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PHilMech NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Publication of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization

Covid-19 Response Project of PHilMech

GREENHOUSE SOLAR DRYER

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ON THE COVER

Drying of Chichacorn using the Greenhouse Solar Dryer with Biomass Furnace and Multi-tray Drying Cabinets in Camiling, Tarlac

Photo by Don Miguel C. Capariño

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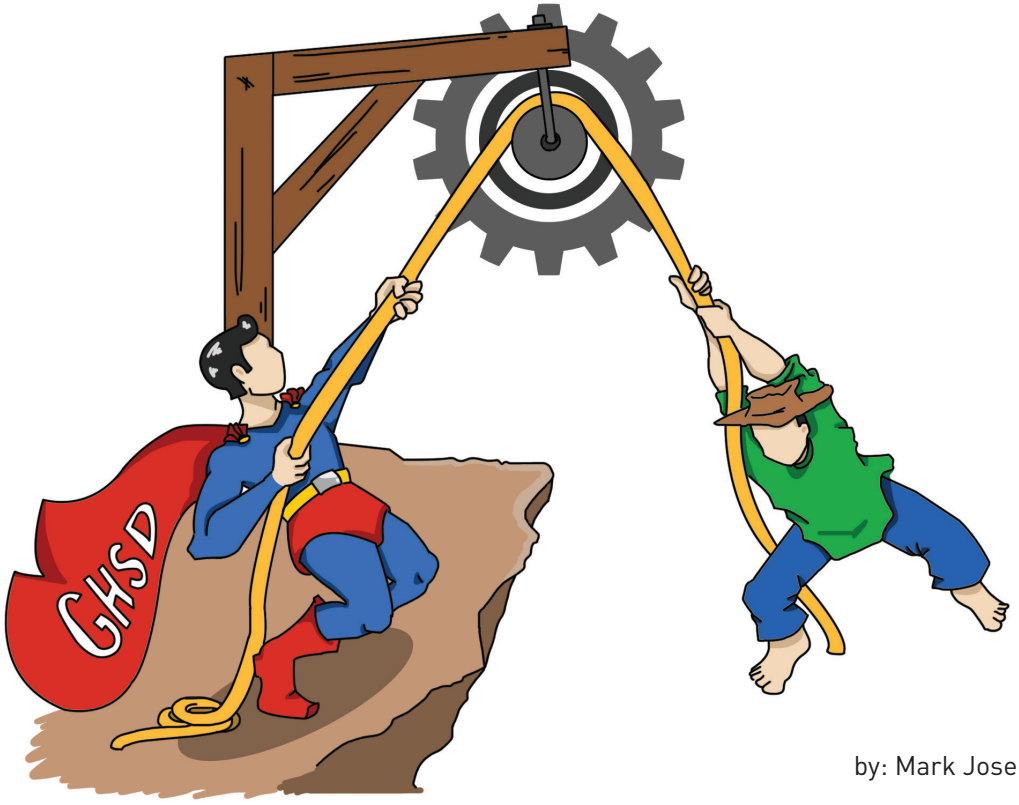


by: Mark Joseph S. Mapatac

Greenhouse Solar Dryer with Biomass Furnace and Multi-Tray Drying Cabinets

One of the technology interventions of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) under its Covid-19 Response Program is the greenhouse solar dryer (GHSD) with biomass furnace and multi-tray drying cabinets.

This technology aims to provide "high quality, naturally dried, food safe products" for the farmer-entrepreneurs. Added income from the dried products using the technology will enable the partner Farmer Cooperatives and Associations to cope up even in these trying times, especially during the pandemic.

The use of biomass as source of fuel of the GHSD is also a practical solution to the increasing price of fuel in the market. This biomass furnace attached to the GHSD will help the FCAs to address the rising cost of fuel at the same time earning them higher income because of lower product costs for their dried products like corn, coffee and fish.

PHilMech believes that the generation, extension and commercialization of appropriate postharvest and mechanization technologies to the FCA partners is an effective way of empowering them as well as making them more competitive amidst all the challenges they face..

Visit of DA Sec. William Dar in PHilMech Main Office, Nueva Ecija

Dar recognizes PHilMech's contribution to PH agriculture

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) Secretary William D. Dar acknowledged the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) as one of the attached agencies with a significant contribution in the advancement of the country's agriculture sector during his visit last March 25, 2022.

"PHilMech is important to the OneDA family," Dar said. He then commended the enthusiasm of the officials and staff of PHilMech in fulfilling its mandate to generate, extend, and commercialize appropriate and problem-oriented agriculture and fishery postharvest and mechanization technologies, practices, and systems.

The DA chief further reminded the Director IV, Dr. Dionisio G. Alvindia, to ensure proper implementation of the programs and projects especially the mechanization component of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

"See to it that the bricks that are being layered have a strong foundation. At siguruhin ninyo na nakikinabang ang mga magsasakang Pilipino sa ating mga programa tulad ng Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (Ensure that the Filipino farmers gets full benefit of our programs such as RCEF)," Dar said.

In addition, the secretary commits continuous service in leading the agriculture department in the remaining months of his term.

"Let us keep consulting with one another, with partners, and with stakeholders so we can improve our ways in providing quality service," he expressed.

PHilMech Director IV Dionisio G. Alvindia, expressed his gratitude and also pledged to lead the agency with dedication in the proper implementation of its programs and projects.

Aside from PHilMech, the secretary also paid a visit to Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), and Philippine-Sino Center for Agricultural Technology (PhilSCAT).

NSMariano Jr.

Accelerating mechanization with the Koreans

A FIVE-DAY SERIES OF meetings were conducted between PHilMech and the Korea Institute for Development Strategy (KDS) to enhance the capability of the agency in designing, developing, and manufacturing agricultural machines in the local setting. Said meetings were held on January 10-17 at the PHilMech main office.

This is part of the partnership between the agencies to accelerate mechanization in Philippine agriculture.

Director Arnel Ramir M. Apaga and Dr. Romualdo C. Martinez of the Agricultural Mechanization Division headed the PHilMech team, while Dr. LEE Ki Taeg and Dr. HONG Sung Gi led the Korean delegation.

