



PCAF QUARTERLY



PCAF CONVENES CORN AND FEED CROP INDUSTRY STAKEHOLDERS IN ISABELA FOR THE FIRST NSC AND AFC ENCOUNTER MEETING

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) brought together key players in the corn and feed crops industry for a two-day encounter meeting in Ilagan, Isabela. The event, held on August 28-29, 2024, aimed to strengthen collaboration between two of PCAF's consultative bodies—the National Sectoral Committee on Corn and Feed Crops (NSC on CFC) and the Isabela Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC).

Six members of the NSC on CFC, including its Interim Chairperson Romualdo Elvira, Jr., joined the meeting onsite along with 23 Municipal Agricultural

and Fishery Council (AFC) Chairpersons and Representatives, led by Isabela PAFC Chairperson Alfredo Paguila and Cagayan Regional AFC Chairperson Dante Tobias. Also in attendance were Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) II Executive Director Rose Mary Aquino and National Corn Program (NCP) Senior Technical Advisor Dr. Candido Damo.

PCAF OIC-Executive Director Julieta Oplencia and around 10 NSC and AFC members also participated in the meeting remotely through Zoom. The meeting

Turn to page 2

Follow us on:



facebook.com/DA.PCAF



x.com/DA_PCAF

Visit us on:

www.pcaf.da.gov.ph

On the Web:



e-Newsletter



e-Express



e-Infographics

“Last August 12, Ilagan City celebrated its ninth anniversary of being proclaimed as the Corn Capital of the Philippines. What we noticed is that now the industry is booming, it is now being connected with livestock, especially with small ruminants, as feed crops,”

- DA-RFO II Exec. Dir. Rose Mary Aquino

discussed the regional and the National Corn Program’s projects for corn, cassava, soybean, and sorghum producers, updates on NSC on CFC policy resolutions, and current industry challenges.

One of the two adopted policy resolutions is the recommendation to increase the 2025 budget allocation for the corn industry, particularly for the DA-RFO II as a major corn-producing region. The increased budget is intended to build feed processing and irrigation facilities near corn farmland.

With the counsel of the AFCs, the NSC on CFC also adopted a policy resolution recommending the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation to review their existing policies on crop insurance coverage to include compensation for damages caused by natural phenomena, like tornadoes.

On the second day, the participants had a field visit to the champion/model corn clusters and corn-

livestock integration projects. These included the Mallig Dairy Cooperative and the Villa Luna Multi-Purpose Cooperative.

In a move to support corn farming advancements and strengthen ties with local farmer leaders, an agricultural technology company also extended an invitation to the AFCs to visit their field innovation and technology centers in Cagayan and Pangasinan.

The company, a member of the NSC on Corn and Feed Crops and a participant in the recent encounter meeting, is committed to hosting these visits to provide the AFCs with firsthand insights into their seed development processes and other cutting-edge crop protection technologies. This initiative aims to equip the AFCs with valuable knowledge that they can share with their constituents, ultimately leading to improved corn farming practices in the region.

Following this event, two more encounter meetings between the NSCs and the AFCs are scheduled this year. The NSC on Rice and other Food Staples is set to visit the Central Luzon AFCs in Nueva Ecija on September 24-27, 2024 and the NSC on Coconut will meet the AFCs in Davao on October 2-4, 2024.

The initiative was driven by the desire of the NSCs to work closely with the AFCs in addressing key issues and developing effective policy resolutions. This also underscores the importance of collaboration between multi-level government offices and industry stakeholders in promoting sustainable agricultural development.



Iloilo LGU, RAFC 6 to turn idle lands into farms

ILOILO CITY — Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor, Jr. and Regional Agricultural and Fishery Council Western Visayas (RAFC 6) Chairperson, Engr. Buen Mondejar launched a collaborative initiative to convert idle lands of Iloilo state universities into productive agricultural hubs.

On August 15, 2024, a memorandum of agreement was signed at the Visayas AFC Stakeholders Conference in Iloilo City. The activity brought together other project partners, including Department of Agriculture-Regional Executive Director Dennis Arpia, West Visayas State University-Lambunao Campus President Dr. Joselito Villaruz, and Panay Organic Producers Association President Dr. Louie Tirador.

The project, driven by Chairperson Mondejar's proposal titled "Making Idle Lands Productive,"

supports the Iloilo provincial government's MorProgres campaign to enhance regional food security.

The collaboration also seeks to develop a value chain from agri-products of converted lands, providing communities with a livelihood.

During the signing ceremony, Governor Defensor underscored the project's urgency, stating, "Food security is a national emergency."

He emphasized his administration's commitment to rapidly increasing agricultural production to support the local community and neighboring regions.

