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joins
National
Year of
Rice 2013



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The year 2013 has been proclaimed as the National Year of Rice (NYR) by President Benigno S. Aquino III through Proclamation No. 494. The ACPC held its Commitment Ceremony for the NYR at the ACPC Conference Room in One San Miguel Avenue Building, Ortigas Business Center, Pasig City last February 11, 2013.



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Managing Editor
 Emmalyn J. Guinto

Writers
 Norman William S. Kraft
 Emmalyn J. Guinto
 Virgilio K. Crisostomo
 Rumina A. Gil
 Rudyard R. Roxas

Contributor
 Cenon S. Atienza

Layout
 Rumina A. Gil

For comments, suggestions and contributions, contact the **ACPC Public Affairs & Information Services**, 28F One SanMiguel Avenue (OSMA) Bldg., One San Miguel Ave. Cor. Shaw Blvd., Pasig City 1605, Philippines

Tel. Nos.: **(632) 634-3320 to 21 • 636-3393**
 e-mail us at: acpcinfo@yahoo.com

www.acpc.gov.ph



ACPC Joins Launch of National Year of Rice 2013

By Rudyard R. Roxas

ACPC officers and staff joined the nationwide launching of the National Year of Rice 2013 during the simultaneous National Commitment Ceremonies on February 11, 2013. The launching ceremony was capped by reciting the Panatang Makapalay to show ACPC's commitment to the goal of achieving rice self-sufficiency.

The observation of National Year of Rice (NYR) 2013 kicked off on February 11, 2013 with the holding of NYR National Commitment Ceremonies simultaneously by all Regional Field Units (RFUs), Department units, bureaus and attached agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) NYR Commitment Ceremony was held at the ACPC Conference Room at the 30th floor

of One San Miguel Avenue Building in the Ortigas Business Center, Pasig City. During the ceremony, all ACPC officers and staff were briefed on NYR 2013 and, thereafter, pledged their support to the program by taking the Panatang Makapalay oath. The Panatang Makapalay was especially composed for NYR 2013. It is a pledge to cook and eat only the right amount of rice; to also try brown rice and other staples such as saba (cardaba banana), camote (sweet potato), and corn; and to avoid rice wastage by

making sure that there are no rice leftovers after meals. The oath taking was led by the ACPC focal person for the NYR 2013, Mr. Kennedy Garabiag.

The year 2013 was proclaimed as the National Year of Rice on October 18, 2012 by President Benigno S. Aquino III through Proclamation No. 494. NYR 2013 was also earlier launched by President Aquino at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Central Experiment Station, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija on November 13, 2012. DA Secretary Proceso J. Alcala also marked the event with the unveiling of the official NYR logo.

In the official NYR 2013 website, www.nyr2013.com, it is stated that the National Year of Rice is part of the Philippine government's bid to achieve rice-self-sufficiency beginning 2013. The program is an advocacy campaign that aims

The logo of the NYR 2013, with the theme Sapat na Bigas, Kaya ng Pinas, features three rice plants that form the letters NYR in red, yellow and blue colors signifying the color of the Philippine flag. The rice plants also represent the importance of the individuals involved in achieving food sufficiency: the producers, the public and the policy-makers.





Mr. Kennedy Garabiag, Economist IV and designated ACPC Focal Person for the NYR 2013, lead ACPC officers and staff in taking the oath of Panatang Makapalay during the commitment ceremony.

to promote responsible rice consumption for better health and less rice wastage and productive farming through the promotion of efficient rice technologies and inspiring farmers to do better.

observation of NYR, producers, consumers, and policymakers are all enjoined to help in increasing rice productivity and reducing rice wastage.

The ACPC NYR 2013 Commitment Ceremony ended with the singing of the DA Hymn.

The NYR theme is Sapat na Bigas, Kaya ng Pinas. With the



Participants of the three-day ACPC Planning Workshop 2013 held at Ridgewood Residence Hotel in Baguio City on February 6 to 9, 2013. The participants were led by ACPC Exec. Dir. Jovita M. Corpuz (seated, front, in black).

PANATANG MAKAPALAY

(Ilagay ang kanang kamao sa dibdib)

Bilang isang mamamayang Pilipino nakikiisa ako sa panatang huwag magsayang ng kanin at bigas.


Magsasaing ako ng sapat lamang at sisiguraduhing tama ang pagkagaluto nito.