Discussions dealt on the implementation plan of the Agiruclтural Machinery Development and Prototyping Center (AMDPC), its architectural design, dispatch of the KDS team, the 12 proposed technologies to be developed under the project, the six-year capacity building program, list of the tentative equipment to be housed at AMDPC, and a lot more.

Multiple technologies were proposed by PHilMech including the mechanical rice seeder, cassava peeler, cacao moisture meter, coconut dehusking machine, pulper/extractor/juicer, mini Feed Mill for ruminants, fish sorter/grader and more.

ZOOM MEETING

Pesentation of proposals of different technology

Capacity building activities under the project include training of PHilMech personnel on CAD, CAM/CNC, CAE (computational tool dynamics, finite element analysis, discrete element method), design thinking process, and the specialized training on electronic circuit and board design and prototyping.

With these components of the partnership with the Koreans, the project aims to accelerate mechanization of Philippine agriculture in the next more years.

Also present during the meetings were Dr. Ofero A. Capariño, Dr. Aldrin E. Badua, Ms. Helen R. Calica, Engr. Reynaldo Gregorio and Engr. Arlene Joaquin of PHilMech.

JAVAlcantara

PHilMech establishes 22 info-hubs among FCAs under RCEF

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) has established 22 info-hubs among the different model farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) who are beneficiaries of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program.

The establishment of info-hubs is a convergence communication intervention project of the Rice Extension Services Program (RESP)1 of RCEF implemented by PhilRice, ATI, PHilMech and TESDA.

It aims to provide the FCA recipients comprehensive and diverse communication materials where farmer-beneficiaries and their dependents can have free access to localized information, education, and communication (IEC) materials about the program, where knowledge sharing and learning (KSL) activities can be conducted locally.

PHilMech sees the said project as a strategy to educate and inform not just the primary target audience which are the farmer-recipients, but also the secondary audience which are the women and the youth (wives and children of farmer-members of the FCAs).

"Nagpapasalamat po ako dahil sa mga karagdagang kaalaman po na dumating dito sa SOPCO. Malaking tulong po ito para sa mga magsasaka at sa amin po na wala pang masyadong kaalaman sa paggamit ng iba't-ibang uri ng makinarya," said Mary Grace E. Orguino, person-in-charge of the info-hub of Samaleño Organiko Producers Cooperative (SOPCO) in Samal, Bataan.

Establishment of info-hub in different regions

"Ngayon magkakaroon na kami ng idea kung paano gamitin ng maayos yung hand tractor na bigay sa amin ng PHilMech," she added.

A total of 13 info-hubs among the model FCAs from Luzon, 1 from Visayas and 8 from Mindanao were already established.

Monitoring and evaluation of this project will be conducted quarterly by PHilMech Info-Hub officers and PIC of the FCA.

"Madalas at gustong-gusto kinukuha ng mga farmer members ay yung Reference Manual kasi nandoon na lahat ng information tungkol sa mga makinarya mula land preparation hanggang milling", said Evangeline T. Atio-Ann, info-hub PIC of the Villaverde Development Cooperative (VILDECO).

"Nakakatuwa dahil pati mga kabataang magsasaka na miyembro ng aming cooperative ay nagbabasa at kumukuha ng mga IEC materials dito sa info-hub," she added.

Meanwhile, pre-intervention surveys (PIS) were also conducted prior to the distribution of info-hub materials to gauge the level of awareness, knowledge and practice of the farmers in terms of mechanized farming. By the end of the program, an evaluation will be conducted in order to determine the outcome of the intervention to the target audience. **JABPoco**

Training of trainers conducted

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) conducted the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Farm Machinery Operation, Management and Enterprise Development with 29 graduates. The Technology Management and Training Division spearheaded the activity in partnership with the Enterprise Development Division. The online training was held on February 15-18, 2022 via zoom conferencing.

The TOT aims to develop a core of subject matter specialists and trainers on farm machinery operation, management and enterprise development.
Engr. Genaro M. Tolentino, chief of Enterprise Development Division graced the closing program.

He said, *"Ako po ay naniniwala na kayo po ang tamang napili para mag-attend sa course na ito-- technical people na katulad ninyo: young, energetic, and with lots of potential"*.

"Ilabas natin ang ating galing at kakayanan para tulungan ang ating mga magsasaka-- tulungang iangat ang kanilang mga kabuhayan, tulungang silang maging competitive katulad o higit pa sa mga magsasaka sa ibang bansa," the chief ended.

Meanwhile, Soabair Grande from Sultan Naga Dimaporo, Lanao del Norte said on his impression, "It was really an interesting training kasi it fully met my expectations, kasi every trainor has an excellent ability to teach their subjects. The training course was delivered with professionalism, knowledge and expertise. It was very interactive, practical, helpful and syempre, entertaining din, enabling us to achieve our learning objectives. Definitely I'll recommend this for those who would like to engage with this kind of training."

Introduction of speaker during the TOT on farm machine operation

The participants undergone operation planning workshop and detailed lecture discussion on organizational, management, technical, process flow, operational policies, financial and marketing aspect.

In addition, Transformational Leadership lecture was facilitated by Ms. Lea Del Rosario-Abaoag, Chief, Technology Management and Services Division, PhilRice.

Participants included Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers, and graduates of Agriculture, Economics and Agribusiness related courses from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. **RRCarbonel**

PHilMech trains Luzon cooperators, turns over Brown Rice Micro Mill

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER for Postharvest Development and Mechanization conducted the "Training on the Operation, Management and Turnover of the Brown Rice Micro Mill" at the PHilMech Training Hall on March 23, 2022.

The Technology Management and Training Division of PHilMech spearheaded the activity.

The brown rice mill technology is among the technologies developed by PHilMech which aims to promote the technology and engage farmers in value adding activities. It is part of the ongoing Covid-19 response project, "Accelerating the Development and Adaptation of Brown Rice Mill for Filipino Rice Farmers" led by Dr. Michael Gragasin.

The said training aims to empower the farmers by providing for their needs of milling machine while engaging in value adding activities. This goal will lead to the development and commercialization of appropriate rice mills for the farmers which is important for the sustainable development of the country's agriculture sector.

