Department of Agriculture
Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

PHilMech Monthly News Bits

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PHilMech Team Leads Agricultural Mission in Tanzania

Jett Molech G. Subaba

TANZANIA – A delegation from PHilMech, led by Director IV Dionisio G. Alvindia, Ph.D., along with Rodel G. Idago, Ph.D., and Mr. Donald V. Mateo, traveled to Tanzania in coordination with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Tanzania Agricultural Research Institute.

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Gender Awareness Training Held in Aurora

Noel S. Mariano Jr.

DINGALAN, AURORA – PHilMech, in partnership with Dingalan National High School, conducted a Gender and Development Awareness Training for school personnel on October 3.

The training covered gender stereotypes, discrimination, and other gender issues to promote a gender-responsive perspective among participants and encourage the creation of a safe and inclusive school environment.

PHilMech Continues RCEF Activities in Visayas and Bicol Region

Mark Dheniel A. Gutierrez

BICOL REGION - PHilMech continued its field validation, monitoring, and coordination activities in Leyte, Iloilo, and Bohol to ensure the proper implementation of the RCEF Mechanization Program.

The machinery distribution and signing of Certificates of Donation was conducted in selected municipalities of Camarines Sur from October 5-9 to formally document the turnover of agricultural machinery. These efforts help ensure that the program reaches its intended beneficiaries and supports their farming needs.

MLGU Pastrana Receives Php18.51M Rice Processing System

Christine V. Ang

PASTRANA, LEYTE - PHilMech inaugurated and formally turned over Php18.51 million worth of Rice Processing System 1 (RPS 1) to the Municipal Local Government Unit of Pastrana on October 7 in Barangay Jones under the RCEF Mechanization Program.

The RPS 1 package includes a state-of-the-art multi-stage rice mill worth Php11.69 million with a capacity of 1.5 tons per hour. It is equipped with a pre-cleaner, de-stoner, huller, mist polisher, length grader, color sorter, blending tank, automatic milled rice packing machine, rice hull bin and dust collection system.

The package also includes two stainless steel recirculating dryers with a capacity of six tons per batch, worth a total of Php6.82 million. The dryers are equipped with two heating systems, a generator set and other accessories.

PTMBEs and PHilMech Directors at the opening of the National Business Forum

PHilMech Holds First National Business Forum to Expand Market Opportunities

Ma. Bernadeth P. Grospe

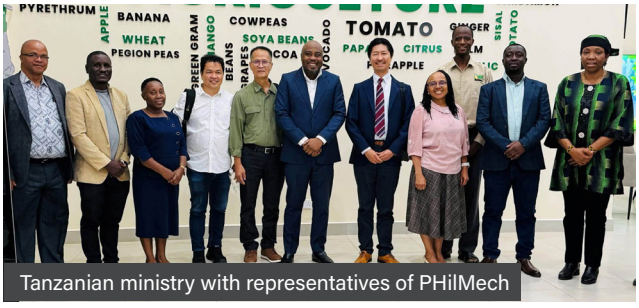
SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA - PHilMech held its first National Business Forum on October 1 to connect PHilMech-assisted Postharvest and Mechanization Techno-Based Enterprises (PMTBEs) with buyers, investors, financial institutions, and other stakeholders. The event gathered over 300 participants from government agencies, state universities and colleges, local government units, farming communities, and private sectors.

PHilMech Director III Joel V. Dator highlighted the forum as an initiative of the Extension Support, Education and Training Services (ESETS) cluster to improve stakeholders' lives and create opportunities for technopreneurs. ESETS Director Engr. Ma. Resurreccion L. Altamera presented the forum's objectives, while representatives from the Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines discussed financial services for micro, small, and medium enterprises.

Breakout sessions and business matching enabled PMTBEs to present their products and services to potential buyers. Meanwhile, the Technology Management and Training Division held a Manufacturers' Forum to engage industry partners in manufacturing and supporting PHilMech-generated technologies.

The forum aimed to strengthen stakeholder partnerships, promote PMTBEs' products and innovations and expand market opportunities.

Group photo of Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture and local stakeholders



Tanzanian ministry with representatives of PHilMech

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The FAO has recognized PHilMech as a model and blueprint for modernizing the agricultural sector through mechanization. As part of the engagement, the PHilMech team is conducting field assessments by visiting various agricultural mechanization initiatives and stakeholders in Tanzania to formulate concrete recommendations.

These recommendations will support the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture and local stakeholders as they present their mechanization plans.

Additionally, the mission highlights PHilMech's accomplishments and methodologies to help secure backing from international funding institutions, such as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, for FAO's proposed mechanization budget in Tanzania.

Youth participant tries the harvester during Y4M activity

Y4M gains 445 more advocates in October

Shaira Gem M. Lacson

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA, DIFFUN, QUIRINO, & TANAY, RIZAL - With the goal of rebranding the image of agriculture and mobilizing the youth in securing the food and the future of the nation through mechanization, the Youth for Mechanization (Y4M) Advocacy Campaign gained 445 more advocates in October as it reached four universities from October 26–29: Benguet State University, University of Rizal System, Isabela State University–Jones Campus, and Quirino State University.

