



VOL. 31 No. 3 | JULY - SEPTEMBER 2022

# UMAsenso

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Regional Field Office No. 5

ISSN-0119-2752 2002 PAJ Binhi Awardee

San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur | ✉ [darafid5@yahoo.com](mailto:darafid5@yahoo.com) 🌐 <http://bicol.da.gov.ph>

## HYBRID RICE TECHNO DEMO



**RODEL P. TORNILLA**  
Regional Executive Director  
DA Bicol



# EDITORIAL

## A more resilient food system will help ensure food sustainability

With the onslaught of typhoons in the third quarter of the year, and the Ukraine-Russia war pushing up fertilizer prices, some sectors feared shortage of rice in the coming months or next year.

For the Bicol Region, the palay output for the first semester of 2022 declined by 1.47% from 656,960 MT in the same period in 2021 to 647,318 MT in semester 1 of 2022. This can be attributed to the decrease in fertilizer application on the part of the farmers due to the high cost of synthetic fertilizer.

Nevertheless, area harvested in Bicol increased by 0.04% from 169,475 hectares in 2021 to 169,548 hectares in the first semester of 2022.

While the area planted to crops is not increasing, the Philippine population is increasing at a rate of more than 1% per year. Thus, we need more innovation and new technologies to produce more yield in the same area that we cultivate continuously. So that we will not be forced to expand agriculture in our wetlands and rainforests which are the last defenders of our biodiversity.

Faced with these huge challenges in the agriculture sector, the DA has put in place mechanisms to cultivate a more resilient food system to ensure food sustainability and help supply chains respond to these problems.

One is the showcase of hybrid rice technology to the farmers through technology demonstrations. Recently, 250 farmers from Camarines Norte witnessed the harvest festival and field day at the 100-hectare provincial hybrid rice techno demonstration area in Daet.

Based on studies, improved rice production is possible with proper irrigation, sunlight, use of good seeds, application of required fertilizer and good farm management. While the inbred rice varieties can only produce a maximum yield of 100 cavans per hectare with the presence of above mentioned conditions, the hybrid rice varieties can give up to 200 cavans per hectare especially during dry season.

At the techno demo sites, hybrid rice seed companies were able to showcase the higher yield and impressive traits of the hybrid rice such as more resilience to adverse ecological conditions, superior flavor and improved shelf life.

Aside from the promotion of high yielding hybrid rice varieties, the DA is also continuously implementing various projects and services to boost the local rice production. Aside from the promotion and distribution of high quality seeds, DA Bicol is also distributing fertilizer discount vouchers, biofertilizers, farm machineries and equipment. The agency also supports the establishment of irrigation and postharvest facilities, rice mills and rice processing centers.

As of September 30, 2022, a total of 35,183 bags of hybrid rice seeds (15 kilos/bag) and 54,344 bags of certified seeds (20 kilos/bag) were distributed to eligible farmer-beneficiaries to cover 62,308 hectares rice areas.

For the fertilizer discount, 74,578 fertilizer discount vouchers for rice farmers were already generated this wet season amounting to P113,565,506.53 covering 69,423 hectares. Out of these generated vouchers, 12,225 vouchers amounting to P20,675,202.98 have been claimed covering 11,927.86 hectares.

The Rice Program also distributed agri machineries benefiting fourteen (14) rice farmers organizations. These included: four (4) units Recirculating Dryer, four (4) units Hauling Truck, one (1) unit Precision Seeder, three (3) units 4WD Tractor and two (2) units Transplanter Walk Behind Type. Six (6) units Diversion Dam and four (4) units Canal Extension with estimated service area of 290 hectares.

Under the new administration of his excellency President Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos, who incidentally is our secretary at the Department of Agriculture, we align all our efforts towards the transformation of the agri-fishery sector, where food security will be a whole of nation approach.



### UMAsenso EDITORIAL STAFF

**LOVELLA P. GUARIN**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

**JAYSON M. GONZALES**  
**BLESILDA A. NUÑEZ**  
**ANNIELYN L. BALEZA**  
**MICHELLE ANGELA G. ALFIGURA**  
WRITERS

**EDUARDO D. COLLANTES JR.**  
IT/PHOTOGRAPHER

**VINCENT EMIL A. PASUMBAL**  
IT/ENCODER, CIRCULATION

**RAMON C. ADVERSARIO JR.**  
**HERMITO ANTONIO T. PRIVALDOS**  
PHOTOGRAPHERS

**ROGER A. BANDOJO**  
LAYOUT ARTIST

**ZANDRA G. ABOGADO**  
GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**MARITES C. DILLA**  
LIAISON, CIRCULATION

**LITA V. ESTRELLA**  
CIRCULATION

### ADVISERS

**RODEL P. TORNILLA, MABE**  
Regional Executive Director

**LUZ R. MARCELINO**  
Regional Technical  
Director for Operations

**EDGAR R. MADRID, DPM**  
Regional Technical Director for  
Research and Regulations







# Kadiwa Outlets and Kadiwa on Wheels

**K**adiwa has been implemented intensively since the start of the pandemic in 2020 to ensure food availability and accessibility. A total of **1,944,974 kilograms of agricultural commodities worth P103.1 Million** were traded through the Kadiwa program which benefitted **285,094 households**.

Recently, the LGU of Iriga City received P1M Kadiwa grant check to be used for the procurement of truck to serve as Kadiwa on Wheels, Retail and Online facilitate easier transport and movement of agricultural products from production areas to consumers. There are currently 45 farmers associations or LGU that benefited from the Enhanced Kadiwa Program in Bicol

To protect the consumers against fluctuation of prices of agricultural and basic commodities, the **DA Bicol Bantay Presyo team** is conducting daily

price monitoring of basic and prime commodities in major public markets in Bicol Region. This is being posted in the DA Bicol website and Facebook Page **Agriculture Bicol**.