"Magtulong-tulong tayo... Saan ba pupunta ang mga products natin kundi sa bawat isang rehiyon din naman."

- Iloilo Gov. Arthur Defensor, Jr.

The Governor also committed to supporting the activities of agricultural and fishery councils in the region.



PCAF OIC Executive Director Julieta Opuencia witnessed the ceremonial signing, highlighting the initiative's alignment with the national agricultural agenda

PCAF, AFCS CHART COURSE FOR MINDANAO AGRI-FISHERY SECTOR



“ Let us also explore new innovation and develop strategies to prepare, overcome obstacles, and mitigate risks ”

JULIETA E. OPUENCIA
PCAF OIC Executive Director

”

“ We have to chart a course or plan for 2025 and focus on what our region specifically needs. ”

CYRIL L. SOLIABAN
PCAF OIC Deputy
Executive Director

”



More than 90 Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) officials and members participated in the Mindanao A and Mindanao B Participatory Performance Review and Planning Workshops on August 27 to 30, 2024 in Butuan City and on September 17-20, 2024 in Davao City, respectively.

Each of the three-day activities aimed to enhance collaboration between PCAF and the AFCs from the entire island group by promoting open and creative discussion.

PCAF OIC Deputy Executive Director (OIC DED) Cyril Soliaban highlighted the expertise and

experiences of the AFCs as crucial contributions in ensuring that the agri-fishery-related policies are aligned and advantageous to all stakeholders.

“As we reflect on the achievements and challenges in the past months, we seek your invaluable insights to shape our future direction. We have to chart a course or plan for 2025 and focus on what our region specifically needs,” said OIC DED Soliaban during the Mindanao A leg.

Led by the Regional AFC (RAFC) Chairpersons of the three regions, the participants presented their significant accomplishments and budget



utilization for Fiscal Year 2024. The Planning, Monitoring and Knowledge Management Division (PMKMD) also shared the AFC's achievements categorized by programs, activities, and projects, as well as updates on past issues and concerns.

The activities included discussions on the results of the participatory monitoring and tracking (PMT), the updates on the Intensified Community-based Dairy Enterprise Development project, and the financial status of fund liquidation and budget requirements.



PCAF also facilitated workshops among the AFCs to assess past performances and identify areas for growth and development in their respective sectors. The AFCs discussed strategies for policy actions, stakeholder engagement, partnership development, capacity enhancement, fund allocation, and membership expansion.



As a result of the workshop, the participants proposed recommendations and agreements which aimed at improving the performance and collaboration of the AFCs and PCAF in the three regions. These include strengthening participatory mechanisms, addressing financial challenges, enhancing stakeholder engagement, and developing targeted strategies for the agriculture and fisheries sector.

These activities mark the first two of six areawide performance reviews and planning workshops conducted by PCAF and its consultative bodies in 2024.



PCAF REINFORCES COMMITMENT TO EQUALITY WITH GENDER SENSITIVITY TRAINING

The PCAF facilitated the conduct of Gender Sensitivity Training on August 6-8, 2024 at the Apacible Conference Room in Quezon City as part of the Agency's commitment to continuous service improvement and capacity building for its employees.

The agency's Gender and Development Focal Point System (GAD-FPS), in collaboration with the Partnership Development Division Capacity Development Section (PDD-CDS) and the Human Resource Development Committee (HRDC), facilitated the three-day training. The activity is aimed to enhance the learners' knowledge and understanding of gender sensitivity and encourage appreciation for gender differences.

In her opening message, GAD-FPS Chairperson Floreliz Avellana emphasized the importance of not only upholding the equal opportunities for men and women but also learning about gender analysis, which is essential in drafting the GAD plans and budget.

A total of 26 participants, composed of GAD-FPS members and selected PCAF personnel, attended the training. These participants were chosen for their potential to contribute to GAD-FPS.



Gender Consultant Maria Daryl Lardizabal Leyesa, an accredited subject matter specialist by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), served as the Resource

Person. She discussed the introduction to gender and development, concepts and definitions, and how gender is being constructed. Leyesa also explained the manifestations of gender biases, gender issues mapping and response, and legal mandates and policy imperatives on GAD and gender mainstreaming.

On the last day, the resource speaker discussed GAD planning and budgeting, which includes commitment setting vis-à-vis GAD plan.

GAD-FPS Vice-Chairperson Conchita del Rosario encouraged the participants to continue their awareness, appreciation and common level of understanding on gender sensitivity and convince others about it. "It is a continuous process of learning and applying what we learned in this training," she said.



