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PHilMech NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Publication of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

Covid-19 Response Project of PHilMech

COCO-BLEND PROCESSING

IN THIS ISSUE:

ON THE COVER

Mr. Richard Villaspin from Labo, Camarines Norte showcases cocoblend beverages they have produced after the training course.

Photo by Gio Anton T. Barroga

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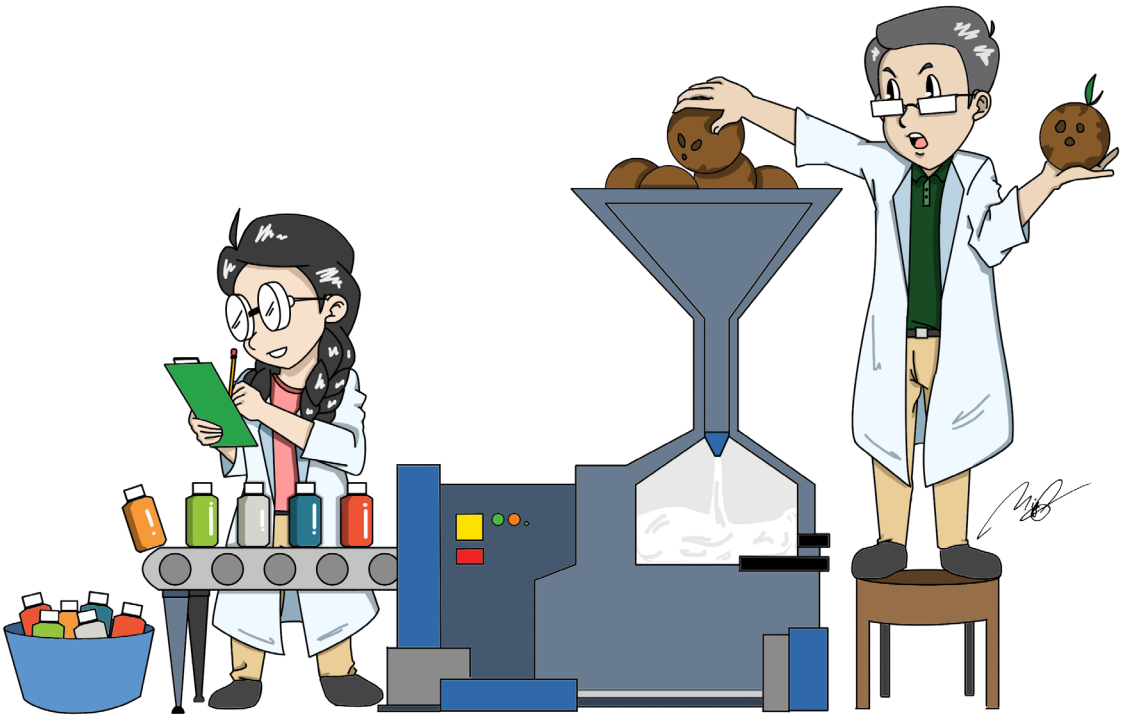


Cocoblend Processing Enterprise

Coconut water is loaded with nutritional benefits. Thus, drinking coconut water is a popular and healthy practice among Filipinos.

Coconut water however is mostly sourced from young coconut. Coconut from mature coconut is commonly thrown away as waste and only the coconut meat is being utilized by the farmers and consumers.

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) has found ways to produce coconut drink from mature coconut. This is an effort to help coconut farmers increase their income with additional by-product and help the environment through waste utilization.

To level up the marketing of the coconut water from mature coconut, PHilMech produced the "Cocoblend". This is the coconut water from mature with coconut added or blended fruit and vegetable flavors like watermelon, calamansi, carrot, cucumber, pineapple, blue ternate and mint.

The cocoblend is being produced through the PHilMech-established small-scale coconut processing enterprises in partnership with the Kooperatiba ng Maliliit na Magniniyog ng Barangay Kanapawan (KMMBK) in Labo, Camarines Norte and the SEED Giporlos Farmers and Fisherfolk Association (SEGFFA) in Giporlos, Eastern Samar.

This venture is part of the Covid 19-response project of PHilMech to provide livelihood opportunities to women and men in the community by employing them in the different chain of operations like processing, marketing, and distribution of the cocoblend.

Through PHilMech-developed and recommended package of technologies, the project hopes to add more value-adding activities for the coconut farmers and would-be entrepreneurs.

PHilMech upholds target of food self-sufficiency

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) upheld the vision of the food self-sufficiency program of President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. over the medium to long term.

"The pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war revealed to us the vulnerability of the global food system, which was highly dependent on trading and imported chemical inputs to ensure that a country's population will have enough food supply," PHilMech Director IV Dr. Dionisio Alvindia said in a statement delivered during a media briefing on Monday, July 25.

Alvindia, a scientist, said PHilMech will level up the implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Mechanization Program by providing more qualified farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) or local government units (LGUs) with drying and milling facilities that will allow them to have a complete value chain, from planting to selling milled rice.

