



PCAF QUARTERLY



PCAF, DA Livestock Agencies, private sector team up to revitalize livestock and poultry industry

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA) Livestock Agencies, successfully concluded the 2024 National Livestock and Poultry Summit on October 12, 2024. The four-day event brought together nearly 200 stakeholders from the livestock and poultry industry, including government officials, veterinarians, and private sector representatives. [continue reading on page 4](#)

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PCAF concludes this year's Areawide PR and PWs

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) conducted the final leg of its Areawide Participatory Performance Review (PR) and Planning Workshops (PWs) in the agri-tourism city of Tagaytay on November 6 to 7, 2024.

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PCAF holds Sectoral Committee Encounter to address coconut industry challenges

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), in partnership with Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), convened the Sectoral Committee Encounter of the PCAF National Sectoral...

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...Committee (NSC) on Coconut and the Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs) of Quezon Province on October 2-4, 2024 in Tayabas City, Quezon.

Over 70 private stakeholders and representatives from the Department of Agriculture attended the event to discuss updates and address challenges facing the coconut industry.

PCA Corporate Planning Service Department Manager Ma. Odessa Pacaul, representing PCA Administrator Dr. Dexter Buted, emphasized the importance of the encounter in fostering closer ties between the government and coconut farmers.

Kayo po ang puso ng industriya ng niyog, at narito kami upang makinig at makipagtulungan sa inyo. Ang ating sectoral encounter ngayong araw ay napakahalaga dahil ito ang magiging daan para mas mapalapit sa inyo ang mga programa ng ating pamahalaan, lalo na ang ating Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan. (You are the heart of the coconut industry, and we are here to listen and collaborate with you. This sectoral encounter will pave the way for our government programs, especially the Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan, to reach you more effectively.)

- Ma. Odessa Pacaul, on behalf of PCA Administrator Dr. Dexter Buted

PCA Regional Office IV-A Manager Bibiano Concibido, Jr. highlighted Quezon Province's significance as the country's leading coconut producer, with an annual production of approximately 1,318,966.76 metric tons. He also shared that one of the region's strengths is its numerous processing plants, including coconut oil mills, oil refineries, and desiccated coconut plants.

Despite its potential, the industry faces challenges such as an increasing number of senile trees and an aging farmer population. To address these challenges and promote sustainable coconut farming, Concibido discussed the implementation of a Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting Program (MCPRP) targeting 20 million coconut trees in CALABARZON by 2025.

In line with this, PCA Quezon II Division Chief Belen Ruiz outlined the region's plans and programs, which are primarily intended for registered farmers in the National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS). Beneficiaries can receive a combination of project components, with special consideration given to farmers in Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs), Indigenous Peoples, and rebel returnees.

Key projects included the Sustainable Planting and Replanting of Local Cultivars Project, Coconut Fertilization Project, Coconut-Carabao Development Project, and Coconut Hybridization Program.

As of the meeting, a total of 2,848,847 farmers are registered in NCFRS nationwide, with 303,592 farmers registered in Region IV-A (CALABARZON), making it the third most registered region.

Fifteen (15) policy resolutions were proposed during the sectoral committee encounter. Among the major recommendations were simplifying the application process for organized coconut farmer groups to receive vehicles and machinery, identifying more specific areas to visit and expand outreach efforts for crop insurance policies to farmers, and analyzing and promoting the intercropping of coconut with coffee or cacao as an alternative or supplemental source of income for farmers.

On behalf of PCAF OIC-Executive Director Julieta Opulencia, Policy Development and Coordination Division OIC-Chief Sarah Bales expressed gratitude to the participants and assured them that PCAF will prioritize the development and endorsement of policy resolutions generated from the activity.





"We have been doing this activity every year and we assure you that this is a testament to PCAF's steadfast commitment in fostering strong partnerships between the government and our partners— the private sector stakeholders."

- PCAF OIC-Executive Director
Julieta E. Opulencia



Participated in by the Agricultural and Fishery Council (AFC) officers, accounting and budget officers from the Luzon B Cluster (CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and Bicol Regions), the two-day activity kicked-off with a warm welcome from the host region.

Maria Ella Cecilia Obligado, the newly designated Regional Executive Officer of CALABARZON, emphasized during her welcome message the importance of collaboration with the AFCs to further strengthen its role in partnership with the government in the delivery of its services to the farmers and fishers.

"This activity is a way of empowering our AFCs most especially in understanding the process: From planning and budgeting to implementation, monitoring and then assessment. With this, we can ensure the success of our programs and see what we have accomplished so far," she reiterated.

Obligado, who is also the Chief of the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division of DA RFO CALABARZON, represented Regional Executive Director Fidel Libao.

