



*President Rodrigo Duterte meets the local chief executives and selected farmers of Camarines Sur at the Provincial Capitol in Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur, three days after typhoon Nina ravaged Bicol. Photo shows President Duterte consulting agriculture secretary Manny F. Piñol on DA's rehabilitation funds.*

## Pres. Duterte allocates P500 million for typhoon Nina rehab in Bicol

by Emily B. Bordado

**Typhoon Nina devastated three Bicol provinces and wrought heavy damage on the agriculture sector.**

Final damage report shows that the number of farmers affected from the province of Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Albay is 86,735. Of this, 73,757 are rice farmers; 8,387 corn farmers and 4,002 are high value crop farmers. The value of production loss is estimated at over P5.1 billion.

The total rice area affected is 59,528.23 hectare; for corn 12,727.17 hectare and for high value crops including vegetables and fruit trees, 13,337 hectares have been affected.

President Rodrigo Duterte who flew in to Catanduanes and Camarines Sur 3 days after the typhoon has announced the release of P50 million from the national government to help farmers recoup their losses by

planting anew. The assistance will be in the form of palay seeds to be distributed to the affected farmers.

The president also asked the recommendation of Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol to increase the amount by another P50 million if there is a need for it. But in a later statement released by Sec. Piñol, this amount was increased to P500 million.

*(Please turn to page 5)*

## LGU Sorsogon wins P1million as "Be Riceponsible" advocacy champion

The provincial government of Sorsogon, Bicol's lone entry to the DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) nationwide BeRiceponsible Search for Best Advocacy Campaign was adjudged as champion under the Provincial Government category and won P1 Million cash prize.

Hazel V. Antonio, director of the Be RICEponsible campaign led the awarding ceremony which was held at PhilRice in Nueva Ecija on

*(Please turn to page 15)*



**FULL FLEDGED.** Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol administered the oath of office to our beloved Regional Executive Director (RED) Elena B. de los Santos as full-fledged Director IV of Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 5.

## De los Santos is new RED of DA Bicol

Dr. Elena B. de los Santos is the newly appointed Regional Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture Bicol. Her appointment as full-fledged RED was signed by President Rodrigo Duterte last September 28, 2016.

A very simple and unassuming but well-organized and smart lady, Dr. de los Santos is very much qualified, and honed for the job having been with the department for the past 36 years. She finished her Bachelor's

degree in Agriculture major in Animal Husbandry at the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture major in Animal Husbandry. She obtained a Master's degree in Animal Science from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños, and a doctor's degree in Development Management from the Bicol University.

Through diligence and dedication she rose from the

*(Please turn to page 11)*



The new administration building

## Towards a responsible and prudent use of social media

Social media is indeed one of the significant developments in this generation. One of the most important advantages of this media is the speed and efficiency in which it allows communication between and among people by bridging geographical distances. Breaking news, trends, videos, photos and other urgent and important information and just about anything can go viral and can spread like wildfire on social media sites.

Through the social media people stay connected to friends and families in today's fast paced world usually for free or at very minimal cost. It is also a great way to meet new people and seek out groups who share common cause or same interests. Social media is also an invaluable promotional tool as it can reach large and diverse number of people.

Social media is also a useful tool for farmers and those engaged in agribusiness as it an important and inexpensive source of information about technologies, good practices and market information. It is also a very effective channel to connect with buyers or consumers and suppliers. With its various platforms, social media can be used to share information and give directives or directions to a number of people and get immediate response.

But social media has also its downside especially when used irresponsibly. One of the adverse effects of social media is that people

are becoming more and more addicted to using it. A lot of what could have been productive time are wasted at work, in school and at home. It is also causing relationship problems. Family members even though they are sharing the same roof and even room are no longer interacting with each other as they are so preoccupied and glued to their personal computer interacting with people they meet only through the social media. Indeed, this social media mania is driving wedges into people's real life. Online social interactions have not only been starting new relationship, but also ending many existing relationships.

Some people are also using social media as their wall, platform or bulletin board to flaunt the good things (real or imagined, legit or illicit activities and affairs) they have. Any little bit of accomplishments, milestone, travels, celebrations, occasions, food, new acquisitions or just about anything even trivial and inane and crazy or bizarre things are posted on the fb or tweeter. Modesty humility and decency are indeed dying virtues.

Many social media users however are also unwittingly exposing their personal details and activities on line thus, incriminating and putting themselves under the critical scrutiny of the public. There are government employees for example who have the penchant of posting or bragging their

whereabouts, their travel escapades even on official time and worst in the company of people they are not supposed to be mingling with them, much so going on leisure trip with them because these people have business dealings with the office. Even if these travels are made on personal time and expense public employees must have a sense of delicadeza and must be discreet because under the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards (Re. 6713) government employees "shall endeavor to discourage wrong perceptions of their roles as dispensers or peddlers of undue patronage. Moreover, officials and employees and their families shall lead modest lives appropriate to their positions and income. They shall not indulge in extravagant or ostentatious display of wealth in any form."

We are thus in support of the Memorandum Order of Assistant Secretary for Operations and PRDP National Project Director Ariel T. Cayan anent the observance of prudence on the use of social media during official travels /activities being conducted by the PRDP. This should also be adopted by all DA officials and employees.

As Amy Jo Martin aptly puts it: "Social media is changing the way we communicate and the way we are perceived, both positively and negatively. Every time you post a photo, or update your status, you are contributing to your own digital footprint and personal brand."

Let us therefore be judicious and responsible in using the social media.



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**World Bank Task Team Leader Frauke Jungbluth**

PRDP-South Luzon is on top of the leaderboard among clusters in terms of value chain analysis (VCA) approval. This was announced by Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) South Luzon Director Shandy M. Hubilla during the 3rd World Bank Implementation Support Mission held on November 17, 2016 in Lucena City. Of these, 83 percent is from Bicol with a total of 18 VCAs, 11 of which were already approved. VCA is one of the science-based tools being used

## PRDP-Bicol has biggest share in South Luzon's VCAs, I-REAP project proposals

by the PRDP to provide a snapshot of the industry from production to marketing.

These VCAs are now being translated into Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs), a three-year rolling consensus plan between the Department of Agriculture and local government units (LGUs). As part of PRDP's effort to advance reforms in government-led projects, PCIP is being positioned as a strategic plan for convergence. Hubilla noted that PRDP-Bicol has generated P1.5 billion on top of PRDP investments out of PCIPs.

"The LGUs were able to fund PCIP even beyond PRDP budget/funding. We have DA-BUB, DOST and DTI supporting their product value chain. Ultimately, this is what we really want from the start to do, that all our processes and projects with DA will be aligned to the PCIP," he said.

Likewise, Hubilla reported that PRDP-Bicol's enterprise development

(I-REAP) component made the biggest contribution of 62 percent to the cluster's I-REAP portfolio with a total of 17 sub-projects amounting to P45.98 million. Also highlighted were the significant impacts of PRDP-Bicol I-REAP sub-projects' dry run operations. The Abaca Fiber Processing and Trading Enterprise, being managed by the Pinoy Lingap Damayan Multipurpose Cooperative in Virac, Catanduanes, for example, has generated a net income worth P1.18 million from January to October 2016.

Lead Agriculture Economist and World Bank Task Team Leader Frauke Jungbluth lauded PRDP-South Luzon for being the first cluster, so far, that provided updates about I-REAP implementation.

"I really like that approach on more I-REAP projects going forward; that you pay attention to these results and impacts of I-REAP that were more difficult to capture than I-BUILD in many ways," she added.

Hubilla also discussed the feasibility results of the Village Level Coconut Water Processing Facility, which was pilot-tested in Bicol, in terms of number of nuts, initial investment cost, net income, price per bottle and benefits to farmers.

Meanwhile, the region accounted 42 percent of the cluster's I-BUILD sub-projects. PRDP-Bicol ranked next to Calabarzon's P1.4 billion-worth portfolio with 18 approved I-BUILD sub-projects amounting to P1.35 billion.

Furthermore, Hubilla underscored the correlation between the region's agricultural area, rural population and poverty incidence in the Project's implementation.

"It's not about equally distributing them (the P7 billion PRDP additional financing for I-BUILD). It's about how we distribute them equitably," he added. With a total agricultural area of 891,955 hectares, Bicol has about 88.26 percent rural population with 41.60 percent living below poverty threshold. "In terms of poverty, those people residing in rural areas, who work in the agriculture and fishery sector are among the poorest," Hubilla remarked.

A team of experts from the World Bank headed by Jungbluth came to Lucena City for the third leg of the 3rd World Bank Implementation Support Mission to review the cluster's achievements towards the attainment of the Project's development objectives and evaluate progress since the last review mission. **(Annielyn L. Baleza,)**

### Letters

Republic of the Philippines  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM  
Region V – Bicol  
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office  
Nursery, Masbate City

November 11, 2016

**DR. ELENA B. DE LOS SANTOS**  
Regional Executive Director  
DA RFO 5

Dear Dir. DeLos Santos:

The conduct of the Agri Clinic Caravan in ARC Lantangan in Mandaon, Masbate last November 4, 2016 was considered a successful activity by our farmer-clients or the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) despite the heavy downpour.

The ARBs were able to learn a lot from the lectures given by representatives from the DBESMSCAT, Department of Agriculture, Office of the Provincial Veterinarian and an advocate of Organic Farming. During the clinic sessions, farmers were able to freely discuss with the panel of experts their queries relative to crops, vegetables, livestock and other agri-technologies.

With this, we would like to express our warmest appreciation for the active participation of Dr. Fermin Rabusa of the DA-Masbate Breeding Station who represented your office during the said activity. Likewise, we thank you further for providing us valuable IEC materials and 200 sachets of assorted vegetable seeds.