PHilMech said the very first Rice Processing Center (RPC) worth P60 million was awarded to the LGU of Maramag in Bukidnon province. This is composed of one unit of multi-stage rice mill and two units of recirculating dryers. Alvindia also announced the distribution of rice processing and drying equipment to more qualified FCAs and LGUs, and the acquisition of the processing and drying facilities which will be included in the P5-billion allocation under RCEF for 2022.

He said PHilMech will also continue distributing farm machines from crop establishment to harvesting

Training on crop establishment among the FCAs

Director IV, Dionisio G. Aldvindia

Testing of the newly installed drying machine

under Republic Act 11203 or the 'Rice Tariffication Law.'

P5-B allocation for farm machines

In June 2022, PHilMech-Bids and Award Committee already started the procurement process for the batch of farm machines covered by the P5-billion allocation for 2022.

"We are also targeting to deliver all the to-be procured production technologies this year but the machines for the establishment of postharvest facilities, particularly milling and drying facilities, may spill over the first quarter of 2023 since these technologies require constructions and various testing to ensure that these will be functional/operational," Alvindia said.

He said PHilMech has already delivered over 20,000 various units of farm machines worth P15 billion covering the funding allocation from 2019 to 2021 and that PHilMech continues to capacitate the beneficiaries of the RCEF-Mechanization program by providing them training in the operation and maintenance of farm machines, and operating a cooperative like a business enterprise.

PHilMech said other initiatives are being undertaken to modernize the country's agriculture sector which will significantly contribute to the vision of President Marcos to make the Philippines sufficient in food production over the medium to long term.

"Overall, we at PHilMech re-commit to sustain our programs, projects and initiatives to modernize the country's agriculture sector because we believe that technological solutions are key to making farmers attain higher productivity and better harvests and incomes," Alvindia said. ■ **The Manila Times**

TASK program of PHilMech, Korean partners kicks off

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech) alongside its Korean partners launched the Technology Advice and Solutions from Korea (TASK) Program for the agricultural machinery industry in the Philippines.

Both the Korea Association of Machinery Industry (KOAMI) and Korea Agriculture Machinery Industry Cooperative (KAMICO) are part of the implementing agencies who spearheaded the TASK program from Jul 26 to 29, 2022.

An interview was conducted between the implementing agencies and 20 recommended local manufacturing companies. Out of the 20, only half will be selected to take part in the program that would be trained under this program.

The program aims to transfer Korean agricultural machinery and technology to support resolution of technical difficulties and assist machine improvement, process improvement, prototyping support for Philippine local agricultural machinery and smart-farm related companies.

One-on-one interview of TASK experts on the recommended local manufacturers

TASK's courtesy call with the Director III, Ronaldo Sebastian R. Reyes, a welcome program with 13 manufacturing companies was held at the PHilMech Training Hall on the first day.

This was led by the Technology Management and Training Division (TMTD) headed by Chief Helen R. Calica and Agricultural Mechanization Division (AMD) headed by the Acting Chief, Arlene C. Joaquin, and Romualdo C. Martinez, Ph.D.

TASK experts conducted its face-to-face interview with the attending companies including well-known manufacturers in the Philippines like Metalworking Industries Association of the Philippines headed by Virgilio F. Lanzuela.

Visitation of manufacturing plants in the provinces of Isabela and Nueva Ecija and virtual interviews among six other manufacturers were also conducted by the

Korean experts and PHilMech TASK team.

PHilMech Director Dionisio G. Alvindia graced the final day's wrap-up meeting and expressed his gratitude and support to TASK experts. He commended their efforts and interest in helping the Philippine agriculture to develop.

"I would like to congratulate the TASK group for a job well done! For a very short time, you have accomplished a lot so that's an exemplary performance. This initiative would really improve how the manufacturing process of Filipinos and counterparts in advancement of agricultural machinery." Alvindia said.

TASK experts then expressed their gratitude as well for PHilMech being the key for the success of their program implementation.

TASK experts who are involved in consulting and technical advising for local manufacturing companies were Park Chang Hyun, CEO of Tae Kwang Industry Co.; Lee Sek Jin, CEO of Leehwa Co.; An Yong Bum, CEO of Joonwoo Tech Co., LTD; Jang Young Yoon, CEO of Sung Boo Ind., LTD; Nam Young Jo. CEO of Bulls CO., LTD; Kim Hyun Oh, CEO of Sambu Co.; and Philip King, FIT COREA Representative. They are tasked to provide technical guidance and advice, and introduce the latest agricultural machinery technologies and products from Korea.

DMCCapariño

TASK PROJECT

TASK experts together with the local manufacturerers and PHilMech heads

National info-hub meeting conducted on-line

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) conducted its first national meeting for info-hubs persons-in-charge (PIC) among the model farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCA) who are beneficiaries of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program. The meeting was held on September 21 via online platform.

The info hub PIC meeting aims to orient all PICs on the management of info-hubs among their areas to improve its utilization and conduct harmonious Knowledge Sharing and Learning (KSL) activities.

