



PHilMech

Quarterly Publication of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization



COVER STORY

PHilMech joins the fight to end **VAW**

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ON THE COVER



Christine Valmonte models the "VAW free community starts with me" concept from PCW as PHilMech supports this campaign.

Photo by DMCCapariño

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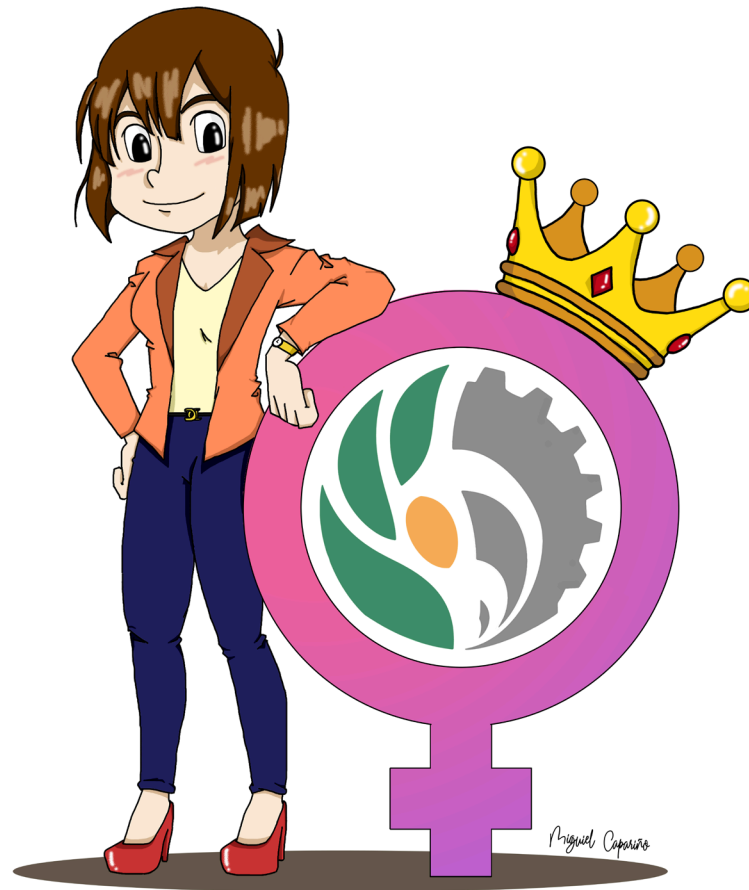
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PHilMech Advocates a VAW-free Community

Republic Act. 7877 or the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995. Republic Act 8353 or the Anti-Rape Law of 1997. Republic Act 9262 or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children. These are just some of the laws crafted for Filipino women. These are laws aimed to protect women's rights.

At the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), the gender perspective is being integrated into PHilMech programs, projects and activities (PPAs).

This is true for research and development (R & D), extension support, education and training services (ESETS), administrative and support services of the agency.

The PHilMech Gender and Development (GAD) Focal Point System is one with the nation in its campaign to end violence against women. It is also conducting training courses online about gender analysis in an effort to mainstream gender in the PPAs of PHilMech .

This issue of the newsletter is also a move to create awareness on gender specifically PHilMech efforts on GAD. We hope to advocate gender at PHilMech. We hope to develop more gender-friendly technologies and promote their use among our adopters, male and female.

Gender concerns are real. We must safeguard women's rights and ensure that these are protected, respected. PHilMech joins the campaign for a VAW-free community.



CERTIFICATE AWARDING

Members of FCAs receive their certificates with the PhilMech Director, Baldwin Jallorina at Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro

Oriental Mindoro farmers receive P32M machinery grants

AROUND 1,277 FARMERS who belong to 14 farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in Oriental Mindoro received P32M worth of farm machinery grants under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF)-Mechanization Program.

The turn-over ceremony was held on October 14, 2020 at the Capitol Complex, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

The FCAs from the province received a total of 53 units of

farm machines which include 12 units of four-wheel drive tractor, 29 units of hand tractor, 6 units of floating tiller, 1 unit of precision rice seeder, 1 unit of walk-behind mechanical rice transplanter and 4 units of rice combine harvester.

Dr. Baldwin G. Jallorina, PHilMech Director, served as the keynote speaker of the said event. He encouraged the FCAs to do their part in taking care of the machines so more farmers can directly benefit

from it. He also mentioned how mechanization can curb postharvest losses and lower the production cost of the farmers significantly.

Farmer-beneficiaries responded positively to this call and even sees the provision of machinery in their areas as a key to increasing their productivity.

*"Malaking tulong po sa amin ang mga makinaryang ito. Dahil napapadali po ang proseso ng aming pagsasaka. At the same time, malaking kabawasan ito sa nagagastos namin sa labor. At hanggang sa pag-aani, maiiwasan namin ang mga losses na magiging susi sa pagpapataas ng aming produksyon. Makaka-asa po kayo na ang mga makinaryang ito ay amin pong pamamahalaan ng tama at aalagaan,"*said Mr. Ruben De Leon of Camansihan Farmers' Association in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro.