Additionally, PCAF OIC-Executive Director Julieta Opulencia acknowledged the commitment and passion of the AFCs despite the hurdles they experienced during the onslaught of Tropical Storm Kristine prior to this activity. ■

Taos puso kaming umaasa na mas marami pang magniniyog ang makikinabang sa CFIDP at iba pang mga programa ng gobyerno. Rest assured na tututukan ng PCAF ang inyong mga recommendations. Maraming salamat sa inyong aktibong pakikibahagi at dedikasyon, sa inyong pagsisikap at pagtutulungan tayo ay huhubog ng matatag at maunlad na kinabukasan para sa ating mga magniniyog at mas malawak na sektor ng agrikultura. (We sincerely hope that more coconut farmers will benefit from the CFIDP and other government programs. Rest assured that PCAF will focus on your recommendations. Thank you for your active participation and dedication; through your efforts and cooperation, we will build a strong and prosperous future for our coconut farmers and the broader agricultural sector.) ■

- Sarah Bales, on behalf of PCAF OIC-Executive Director
Julieta Opulencia



Deogracias Victor Savellano
Undersecretary for Livestock

The summit focused on DA initiatives, key industry updates, challenges, and opportunities for the sector. Among the topics discussed were the DA's efforts on animal disease surveillance and monitoring, African Swine Fever (ASF) and Avian Influenza (AI) vaccinations, dairy herd build-up, providing credit and insurance services, and supporting emerging livestock and poultry industries, such as quail, rabbit, and honeybees.

"Ako'y nagagalak po na ngayon ang Department of Agriculture, under the leadership of our good secretary, Secretary Francisco "Kiko" Tiu-Laurel, ay developmental po yung gusto niyang gawin at maging productive po tayo sa lahat. Kunwari pinaguusapan natin ang livestock ngayon, nakita namin na talagang medyo yung mga hayop natin, all species ang pag-usapan, kasi masyado tayong nakatugon sa baboy, sa manok, pero madami din po tayong napapabayaang," Usec. Savellano said. (I am happy that now, under the leadership of our esteemed Secretary Francisco 'Kiko' Tiu-Laurel, the Department of Agriculture is focused on development and productivity in all aspects. For instance, when we talk about livestock now, we realize that we need to consider all species of animals, because we've been overly focused on pigs and chickens, and have neglected other livestock.)

He also highlighted the department's initiatives to support the feed industry and prevent the entry of transboundary animal diseases through

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Ang daming gustong pumasok ng livestock [enterprise] pero ngayon ang magiging problema na po nila yung mga pagkain, forage. So yan po ang isang gusto naming gawin, na ating palakasin, para po masuportahan po ang industriya. Secondly, nandito po kami ngayon because ang isang event po namin dito, we're also discussing yung about CEFA, na gustong mangyari ng ating presidente at tinutugunan na po ng ating secretary. (Many people want to enter the livestock industry, but now their main problem will be feed and forage. So, that's one of the things we want to strengthen to support the industry. Secondly, we're here today because one of the events we're discussing is about CEFA, which our president wants to happen and our secretary is already addressing.

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the establishment of Cold Examination Facilities in Agriculture (CEFA).

Also joining the event were DA Assistant Secretary Dr. Benjamin Albarece, DA-RFO VII Technical Director Dr. Wilberto Castillo, Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) OIC-Director Diosamia Sevilla, and PCAF OIC-Deputy Executive Director Cyril Soliaban.

The summit resulted in several key agreements, including the granting of authority to DA-Regional Executive Directors and Local Chief Executives to declare ASF outbreaks, provided that laboratory tests are conducted and have resulted positive. Other recommendations involved the enhanced information campaigns on the indemnification guidelines for AI-affected farms and farmers and the establishment of new rehabilitation programs for ASF-affected areas.

The DA also informed the participants that they are currently coordinating with local government units regarding the ASF vaccination efforts and that biosecurity guidelines for monitoring and surveillance of animal diseases are being crafted.

The Pork Producers Federations of the Philippines, Inc. and the National Federation of Hog Farmers, Inc. also expressed their willingness to assist BAI in distributing the initial batch of 10,000 ASF vaccines by organizing local hog producers.

Over 70 participants also visited the Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative on October 10, 2024 in Pinamungajan, Cebu to learn about sustainable livestock and poultry farming practices. The cooperative's success serves as a model for other cooperatives in the region.

The participants had the opportunity to explore the cooperative's diverse agricultural ventures, including a farm school specializing in poultry, livestock, and cacao, as well as agri-booths, greenhouses, a dairy buffalo multiplier farm, a dairy processing plant, a white buffalo and forage area, an

Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Program area, a poultry farm, and an orchard. Additionally, the stakeholders visited the cooperative's dairy box, where it sells its products.

The Lamac Coop, a partner and beneficiary of DA, was chosen as the model coop to demonstrate how associations and cooperatives can contribute to food security and rural development.

The 2024 National Livestock and Poultry Summit was hosted by the DA-Regional Field Office VII and conducted in collaboration with various DA livestock agencies, including the National Livestock Program, BAI, National Meat Inspection Service, National Dairy Authority, and Philippine Carabao Center. ■





Interview with Calapan, Oriental Mindoro CAFC Chairperson Gio Earl Laguerta



Courtesy call with Puerto Princesa, Palawan City Agriculturist Melissa Theodora Macasaet



Interview with NSC on Fruits and Vegetables Chairperson Dr. Mary Ann Sayoc



Interview with MIMAROPA RAFC Chairperson Alfonso Esguerra, Jr.



