang-Ay Ti Pussian Multi Purpose Cooperative (Dairy Buffalo).

Part of this fund will be used for the entrustment of 150 head of Italian buffaloes and 45 Bulgarian buffaloes to multiplier farms and select dairy farmer cooperatives.

That same year, dairy cooperatives in the region registered their umbrella organization Cagayan Valley Federation of Dairy Cooperatives consisting of 11 member-cooperatives.

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“PCC is just one of the drivers of development and our partnership with various government agencies like DTI, DARFU, DAR, DOLE, DOST, DILG, PLGUs, MLGUs, SCUs, CDA, DENR, PCIC, PSA-BAS and foreign government agencies like JICA, KOICA, CESO and World Bank, including non-government organizations and local financing institutions were instrumental in the development of the carabao industry in region 2.”

- Director Frank T. Rellin
Center Director, PCC at CSU



Dairy farmers in Bohol now produce more than 50,000 liters of buffalo’s milk in a year compared to its milk production of less than 11,000 liters of milk in 2010.

Enriching the Boholano CDP partnership

Dairy farmers in Bohol now produce more than 50,000 liters of buffalo’s milk in a year compared to its milk production of less than 11,000 liters of milk in 2010.

The number of farmers actively involved in dairying increased from 18 in 2010 to 512 in 2015.

So far, the biggest achievement in Bohol dairy industry was the institutionalization of carabao improvement and development in the province.

The PCC at Ubay Stock Farm (PCC at USF) spearheaded the implementation of

CDP in the Bohol province.

Determined efforts to develop the local dairy industry had its beginning in 2009 where the Comprehensive Health Agricultural Technologies and Tourism Opportunities Development Program (CHATTO) for the towns of Ubay and Mabini was conceptualized. This was approved for implementation in 2010 and has been replicated by interested municipalities in partnership with the local government units since then.

The program paved the way for the establishment of school-based dairy enterprise as well as milk feeding program in

the six town-beneficiaries.

In 2014, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) signed a partnership agreement in the development of sustainable livelihood through Dairy Enterprise Development in Bohol under the DSWD’s Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP).

To boost the dairy enterprise in Bohol, the DSWD downloaded Php10 million worth of starter kit training fund to PCC at USF recently.

Six hundred Pantawid Pamilya beneficiaries from the towns of Ubay, Mabini, Alicia, San Miguel, Dagohoy, and Trinidad



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will be supported in the project. Under the partnership between DSWD and PCC, families will each receive a native carabao for milk production and a provincial government support for insurance.

Aside from the DSWD fund, the Bohol provincial government, through Gov. Edgar M. Chatto, provided a counterpart fund of P916,500 for the one-year insurance of the animals.

“Under our Dairy Development Program,

we have seen an impressive 15% increase in the production of raw milk, amounting to P11.575 million. This has also led to an 81% increase in the sales of dairy products, amounting to P9.425 million in 2014. And the future looks even brighter for the dairy industry, with our forthcoming Bohol Carabao Dairy Processing Marketing Enterprise, a P13-million project to be implemented under the Philippine Rural Development Program (PRDP),” declared

Gov. Edgar M. Chatto during his State of the Province Address in 2015.

Dr. Arnel N. del Barrio, PCC acting executive director, said the convergence initiative is significant because it means income generation not just for the farmers but also for the Bohol province as a whole. He hopes to replicate the partnership program in other parts of the country. 🌈

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- Gov. Edgar M. Chatto
State of the Province Address 2015.

PCC, DTI continue to fortify ties for DAIRY DEVELOPMENT THRU SSF PROJECT

BY MA. CECILIA C. IRANG

For more than a decade now, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) have been strong partners in fulfilling one goal and that is to contribute to the continuing progress of the dairy industry in the country. The DTI was recognized as PCC's secondary stakeholder partner-champion in March 2015 for its valuable and staunch support to the Dairy Development Program in the countryside since 2001.

It provided incessant technical support in the areas of product development, entrepreneurship capacitation and market-matching services for the 50 assisted dairy cooperatives of PCC, initiated the institutionalization and annual celebration of "Gatas ng Kalabaw Festival", and allocated fund of Php3.5 million in 2014 for the purchase of milk collection and processing equipment and more storage facilities thru the Shared Service Facility (SSF) project, which resulted in the increased quality of milk production and income of rural dairy farmers in Nueva Ecija. The "Gatas ng Kalabaw Festival" is an important activity that showcases carabao's milk as an instrument to improve the nutrition and source of income of rural farming families.

The PCC-DTI partnership is also gained in the relentless pursuit for Nueva Ecija to be recognized and declared as the "Dairy Capital of the Philippines".

"We have been pro-actively supporting the development of the dairy industry for the benefit of smallhold dairy farmers and farming communities as a whole for quite some time and we will continue to do so through our SSF project. We are glad to be one of the partners of PCC in this



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“We have been pro-actively supporting the development of the dairy industry for the benefit of smallhold dairy farmers and farming communities as a whole for quite some time and we will continue to do so through our SSF project. We are glad to be one of the partners of PCC in this endeavor.”