Different officials from the provincial and municipal local government units and the Department of Agriculture were present during the turn over. These distribution activities were led by the Facility Management and Field Operations Division (FMFOD) of PHilMech headed by Mr. Joel V. Dator. ■ **JMGSubaba**



PHilMech airs webinar amidst typhoon Pepito

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) pushed for the airing of the webinar e-Talakayan: Angat Ani sa Tamang Makinarya for the Region I despite the threat of typhoon Pepito last Oct. 21, 2020.

PHilMech, together with the webinar's 606 participants from 148 farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) defied the aftermath of Pepito— poor internet signal and power interruption.

One of the participants, Alfredo G. Pascua from Rang Ay Iti Daya Farmers Association Inc. expressed his gratitude, *"Salamat po sa inyong walang sawang pagbibigay aral po sa aming farmers. Lubos po kaming nagpapasalamat at nadagdagan ang aming knowledge. (Thank you for the continuous effort to educate our farmers. We really appreciate it since we have gained more knowledge.) More power!"*

Dr. Aldrin E. Badua, chief of the Applied Communication Division of PHilMech, led the webinar's discussion on the RCEF

Mechanization Program and the benefits of the mechanization technologies, and attentively answered the questions of the participants.

The farmer-participants watched the webinar via Facebook Live and joined in the *e-tanungan* at *kasagutan* (question and answer) portion. For the affected participants, PHilMech posted a replay of the webinar.

This e-Talakayan is one of the webinar series that PHilMech would be conducting this year to reach the FCAs nationwide. It is part of the information dissemination support for the program to encourage the farmers to continue learning despite the pandemic. It airs exclusively per batch of participants every Wednesday from 9:00 to 11:00 am.

■ **MTVCabuloy**



Live broadcasting of E-talakayan during the typhoon, Pepito



PHilMech conducts e-training on corn, cassava

THE TECHNOLOGY

MANAGEMENT and Training Division of PHilMech conducted the Online Training Course on Mechanization and Postharvest Technologies for Corn and Cassava on September 29-30, 2020.

Thirty one technical staff from PLGUs/MLGUs and corn and cassava growers from the different provincial/municipal local government units of Cagayan (Alcala, Penablanca and Baggao), Isabela (San Guillermo,

San Agustin, Echague, Cauayan and San Mariano), Nueva Vizcaya (Diadi), Quirino (Diffun), Pangasinan and Ifugao (Asipulo and Alfonso Lista) participated. Seventeen (54.83%) participants were male and 14 (45.16%) were female participants.

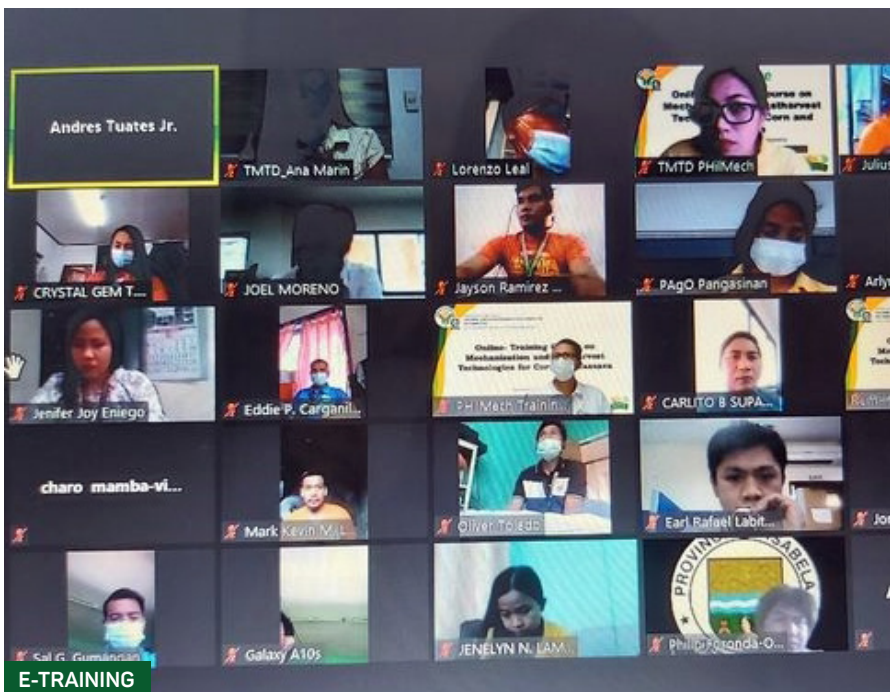
The participants were briefed on the status of mechanization and postharvest of corn and cassava. Developed technologies for corn and cassava (i.e. PHilMech Pneumatic Corn Planter, PHilMech Corn Planter

and PHilMech Corn Mill) were presented. Said technologies will greatly help the industry particularly in easing and reducing hard labor, relieving labor shortages, improving productivity and timeliness of agricultural operations and efficient use of resources.

Technology generators and project implementers were among the Subject Matter Specialists (SMS) tapped. They include Engr. Donald V. Mateo, Engr. Andres M. Tuates Jr., Dr. Michael A. Gragasin, Engr. Earl B. Labitad and Engr. Raymund Joseph P. Macaranas.

Aside from the lecture-discussion, open forum after each module was included where the participants raised their queries and clarifications. Pre/ Post test and modular activities were given to the participants as part of the requirement for the completion of the two-day webinar.