In her message, Dr. Milagros B. Gonzalez, chief of the Applied Communication Division, acknowledged the participants and emphasized the importance of their contribution to the program.

First online meeting on Infohub project hosted by Angeline Poco of ACD

"Kayo ang aming katuwang sa pagpapalaganap ng mga makabagong kaalaman at impormasyon patungkol sa mekanisasyon, Hinihikayat ko kayo na gamitin at ibahagi natin ito sa mga magsasaka na hindi sapat ang kaalaman patungkol sa programa," she said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Angeline B. Poco, Science Research Analyst, gave a briefer on the info-hub and set the schedule of the upcoming PIC meetings. She also emphasized that conducting such meetings are important in monitoring the performance of each Info-hub as it is necessary to identify and recognize the top performing ones.

Furthermore, Ms. Poco announced that each model FCA will be receiving smart TV for the conduct of Knowledge Sharing and Learning Activities (KSL) among FCAs.

"Isang malaking tulong po itong info-hub sa ating mga farmers especially para sa ating mga young farmer members," said Jomar Delos Santos of Bulacan Farmers Agriculture Cooperatives.

MDAGutierrez

TECHNO TOUR

Discussion of PHilMech technologies among the participants

Dr. Michael Gragasin

Technical conference on postharvest and mechanization resumes

AFTER TWO YEARS OF VIRTUAL seminars because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Technology Management and Training Division finally pushed through its face to face two-day activity entitled "Technical Conference on Agricultural Mechanization and Postharvest Technologies". This commenced on August 23, 2022 at the PHilMech Training Hall.

The participants are from the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs), Local Government Units, Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Luzon.

According to Ms. Helen R. Calica, chief of PHilMech-TMTD, this technical conference is one of PHilMech's interventions to reach out to partner agencies to be aware and knowledgeable on the recent developments, plans and programs of PHilMech's agricultural mechanization and postharvest technologies. This is also a way to reach out to other local industry stakeholders through combined efforts of the different government agencies that has shared facility assistance program.

"With this conference, we can strengthen further our partnership and linkages for the benefit of the agricultural industry." Ms. Calica said in her welcome remarks.

Meanwhile, Dr. Michael A. Gragasin, Interim Director for Operations of PHilMech, conveyed the importance of mechanization and improved postharvest facilities as a solution to address low productivity and the high cost production in the local agricultural industry.

In his message, Dr. Gragasin looked forward to work hand in hand with the invited partner government agencies. He added, "Let's stay and work together for the betterment of our country.

AMCMiranda

Korean partners, PHilMech sign MOAs

MOA signing between DA-PHilMech and Korean Partners

The Philippine Embassy in Korea witnessed the signing ceremony of three new Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) between the Department of Agriculture – Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PhilMech) and the Korea Agricultural Machinery Industry Cooperative (KAMICO) and three Korean firms Sungboo Co., Ltd., Bulls Company Ltd., and Leehwa Industry Company on 20 June 2022 at the KAMICO Center in Cheonan. The agreements are pursuant to the continuing PH-ROK technical cooperation in agricultural machinery development since 2016.

Philippine Ambassador to Korea Theresa Dizon-De Vega highly commended these initiatives and its contributions to the Philippine government towards the full mechanization and modernization of the Philippine agriculture sector.

Ambassador Dizon-De Vega underscored that the MOAs draw on the strengths of the Republic of Korea in agricultural mechanization and modernization and the Philippines' readiness and capacity for innovation and manufacturing of agricultural implements and machinery in bringing about full agricultural mechanization and modernization.

The success of the agreement will truly be felt in the positive impact this will have on the work of farmers and farming enterprises particularly in the vital Philippine agricultural sectors such as mango, corn, and onion farming.

PHilMech Executive Director Dionisio G. Alvindia represented the Philippines while KAMICO Chairman Kim Shin Gil, CEO Young Yoon Jang of Sungboo Co. Ltd., CEO Young Jo Nam of Bulls Company Ltd., and CEO Sok Jin Lee of Leehwa Industry Company were also present in witnessing the signing of MOAs on onion production system, mango spraying, fruit bagging and harvesting, and the MOA amendment on technical cooperation for development of village-level corn-milling machine.

The Philippine Agriculture Office in Seoul headed by Agriculture Attaché Ms. Maria Alilia G. Maghirang is in close coordination with KAMICO on this significant initiative for the agriculture sector.

Korean Embassy

Marcos: Step up programs for coco farmers

PRESIDENT FERDINAND "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. has ordered the Department of Agriculture (DA) to fast-track programs for coconut farmers during a meeting with officials of the agency in Malacañang on Monday, August 1.

During the *Laging Handa* briefing, DA Undersecretary Kristine Evangelista said Marcos wanted the department to accelerate the programs for the 3.5 million coconut farmers in the country.

"We are directed to fast-track the implementation of all the programs that will benefit the coconut farmers whether this will be in partnership with different agencies, including the Department of Trade and Industry," she said.

