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Roundup

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Incoming DA secretary vows to make milk feeding in public schools a national program

BY MA. CECILIA C. IRANG

Incoming Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel "Manny" F. Piñol has vowed to intensify the DA's support to the milk feeding program by making it a national program. Such plan aims to address the problem of dairy farmers in the marketing and distribution of milk and at the same time help alleviate malnutrition among school children.

After he was named by incoming President Rody Duterte, Sec. Piñol embarked into "Biyaheng Bukid" (countryside tour) to feel the heat of the situation of the agriculture sector in the most impoverished areas around the country.

As part of his "Biyaheng Bukid", Sec. Piñol recently visited PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool along with the other DA attached agencies in the Science City of Muñoz last June 10 to see for himself the outcomes and the relevant issues about their respective programs.

Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative chairman Melchor Correa, who served as the representative of the buffalo dairying community, shared his testimony on how the PCC's



Incoming Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol (in red polo shirt) is being briefed in this photo by Dr. Arnel N. Del Barrio, PCC acting executive director (in vertical stripes polo), and other PCC officials at the Milka Krem where carabao's milk products such as mozzarella, bocconcini, kesong puti, pastillas, yoghurt, fresh milk and different flavoured milk drinks are served.

"We will support that program and it will be a national program. That is what we would like to happen and our target are those children in places or areas with high rates of malnutrition".

—Hon. Emmanuel F. Piñol
Incoming Secretary of the Department of Agriculture

program helped them improve their daily living.

"In dairying, climate change is never a problem. We can still harvest milk from our buffaloes

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PCC launches 1st FLS-DBP San Jose City, Guimba, Ilocos Norte clusters to take course this year

BY PAUL JOHN P. VILLAMOR

Dairy farmers now have wider access to best practices and technologies in carabao dairying.

A technology transfer modality called the Farmers Livestock School on Dairy Buffalo Production (FLS-DBP) makes this possible.

FLS-DBP project leader Dr. Eric Palacpac said this innovative and creative way to help dairy farmers is no longer a promise but a mandate realized thru a PCC project.

"Several years ago, PCC experienced difficulties in spreading technologies and it took us a year to come up with this kind of project wherein dairy farmers will surely grasp the learning and enjoy as well because this is a participatory type of class, there are lots of exciting activities," Dr. Palacpac said.

The said project which started on May 13 at the San Jose City hall will run for 34 weeks every Friday with accredited FLS-DBP facilitators to guide the participants along the course.

PCC acting executive director Dr. Arnel del Barrio, and deputy executive director Dr. Felomino Mamuad both gave inspirational messages about how PCC was able to surpass challenges on dairy buffalo production in the past.

"Change starts within ourselves," Dr. Mamuad told PCC partner-cooperatives who will participate in 1st FLS-DBP.

"Discipline is key to achieving high milk production with great quality," he added.

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Incoming DA secretary...

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whether it is raining or shining. In fact, I am earning more than Php2,000 a day from the milk sales. I won't need to look for another source of income since I am netting more than enough. Also, I am now hiring workers so that I could also be of help to others especially to those farmers like me," he said in Filipino.

"I can say that carabao raising is indeed a successful venture and I think PCC has done its job well in implementing the program and we are the fruits of its success. We are the face of triumph of PCC in its pursuit of helping improve the lives of smallhold farming families," he declared.

In behalf of the dairy farmers, Correa also took the opportunity to ask for help from the government in their problem with the supply and demand of milk. "We hope the secretary can help us address this problem through institutionalization of the milk feeding program," he said.

In response to Correa's entreaties, Secretary Piñol said:

"Even before you have mentioned that problem, we already have a crafted program. The concept is from the collection point, you will deliver the milk to the pasteurizing area and then we will have a milk feeding program in public schools from grades 1-4. We will support that program and it will be a national program. That is what we would like to happen and our target are those children in places or areas with high rates of malnutrition".


According to him, the program would be multipurpose. It will serve as a business for the dairy farmers, job for the farmworkers, and a channel to address malnutrition among children.

"We will coordinate our efforts with the National Dairy Authority and Department of Education to identify schools or barangays that have high rates of malnutrition and we'll focus our program there. If the carabao program could be replicated in other province successfully, then we will support it all the way," he said.

He also bared one the planned programs and aspirations under the administration of incoming President Duterte, which includes provision of identification cards to farmers so that their names will be included in a database and they will be able to avail pension fund and life insurance.