Technology Forum followed after the training. Engr. Irish R. Arambulo and Dr. Emelie C. Ablaza presented the PHilMech Commercialized Technology and PHilMech Technology Transfer and Commercialization, respectively. ■ **AMCMiranda**



Online training course of PHilMech on mechanization and postharvest technologies for corn and cassava



Hands-on training courses continue despite the pandemic

AFTER THE NATIONWIDE completion of the first part of the (online) training course on the operation and maintenance of rice machinery for the farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Mechanization Program (RCEF-MP), PhilMech continues with the second phase—the hands-on exercises—despite the pandemic.

The Technology Management and Training Division (TMTD) has conducted nine simultaneous batches of hands-on exercises from October 27 to November 4, covering all the six clustered regions who are the recipients of the program.

A total of 184 participants who belong to qualified FCAs from Regions I, II, III, and XI has finished the hands-on exercises which included the operation of the four-wheel drive tractor, manual seed sowing machine, riding-type transplanter, walk-behind transplanter, precision rice seeder and rice combine harvester.

These activities were done in full observance of safety protocols like wearing of facemasks, observing physical distance, monitoring of temperature and the like, as precautionary measures against COVID-19.

As the pandemic hit the country in March of this year, the

PhilMech training group faced a huge challenge on how to continue the work of training the farmers in the operation of agricultural machinery. The TMTD, headed by Ms. Helen R. Calica, developed a strategy using blended learning modality of online and limited face-to-face activities to proceed with the targets.

The team aims to complete the second part of the training across all those FCAs who have completed the online training course. These FCAs are recipients of machinery grants under the 2019 budget.

■ JMGSubaba



TRAINING COURSE

Hands-on training of FCAs from Region I, II, III and XI by PhilMech





Techno demo on multi-row onion mechanical seeder conducted

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER for Postharvest Development and Mechanization together with DA-Regional Field Office III conducted a techno demo on PHilMech Multi-row Onion Mechanical Seeder last November 2020 with Sapang Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SMPC) in Moncada, Tarlac. This is among the selected demonstration sites along with Bataan, Pampanga and Nueva Ecija.

Spearheaded by the Socio-Economic and Policy Research Division (SEPRD), Technology Management and Training Division (TMTD) and Enterprise Development Division (EDD), the program focused on the technology demonstration of multi-row mechanical onion seeder showcasing its technical features, operations, and proper technology maintenance. Engineers of PHilMech, Marvin Estimada and Leo Jay Sarmiento discussed the topics.

The attendees were members of SMPC including their Chairman, Mrs. Mary Grace Manrique, representative from Provincial Agriculturist Office (PAO), Mr. Joseph Gumallaoi, and the farmers of SMPC requested assistance from PHilMech to

address the problem in onion farming.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was then signed for this project in September 2020 with DA-PHilMech, DA-RFO III, and SMPC. One of the agreed terms was lending of one PHilMech Onion Mechanical Seeder to the cooperative for a period of five years. The unit was delivered in October 2020 followed by an official deployment ceremony.

"Gusto ko lang pong magpasalamat Ma'am dahil

kahit papano yung mga hindi pa po natututo don sa paggamit ng machinery natin na iyon, nagkaron po sila ng knowledge para yun na po yung gagamitin nila para makatipid sa susunod na pagtanim nila", Mrs. Mary Grace Marique, Chairman of SMPC, emphasized during his thankful remarks on the program.

The end-users gave their positive feedback and their suggestions to improve the technology.

■ DMCCapariño



Engr. Marvin Estimada discussing the components of multi-row mechanical onion seeder



"MAKINIG, MATUTO AT makitalakayan... (Listen, learn and inquire)."

With this pitch, the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) started a webinar series that will run from October 14 until December 2020 to encourage continuous learning among farmers even in times of pandemic.

Titled as "*e-Talakayan: Angat-ani sa Tamang Makinarya*", the webinar goes live every Wednesday, 9 to 11 am. It covers topics surrounding the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program, the benefits of the mechanization technologies it offers and how to become recipients of the said program.

For the first batch, PHilMech Director IV Dr. Baldwin G. Jallorina gave a very optimistic message to encourage members of FCAs to continue gaining knowledge through online platforms like webinars.

"This is one way to convey knowledge to farmers even in a pandemic. With the use of internet and social media, accessing information and learning new technologies are made possible through e-Talakayan," he said.



Official streamer of E-talakan segment of PHilMech

PHilMech launches "*e-Talakayan: Angat-ani sa Tamang Makinarya*"

The 83 rice farmers from Nueva Ecija farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCA) participated in the e-Talakayan aired in Facebook Live.

"Thank you so much for helping our fellow farmers through modern technologies and machinery," said Marcial Espino of Parista Tree Planters Association, Nueva Ecija.

"Thank you for the knowledge brought by Dr. Aldrin E. Badua. May our coop be included in those who will be receiving machinery," said Marianita Flores

of Pakul Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Nueva Ecija. Dr. Aldrin E. Badua, chief of the Applied Communication Division (ACD) served as the lecturer and point person in answering the queries. ACD is the lead implementer of the e-Talakayan that exclusively caters to FCA recipients of the program.