We look forward to your usual cooperation and participation on the next agri-caravan. Thank you very much and more power.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) **FELIX E. FRUTO**  
Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II

## Gabi leaves processing facility turned over to Nabua farmers

**NABUA, CAMARINES SUR** - The Department of Agriculture turned over to the Nabua Gabi Producers Association (NAGPA) the P1.5 million worth Community-Based Processing Facility located at Barangay Old Antipolo this municipality. The building will serve as office, receiving, packing area for dried gabi leaves, stock room and even conference room for the association.

According to Rosita M. Imperial, regional coordinator of the DA's High Value Crop Development Program which provided funds for the

construction of the building, the facility is the DA's support to farmers to enhance their competitiveness, add value to their produce and ensure food safety through hygienic drying and packaging practices. She adds that it is the vision of the DA to make the municipality an export player of gabi.

The DA has provided 10 units of Multi-Commodity Solar Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD) spread out in the gabi producing barangays which include Sta. Lucia, Sta. Elena, La opinion, San Jose and Antipolo Old. Farmers need not dry their gabi leaves in pavements, hence



their produce are hygienic and safe and they can now dry their gabi leaves even on rainy days.

Mayor Delia C. Simbulan thanked the DA for its support to the gabi farmers as she acknowledged the industry and cooperation of the farmers. She added that the LGU also recognizes the great potential of gabi as an industry and noted that more and more farmers in her municipality are shifting to gabi production as they saw it is a good source of income and they incur less expense. She adds that aside from the technical support and assistance that their extension workers is providing to their gabi farmers, the LGU is also supporting them in their training needs. Recently, the LGU purchased a vacuum sealer used by the gabi farmers in packaging dried gabi leaves. The road leading to the barangay is also being concreted to make it accessible and to facilitate transport of agricultural produce.

Municipal Agriculturist Jesse M. Duran said that at present there are over 50 hectares planted to gabi and their farmers produce an average of 2 tons of dried gabi per month. There is an increasing demand

and they still need additional units of dryer.

Samson Soltes, president of NAGPA expressed his gratitude to the DA, the LGUs and other partners which have been helping their association and he promised that they would take good care of the facilities and equipment provided to them.

Also present during the turn-over and inauguration of the gabi processing facility were: Camarines Sur Provincial Board Member and committee chair on agriculture, Nelson Julia; Jocelyn Fortuna, wife of 4th district representative Sal Fortuno, Emily B. Bordado, information officer of the DA, other municipal and barangay officials, invited farmers and extension workers from other municipalities who will also venture into gabi production.



## DA Bicol opens P4M Organic Agriculture research center

**SAN AGUSTIN, PILI, CAMARINES SUR** – Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Executive Director Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar led the blessing and inauguration of the P4M Organic Agriculture Research and Development Center inside the 76 hectare DA RFO 5 compound here.

Dr. Edgar R. Madrid, DA Bicol Regional Technical Director for Research said the center is equipped with a conference room, office and processing areas where packages of organic agriculture technologies will be made.

Luz R. Marcelino, Research Division Chief said the center will cater to farmers, students and State Universities and Colleges. It will showcase

organic swine production, vegetable production, and vermi composting facilities.

Other functions of the center include: venue of research and extension activities for organic agriculture; develop appropriate organic animal and crop production technologies; establish organic agriculture techno demo farm; assist in the establishment of bio-safety and certification bodies in coordination with national government agencies; assist in the certification of organic farms; provide training and extension services to farmers, students and other stakeholders.

BAR Executive Director Dr. Nicomedes P. Eleazar said all the regions were given funds by the Bureau of Agricultural



Research (BAR) for the establishment of an Organic Agriculture R&D Center. He added that among all regions, Bicol is the most progressive and he hopes that Bicol will serve as supplier of organic products to Metro Manila.

DA Bicol Regional

Executive Director Dr. Elena B. delos Santos in her speech thanked the Bureau of Agricultural Research for all the support even in the past when she was still Research Division Chief and BIARC Manager. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**



# Over P29 M pesos worth of PAMANA projects turned over to Sorsogon



**JUBAN, Sorsogon---** “Maswerte kita sa Sorsogon ta igwa kaining PAMANA (Payapa at Masaganang Pamayanan) projects. Pangtulo na ining turn-over. Sana gabos na projects na itinao asin itatao, masusteniran tang mga kahimanwa (We are lucky here in Sorsogon because there are PAMANA projects. This is the third turn-over ceremony. I hope that all the projects given and to be given be sustained by us).”

This was the message of Sorsogon Provincial Agriculturist Dr. Maria Teresa V. Destura during the Department of Agriculture (DA)-PAMANA Projects Turn-over Ceremonies held on November 23, 2016 at the Sorsogon Provincial Nursery, Cogon, Juban, Sorsogon.

Sorsogon Provincial

PAMANA Coordinator Engineer Cora Astillero reported that 24 projects on Upgrading of Goat Production Farm, Mechanical Flatbed Dryers, Municipal Abaca Nurseries and Small-scale Irrigation Projects worth Php29.9 million pesos were turned-over to the 24 beneficiaries.

“I am happy that the Abaca Industry in my municipality will be revived, mechanized and developed again because of PAMANA,” said Gubat Mayor Sharon Rose G. Escoto when she received the Certificate of Project Turn-over of the newly-established Municipal Abaca Nursery.

Aside from Gubat, the LGUs of Magallanes, Casiguran, Juban, Prieto Diaz, Barcelona, and Irosin also

received same project of an abaca nursery.

According to OIC-Regional Director of PhilFIDA Mary Ann Molina, at present, Sorsoguenos are still into traditional abaca stripping method. With the implementation of PAMANA project and the establishment of the nursery coupled with equipment for a mechanized stripping and drying, the farmers will be able to produce quality fibers and products and help in the agri-eco-tourism development of the province.

The LGU-Gubat is one of the beneficiaries of the 2013 PAMANA projects which also include the LGUs of Juban, Prieto Diaz, Irosin, Casiguran, Magallanes, Barcelona, and the PLGU of Sorsogon.

PAMANA Area Manager for Bicol of the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) Christopher Azucena, said that these projects are part of the Millennium Development Goal. He also disclosed that their office’s vision for Sorsogon is to be the lead supplier of rice in the Bicol Region.

Sorsogon governor Robert

Lee Rodriguezza foresees that the recently upgraded Goat Production Farm will provide his constituents with “in”, healthy and cheap goat’s milk and meat. He encouraged the attendees to help each other and do their share to the efforts of the government agencies involved in the PAMANA projects.

Meanwhile, seven mechanical flatbed dryers amounting to P4.9 million pesos were turned-over to Timbayog-Colambis Irrigators Association and Taboc Multigrains Farmers Association, Juban; Alanao-Jupi Irrigators Association, Gubat; San Isidro-Bulawan Small Water Impounding Systems Association, Prieto Diaz; Buenavista Uhay Farmers Association, Irosin; Inlagadian-Escuala Irrigators Association and San Ignacio Farmers Association, Casiguran; Sta. Lourdes-San Antonio Irrigators Association, Barcelona; and Siuton Farmers Irrigators Association, Magallanes. A lined canal improvement for Gogon-San Juan Agricultural Development Workers Irrigators Association, Prieto Diaz.

The other projects including the farm, abaca nurseries and irrigation projects had a total budget of P25 million pesos.

The PAMANA project is a convergence program of the government to ensure that basic services, livelihood support and peace building economic development programs will be provided to conflict-affected areas. **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**

## President Duterte allocates... (from page 1)

For her part, DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Dr. Elena B. delos Santos also commits to augment/supplement the budget release of the national government for the rehabilitation of affected farmers with funds derived from available calamity funds of the region.

She said that at present the regional office has buffer stocks of palay seeds of about 6,000 bags. In addition to this, the regional office will procure 5,000 bags certified palay seeds; 6,000 bags hybrid seeds; 3,000 hybrid corn seeds; 1,000 kgs vegetable seeds; 50,000 pieces fruit trees and 30,000 kgs urea fertilizers for rice and

corn farmers.

Moreover, the DA Bicol will also provide 40 heads carabao; 5,000 ducks; 5,000 native chicken and 10 units incubators. Also 1,000 sets of farm tools and additional tractors will be made available the soonest possible time.

Funds have also been earmarked for the repair of small-scale irrigation facilities and flatbed dryers, for vaccines and animal feeds.

The DA regional office and other DA facilities were not spared by the typhoon and they were also damaged including the newly constructed Administration building and operations building, the estimated value of which is estimated at P67 million.





# Bicolano achievers honored in 4th National Quality Corn Achievers Awards

**KORONADAL CITY, SOUTH COTABATO** – The Department of Agriculture through its National Corn Program staged the 4th National Quality Corn Achievers Awards in conjunction with the 12th National Corn Congress at the Farm @ Carpenter Hill this city on November 16-18, 2016.

DA Assistant Secretary for Operations Federico E. Laciste, Jr.; Agricultural Training Institute national director Dr. Luz A. Taposok and Philippine Maize Federation, Inc. President Engr. Roger V. Navarro conferred the awards.

The Quality Corn Achievers Awards give due recognition to the prime movers in the local government who actively take part in the aggressive and effective implementation of the DA's Corn Program.

Two LGUs of Bicol, namely the municipal LGU of Calabanga, Camarines Sur and the city LGU of Naga were honored as outstanding municipal/city LGUs and received P1 million project grant each. Mayor Eduardo A. Severo received the award for Calabanga and Vice Mayor Nelson Legacion for Naga City. Also, Calabanga Municipal Agriculturist, Gil Gabriel H. Bordado III and Naga City Agriculturist, Edna Bongalonta were recognized as Outstanding municipal/city agriculturists and each received P30,000 cash awards and trophy. Naga City corn coordinator Engr. Menandro U. Calingacion was also among the outstanding corn coordinators and received P25,000 cash award and trophy.