Among the programs identified for the coconut farmers is the scholarship grant for their dependents.

"We have programs as far as value-adding [is concerned]. We are also looking at shared facilities for our coconut farmers," she said.

Evangelista added that provision of credit and financing to the coconut farmers was also tackled during the meeting with the President.

"We are looking into how to make credit and loans more accessible to our coconut farmers," she said.

The DA recently launched the coconut farmers and industry development plan (CFIDP) that will utilize the P11.25-billion coconut levy trust fund to boost farmers' productivity and income.

The CFIDP has various components and programs that include health, crop insurance, scholarships, farm schools, organization of cooperatives and associations, hybridization operations, inter-cropping activities, dairy integration, and shared processing facilities.

The President also met with the Samahang Industriya ng Agrikultura (Sinag) to discuss how the government can help in modernizing farming techniques and help local food producers in terms of credit, comprehensive insurance, and investments.

The group previously expressed concern that there will be an increase in prices of farm commodities because of the higher cost of procuring raw materials.

"The President is thankful as private organizations actively show their support to the government," a statement posted by the Office of the President on its official social media pages hailed the initiative of Sinag to help lay down strategies that will boost farm yields that will result in more affordable food prices. **The Manila Times**

Manual harvesting of the mature coconut

Consultative meeting rolls out implementation of CFIDP

A REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE meeting was held in Hotel Guillermo, Pagadian City, Zamboanga del Sur on August 23, 2022, to officially roll out the implementation of the Integrated Coconut Processing and Downstream Products or Shared Facilities in Region IX.

Spearheaded by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech), the meeting was generally conducted to harmonize the programs' implementing guidelines with the specific plan of the implementing agencies (IAs) of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP)

It was also specifically done to orient the IAs on how the Share Processing Facilities (SPF) will be executed and to finalize as well their roles and responsibilities in its implementation.

Similarly, the meeting also served as an avenue to review and finalize the draft criteria in the selection of project beneficiaries, determine the tools and templates in the preparation, approval and prioritization of project proposals, and finalize as well the terms of reference of the Technical Working Group that is to be established in each region.

Representatives from the regional offices of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), National Dairy Authority (NDA), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) were present during the activity.

Official roll out of regional consultative meeting on CFIDP held in Pagadian, City

Acting Project Development Officer Danilo B. Bendanillo of PCA Region IX delivered his opening message by discussing the state of coconut farming in the region. He expressed high hopes for implementing the CFIDP in the region as this will be a welcome addition to their agency's regular programs.

PHilMech Director I and interim head of the Coconut Trust Fund – Field Management and Operations Division (CTF-FMOD) Arnel Ramir Apaga, discussed, on the other hand, the purpose of establishing the SPF.

"The objective of this component is to support the overall objective of the RA 11524, which is to 'increase the income of coconut farmers; alleviate poverty; improve productivity and achieve social equality,'" Director Apaga said.

He also emphasized that aside from copra, livestock, dairy, and other high-value crops such as coffee and cacao will also be integrated into coconut farming; hence, processing facilities for this agricultural produce will likewise be established as determined in the commodity value chain.

The process flow for the application and approval of the project proposal including the forging of a memorandum of agreement with the selected beneficiaries were presented and discussed by Director Apaga. With the release of funds from the Department of Budget and Management, the procurement of machines and equipment, and the construction of the building will commence.

Meanwhile, a representative from the Enterprise Development Division of Engr. Von Eliel B. Camaso also discussed the proposed format of the business proposal that is to be submitted by the coconut farmers' cooperative to the PCA regional office and will be endorsed later to PHilMech for technical review and evaluation.

Ms. Remellie M. Hermoso of the Technology Management and Training Division presented the criteria for the selection of beneficiaries and prioritization of the project proposals. She also discussed the identification of the Regional Technical Working Group (TWG) members including their duties and responsibilities.

PHilMech is scheduled to conduct more consultative meetings this 2022. Region IX is only the fifth of the 15 scheduled meetings spearheaded by PHilMech nationwide. Regional consultations were also held previously in Regions V, IV-B, XIII, and XI.

The CTF-FMOD will continuously create the regional TWGs for SPFs, conduct orientation and consultation workshops among stakeholders, project prioritization workshops and identification of beneficiaries, project proposal preparation and packaging, evaluation and endorsement of proposals, regional SFP masterplan formulation/baselining, and attend to different info caravans and CFIDP launchings that are to be facilitated by ATI and PCA, respectively.

Said activities of the CTF-FMOD are to be held under the RA 11524 (An Act Creating the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund, Providing for its Management and Utilization), Former President Rodrigo Roa Duterte signed the law on February 26, 2021.

GATBarroga

MEETING

Ongoing meeting on CFIDP

Arnel Ramir M. Apaga, PHilMech Director I

Coco-water beverage which can be blended with natural fruits and vegetables like blue ternate, spearmint, pandan, calamansi, carrots, cucumber, and watermelon, among others.