For the upcoming webinars, registration is at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfbvxEcTaScieTJFiXYcJbkMIVTNubpwNNR9cy_Z_SJFBK5wQ/viewform

■ JMBLaternas





MACHINE DISTRIBUTION

Secretary Dar's virtual message during 2nd batch of machine distribution in PHilMech

RCEF mech program distributes 2nd batch of machines in NE

AN ESTIMATED AMOUNT of P469.4M farm machinery grants under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF)-Mechanization Program were given to 139 Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) in Nueva Ecija during the turn-over ceremony held at PHilMech main office, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija this morning.

The machine grants included 79 units of Four-Wheel Drive Tractor, 30 units of Rice Combine Harvester, 3 units of Walk-Behind Mechanical Rice Transplanter and 4 units of Riding-Type Mechanical Rice Transplanter.

These are funded under the second batch of the 2019 budget and first batch of the 2020 budget.

Dr. Baldwin Jallorina encouraged the FCAs to take good care of the machines and show the youth that farming is easy nowadays. He urged them to support this program because their cooperation is the key to the success of both the program and the farmers.

The women legislators of Nueva Ecija--Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing (1st District), Hon. Micaela S. Violago (2nd District), Hon. Rosanna V. Vergara (3rd District) and Hon. Maricel Natividad-Nagaño--were all present.

They have donated cash gifts to the group of farmers present.

"Ito po ay galing mismo sa inyo. Kaya sana po pangalagaan ninyo dahil ito po ang dugo at pawis na puhunan ng bawat isang magsasaka!", Hon. Micaela S. Violago emphasized in her remarks.

Director Crispulo Bautista of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 3 was also present and has represented Sec. William D. Dar during the ceremony. Senator Cynthia A. Villar has also sent her representatives and a video clip to congratulate the FCAs.

"Ito po ay bahagi ng paglingap ng inyong pamahalaan sa pangunguna ng ating pangulong Rodrigo Roa Duterte upang mapataas ang inyong ani at kita. Gamitin ninyo nawa ang mga ito nang tama at bigyan ng pagpapahalaga nang mapakinabangan ng matagal na panahon.", Sec. Dar said in his speech via video greetings.

Communication materials were also distributed to each FCA so they can set-up an info hub in their respective offices which will cater to the information needs of their members about the program and on rice farming.

The training division has also consolidated names and details of FCAs who are willing to undergo skills training via online platform. The Central Command and Luzon A Cluster of the Facility Management and Field Operations Division (FMFOD) spearheaded the turn-over ceremony. ■ **JMGSubaba**



RCEF mechanization program press conference with Engr. Aldrin Badua, Mr. Joel Dator and Director Baldwin Jallorina

Presscon on RCEF mechanization continues

PRESS CONFERENCES WERE conducted at the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech) in order to keep the interested audience updated about the status of the RCEF mechanization program.

In October 2020, Baldwin G. Jallorina, Director of PHilMech, faced the press together with Joel V. Dator, chief of Field Management and Field Operation Division (FMFOD), and Engr. Aldrin E. Badua, chief of Applied Communication Division (ACD). All the questions were entertained and answered by the director based on the reports of all

conducted machine distributions, biddings, and so on.

The press including Manila Bulletin, the Manila Times, Philippine News Agency, Philippine Star and the Business Mirror participated in the conference tackling mainly the RCEF mechanization program. Topics brought were about total disbursement for 2019 under RCEF funds, bidding processes, manpower, assurance of corruption free activities, machine maintenance and requirements for qualification.

In December 2020, another press conference was held at PHilMech together with the Chief

of ACD, Engr. Aldrin E. Badua and Chief of FMFOD, Joel V. Dator. The press who then interviewed them were DZEC-Radyo Agila, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Star and Philippine Daily Inquirer.

These conferences were conducted regularly to inform the public about the updates on the RCEF mechanization program.

"Ako po ay proud at sigurado na itong implementation namin ng programa ay walang halong korapsyon at ginagawa naming lahat ng transparency para sa inyo through social media, facebook.", Director Baldwin G. Jallorina said.

■ DMCCapariño



Youth for Mechanization PHilMech logo

PHilMech youth campaign gaining traction

THE “YOUTH FOR Mechanization (Y4M) Advocates” online campaign being conducted by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) over its Facebook pages is gaining traction, demonstrating that the youth are appreciating the application of technologies like farm mechanization in improving crop production.

Under the campaign, PHilMech posts questions about mechanization that young people into farming or aspiring to

be farmers answer with a selfie photo beside a farm machine of their choice.

“This online campaign of PHilMech using its Facebook pages is gaining feedback from millennials and Gen Zers, and this also shows that mechanization is one good way to attract more of the youth into farming,” said Engr. Aldrin E. Badua, chief of the Applied Communications Division

He added that PHilMech sees the potential of millennials and Gen Zers in helping the agency in assisting farmers adopt to

online platforms for training and information dissemination.

“The youth of today are very up-to-date and highly adaptable to technologies, including the new ones. And we can explore a role for them to help educate and inform farmers on the latest technologies available to improve farm productivity, including online learning systems,” Engr. Badua explained.

So far, PHilMech has gotten very interesting and engaging answers from young people on the questions posted in its Facebook page for the Youth for



Mechanization (y4m) Advocates campaign.

The two questions posted so far are: 1. "As a youth, how does rice machines/mechanization change the way you think about agriculture?"; and 2. "As a young person, if you would be given a chance by the government and fund your idea, what kind of mechanization-related project you would suggest to bring back the interest of youth into agriculture?"