- Engr. Eladio N. Duran

Chief of the Small-Medium Enterprise (SME)
Development Division of DTI



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endeavor,” Engr. Eladio N. Duran, chief of the Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Division of DTI, stated.

SSF project

SSF, considered the DTI’s flagship program for small business development, seeks to provide micro small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with machinery, equipment, tools, systems, skills and knowledge that can be shared and implemented economy-wide with non-government organizations, people’s organizations, cooperatives, industry/trade/business associations, local government units (LGUs), state universities/colleges technical vocational schools and other similar government and training institutions.

The ultimate goal of SSF, which started in 2013, is to promote the growth of innovative and globally competitive MSMEs by addressing the gaps and bottlenecks in the value chain of priority industry clusters. This is done through the provision of processing equipment for the common use of the MSMEs within those clusters all over the country.

According to the Small Enterprises Research and Development Foundation, the DTI’s Regional Operations and Development Group (RODG), under the SSF project, can provide the processing equipment through its private sector partners or cooperators which, in turn, house these equipment and machinery in sustainable facilities.

The DTI’s partners in implementing SSF, aside from the private sector, are the Department of Science and Technology, the LGUs, and the academe.

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“Using a machine in milking is undoubtedly faster than manual milking. It also saves time, which makes the delivery of harvested milk to the collection center faster, minimizing the chances of spoilage.”

- Engr. Eladio N. Duran

Chief of the Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) Development Division of DTI

Partner-champion in dairy industry

Currently, the DTI has awarded equipment as part of its SSF project to PCC's 13 assisted dairy cooperatives in Nueva Ecija to include the following: Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (NEFEDCCO), Bagong Pag-asa sa Bagong Talavera Cooperative (BPBTC), Dimasalang Sur Credit Cooperative (DSCC), San Vicente Dairy Producers Cooperative (SVDPC), Casile Dairy Producers Cooperative (GDPC), Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EPMPC), Pulong Buli Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PBPMPC), Ayos Lomboy Producers Cooperative (ALPC), Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Cooperative (SiPBuPCo), Kabulihan Farmers Producers Cooperative (KFPC), Kalipunang Pangkaunlaran ng Agrikultura sa Gen. Natividad (KaPaGeNa), Nag-iisang Masikap Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NMMPC), and Buklod Producers Cooperative (BPC).

Maria Odessa R. Manzano, senior trade and industry development specialist under the DTI-Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) support services,

specifically cited the kind of equipment that each cooperative received. The NEFEDCCO received two units of freezer, EPMPC received two upright chillers and two vacuum sealers worth Php135,000 while all other cooperatives received two double-bucket type milking machines (electrical and gas engine-driven) and two units of milk bucket made of stainless steel with 40-L capacity.

Manzano also said that DTI is set to award processing equipment to Catalanacan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CAMPC) and two double-bucket type milking machines to Bagong Pag-asa ng Magsasaka Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BPMMPCC).

The dairy cooperatives that were awarded with the equipment expressed their deep appreciation to DTI and PCC.


“The equipment awarded to our cooperative especially the upright chiller is a big help in the handling and storage of our milk produce. We also see it as an advantage that the chiller is transparent, so that our customers can immediately see the available milk products on display,” Melchor Correa, chairman of EPMPC said.

“For my carabao to be accustomed to the

milking machine, I just expose it to the sound of the milking machine while I am doing manual milking. After a week, my carabao got used to the sound and the machine became efficient for me to use,” Arnold Cunanan, member of Simula ng Panibagong Bukas MPC, said.

On the other hand, DTI, according to Engineer Duran, sought technical expertise from PCC in terms of maintenance of the milking machines and other equipment. However, the beneficiaries were also trained to troubleshoot a broken milking machine. The training, which was held last May 26 at the national headquarters of PCC, involved lectures and actual demonstration.

“Using a machine in milking is undoubtedly faster than manual milking. It also saves time, which makes the delivery of harvested milk to the collection center faster, minimizing the chances of spoilage,” Engr. Duran explained.

According to him, as of December 2015, a total of 13 SSF projects in the dairy industry amounting to Php2,924,217 were established in Nueva Ecija. 



Source: <http://www.gk1world.com/our-impact>

PCC, GK partner to build FILIPINO DREAMS IN THE DAIRYARD PROJECT

BY *CHRISSALYN L. MARCELO*

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) and the Gawad Kalinga Enchanted Farm (GKEF), a private organization located at Barangay Encanto, Angat, Bulacan, recently agreed to enter into a public-private partnership in building Filipino dreams through the “Dairyard” project.

The Dairyard is envisioned to enrich and empower every stakeholder and consumer in the dairy industry including farmers on the aspects of livelihood, health, and wellness.