COCOBLEND

Processing Enterprise

KEY FEATURES

1. Gender friendly processing technology
2. Utilizes PHilMech-designed low-cost technology
3. Increases income of small group coconut farmers
4. Extends shelf-life of different cocowater blends
5. Provides livelihood and job opportunity to coconut farmers

PHilMech low-cost continuous flow pastuerizer

The Low-cost Continuous Flow Pasteurizer is a PHilMech-desgined technology capable to produce a pasteurized bottled coconut water beverage

Intervention

This project entitled **"Establishment of Small-Scale Fruit/Vegetables-Blended Coconut Water Processing Enterprise"** will not only add value to unutilized coconut water during copra and VCO processing but will also increase income of small coconut farmers and processors. Moreover, it will provide livelihood and job opportunity among women in the community since the package of technology that will be used for processing is gender-sensitive, where women can fully operate them with ease and convenience.

Blending flavors with COCO WATER

by ***Jett Molech G. Subaba***

DID YOU KNOW THAT COCONUT water now comes with more exciting flavors?

Yes, it was made possible through the collaboration project of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) and the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture.

The team came up with the idea of blending coconut water from mature coconuts with seven fruit and vegetable extracts namely blue ternate, pandan, spearmint, calamansi, carrots, cucumber, and watermelon.

This research initiative is in response to some marketing issues of coco water like the short shelf-life and the low appeal of the product to the taste of the younger generation.

These products were pasteurized using a low-cost continuous flow pasteurizer designed by PHilMech Scientist I, Dr. Ofero A. Capariño. The machine is considered gender-friendly since 70% of its processes can be managed and operated by women with ease and convenience.

With this research (Casaul & Caparino, 2019), the team can now provide the consumers with more coco water colors like blue, red, orange, peach, and more. Also, the study showed that blended coco water has longer shelf life than ordinary ones. With the process done by the team, the shelf life increased from 21 days to 49 and 53 days under chilled conditions without any preservatives.

This innovation in coco water blends in a continuous process is not yet practiced among the small coconut farmers and processors in the country. Thus, this technology was included in the COVID-19 response program of PHilMech launched in 2020.

This program aims to introduce and sustain the adoption of PHilMech-developed technologies in response to the COVID-19 pandemic efforts of the Department of Agriculture and the national government in ensuring food security and livelihood.

Two locations were identified for the program, one is in Giporlos, Samar and the other is in Labo, Camarines Norte. Training courses were given to the cooperators of the project to capacitate them in managing the processing of the coco blend project.

Value-adding, waste utilization, and increased income for coconut farmers and processors are seen as social impacts of the project.

"Malaking tulong ang ganitong klaseng programa ng PHilMech para sa ating mga kababayan dito sa Giporlos dahil mabibigyan na ng dagdag na pagkakakitaan ang ating mga kababayan," said Mayor Gilbert Go during the opening of the training course in Giporlos.

With the passing of the Republic Act No. 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act in 2021, which provides funds for the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), projects such as the coco blend can bring even more colors to the lives of the coconut farmers.

This processing facility will be included in the Shared Coconut Processing Facility (SCPF) under the CFIDP which is spearheaded by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech). It has an annual allocation of 10 percent of the fund for the procurement and establishment of these facilities.

Skills training on Coconut Water Processing Technologies in Camarines Norete

COCO TANUNGAN

CFIDP
Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan

Ano ang shared facilities for processing ng CFIDP?

Ang "**Shared Facilities for Processing**" (SFP) ay itatatag bilang community-based o integrated coconut processing enterprises na may layuning maitaas ang kita at kabuhayan ng mga magniniyog.

Ito ay isa sa mga strategic intervention ng **Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan** (CFIDP) na itinakda ng RA 11524.

COCONUT TAYO!

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1898 PHilMech

dti PHILIPPINES

TESDA

DBP

PhilHealth Your Partner in Health

PHilMech joins the CFIDP Regional Launching in Cagayan

"*Paano po ba mag-apply rito* (shared processing facilities)?," This is a common question of coconut farmers as they visited the exhibit booth of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) during the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) Regional Launching in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan on August 26, 2022.

Around 200 farmers from Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya, and Isabela came to join the launching and the celebration of the 36th National Coconut Week with a theme, "*Masaganang Niyugan: Katuwang Tungo sa Maunlad na Kinabukasan*."

For this launching, PHilMech joined other CFIDP implementers in promoting the key elements of the program. It presented the shared processing facilities subcomponents focusing on developing value chains that enhance coconut products' quality and cultivating the coconut farmers' skills to be a viable business enterprise.

The shared facilities is part of the components of the Integrated Coconut Processing and Downstream Products to be implemented by PHilMech, from the Trust Funds created under Republic Act No. 11524 or Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (CFITFA).

Farmers lining up in the exhibit booth of PHilMech

Dr. Dionisio G. Alvindia, Director IV of PHilMech, in a video message enumerated the main objectives of shared processing facilities program to the Filipino coconut farmers. "*Ito ay may layuning pataasin ang kita ng mga magsasaka ng niyog, mai-angat sila sa kahirapan, at mas maging produktibo sa pagsasaka*."