Kukuha ako ng kaya kong ubusin upang sa aking pinggan ay walang matirang kanin. Ganun din ang aking gagawin kung may handaan o kung sa labas ako kakain.

Ang brown rice o pinawa ay susubukan kong kainin, pati na ang ibang pagkain bukod sa kanin tulad ng saba, kamote, at mais.

Ituturo ko sa iba ang responsableng pagkonsumo nang mabigyang halaga ang pagod ng mga magsasaka at nang makatulong na maging sapat ang bigas sa Pilipinas.

Aking isasapuso ang panatang ito dahil sa bawa't butil ng bigas o kanin na aking matitipid ay may buhay na masasagip.



**SAPAT na BIGAS
KAYA ng PINAS**
www.nyr2013.com

The Panatang Makapalay is a pledge to be a "riceponsible" individual by reducing food wastage and consuming just the right amount, substituting alternative food staples and eating brown rice for better health.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) held a three-day Operational Planning Workshop to firm up the agency's workplans and targets for 2013 as well as its work and financial plans for 2014.

Organized by the Policy Research and Planning Service (PRPS), the conduct of the Operational Planning Workshop was aimed at finalizing each unit's workplan as well as the targets of the individual staff for 2013. The different units were also asked to formulate their proposed workplans and budgets for 2014 taking into consideration the Department of Agriculture's (DA) thrusts and priorities.

In her welcome address to the workshop participants, ACPC Exec. Dir. Jovita M. Corpuz advised the ACPC officers and staff to align operational plans for 2013 with the DA's goals of attaining food sufficiency

2013 ACPC Planning Workshop held for 2013 and 2014 Operational Plans

By Rumina A. Gil



and increasing farmers' incomes. She emphasized that credit and financing is one of the key strategies identified by the DA under the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP).

As an overview, OIC-Deputy Executive Director Magdalena S. Casuga presented the DA's thrusts and priorities to set the direction for

the workshop. She emphasized that a great responsibility is given to ACPC due to the additional P1 billion budget for credit that was given to the agency for the year. This fund will be used to provide credit facilities for farmers and fishers who are engaged in the priority commodities of the DA which include rice, corn, cassava, and other commodities that are part of the FSSP.

PRPS OIC-Director Ma. Teresa J. Santos facilitated the workshop. During the workshop, the workplans of each unit were reviewed and critiqued by the members of the ACPC Management Committee (Mancom) as well as the staff from the other units. The different ACPC units are: PRPS, Program Development and Management Division (PDMD), Fund



PRPS OIC-Director Ma. Teresa J. Santos explains the mechanics of the ACPC 2013 Operational Planning Workshop.



ACPC Project Development Officer V of the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Service Cenon S. Atienza presents the M&E 2013 workplan.



ACPC Economist IV Ronnie B. Tabucacnon presents his individual workplan for 2013.



ACPC Exec. Dir. Jovita M. Corpuz reminding ACPC officers and staff that the operational plan for 2013 and 2014 should be aligned with the DA's thrusts and priorities.

Resource Management (FRM) Service, Institutional Capacity Building (ICB), Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Service, Public Affairs and Information Service (PAIS), and Administration and Finance Service.

staff also presented their respective workplans for the year. The unit and individual workplans were finalized incorporating the comments from the Mancom and the other units.

The planning workshop was held at Ridgewood Residence Hotel in Baguio City from February 6 to 9, 2013.

After the presentation of the plans of each unit, the individual



OIC-Deputy Executive Director Magdalena S. Casuga gives comments and suggestions during the presentation of unit and individual workplans.

Administration and Finance Service Dir. Veronica P. Santos (middle) reviews their unit workplan with her staff.



Government initiative in providing credit and financing support to local food production, especially for food staples sufficiency, is getting an added boost by way of an additional P1 billion funding for the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program (AMCFP) in 2013. The additional budget for the AMCFP, which will come from the General Fund, is expected to benefit an estimated 97,676 new small farmer and fisherfolk borrowers in 2013 who currently have no access to banks and other sources of formal credit.

The AMCFP is the umbrella financing program for agriculture and fisheries of the Department of Agriculture (DA). It is designed to be a responsive and sustainable credit and financing program for small farmers and fisherfolk including those engaged in food and non-food production; processing and trading; cooperatives; farmers and fisherfolk organizations; and agri-related small and medium enterprises.