A total of seven cooperators, comprising of 29 participants from the Farmers Cooperatives and Associations, and brown rice farmers from different municipalities of Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Tarlac and Nueva Vizcaya participated in the

Operation of the Brown Rice Micro Mill with the cooperators

TRAINING

Discussion of technical features of BRIMM

Women operating the BRIMM

training. There were nine (31%) female participants and 20 (69%) male participants.

Engr. John Rey Cargamento, Engr. Herrvin David Gadia and Engr. Cris Leniel Cruz were among the project implementers and Subject Matter Specialists (SMS). After the training, turn over ceremony was held. Activities included discussion on the provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Seven cooperators signed the MOA. Units of brown rice micro mill were turned over to these project cooperators.

Maria Elizabeth Ramos, Supervising Science Research Specialist and Bernie Roderos, Science Research Specialist II of PHilMech discussed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Acknowledgment to the project cooperators.

"Marami kaming natutunan sa training na ito at sisiguraduhin namin na makararating ang mga kaalamang ito sa mga iba pa nating kasamahang magsasaka" Zenaida Micua of Samahang Magsasaka ng Palestina said as she summed up their learnings from the training.

"Sana ay magtuloy-tuloy pa ang ganitong klaseng programa ng PHilMech sapagkat malaki ang maitutulong nitong mapataas ang kita ng mga magsasaka" Conrado Lapurga of RiceBis Bayambang Agriculture Cooperative said.

"Mapapadali din ang trabaho namin sa pag-mill ng brown rice at matutugunan na ang problema ng katulad naming magsasaka sa pag-mill at pagbebenta ng brown rice" he added.

In closing, Director Ronaldo Sebastian Reyes gave a brief overview of the different projects under the Rice Mechanization Component of Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). He also mentioned that the development of the BRIMM technology was based on the demand of the farmers in milling activity. Director Reyes also emphasized the importance of the technology in addressing the needs of the farmers in terms of income generating activity. **JTPaulo**

PHilMech, stakeholders ink MOA on RPS-2 establishment

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER FOR Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), the local government of Maramag, Bukidnon, Central Mindanao University (CMU), and the National Food Authority (NFA) inked a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on the establishment of the Rice Processing System (RPS) 2 under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization Program on February 22, 2022, in Maramag, Bukidnon.

The RPS-2 is equipped with one unit of multi-stage rice mill and two units of recirculating dryers worth around Php60M. However, since the law does not include infrastructure development under RCEF, PHilMech encourages local government units (LGUs) or progressive farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) to build warehouses as counterparts for the provision of free drying and milling facilities.

Director Baldwin G. Jallorina of PHilMech who graced the MOA signing sees RPS-2 as a level-up intervention that can address key problems of small farmers.

"RPS 2 is the next level intervention of the RCEF Mechanization Program because it can potentially solve problems on the lack of accessible drying and milling facilities for the small farmers. The lack of said facilities has forced most of the farmers to sell their undried produce, thereby creating less to just break-even income for our farmers," Dr. Jallorina explained.

"With these kind of facilities from RCEF and with the counterpart warehouse of the beneficiary, we can help more farmers in this area to potentially sell dried palay, if not, milled rice to the market, providing better income for them and their families," he emphasized.

In the long run, the director sees the mechanized grain drying facilities and high-efficiency rice mills from RCEF as the key to curbing postharvest losses on farmers' produce, thereby increasing their yield and income.

The LGU-Maramag, the beneficiary, is among the stakeholders of the rice industry.

The CMU will manage and operate the operation of the facilities while the NFA has an existing area, facilities and structure within the Central Mindanao University, Musuan, Maramag, Bukidnon where a portion will be allocated for the use of the beneficiary for the establishment of the RPS 2.

These partners have expressed their gratitude to PHilMech and the program for making it possible for the farmers in the area.

This is the very first MOA signing for the distribution of drying and milling facilities under RCEF. **JMGSubaba**

MOA signing between PHilMech, CMU and NFA at Maramag, Bukidnon

TRAINING

Training on operation and maintenance of rice machinery at San Jose, City Nueva Ecija

Operation, maintenance training kicks off

THE RESOURCE PERSON

Development Course on the Operation and Maintenance of Rice Machinery of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) kicked off on February 28, 2022 with a total of 24 participants held at Jollydays Hotel, Abar 1st, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija. It ended on March 4, 2022.

The training aims to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitudes of the participants on the operation and basic maintenance of rice machinery for land preparation, crop establishment, modern rice farming techniques, farm mechanization; and on the training methods, tools and techniques in the facilitation, delivery and presentation.

Baldwin G. Jallorina, PhD., PHilMech Director, and Engr. Nestor Asuncion, senior science research specialist graced the opening ceremony.

Jallorina said in his message via video, *"Nawa, sa limang araw ng inyong pagsasanay ay lubusan ninyong makamit ang mga kaalaman sa paggamit ng mga makinarya at nawa ay maging partners kayo ng PHilMech bilang mga trainers, upang linangin at sanayin ang ating mga kasamahang magsasaka sa inyong mga lugar. Sa paraang ito, nakikita natin na mas marami tayong maaabot at mas marami ang magkakaroon ng kakayahang gumamit ng mga makinarya."*

"Ninanais po ng PHilMech na baguhin at pagandahin ang imahe ng agrikultura sa pamamagitan ng paggamit ng mga makabagong teknolohiya at makinaryang pansaka. Inaasahan din natin na sa pamamagitan ng pag-mechanize ng pagsasaka, ay maeengganyo rin natin ang ating mga anak o ang susunod na henerasyon upang maging secure ang kinabukasan ng agrikultura," he added.

Meanwhile, Engr. Asuncion challenged and encouraged the participants to take this opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed for them as partners/ trainers and to serve as resource persons in the conduct of several training courses under RCEF specifically on mechanization.