Thirteen Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW) from Camarines Sur and Masbate provinces were conferred with the outstanding AEW award and received P20,000 cash awards and trophies. From the province of Camarines Sur, 10 AEWs received the award. They are: Jonafel A. Taturan, Teresita A. Barce, and Marly L. Corporal all of Iriga City; Joshua T. Ipo of Calabanga; Jerry M. Mercado of Goa; Annie C. Lumanog of Bula; Noel G. Manaog of Buhi; Jose G. Pollero of San Jose; and Hector O. Llagas of Bato.

Benedicto C. Herald, AEW of Naga City received the Hall of Famer Award as outstanding AEW and received P30,000

cash award and trophy.

Meanwhile, three AEWs from Masbate province received P20,000 cash. They are Mary Jane M. Alicante of Cataingan; Susana Y. Arcenal of Cataingan; Marife L. Bonsobre of Uson.

The awardees were accompanied on stage by Dr. Elena B. De los Santos, DA Bicol Regional Executive Director and Dr. Edgar R. Madrid Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations.

The corn congress is an annual undertaking of the Philippine Maize Federation, Inc. and the DA to disseminate information on government programs, technology advancements and best practices to boost corn quality and productivity. The event serves as a venue for discussing relevant issues affecting the corn industry by the key players and stakeholders, and an occasion for showcasing modern farm equipment, technologies and forging market linkages.

This year's theme "Sulong Maisan: Sapat na Pagkain ng Bayan" recognizes the corn farmers noble task in feeding the nation and their significant role in attaining food sufficiency and security in the country.

## REGIONAL AWARDING

Meanwhile, the DA 5 Corn Program in Bicol also honoured the 25 Regional Quality Corn Achievers during the regional awarding ceremony held in Naga City on November 7, 2016.

The LGUs of Calabanga, Goa, and Tigaon, and City LGUs of Naga and Iriga City, all of Camarines Sur received P40,000 cash award and plaques of commendation. Mayor Eduardo Severo of Calabanga, Goa Mayor Raquel Lim, Iriga City agriculturist Ruben delos Santos and Engr. Menandro Calingacion of Naga City received the awards for the LGUs.

Five municipal and city agriculturists from the province of



Calabanga Mayor Eduardo A. Severo received the outstanding municipal LGU award.



Naga City Vice Mayor Nelson Legacion received the outstanding city LGU award.



Calabanga Municipal Agriculturist, Gil Gabriel H. Bordado III - Outstanding Municipal Agriculturist



Benedicto C. Herald, AEW of Naga City - Hall of Famer Awardee as outstanding AEW



Camarines Sur were awarded as outstanding agriculturists and received P20,000 cash and plaques. They were Gil Gabriel Bordado III, municipal agriculturist of Calabanga; Felina Sanoy, municipal agriculturist of Goa; Lea M. Beltran, municipal agriculturist of Tigaon; Edna Bongalonta, city agriculturist of Naga City; and Ruben delos Santos, city agriculturist of Iriga City.

For the city coordinator category, Engr. Menandro U. Calingacion of Naga City received P20,000 cash award and plaque. Meanwhile, 14 Agricultural extension workers (AEWs) were conferred with the regional outstanding AEW award and received P15,000 cash and plaques. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**



# Bicolanos shine in agriculture and fishery councils awarding ceremonies

**CLARK PAMPANGA** – Three Bicolano volunteers who have committed themselves to uplifting the agriculture and fishery sector through their involvement in the Agriculture and Fishery Councils (AFCs) shone and took the center stage as they were recognized and awarded for their outstanding contributions during the 2nd Volunteers Day and Awarding of Outstanding AFC Chairpersons and Coordinators held in one of the hotels in this sprawling industrial development free zone. The occasion was under the charge and auspices of the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) and the Department of Agriculture.

Eighty eight (88)- year old Nora C. Aribon chairperson of the Provincial AFC of the province of Masbate was given a standing ovation by her fellow Bicolanos and colleagues as she walked the aisle up to the stage to receive her award. She has served as PAFC chair for 16 years.

Resplendent and still well-poised and elegant in her red Filipiniana-inspired gown she received

a plaque of commendation and a cash prize of P60,000. In her impromptu speech she was asked to deliver she said: "One is never too old to contribute to help people who live marginally." She mentions that her province has been identified as one of the poorest provinces in the country and this challenged her to do something to uplift the lives of her people in the agriculture and fishery sector.

Also declared as winner to this year's Outstanding Provincial AFC coordinator was Cecilia M. Nuñez also of Masbate who has been coordinating AFC activities of the province for the past 11 years. Her effective coordinating strategies have helped improved the welfare of Masbateños. She also received a plaque of commendation and a cash prize of P60,000.

Meanwhile, the Municipal AFC coordinator of Bula town in Camarines Sur, Annie C. Lumanog was also given a special citation and a cash prize of P25,000 there being no other contenders who have fully complied with the requirements for the municipal coordinators category. She was cited for 12 years of inspiring work to support her municipality including

establishment of Gulayan sa barangay and Tilapia fingerlings Dispersal program and assisting farmers insure their crops.

Past AFC coordinators were also recognized and awarded certificates of commendation for their dedicated service and involvement in the AFC. Among them was Imelda P. Acompañado who has served as Bicol's Regional AFC Coordinator for 17 years. Aloha Gigi Bañaria, chief of DA-Bicol Planning and Monitoring Division is now the designated RAFC Executive Officer (REO) in consonance with DA-CO memorandum dated 21 March 2014 re: Creation of RAFC Office and designation of RAFC Executive Officer and Secretariat.

DA undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Research & Development and Regulations set the tone of the occasion in his inspirational message where he shared his views about volunteerism. He says volunteerism is an exercise of choice and wisdom and we do things because we believe it is the right thing to do. He underscores that "volunteerism should be seasonal".

Former Civil Service Chairperson and DSWD

secretary and current International Red Cross Governor, Corazon Alma de Leon was the guest of honor and keynote speaker during the awarding ceremonies. She said that "volunteerism is the highest form of public and community service." A multi awardee herself she says she treasures most the honor recently bestowed on her : the Volunteer Life Achievement Award. She adds that the true measure of success is "How we have touched the lives of others" as she deplors that what ails our country now is not only poverty in materials things but "poverty of ideas and poverty of ideals".

Also given a plaque of recognition was the Municipal AFC of Ocampo Camarines Sur for being adjudged as Outstanding MAFC for the 2016 National Gawad Saka Achievers Award and the PAFC of Masbate also adjudged as Outstanding PAFC for the same national search, the awarding of which was held on December 12th at the PICC in Pasay City.

After the awarding ceremonies, Engr. Ariel T. Cayan, DA Undersecretary for Operations administer the oath of office to the newly elected set of RAFC officers

led by Alfredo Rillo of Albay who is now the new RAFC chair for Bicol. The other Bicol RAFC officers and provincial chairpersons were Alfredo S. Oben of Albay; Edgar A. Canet of Cam. Sur; Nora Aribon of Masbate, Luzviminda T. Oropesa of Catanduanes, Efren S. Mago of Cam. Norte; Virginia P. Oanzon of Sorsogon and Eusebio Oliva, Jr. of Naga Independent Cities AFC.

Also present during the event were Sarah Gutierrez-Cayona, OIC of PCAF, and some DA regional executive directors (RED) Dr. Elena B. de los Santos, Dr. Andrew Villacorta, RED of DA III, the host region, AFC leaders, coordinators and secretariat.

Over 500 delegates from the 15 regions attended the event which was ushered in by an operational meeting on the first day where the 2016 AFC accomplishments by regions were presented and directions, targets for 2017 were laid down. Results of the AFC monitoring and Evaluation as well as the results of the "Participatory Governance: An Evaluative Study of PCAFs, CBs" conducted by the Development Academy of the Philippines were also presented. **(Emily B. Bordado)**



**Nora Aribon, PAFC Chair of Masbate**



**Annie C. Lumanog, MAFC Coordinator of Bula, Cam. Sur**



**Cecilia Nuñez, Masbate Provincial AFC Coordinator.**



**Imelda P. Acompañado, Bicol AFC coordinator for 17 years.**



**Carlito Aquino, MAFC Chair of Ocampo, Cam. Sur**



# Bicol bags three national Gawad Saka awards in 2016

**PASAYCITY**-The Department of Agriculture honored twenty two (22) outstanding individual farmers and organizations during the awarding ceremony of the agency's most prestigious search - the 46th Gawad Saka – held on December 12, 2016 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) here.

The Gawad Saka is an annual search which started in 1970 to recognize the Filipino farmers and fisherfolk's remarkable accomplishments and innovations which boosted productivity and economic growth of the agriculture sector. For this year the Bicol region bagged three national awards. Jose E. Amador, 74 year old farmer of Guinlajon in Sorsogon City is outstanding High Value Crops Farmer. He is a pioneer in pili production in Sorsogon. His three decades orchard contains 500 organically grown pili trees and is a good source of scion and grafted planting materials. As Magsasaka Siyentista of PCARRD he is often sought as resource speaker on pili grafting. His farm has been a techno-demo site for DA, on-the -job trainings and experiment on pili and by-products by SUCs. Mr. Amador received a presidential citation, trophy and P200,000 cash

award. He was accompanied by his wife Jojie and Sorsogon Provincial Agriculturist Ma Teresa Destura.