Under Republic Act 8345, otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA), the AMCFP should be given P2 billion on the first year and P1.7 billion for the next six years. However, not until 2013 has a budget actually been appropriated for the Program. In previous years, the AMCFP was funded solely through the collection and consolidation of funds from terminated agricultural directed credit programs.

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), which is the government agency mandated to oversee the implementation of the AMCFP, plans to utilize the P1 billion additional funding of the Program for the benefit particularly of farmers and fishers who are engaged in the priority commodities of the DA. The DA priority commodities include the

Additional P1 B for government agri-credit to benefit 97,000 more farmers, fisherfolk

By Rudyard R. Roxas

food staples like rice, white corn and cassava, which are part of the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP). Other DA priority commodities are yellow corn, coconut, high value crops, livestock, poultry and fishery products.

Credit and financing is considered by the DA as one of the FSSP's key strategies to attain food sufficiency as well as increase farmers' incomes. Aside from the provision of timely, adequate and affordable credit, the other key strategies of the FSSP are the purchase of yield-enhancing inputs such as seeds and fertilizers and acquisition of farm machinery, equipment and facilities.

Increased access to credit from formal sources is one of the

DA's and ACPC's commitments as well in the Philippine Development Plan (PDP) for 2011-2016. The target is to increase the incidence of formal borrowing among small farmers and fisherfolk from 52% in 2007 to 61% by the year 2016. ACPC estimates that P109 B will be needed to address the credit demand of the agri-fishery sector for the year 2013.

A National Agriculture and Fisheries Credit Summit was jointly organized and conducted by the ACPC and the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM) on August 18, 2011 where a strategic plan was developed on how to achieve the PDP target of increasing formal borrowing incidence among farmers and fisherfolk.

Among the strategies that were identified were: 1) strengthening lending programs (i.e. AFMA-mandated AMCFP) to small farmers and fisherfolk; 2) reducing costs of lending and providing incentives for private financial institutions providing agri-credit; 3) strengthening risk-mitigating mechanisms such as agri-credit guarantee and insurance programs; 4) establishing a credit database and intensifying information dissemination and program monitoring and evaluation; and 5) intensifying capacity-building programs to enhance financial management capability and credit worthiness/bankability of small farmers and fisherfolk, cooperatives, farmers' organizations, etc.

From January to December 2012, a combined total of P1,029.38 million in agri-fishery loans were generated by these programs – P137.87 million under AMP; P5.52 million under CALP; P836.99 million under CBAP; and P49 million under Sikat Saka. The amount benefitted 25,242 small farmer and fisherfolk borrowers. Cumulatively, the AMCFP has already generated over P5.42 billion loans benefiting 176,558 farmers and fisherfolk. The programs currently being implemented under the AMCFP are the Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program (CBAP), Agri-Microfinance Program (AMP), and the DA Sikat Saka Program.



A typical Filipino farmer or fisherman gets loans for their farming or fishing activities from informal lenders. The P1 billion additional funding of the AMCFP is in support of the Philippine Development Plan goal to raise the incidence of formal borrowing among small farmers and fisherfolk to 61% by 2016.

ACPC officers and technical staff, led by ACPC Executive Director Jovita M. Corpuz, conducted a workshop on February 12-13, 2013 to come up with targets for the additional P1 billion funding approved for 2013 for the umbrella financing program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) for the agriculture and fisheries sector – the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program (AMCFP). The initial projection for the additional AMCFP budget is that it can benefit up to 97,000 small farmer and fisherfolk borrowers during the year.

The target-setting for the utilization of the P1 billion AMCFP fund was in compliance with the requirements set by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) for the release of the funds. Aside from the detailed physical and financial plans for the utilization of the funds, the other DBM requirements are the special budget requests (SBRs), monthly cash program (MCP), and the Memoranda of Agreement with the selected partner government financing institutions (GFIs) and/or cooperative banks.

With respect to the use of the fund, the DBM's guidelines instruct that it shall be used exclusively for the establishment of a credit facility for the benefit of small farmers registered in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). The RSBSA is envisioned as a complete listing of farmers, farm laborers, and fisherfolk being developed through an

ACPC Holds Workshop to Develop Targets for P1 B AMCFP Funding

By Norman William S. Kraft



ACPC Executive Director Jovita M. Corpuz reviews and critiques the targets and assumptions that were presented by each of the workshop groups for the priority sectors and programs that were identified for the utilization of the P1B additional funding for the AMCFP.

inter-agency effort among the DBM, DA, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC).