The 24 participants are technical staff from project implementers and staff of the local government units inRegion 3. **RRCarbonel**

PHilMech conducts webinar on cacao technologies

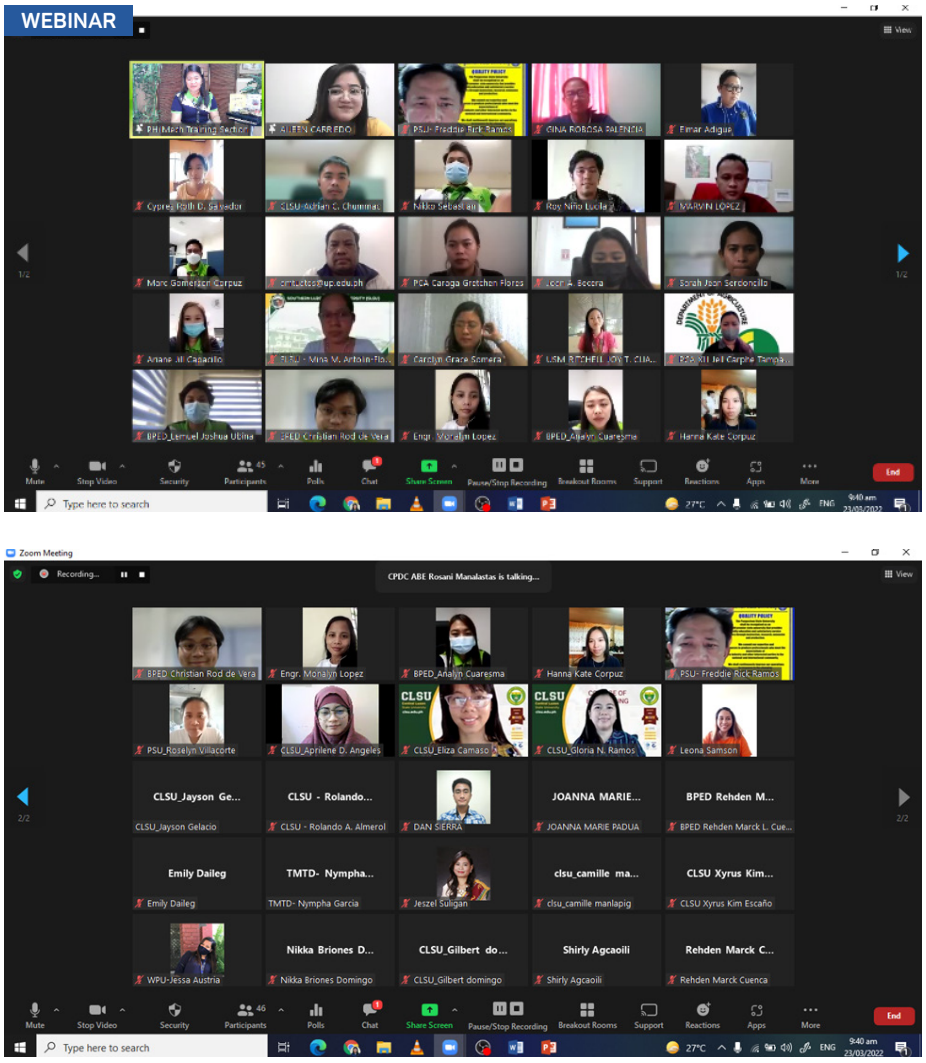
THE PHILIPPINE CENTER for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) conducted an online training course on the mechanization and postharvest technologies for cacao on March 22-24, via zoom conferencing.

Around 35 PHilMech stakeholders joined the course which aimed to enhance their knowledge on cacao technologies.

The roster of speakers for the three-day course included Engr. Edwin O. Banquerigo, retired Regional Director of DTI CARAGA, Ms. Aileen G. Carriedo, University Research Associate I of Don Mariano Marcos State University, and Dr. Romualdo C. Martinez, Dr. Gigi B. Calica, Engr. Andres M. Tuates, Jr., Engr. Jeszel M. Suligan, and Engr. Emmanuel F. Borre from PHilMech.

Topics included the cacao industry situationer, wine/vinegar processing system, tablea processing system, drying technologies for fermented cacao beans, economics of cacao processing, and the PHilMech licensing protocol.

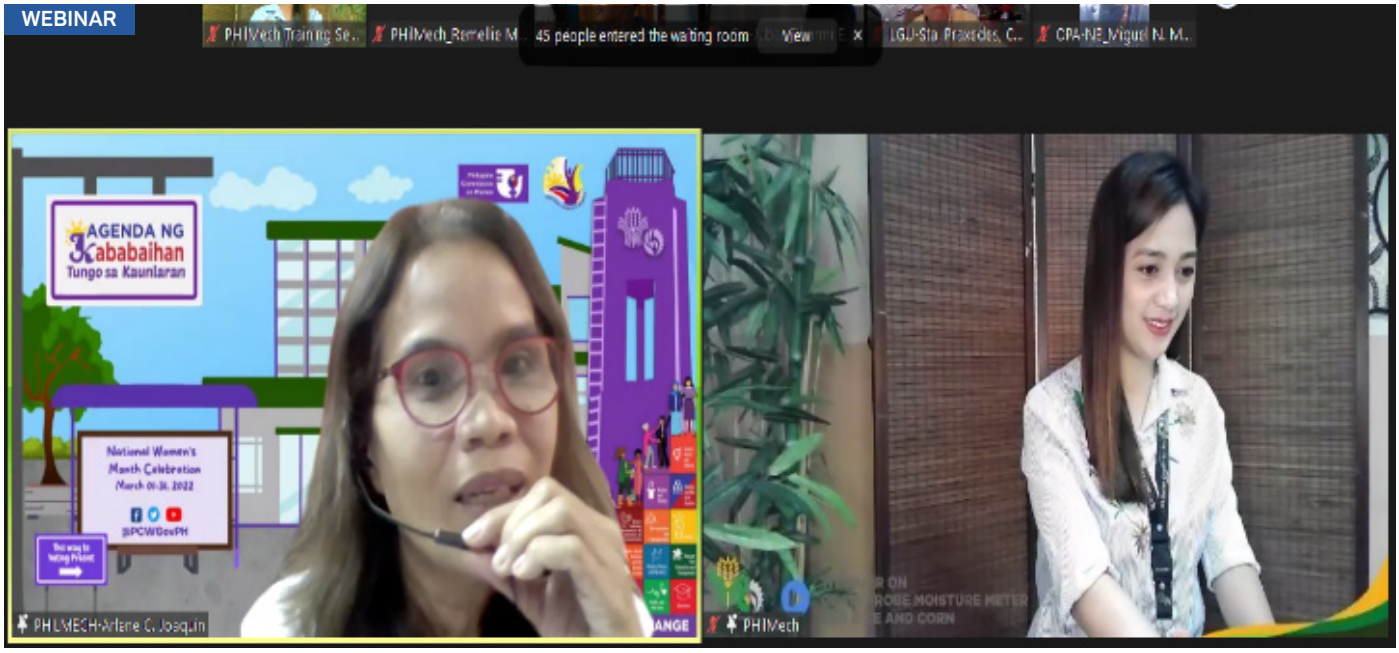
Open forum follows after every discussion where the subject matter specialists were able to address all the queries raised by the participants.