The first question has gained 9.6K reach and 1.2K

engagement while the second question has 39.3K reach and 3.8K post engagement based on the DA-PHilMech page analytics.

For the first batch of advocates, DA-PHilMech page featured 15 answers with their selfie photos. They are Alpha Rosanes from Bataan, Engr. Cloie Ann Cabiguen of Palawan, Liezel Pinkihan of Nueva Vizcaya, Ryan Escuadro of Negros Occidental, Jean Tado of Agusan del Norte, Erjhon Dinglasan of Cavite, Mia Basilio of Ilocos Norte, Mary Madrio of Misamis Occidental,

John Majesterio of Laguna, Dimple Durias of Leyte, Nica Macabale II of Nueva Ecija, Dominiku David of Mabalacat, Pampanga, Ariel Langcauon of Albay, and Gizelle Cantavieja of Laguna.

"Integrating mechanization to traditional rice farming practices allowed myself to view farming not just fun and enjoyable but most importantly rewarding and fulfilling. The idea that I get to have fun while working, greatly enticed my willingness to be involved in this modernization," said Langcauon.

■ PHilMech Comm Group



Youth advocate, Alpha Rosanes from Bataan



Youth advocate, Gizelle Cantavieja from Laguna



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- 6 Compact Corn Mill
- 7 Brown Rice Huller
- 8 Soybean Grinder

PHilMech and GAD

The Department of Agriculture--Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech) shall design and promote the commercial use of improved postharvest processing facilities and equipment of selected commercial crops among women and men, farmer-groups, processors and small-holder entrepreneurs to reduce postharvest losses and increase income derived from value-added processing operations.

ER *and* OPMENT

arta of Women

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- Special leave benefits
- Equal rights in matters relating to marriage and family relations

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Commission
on Women



What is **GAD**?

Gender and Development (GAD) refers to the development perspective and process that are participatory and empowering, equitable, sustainable, free from violence, respectful of human rights, supportive of self-determination and actualization of human potentials.

It seeks to achieve gender equality as a fundamental value that should be reflected in development choices; seeks to transform society's social, economic, and political structures and questions the validity of the gender roles they ascribed to women and men; contends that women are active agents of development and not just passive recipients of development assistance; and stresses the need of women to organize themselves and participate in political processes to strengthen their legal rights.



PHilMech Director, Baldwin Jallorina and PHilMech's GAD focal person, Dr. Helen Martinez on VAW-free campaign

PHilMech joins the fight to end VAW

by *Gio Anton T. Barroga*

PHILMECH CONCLUDED ITS 18-day online advocacy campaign to end violence against women in support to the national government's goal of protecting the rights of women and girls – raising awareness among its staff about the sufferings women and girls worldwide experience in their lifetime.

The online campaign, which started on November 25, is in line with Proclamation No. 1172 which declares that day as the "18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women (VAW) in the Philippines" and Republic Act 10398, which declares November 25 of every year as a National Consciousness Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC).

As part of the new normal, the recap of the online campaign was broadcasted through a Zoom meeting involving the staff of PHilMech last December 18.

In his opening message, Director I and GAD Focal Point Systems (GFPS) ExeCom Chairperson Arnel Ramir M. Apaga said that according to the Philippine Statistics Authority, 1 in 4 Filipino women aged 15 to 49 experienced physical, emotional and sexual violence from domestic and non-domestic partners.

Worldwide, however, as researched by the World Health Organization, 35 percent of women worldwide have experienced the same, unfortunate fate.

Alarmingly, according to the Philippine National Police, 4,200 cases of VAWC has been reported since the start of the lockdown – with fingers pointing at the frustrations caused by the loss of jobs.

Leading the program was Enterprise Development Division's (EDD) Dr. Helen F. Martinez, who is also the GAD Focal Person. Martinez gave a recap on the background of the campaign, as well as PHilMech's efforts to raise awareness among its staff.

With the Philippine Commission on Women's (PCW) theme for this year being "VAW Free Community Starts with Me," PCW recommended the printing



of a banner for display for all government agencies. PHilMech, according to Martinez, was able to place the same banner by its gate during the start of the campaign.

With social media being the easiest medium to relay messages to a large audience immediately, advocacy posters through PHilMech's official Facebook account were also posted. These advocacy posters displayed various messages and graphics in relation to ending VAW.

This effort was done in collaboration with the Applied Communications Division, who produce online content that are posted on PHilMech's official social media accounts. Martinez reported that 10 posts have been published during the duration of the campaign.

Another recommendation of the PCW was the use of their specially made picture frame that could be virtually added to a user's Facebook profile picture.

PHilMech employees were also encouraged to wear orange every Friday during the duration of the campaign. According to PCW, orange was chosen to symbolize a brighter future for the victim-survivors of VAW.

The virtual picture frame, which sports the theme's official color included the VAW theme as well as a brief description of what the campaign was about.

In total, 156 PHilMech employees were able to display the virtual picture frame on their Facebook profile pictures.

As part of PHilMech's efforts to fight the end of VAW, PHilMech assured its female staff who may be victims of VAW that they can report such incidents to the agency's Human Resource Management Section, where they can find the Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI).

The role of CODI is to receive complaints of sexual harassment within the agency. Once a complaint has been made, an investigation will follow in accordance with prescribed procedures. A report will be made which include recommendations to the disciplining authority.