SUMMARY OF KADIWA NI ANI AT KITA ACCOMPLISHMENTS			
January 3, 2022 - September 30, 2022			
Type of KADIWA	Volume (kg)	SALES (Php)	Household Served (Number)
<b>A. CONDUCTED</b>			
<b>KADIWA RETAIL OUTLETS</b>			
1. KADIWA (DA and Research Stations)	106,971	8,418,362.00	41,750
2. KADIWA (FCA's)	1,248,910	76,665,681.00	226,983
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>1,355,881</b>	<b>85,084,043.00</b>	<b>268,732.21</b>
<b>KADIWA ON WHEELS</b>			
<b>Local</b>			
1. KADIWA On Wheels (DA and Research Stations)	9,645	419,032.00	9,200
2. KADIWA On Wheels (FCA's)	817,892	34,874,149.00	66,600
<b>Outside the region</b>			
1. Kadiwa On Wheels (Cainta, Rizal & Quezon City)	73,085	3,115,015.00	15,000
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>900,622</b>	<b>38,408,196.00</b>	<b>90,800.00</b>
<b>KADIWA ONLINE</b>			
1. KADIWA online (FCA's)	20,938	989,183.00	2,445
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>20,398</b>	<b>989,183.00</b>	<b>2,445</b>
<b>TOTAL KADIWA CONDUCTED</b>	<b>2,276,901</b>	<b>124,481,422.00</b>	<b>361,977</b>



## Fuel Discount Voucher Program for corn farmers and fishers

**O**ne of the numerous banner programs of the Department of Agriculture is the Corn and Cassava Program which aims to address food security, poverty alleviation, and sustainable growth through increased farm income and productivity.

In Bicol, Camarines Sur has the largest corn area with 47,838 hectares, followed by Masbate (38,722 hectares), Albay (20,699 hectares), and Camarines Norte with 1,029 hectares. The average yield in combined yellow and white corn increased by 1.96% from 2.64 metric tons per hectare in 2020 to 2.69 metric tons in 2021.

To enhance the corn farmers' resiliency and cushion the impact of oil price hikes, P3,000.00 worth of cash subsidy in the form of fuel discount cash cards were distributed to the 2,181 corn farmers. The target of the Corn Program was 3,880 RSBSA-listed corn farmers and fishers in Bicol with total allotted funds of P12.222 million. The DA partnered with Universal Storefront Services Corporation (USSC) for the Know-Your-Client (KYC) and releasing of the abovementioned cards. Farm types of machinery for the fuel discount include pumps, engines, tractors, combine harvesters, and corn shellers among others. The Fuel Subsidy KYC and Distribution of Cards Caravan were held in various venues to cater to qualified farmers in different municipalities and provinces.



# Rice Farmers Financial Assistance

Among the recent activities of the Department of Agriculture in Bicol are the distribution of **P5,000 Rice Farmers Financial Assistance**; and the distribution of **Fertilizer Discount Vouchers** to rice farmers.

## RCEF – RFFA

The **Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RCEF-RFFA) Program** pursuant to the Republic Act No. 11598 is a **direct cash assistance to farmers** to serve as temporary relief and compensation for the projected reduction or loss of farm income arising from the implementation of the Rice Tariffication Law.

The program is funded by the **excess of Ten billion pesos (P10 B)** annual tariff revenues from rice importation as stipulated in the section 13 of the Republic Act no. 11203, "An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and Other Purposes.

The eligible beneficiaries of the RFFA are the RSBSA registered rice farmers owning or tilling a total cumulative rice area of two (2) hectares and below.

## SIGNIFICANT UPDATES

FY 2022 RCEF-Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA) Program Distribution Report as of October 15, 2022

PROVINCE	TARGET FARMERS	CLAIMED	STATUS
Albay	30,307	7,772	Distribution still ongoing
Camarines Norte	8,431	7,354	Distribution still ongoing
Catanduanes	5,778	5,184	Distribution still ongoing
Sorsogon	18,585	6,044	Distribution still ongoing
Camarines Sur	41,275		Scheduled for November 2022
Masbate	21,187		Scheduled for November 2022
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>125,563</b>	<b>26,354</b>	



## Fertilizer Discount Voucher

Recognizing the importance of fertilizer application to fully maximize the yield potentials of crops, DA finds innovative ways to provide access to fertilizers to the farmers, one of which is the Fertilizer Discount Vouchers. Farmers can claim inorganic fertilizer using discount vouchers at accredited fertilizer merchants.

This discount voucher has a value equivalent to P1,131.00/ha for inbred rice planted, and P2,262.00/ha for hybrid rice planted. Fertilizer grades that can be claimed under the project are as follows: Complete (14-14-14; 16-16-

16), Urea (prilled or granular, 46-0-0; 46-0-0), Ammonium Sulfate (21-0-0), Ammonium Phosphate (16-20-0), Muriate of Potash (0-0-60), and other grades that may be allowed by DA-RFO.

The Rice Program in Bicol has generated 76,327 Fertilizer Discount Vouchers amounting to P116,616,522.32 for rice farmers in Bicol this wet season 2022 covering 70,935 hectares. As of this writing, 60% were already claimed or 46,029 fertilizer discount vouchers covering 45,385 hectares amounting to P 75,185,906.





