



PCAF QUARTERLY

CHANGEMAKER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Photo shows Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban (3rd from right) poses with AFC Bicol Region team led by this year's Outstanding RAFC Chairperson Bernadette Delos Santos (4th from left) and Outstanding National Committee Chairperson awardee, NBPC on Poultry, Livestock, and Corn Chairperson Dr. Arnulfo Frontuna (2nd from right). PCAF Executive Director Nestor Domenden (4th from right), PCAF OIC Deputy Executive Director Julieta Opuencia, and Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) Executive Director Donald James Gawe (utmost right) also joined the awarding.

8th National Agriculture and Fisheries Volunteer's Day

PCAF lauds sterling performance, volunteerism of AFCs on 8th NVD

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), the policy-making and advisory arm of the Department of Agriculture (DA), recognized the contributions of its volunteer partners from the Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) at the national, regional and local levels during the 8th National Agriculture and Fisheries Volunteer's Day (NVD) celebration on December 13, 2022.

More than 100 delegates from the regional and local AFCs and the National Banner and Other Priority Program Committees (NBPC/OPPCs) attended the activity in Malate, Manila.

With the theme "Volunteers: Spark Hope, Create Solutions, and Respond to Challenges," the annual event celebrates the volunteer partners' commitment to helping the Department modernize and industrialize the country's value chains and uplifting the lives of rural

people through relevant and responsive policies geared towards improving their livelihood and increasing their incomes.

PCAF Executive Director Nestor Domenden expressed his gratitude to its volunteer partners in his opening message.

"In my early days in PCAF, I mentioned in one of my interviews that volunteerism is heroism. This is because all of you here today, do not only commit your knowledge and skills but also your health, time and efforts, which are the most valuable resources of all," ED Domenden added.

In his keynote speech, Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban acknowledged the vital role of the AFCs, NBPCs, and OPPCs as partners of the Department of Agriculture.

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PCAF Executive Director Domenden expressed his gratitude to the agency's partner-volunteers for their dedication for the development of the sector.

"They have been there to help us—from the cascading of DA programs, the National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization and Industrialization Plan, and the Commodity Industry Roadmaps, as well as price monitoring of agri-fishery inputs and commodities, down to aiding farmers and fishers affected by calamities," Senior Undersecretary Panganiban said.

The event's highlights recognized the "Pillars of Agriculture and Fisheries" for their continued commitment and noteworthy contributions to developing and strengthening the Philippine agri-fishery sector:

- » Mr. Dante B. Tobias - Chairperson, Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) Cagayan Valley
- » Engr. Francisco A. Hernandez - Chairperson, RAFC Central Luzon
- » Engr. Miguel A. Pedroso - Chairperson, RAFC Eastern Visayas
- » Mr. Leonardo P. Caparida - Chairperson, RAFC Zamboanga Peninsula
- » Mr. Angel M. Cervantes, Jr. - Chairperson, RAFC SOCCSKSARGEN
- » Dr. Ernesto M. Ordoñez - Interim Chairperson, OPPC on International Trade
- » Dr. Mary Ann P. Sayoc - Chairperson, NBPC on High Value Crops (HVC)- Fruits and Vegetables
- » Ms. Hazel A. Tanchuling - Chairperson, NBPC on Rice



DA Senior Usec. Panganiban reiterates the importance of the role of the AFCs in "improving the quality of life in remote communities and rural areas."

In recognition of their sterling performance this year, the following were conferred the "Changemaker of the Year Award":

- » Committee on Poultry, Livestock, and Corn
- » Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council, Bicol Region
- » Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) Camarines Norte
- » Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC) Talisay, Camarines Norte

RAFC Ilocos Region- Sectoral Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization and PAFC



AFC Bicol Region team poses with their plaques after the awarding ceremony.

Occidental Mindoro- Sectoral Committee on High Value Crops also received the “Outstanding Sectoral Committee Award” for their dedication to policy-making and their engagement of public and private sector partners.

Independent Component City Agricultural and Fishery Council (ICCAFC) Naga City-Sectoral Committee on High-Value Crops and ICCAFC Santiago City-Sectoral Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization were declared as the first and second runners-up for the award, respectively.

The Committee on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion and the Committee on HVC Fiber Crops received the “Engagement Champion Award” in recognition of their outstanding efforts to foster inclusivity and diversity for the youth, women, and AFC sectoral representatives. The Committee on Coffee and Cacao was declared the first runner-up for the award.