The shared processing facilities will be established as community-based enterprises according to the beneficiary's proposal/preference. It will include the building, processing machines, equipment, hauling and transportation, and other facilities or equipment.

Sanchez Mira Mayor Abraham Bagasin expressed his gratitude to the government agencies and other partners for aiding the coconut farmers and the industry. He vowed that the local government would fully extend its hands to the CFIDP implementation.

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Regional Manager Dennis Andres stressed that CFIDP programs are created to benefit coconut farmers and to develop the coconut industry.

PHilMech also joined other CFIDP Regional Launching organized by PCA in Lucena City, Quezon, Palo, Leyte, Baler, Aurora, and Davao City. **VDPallar**

Y4M youth for mechanization

AGRICULTURAL MECHANIZATION
KAAGAPAY ANG BAGONG HENERASYON

"Dahil makabago na ang kagamitang pang-agrikultura, partisipasyon ng mga kabataa'y ang pag-asa. Ang high-tech na features ng mga makinarya, tanging sa mga kabataan lang ito lalong makikilala.

Sa maagang edad ako'y naging single na ina, at tanging nabubuhay sa tulong ng aking ama. Siya'y operator ng makinaryang pang-agrikultura, kaya't todo tulong ako sa hanapbuhay para sa pamilya. Dahil sa makabagong makinarya, pananaw nami'y nag-iba, buong kumunidad proud na magsasaka!"

Name: Rea Joy F. Caralipio
Age: 25
FCA: Dumangueña Manaile River Irrigators Association Inc.
Location: Dumangueña, Narra, Palawan
Nature of work: Daughter of an FCA beneficiary member, BSBA student

PHilMech introduces Y4M among youth in Region II

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) introduced its Youth for Mechanization or Y4M campaign among the members of the 4-H club during the Regional Youth Summit held at the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center II in San Mateo, Isabela on September 21, 2022.

The goal of Y4M is to rebrand the image of agriculture among the youth through mechanization. It aims to bring back the interest of the youth into agriculture by highlighting how mechanization can make farming easy and fun while boosting profit and productivity.

"Gusto natin bigyan ng bagong mukha ang agriculture sa mata ng mga kabataan by attracting them into farming by means of mechanization" said Jett Molech G. Subaba, Supervising Science Research Specialist at PHilMech.

Subaba also shared about the background, initial activities, and plans of the campaign to the 4-H club members from the provinces of Isabela, Cagayan, Nueva Vizcaya and Quirino.

"Kayo (youth) ang kinabukasan ng agriculture, kayo ang kinabukasan ng bansa," he emphasized.

Jett Subaba of PHilMech briefs the youth about Y4M

Moreover, he also highlighted the plans to make mechanization-related services be easily accessible through mobile applications in the future. PHilMech will consolidate young agricultural mechanization advocates and practitioners to provide them with opportunities that can help engage more in agriculture.

"These services will be provided by our young, dynamic, equipped and competent Y4M advocates in the future," Subaba emphasized.

JTPaulo

Stakeholders show interest on PHilMech Onion Seeder

Fifty-five participants from different Local Government Units (PLGUs/MLGUs), DA-Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs), Department of Trade Industry (DTI), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), and other government agencies, joined the online forum on utilizing the PHilMech's Multi-Row Onion Mechanical Seeder for onion and other vegetables held on August 24, 2022 via Zoom platform.

Dr. Ma. Cecilia R. Antolin, Senior Science Research Specialist from the Socio-Economic and Policy Research Division (SEPRD) of PHilMech discussed the overview of the onion industry.

She mentioned that onion is one of the priority high-value crops identified by the Department of Agriculture. She discussed that Nueva Ecija is the major onion-producing province with 60% of the country's production, followed by Occidental Mindoro with 12% and Ilocos Norte with 10.1%. She also discussed the onion production and post production activities, and the financial viability of PHilMech MROS compared to the manual method.