Before the end of his statement, he expressed his appreciation towards the positive impact of PCC's programs on the lives of dairy farmers.

"Thank you for bringing me here. After listening to your stories, my impression about PCC has changed for good. I will surely come back. Your program is acceptable, just make sure to improve carabaos not only for milk but for draft and meat purposes as well," he said.

The agriculture secretary was toured by PCC's top personnel at the Milka Krem where carabao's milk products such as mozzarella, bocconcini, kesong puti, pastillas, yoghurt, fresh milk and different flavoured milk drinks were served. Thereafter, he was ushered to the national gene pool to visit the purebred buffaloes and later toured the Livestock Innovations and Biotechnology Center wherein he was briefed about the PCC program in a video presentation featuring success stories of farmers. 

PCC, SEARCA conduct TOT workshop on writing effective knowledge products

BY KHRIZIE EVERT M. PADRE

Key officials and staff from the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) recently participated in a workshop on Training of Trainers (TOT) on Writing Effective Knowledge Products (KP) facilitated by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) as part of the PCC-SEARCA funded project, "Building Capacity and Strengthening Partnership for Carabao Development Program."

The workshop took place on April 18-21, 2016 in Basco, Batanes.

The PCC-commissioned project with SEARCA aims to organize national and regional learning events to generate and share knowledge on water buffalo production, management, and its contribution to socio-economic development.

The TOT workshop is a follow through on a knowledge management (KM) workshop conducted previously among PCC center directors and regional coordinators to formulate a cross regional learning program and to set up thematic Communities of Practice (CoP). One of the major outputs from the latest KM workshop is the identification of KPs by select lead KP writers from the 12 PC network centers.

The one-week TOT workshop reviewed the foundational concepts and principles of KM, tackled various aspects of KP and how to develop it, technically evaluated KPs following PCC guidelines on KP production, and laid it out in the form of a draft publication called "iAsk" (innovative Answer, Solution, Knowledge) series. The KP production is in preparation for the National Knowledge Sharing Forum on Carabao Based Enterprise Development (CBED) to be held this November.

Through the workshop, the lead KP




(Upper photo) Dr. Serafin Talisayon, recognized father of Knowledge Management (KM) in the Philippines, discusses the how-to's of writing effective knowledge products, during the recently concluded workshop on Training of Trainers (TOT) on Writing Effective Knowledge Products (KP) last April 18-21 in Basco, Batanes. (Lower photo) The participants and organizers of the workshop.

writers are also expected to serve as study leaders and technical editors during the production of KPs for presentation in the national forum and publication into a National CBED Compendium.

Dr Eric P. Palapac, head of the PCC Knowledge Management Division, emphasized during the workshop the need to acquire more knowledge. "We like PCC to have more robust knowledge. We should also include knowledge not only generated from PCC but from all other sources of knowledge. This knowledge should not be limited in the form of technical and scientific knowledge but indigenous or contextualized knowledge as well."

Dr. Serafin S. Talisayon, KM policy planning specialist and project team leader served as the resource person of the workshop. He was joined by the SEARCA management group led by Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, program head, and Ms. Rosario B. Bantayan, program specialist, both from KMD. Ms. Nancy L. De Leon, program specialist and Ms. Sarah L. Quiñones, project associate, both from the SEARCA Project Development and Technical Services, extended valuable assistance on workshop logistics.

The workshop was attended by 25 participants from the 12 PC regional centers, PCC's top officials and staff of PCC-KMD. 

PCC-RBPU enhances skills in ultrasonography, hormone assay analysis to detect early pregnancy, improve AI efficiency in livestock

BY CHRISSALYN L. MARCELO



Mr. John Paul Apolinario (in front) performs hormone assay analysis during hands-on activity on the recently held training titled "Application of Ultrasonography and Hormone Assay in Livestock Production" held at the PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool in Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija last May 30-June 8.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) through the Reproductive Biotechnology and Physiology Unit (RBPU) can now detect early pregnancy and improve efficiency of artificial insemination through enhanced skills in ultrasonography and hormone assay analysis.

Said technologies were recently studied further by researchers of PCC-RBPU and PCC at Central Luzon State University (PCC at CLSU) through the training on "Application of Ultrasonography and Hormone Assay in Livestock Production" held at the PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool in the Science City of Muñoz in Nueva Ecija last May 30 to June 8.