PHilMech's reconstituted CODI will be headed by EDD chief Engr. Genaro M. Tolentino as chairperson.

Despite his heavy schedule, PHilMech Executive Director Dr.

Baldwin G. Jallorina was able to give his speech in person.

"Bilang mga kawani ng gobyerno, tayo ay inaasahan na manguna sa pagsusulong ng naturang adbokasiya na nag lalayan ng isang mapayapa, patas at nagkakaisang komunidad. Nawa'y magsilbi tayong ehemplo ng ating komunidad at sa mga susunod pang henerasyon. (As government staff, we are expected to lead in the promotion of the advocacy of a peaceful, fair and united community. Let us be examples in our communities and for the next generation.)"

Despite PHilMech's efforts during the campaign, the agency still believes that the fight against VAW is not over. With the campaign at its end, the agency vows to continue the fight to end violence against women and children.



PHilMech employees support VAW-free campaign through online communication



Faces of Violence and Legal Remedies

by Mila B. Gonzalez



"I AM FREE!"

exclaimed Sarah, Dina and Vina as they break free from the clutches of violence in their lives.

Sarah is working as a secretary in a firm. Her boss showed interest in her since day one of work. As months passed, her boss grew more aggressive. One day, he suddenly grabbed her, kissed her torridly on the lips. She pushed him hard and ran away crying.

Dina, married with two children, five and 10 years old, is a home stay mom. She does all the house works. She also sells on-line souvenir items. Her only rest is night time. But her often drunk husband keeps her awake because he forces her to have sex even against her will.

Vina is a young, beautiful lady. She is so much in love with her boyfriend that she is very patient with him. Her boyfriend keeps mouthing harsh words on her person in front of his barkada. She is so blinded with stupid love, she is oblivious of his treatment of her.

Different faces of violence against women –sexual harassment, marital rape, verbal abuse. These are experiences women and girls should not be exposed to because they degrade human dignity, a violation of human rights. Thanks to the laws crafted to protect Filipino women's rights.



Thanks to groups, government and private, advocating for the protection of women and girls against the different forms of violence, women are now aware.

Sarah filed a case against her boss for sexual harassment. Dina threatened her husband to file a case of marital rape if he doesn't stop his aggressive behavior. Vina broke off with her boyfriend after realizing that she doesn't deserve the verbal abuse of her boyfriend.

Knowledge of these laws empowered Sarah, Dina and Vina. Now, they are confident, strong and fearless, exactly the opposite when they were still victims of violence.

However, based on the data of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), more Filipino women were victims

of rape, physical abuse, sexual exploitation in 2019 (Philippine Statistics Authority). Hence, more Filipino women need to be aware of the following Philippine laws for them to be empowered.

Anti-sexual harassment law

It is unlawful to make unwelcome sexual advances, request or demand for sexual behavior. This is according to Republic Act 7877 of 1995 or an act against sexual harassment in the employed, education or training environment. Sexual harassment has many forms. Examples include malicious touching, overt sexual advances, obscene remarks, use of pictures, letters and graphics with sexual underpinnings and so forth. Penalty for the violation of the law is imprisonment of one month to six months or a fine of Php 10,000 to Php20,000 or even both,



imprisonment and fine, depending on the discretion of the court.

Anti- rape law

Rape maybe committed by anyone, male or female. Women and girls, however, are the most common victims.

Republic Act 8353 or the anti-rape law of 1997 expands the definition of rape and reclassifies it as crime against person.

Rape happens when “the sexual act is committed through force, threat or intimidation.” When the victim is unconscious or deprived of reason, and a sexual act was done, this constitutes a rape. When a sexual act is done through grave abuse of authority or fraudulent machinations, this is rape. Doing a sexual act with a demented victim

or one who is under 12 years old also constitutes rape.

According to RA 8353, rape is punishable by imprisonment of 20 to 40 years (Reclusion perpetua) if rape is done through sexual intercourse (genitals). If rape is done through oral or anal intercourse, the crime is punishable by imprisonment of six to 12 years (Prision mayor). Depending on the circumstances, the punishment can be elevated to an imprisonment of 12 to 20 years (Reclusion temporal) or Reclusion perpetua (20 to 40 years).

Anti-violence against women and their children law

Under Republic Act 9262 also known as anti-violence against women and their children act (VAWC) of 2004, violence refers to an act or acts committed

by an intimate partner that results to psychological, sexual, psychological and economic harm to women and their children. The partner-offender “may refer to husband, ex-husband, live-in partner, boyfriend/girlfriend, fiancé, whom the woman had sexual/ dating relationship.”

According to this law, violators will be penalized by imprisonment from one month and one day; payment of Php100,000 to Php300,000 in damages; and mandatory psychological counseling or psychiatric treatment.

The RA 7877, RA 8353, and RA 9262 are just some of the laws protecting the rights of women and girls. It is important that women know their rights so that they can fully utilize them to their advantage. Knowledge of these laws empowered Sarah, Dina and Vina. Now they are free from violence.



RA 7877

Anti-Sexual Harrassment Act of 1995



RA 8353

The Anti-Rape Law of 1997



RA 9262

Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children (VAWC) Act of 2004

Credits to Philippine Commission on Women (PCW)



Uploaded by: Krystel Denice Labrador
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THE TECHNOLOGY

Management and Training Division (TMTD) of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) conducted the Cacao Bean Processing: Fermentation and Drying Webinar on November 27, 2020 and December 11, 2020. Engr. Andres M. Tuates Jr. of the Bio-Process Engineering Division (BPED) served as the speaker.