Meanwhile the Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) of Masbate is outstanding PAFC. Masbate PAFC Chair, 88-year old Nora Aribon received the presidential citation, trophy, project grant of P300,000 and P50,000 cash award. She was accompanied by Congresswoman Elisa Olga T. Kho of 2nd district of Masbate, and Mayor Ian Sepulveda of Esperanza. The PAFC contributed in reducing the poverty incidence of the province from 14th poorest province in the country in 2012 to rank 34th in 2015 thereby removing Masbate in famous club 20 list of poorest provinces which had been occupied by Masbate for almost 20 years. In the Bicol region, Masbate now ranks as 3rd, surpassing the provinces of Catanduanes and Camarines Norte.

The Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC) of Ocampo in Camarines Sur is outstanding MAFC. Ocampo MAFC chair Carlito Aquino received the presidential citation, trophy, project grant of P300,000 and P50,000 cash award. With him were mayor Corazon Olos, SB members



**Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council of Masbate.**



**Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council of Ocampo.**



**HVCC farmer Jose Amador of Sorsogon City.**

and MAFC officers. The MAFC was cited because of its strong partnership with the LGU of Ocampo which paved the way for the implementation of the P2.5 million Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Development Plan 2015 which prioritized the construction and rehabilitation of existing irrigation facilities, thereby

increasing rice productivity and income in Ocampo.

DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Elena B. delos Santos and Gawad Saka regional focal person Aloha Gigi I. Banaria also accompanied the awardees at the stage. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**

## REGIONAL AWARDING

Meanwhile, the DA 5 regional Gawad Saka committee headed by Aloha Gigi I. Bañaria also honoured the 25 Regional Gawad Saka Achievers in Naga City on October 13, 2016.



Left photo shows (standing from left) **Outstanding Farm Family** - Rafael S. Laguning of Sta. Justina, Buhi, Cam. Sur; **Outstanding Young Farmer** - Nomer Mortega of Caditaan, Magallanes, Sorsogon; **Outstanding Small Farmer Organization** - Pinoy Lingap - Damayan Coop of Virac, Catanduanes; **Outstanding Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council** - MAFC Ocampo headed by Carlito Aquino; **Outstanding Bgy. Food Terminal** - SAFIMCO BFT of San Antonio, Buhi, Cam. Sur managed by Simeon Molina; **Outstanding High Value Crops Farmer**: Jose E. Amador of Guinlajon, Sorsogon City; **Outstanding Corn Farmer**: Engr. Raul T. Carreras of Panagan, Tigaon, Camarines Sur. Not in photo are **Outstanding Rural Improvement Club** - San Jose RIC of Bula, Cam. Sur headed by Mercedes Bajado; and **Outstanding Provincial Agricultural Fishery Council** - PAFC Masbate led by Nora Aribon.

The individual winners received plaques and cash award of P30,000, while under the group categories, the winners received P50,000 cash awards. The assisting Agricultural Technicians also received P15,000 cash awards.



## Bicolana agri-entrepreneur 3rd place in 2015 Natl Search for Outstanding Rural Women

**MALATE, MANILA** – An agri-entrepreneur from Castilla, Sorsogon made it to the top three in this year's search for Outstanding Rural Women. Carina V. Arellano, president of Rural Improvement Club of Nasipit in Castilla was adjudged 2nd Runner Up in said search during the awarding ceremony held at the Land Bank of the Philippines Plaza this city.

Arellano received P50,000 cash award and trophy from the DA Undersecretary Bernadette Romulo Puyat, Executive Director Emmeline Verzosa of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) and other members of the board of judges of the search.

Arellano manages a five-hectare mango, cashew, and rootcrops plantation which was left from their 48 hectares land appropriated by agrarian reform to 16 families in Sitio Nasipit. She also organized the ARBs into Rural Improvement Club (RIC), 4H Club and P4MP. Arellano is the president of the RIC now composed of 21 members. The Nasipit RIC is

among the six RICs in the Bicol region chosen by the GREAT WOMEN 2 project to be the recipient of capacity building support and to be linked to investors here and abroad.

At their residence in Poblacion, Castilla, Arellano grows lettuce, herbs and spices she uses in her catering business. She also practices organic agriculture and prepares her own vermi compost which she uses as fertilizer for her crops. Her garden is an accredited learning site of the Agricultural Training Institute Bicol and has been venue for various trainings of the Nasipit RIC, P4MP and 4H-Club, the longest of which was the six months Farmers Field School Diversification in Organic Agriculture.

The search is being conducted annually by the Department of Agriculture Gender and Development (GAD) Focal System since 2003 to pay tribute to women especially in the rural areas as women compose half of the entire population, Director Verzosa said. "Agriculture



sector contributes 40% of the Gross Domestic Product and 60% of the jobs, or 67% if agribusiness generated in agriculture is included.

Alex V. Buenaventura, the new President and CEO of Land Bank of the Philippines, announced that his vision is to triple the loan exposure of Land Bank to small farmers from its current P37.9 billion, which is only 8.2% of the bank's total loans, to up to P115 billion by the end of President Duterte's term.

This year, six outstanding rural women from Regions 2, 5, 6, Negros Island, 12, 13 were honoured.

The 2016 national Outstanding Rural Woman Jocelyn Moya – Hekrdle of Negros Island region, in her acceptance speech said that the poverty is not a hindrance to succeed in life, and the best quality of a woman leader is servanthood attitude. She is a leader of an indigenous peoples group in Barangay Bandila, Toboso in Negros Occidental.

Aloha Gigi I. Bañaria, DA Bicol GAD focal person said that for the past five years the Bicol region remained in the top three, and bagged the top award in 2015 by Luz Oropeza of Baras, Catanduanes. **(Lovella Guarin)**

## Retired professor turned farmer is Bicol's 2016 Outstanding Rural Woman

**NAGA CITY** – OCTOBER 15 is INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN. In line with this, the DA Bicol staged the awarding ceremonies for this year's Most Outstanding Rural Woman search on October 13, 2016 in one of the hotels in this city. Six (6) exceptional rural women competed for the award.

Ms. Narie M. Asuncion of Cabitan, Mandaon, Masbate is 2016 Regional Outstanding Rural Woman of Bicol. Ms. Asuncion is a retired professor of DEBESMSCAT in Mandaon. She received P30,000 cash prize and a plaque.

Other winners were: 1st Runner Up – Ms. Yolanda R. De Leon of Bagacay, Gubat, Sorsogon. She received P20,000 cash prize and plaque; and 2nd Runner Up – Ms. Rubelyn R. Balon of Calabagas, San Vicente, Camarines Norte.

She received P10,000 cash prize and plaque. Consolation prize of P5,000 were likewise given to the other contenders. The simple awarding ceremony was held at the Villa Caceres Hotel this city.

DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Elena B. de los Santos read the message of Atty. Ranibai D. Dilangalen, DA Undersecretary for Special Concerns. "...It is no secret that sustainable rural development requires the active role of women in our society, after all more than half of our population are women. Their role in nation building is enshrined in our constitution. Women are as capable of, if not better in improving the wellbeing of their families and communities. That is why it is necessary to empower them. If women are given equal opportunities, they contribute significantly to the

growth of the economy."

Meanwhile, Manang Narie in her response, thanked the DA for the prestigious award. She said the award is a bonus to her as a farmer. "Hindi ko inaasahan na mananalo ako. Sanay naman kaming magtrabaho ng walang premyo" she added.

Manag Narie is 68 years old. After retiring as professor of DEBESMSCAT in Mandaon, she devoted her full time to farming. Her husband died of illness when their eldest son was halfway in college. This crisis did not deter her to send her three children to school along with their relatives.

All her sacrifices and hardwork paid off as all of her

sons are now professionals. The two are doctors in government hospitals and one is a teacher at DEBESMSCAT.

Now, she is an accredited seed grower of the Bureau of Plant Industry. Aside from organic rice, she also cultivates corn, cashew, mango and tilapia. She also developed a 3.5 hectare agri eco farm which now serves as site for farmers field school in rice and vegetable and On-the-job training for students.

She is currently the president of three organizations in Mandaon: the Mango Growers Association of Mandaon; the Masipag Farmers Association and MESA.

**(Lovella Guarin)**





## National Finalists



*Provincial Agriculturist Cheryl Rebeta received the award for Province of Albay.*



*Eleanor Daep, Albay Provincial Organic Agriculture Program Coordinator.*



*Dexter Mendoza, Ligao City Organic Agriculture Program Coordinator.*



*The Amata family of Goa, Camarines Sur.*



*Edilberto Abad of Goa, Cam. Sur.*

## Organic farmers' assn of Tigaon receives national accolade

**LAOAG CITY, ILOCOS NORTE** – Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol led the awarding ceremonies of the National Organic Agriculture Achievers' Awards (NQAAA) during the 13th National Organic Agriculture Congress held at Plaza del Norte Convention Center.

The Agri-Planters and Food Processors Association of Tigaon (TAPFPAT) of the Bicol region won as national outstanding Organic Agriculture group category and they received P500,000 worth of project grant. The TAPFPAT led by its Chairman Elmer Salazar, has 14 members who are certified organic farmers. The association had set up an Internal Control System to achieve product qualities that meet market requirements.

The national finalists were also honoured during the ceremony and given a plaque of recognition. The Province of Albay, finalist in outstanding province category; Ligao City, finalist in City category; Eleanor O. Daep, finalist in Provincial Focal Person category; Dexter A. Mendoza, finalist in city focal person category; Edilberto A. Abad, finalist in OA individual farmer category; Amata family, finalist in Outstanding OA farming family category.