Dr. Edwin Atabay, scientist I of the PCC, said that through the enhanced skills in performing the said technologies, they can now detect pregnancy as early as 30 days after AI, establish an efficient AI protocols, shorten

calving interval, and conduct embryo sexing in buffaloes, as well as in other livestock species.

"Moreover, it helped us better understand the activities that are happening in the ovary of the buffaloes during estrous cycle and induction of synchronized ovulation from fixed-time AI. That is important for us to determine the best time where we should conduct AI and determine too if the buffaloes are pregnant the soonest time possible," Dr. Atabay happily said.

Meanwhile, he added, they are now expecting that the learning which they acquired from the training, through Dr. Seiji Katagiri and Dr. Yojiro Yanagawa, both professors from Hokkaido University in Sapporo, Japan, who served as technical resource people during the training, could help improve the reproductive

performance of the buffaloes.

The training was organized by PCC-RBPU. It was funded by the PCC and Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) under the project titled, "Development of the Reproductive Management Program for Increased Efficiency of AI in Dairy Buffaloes". It was conducted as part of the intensified reproductive management program of the PCC.

Dr. Edwin Atabay and Dr. Eufrocina Atabay organized and facilitated the training.

Dr. Ramesh Tilwani, Dr. Jessica Gay Ortiz, Mr. Joselito Del Rosario, Mr. Ronaldo Salazar, Mr. John Paul Apolinario, Ms. Excel Rio Maylem, and Ms. Roselyn Tadeo, served as the training participants. ®

PCC at CLSU researchers up proposal writing skills

BY PAUL JOHN P. VILLAMOR

PCC researchers at PCC at Central Luzon State University (CLSU) recently honed their skills on effective proposal writing during a Training Workshop on R&D Formulation and Proposal Writing at the Shahani Room, PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

PCC at CLSU Center director Dr. Daniel Aquino said the workshop is meant to challenge researchers to write compelling research proposals for funding.

"Our emphasis now is on writing and conducting researches that are more beneficial to farmers," Dr. Aquino said.

The four-day workshop, which started last June 21, tapped resource speakers from the Research, Extension, and Training (RET) Office of CLSU, which included vice president for RET Dr. Fe Porciuncula, vice president for Business Affairs Dr. Edgar Orden, and research office director Dr. Maria Excelsis Orden.

PCC research for development national coordinator Dr. Eric Palacpac said the training aimed to inspire PCC at CLSU staff to work hard and yet enjoy doing researches.

"Let's put enthusiasm in the way we perform our technical capabilities such as in writing research proposals to meet our R4D agenda. Inspiration can be translated to meaningful researches," Dr. Palacpac said.

During the writeshop,

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PCC-PIMD conducts special projects review

BY MA. CECILIA C. IRANG &
CLARISSE MAE G. BONDOC



One. Two. Wacky! This time, the Planning and Information Management Division conducted its special projects review the most entertaining way possible. The strategy was to actively engage participating researchers in the learning sessions.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) through its Planning and Information Management Division (PIMD) recently conducted a Special Projects Review (SPR) to enhance the alignment of accomplishment to the agency's major final output accountability report card (MARC) on May 11-12 at the PCC National Headquarters and Gene Pool in the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija.

Said activity was participated in by 35 PCC employees, staff members from PIMD and Business Development and Commercialization Unit, and PCC researchers who are involved in the special projects.


The target of the SPR is the MARC technical support services that have three performance indicators namely production support, market development and the education services extension and training (ESET).

Special projects are externally funded with components that can be measured via the three performance indicators.

Currently, PCC has 17 special projects from various funding agencies such as the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD), Department of Agriculture-Biotech, and Bureau of Agricultural Research.

The PIMD stressed that all PCC employees must be aware of MARC. The event, they said, aims to create a convenient venue for discussion among PIMD and young researchers for them to clearly understand where their researches belong, what will be their contributions to MARC, and on what performance indicator they should connect.

The SPR-MARC is held twice a year and this time it is scheduled in May and September.

"This is not a traditional 'let's-sit-down' conference wherein researchers just present the researches. We make the activity as light as possible to encourage all participants to actively engage in the process," Alvin David, PIMD planning assistant, said. 



NEFEDCCO opens new branch store

BY MA. CECILIA C. IRANG

Passersby purchase milk products at the newly-opened branch store "Cremeria Ecijana" of the Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (NEFEDCCO) located along Maharlika Highway, Pinagpanaan, Talavera in Nueva Ecija. Some of the milk products offered by the new branch store include fresh milk and flavored milk drinks, cheeses, yogurt, ice candy, and ice cream.

The Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (NEFEDCCO) recently opened its new branch store "Cremeria Ecijana" to bring buffalo milk products closer to the market for wider customer reach last May 30 along Maharlika Highway, Pinagpanaan, Talavera in Nueva Ecija.

NEFEDCCO serves as the umbrella organization and marketing arm of dairy cooperatives formed under the guidance of PCC in the province which has been designated as the national impact zone (NIZ) for the carabao development program.

Its main store and milk collection and processing center is located at barangay San Ricardo, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, which produces and markets fresh, pasteurized, non-fat and flavored milk drinks (pandan, lacto-juice, coffee, strawberry and choco), pastillas (pastillas de leche, plain pastillas, yema pastillas, and ube pastillas), cheeses (cottage

cheese, quick-melt white cheese, paneer and plain white cheese), yogurt drinks, leche flan, ice candy and ice cream.

Said products are also available in the branch store and NEFEDCCO now entertains and accepts additional buffalo milk treats from consigned local entrepreneurs such as milkaroons, bibingka gatas and macapuno which are being developed by the Catalanacan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, a PCC-assisted dairy cooperative.

According to NEFEDCCO chairman Gerardo F. delos Santos, they will also display different carabeef products in the future after ironing out standard requirements.


"We want this branch store to be completely packaged, offering not only milk-based products but meat as well," he said.

He added that they are also planning the same expansion in Quezon City and other parts of Luzon if the venture of the

Pinagpanaan branch store becomes a hit.

Other promotional activities, according to chairman delos Santos, include leaflet distribution to terminals and passersby and the use of social media through a dedicated Facebook page for its products.

Dr. Arnel N. Del Barrio, PCC acting executive director, promised to support NEFEDCCO in its endeavor and left a piece of advice to the people behind the federation.

"As you expand your market, it is important that you maintain the good quality, availability, and speedy delivery of your products. To top this all, good customer service must always be your way of practice. If you consistently do this, customers will freely come and patronize your products and they themselves will become ambassadors of your store and products," he said. 

Senator Villar.. FROM PAGE 8

contributes much in the total milk production."

Senator Villar said with the increasing and growing number of small hold dairy farmers contributing in the national dairy industry, the focus of the government should now be directed to improving their cause through provision of support mechanisms and facilities.

"With our concerted efforts, we will achieve our goal of a progressive local dairy industry benefitting thousands of dairy farmers in the provinces," she said.

Agriculture secretary Proceso Alcala, through agriculture undersecretary Dennis Guerrero, agrees with Senator Villar that a progressive dairy industry is one of the keys to economic development in the countryside.

Secretary Alcala said support mechanisms for dairy farmers will be continuously strengthened to make this happen through provision of the best technologies

and technical and capability enhancement assistance in the span of the value chain—from production to processing and marketing.

Efforts of the dairy industry, he said, should be focused on producing quality milk to enable the Philippines to obtain itself a significant share in the world market.


"Let us continue to exchange knowledge on dairying and meaningfully contribute in the progress of the local dairy industry," Secretary Alcala said.

PCC acting executive director Dr. Arnel del Barrio vowed that the PCC will continue to seize opportunities to realize its mandate of providing increased incomes and improved well-being for the rural farming families by leading the DA network in deliberate efforts to conserve, propagate and promote the Philippine carabao as a source of milk, meat, and draft power and hide, and serve as the lead agency for livestock biotechnology.

The 19th DairyConEx, adopting the theme "Gatas Pinoy: Paunlarin, Tangkilikin, Palaganapin!", was attended by over 600 delegates composed of dairy farmers, cooperative members, private sector and industry entrepreneurs, and government employees in the livestock sector.

Some 50 exhibitors participated in the three-day conference to showcase their respective technologies and products.

Annually organized by the Dairy Confederation of the Philippines (DairyCon), the congress aims to encourage people to go into dairying to create wealth, livelihood and share the benefits of economic development nationwide. The ultimate goal is to create a permanent sector for dairy with globally competitive professional dairymen and farm workers.

It is co-organized by the Department of Agriculture through the National Dairy Authority (NDA) and co-sponsored by the PCC. 

PCC launches... FROM PAGE 2

The first cluster of participating cooperatives includes San Jose City's Eastern Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EPMPC) and Simula ng Panibagong Bukas Cooperative (SIPBUKO).