# RED Tornilla leads DA Bicol Regional Management Committee meeting

by Lovella P. Guarin

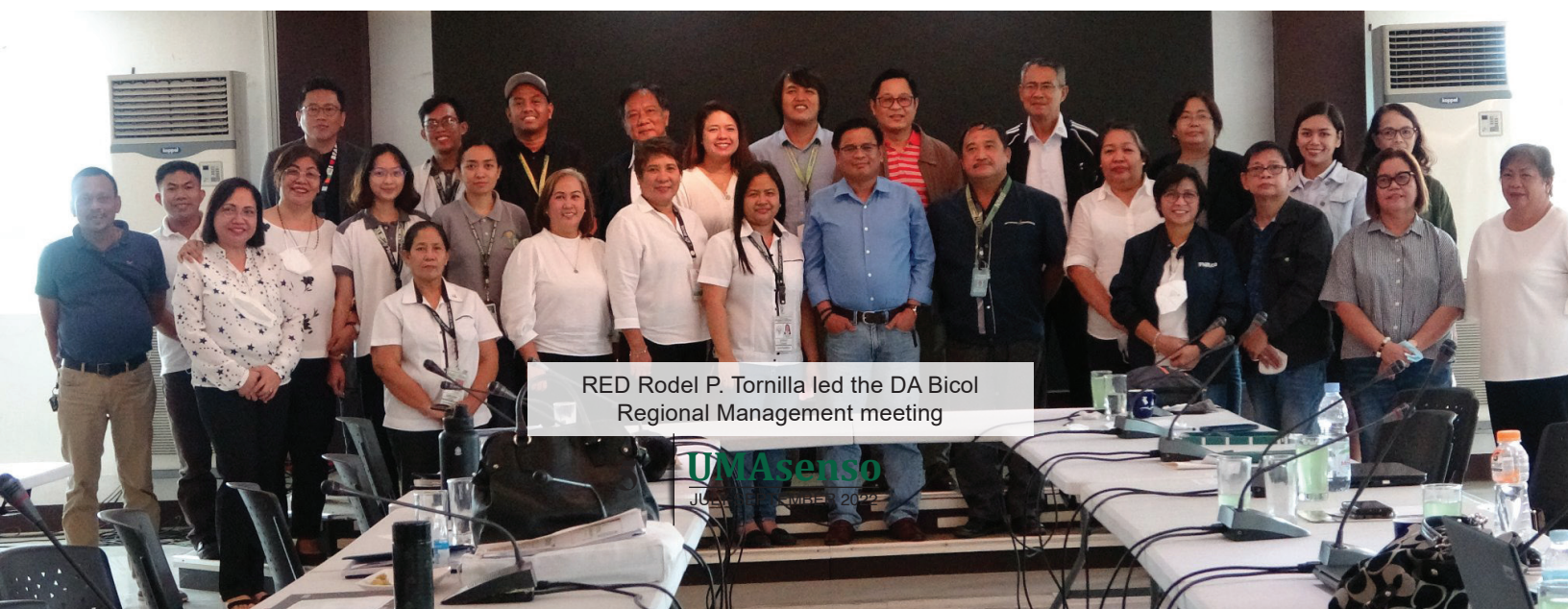
**S**AN AGUSTIN, PILI, CAMARINES SUR –The One DA Bicol family led by Regional Executive Director Rodel P. Tornilla conducted the 3rd Quarter Regional Management Committee (RMC) Meeting on August 15, 2022.

All the heads and representatives of the DA attached agencies, bureaus and attached corporations were in attendance: Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Regional Director Mateo B. Zipagan; PhilRice Bicol Branch Director Victoria C. Lapitan; National Food Authority (NFA) Acting Regional Manager Allan Joseph Abapo; National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) OIC RTD Dr. Ernesto Tabing; Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Center Director Elsa A. Parot; Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) Mill District Officer Engr. Maria Teresa M. Caballero; PhilFIDA OIC Mary Anne R. Molina; Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) Regional Officer Gabriel B. Atole; BPI – National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) Chief Marites R.

Reyes; and Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) Bicol representative Michael Jordan Roquid. Also present were representatives from the Bureau of Animal Industry and Philmech Bicol.

Dr. Mary Grace Rodriguez, Chief of the Field Operations Division, discussed the new directives of President Ferdinand Bongbong Marcos. Among the short-term directions were the provision of technical and financial assistance to farmers to increase their income in the next planting season; provision of farm inputs which will be procured by the government in volumes such as seeds, fertilizer, pesticide, and provision of fuel subsidy and other assistance.

Among the long-term plans of the agency were mechanization and modernization of farms and establishment of farm-to-market roads, the provision of postharvest and processing machineries and equipment and upscaling of Kadiwa stores.



RED Rodel P. Tornilla led the DA Bicol Regional Management meeting

UMAsenso  
JULY 2022



# 22 towns declared ASF free in Bicol

by Lovella P. Guarin

**SAN AGUSTIN, PILI, CAMARINES SUR** – Twenty-two (22) Bicol towns are now lifted from Red Zone to Pink Zone or buffer zone and declared free from African Swine Fever (ASF) as of September 19, 2022. Seven (7) towns and two (2) cities in Albay were declared ASF free namely: Daraga, Malilipot, Malinao, Pio Duran, Polangui, Bacacay, Oas, Ligao City and Tabaco City. Five towns/city in Cam. Sur, namely: Baao, Sipocot, Nabua and Minalabac and the City of Iriga were declared ASF free. In Cam. Norte, five (5) towns are already ASF free, namely: Sta. Elena, Jose Panganiban, Labo, San Vicente and Talisay. Meanwhile, three towns/city in Sorsogon were declared ASF free, the city of Sorsogon and the municipalities of Bulan, and Gubat were declared ASF free.

These 22 towns/cities were declared ASF free following 40-day period of successful deployment of sentinel pigs to areas previously affected by ASF, where hogs within 1-kilometer

radius were depopulated. No active outbreak in both backyard and commercial hog farms, and the lab test results of the blood samples from sentinel pigs deployed for 40 days came out negative. These towns also enacted ordinances, issued executive orders or resolutions dealing with the prevention and control of ASF.

A total of 64 Bicol towns were affected by ASF since the start of the ASF outbreak in February 2020.

Some 61 municipalities were already provided with sentinel pigs or 95.3% of the total number of towns affected by ASF in 2020-2021. A total of 510 Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) in Bicol have been trained on specimen collection by the DA and the Agricultural Training Institute since May 2021.

Some 136 BBOs were also trained on biosecurity surveillance and sample collection for ASF control.

**T**he province of Camarines Sur together with Davao Del Sur was declared as Avian Influenza Free province by virtue of the memorandum issued by former Agriculture Secretary William D. Dar on June 30, 2022.

It will be recalled that on Feb 20, 2022, the Department of Agriculture regional office in Bicol received reports on high poultry mortality in Bula and Sipocot, Camarines Sur.

DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Rodel P. Tornilla reactivated the DA 5 Avian Influenza (AI) Task Force and in coordination with the concerned LGUs conducted disease investigation and sample collection within the 1 kilometer radius from ground zero or the affected areas.

A total of 3,091 samples were collected and submitted to the Bureau of Animal Industry. Out of these samples, two samples from Sagrada, Bula were found to be positive with AI H5N1 by the BAI. Immediate depopulation, cleaning and disinfection, movement restrictions and surveillance in the affected areas were carried out by the DA Avian Influenza task force and the LGU Bula.

