



Department of Agriculture  
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

# PHilMech

## Monthly News Bits

Volume 1. No. 3 | March 2026 Issue



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## PHilMech conducts WE Concert for a Cause

✎ Karl Allen V. Aquino

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA** – The PHilMech Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System (GFPS) staged the WE (Women and Everyone) Concert for a Cause on March 19 at PHilMech Main Office in Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, as part of the 2026 National Women's Month celebration.

Continue on page 2 ➔



## PHilMech Conducts Benchmark Visit to National Archives of the Philippines

✎ Shaira Gem M. Lacson

**MANILA** - PHilMech conducted a benchmark visit to the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP) on March 5 to discuss the agency's issues and concerns regarding records management. NAP also presented its Electronic Records Management System, and PHilMech had the opportunity to tour the facilities for orientation and a demonstration on archival restoration and records management.

The visit aimed to strengthen knowledge and skills in proper records management in accordance with NAP standards.

## Information Series Conducted in Partnership with Bulacan

✎ Vanessa D. Pallar

✎ Mary Ann Rose G. German

**BULACAN** - An information series on rice mechanization was conducted in partnership with the Bulacan Agriculture Office on March 17 and 19 through a webinar session.

The first session covered mechanized land preparation, discussed by Mr. Roland F. Ruiz of Facility Management and Field Operations Division, while the second session focused on rice planting machinery, presented by Mr. Mario V. Pascua of Technology Management And Training Division. The activity was attended by farmer leaders and representatives from the municipal agriculture offices of Bulacan.

## Implementation of RAFMES in La Union supported by PHilMech

✎ Noel S. Mariano Jr.

**LA UNION** - PHilMech continues to strengthen the local agricultural system in the province of La Union through the Registration of Ownership of Agricultural and Fisheries Machines and Equipment System (RAFMES).

A turnover ceremony was conducted by the agency on February 19 in the City of San Fernando, where each model local government unit in the province was provided with a QR printer—an essential tool needed for the implementation of the system.

The activity also included the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement.

Through the Interim Communication Technology and Digital Transformation Division, this initiative demonstrates PHilMech's continuing support to ensure the efficient management and registration of agricultural and fisheries machinery and equipment.



## PHilMech conducts WE Concert for a Cause

*From page 1....*

The concert aimed to extend support and hope to Home for Girls, a care and rescue facility for abused young girls in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, and to the San Jose Philharmonic Orchestra, the event's beneficiaries.

The program featured vibrant musical performances from PHilMech Himig Anihan and PHilMech Banda Anihan, while PHilMech Indak Anihan showcased energetic and modern dance routines.

The CLSU Maestro Singers delivered a world-class performance through classical and contemporary pieces, while the Bungkos Palay Dance Company captivated the audience with meaningful traditional dances. The evening

concluded with a performance from the San Jose Philharmonic Orchestra.

Meanwhile, PHilMech GAD Focal Person Ms. Bezt Gee S. Magararu expressed appreciation for women in her message, stating, "Let us continue to recognize and honor the strength, the courage, and the honorable contributions of women not just in ordinary lives but in nation-building, culture, and the arts."

Overall, the WE Concert for a Cause successfully delivered entertainment, inspiration, and tangible support to its beneficiaries, while strengthening recognition of women's contributions to society, arts, and culture in the Philippines.

## First White Copra Drying Facility in the Country Inaugurated in Region VII

*Cristine Joy S. Corpuz*

**MABINI, BOHOL** - The first White Copra Drying Facility in the country was officially turned over to the Aguipo Coconut Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Mabini, Bohol on February 25.

The project was spearheaded by PHilMech in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority and the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The facility, established under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), costs Php 32.5 million.

The turnover ceremony also served as a convergence event, highlighting the unified support of agencies implementing the CFIDP and local government officials. The occasion also underscored the role of the facility in strengthening the province's wellness tourism and nutritional feeding value chains.

According to Dr. Aldrin A. Darilag, Department Manager of the CFIDP–Project Management Office, "This is more than just a building; it is a Php 32.5M investment in the dignity and prosperity of our coconut farmers. By being the first in the nation to operate this technology, the Aguipo Cooperative is leading the way toward a modernized, climate-resilient coconut industry."