More than 1,700 regional delegates composed of farmers, organic practitioners, agricultural extension workers; provincial and municipal focal persons; processors, producers and traders of organic crops and livestock participated in three day congress. Secretary Piñol said that right now the world is moving towards organic farming, it's all over the world. "But I also have to support those traditional farmers who are using inorganic fertilizers because they are also part of the Philippine agriculture. He urged the organic farmers to make sure to be able

to deliver the needed volume the moment your product captures the imagination of the buyers. "Baka puro lang tayo sample." Also focus on good packaging as it matters a lot.

To show his full support to organic agriculture, Sec. Piñol said that recently, he approved P25 Million assistance for organic rice production in Mindanao. "Pag-igihin nyo ang inyong produkto and we are 100% behind you. I will volunteer "I would like to see new people and new products in the international market", he added.

Engr. Christopher V. Morales, National Organic Agriculture Program Coordinator reported that in the country, 343,387 hectares are already converted into organic or 4.75% of the total agriculture area. Therefore, the program only needs .25% more areas to be converted to organic to reach the 5% target nationwide. Out of these areas, 525,864 metric tons were produced and were sold to 106 destinations including international markets such as Malaysia, Canada and California for heirloom rice, and 20 international market destinations for coconut and abaca.

Governor Imee R. Marcos of Ilocos Norte Province in her welcome address said there should also be a program for the women and the youth under organic as Filipino farmers are getting much older.

Also present were Usec. Bernadette Romulo-Puyat, Undersecretary for Administration and Finance and Alternate Chair of National Organic Agriculture Board; DIWA Partylist representative Emmeline A. Villar who represented Senator Cynthia Villa; and National Organic Agriculture Board members.

The National Organic Agriculture Program gave a total of P4,120,000 in cash

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## De los Santos is new RED.. *(from page 1)*

ranks starting as Job Order Livestock Poultry Technologist then as Agriculture Food Technologist, Agriculture Development Specialist and Senior Agriculturist. Her major supervisory break came when she was promoted as Agricultural Center Chief III where she was also designated as chief of the Research Division and Manager of the Bicol Integrated Agricultural Research Center for six years. Then she was appointed Chief Agriculturist, then Director III or Assistant Director for Field Operations and Extension a position she held for five years.

She is very hard working and adept at multi-tasking as evidenced in the various tasks and responsibilities she has handled and continues to handle. For the past 5 years she has been the Regional Focal Person/Coordinator of

the Rice Program; Deputy Project Director and now Project Director of the World Bank funded Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP); regional focal person of then Bottom-Up-Budgeting (BUB) and assistant project director of another WB funded special project – the Bicol Agri-Water Project.

As RTD for operations and Extension and regional focal person for rice program she supervised the implementation of DA's key banner programs. These resulted to good performance of major agricultural commodities in the region such as rice, corn and other major agricultural commodities which maintained regional sufficiency level. Production growth of rice,

cacao, mango, carabao, cattle, hog, and chicken were also sustained attributed to timely delivery of critical interventions and incorporation of disaster preparedness, quick response to calamities coupled with aggressive promotion of climate smart technologies and good practices and use of modern science based tools.

Together with her predecessor former regional executive director, Eng. Abelardo Bragas she transformed and upgraded the physical structures and infrastructure of the DA regional office and its provincial outreach stations and facilities.

But more than transforming the physical structures and infrastructures of DA Bicol, Dr. de los Santos is also keen on transforming

and improving the systems and operations of the DA. She wants to ensure that all transactions in the department are transparent and not marred with irregularity or corruption. Upon assumption she met with division/section chief and focal persons and laid down her policies and stand against any irregularity in program implementation. She also met with suppliers and contractors transacting business with the department and laid down her policies. She then reassigned people to where they would be more effective.

She remains down-to-earth, very accommodating and approachable and never fail to look back to her humble beginnings. But she is firm in upholding what she believes is right. **(Emily B. Bordado)**

## Organic farmers' assn... *(from page 10)*

awards for the seven categories.

DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Elena B. delos Santos and Adelina A. Losa, Chief of AMAD and regional focal person of Organic Agriculture Program led the Bicol delegation of more than 90 participants composed of awardees, organic farmers, LGU officials, agricultural extension workers and representatives from the academe.

Aside from the awarding ceremonies which was the highlight of the event, there was also a trade fair where the RPM Pili Nuts of Naga City, Legazpi City Organic Trading Post and Nabua Gabi Farmers participated; plenary session, break-out sessions for beginners, research and marketing groups, photo contest, and cooking contest. The Slow Food Phils., a new movement which looks at the quality of food, life and preservation of biodiversity was also launched.



Josephine Costales, owner of the Costales Nature Farm

## Bicol Organic Agriculture gives over P1.1 M in awards

**Meanwhile, the organic achievers were honored earlier during the 9th Bicol Organic Agriculture Congress held in Naga City, where the OA program gave P1.116 million cash awards to regional winners.**

The Province of Albay received a project grant worth P500,000. Ligao City has a project grant worth P300,000; Eleanor O. Daep – Outstanding OA Provincial Focal Person received P25,000; Dexter A. Mendoza – Outstanding

OA city focal person received P20,000 cash award; Benedicto Heraldo – Outstanding OA Extension Worker received P20,000 cash award; Edilberto A. Abad

- Outstanding OA individual farmer received P50,000 cash award; Amata family - Outstanding OA farming family received P100,000 project grant; and the Agri-Planters and Food Processors Association of Tigaon (TAPFPAT) - Outstanding OA group category, received P100,000 funding assistance for their OA projects. All the regional winners also received plaques of commendation.

The congress was graced by three members of the National OA Board: Fr. Ian

Trillanes, parish priest of Lupi, Camarines Sur; Dr. Georgina J. Bordado, president of the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture; and Ms. Josephine Costales, owner of the Costales Nature Farm in Majayjay, Laguna who shared their best practices in organic production, marketing and networking of their products.

A total of 23 exhibitors displayed various organic agriculture products during the two-day exhibit and garnered a total sales of P226,139. **(Lovella Guarin)**







## A new agri-tourism site unfolds in Cam. Norte

by Lovella P. Guarin

BASUD, CAMARINES NORTE – A leisurely drive along the Bicol Natural Park in this town will give you a glimpse of the undulating hills lined with thousands of posts filled with clinging cactus vines known as dragon fruit.

The Jayarchelle dragon fruit farm is located at the foot of a mountain, you will need to climb a steep cliff and then voila! – you will be mesmerized by the most amazing view of verdant rows of dragon fruits surrounded by coconut trees. Imagine what it would be like in April to October when the plants will be teeming with scarlet fruits shaped like the scales of the mythical dragon and flowers with intense shapes.

Dragon fruit is gaining popularity nowadays as the new money-maker because of its reputation as a prestigious health fruit.

Engr. Arnold Ferrandiz, the owner of the farm who is based in Daet, Camarines Norte, started developing this farm in June 2015. He is an engineer but he ventured into farming as he is hooked to online researches on plant production techniques. The evergreen fruit belonging to the cactus species indigenous to United States of America caught his interest and with the help of his brother Argel Ferrandiz, they developed the sprawling four hectare area into what is now the Jayarchelle Organic Integrated Farm.

Argel serves as manager of the farm. Together with a private agro-forester, Romeo Marbella, who hailed from Albay, and 40 farm laborers they converted the once wild forest into a striking paradise. Romeo finished agro-forestry at the University of the Philippines in Los Banos, Laguna and pursued his passion on exotic plants by serving as a private consultant/technician for private farms.

The area actually covers two mountains which were contoured to prevent erosion. The undulating hills according to Romeo is very beneficial to the dragon fruits as rain water can flow freely and does not remain in the clay soil. Camarines Norte has type 2 climate with no dry season and with a very pronounced maximum rain period from the months of November to January. The exotic dragon fruit does not favor so much water and it thrives best during summer time.

Currently, more than 3,100 posts with 4 dragon fruit cuttings of American beauty or the yellow variety per post dominated the farm, but there are also plots of exotic plants such as grapes and strawberries imported from Spain.

The posts are placed at a distance of 2x2 meters.

Watering is done once a week only during hot weather. True to the name of the farm, Jayarchelle, Integrated Organic Farm, they used purely organic fertilizers and insect or pest controls such as fish amino acid, fermented plant juice which Argel learned to formulate.

A number of solar panels are installed along the perimeters of the dragon fruit plantation. Romeo related that dragon fruits love sunlight and they can be induced to flower and carry on with its photosynthesis process even at night time as long as they are under solar powered lights.



When asked why they have chosen dragon fruit to invest in, Argel pointed out the health benefits of the fruit which they believe to help in  
(Next page pls.)





## C.Norte trading center bares top grosser farmers for 2016

by Lovella P. Guarin

**VINZONS, CAMARINES NORTE** --- If there are top grossing movie celebrities, there are also top grossing farmers in this 3rd class municipality. Spouses Alicia and Rolando Jimenez of Barangay Calangkawan Sur recently earned the reputation as 2016 top grossing farmers who earned a total of P336,765.00 by just regularly selling their fruits and vegetable produce to the DA funded Agripinoy Trading Center (APTC) at Vinzons, Camarines Norte during the whole year.

The couple grows various vegetables like eggplant, squash, upo and string beans planted at different locations in the barangay. Aling Alicia also grows watermelon in a three hectare area, while Mang Rolando tends to their one hectare rice farm, 14 cattle and 2 carabaos. The couple maintains more than five hectares planted to different crops but they rent the land for P3,000 per hectare per cropping. They employ an average of 10 laborers.

One secret of their bountiful harvests is the chicken (layers) dung they use as basal fertilizer which are mixed in the soil during land preparation. Mang Rolando buys a truck load of chicken dung from Batangas at P100 per sack. "Sabi ng mga bumibisita sa bahay namin, 'ang ganda nga ng bahay, ang



baho naman.' Sabi ko di bale na, malaking pera naman yan pag-ani."

