



Department of Agriculture
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

PHilMech

Monthly News Bits

Volume 1. No. 2 | February 2026 Issue



Scan the QR Code to access
the online version

PHilMech to support Tanzania, African countries on mechanization dev't

Jett Molech G. Subaba

TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA – At the initiative of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and in line with its goal of eradicating hunger and achieving food security for all, the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) was called upon to share its best practices in agricultural mechanization development in Tanzania, East Africa.

Continue on page 2 →



PHilMech Leads Groundbreaking of Php50M Coconut Processing Facility in Lanao del Sur

Cristine Joy S. Corpuz

MALABANG, LANA DEL SUR - PHilMech spearheaded the groundbreaking of a Php50-million Coconut Cooking Oil Processing Facility in Brgy. Matalin, Malabang, Lanao del Sur on January 30.

The agency presented an overview of the proposed facility, joined by representatives from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), local officials, and coconut industry stakeholders. The facility aims to improve farmers' livelihoods and is expected to be operational by July 2026.

AnCEF Mechanization Program Gears Up

PHilMech Strategic Communications Group

QUEZON CITY - Dr. Rodel Idago led the first exploratory meeting of the Technical Working Group for the AnCEF Mechanization Program at the National Dairy Authority (NDA) in Quezon City on February 2.

The NDA, headed by Administrator Atty. Marcus Andaya, expressed full support and will host an upcoming workshop to develop implementing guidelines for the dairy component of the program.

Bulacan FITS Centers Receives New PHilMech IEC Materials

Vanessa D. Pallar

Mary Ann Rose German

BULACAN - Eight towns in Bulacan received a new set of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials during the Updating of Postharvest Section at the Farmers' Information and Technology Services Center on February 25–26, including Marilao, Bocaue, and Guiguinto, Bulacan.

An initial discussion was also held on the upcoming information series, led by Provincial Agriculturist Ma. Gloria SF. Carillo together with municipal and city agriculturists, with content tailored to the needs of local farmers.

The activity aims to strengthen farmers' knowledge on postharvest practices and improve productivity in the province.



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization

3 - 6 February



Johari Rotana, Dar es Salaam
Tanzania



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



PHilMech to support Tanzania, African countries on mechanization dev't (Continued from Page 1)

PHilMech Director Dionisio G. Alwindia led the delegation and affirmed the agency's commitment to Tanzania and other African countries by sharing its expertise and best practices, particularly in implementing mechanization programs such as the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund.

This program helped increase the mechanization level in the Philippines from 2.31 to 2.81 horsepower per hectare, reduced labor costs by Php 2 per kilogram, and saved enough additional rice supply from losses to feed 95,000 families annually.

"We at PHilMech from the Philippines are committed to supporting Tanzania and other African countries by sharing technical expertise and best practices to enhance your

mechanization efforts, in collaboration with FAO and other partners," Dr. Alwindia stated.

The agency also presented its mechanization interventions and systems to various stakeholders, including the Tanzania Ministry of Agriculture, Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute, World Bank Tanzania, African Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) – Tanzania Office, and the European Union Office in Tanzania.

In addition to these engagements, Dr. Alwindia and Engr. Raymond Andres participated in the Africa Conference on Sustainable Agricultural Mechanization held in Tanzania.

A Tanzanian delegation is expected to visit PHilMech in March this year.

Cacao Growers in Guimaras Trained on Postharvest Practices

Shaira Gem M. Lacson

SIBUNAG, GUIMARAS - PHilMech, in partnership with the Provincial Government of Guimaras, conducted a Training Course on Mechanization and Postharvest Technologies for Cacao on February 23–24 at the Spring Bloom Agrifarm Learning Site for Agriculture in Concordia, Sibunag, Guimaras. The two-day training was attended by 18 technical staff and cacao growers from the provincial office and select municipal local government units.

The program aimed to enhance participants' knowledge on proper cacao postharvest handling and processing, focusing on fermentation, drying, and moisture control. Through the use of appropriate technologies, the training seeks to help growers produce high-quality cacao beans that meet industry standards.



Coconut Oil Processing Facility Set to Rise in Davao de Oro

Cristine Joy S. Corpuz

NABUNTURAN, DAVAO DE ORO – The groundbreaking of the Integrated White Copra and Cooking Oil Processing Center of the Nabunturan Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative was held on February 24 in Magsaysay, Nabunturan, Davao de Oro.