Participants of training via Zoom

Participants gave positive feedbacks on the training course especially on competence of the resource speakers.

"I am impressed with the competence of all the resource speakers of this training course. I have learned a lot especially the new technologies on cacao. I also commend the training management team for a job well done," said Mr. Roy Niño R. Lucila of Southern Luzon State University. ■ **GCPalado**



Engr. Joaquin as the resource speaker of the webinar

Stakeholders show interest on PHilMech's moisture meter

A TOTAL OF 114 PARTICIPANTS joined PHilMech's webinar on the grain probe moisture meter for rice and corn held on March 15, via zoom video conferencing.

Participants include agricultural engineers and agricultural extension workers from various Local Government Units (PLGUs/ MLGUs), DA-Regional Field Offices, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), government agencies, and farm school owners nationwide.

Engr. Arlene C. Joaquin, Senior Research Specialist of the Agricultural Mechanization Division of PHilMech, served as the resource speaker of the two hour webinar.

She discussed about the technology, its importance, features, benefits and how it works in gauging the moisture content of rice and corn. Moisture content is an indicator of grain quality. It determines the commercial value of the grain.

An open forum followed after the discussion proper and most of the participants have showed eagerness to learn more about the technology. Queries include the price of the technology, accuracy, life span, commercialization and the like.

In closing, Ms. Remellie Hermoso expressed her gratitude to the participants and the resource speaker. She emphasized how the participants can be instrumental in disseminating information about the technology.

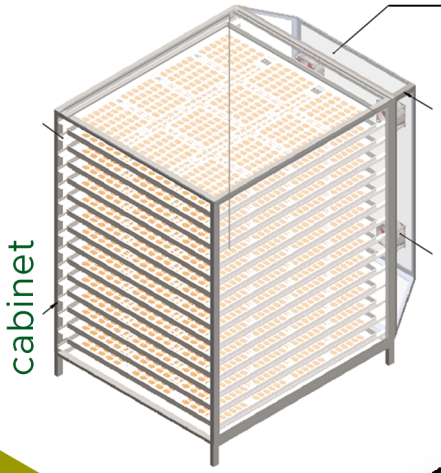
NBGarcia

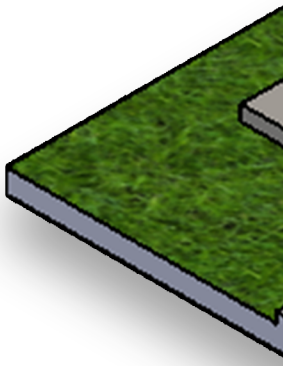
GREENHOUSE SOLAR DRYER

with Biomass Furnace and Multi-Tray Drying Cabinets

features

1. Utilizes both solar energy and biomass energy for drying
2. Constructed and fabricated with food grade materials
3. Enclosed with high quality UV stabilized polycarbonate sheet
4. Better quality of production
5. Easy to operate and maintain
6. Hygienic dried products
7. Gender-friendly
8. Uniformly dried products and retains color





intervention

The greenhouse solar dryer with biomass furnace and multi-tray drying cabinets aims to increase production capacity with its bigger dryer capacity and shorter drying duration. The dryer will consistently produce high quality, naturally dried and food-safe products even during rainy periods at low operating cost.

technical information

Dimension	:	9m x 13m x 3.15m (WxLxH)
Input Capacity	:	186kg/day
Drying Duration	:	2.5 - 3 days
Mean Drying Temp	:	45 C°
Max Drying Temp	:	65 C°

Consists of:

- 2 bed dryers
- 3 cabinet dryers (1 cabinet dryer = 2 bed dryers
- Biomass heat exchanger

Chichacorn processing with climate-smart technology

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

IN AN AGE WHERE CLIMATE change is no longer an issue to tackle but a reality that calls for urgent action, it is crucial for research and development (R&D) institutions across the world to develop technologies that are both efficient and environmentally friendly.

In short, pro-people and pro-planet technologies!

The Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), an R&D institution that adapts to the changing times, has transformed itself into producing climate-smart technologies to improve the productivity of its stakeholders while protecting the environment.

One of these technologies is the Greenhouse Solar Dryer (GHSD) equipped with a biomass furnace and solar panels for continuous operations even at night or during the rainy season. Biomass and solar energy are both renewable. They do not emit greenhouse gases that trap heat in the ozone layer. Thus, the processing is maximized without contributing to the destruction of the planet.

Aid during the pandemic

From the initial Multi-Commodity Solar Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD) used for chichacorn processing, the Pindangan 2nd Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (P2PMPC) in Camiling, Tarlac received one unit of GHSD during the pandemic as part of the COVID-19 Response Program of PHilMech.

The said program aims to increase the productivity of farmers, increase their income and reduce postharvest losses.

This women-dominated cooperative shared its experiences using the GHSD.

Chichacorn drying using Greenhouse Solar Dryer

"Nung dumating itong GHSD nung 2021, mas dumami na yung kaya naming i-process kaya naging very interested kami sa technology. Maganda po talaga ito. Kahit umuulan, hindi na kami nasisiraan dahil may biomass furnace at solar panels para sa blower," said Jocelyn M. Babila, 43, one of the processors.

