



Department of Agriculture  
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

# PHilMech

## Monthly News Bits

Volume 1. No. 1 | January 2026 Issue



Scan the QR Code to access  
the online version

## PBBM visits RPS II in Antique

✎ Mark Dheniel A. Gutierrez

**HAMTIC, ANTIQUE** – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. visited the province of Antique on January 19 to inspect the state-of-the-art Rice Processing System awarded under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program to the Hamtic Multipurpose Cooperative.

Continue on page 3 →



## PhilMech Begins COA Audit for CY 2025

✎ Shaira Gem M. Lacson

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA** - The Division Chiefs of PhilMech attended the COA Entrance Conference on January 8 at the PhilMech Auditorium, marking the kickoff of the audit for Calendar Year 2025.

The meeting discussed the audit scope, methodology, and expected outputs, including the review of the agency's financial transactions, operations, and key programs.

## Mayor of Ilagan, Isabela Visits PHilMech

✎ Joanna Aquin R. Hofileña

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA** - Deputy Director Joel V. Dator warmly welcomed Hon. Josemarie Diaz, Mayor of Ilagan, Isabela, during his visit to PHilMech on January 20.

During the meeting, the Mayor conferred with PHilMech representatives to discuss the ongoing RCEF interventions in the province, as well as the possible provision of additional machinery and facilities for the city.

## PCC and Radyo Agri holds another meeting for Broadcast Partnership

✎ Ma. Bernadeth P. Grospe

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA** - Radyo Agri management and representatives from the Philippine Carabao Center–Knowledge Management Division (PCC-KMD) held another meeting to finalize their broadcast partnership with the station.

Aside from the program schedule and arrangements, the team also discussed other possible collaborations between the agencies, including news exchanges and the airing of radio materials on Radyo Agri.

The partnership aims to strengthen agricultural information dissemination by expanding public access to timely and relevant farm-related programs through radio broadcasting.



## Construction of Php47M coconut processing facility begins in Antique

 Cristine Joy S. Corpuz

**HAMTIC, ANTIQUE** – The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) led the groundbreaking ceremony of the Php47M Coconut Cooking Oil Processing Facility in Brgy. Funda, Hamtic, Antique on January 16. The project is part of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan – Shared Facilities for Processing (CFIDP-SFP).

During the program, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Regional Manager Dr. Neil J. Melecion presented an overview of the CFIDP and emphasized the roles of various implementing agencies in supporting coconut farmers.

Following this, Dr. Andres M. Tuates Jr., Interim Head of the Coconut Trust Fund–Facility Management and Operations Division (CTF-FMOD) of PHilMech, delivered a message on behalf of PHilMech Director Dionisio G. Alvindia. He discussed the proposed cooking oil processing facility and emphasized its goal of improving the livelihoods of coconut farmers.

In his message, Congressman Antonio Legarda said the facility would benefit coconut farmers in Antique by increasing their income and enhancing their quality of life. He also assured that his office, together with Senator Loren Legarda, would extend full support to the initiative, and he expressed his gratitude to PHilMech for implementing the project.

Additionally, the Provincial Government of Antique conveyed its support, including the allocation of Php2M for the installation of a three-phase power line, which is essential for the facility's operations.

Meanwhile, Lourdes Saad of the Hamtic Farmers Marketing Cooperative pledged that the cooperative would properly

manage and maintain the facility, describing it as a valuable opportunity for its members.

The event was attended by key stakeholders, including PHilMech, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Provincial Government of Antique, Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 6, members of the Hamtic Coconut Farmers Marketing Cooperative, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), and the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

The coconut cooking oil processing facility is expected to be operational by July 2026.

## DTI-Nueva Ecija and EDD held a collaborative meeting

 Shaira Gem M. Lacson

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIIJA** - PHilMech EDD and DTI Nueva Ecija led a collaborative meeting on January 27 for DTI's mentoring program (Kapatid Mentor Me – KMME) to strengthen the capabilities of EDD staff as mentors for the beneficiaries of PHilMech programs.

Discussions focused on enhancing their entrepreneurial and mentoring competencies to more effectively guide agri-fishery stakeholders in developing sustainable and profitable business plans.

## PHiMech and PhilRice enhance the RCEF Mech training module

Christine V. Ang

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA –** Representatives from PHiMech and PhilRice jointly discussed on January 20 the revision and improvement of the RCEF Mechanization Program’s training module used in training beneficiaries of farm machinery distributed under the program.

The updates include the addition of topics on the proper care and management of farm machinery, which aim to serve as a key measure in preventing weed infestations in rice fields.



## PhilMech joins ATI’s 39th Founding Anniversary

Jona T. Paulo

**QUEZON CITY -** PHiMech participated in the celebration of the 39th Founding Anniversary of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) held at the Rural Development Education Center, ATI, Quezon City on January 29, with the theme “Loyalty in Action: Driving Agricultural Excellence Through Service and Accountability.”

The celebration featured the launch and unveiling of key institutional initiatives and knowledge products of ATI.



## RCEF Machinery Provincial Turnover Held in Misamis Oriental

Pia Sarina M. Fukasawa

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA –** The provincial turnover of agricultural machinery under the RCEF Mechanization Program was held on January 26 in Misamis Oriental, where seven Farmers’ Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) received modern farm equipment.

A total of 13 machinery units worth Php 18,680,173 were distributed, including three four-wheel drive tractors, one rice combine harvester, six village-type rice mills, and three precision rice seeders aimed at improving farm productivity and postharvest efficiency.



## PBBM visits RPS II in Antique (Continued from Page 1)

The RPS 2 was inaugurated on November 10, 2025, and is now fully operational to support and improve postharvest operations for farmers in the province.

Valued at Php 60.9 million, the facility features two recirculating dryers with a drying capacity of six tons per batch each and a multi-stage rice mill capable of milling

2–3 tons per hour. During the President’s visit, PHiMech also distributed production technologies under the same program worth Php 10.8 million, including four-wheel drive tractors and rice combine harvesters, which were awarded to five qualified farmers’ cooperatives and associations from the province.



## PHilMech Joins 13th Uhay Grand Parade in Science City of Muñoz

Karl Allen V. Aquino

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA** – The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) actively took part in the 13th Uhay Grand Parade held last January 20 in Science City of Muñoz.

Led by Director III Joel V. Dator, the agency demonstrated unity and strong participation as employees joined the colorful festivities.

Members of the PHilMech Management Committee (ManCom), PHilMech Riders, and agency personnel energized the parade by showcasing one of its banner programs, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Program (CFIDP) Shared Facilities for Processing, through lively dances and spirited cheers.

The parade was held as part of the celebration of the city's 26th anniversary.



Department of Agriculture  
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

**PHilMech**  
Monthly News Bits  
Volume 1, No. 1 | January 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:** Mark Dheniel A. Gutierrez, Shaira Gem M. Lacson, Joanna Aquin R. Hofileña, Ma. Bernadeth P. Grospe, Cristine Joy S. Corpuz, Shaira Gem M. Lacson, Christine V. Ang, Jone T. Paulo, Pia Sarina M. Fukasawa, 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.