Monitoring and surveillance were carried out continuously and results of subsequent disease monitoring in the 1-kilometer and 7-kilometer surveillance zones in Camarines Sur yielded negative test results for Avian Influenza virus.

Dar also cited in the memo that “The World Organization of

## Cam. Sur regains BIRD FLU free status

the Animal Health (WOAH), Terrestrial Animal Health Code provides that the Avian Influenza free status of previously free country or zone maybe regained after a minimum of 28 days after stamping-out policy has been completed, disinfection of the last affected establishment was carried out. Furthermore, more than 40 days have already elapsed since the end of the disinfection operations, and surveillance has been carried out and with both provinces yielding negative AI test results”.

(Lovella P. Guarin)





## First DA-funded climate-controlled biosecured swine facility inaugurated

by Lovella P. Guarin

**L**IBMANAN, CAMARINES SUR - The DA Bicol turned over to the Mambalite-Palangon Farmers Irrigators Association (MAPAFIA) the newly completed P4.1 M worth climate-controlled bio-secured swine facility funded under INSPIRE program. The inauguration and turn over of the swine facility was held on October 4, 2022.

The 36 meters x 10 meters climate-controlled and biosecured swine facility has 12 pig pens which can house 25 heads of fatteners in each pen. The MAPAFIA plans to raise 300 heads of fatteners to maximize the area.

According to Dr. Marissa Guillermo, Livestock Program Regional Coordinator, over P236 M was allocated for the implementation of the INSPIRE in Bicol. This fund was downloaded to six farmers' cooperatives in Bicol – one in each province - that serves as Big Brother. In Camarines Sur, the CamSur Multi-purpose Cooperative serves as the Big Brother that helped in the construction of the said facility.

A total of 43 clusters or farmers association were given P5.5 M in the early part of 2022. Approximately P4.1 M was allocated for biosecure housing, P900,000 for the purchase of 180 piglets, and P500,000 for the procurement of feeds and biooogics.

All the 12 pens have automatic feeder. It is being operated using a tunnel ventilation. It has evaporative cooling pan areas, where water will flow to cool the air that will circulate inside the pig pens. There were two huge blowers at the back to gather the warm air and release it outside.

The calibrated swine repopulation through the INSPIRE program aims to establish swine breeder multiplier farms to increase breeder base population, modernize the production environment in ASF-free zones and prevent the re-entry of ASF virus in pink zones through the strict implementation of biosecurity measures. Ultimately, INSPIRE aims to help hog raisers recover lost income and ensure availability of pork supply at prices affordable for consumers.

The 180 piglets under the INSPIRE program will be provided to the MAPAFIA once the municipality of Libmanan is declared as ASF free.







Leizel Grajo ng Sorsogon tinanghal na 2022

# Katangi-tanging Babae sa Kanayunan sa Bicol

by Lovella P. Guarin

**S**i Liezel E. Grajo ng Casiguran, Sorsogon ang tinanghal na regional winner ng Bicol sa katatapos na Patimpalak ng Katangi-tanging Kababaihan sa Kanayunan sa taong 2022.

Tinanggap ni Grajo ang P50,000 cash award at plake sa ginanap na regional awarding ceremony sa Naga City noong ika anim ng Oktubre, 2022. Pumangalawa naman si Ginang Sonia S. Padilla ng San Miguel, Catanduanes na tumanggap ng P30,000 na premyo at pangatlo si Maily M. Perez ng Dimasalang, Masbate na nabigyan naman ng P20,000 na papremyo.

Nabigyan naman ng Special awards at P5,000 cash prize sina:  
Susan C. Tadas ng Tabaco City, Albay;  
Maria M. Paloma ng San Fernando, Camarines Sur;  
Rubelyn A. Balon mula sa San Vicente, Camarines Norte

Si Director Annray Villota-Rivera Program Director ng Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) ng DA Central Office ang panauhing pandangal sa nasabing okasyon.

Ang patimpalak sa Katangi-tanging Kababaihan sa Kanayunan ay isinasagawa sa buong bansa simula pa noong 2003 upang bigyang parangal ang mga kababaihan sa kanilang malaking kontribusyon sa food security, reduction of hunger and poverty na nakapaloob sa RA 9710 o Magna Carta of Women.

Si Liezel Grajo ay isang agri-entrepreneur at Integrated Diversified Farming System practitioner. Adbokasiya niya ang sustenableng hanapbuhay para sa mga kababaihan ng Barangay Tigbao sa Casiguran at mga kalapit na munisipyo sa Sorsogon. Sa gulang na 39 years old, si Liezel ang nagsisilbing operations and marketing manager ng Grajo Farm sa Casiguran, Sorsogon kung saan siya ay kilala bilang mahusay na bee keeper. Ang Grajo integrated farm ay producer ng honey, alak mula sa passion fruit at banana chips. Ang Grajo farm ay accredited ng Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) bilang Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) at ng Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Mayroon din itong License to Operate mula sa Food and Drug Administration.

Si Liezel Grajo ang kandidata ng Bicol Region sa pambansang patimpalak para sa mga Katangi-tanging Kababaihan sa Kanayunan na magtatapos sa December 2022.

Dumalo din sa Outstanding Rural Women regional awarding ceremony ang mga miyembro ng hurado ng patimpalak, mga miyembro ng Gender and Development Focal System ng DA Bicol, Rural Improvement Club Provincial Coordinators, Agripinay Program beneficiaries, at mga nanalo sa Outstanding Rural Woman at Gawad Saka ng mga nagdaang taon.







# First blended Bicol Organic Agriculture Congress held in Naga City

Over 80 organic agriculture practitioners of Bicol attended the first blended Bicol Organic Agriculture Congress (BOAC) which was held in Naga City on August 8, 2022.

In her welcome remarks, Luz R. Marcelino, Regional Technical Director for Operations underscored the importance of research in organic agriculture as cited in the congress' theme: "Maunlad na pagsasaka, garantisado sa organikong agrikulturang sinasaliksik."