The P2PMPC also takes pride in passing the higher quality standards for processed products for their hygienic drying practices using the technology. With this, they were able to market in the country's biggest shopping mall and this has even opened opportunities for them in the international market.

"Nagma-market na kami ngayon sa isang kilalang mall, at pati sa ibang bansa nakakarating na ang mga produkto namin kasi nakapasa kami sa higher quality standard for processed products," said Jocelyn M. Babila, 43, chichacorn processor.

Besides the above-mentioned benefits, P2PMPC also shared other advantages of the GHSD based on their experience like being a gender-friendly technology and offering less tedious work when drying. It is also notable that the technology is safe from insects or birds or sudden rain due inclement weather hence lowe losses.

Before receiving the technology, PHilMech provided training courses in operating and maintaining it for a more maximized use. Continuous feedback from the P2PMPC was also noted by the team of Dr. Romualdo C. Martinez, interim director for RDE of PHilMech, to better the performance of the technology.

This 148-member cooperative also produces rice, corn, and onions besides processing chichacorn. Their processing venture is led by Ms. Sally L. Duqueza, while the MPC is led by Mr. Gaudencio Laktaoen.

PROCESSING

P2PMPC members processing the Chichacorn

Y4M youth for mechanization

photo by: Renier Pulpulaan

KABATAAN ANG PAG-ASA NG BAYAN,

MAKABAGONG MAKINARYA ATIN NG SUBUKAN PARA SA PAGGAWA NG PAGKAIN NG ATING MGA KABABAYAN

"Sa palagay ko ay maraming kabataan ang gustong sumubok sa pagsasaka, kasabay nito ay marami na ring makinarya na ginawa at pinapamigay ang Department of Agriculture sa mga Farmers' Cooperative and Association upang mapagaan at mapabilis ang trabaho na gaya ko'y nawiwili sa paggamit ng makinaryang pansaka, lalo na sa katulad kong nakapag tapos ng BS Agriculture Technology".

Name: Jessie De Leon
Age: 28
FCA: Riverside Irrigators Association Inc.
Location: Lasam, Cagayan
Nature of work: Member of Small Ruminants and Rice Growers Association, facilitator of Aquarich Integrated Farm

New PHilMech executive director takes oath

DR. DIONISIO G. ALVINDIA IS the new Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech). He took his oath of office as the new head of the agency before DA Secretary William D. Dar on March 3, 2022 at the DA central office.

According to Alvindia, DA Secretary Dar challenged him to step up and take responsibility in the management of PHilMech to revive the glory of the agency. He was hesitant at first because of the big responsibility entrusted to him.

"It's a big decision and it's also a gamble." Dr. Alvindia expressed his choice upon the acceptance of the challenge from the DA Secretary during the Monday Program of the agency.

Aside from being a newly appointed Director of PHilMech, he is also the Director of Philippine Integrated Rice Program (PIRP) covering various rice programs in the country. He is currently writing a book for his Scientist career, and supervises numerous Ph.D. students at the De La Salle University.

"I did not have any intention of coming back to such position until the challenge arrived. It was all about the challenge!" Alvindia accepted the challenge with his whole heart thinking it as an opportunity to grow and serve the people especially the farmers.

He aims to bring back the discipline and image of PHilMech as hardworking employees serving the people of the country with full throttle and perseverance.

Back in 2016, Dr. Alvindia was appointed as the Office-in-Charge (OIC) Director that lasted for more than a year.

He is now 37 years in the government service with a Scientist IV rank. He aims for a Scientist V whenever the opportunity opens. "This is my first and maybe my retiring job, to serve the public." Alvindia said.

Dr. Alvindia took over the reign of Dr. Baldwin G. Jallorina who served for more than five years as head of the agency (2017-2021).

DMCCapariño

Dr. Alvindia took his oath of office as the new head at DA central office

PHilMech officials meeting with Sen. Villar

Sen. Villar, top PHilMech officials meet, yields positive results

SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR, chair of the Senate Committee on Food and Agriculture, and her Chief of Staff, Atty. Rhaegge Tamaña, met recently with newly-appointed Director IV of the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), Dr. Dionisio G. Alvindia, and Deputy Director Ronaldo S.R. Reyes. This meeting yielded positive results.

Held at the Villar Sipag Farm School in Las Pinas on March 30, 2022, the Senator emphasized during the meeting that her office is supportive of PHilMech in its implementation of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF)-Mechanization Program. She advised the two PHilMech officials to closely coordinate with her office about the program.

Villar is the main author of Republic Act 11203, or the Rice Tariffication Law which liberalized rice trade and allocated tariffs collected from rice imports for various programs to benefit the Philippine rice industry. One of the program components is the RCEF-Mechanization with an allocation of Php5 billion per year from 2019 to 2024.

"We are very grateful that Senator Cynthia Villar is supportive of the efforts of PHilMech in the implementation of the RCEF-Mechanization program that has reached its midpoint now, and is subject to review by the Senate Committee on Food and Agriculture", Dr. Alvindia said.

During the close to three-hour meeting, Villar said that the tariffs collected from rice imports as stipulated by RA 11203 must be used for the benefit of rice farmers.

With this perspective, Dr. Alvindia assured Villar of PHilMech's faithful adherence to the ideals and vision of the RCEF-Mechanization Program and to the requisite norms of honesty and integrity in the conduct of its transactions under the program.

About 682,502 farmers nationwide have become recipients of the RCEF-Mechanization Program as of December 2021. Also, of the 19,542 units of machinery acquired under the program, some 16,167 have already been distributed to farmer-beneficiaries. **JMGSubaba**

P24M-worth machines distributed in South Cotabato

FARM MACHINES WORTH P24M of farm machines were distributed to 21 qualified Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs), during the machinery turn-over of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund in Banga, South Cotabato on February 11, 2022.

To benefit from the farm machines distributed under 2019, 2020, and 2021 funds are 2,582 farmer-members from 11 cities/ municipalities in South Cotabato.

The 31 units of machines include 17 floating tillers, 9 combine harvesters, and 5 four-wheel-drive tractors. Municipalities included in the program are Banga, Koronadal City, Norala, Surallah, Tantangan, Lake Sebu, Sto. Niño, T'boli, Tupi, Polomolok and General Santos City.