The webinar was divided into two batches with participants composed of individuals from the private sector, researchers from academe, students and technical staff from DA attached agencies. A total of 178 participants joined the webinar. They registered through the link provided at PHilMech’s Facebook page and website.

Engr. Andres M. Tuates, Jr. discussed the Cacao Fermentation and Drying. He explained the factors that influence fermentation such as degree of ripeness of pods, variety, pod’s pest and disease, climate and season, duration of fermentation and quantity of beans. Engr. Tuates also shared the methods of fermentation and fermentation protocol.

Engr. Tuates also explained that sun drying is the most common method used worldwide. The

Cacao Fermentation



- Cacao fermentation is the first stage in the preparation of chocolates after the wet beans are removed from the pods.
- Fermentation is needed in the development of various flavor precursors in the beans.
- There will be a weak or no chocolate flavor without the fermentation of beans as flavor precursors are developed during chemical and biochemical changes that happen in this process

live e-training with Engr. Andres Tuates on Cacao Fermentation

PHilMech conducts webinar on cacao bean processing

Multi-Crop Solar Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD) with Biomass Furnace and Greenhouse Solar Dryer with Furnace were among the technologies that can be used in drying cacao. He also cited the advantages and disadvantages of using these technologies.

Success stories of cooperators from Rosit Farm in Davao and Mayon Farms Association in Bicol were shown after the discussion and presentation on Fermentation and Drying. These cooperators are using PHilMech technologies in their cacao processing.

An open forum was held to clarify issues and concerns of the participants. Mr. Grover Rosit of the Rosit Farm and Ms. Lorelyn Bañas of the Mayon Farms Association answered the queries of the participants and shared their experiences and operations on cacao processing and farming. Mr. Rosit and Ms. Bañas also thanked PHilMech for providing technologies on cacao. Participants who just started in cacao farming were eager to pursue the business on cacao. ■ [PSMFukasawa](#)



MCSTD

Discussion of MCSTD components with Engr. Danilo Briones of PHilMech

SILAW receives PHilMech solar dryer

THE SALABUSOB INTEGRATED Livelihood Association of Women (SILAW) received one unit of Multi Commodity Solar Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD) during the turn-over ceremony held on October 14, 2020 in Labi, Bongabon, Nueva Ecija.

This is part of the Microenterprise Development Assistance for SILAW Turmeric Processing Project. It is in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission-Protect Wildlife, Department of Environment and Natural Resources -

Community Environment and Natural Resources Office Region 3, Department of Trade and Industry Provincial Office and the Local Government Unit of Bongabon.

Technical briefing and demonstrations on the processing and drying of turmeric using the MCSTD was conducted by Enterprise Development Division-Enterprise Capability Enhancement Section headed by Engr. Danilo Briones.

■ RBernardino





Online conference and awarding of winners with CLAARRDEC

Papers and poster of PHilMech bag CLAARRDEC awards

THREE OF PHILMECH papers and posters won Second and Third Place Awards in the Central Luzon Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Research and Development Consortium’s (CLAARRDEC) 31st Regional Symposium on Research and Development Highlights last December 11, 2020.

The Regional Symposium used Zoom and CLAARRDEC’s Facebook Page to live stream the event. It aptly themed it with “Regional Cohesiveness on R&D Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic”

and used the digital platform to allow the researchers to present their papers and posters to reach the wider audience of the social media.

Dr. Romualdo C. Martinez who presented the paper “Development and Field Testing of Greenhouse Solar Dryer for Food Safe Cassava Products” gained second place under the Research Category while its poster won third place. For the development category, Dr. Gigi B. Calica’s paper on “Pilot Testing of Coconut Water Processing

Enterprise on Selected Areas in the Philippines” placed second. The awardees received plaques and cash prize of Php 10,000 for each best paper and Php 5,000 for the best poster.

The CLAARRDEC conducts this Regional Symposium annually to present and evaluate technologies, significant research results and innovations ready for promotion or commercialization. It encourages interaction of scientists, researchers, trainers, communicators, extension workers, policymakers, farmers and students with the technology generators. It provides the venue to gather feedback on the potentials of emerging technologies and innovations.

■ PHilMech Comm Group



PHilMech honors retirees, loyalty awardees

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) honors the hard work and dedication of the retirees last October 28, 2020 at the PHilMech Training Hall. Two retirees were from the Planning Management and Information Technology Division (PMITD). They were Dr. Normita A. Pasalo, former division chief and Ms. Victoriana M. Barlis, former supervising admin officer. Another remarkable retiree was Ms. Remedios S. Ortiz, former Accountant IV of Finance Division (FD).

PHilMech Director IV, Dr. Baldwin G. Jallorina including Engr. Raul R. Paz, Director III, and Arnel Ramir M. Apaga, Director I graced the program. It was also attended by all the chiefs of the different divisions to give thanks and honor to the retirees, considered pillars in the administrative and support cluster of PHilMech.

Loyalty awardees were also recognized by PHilMech during the event. Thirty-five employees were given plaques, certificates and even cash prizes corresponding to their years of service.