Dr. Mary Grace DP. Rodriguez, chief of the Field Operations Division read the message of RED Rodel P. Tornilla. "The general direction of the DA for the next six years will be towards balanced fertilization to minimize the use of inorganic fertilizer," he said.

Meanwhile, Adelina A. Losa, chief of the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) and focal person for Organic Agriculture discussed the updates and status of organic agriculture. Losa said that 73 farms in Bicol with a total area of 168 hectares are 3rd party certified as organic.

In Camarines Sur, 42 farms are currently certified as organic covering 73 hectares. In Albay, 20 farms are certified organic

covering 45 hectares. In Sorsogon, 11 farms are certified as organic covering 48 hectares.

Losa also presented the Participatory Guarantee System where eight core groups were trained for PGS accreditation.

From the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP), Lea Derequito presented the plans and programs of NOAP for 2024 which include PGS certification, organic agriculture hubs, mass production of fertilizer and soil ameliorants, inventory and promotion of Organic Agriculture matured technologies and designation of Organic Agriculture Zones in every municipality/ city.

The Provincial Organic Agriculture focal persons also shared their respective provincial plans and budget for 2024. For Albay, Engr. Cesar Cordenete; for Catanduanes Edwin Benavidez, Ador Sanches for Camarines Norte, Luisa Almonte for Masbate and Algeron Deterala in Sorsogon.

Rosita De Lumen also shared the milestones of the DA Bicol Organic Agriculture R&D Center.







# Special Area for Agricultural

**O**NE OF THE PROGRAMS being implemented by the Department of Agriculture in Bicol is the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD). This is a locally-funded program aimed to alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors of agriculture and fishery in the poorest provinces of the country. This started in Bicol in 2018 in three poorest municipalities in each of the provinces of Catanduanes, Masbate and Sorsogon.







# Development

# SAAD

## MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**SAAD Bicol ranked first (1<sup>st</sup>) in the FY 2022 National 1<sup>st</sup> Semester Physical and Financial Assessment** among the SAAD covered regions awarded last August 4, 2022

The members of San Miguel SAAD Vegetable Farmers Association sold their vegetable harvest and participated in the Agro-Fair 2022 and Abaca Festival 2022 in Catanduanes

For livelihood packages, **2 units of Solar Powered Irrigation System (SPIS) and 2 units of multicultivator** were turned over to **two farmer associations** in Pilar, Sorsogon under the high value crops production and enterprise development package.

**The program is on the partial implementation of all its 33 packages** through the distribution of agricultural interventions covering the rice, corn and cassava, high value crops, organic agriculture, and livestock and poultry commodities to increase production and encourage enterprise development under the Food Production and Livelihood Component which **benefitted 141 SAAD farmer associations**

SAAD also conducted **41 specialized trainings** focusing on production and enterprise development which capacitated a total of **1,234 farmer beneficiaries**; and **2 consultation activities attended by 67 individual beneficiaries** under the Social Preparation Component of the program





# DA-Bicol jumpstarts Gulayan sa Paaralan in Bicol this SY 2022-2023

by Annielyn L. Baleza



As public schools return to face-to-face classes, the Department of Agriculture High Value Crops Development Program (DA HVCDP) in Bicol jumpstarts the implementation of the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP) this school year 2022-2023 with the turnover of school garden packages to 700 public elementary and secondary schools in six provinces in the region from September to October 2022.

DA-Bicol Regional Executive Director Rodel P. Tornilla and Field Operations Division Chief Dr. Mary Grace DP. Rodriguez led the distribution of GPP packages to 200 schools in Camarines Sur and 80 schools in Catanduanes. The agency also turned over GPP packages to 150 schools in Albay, 80 schools in Masbate, 90 schools in Camarines Norte, and 100 schools in Sorsogon. Each GPP package varies in cost and items depending on the schools' location but generally, it includes two pieces plastic crates, two rolls vegetable twines, one plastic pail, one plastic mulch, two bags of organic fertilizer, one set of hand tools, one set of garden tools, and 16 packets of vegetable seeds.

According to Rodriguez, the GPP aims to promote self-help food production activities and values among children. It also intends to develop their appreciation for agriculture as a life support system. This school year, the project covers 700 public elementary and secondary schools in the six provinces of Bicol.

Rodriguez also thanked the school heads, teachers, parents and students as well as the DA-Bicol's program partners in the Department of Education saying *"Kami po ay nagpapasalamat sa mga teachers, sa mga parents, sa students, at sa Department of Education sa inyong patuloy na pagsuporta sa Gulayan sa Paaralan project. Ito po ay isa pong hakbang upang magkaroon po tayo ng food security hindi lamang po dito sa ating rehiyon kundi sa ating bansa."*

Meanwhile, Tornilla encouraged the participating schools to practice edible landscaping using the GPP packages. He mentioned that the DA is working closely with the UPLB Foundation Inc. in training interested schools on how to develop edible landscapes in schools.





*"It's like hitting two birds in one shot: May gulay ka nang aanihin, may beautification project ka pa. Projects like these are what we need right now amid the economic crisis we are experiencing. Also, as a supplement aid to our farmers affected by typhoons and other natural calamities," he said.*

Dr. Pedro Pelonio, School Governance and Operations Division Chief of the Department of Education Schools Division Office in Camarines Sur, expressed his appreciation of the DA-Bicol's GPP.

*"Napakaganda nito para sa DepEd kasi noon pa po ay nagkaroon na ng School in a Garden. Ngayon, Gulayan sa Paaralan. And for so long, we are benefitted of this project because of the garden produce. One of the proceeds ng ating mga gulay na itinatanim ay isasama sa pagkain na ibinibigay sa ating mga wasted and severely wasted na pupils and at the same time 'yung iba pang nagugutom na mga bata," he said.*

Likewise, Rosario B. Vegim, Project Development Officer I and Department of Education Schools Division Office Catanduanes GPP Coordinator thanked the DA-Bicol for the GPP interventions.