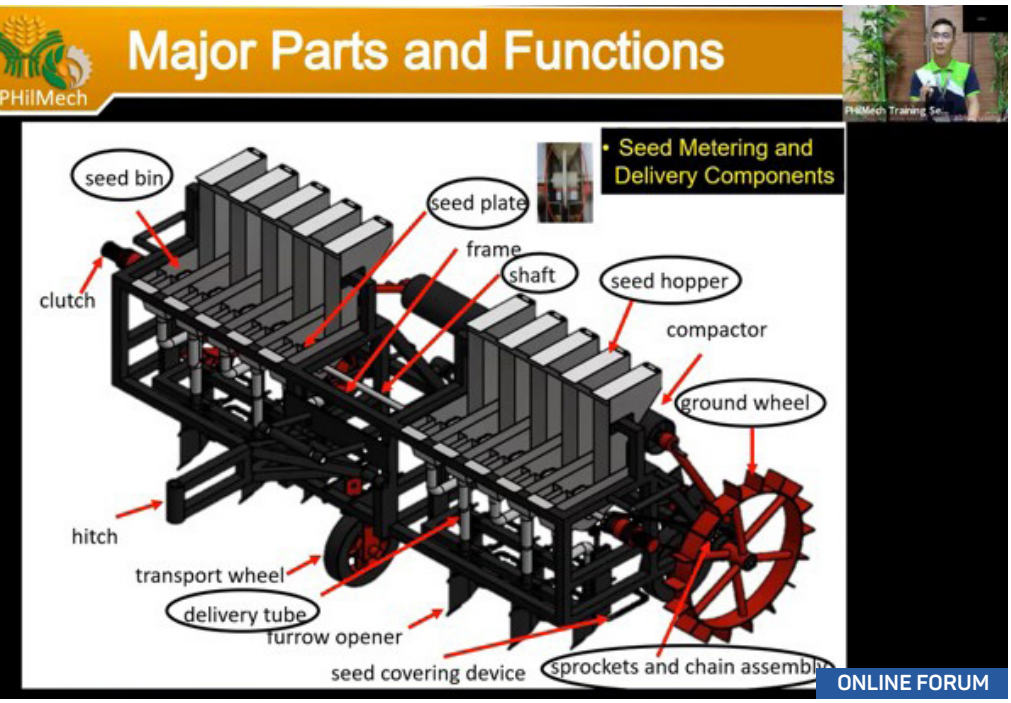
Meanwhile, Engr. Marvin S. Estimada, Science Research Specialist I of SEPRD discussed technical specifications, major parts and functions, and the proper operation of the machine. He also presented the pilot areas and the technology adopters of MROS in the country.

Ms. Gemma O. Mallo, Science Research Specialist II of the Enterprise Development Division, discussed the process and objectives of business planning and management of the PHilMech MROS.

Based on PHilMech studies, MROS has the potential to reduce the production cost of onion farmers by up to 50% as it only consumes 12-15 cans, unlike the manual method with 25 cans. It can also be utilized in planting other vegetables.

The forum conducted by the Technology Management and Training Division (TMTD) of PHilMech, hopes to increase the adoption and utilization of MROS among onion farmers in the country.

MGGLacson



Technical forum on utlizing the Multi-Row Onion Mechanical Seeder developed by PHilMech

Simultaneous training courses under RCEF conducted

THE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT and Training Division of PHilMech conducted five simultaneous training courses on the operation and maintenance of various rice machinery and postharvest facilities under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program held in the provinces of Surigao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Occidental Mindoro, Isabela, and Leyte on August 22-26, 2002.

A total of 161 farmer-beneficiaries were honed during the five-day training courses. They are members of various farmers' cooperatives and associations from the provinces of Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Davao de Oro, Davao del Sur, Occidental Mindoro, Isabela, and Leyte.

The newly trained operators expressed their gratitude to the PHilMech and to the program for the skills they have acquired especially during the hands-on component of the course.

In his impression speech, Mr. Jerome R. Guillen of TUPEDO Association in Surigao del Sur said, *"Mapasalamatun gajud ako inin sa PHilMech, sa mga staffs no kay gi train gajud ta nila Kita na mga makadawat nan Postharvest technologies ug sa nakadawat na, mapasalamaton gajud kita sa PHilMech. Hamok gajud ako nakat-unan inin na training, mas nadugangan pa ako kahibayo parte sa mga humay, mao dako gajud ako pasalamat."*

Moreover, Mr. Noli S. Del Rosario of Salinong Irrigators Association in Isabela was also in awe of the new skills he acquired especially in operating the walk-behind transplanter and even expressed his support to the next generation.

"Hindi ko inaasahang sa edad kong ito ay may matututunan pa akong bagong teknolohiya na itinuro sa akin ng mga nakababatang henerasyon mula sa PHilMech, kaya't nagpapasalamat po ako. Nawa, huwag nating ipagdamot ang bigay na makinarya sa atin, ibahagi natin ito sa iba lalo na sa mga kabataan upang mas mapalago ang ating agrikultura."

The free training courses offered by the TMTD-PHilMech is part of the RCEF-Rice Extension Services Program. It seeks to increase the knowledge and skills of the farmer-beneficiaries of the RCEF mechanization program.

The said courses will continue until the last year of the program in 2024.

JBDFabular

TRAINING

Training on the opeartion and maintenance of rice machinery

Dr. Capariño explains the benefits of the processig system to the coconut farmers and stakeholders

PHilMech showcases cocoblend processing system

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization conducted technology demonstration on fruit/vegetable-blended coconut water processing system in Giporlos, Samar last August 10, 2022. The Technology Management and Training Division of PHilMech spearheaded the activity.

This technology was conducted under the COVID 19-response project: Establishment of Small-Scale Fruit/Vegetables-blended Coconut Water Enterprise. This project provides coconut farmers with a new income generating opportunity by processing unutilized coconut water.

A total of 36 participants from the Local Government Unit, Spin Media, SEED Project, SEED Giporlos farmers and fisherfolks were honed in the said skills training course. There were 14 (39%) female participants and 22 (61%) male participants.