Valued at around Php 40 million under the CFIDP-SFP program, the facility aims to boost production and income for local coconut farmers through modern copra and cooking oil processing.



North Luzon Growth Quadrangle Meets to Boost Agri-Fisheries Mechanization

Jett Molech G. Subaba

QUEZON CITY - A key meeting of the North Luzon Growth Quadrangle was held on February 4, 2026, at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, attended by congressmen and regional directors of different government agencies from Northern Luzon.

PHilMech shared its accomplishments and targets under the RCEF Mechanization Program and CFIDP Shared Facilities for Processing, focusing on improving productivity and postharvest efficiency for farmers and fisherfolk.



Region III and CALABARZON Farmers Trained in Mechanized Rice Planting

Pia Sarina M. Fukasawa

BACOR, CAVITE – Around 25 members of farmers' cooperatives, associations, and local government units from Region III and CALABARZON joined a two-day training on mechanized rice planting held on February 18–19.

Participants, beneficiaries of the RCEF Mechanization Program, enhanced their knowledge and skills through lectures and hands-on training on proper operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of farm machinery.

The activity was led by PHilMech's Technology Management and Training Division in partnership with its Facility Management and Field Operations Division, Agri Component Corporation, and Villar SIPAG Foundation.



RPS II Facility Boosts Rice Production in Capiz

Mark Dheniel A. Gutierrez

The RPS II facility was formally turned over to the municipal government of Pontevedra, Capiz on February 19 as part of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program.

Valued at around Php60 million, the facility features a multi-stage rice mill and two recirculating dryers. It is expected to boost rice production and improve grain quality across the province.



PHilMech Holds Pahuway 2026 Workplace Wellness Day

 Karl Allen V. Aquino

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA – The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) conducted Pahuway 2026: A Workplace Wellness Day last February 9 at the PHilMech Main Office in Science City of Muñoz to emphasize the value of pausing and prioritizing rest as part of promoting work-life balance within the agency.

Director III Joel V. Dator led the program with a brief opening message, followed by AD-HRMS Chief Ms. Lovelle D. Ramos, who shared insights on the meaning and importance of “pahuway.”

A Talakayang Pahuway session featured Mr. Jequexer Legaspi Garlejo, a part-time philosophy educator, who discussed “pahuway” or the power of pausing and the importance of taking intentional breaks.

Hon. Banjo Z. Munar, a seasoned public servant from San Jose City, Nueva Ecija, spoke about “padayon” or showing up and moving forward, highlighting the importance of perseverance amid life’s pressures and challenges.

Meanwhile, licensed psychologist and psychometrician Ms. Ylona Veronica Aben-Bayod emphasized “puhon” or trusting in perfect timing and the value of patience and faith in one’s journey.

The program continued with “Balik Sama: A Shared Table Experience,” where employees gathered for a boodle fight to foster camaraderie and shared reflection.

In the afternoon, activities such as Tagpuan, Kainan sa Pahuway, Palaro, and a music jam by PHilMech Himig Anihan gave personnel the opportunity to relax, connect, and recharge from the demands of work.



Department of Agriculture
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

PHilMech
Monthly News Bits
Volume 1, No. 2 | February 2026 Issue

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editorial Consultant: Elijah Z. Davalos | **Editor-in-chief:** Jett Molech G. Subaba | **Associate Editor:** Shaira Gem M. Lacson | **Layout Artist:** Karl Allen V. Aquino | **Circulation Manager:** Angela Lea DR. Ramirez | **Photographer:** Isaiah Leene V. Infante, Mark Dheniel A. Gutierrez, Karl Allen V. Aquino

Contributing Writers: Jett Molech G. Subaba, Cristine Joy S. Corpuz, Vanessa D. Pallar, Mary Ann Rose German, Shaira Gem M. Lacson, Pia Sarina M. Fukasawa, Mark Dheniel A. Gutierrez, Karl Allen V. Aquino

PHilMech News Bits highlights the agency’s activities as the country’s lead institution in postharvest development and mechanization, delivering timely updates on programs, innovations, and partnerships that support farmers and the agriculture sector.