The main objective of the RSBSA is to create a nationwide database of information on farmers, farm laborers, and fisherfolk alongside their basic profile which may be used as a tool in efficiently carrying out the delivery of basic services, provisioning for adequate facilities, and forms of subsidy and aid relative to the agriculture and fisheries sector. As such, the database also serves as an aid to economic development planning and policymaking. As of December 2012, registration in the RSBSA of farmers and fisherfolk in twenty (20) provinces has initially been completed.

The programme for the two-day ACPC workshop included

a review of the DBM guidelines on the release of the P1 billion AMCFP fund; identification of the priority programs and funding allocation; and identification, as well, of the credit delivery mechanism/credit program, budget requirements, and physical targets for each priority sector.

Commodities that were prioritized for targeting during the workshop include the Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP) commodities, i.e., rice, white corn, and cassava; as well as other priority commodities of the DA, i.e., yellow corn, coconut, high value crops, livestock and poultry, and fishery.

Indicative resource requirements for support interventions, particularly institutional capacity building (ICB); monitoring and evaluation (M&E), including benchmarking; the conduct of other policy studies; and information dissemination were also identified during the workshop.



Mr. Allen Ducusin of the Program Development and Management Office (PDMO) discusses the priority sectors for the additional AMCFP fund. The identified commodities are based on the priorities of the Department of Agriculture. Beside him is Mr. Ding Pereyra, also of the PDMO.



The participants were divided into workshop groups, with each group assigned to work on the targets and assumptions for specific priority sectors. Shown in the photo are the participants huddled together with their respective workshop groupmates to work on the assumptions and projections per priority sector (Photo courtesy of Cherry Nalian).



OIC-Director for Policy Research and Planning, Ma. Teresa Santos, explains the objectives and expected outputs of the activity to the workshop participants. Also in the photo are (from left): Admin. and Finance Director Veronica Santos, and Messrs. Ferdinand Paguia and Kennedy Garabiag of the Policy Research and Planning Staff (PRPS).

ACPC Executive Director Jovita M. Corpuz has been designated to head the inter-agency Technical Working Group (TWG) for the Agrarian Production Credit Program (APCP) through Special Order 209, series of 2013 signed by Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Proceso J. Alcala.

The APCP, a joint program of the DA, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Land Bank of the Philippines (Landbank), is a new credit program for agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) approved by President Benigno C. Aquino, III with a P1 billion funding.

The APCP aims to provide credit support for crop production to newly organized as well as existing agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations (ARBOs) and farmers' organizations (FOs) not qualified to avail themselves of loans under the regular credit windows of banks.

The program's specific objectives are: 1) To provide credit assistance to ARBs or ARB household members through their respective organizations or other conduits to support their individual or communal crop production projects; 2) To ensure sustainable production of crops and increase the income of ARBs or their household members through other support services such as marketing, crop insurance, and farming facilities; and 3) To strengthen the ARBOs and improve the capabilities of ARBs through institutional capability building activities.

The APCP has three (3) components, namely: 1) Agricultural Production Credit; 2) Agricultural Production and Financial Management Support; and 3) Institutional Capacity Building.

Under the Agricultural Production Credit component, new and existing ARBs or ARB household



ACPC Exec. Dir. Jovita M. Corpuz chairs the Technical Working Group (TWG) of the APCP. The TWG provides technical and secretariat support to the PMC; ensures that policies, operational systems, procedures and guidelines approved by the PMC are implemented; and facilitates the necessary support to field implementers.

ACPC Exec. Dir. Corpuz Chairs TWG for Agrarian Production Credit

By Emmalyn J. Guinto

members, particularly those who have recently acquired their landholdings through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program Extension with Reforms (CARPER) will be provided with loans for crop production. These loans will be coursed through ARB organizations and FOs (other than ARBOs) that shall act as credit conduits for their respective members.

Under the Agricultural Production and Financial Management Support component, technical assistance relevant to the project/s financed shall be given to loan conduits. This is to ensure the proper use of the loan by both the conduits and the ARB end-beneficiaries. The DA or other appropriate institutions/technical experts shall

provide technical assistance for agricultural production management. These experts shall assess the farm requirements, recommend appropriate technologies and monitor farm production of the ARBs. Financial management assistance, on the other hand, will be done by deploying technical experts who shall assist the conduits in providing timely credit to end-beneficiaries.