"Ang kagalingan sa pagiging magsasaka ay basta't masipag at matyaga ka lang ay madali ang pera. Sa bawat ani ko ng palay o gulay, ang

ibang kinita ko ay palagi kong ibinibili ng baka o baboy kaya sabay na dumadami din ang mga alaga kong hayop," Mang Rolando relates.

The couple came from families of farmers. Aling Alicia related that after their wedding, they immediately rent a small farm out of the cash gifts they have received from their ninongs and ninangs. They planted rice, fruits and vegetables and also raised hogs and cattle which Mang Rolando said have been a big help in financing the schooling of their five daughters.

Aling Alicia and Mang Rolando did not finish high school. That's why they made

(Please turn to page 14)



## A new agri-tourism ... (from page 12)

prevention of cancer, diabetes, and lowers cholesterol better than mangosteen.

While waiting for the dragon fruits to flower and bear fruit which takes about 8-10 months, Argel and Romeo found a way to multiply the cuttings and at the same time save on the cost. The Agri-Planters and Food Processors Association of Tigap (OAPAT) in the province of Camarines Sur started on the mangoes, which are long and are collected from the tree department. The lower ones are chopped into wedge shaped and inserted into the tree stocks. According to Romeo, it is one of the ways to increase the number of mangoes from a single tree. The association is also practicing organic farming cuttings and grafting area of 50. Romeo also shared that they have applied the

flowers to only three to four per plant so that the fruits can grow up to 1 kilo.

The Jayarchelle farm had its first harvest in the summer of 2015 when they harvested three kilos per post sold at P150 per kilo. Comes April to November this year, the organic certification start to bear fruits again. Though the taking place was formal, it is registered with DOLE and the PATA and was a 2015, both fruitful harvests as were federated that dragon fruit can be used to Agri-productive Office and 50 years anniversary with "Griping All Organic Now" or simply "TIGAPONA", after they have undergone Department of Agriculture conducted by the Sombro, assisted National Organic Agriculture



different varieties of organic fruits and vegetables are also being cultivated at the Jayarchelle integrated farm to reach economies of scales. Mainman Saland heads the IGSThe person that enthras the people behind this integral Approval not Combining before this farm will be the best organic fruit seller in the province of Camarines Norte. A serves as technical adviser.



## C.Norte trading center... (from page 13)

sure all their children will finish a course in college. The eldest is a teacher, the second child is a police officer and the three others are all professionals and have found jobs in Manila. They also built a huge bungalow where all the children and grandchildren have their own rooms whenever they are in the province.

Mang Rolando used to drive a tricycle in Daet to augment their income, while Aling Alicia used to sell their produce in the sidewalks of the Daet market. "Nakikipaghabulan ako sa pulis noon dahil bawal

and trainings and by assisting them in marketing their produce at the APTC and even in neighboring municipalities, Camarines Sur towns and cities and Legazpi City in Albay, Paranaque and at Sentrong Pamilihan in Sariaya Quezon if ever there are surplus of produce like sweet potato and squash.

The APTC also maintains four (4) reefer vans and one (1) hauling truck which make rounds in the municipalities of Vinzons, Labo, Talisay, Basud and Daet.

In his report submitted

subsidy for inputs. The provincial HVCDP coordinator and the APTC staff meet the vegetable farmers every month to update them on the new programs of the government and new technologies in farming. The APTC staff as well as the HVCDP technicians of various municipalities also regularly monitor the farms to extend technical assistance and forge market linkages. The APTC staff also conducts daily monitoring of wholesale prices in Daet and Labo public markets and even in Sariaya Quezon so that they can offer the best price for the benefit of the farmers.

As of this writing, the APTC buys the following commodities on whole sale basis:: ampalaya – P68/kilo; eggplant – P43/kilo; pole sitao – P38/kilo; pechay – P22/kilo; Kalamansi – P40/kilo; tomatoes – P38/kilo; ginger – P50/kilo; pepper – P68/kilo; Upo – P18/piece; okra – P40/kilo; cucumber – P22/kilo; squash (suprema) –P18/kilo;

squash (binote) – P15/kilo; pagulong – P40/kilo; peanut (bulldog) – P40/kilo; banana (latundan) – P25/kilo (ripe) and P20/kilo (unripe); saba – P18/kilo; ripe papaya fruit – P18/kilo; sweet potato – P25/kilo; red hot pepper – P250/kilo

The prices of major crops in the coverage areas of Cam. Norte are steadily increasing and benefitting the farmers, because traders can no longer dictate the price. For example, the squash which in the past dipped at a very low price of P1.00 per piece now commands a wholesale price of as high as P18.00 per kilo. The farmers also learned proper crop rotation and are now observing the cropping calendar, thus they are able to program their harvest and avoid over supply. Some farmers still sell their produce to traders but only if the price is higher than the running price at the APTC. Otherwise, they will just contact the APTC to pick their produce and get the cash immediately.



daw magtinda sa bangketa. Ngayon na may APTC na, wala nang kahirap-hirap ang pagmamarket (ng ani). Isang tawag lang sa APTC, nandyan na ang van para mag pick up." Another notable contribution of the APTC was the expansion of area planted to vegetables in Camarines Norte. Many farmers were encouraged to propagate vegetables in commercial scale because they see a sure market in the APTC. These farmers adapted multi-cropping to ensure continuous supply of different types of vegetables at all times.

Cristina Campita, provincial focal person of APTC reported that as of December 2016, there were already 200 hectares planted to lowland and upland vegetables in the service area of the APTC.

Part of this development is attributed to the augmentation of technical staff of the APTC who regularly teach farmers the new and effective technologies through conduct of seminars

to Adelina Losa, Chief of Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), Engr. Almirante Abad, APTC project manager and Cam. Norte Provincial Agriculturist said that as of December 2016, a total of 514 individual farmers are supplying various agricultural products to the APTC. The APTC has disbursed P10,321,700 for the purchase of 695.1814 metric tons of fruits and vegetables in 2016 and collected a total sales of P10,748,334.99 for the total 666.7013 metric tons agricultural crops sold in the same year.

In 2014, there were only 53 traders or wholesale buyers, but in 2015, the buyers increased to 960 or an increment of 1,811%. As of December 2016, a total of 839 bulk buyers transacted with the APTC generating a total of P101,357.10 in trading fees. The APTC also invests in contract growing with organized vegetable farmers' groups where the DA provides

## Market access expo activity conducted

In line with the Gender Responsive Economic Actions for the Transformation of Women Project (GREAT WOMEN 2) of the national government which aims to strengthen the capacity of women to establish and develop their own businesses, the DA Bicol in partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) conducted a Market Access Exposure Activity for Women Micro-Entrepreneurs (WMEs) on November 26-28 at Makati City and Quezon City.

The activity aimed to

provide an opportunity for the participants to learn the current trends in showcasing fresh products, artisan and locally made products and prepare for a possible replication of a Gourmet Weekend Market in Legaspi or Naga City.

The 17 delegation was headed by Aloha Gigi Banaria, Planning chief and Regional GAD Focal person along with RIC leaders. Kathleen Aquino and Patrick Asinero of PCW served as guide. They toured around the Salcedo Weekend Market at Makati City which showcased organic products, the Down to Earth Farm Shop





## DA participates in Bicol Business Month

**NAGA CITY** – The Department of Agriculture Bicol participated in the Bicol Business Month which kicked off with the opening of Agri-Aqua Exhibits and Trade Fair on November 7, 2016 at the SM activity center this city.



The monthlong Bicol Business Month was sponsored by the Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the City Government of Naga.

The opening ceremony was graced by Naga City Mayor John G. Bongat; Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Regional Director Jocelyn Blanco; DTI provincial director Edna Tejada; Naga City Vice Mayor Nelson Legacion; Councilor Nene de Asis; Phil. Chamber of Commerce and

Industry Vice President Jeremy Lo; and Emily B. Bordado, DA Bicol regional information officer who represented Regional Executive Director Elena B. delos Santos.

As one of the major sponsors of the event, the DA Bicol Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) headed by Adelina

A. Losa, invited seven (7) local exhibitors composed of three organic food producers and four (4) pili and cacao processors.

In the message of DA Director delos Santos which was read by Emily Bordado, she stressed that "Agriculture is the mother of all industries. As agriculture progresses, so will the industries."

### LGU Sorsogon wins P1 M ... (from page 1)

December 27, 2016. Members of the Sorsogon BeRiceponsible team and staff of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist Levy Barcelon, Engr. Hiroshi De Vera, Annavi Layco and Debbie Ferwelo received the award in behalf of the LGU.

The search for RICEponsible champions is an initiative of the Department of Agriculture to encourage the farmers, consumers and policy makers to promote or advocate non-wastage of rice and consumption of healthier forms of rice in their communities. Launched in August 2015,

the BeRiceponsible search was opened to all LGUs, government offices and public and private Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) aggressively promoting and advocating responsible rice consumption and

reduction of wastage and appreciation of rice farmers using multimedia approaches.

A total of 35 public schools nationwide competed under the Academe Category and 25 Local Government Units (LGUs) competed under the LGU category. Winners in the two categories were given cash prizes: P1 million for the first prize; P500,000 for the second prize; and P300,000 for the third prize. All winners also received plaques of appreciation.

Antonio added that the Sorsogon LGU through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist which bested all other LGU entries, has implemented the best strategies and created the most impact on their campaign capped with the enactment of a Rice Conservation Ordinance requiring all food establishments in Sorsogon to

offer half-rice servings.