The PCC-GKEF joint project aims to form model throughout the country, bringing together strategic partners, who have the resources and capability to produce high-value carabao’s milk-based dairy products. Through this public-private undertaking, a huge network of like-minded and like-hearted collaborators of GK all over the Philippines can be created to provide a wide array of support mechanisms to empower and increase the income of Filipinos in the countryside.

The Dairyard, eliciting a new social enterprise in GKEF, was conceptualized by Marie Cavorsora, chief enabling officer and founder of the Dairyard, along with her team composed of Atty. Alexander L. Lacson and Atty. Patricia Ann T. Progalidad.

Cavorsora presented the collaborative project during the 1st National Carabao

Conference (NCC) held at the PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool in Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija last December 3-4.

PCC Acting Executive Director Dr. Arnel N. Del Barrio said that the agency is working closely with the GKEF to pen a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the two parties to officially launch the Dairyard project.

“The PCC’s part in the project is the provision of 10 dairy buffaloes to GKEF as its starting herd. We will also provide technical assistance to the recipient of buffaloes by training them on buffalo production and management,” Del Barrio said. He added that PCC will continue to assist the recipients in the duration of the project or until such time that success in dairy farming is evident.

Del Barrio said that since the project of the GKEF is a public-private type of partnership, the GKEF will also help the PCC in terms of looking for new markets of milk produced and capability building of the PCC-assisted farmers in Bulacan.

Del Barrio further explained that since

GKEF will only provide one hectare of land as forage area for the 10 carabaos that will be awarded to them, collaboration with the PCC-assisted farmers in Bulacan who already have buffaloes and allocation of land are the first steps that should be taken to attain its mission of building the Filipino dream through the establishment of Dairyard models all over the Philippines.

“The project of GKEF on Dairyard advocates raising of carabaos for milk and supports social entrepreneurship in the country. The intention is to provide Filipino’s with livelihood opportunities on dairy farming,” Del Barrio added.

Meanwhile, according to Cavorsora, the farmers of GKEF community in Bulacan will be the pilot recipients or beneficiaries of the project.

Cavorsora said the project ultimately aims to address poverty in the Philippines. “Beyond addressing the poverty of the pocket, the project also wants to address the poverty of the mind and the spirit of every



Filipinos. The Dairyard was built to make every Filipino's dream come true through dairy farming," Cavosora happily said.

She added that since the Dairyard is a social enterprise, it seeks to create social impact in the following manner: restoring the dignity of the poor, inspiring excellence, and leading by example.

"This would all result in igniting and sustaining the Filipino's mindset to dream for a better future and a better living," she said.

"A specific manifestation of this project would be the production of gourmet keso, a high-end kind of cheese, which we produced and processed in the GKEF. Through the project, we'll be processing high-end dairy products that are worth selling with competitive prices not only in the local market, but, in the global market as well," Cavosora added.



"The project ultimately aims to address poverty in the Philippines. "Beyond addressing the poverty of the pocket, the project also wants to address the poverty of the mind and the spirit of every Filipinos. The Dairyard was built to make every Filipino's dream come true through dairy farming."

- Marie Cavosora
Chief enabling officer and founder of the Dairyard

1st National Carabao Conference

highlights



Celebrating **PARTNERSHIPS** in championing the **CARABAO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM**



Among the leading government officials who graced the opening program were Undersecretary for Operations (Livestock) Jose C. Reaño, Rep. Mark Llandro L. Mendoza, chairperson of the committee on agriculture and food at the House of Representatives, and Rep. Mark A. Villar of the lone district of Las Piñas City.



About the National Carabao Conference


Aimed at creating an avenue to bring together key stakeholders of the Carabao Development Program, the National Carabao Conference, the first of its kind to be conducted by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), carries the flagship theme: “Celebrating Partnerships in Championing the Carabao Development Program”.

Participating in this event are key personalities in the agriculture sector including PCC partners such as farmers, local government units, and other government and private agencies nationwide who are each significant contributors in fostering the advancement of the industry.

The NCC holds multi-sessions in the form of plenaries, workshops, and various fora to serve as venue for meaningful discussions among participants.

The CDP is a continuous and organized effort led by the PCC to increase the genetic potential of the native carabao for milk, meat, and draft. Expected outcomes along this line are the development of carabao-based and related enterprises aimed at increasing income and nutritional status of farming communities. It is a socio-economic program that addresses the national concerns on poverty alleviation, nutritional improvement, equitable income distribution and people empowerment.



A photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a light yellow long-sleeved shirt, gently holding a black water buffalo calf. The calf has a white patch on its forehead and a yellow ear tag on its left ear with the number 'D4' written on it. The man is looking down at the calf with a soft expression. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall. The text is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the image.

Over the years, the Carabao Development Program (CDP) of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) has demonstrated that buffalo-based dairy enterprises can indeed lead to substantial economic and social gains for farmers and their families. These developments include strides in dairy animal herd build-up, increased incomes and job opportunities, and expanded tie-ups among key industry players.

Photo by: Marvin Lim