The “Excellent Steward Award” was conferred to the Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture and the Committee on Poultry, Livestock, and Corn for their timely efforts and contributions in raising awareness of major issues affecting the agri-fishery sector and in helping the DA secure greater transparency and accountability in its planning and implementation process. The Committee on HVC-Fruits and Vegetables received the first runner-up award.

In recognition of the Committee on Agricultural & Fisheries Mechanization’s exemplary productivity towards resolving agricultural issues and concerns

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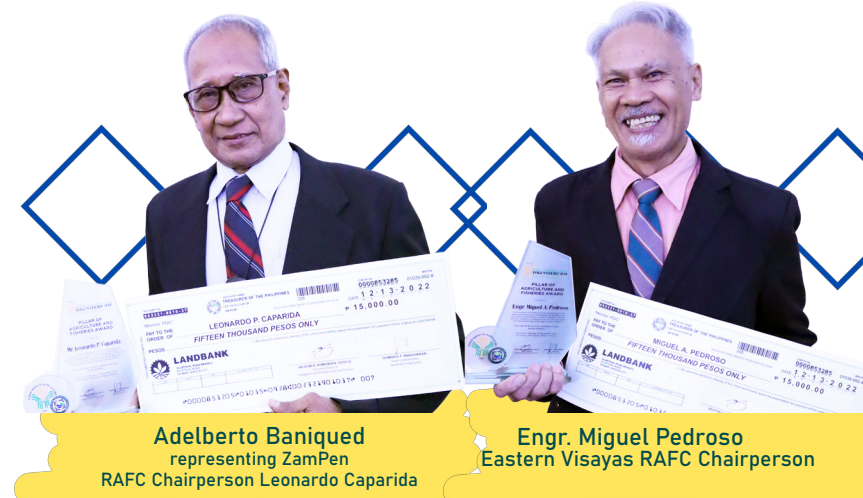
Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc
Chairperson,
NBPC on High Value Crops-
Fruits and Vegetables

Hazel A. Tanchuling
Chairperson, NBPC on Rice



Minda Perocho
representing SOCCSKSARGEN
RAFC Chairperson Angel Cervantes, Jr.

Dr. Ernesto Ordoñez
Interim Chairperson,
OPPC on International Trade



Adelberto Baniqued
representing ZamPen
RAFC Chairperson Leonardo Caparida

Engr. Miguel Pedroso
Eastern Visayas RAFC Chairperson



Dante Tobias
Cagayan Valley RAFC Chairperson

Engr. Francisco Hernandez
Central Luzon RAFC Chairperson



Dr. Arnulfo Frontuna with his Outstanding National Committee Chairperson plaque.



1. Part of the 8th NVD exhibit area where participants can stop for photo op and check out last year's winners
2. Exec. Dir. Domenden answers questions at the Fireside Chat area. His interview was simultaneously shown at the main venue of the activity
3. NBPC and OPPC Chairpersons pose with Exec. Dir. Domenden, Senior Usec. Panganiban, OIC DED Oplencia, and PNVSCA Exec. Dir. Gawe
4. Exec. Dir. Domenden and OIC DED managed to squeeze in a quick selfie during the awarding ceremony with the awardees
5. To capture special moment of PCAF's volunteer-partners, a 360 video photobooth was set in the exhibit area



6. RAFC Chairpersons, Regional Executive Officers, and coordinators from Cordillera Administrative Region, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley Region, and Central Luzon Region pose with Exec. Dir. Domenden and OIC DED Oplencia



7. CALABARZON and MIMAROPA group poses with Exec. Dir. Domenden and OIC DED Oplencia

8. Western, Central and Eastern Visayas group

9. Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region, and SOCCSKSARGEN group



10. Caraga and Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao group

at the national level, they were presented the “Ultimate Contributor Award.” The Committee on Poultry, Livestock, and Corn was declared the first runner-up for the award.