*"We are very grateful for the Department of Agriculture's continuing support to our Gulayan sa Paaralan Program. Malaking bagay po ang Gulayan sa Paaralan sa mga estudyante kasi 'yung mga batang hindi sapat ang pagkain nila sa pagpasok sa klase, hindi sila makapag-focus sa pag-aaral... At isa pa, 'yung mga estudyante po na hindi inclined sa academic, binibigyan sila ng time para makapagtanim at nai-embrace po nila 'yung ganda ng pagtatanim at pagsasaka," Vegim added.*

The GPP is being implemented by the DA in partnership with the Department of Education and the recipient schools. This is in alignment with the DepEd Memorandum No. 223 series of 2016, "Strengthening the Implementation of the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP)." The program was implemented since 2007 through the DepEd Memorandum No. 293 in partnership with the DA HVCDP.





# DA PRDP-funded FMR begets new opportunities for communities in San Miguel Island in Tabaco City, Albay

by Annielyn L. Baleza

**T**ABACO CITY, ALBAY -- Men and women, young and old alike cheered while waving green, white and yellow balloons as Department of Agriculture Philippine Rural Development Project (DA PRDP) officials along with their local counterparts drive past the newly concreted Hacienda to Rawis Farm-to-Market Road (FMR). The motorcade signals the turn-over ceremony of the 8.30-kilometer infrastructure development (I-BUILD) subproject.

DA PRDP Deputy Project Director Shandy Hubilla and Tabaco City Mayor Cielo Krisel Lagman-Luistro led the Blessing and Turn-Over Ceremony of this DA PRDP-funded FMR in San Miguel Island this city on September 29, 2022. To celebrate the milestone which coincided with the Feast of San Miguel, the island's patron saint, a motorcade from Brgy. Rawis to Sitio Malictay, blessing and unveiling of the marker at Brgy. Hacienda, and another motorcade from Sitio Malictay to Brgy. Visita were held. It was participated by local and barangay officials as well as motorcycle riders club members, and candidates for the PRDP San Miguel Island Festival Queen 2022. Project beneficiaries from the five barangays within the road influence area (RIA) gathered at the Brgy. Visita Covered Court for the turn-over ceremonies.

In her message, Mayor Luistro cited some of the transformations that she observed with the completion of the PRDP I-BUILD subproject.

"Kaito pighuhururan ta sana ini, na magkakaigwa ki siring kaining proyekto sa isla kan San Miguel. Su groundbreaking ta dae ta pa aram kun pasaen. Pero ngonian nahiling ta na. Su grabe duman sa Brgy. Angas ito ta talaga pigtatakutan kang mga habal-habal, pero napakaray ito talagang patag na kumbaga su slope talagang magayon na (We used to just discuss about having this project here in San Miguel Island. We can't even visualize this yet during the groundbreaking. But we can see it now. The dangerous road portion dreaded by habal-habal drivers in Brgy. Angas was levelled and the slope is now stable)," she said.

She reiterated that infrastructure projects like roads and bridges connect people and communities. She expressed her hope that the I-BUILD subproject would strengthen the relationships among residents of the island as well as the barangay and city local government units and national agencies.

She mentioned that the rallying point for the said I-BUILD subproject was to provide farmers in San Miguel Island with improved access to the market especially that it offers the best tasting sweet potato in the region. She added that the FMR will also pave the way for opportunities to improve the socio-economic status of the island which include the provision of an ambulance, a plan to establish an infirmary that will provide 24/7 medical assistance to the community, and a plan to operate franchise units of motors with side car and jeepney.







“Dakulon po na mga posibilidad ang namundag. Bako sana ining proyektong ini kundi dakulon pa na mga bagong possibilities dahil ngani po sa siring kaining proyekto (Many opportunities were born. This is more than just a project but an avenue for new possibilities because of having this kind of project),” she added.

Hubilla discussed the stages of implementation that the I-BUILD subproject went through. He compared the Blessing and Turn-Over Ceremony to a “graduation of the DA PRDP and project stakeholders’ offspring” – a product of the collaboration among the DA PRDP, the City Project Management and Implementation Unit (CPMIU), the contractor and the community. He noted the strategies employed by the Project and the contractor to accomplish the FMR subproject amid the pandemic. He also lauded the FMR’s quality and the project beneficiaries’ diligence to plant sweet potatoes and other crops.

“Sa hiling ko, ang naging benepisyo (nitong subproject) sa sarong island economy and community that you have is very exponential. Being in an island, I would encourage you to produce as much as possible, the basic necessities na kaya ninyong i-produce dito sa isla. ‘Yun po ang counterpart ninyo apart from the 10 percent (As I see it, the benefit of this subproject to an island economy and community like you have is very exponential. Being in an island, I would encourage you to produce as much as possible, the basic necessities that you can produce here in the island. That will be your counterpart apart from the 10 percent),” Hubilla said.

He also appealed for the community’s support in maintaining the FMR’s quality and improvement of food and agricultural production not only in San Miguel Island but in the entire city. PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office Bicol I-BUILD Head Engr. Teodoro Eleda together with the rural infrastructure engineers and project implementation support (I-SUPPORT) staff, Tabaco City Vice Mayor Nestor San Pablo, Former City Councilor Raul Roi Borejon and the five punong barangays of the San Miguel Island also graced the occasion.

“Kang time na ito po nagbabarakal po kami ning produkto ning kamote sa Hacienda, tigpapasan mi po ang pagdara pasiring digdi sa samong barangay. Ang tinampo daga pa lang po. Makunuwelo po pag iabot ki uran ta siyempre su kamote po madugi, napapasan mi po, gari na man po kami mga karabaw, mga madugion na man po kami maabot digdi sa samuyang barangay. Dakulaon po ining proyektong naidara digdi sa isla nin San Miguel na naging partner ang PRDP. Samuya pong aatamanon po ining itinao nindo samuya na project. Dakulaon po na ang transportation po napagian para makadara nin mga produkto hale sa mga bulod dahil igwa na pong marhay na tinampo na maaagihan pasiring sa padudumanan. Dakulaon pong salamat! (We used to carry on our shoulders the sweet potatoes that we bought from Brgy. Hacienda going to our barangay. The funny thing was, because it was just an earth road, we carry mud-coated sweet potatoes during rainy season. Upon reaching our barangay, we already look like carabaos smeared with mud. This completed infrastructure project in partnership with PRDP is a big help for us here in San Miguel Island. Having an accessible farm-to-market road will make it easier for us to deliver our agricultural products from our farms to the market. Thank you very much!),” Nelia Buara, punong barangay of Brgy. Visita said.