Also seen as vital factor in the campaign of the LGU Sorsogon was the forging of partnership with more than 30 public and private schools, government and non-government organizations in advocating responsible rice consumption. With funding support from the DA regional office and other partners, several thousand copies of leaflets, flyers and stickers about the campaign were printed and distributed to schools, offices and restaurants, and intensified use of social media and special



events like brown rice feeding and simple fora greatly helped in the campaign.

In cooperation with the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS) of the Department of Agriculture Bicol, the province conducted the Run4Rice year 4 in November 2016 which was well attended by more than 700 runners.

Taking off from the National Year of Rice 2013, the Be RICEponsible campaign tapped the RAFIS in all regions to engage all Filipinos to do their part in achieving rice self-sufficiency in the country through elimination of rice wastage; eating brown rice; mixing rice with other staples such as corn; and showing appreciation for our rice farmers. **(Lovella P. Guarin)**

which features grass fed beef and free ranged native chicken and other organic produce. The group proceeded to the ECHO Store also in Makati and had a taste of a delicious banana heart burger and iced tea lemon grass. The ECHO store stands for E-environment, C-community, H-hope, O-organization. Reena Francisco, part store owner, said she advocates the concept of sustainable food, healthier meals that have fresh ingredients that are organically grown and are chemical free. They also went to GREAT WOMEN showroom. According to Lot Tan, store proprietor, their products came from marginalized communities and women group from all over the Philippines. She said that she encouraged her suppliers to make quality products as she is already engaged into export business.

At the Legaspi Weekend Market which featured Filipino and foreign cuisines, they observed the method of preparing healthy foods and had the idea of duplicating it in their own version. Products such as home made tomato juice &

guava, mango and passion fruit wine produced by one of the participants, Lorna Daud was also showcased. What caught their attention was a display of home made pili nuts coated with turmeric and chilli powder which is also worth duplicating. The group then proceeded to the SIDCORR Sunday Market at Quezon City.

The group also proceeded to the Earth Kitchen/GOT heart Store in Quezon City. Pinky Parra, manager/owner has the same advocacy to make natural and fresh food always available for health conscious customers.

The participants had a productive learning experience. They realized that the infusion of money or capital into a business is not the only thing which matters. It needs time, sound planning, networking/linkaging and creative strategies that a woman can allocate like the GREAT Women 2 project which is a good and sound example of a public-private partnership. **(Blesilda A. Nunez)**





# *DZA thanksgiving celebration 2016*





## More farmers in Bicol trained on cassava production

Over 40 corn farmers and agricultural technicians from Ligao City and Polangui, Albay participated in the Training on Cassava Production and Processing conducted by the Department of Agriculture-Bicol on October 18, 2016 at Barangay Alnay, in this municipality.

The same training was also conducted in corn areas in Masbate and Camarines Sur to capacitate farmers and help augment the income of farmers by intercropping cassava in their corn farms.

DA-Bicol Senior Science Research Specialist Nympha Autos said that at present there are 48 cassava varieties that were accredited by the Regional Varietal Improvement Group on Rootcrops from Visayas State University, University of the Philippines-Los Baños and other plant breeding institutions and stations of the Department of Agriculture.

Autos added that in the Bicol Region, there are cassava varieties identified as Orbase, Lanuza and Laysa.

Rodrigo Bañadera of Sitio Garayon, Barangay Balinad, Polangui said that they plant cassava a month after they

days. New shoots will grow from the stalks. He would again cut the stalks with new shoots and plant it. He noticed that its tubers are larger compared to the first harvested tubers.

Autos encouraged the farmers to have their soil tested or analyzed before applying fertilizers. They should also limit the use of fertilizers for their cassava since there are

that although there are a number of farmers engaged in cassava production, there is no stable market compared to corn.

“Barato an bakal sa saod kan balinghoy, a-singko kada kilo (Our cassava is purchased cheap in the local market, five pesos per kilo),” narrated Donna Bazar of Balinad, Polangui. Bazar said that in her 27 years as farmer, they always complain of the cheap price of their cassava.

Sandro hoped that through this training, the farmers will be organized into a farmers’ association so that they could synchronize their efforts and ventilate their needs to the DA and other institutions.

At present, LGU-Polangui has no marketing support to their cassava produce except promotion and trainings.

Autos also advised the farmers to plant Tuba-tuba (jatropha) in their fields as an alternate host to the pests and diseases attacking cassava plants.

Aside from food, cassava have industrial, chemical and pharmaceutical uses. (**Jayson M. Gonzales**)



plant corn which is normally in December. He shared also that after harvesting their cassava, he would lay the stalks in the field and leave it for several

fertilizer residues from their corn farms.

L G U - P o l a n g u i Agricultural Technician for Corn Cesar Sandro Jr. related

## Rice Crop Manager to answer farmers' queries in an instant

**SAN AGUSTIN, Pili, Camarines Sur**---Over 35 rice technicians and Farmers Information Technology Services (FITS) managers from all over the Bicol Region participated in the Training of Trainers for Rice Crop Manager (RCM) on October 11-14 at Eurotel Hotel, Naga City.

According to Isagani C. Valenzuela Jr. of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center - 5, RCM contains a set of science-based principles and formula for calculating field-specific nutrient and crop management using gadgets like laptops, smartphones and tablets.

However, the RCM recommendations are only useful for lowland, irrigated

and rainfed areas. Presently, there are no available RCM recommendations for upland areas.

He also added that RCM was based on the Nutrient Manager for Rice program of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) and West Visayas State University.

For 2016, RCM program is being implemented by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Field Operations Division of DA Bicol in coordination with the agricultural extension workers of LGUs.

DA Bicol Regional Technical Director for

Research and Regulations Dr. Edgar R. Madrid said that RCM will foster a close relationship and interaction between the AEWs and farmers. The



satisfaction of the farmers with the recommendations from RCM will be manifested in the quality of their crops.

The four-day training

include topics on learning the basics of RCM-related computer operation using gadgets, understanding the RCM interview Questions Guide, facilitating awareness and use of the RCM and the wide-scale RCM dissemination through SMS and farmers meeting, and the formulation of Regional Roll-out plan.

By the end of 2016, RCM farmers in 200 rice fields are expected to benefit from the RCM. (**Jayson M. Gonzales**)



# Bicol's "Run4Rice" year 4 goes to Sorsogon

The Province of Sorsogon conducted this year's Run 4 Rice 2016 held on November 26 in Rompeolas, Sorsogon City. Around 700 personnel of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg), Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office V (DA RFO V), other government agencies, institutional partners from various sectors including the church community, state universities and colleges, local organizations and private entities participated in the five-kilometer race for a cause.

The province is the region's sole entry for the DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRice) Be Riceponsible Search for Best Advocacy Campaign Provincial Local Government Unit category for a chance to win a cash prize worth P1 million. The Run 4 Rice, now on its fourth year, is being conducted as a culminating activity for the observance of the National Rice Awareness Month. The Department of Agriculture regional office has been spearheading this activity for the past 3 years now but this year, in support to the PLGU's bid for the Best Advocacy Campaign, the DA gave way to the PLGU of Sorsogon while also providing logistical and financial support to this activity.

"Napakalaking significance nito lalong-lalo na sa ating pangangampanya on Be RicePonsible sapagkat sa numero ng mga nag-participate, makikita mo na nandoon yung suporta nila

sa ating kampanya. Isa itong malaking indicator na talagang naging successful kami sa aming Be RICEponsible advocacy," Dr. Ma. Teresa V. Destura, provincial agriculturist of Sorsogon, said.

For the male category, Aris Africa of the Philippine Army, was the first finisher while Julianne Marie Ebio of Sorsogon National High School won the first prize in the women's category. Both of them received P1000 cash prize and two kilos of brown rice. Jerome Trapani of the Sorsogon State College and Richelle Latosa of the Sorsogon College of Criminology Inc. bagged the second prize. Each of them received a cash prize worth P500, two kilos of brown rice. Third finishers Arjay Añonuevo of the Provincial Health Office and Stephanie Collado of the Philippine Army took home P300 cash prize, and two kilos of brown rice. All winners also received certificates of recognition. The OPAg also acknowledged the SCCI for having the biggest delegation of 100 participants. Sixteen packs of two kilos brown rice, two units of pocket wi-fis, two cellular phone units, and P3,000-worth of gift certificates were raffled off.

"Bilang future law enforcers, we ourselves, we will be one of the advocates of the Be RICEponsible campaign. Sa family namin, we can conserve, we shall endeavor the Panatang Makapalay sa bahay namin and later on, sa community," Jean Parcel Bitoca, 4th year Criminology student at SCCI,



said.

The Be RICEponsible campaign advocates four things (4Ks in Filipino): 1. Reduction or elimination of rice wastage (*konti-konting kanin muna, para walang tira*) 2. Thanking and showing appreciation for our rice farmers (*kilalanin at pasalamatan ang mga magsasaka*) 3. Eating brown rice (*kumain ng brown rice*) and 4. Mixing rice with other staples (*kakaibang kanin naman*). These will encourage responsible rice consumption by avoiding rice wastage, boosting farmers' morale and promoting brown rice and other staples as substitute for rice to achieve the national goal of rice self-sufficiency and promote better health.

This year's Run 4 Rice highlighted the #BROWN4good Challenge that promotes four goodness of eating brown rice. With higher protein, fiber, vitamins, minerals and antioxidants than white rice, brown rice is good for the body. It has 10 percent higher milling recovery making it good for the country's goal of achieving self-sufficiency. Patronizing brown rice is good for the farmers as it would raise their income. By posting a photo of brown rice meals on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, the #BROWN4good Challenge is also good for the less fortunate because for every hashtag, the DA will donate one cup of brown rice to charities. The #BROWN4good Challenge is extended until December 5, 2016.