Among the awardees were the Chief of Agricultural Mechanization Division (AMD), Dr. Romualdo C. Martinez; Chief of Laboratory Services Division (LSD), Lyn A. Esteves and the Director I of PHilMech, Arnel Ramir M. Apaga who rendered 35 years of government service. Other awardees with 35 years of service were Dionisio G. Alvindia, Don David T. Julian, Ma. Cristina B. Gragasin, Reynaldo P. Gregorio and Victoriana M. Barlis.

■ DMCCapariño



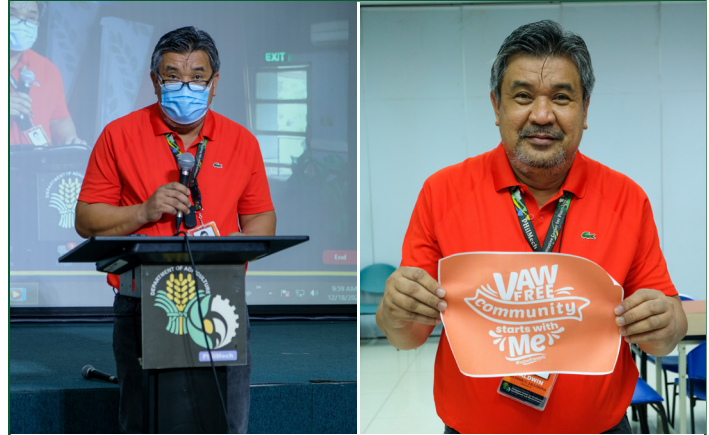
2020 RETIREES

Awarding of plaques to the PHilMech retirees Ms. Remedios S. Ortiz (2nd from left), Dr. Normita A. Pasalo (center), and Ms. Victoriana M. Barlis (2nd from right) with the Director IV and Director I.



DR. CAPARIÑO

Dr. Ofero A. Capariño, Scientist I of Bio-Process Engineering Division (BPED), received his AFACI award: 2019 Outstanding Principal Investigator last October 2020 under the project category of Development of Agricultural Product Processing Technology (APPT).



18-DAY CAMPAIGN

PHilMech employees joined the fun and exciting activities during the 18-day online advocacy campaign of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) with full support from the Director and all the employees.



MACHINE DISTRIBUTION

2nd batch of machine distribution for Nueva Ecija Farmers Cooperative and Associations held at PHilMech in November 2020.

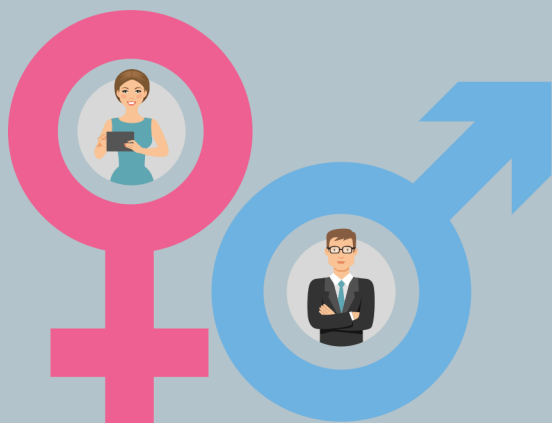
GAD MAINSTREAMING INITIATIVES.... CY 2020



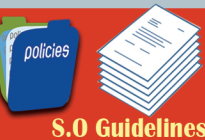
RESEARCH and DEVELOPMENT
CLUSTER

ESETS
CLUSTER

ORGANIZATIONAL
GOALS



POLICY



S.O Guidelines

POLICY

- PHilMech's top management issues clear policies to support gender mainstreaming and GAD activities

PROGRAMS/
PROJECT/
ACTIVITIES



PROGRAMS/PROJECTS ACTIVITIES

- PHilMech considers men and women's need in the generation, commercialization and sustained use of gender-friendly postharvest and mechanization technologies or systems.

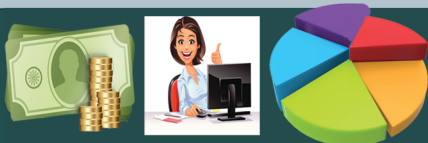
PEOPLE



PEOPLE

- A GAD Focal Point System with GADvocates serve as planners and implementers of the gendermainstreaming efforts.

Funds
for
GAD



ENABLING MECHANISMS

- PHilMech allocates budget to fund its GAD related programs, projects and activities.

GAD Agenda

PHilMech envisions to be the premier center for postharvest and mechanization development for a gender responsive, globally competitive and food-secure Philippines

To empower the stakeholders in agriculture and fishery sector by increasing resource-use efficiency and productivity, reducing losses and adding value to the produce through gender responsive research, development and extension programs.

VISION MISSION GOALS

- Enhanced institutional capacity by promoting, developing capabilities, and sharing responsibilities among PHilMech officials and staff through mainstreaming GAD in the agency's policies, people, enabling mechanisms and PAPS.
- Improved access to gender-responsive and participatory R&D suitable to the needs of the stakeholders to reduce postharvest losses, ensure food preservation and safety; and increase farm productivity and profitability derived from value-added processing operations.
- Empowered stakeholders through a highly participatory approach, extension and commercialization of technologies and deployment of appropriate, gender-friendly and resilient postharvest and mechanization technologies/systems



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