Dr. Ofero A. Caparino of the Bio-Process Engineering Division of PHilMech headed the activity. He also served as the trainer-speaker.

Mayor Gilbert Go and Vice Mayor Christopher Go of Municipality of Giporlos, Samar showed their support to the activity. *"Malaking tulong ang ganitong klaseng programa ng PHilMech para sa ating mga kababayan dito sa Giporlos dahil mabibigyan ng dagdag na pagkakakitaan ang ating mga kababayan,"* Mayor Gilbert Go said.

Manuel Asprec, SEED Project President and Pastor Bonifacio Sosing of CLSR Sr. Missionary, Giporlos gave their inspirational message. After the technology demonstration, an open forum took place.

In closing the program, Dr. Ofero A. Caparino emphasized the benefits and importance of the technology to the coconut associations and cooperatives. *"Ito ay dagdag kita sa ating mga cooperatives lalong lalo na sa ating mga coconut farmers dahil pwede nilang ibenta ang mga coconuts sa inyo nang mas mahal kumpara sa kuha sa kanila ng iba,"* he said. **JTPaulo**

No overcharged tractors, No corruption

DR. DIONISIO G. ALVINDIA, PHilMech director, clarified that there is no corruption or overcharge of four-wheel-drive tractors distributed by PHilMech to Farmer Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) nationwide. Alvindia made the statement during a virtual press conference in September 9 to correct the negative impression that PHilMech is a corrupt agency.

The adjusted cost in the price of the tractors is a result of added specification in the four-wheel drive tractors. The added feature-- hydraulic port-- will allow the tractors to maximize their use since more tractor implements (e.g. leveler, hauler, etc) can be attached to the tractor. With this added feature, the farm tractor can benefit more the FCA beneficiaries.

In mechanized land preparation, the four-wheel drive tractor can carry, pull or tow agricultural machines and implements. Using farm tractors and other land preparation machinery, an increase in farmers' yield is expected with proper soil tillage and better land levelling.

Under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), PHilMech leads the implementation of the Mechanization Program. The acquisition of the 1,346 four wheel-tractors is funded under the 2021 RCEF.

Distribution of four-wheel tractors to identified FCAs in Nueva Ecija

The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has approved a budget of 1.2 M for each tractor. This is without the hydraulic port. Total cost for this approved budget is Php1.6 billion

The Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) of the Department of Agriculture had recommended the addition of hydraulic ports to maximize the use of farm tractors. Thus, PHilMech purchased this kind of tractors at an adjusted price of P1.3 M each, reaching a total cost of P1.7 billion.

Alvindia contends that the PHilMech Bids and Awards Committee should have waited for DBM approval before the acquisition of the tractors with the added feature. This is the reason why he stopped the payment of the tractors to the suppliers. He assured that once approved, payment will be released.

The PHilMech director also appealed to the FCA beneficiaries to stand by PHilMech in these challenging times. "...PHilMech will work hand in hand with you to level up and modernize Philippine agriculture," he added.

MBGonzalez

Assessment of the projects led by Jemelle Milanes of PCW

GAD attributed projects of PHilMech assessed

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization conducted a project assessment and gender analysis training workshop among 67 participants from August 30 to September 1, 2022 at the PHilMech Training Hall via Zoom.

The GFPS ExeCom Chairperson, Dir. Arnel Ramir Apaga, gave his opening remarks on the first day of the activity followed by the presentation of the workshop overview by the GAD Focal Person, Dr. Helen F. Martinez. PHilMech once again invited Ms. Jemelle Milanes of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) as the technical resource speaker for the workshop. She gave a lecture, review and evaluation after the presentation of nine Covid-19 response projects.

There were also five new R&D projects added to the 2022 GPB which also need to be assessed. Hence, there is a need to ensure that all MOVs are able to reflect the process of gender mainstreaming (GAD Strategies) and the gendered outputs (target and unintended results).

The three-day workshop aimed to (1) review the current implementation of the GAD-attributed projects in 2022 GBP using HGDG Checklist, (2) ensure that monitoring reports integrate GAD commitments, and (3) enhance the knowledge of program implementers on gender analysis.

During the review of the GAD accomplishment report, the Philippine Commission on Women reviewers offered observations on the submitted HGDG PIMME Checklist and monitoring reports (MOVs) of the projects.

Based on the submitted HGDG PIMME Checklist, scores did not meet the gender targets and commitments in the approved project design. Moreover, some of the gender commitments were captured in data gathering tools, and these were not processed and reflected in the monitoring reports or were not properly documented. As a consequence, PIMME Checklist scores were adjusted reflecting lower scores than its design scores.

PHilMech started mainstreaming gender in its projects using Harmonized GAD Guidelines tool as a planning guide in 2021. Nine (9) COVID projects were assessed and reflected as GAD-Attributed projects in the 2021 GAD Plan and Budget (GPB). Given the multi-year coverage, they were again included in the 2022 GAD Plan and Budget. **CMValmonte**

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