>>> **From page 8:**
PCAF holds back-to-back...

and Agri-Fisheries Mechanization, and Policy Development and Coordination Division (PDCD) Chief Engr. Francia Macalintal.

Meanwhile, the CPES performance review brought together around 70 constructors and evaluators to assess the program's progress and address implementation challenges. Since its inception in 2019, CPES had evaluated 95 ongoing DA infrastructure projects. It currently has 213 accredited evaluators.

In his opening message, PCAF OIC-Deputy Executive Director Cyril Soliaban emphasized the importance of CPES in safeguarding the integrity and quality of DA infrastructure projects. "I'm calling on our evaluators, sana maipakita natin na ang CPES ang most relevant program ng Department of Agriculture (DA)," he said. (I'm calling on our evaluators, let us show everyone that CPES is the most relevant program of the Department of Agriculture.)

DA-CPES Awardees

PCAF also recognized the outstanding contributions of evaluators and DA Implementing Offices to the CPES Program through an awarding ceremony.

Most Active CPES Implementor DA-RFO IV-A



Ace of Initiative Award DA RFO III



Trailblazer Award

*Engr. Ronnel Perey, Engr. Kaye Collada
and Engr. Ritchelle Dombasi*



Ultimate Contributor Award DA-RFO CAR



Key Contributor Award Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering



Leadership Award

*Engr. Jurilyn Balili
Received by: Engr. Christopher Abne*



Engagement Champion Award DA RFO VII



Driver of Success Award

*Engr. Katherine Balao, Engr. Christopher
Abne, and Jeshiah Mercado*



Most Active CPES Evaluator

*Engr. Katrina Tuberon-Millano
Received by: Engr. Kaye Collada*



Both NAMDAC and CPES, which are being coordinated and implemented by PCAF's PDCD - Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization and Infrastructure Support Section (AFMISS), are vital components of the DA's efforts to modernize the agriculture sector and

ensure the efficient use of public funds for infrastructure development. PCAF's commitment to holding regular performance reviews underscores its dedication to improving these programs and addressing the needs of the stakeholders.

PCAF holds back-to-back performance reviews to boost agri machinery, infra industries

The PCAF convened stakeholders from both the public and the private sectors for a series of assessments aimed at enhancing the local agricultural machinery and infrastructure industries.

Held from August 5 to 9, 2024 in Baguio City, the back-to-back midyear performance reviews of the National Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery Assemblers, Manufacturers, Importers, Distributors, and Dealers Accreditation and Classification (NAMDAC) and the Constructors' Performance Evaluation System (CPES) provided a platform for discussions on improving these vital participatory and consultative mechanisms.

In her opening message, PCAF OIC - Executive Director Julieta Ofulencia highlighted the importance of the private sectors' and suppliers' participation in making the NAMDAC Program an effective tool in advancing mechanization in the country.

"By working together, we can create a thriving system that empowers Filipino farmers and fisherfolk with access to high-quality, reliable agricultural machinery towards a more productive and food-secure nation," she said.

The NAMDAC review focused on clarifying accreditation processes and requirements, with a particular emphasis on strengthening after-sales service standards. A key outcome of the activity was the recommendation to develop guidelines for revoking the NAMDAC Certificate of Accreditation (CoA) for suppliers with poor after-sales service. This move seeks to ensure that only reputable agri-machinery suppliers can participate in government procurement.

To complement and strengthen its evaluation processes, PCAF also integrated insights from its Planning, Monitoring, and Knowledge Management Division-Monitoring and Evaluation Section (PMKMD-MES) into the performance reviews. For the first time, a representative from the PMKMD-MES shared findings on the participatory monitoring and tracking of DA infrastructure and mechanization projects.

Among the 80 participants of the NAMDAC midyear assessment were CAR Regional Technical Director Engr. Danilo Daguio, Atty. Mary Ann Pasion from the Office of the Undersecretary for Operations

[Turn to page 6](#)

**For the full stories featured in this newsletter, visit pcaf.da.gov.ph.*

Editorial Adviser: OIC-Exec. Director Julieta Ofulencia
General Supervision: Floreliz P. Avellana
Words: Joy Camille S. Luza
Jezebel D. Campaniel
Jane V. Briña
Melinda T. Quiñones

Layout: Glyza C. Quejado

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.

Please e-mail pcafofficial@pcaf.da.gov.ph or mail THE EDITOR, Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries, 3F Apacible Hall, Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City 1101. You may also visit our website at www.pcaf.da.gov.ph

BUSINESS MAIL
ENTERED AS FIRST CLASS
Postage Paid at Q.C. Central Post Office
Under Permit No. 3C-08-11-057-NCR
Subject for Postal Inspection