The activity provided a platform to introduce modern farm mechanization, smart technologies, and engineering solutions as important tools for improving food security, productivity, and economic sustainability.

The campaign opened discussions on the challenges young people face in agriculture and how these can be addressed. Students also participated in interactive sessions on postharvest technologies and machinery, witnessed agricultural machinery demonstrations, and gained hands-on experience flying agricultural drones with DJI Agriculture Philippines. Discussions also highlighted the role of young leaders in promoting modern agricultural policies and practices.

Through collaboration among academic institutions, student organizations, and government agencies, Y4M continues to encourage young people to explore opportunities in agricultural mechanization and take part in shaping a more productive and sustainable agricultural sector.

Two CFIDP Shared Facilities in Quezon Prepared for Turnover

Aejay S. Masangcay

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ, NUEVA ECIJA - In preparation for the turnover of two Shared Facilities for Processing (SFPs) in Tagkawayan and Panukulan, Quezon, PHilMech, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Philippine Coconut Authority CALABARZON held a coordination meeting on October 2.

The agencies agreed to conduct a joint site validation on October 12–16 to assess the projects before DPWH transfers the necessary legal and technical documents to PHilMech for continued implementation.

ICTDTD team at the IBM Hackathon 2026

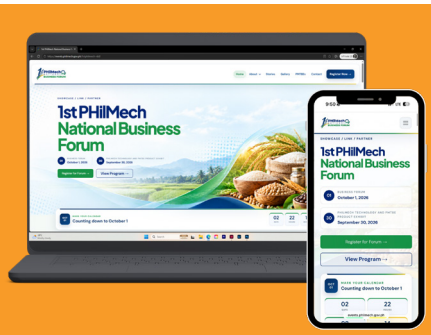
PHilMech Tops IBM Hackathon 2026

Shaira Gem M. Lacson

MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA – PHilMech ICTDTD won first place at the IBM Bob Government AI Build Day, a hackathon held on October 14 at Holiday Inn & Suites.

The team composed of Mr. Jonathan Alex Lagmay, Mr. Marvin Palapuz, Mr. Joshue Miguel, and Mr. Iezer Joshua Manzano, developed a flexible and trainable artificial intelligence (AI) chatbot that can be integrated into various information systems and websites.

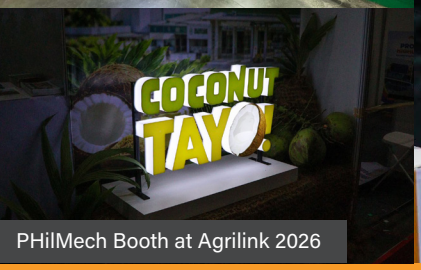
Fourteen government agencies participated in the hackathon, organized by QNX in partnership with IBM Philippines and CIOF.



1st PHilMech National Business Forum Website

Scan the QR code to view the official website of the 1st PHilMech National Business Forum.

Explore the event program, participating enterprises, registration details, and opportunities to connect with industry partners—all in one place.



PHilMech Booth at Agrilink 2026

IEC distribution during the Agrilink 2026

PHilMech Showcases Facilities and Products at Agrilink 2026

Jannie Gracelyn A. Sumague

PASAY CITY, METRO MANILA – PHilMech once again participated as a sponsor and exhibitor at Agrilink 2026, held on October 8–10 at the World Trade Center.

Anchored on this year's theme, "Agri-Food Hub Facilities: A Boost to Efficiency in the Value and Market Chains," PHilMech's main booth featured the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan–Shared Facilities for Processing, highlighting various shared processing facilities, including the Generic VCO-Based Premium Cooking Oil Processing Facility, White Copra and Refined, Bleached and Deodorized Oil Processing Center, Coco Peat, Coir and Geonets Shared Facility for Processing, Coconut Sugar and Nectar Processing Center, and Coconut Husk Chips Processing Center.

The booth also showcased value-added coconut products, including white copra, virgin coconut oil, coconut juice, coco geonet, coir, coco rope, and coconut sugar. Meanwhile, the retail booth featured coffee, cashew nuts, and rice products from nine enterprises assisted by the Enterprise Development Division, giving visitors the opportunity to explore and purchase locally produced goods.

Visitors also received IEC materials on PHilMech's banner programs, including the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Program and CFIDP, as well as information on the agency's agricultural technologies and community radio station, Radyo Agri 90.1 FM.

Organized by the Foundation for Resource Linkage and Development, Inc., Agrilink 2026 was held alongside FoodLink and AquaLink, featuring exhibits and seminars on agriculture, food processing, fisheries, and agribusiness. The event provided an opportunity for industry stakeholders to explore agricultural technologies, products, and facilities that support efficiency across the agri-food value chain. PHilMech's participation highlighted its continuing efforts to promote processing facilities with market opportunities to help strengthen the coconut industry and other agri-based enterprises.

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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.