Rudy Jimenea, head executive assistant of the office of the Governor, city and municipal agriculturists, and various local government agencies and officials attended the turnover and awarding ceremony.

"We need, as farmers, the new technology for farming. Whether we admit it or not, the traditional techniques (in farming) cannot sustain and are almost not practiced in these times," Jimenea said.
"These machines will help our farmers in lowering the production cost, increase their savings and achieve faster farm operations compared to manual labor. We hope that you will take good care of these machines, so your members can experience the benefits of farm mechanization," said Engr. Ray Adarna, Mindanao B Cluster Head of PHilMech.

Some FCA-beneficiaries have expressed their gratitude during the turnover ceremony.

"We are really glad because we did not expect to receive these machines today and we feel that these will be of big help to us, farmers, and to our association. We are thankful, first of all, to the staff of PHilMech who really went to our office to do consistent follow-ups and assistance. Without these machines, harvesting of rice will take us a whole day of work, but with these it will only take an hour for our work to be done," said Apolonio Mayuga, IA President.

"We are very happy and thankful because we really need these in our farming activities, especially in land preparation. PHilMech's program is very good because they really serve the farmers by improving the quality of our lives. We really need mechanization in our area," said Gloria Vefante, Chairman of Guinsang-an Farmers Service Cooperative.

JAGolez

Awarding of certificates among the FCA beneficiaries in Banga, South Cotabato

Bohol FCAs receive Php269.4 M of RCEF machinery

FIFTY-EIGHT QUALIFIED

Farmers' Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) received Php 269.4 million worth of machinery from the Department of Agriculture- Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PHilMech) under the program Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Mechanization. The machinery distribution took place in Ubay, Bohol on March 3, 2022.

A total of 156 units of machines were turned over to the qualified FCAs. Among these were four wheel tractor, hand tractor, PTO driven disc plow/ harrow, precision seeder, walk behind transplanter, riding type transplanter, rice reaper, combine harvester and impeller rice mill. During the event, Dr. Baldwin G. Jallorina of PHilMech said that the machinery granted are high quality and branded.

"Bilang tagapagpatupad ng mechanization program ng Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund o RCEF, kami sa PHilMech ay ginagarantihan na ang inyong makinaryang matatanggap at inyong tatanggapin sa susunod na taon ay dekalidad at branded," Jallorina said.

He also asked the farmers to take care of the machinery received from the government to lessen the expenses.

"Hinihiling namin sa inyo na dapat pagmalasakitan natin , gamitin nang maayos ang tatanggaping ayuda galing sa gobyerno upang sa ganon ay mababawasan ang gastusin at tataas ang ating ani at kita," Jallorina added.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA RFO) – 7 Regional Executive Director Joel A. Elumba, highlighted that Rice Tariffication Law uses the taxes imposed on the importer to purchase the machinery given to the qualified farmers. Without the tariffication law, the farmers could not receive these grants.

Twenty-nine municipalities will benefit from the procured budget of 2021 funds and the excess of 2019 and 2020 funds. Municipalities include Balilihan, Calape Catigbian, Bien Unido, Buenavista, Dagohoy, Danao, Trinidad, Ubay, Alicia, Batuan, Bilar, Candijay, Carmen, Duero, Garcia Hernandez, Jagna, Mabini, Sierra Bullones and Valencia.

The provincial agriculturist and other government officials were also present during the ceremony.

AKAAlingasa

CERTIFICATE AWARDING

Awarding of certificates among the FCA beneficiaries in Ubay, Bohol

PHilMech celebrates National Women's Month

IN OBSERVANCE TO THE National Women's Month Celebration (NWMC), the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) conducted a kick-off activity last March 8 at the PHilMech Training Hall. This was live streamed at the facebook page of PHilMech.

This year's theme "WE Make CHANGE Work for Women: Agenda ng Kababaihan, Tungo sa Kaunlaran" aims to highlight the important role of women in the achievement of development and progress.

"At PHilMech, we are proud to declare that we continuously enhance and expand effective responses to address gender issues, free of biases, stereotypes and any types of discrimination," said Director Arnel Ramir M. Apaga, Director I and GAD Focal Point System (GFPS) Executive Committee Chairperson, in his welcome and opening remarks. Director Apaga added that they are optimistic that PHilMech's 2021 Gender Mainstreaming Evaluation Framework (GMEF) score will have a substantial increase which will hopefully lead the agency nearer for the GADtimpala award.

Deputy Director Ronaldo Sebastian R. Reyes gave an inspirational message and stated that everyone gathered in this event with the same desire to achieve equality between women and men in nation building. He gave recognition to PHilMech women officers and employees for their invaluable contribution to the agency.

The agency's entry to the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) MusikJuana Songwriting Contest 2021 "Ginang at Dilag" song, composed and performed by Engr. Raymund Joseph P. Macaranas together with Ms. Mildred G. Carriaga, was played for the participants to hear.

PHilMech GAD Technical Working Group with Mrs. Joson

The PHilMech-Kababaihang Masigla ng Nueva Ecija (KMNE) Success Story AVP produced by the Applied Communication Division (ACD) was also shown during the activity.

This year's NWMC keynote speaker was Mrs. Vilma B. Joson, KMNE Founder and President and is a woman of impact who transformed the lives of women, mostly wives of farmers to become productive members of the community.

Mrs. Joson shared her observation that fruits and vegetables in season are just wasted and thrown away in the backyard. She also noticed that some women in their neighborhood have nothing productive to do. Thus, she decided to hire them.

"It was difficult to hire because the women were shy and nervous and insecure. It took some time to train them. We had to go through training on production, processing especially on hygiene and food safety. By God's grace, we successfully have more than 40 products developed and marketed, practicing zero waste management and of course, using the Multi Commodity Solal Tunnel Dryer (MCSTD) of PHilMech," Mrs. Joson added.

With this, KMNE started to provide hands on training for women entrepreneurs from all over the country giving emphasis on how to preserve fruits and vegetables in season. Eventually, PHilMech adopted KMNE to become a social laboratory to showcase the process and benefits of using MCSTD.