The P192.74 million-worth Concreting of Hacienda to Rawis FMR in San Miguel Island Tabaco City will benefit a total of 14,856 population or 3,077 households in five barangays within the RIA namely Hacienda, Angas, Rawis, Sagurong and Visita. These include 1,198 farmers and fisherfolk households. It is one of the 17 completed I-BUILD subprojects in Bicol implemented from 2014 to 2022 which cost a total of P1.43 billion.





# DA-Bicol distributes P31.73M worth of agri machineries

## to rice, corn farmers in Albay, CamSur

by Annielyn L. Baleza

In consonance with the Department of Agriculture's thrust to prioritize agricultural mechanization using modern and innovative machineries and technologies, the DA-Bicol distributed P31.73 million-worth of farm machineries to 13 rice farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) and two corn clusters in Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur on September 8, 9, and 13, 2022 in Pili, Camarines Sur.

DA-Bicol Regional Executive Director Rodel Tornilla led the distribution of P24.73 million worth of machineries funded under the Rice program. Among the agricultural machineries that were turned over were three units of four-wheel drive tractors for the Maulawin Small Water Irrigation System Association in Sta. Elena, Camarines Norte, Sagrada Capwa Farmers Association in Minalabac, and Sagrada Pili Camarines Sur Farmers' Association in Pili, Camarines Sur. The agency also distributed three units of combine harvester to the Camarines Norte Seed Growers Multipurpose Cooperative (CANSEGMUPCO) in Basud, Camarines Norte, Uson Producers Association Inc. in Libmanan, Camarines Sur, and San Vicente Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries in Buhi, Camarines Sur. Meanwhile, the CamSur Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Pili, Camarines Sur received a precision planter or seeder while the Talisayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Camarines Norte Development Cooperative

in Talisay and Daet, Camarines Norte received one unit of walk-behind type transplanter each. Moreover, the St. Michael Farmers' Organization in Pamplona, the Calabanga Organic Producers Cooperative in Calabanga, the Magarao Multipurpose Cooperative in Magarao, and the Antipolo Multipurpose Cooperative in Minalabac, Camarines Sur received one unit of hauling truck each.

*"Ito ay isang strategy natin para mapababa po natin 'yung ating cost of production. Ang ating ini-estimate ay sa bawat pagbaba ng cost of production, 'yan po ay karagdagang kita sa bawat magsasaka ng palay dito sa Bicol,"* said DA-Bicol Regional Rice Focal Person Earl Vincent P. Vegas.

In addition, DA-Bicol's Corn and Cassava Program also distributed one unit of four-wheel drive tractor for corn to Pioduran Corn Cluster Association in Pioduran, Albay and one unit of four-wheel drive tractor for cassava to Isarog Corn Planters Association Inc. in Pili, Camarines Sur which cost an aggregate amount of P7 million pesos. The Isarog Corn Planters Association Inc. is an active partner of the DA-Bicol in operating a Louisiana State University (LSU)-type recirculating mechanical dryer in Brgy. Cadlan Pili, Camarines Sur. DA-Bicol turned over the machine to the provincial local government unit in 2021.







The farmer-recipients expressed their gratitude to the DA for the interventions that they received. They said that having those agricultural machineries will help boost their production, reduce their labor cost, and increase their income.

*"Before po noon na wala kaming harvester, talagang napakahirap po sa lugar namin sa pamahon ng pag-ani dahil sa amin po sabay-sabayang nagtatanim at sabay-sabayan ring nag-aani. Ngayon po, nabigyan kami ng bagong combine harvester ng Department of Agriculture. Isa pong malaking bagay ito para sa amin. Masosolusyunan na po ang problema namin sa panahon ng pag-aani lalo na po ngayon na ang panahon ay hindi natin makita kung ano ang sitwasyon ng panahon," related Gil N. Del Barrio, president of CANSEGMUPCO.*

Leonardo R. Hernandez, chairperson of Talisayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative agreed saying *"Sa ngayon malaki talaga ang gastos ng mga magsasaka kasi ang bayad sa pagtatanim ng palay, P450 ang maghapon. Sa isang ektarya, mangangailangan ng maraming tao... Sa ngalan ng aking grupo, ang Talisayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative, natutuwa kami dahil nagkaroon kami ng katulad nitong (makinarya) na ipinagkaloob ng DA Region V. Malaking bagay ito sa aming mga magsasaka na mahihirap lalo na 'yung mga walang pambayad sa kanilang labor at makakatulong na ito para (magkaroon) sila ng maraming ani dahil nakatipid sila sa labor, sa kanilang ginagastusan."*

On the other hand, Engr. Luisito Baltazar, Program and Project Management Section chief under the DA-Bicol Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED), reiterated the guidelines for the sustainable use of agri-machineries. He also underscored the pillars of agricultural machineries sustainability which include its environment, equity of benefits and economic operation.

*"Ganoon din po dapat ay pantay-pantay 'yung maging benepisyo nung paggamit ng ating mga makinarya. Kung hindi naman gagamitin ng ating mga miyembro, puwede po natin yan iparenta sa ating mga katabing mga magsasaka sa mas mababang halaga. 'Yung magiging kita nito siyempre dapat iipunin niyo 'yun para sa operation and maintenance, sa krudo, at 'yung sobra, 'yun po ang iipunin ninyo para makalipas ang ilang taon, makakabili po kayo ng bago," Baltazar added.*



Captions.....



# DA Bicol consults LGUs on PAFES and devolution transition plans

**T**he DA Bicol conducted series of consultations with the Provincial and City/Municipal Local Government Units of the six provinces of Bicol on the Province-Led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES) and Agri-fishery Devolution Status.

The consultations were attended by the provincial agriculturists, city and municipal agriculturists, provincial and municipal planning officers, budget officers, veterinarians, engineers, banner program coordinators and PAFES coordinators each province.