Since the launch of the Search for Best Advocacy Campaign on October 1, 2015, the Office of the Provincial Agriculture in Sorsogon has intensified its Be RICEponsible advocacy campaigns through several radio and TV guestings, promotion to 30 public schools and two private schools in Sorsogon City, and partnerships



with government and non-government organizations. Their Be RICEponsible campaign has reached 17,480 pupils, 355 teachers, 1700 barangay health workers and approximately 1,158 general audiences in 11 barangays, three school canteens, and nine restaurants. Brown rice feeding benefited 84 severely malnourished children.

Meanwhile, in November 2015, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan has approved the Rice Conservation Ordinance, which requires all food establishments in Sorsogon to include half-rice servings in their menu. Leaflets, flyers and stickers about the Be RICEponsible campaign, Panatang Makapalay and 4Ks were printed and distributed in various events.

According to Food and Nutrition Research Institute's (FNRI) study in 2008, "Every Filipino wastes an average of two tablespoons (9 grams) of unmilled rice daily." This translates to 12.2 percent of the Philippines' P7.27 billion-worth total rice import and is enough to feed about 2.5 million Filipinos yearly. (Annielyn L. Baleza)





## Oceana-Phils conducts “Story of Sardines” to conserve sardine fish

**LEGAZPI CITY** - OCEANA-Philippines, a non-government organization, conducted recently the “Story of Sardines”---a documentary premiere, and Kapihan sa Isla media forum at La Piazza Hotel, this city.

Sardines fish species are the most undervalued fish in the world. Whether fresh or processed, sardines provide food both for human and animals.

The Philippines is one of the top producers of sardines in the world. From 2000-2010, the country ranked third or fourth worldwide in terms of sardines production.

According to a report from

the Bureau of Agricultural Statistics in 2014, the Philippine Sardine Industry posted 349,366 metric tons worth P10.62 billion pesos.

However, the supply has declined. According to OCEANA-Philippines Senior Marine Scientist Jimely Flores, overfishing and overcapacity caused the decline. Overcapacity means too many fishing boats catching fish, thus, resulting to overfishing.

In an interview with Geraldine Guhit of Bulan, Sorsogon, the abundant sardines catch in the San Bernardino Strait gave them the needed income to send their six children to school. However in 2008, there was

no enough supply of “lawlaw” (bicol term for sardines).

Former Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Director Atty. Asis Perez proposed that sardine conservation measures should be implemented. Thus, in 2011, a four-year closed season for fishing during the spawning period of the fish was implemented in Zamboanga del

Norte and in other parts of the country to allow sardine stocks to recover.

In the Bicol Region, the closed-season measure was implemented to protect sardines and mackerel.

In 2013, after the implementation of closed season, the harvest of lawlaw increased. Guhit was again able to send their children to college and was able to purchase three fishing boats. They also noticed the proliferation of bigger carnivorous and high-value fish species like tuna, tulingan, galunggong and mackerel.

Perez attributed the success of the closed season because of the cooperation and participation of scientists, stakeholders and fishermen. Fish Landing Centers in the country ballooned to 700 centers.

He said that before, fishermen opposed the implementation of the closed season and even took part in rallies. But since they experienced the advantage of the measure, they are now the ones who would implement it.

In 2014, in a report by De Guzman presented in the documentary film, the Bicol Region ranked second in the national sardine production next to Zamboanga. The supply of sardines come from Masbate; Bulan, Castilla, Pilar, San Vicente and Magallanes in Sorsogon Province; Calabanga and Pasacao in Camarines Sur; and Pioduran in Albay.

BFAR-Fish Processing Plant Chief Miguel Bañez said that the fishermen in the south and the Visayas prefer Bicol sardine specie “Lawlaw” (*Sardinella lemuru*) because of its size and oil. For them, lawlaw is the best sardines. **(Jayson M. Gonzales)**



## Intersectoral linking to eradicate rabies in Bicol

“Camarines Sur topped the number of animal and human rabies incidence in the Bicol Region this 2016 despite the mass dog vaccination and information drive conducted by the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI).”

This is according to the report of the Chief of the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Dr. Rona Bernales during the Rolling-out of Practical Inter-Sectoral Linking to Key Players of Rabies Prevention and Control Program held in Avenue Plaza Hotel, Naga City on November 11, 2016.

This one-day event has been conducted already in the provinces of Albay, Masbate, Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur.

Bernales said that the aim of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), Australian Aid (AusAid), DA-BAI, Department of Health, Department of Interior and Local Government and Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas is that by linking the efforts of human and animal health workers and government, Philippines will be Rabies-Free

in 2020.

Camarines Sur Provincial Veterinarian Ceazar Emmanuel Bobiles said that there was a positive case of animal rabies in Pasacao despite the mass vaccination last October. Such incident showed that there is really a need for a close coordination between animal and human health offices.

In the Animal Rabies Updates in Camarines Sur of Veterinarian Dr. Mardi Caniban of Stop Transboundary Animal Diseases and Zoonoses (STANDZ) Rabies Project, 12 positive cases were reported in 2014, 26 cases in 2015 and as of October 2016, Camarines Sur has already 15 cases in Pasacao, Bato, Gainza, Magarao, and Naga City.

Provincial Health Officer Dr. Wilfredo Baniqued said all efforts on human rabies should be focused in the 5th district of Camarines Sur. He added that the trend is caused by “Pingpong Syndrome” which means, those animals infected bite each other and that from February until April, rabies cases have increased.

Baniqued mentioned that in 2014, there were 13 positive cases, same number in 2015.

As of November this year, there were 12 recorded positive cases.

With those reports, Bernales underscore the need to meet all mayors of RINCONADA areas to discuss the alarming cases of human and animal rabies. Aside from the meeting, there is also a need to have massive information drive and eradication of stray dogs.

Dr. Toni Rose Barroga of STANDZ-Rabies Project said that in the Philippines vaccines are given free. The Bicol Region has more vaccines because of OIE-STANDZ assistance and support. Thus, expectation is high for the region in the eradication of rabies.

Barroga added that 60% of existing human infectious diseases are zoonotic, meaning, they are of animal origin and that 75% of Ebola, HIV and Influenza came from animals. Barroga presented three critical points to totally eradicate rabies---Mass Dog Vaccination, Quarantine of Infected dogs, and prompt and complete Post-exposure Prophylaxis.

“We should act as a team to eradicate Rabies,” Dr. Junios Elad of Naga City Veterinary





## Oath taking ceremony of the newly elected officers of the Regional, Provincial and Independent Component City Agricultural and Fishery Councils (RAFC, PAFCs/CAFCs) of Bicol.

The induction ceremony held October 13 at the Villa Caceres Hotel, Naga City was graced by Dir. Sarah Gutierrez-Cayona, OIC of Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF).

DA Bicol Regional Executive Director and RAFC co-Chairperson for government sector Dr. Elena B. delos Santos, led the new officials together with Mr. Alfredo R. Rillo, new RAFC Chairperson of Bicol and Aloha Gigi I. Banaria, RAFC Bicol Executive Officer.

Meanwhile, the provincial AFC chairpersons were: Alfredo S. Oben for Albay, Efren S. Mago for Camarines Norte, Edgar A. Canet for Camarines Sur, Luzviminda T. Oropesa for Catanduanes, Nora C. Aribon for Masbate, and Virginia P. Oanzon for Sorsogon. ICCAFC Naga chairperson is Eusebio Oliva Jr. and Irene Bron of DA Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division is the new RAFC Coordinator.



## Oath taking of new DAEA Bicol Officers

DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Elena B. delos Santos sworn into office the 11 new officers and Board of Directors/ chairpersons of various committees of the DA Employees Association (DAEA) Bicol Chapter on October 10, 2016 after the flag ceremony.

The 11 board of directors who were elected during the General Assembly of the DAEA on September 30, elected among themselves the new set of officers who will lead the DAEA for a two-year term.

Elected officers were: President - Lorenzo L. Alvina; Vice President- Hernan C. Elano; Secretary General - Lovella P. Guarin; Treasurer - Nelia A. Bustarga; and Auditor - Mary Grace DLP Rodriguez. Chairpersons of Various Committees are: for Collective Negotiation - Corazon A. Orbon; Membership - Ma. Pureza San Buenaventura; Grievance - Jania M. Elatico; Labor Education and Research - Imelda T. Pena; Welfare and Development - Michael Angelo B. delos Santos; Information and Publication - Dr. Salvadora M. Gavino.

## *Agrikultura: Agrikultura, Teknolohiya at Kultura tungo sa Kaunlaran*

### Coffee Table Book launching



**NAGA CITY** --The Philippine Rice Research Institute Los Banos branch Station in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 5 recently launched the four volumes of the coffee table book entitled "Anthropological and Socioeconomic Characteristics of Selected Indigenous Farming Communities in Bicol Region."

The launching which was held at the Eurotel in Naga City on October 12, 2016 was graced by DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Elena B. delos Santos; PhilRice Los Banos chief SRS Mario M. Movillion, the project team leader; and Evelyn Jacob

representing Dir. Lee T. Herogo of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP).

Director Elena B. delos Santos said it was an honor and a pleasure to be part of the project. The project was funded by the DA Bicol under former Regional Executive Director Abelardo R. Bragas.

Ms. Evelyn Jacob on the other hand expressed her gratitude for all the support to the indigenous people. The DA Bicol has the most number of projects implemented for the welfare of the indigenous peoples regionwide, she added.



**Department of Agriculture**  
Regional Field Unit No. 5  
Reg'l Agriculture and Fisheries  
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