Mrs. Joson ended her lecture with a heartfelt gratitude to PHilMech. "We thank PHilMech for generously giving us the opportunities to learn, to adopt and maximize potentials for improvement. Kung hindi sa inyo, hindi kami tumagal. We are now more than 20 years in existence," she added.

Mrs. Joson giving her message

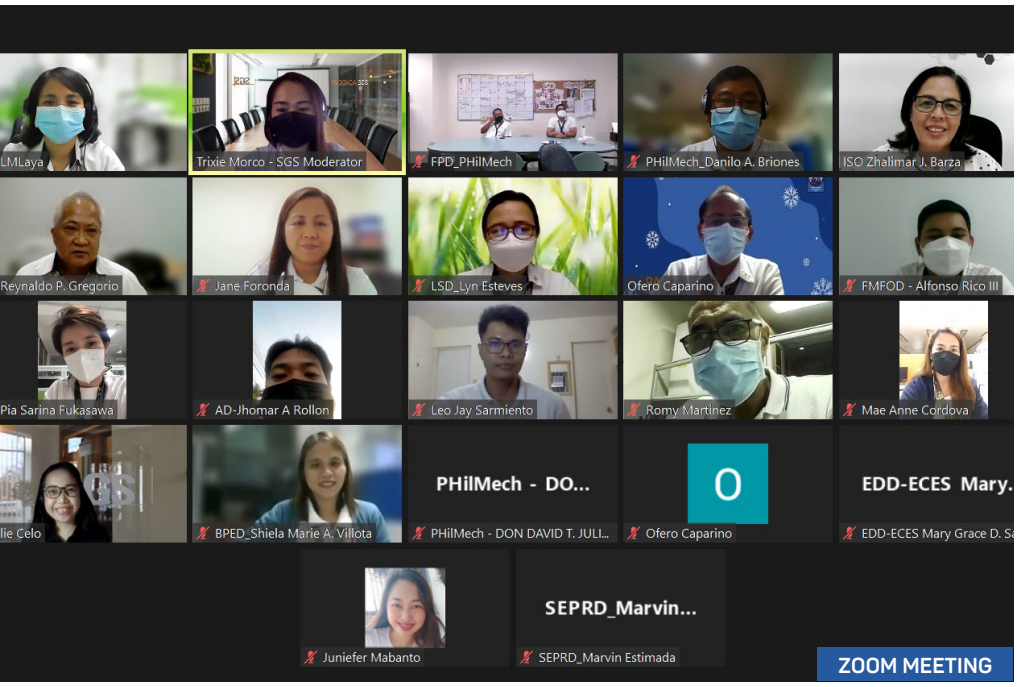
At the closing program, Dr. Helen F. Martinez, GAD Focal Person, shared the PHilMech GAD milestone for the past two years. She thanked everyone for their support throughout the entire activity.

The agency also organized activities spearheaded by GAD and ACD which included the display of NWMC support banner in the main gate, posting of drop banners in every building and selected lamp posts, Purple Tuesdays, Purple Your Icon, #GADtoKnow!, Musika ng Kababaihan Fridays, Imbensyon ni Juana, and distribution of advocacy shirts to GFPS members.

The activity was attended by 400 employees (216 female, 184 male).

The observance is pursuant to Proclamation No. 224 s. 1988, declaring the first week of March each year as Women's Week and March 8 as Women's Rights and International Peace Day; Proclamation No. 227 s. 1988 providing for the observance of the Month of March as Women's Role in History Month; and Republic Act 6949 s. 1990 declaring March 8 of every year as National Women's Day. Launching of the PHilMech GAD

For the first time, PHilMech launched the GAD Logo Contest which ran from March 8 to March 31 and participated by 11 employees (9 male, 2 female). The winner Mr. Don Miguel C. Capariño received a certificate of recognition and cash prize worth P5,000.00. The other contestants also received certificates of participation and promotional materials from women micro entrepreneurs assisted by PHilMech. **CLValmonte**



Participants of the IMS online course via zoom

MS conducts Life Cycle Perspective Course

THE PHILIPPINE CENTER for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech) conducted the Environmental Management System Life Cycle Perspective Course on February 28, 2022 via Zoom. This is in compliance with the requirements of the IMS Certification, specifically the Environmental Management System (EMS). The Human Resources Management and the Integrated Management System (IMS) facilitated the course.

The one-day course headed by the SGS Philippines Inc. was participated in by the environmental officers and selected division chiefs of PHilMech. Ms. Trixie Morco of the SGS Philippines was the moderator of the Life Cycle Perspective Course. She introduced Ms. Leslie T. Celo, a management systems auditor, as the tutor of the said course. A total of 20 participants joined the course.

The course was divided into four sessions: Introduction to the ISO 14001:2015 EMS (Session 1), Life Cycle Assessment vs. Life Cycle Perspective (Session 2), EMS Requirements on Life Cycle Perspective (Session 3) and Application of Life Cycle Assessment (Session 4).

For Session 1, Ms. Leslie summarized and defined the ISO 14001:2015 EMS and its purpose and benefits to PHilMech. This also served as refresher for the participants. Ms. Leslie also identified the Life Cycle Perspective to enable the agency to identify areas where it can minimize environmental impact for each division.

Session 2 or the Life Cycle Assessment was discussed to help the participants evaluate their aspect and impact and encourage a broader audience to begin using Life Cycle Assessment.

For Session 3, application of the Life Cycle Perspective to its products and services were discussed. In this session, Ms. Leslie explained the importance of the degree of control and degree of influence over the life cycle stages. Session 3 also discussed the environmental aspects for easier classification. Ms. Leslie identified the eight broad groupings of the Environmental Aspects. In the last session, benefits of a life cycle assessment was discussed to identify opportunities to improve the environmental performance.

After the sessions, all significant environmental aspects on each activity considering the life cycle perspective and its environmental impact were identified.

The participants were divided into five groups. They presented a short presentation for discussion and Ms. Leslie gave her comments and suggestions for each group.

The said course is a compliance to the IMS certification of PHilMech and to guide the environmental officers of each division to properly identify their aspects and impacts.

PSMFukasawa

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