In Albay, the consultation was held at the AFBVlll in the town of Camalig on Aug. 30-31, 2022 which was attended by over 50 participants headed by Governor Noel E. Rosal and Albay Provincial Agriculturist Rosalinda Belodo.

In Camarines Norte, the consultation was held on Sept. 1, 2022. Provincial Agriculturist Almirante Abad was present.

In Sorsogon, the consultation was held on Sept. 13, 2022. Provincial Agriculturist Ma. Teresa Destura attended the event.

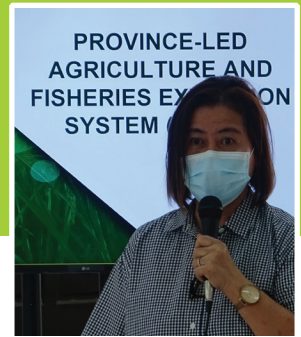
In Masbate, the consultation was held on Sept. 6-7, 2022. Provincial Agriculturist Jonel Orteza was present.

In Catanduanes, the consultation was held on Sept. 15, 2022. Provincial Agriculturist Nelia Teves was present.

In Camarines Sur the consultation was held at DA RFO 5 compound on Oct. 12-13, 2022.



Aloha Gigi I. Bañaria - PAFES, Vice-Chairperson



RTD Luz R. Marcelino

Luz R. Marcelino, RTD for Operations and PAFES said that DA Bicol has transferred P1 million fund to Albay and Bicol University for the conduct of Participatory Rural Appraisal to evaluate and study the needs of the LGUs in the implementation of the PAFES.

Also present were division chiefs and banner program coordinators of DA Bicol who discussed the service standards for the functions that are devolved to the LGUs in line with the Mandanas Garcia Supreme Court Ruling.

The consultation was spearheaded by the Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation Division in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The consultation aims to help LGUs finalize its Devolution Transition Plan according to Executive Order 138 mandating the Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Government Units and Creation of a Committee on Devolution.

Bañaria also discussed the services of DA Bicol which were devolved to the LGUs.

According to Shiela dela Cruz of DILG, the 107 municipalities, 6 cities, 1 independent component city and 6 provinces of Bicol have already submitted their respective Devolution Transition Plans.



Albay



Sorsogon



Camarines Sur



Catanduanes



# The “Guardians” show support to DA’s food security



**T**hey used to be vanguards of our national security, but now they are promoting food security.

The retired military personnel and civilian-turned-farmer members of the Guardians Brotherhood Incorporated (GBI) based in Bula, Camarines Sur have formed themselves into a cooperative known as Guardians Bula Professional Agriculture Cooperative (GBPAC). The coop is headed by retired Colonel Gregorio Olaguer as the Supreme Commander while retired Navy Commander Gil Albaño is the Big Brother and spokesperson of the group.

Composed of 42 members who laid down their firearms and instead armed themselves with farm tools and equipment to cultivate their 130-hectare area in Bula.

During their recent meeting on October 7, 2022, DA Bicol provided various agricultural interventions such as hand tractor, hybrid palay seeds, vegetable seeds, a knapsack sprayer, and garden tools.

In 2021, the group acquired 1 unit combine harvester.

DA Bicol Regional Executive Director Rodel P. Tornilla lauded the efforts of the group and vowed further support.

Meanwhile, Bro. Pamblo Lompero, the newly installed GBPFAC President and his coop members were very thankful to RED Tornilla for the support extended to the group.

These former military / police and civilian personnel are headed by their Grand Supremo former Senator Gringo Honasan.

Retired Navy Commander Gil Albaño said that they are committed to supporting President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Marcos’ food security agenda. The group upholds the principle that “food security is national security.”

Albaño is also encouraging other Guardians organizations within the province to actively take part in the food production initiative of the DA Bicol and the national government towards food security.



Camarines Norte



Masbate





“

To attain food self-sufficiency and security, we are providing innovative solutions and financial support to farmers and fisherfolk to adapt new technologies and connect to national and global value supply chains.



## ANNOUNCEMENT:

Starting JULY, 2022,  
the UMASenso will have a digital format -

**UMAsenso Online.**

You can watch it live, every **Monday, 10:00 AM** at the official social media sites of DA Regional Field Office No.5

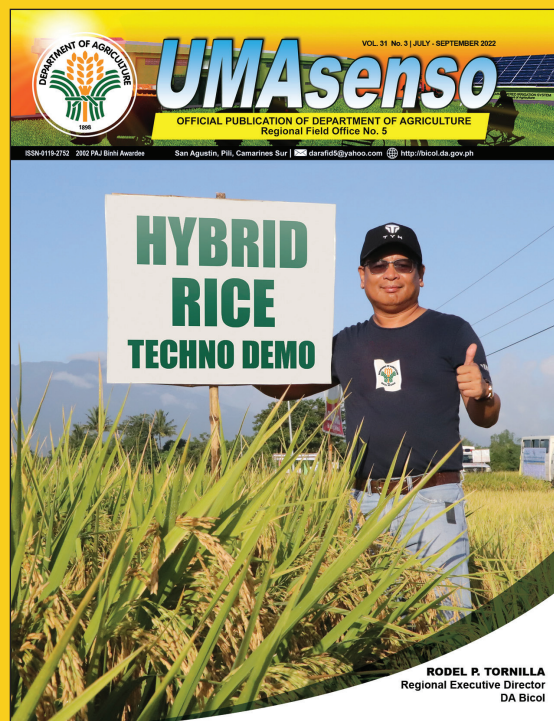
-  • Department of Agriculture-Bicol
-  • Agriculture Bicol
-  • Department of Agriculture Bicol

*You can also tune in to*

Camarines Sur Polytechnic Colleges  
87.5 Mhz. DZCC FM  
FMR University FM  
94.3 Mhz.



**EVERY MONDAY, 10:00 AM**



Published quarterly by the:

Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS)  
Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office No. 5


Re-entered as a Second Class Mail Matter at the Pili Post Office, Pili, Camarines Sur under Permit No. 2019-17 on March 05, 2019.


DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - RFO5

San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur


Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS)

 darafid5@yahoo.com

 Agriculture Bicol

 Department of Agriculture-Bicol

 Department of Agriculture Bicol

 bicol.da.gov.ph