Interview with Mataasnakahoy, Batangas MAFC Chairperson Maribel Orense



Interview with CALABARZON RAFC Chairperson Flordeliza Maleon

PCAF's Knowledge Management Section conducted two Lakbay Panayam activities this year—one in the MIMAROPA Region on April 22-26, 2024 and one in the CALABARZON Region on September 23-27, 2024. Also known as Conversations on the Move, Lakbay Panayam is a strategic initiative of the Knowledge Management Section (KMS) aimed at fostering meaningful dialogues with private sector partners, particularly the Agricultural and Fishery Councils (AFCs). This activity serves as a platform for capturing invaluable tacit agricultural and organizational knowledge, providing insights into the innovative practices and creative solutions implemented by these partners.

For the first time in the conduct of the Lakbay Panayam, the KMS had included a National Sectoral Committee (NSC) representative among the interviewees to gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities private sector partners face at different levels.

The goal of this activity is to capture tacit agricultural and organizational knowledge for the KMS to determine the best practices and creative solutions implemented by its private sector partners and process them into creative knowledge products for dissemination and possible replication in other regions.

Lakbay Panayam also intends to showcase the vibrant volunteerism and commitment of the AFCs and the NSCs by documenting their accomplishments and contributions to the development of the sector. Likewise, Lakbay Panayam highlights the efforts of the local government units in supporting the Councils and the contributions of women in the development of the sector in the region.

The KMS is also conducting a Lakbay Panayam in the Western Visayas Region on November 16-25, 2024. ■



PCAF launches Capstone Project to strengthen stakeholder engagement in rice farm machinery M&E in CamNorte

PCAF recently concluded the pilot implementation of a Capstone Project that aims to strengthen the engagement of the agency's private sector-partners in the monitoring and evaluation of rice farm machinery in Camarines Norte on September 1 to 7, 2024.

PCAF, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Office (RFO) V, and the provincial government of Camarines Norte, launched the Capstone Project titled "Strengthening Participatory M&E: Enhanced Guidelines for Stakeholder Engagement in the Implementation of Rice Farm Machinery Projects."

The week-long initiative aimed to identify and address factors hindering stakeholder participation in the M&E mechanisms for rice farm machinery projects. Aside from this, the activity also aimed to foster greater transparency, accountability, and stakeholder participation among PCAF's Consultative Bodies.

The project was led by Joane Carla Auditor, PCAF-Planning and Programming Section Chief and a scholar under the Development Academy of the Philippines' Public Management Development Program Middle Managers Class Batch 33. ■

PCAF, MLGU, MAFC lead solid waste management initiatives in Taysan, Batangas via DAP Capstone Project

On September 25, 2024, the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), through the Partnership Development Division (PDD), held a coordination meeting with the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU) and Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC) of Taysan, Batangas to discuss a Capstone Project aimed at improving solid waste management (SWM) practices in a pilot barangay in Taysan.

The Capstone Project is entitled, "Improved Implementation of Proper Solid Waste Management Practices through LGU-AFC Collaboration: A Model of Stakeholder Communication and Engagement", and is being implemented in coordination with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) IV-A and the Regional AFC (RAFC) IV-A.

Engr. Clarisse Comia of the MLGU and MAFC Chairperson Eduardo Capili agreed to support the project and its implementation in Taysan, recommending Poblacion West as the pilot barangay.

The team is led by Ms. Charmine Joy Esta, PCAF-PDD Social Mobilization Section Chief and a scholar under the Development Academy of the Philippines' Public Management Development Program-Middle Managers Class Batch 33. ■



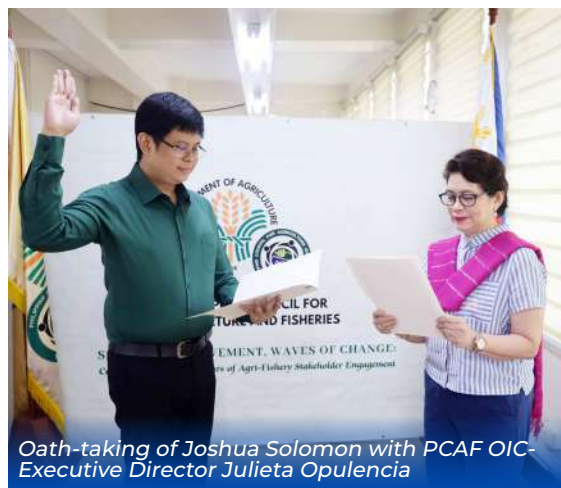
PCAF strengthens its workforce with new team members

The Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries welcomed new members of its workforce as three development management officers (DMO) took an oath in August and in September 2024.

Joshua Solomon was promoted as DMO II while Jaira Maala and Fraulein Claire Ronquillo were hired as DMO II and DMO I, respectively.

Solomon, Maala, and Ronquillo will report to the Volunteer Management Section (VMS) of the agency's Partnership Development Division.

VMS is responsible for designing and implementing strategies to recruit, retain, and engage volunteers in the agriculture and fishery sector.



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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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