Meanwhile, on behalf of PHilMech Director IV Dr. Dionisio G. Alvindia, Dr. Andres M. Tuates Jr. presented the operational framework of the Shared Facility for Processing White Copra. The facility aims to become a fully integrated coconut hub within three years, capable of processing various value-added coconut products.

Through the CFIDP, the program continues to expand its implementation in coconut-producing communities to further improve coconut processing and increase the income of coconut farmers across the country.

## Director Alwindia Highlights PH Cacao Industry at Japan Symposium

Jett Molech G. Subaba

**TOKYO, JAPAN** – PHilMech Director IV Dr. Dionisio G. Alwindia discussed the Philippine cacao industry, focusing on production and postharvest challenges, at the Banana and Cacao Disease Management symposium on March 4.

The event is part of the JICA and JST-supported BaCaDM project, where Dr. Alwindia shared strategies for sustainable cacao and banana production. Insights aligned with efforts to develop sustainable disease management systems for stable banana and cacao supply chains.



## Y4M Advocacy Campaign Introduced to Isabela State University Students

Ma. Bernadeth P. Grospe

Alessandra Colleen S. De Guzman

**SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIIJA** - Students from Isabela State University, taking courses in Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Technology and Livelihood Education, and Environmental Science, recently visited PHilMech as part of their experiential learning.

During the visit, the Youth for Mechanization (Y4M) conducted an advocacy campaign to encourage youth participation in agriculture through mechanization.



## DA Secretary Tiu Laurel Holds Dialogue with Tarlac Farmers

Jett Molech G. Subaba

**CAMILING, TARLAC** – Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. held a dialogue with farmers from the Pindangan 2nd Primary Multipurpose Cooperative on March 6 to discuss key agricultural concerns and strengthen support for the farming sector.

The activity was attended by PHilMech Director Dionisio G. Alwindia, PHilMech Deputy Director Joel V. Dator, DA-RFO III Director Eduardo Lapuz, Jr., and Camiling Mayor Joyce Agustin, along with staff from the Agricultural Program Coordinating Office, the Provincial and Municipal Local Government Units, and PHilMech.

During the meeting, participants discussed measures to improve services and assistance for farmers, including mechanization support, training opportunities, and access to various government agricultural programs.



## PHilMech Continues Support for Women's Month

Noel S. Mariano Jr.

**MANILA** – PHilMech demonstrated its ongoing commitment to Women's Month by participating in the kick-off activities of the Philippine Commission on Women on March 6 at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum and March 9 at the DA Central Office.

This reflects the agency's strong support for initiatives that recognize and empower the contributions of women in agriculture and national development.



## PBBM Joins Harvesting and Postharvest Activities in Guimba, Nueva Ecija

Karl Allen V. Aquino

Mark Dheniel A. Gutierrez

**GUIMBA, NUEVA ECIJA** – President Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr. visited Barangay Casongsong, Guimba, Nueva Ecija today, March 13, to join the harvesting, drying, and milling activities of the Cooperative Enterprise for True Economic Reform (CENTER).

During the activity, the President personally operated a rice combine harvester and joined local CENTER farmers in harvesting palay. After the harvest, he witnessed the drying of palay using a recirculating dryer.

Following this, the President visited the state-of-the-art Rice Processing System II (RPS II) to observe the milling process that turns palay into high-quality rice.

The RPS II was inaugurated on August 29, 2024, costing Php 60.29 million, as part of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program led by PHilMech.

Also present were Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco “Kiko” P. Tiu Laurel, Jr., PHilMech Director IV Dr. Dionisio G. Alvindia, and PHilMech Deputy Joel V. Dator.

Dir. Alvindia emphasized the role of postharvest facilities in supporting farmers and maintaining the quality of their harvest.

He said, “Under RCEF 2.0, a larger percentage of postharvest facilities will be provided to farmers to better preserve the quality of their harvest.”

The RPS II under the RCEF Mechanization Program is a modern facility for drying and milling palay, aimed at reducing postharvest losses, increasing farmers’ income, improving the quality of milled rice, and expanding the use of machinery in rice production.



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**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.