Modules to be used for the training were developed by Dr. Ester Flores, head of PCC Genomics and Informatics; Dr. Daniel Aquino, PCC at CLSU director; Mina Abella, national coordinator for product development; Wilma del Rosario, National Impact Zone

coordinator; Dr. Cyril Baltazar, national gene pool coordinator; Dr. Rosalina Lapitan, Scientist I; Dr. Nancy S. Abes, head of Biosafety and Environment Section; Dr. Eric P. Palacpac, KMD chief, Ana Marie Alo of Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD); Dr. Peregrino Duran, scientist I; Merriam Cabling and Renelyn Labindao of PCC at CLSU; Dr. Annabelle S. Sarabia, National R4D coordinator; and Director

Grace Recta of PCC at MMSU.

Ma. Theresa Sawit, Estella Valiente, Chairman Melchor Correa and Eliseo Mislang of EPMPC, will serve as facilitators.


According to Dr. Palacpac, the FLS-DBP is anchored on an adult learning approach, the same principle used by PCAARRD in its own FLS for goat production, which proved successful in many areas in Region I.

PCC will launch FLS-DBP in Guimba, Nueva Ecija on May 20 and in Ilocos Norte in July. 

PCC at CLSU... FROM PAGE 5

participants reviewed, critiqued and rewrote the proposals based on the pointers that they learned from the series of discussion.

Potential research papers in the area of forage and pasture, carabao-based enterprise, and product development were identified after the lectures and

draft proposals were evaluated on the final day. The workshop's outputs are expected to be finalized and submitted to the national R4D coordinator office for screening. 

Senator Villar underscores PCC efforts in 19th Dairy Congress

BY ROWENA G. BUMANLAG



Senate committee chairperson in Agriculture Cynthia Villar underscores the unwavering commitment of PCC to support dairy farming families in the countryside through knowledge sharing, research, technologies, extension, production and management, product development, and market assistance in her keynote address during the 19th Dairy Congress and Expo (DairyConEx) held at Negros Oriental Convention Center in Dumaguete City last April 13.

In her keynote address during the 19th Dairy Congress and Expo (DairyConEx), Senate committee chairperson in Agriculture Cynthia Villar underscored the significant contribution of the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) as one of the agencies leading the continuing progress of the local dairy industry.

“The Philippine Carabao Center has not wavered in its commitment to support dairy farming families in the countryside through support mechanisms in the areas of knowledge sharing, research, technologies, extension, production and management, product development, and market assistance,” Senator Villar said in her speech at the conference venue in Negros Oriental Convention Center in Dumaguete City, April 13.

When defending a proposed House Bill on Farm Tourism before a Senate hearing, Senator Villar said Senate President Frank Drillon asked her if she ever had come across with the best dairy tourism farm yet. The Senator replied: “Yes. I’ve seen one model at PCC.”

Senator Villar said more dairy

industry players should focus on establishing a tourism farm. The concept of Farm Tourism Bill she said is to teach farmers how to earn from their small farms and to become teachers of best practices as well to other farmers.

The foresight of the proposed bill is to increase farmers’ incomes by engaging in multiple business opportunities springing from agricultural tourism. This prospect can also direct the interest of young generations to converge in the countryside with the vibrant promise that is in farm tourism.

“I staunchly encourage farmers to become teachers of technologies and practices as well besides being productive farmers themselves. I strongly encourage you to get accredited to TESDA and you can then proceed to converting your farm into a learning farm,” she said.

Senator Villar facilitated the provision of a PhP500 million funding dedicated for TESDA agricultural training where all interested teachers of agriculture can get accreditation.

“My dream is for farmers to have

a family farm school in all 1,600 towns in the Philippines so that more farmers will be taught of how to do farming using the right technologies, mechanization, and how to imbibe a business sense,” she said.

Senator Villar said small farms have the potential to prosper but because of lack of business sense, financial literacy, technology, and mechanization, progress is impeded. This is why, she said, education is the key to propel them to sustained development.

PCC is already providing such array of support, she said, encouraging small hold dairy farmers to have a “business sense” by creating viable and sustainable carabao-based enterprises in the countryside.

“You should not be ashamed that you are small. All great things start by being small,” she said, directing her message to small hold dairy farmers.

She added, “there is a great potential in the local dairy industry and the small milk producing sector

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