Under the Institutional Capacity Building component, institutional strengthening will be given to eligible conduits to ensure their viability and sustainability. A package of interventions aimed at increasing their organizational maturity will be given to eligible conduits. This includes setting up



Happy Valentine's

By Emmaly

Officers and staff of the Agriculture Department celebrated the Day of Hearts this year by gathering in the Boardroom for a cozy boodle fight. The menu included chicken adobo, daing na baboy, ensaladang talong, manok sa atsuete, and a boodle fight was coordinated by the staff. The guest was Dr. R. University of the Philippines.

FEB

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... Day...ACPC Style!

...n J. Guinto
...ral Credit Policy Council celebrated
...y coming together in the ACPC
...dle fight lunch of pork and
...ngus, longanisa, lamb biryani,
...ngo, etc. The food for the
...ntributed via pot luck
...ctorates. A special
...olando Dy of the
...y of Asia and
...acific.



organizational vision, operational policies, systems and procedures, and good governance. It will also facilitate enterprise development to guarantee the feasibility and profitability of agricultural production projects and other business services of the eligible conduits.

The APCP will be operationalized through its Program Management Committee (PMC), chaired by DA Undersecretary Joel S. Rudinas. The PMC is composed of the DAR, Landbank, Department of Finance (DOF), Task Force Mapalad and farmers' sector representative. It is the policy making body which provides the direction of the program, formulate policies, act on issues relative to the implementation of the program and monitor the overall performance of the program.

On the other hand, the APCP's inter-agency TWG is composed of representatives from the DA, DAR, Landbank and ACPC. The TWG is tasked to provide technical and secretariat support to the PMC, ensure that policies, operational systems, procedures and guidelines approved by the PMC are implemented and facilitate the necessary support to field implementers. The TWG is also responsible for the installation and maintenance of a monitoring system for the program.

DA Undersecretary Joel S. Rudinas chairs the Program Management Committee (PMC) of the Agrarian Production Credit Program (APCP). The PMC provides direction for the APCP, formulates policies, acts on issues relative to the implementation of the program and monitors the overall performance of the program.



To assist both the PMC and the TWG in the performance of their duties and responsibilities is the Program Secretariat. The Secretariat is headed by ACPC OIC-Deputy Executive Director Magdalena S. Casuga. The other members are: Catalina T. Austria, OIC-Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer (DAR); Delia Baldovino Gabales, OIC-Supervising ARPO (DAR); Preciosa Osit, Senior ARPO (DAR); Arthur P. Genavia, Project Development Officer (Landbank); Ramon Jericho Gonzales, Junior Management Associate (Landbank); John Gilbert Gopez, Project

Development Officer (DA); Ma. Teresa J. Santos, OIC-Director II (ACPC); Emmalyn J. Guinto, Information Officer V (ACPC); Kennedy A. Garabiag OIC-Planning Officer V (ACPC); Joel Q. Matira, Project Dev't. Officer IV (ACPC); Rachel A. Bustamante, Economist III (ACPC); and Regino C. Ecalnir, Computer Maintenance III (ACPC).

The first meeting of the Secretariat was held February 11, 2013 to develop the workplan for the program.



The first organizational meeting of the APCP Secretariat was held on February 11, 2013 to discuss the program's workplan. The Secretariat, composed of representatives from DA, DAR, Landbank and ACPC, assists the APCP's PMC and TWG in the implementation of the program.

AMCFP Loans Increase 150% in 2012

By **Rumina A. Gil**

Loans released under the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program (AMCFP) increased by 151% in 2012 compared to the previous year. Total AMCFP loans reached P1.12 billion over the period January-December 2012. For the same period in 2011, program loans totaled P446 million. The number of program clients, on the other hand, increased 15%, from 25,571 in 2011 to 29,496 in 2012. The total loan amount released by the AMCFP in 2012 is also around 4% higher than the P1.08 billion that was targeted for the year under the program.

The AMCFP is the umbrella financing program of the DA mandated by RA 8435, otherwise known as the Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Act (AFMA) of 1997. The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) oversees the program's implementation.

The improved performance of the AMCFP in 2012 was due mainly to the implementation of the depository mode scheme of the AMCFP-Cooperatives Agri Lending Program (AMCFP-CBAP) towards the last quarter of 2011. For the year 2012, the AMCFP-CBAP was able to release up to P935.6 million in loans.