The following volunteer partners and government employees also received awards in recognition of their unselfish sharing of time, knowledge, and expertise, which contributed to their respective council’s outstanding performance this CY 2022:

- » Outstanding National Committee Chairperson Award
Dr. Arnulfo D. Frontuna - Chairperson, Committee on Poultry, Livestock, and Corn
- » Outstanding RAFC Chairperson Award
Ms. Bernadette B. Delos Santos - Chairperson, RAFC Bicol Region
- » Outstanding PAFC Chairperson Award
Mr. Benedicto A. Palmares - Chairperson, PAFC Camarines Norte
- » Outstanding MAFC Chairperson Award
Mr. Roberto E. Abierta - Chairperson, MAFC Talisay, Camarines Norte
- » Outstanding RAFC Executive Officer Award
Ms. Aloha Gigi I. Bañaria - RAFC Executive Officer, Bicol Region
- » Outstanding RAFC Secretariat-Coordinator Award
Ms. Gladys Regondola -Guzman- RAFC Secretariat-Coordinator, Bicol Region
- » Outstanding PAFC Secretariat-Coordinator Award
Ms. Melinda L. Jerez - PAFC Secretariat-Coordinator, Camarines Norte
- » Outstanding MAFC Secretariat-Coordinator Award
Ms. Lilian G. Maesa - MAFC Secretariat-Coordinator, Talisay, Camarines Norte

The awardees also received monetary incentives to support them in their advocacies and to help them in their future initiatives as volunteer-partners of PCAF.

In her closing message, PCAF OIC-Deputy Executive Director Julieta E. Oplencia reiterated PCAF’s commitment to upholding multi-stakeholder engagement, transparency, and accountability in the policy and program development processes of DA.

“Lagi pong handa ang PCAF na makinig sa inyong mga saloobin, at bukas din po ang aming pintuan sa lahat ng nasa industriya, gaano man kaliit o gaano man kahirap ang inyong pinagdaraan,” PCAF OIC-Deputy Director Oplencia said. ■



RAFC Ilocos Region
Sectoral Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization



PAFC Occidental Mindoro
Sectoral Committee on High Value Crops



Dr. Arnulfo Frontuna, Chairperson, Committee on Poultry, Livestock, and Corn



Bernadette Delos Santos, Chairperson, RAFC Bicol Region



Committee on High Value Crops -Fiber Crops with Chairperson Michael Edward Claparols



RAFC Chairperson Delos Santos receives the award for Roberto Abierta, Chairperson, MAFC Talisay, Camarines Norte



Committee on Agricultural & Fisheries Mechanization with Chairperson Rodolfo Tamayo



Aloha Gigi Bañaria, RAFC Executive Officer, Bicol Region



Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture with Chairperson Dinna Umengan



Guzman receives the award for Melinda Jerez, PAFC Secretariat-Coordinator, Camarines Norte



REO Bañaria and Chairperson Delos Santos receives the award for Roberto Abierta, Chairperson, MAFC Talisay, Camarines Norte



Gladys Guzman receives the award for Lilian Maesa, MAFC Secretariat-Coordinator, Talisay, Camarines Norte

PCAF kicks off NVD celebration with RAFC Operational Meeting



PCAF kicked off the National Agriculture and Fisheries Volunteers' Day (NVD) celebration with a Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council (RAFC) operational meeting on December 12, 2022.

All 16 RAFC Chairpersons, along with the RAFC Executive Officers and Coordinators, participated in the activity with the aim of enhancing their operational activities alongside the PCAF's Partnership Development Division (PDD).

PCAF Executive Director Nestor Domenden opened the event, hoping that the venue aids the AFCs in expressing their issues and improving their consultation and other participatory processes.

"Sana makatulong ang operational meeting na ito para mas maganda natin ang mga proseso at outputs natin para sa ika-aayos ng sektor ng agrikultura at pangisdaan," Dir. Domenden said.

Charmine Joy Esta of the PDD presented the 2022 AFC Accomplishments regarding the number of consultations conducted, policy resolutions drafted, and local issues resolved.

The accomplishments per region were not revealed as this will be the basis for the selection in the NVD awarding the next day. After the presentation, PDD held an open forum where the AFCs shared their operational concerns in their respective regions.

PDD Chief Melinda Quinones assured the AFCs that PCAF is trying its best to continuously help address their issues and coordinate them with the Department of Agriculture and concerned national government agencies.

"Kung ano man ang meron tayo ay pagyayamanin natin. Kung wala, ay hahanap pa rin tayo ng paraan," Quinones said.

Some participants shared their best practices to help other regions resolve their local issues.

These included the conduct of regular dialogues with the local government units and implementing a planting calendar to manage the under or overproduction of certain commodities.

The PCAF will conduct the National Agriculture and Fisheries Volunteers' Day on December 13, 2022 to recognize the AFCs and the National Banner Program Committees' contributions toward the development of Philippine Agriculture. ■

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The editorial team encourages everyone to photocopy and circulate this newsletter with proper acknowledgment. Everyone is also encouraged to contribute stories of individuals or organizations engaged in the development of the agri-fishery communities.

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