Under the AMCFP-CBAP, the ACPC places funds in special time deposits (STDs) in participating cooperative banks. The cooperative banks then use the funds to expand their agriculture and fishery loan portfolio. By putting the funds in STDs which bear lower interest compared to a loan, ACPC is able to bring down the effective interest rates for end-borrowers. The number of borrowers under the AMCFP-CBAP reached 18,437 in 2012.

Another program of the AMCFP – the Agri-Microfinance Program (AMP) –on the other hand, released P137.8 million to 10,136 farmers and fisherfolk in 2012. Implemented since 2009, the AMP is a joint program of the ACPC and the People's Credit and Finance Corporation (PCFC). The program provides credit to qualified microfinance institutions for relending to individual borrowers from small farmer and fisherfolk households.

The implementation in 2012 of the Sikat Saka Program jointly implemented by the ACPC and the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) also contributed to the total loans granted under the AMCFP in 2012. The Sikat Saka Program released P49.2 million in loans to 764 rice farmers in 2012.

The Sikat Saka was set up in January 2012 for lending to small palay farmers in support of the DA's Food Staples Sufficiency Program (FSSP). The program provides credit for palay production to eligible members of Irrigators' Associations to help meet the FSSP's goal of attaining self sufficiency in rice by 2013.

Finally, there was also the Cooperatives Agri Lending Program (CALP) which released loans amounting to P5.5 million to 159 borrowers in 2012. The CALP was implemented starting March 2011. It was a joint program of the ACPC and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) which provided a revolving credit line for cooperatives.

From the time it was first implemented in 2003, the AMCFP has already cumulatively granted P5.44 billion in loans for 198,085 farmer and fisherfolk borrowers nationwide as of December 2012.

Programs under the AMCFP	2011		2012	
	Loans Granted (P million)	No. of Borrowers	Loans Granted (P million)	No. of Borrowers
Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program (CBAP)	P 195.1	3,090	P 935.6	18,437
Agri-Microfinance Program (with People's Credit and Finance Corporation)	206.8	20,227	137.8	10,136
Sikat Saka Program			49.2	764
Cooperatives Agri-Lending Program (CALP)			5.5	159
Agri-Fishery Microfinance Program (with Land Bank of the Philippines) *	19.3	917		
Fisheries Financing Program (FFP) *	1.0	15		
Tomato Financing Program *	23.9	1,322		
Total	P446.1	25,571	P 1,128.1	29,496

* Note: The Agri-Fishery Microfinance Program (with Land Bank of the Philippines), Fisheries Financing Program and Tomato Financing Program were terminated in 2011.

ACPC Governing Council Approves Special Financing Facility for Farmers and Fishers Affected by Typhoon Pablo

By Norman William S. Kraft



ACPC Executive Director Jovita M. Corpuz (far right) presents the proposal for the Typhoon Pablo Special Agricultural Financing Facility to the ACPC Governing Council. Members of the Council are (from left): National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Deputy Director General Emmanuel Esguerra, Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Undersecretary Mario Relampagos, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla, Jr., Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Bernadette Puyat, and Department of Finance (DoF) Undersecretary Jeremias Paul, Jr.

The members of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) Governing Council signed Resolution No. 2, Series of 2012 on December 20, 2012 approving the establishment of a Typhoon Pablo Special Agricultural Financing Facility.

The Typhoon Pablo Special Agricultural Financing Facility is the ACPC's response to Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Proceso J. Alcala's directive to concerned DA line agencies to come up with immediate intervention and support programs for farmers who were affected by Typhoon Pablo (international name: "Bopha") in Regions X, XI, XII and XIII.

The four mentioned regions in Mindanao were the most severely affected by Typhoon Pablo which hit the Philippines in mid-December of 2012. Based on data gathered by the DA, a total area of approximately 163,000

hectares covering Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao is estimated to have been affected by the typhoon resulting in total agricultural production, facilities and infrastructure losses of around P29 billion. Of this amount, 99% are due to losses from Regions X, XI, XII and XIII.

The region that was hardest hit was Region XI, where 115,575 hectares were affected, resulting in 1.9 million metric tons (MT) of agricultural production losses valued at P25.8 billion. This was followed by Region X, with 39,842 hectares affected and 234,609 MT in production losses valued at P2.6 billion.

On the other hand, 6,004 hectares were affected in CARAGA (Region XIII), resulting in 8,677 MT in production losses valued at P471 million. Region XII had 538 hectares that were affected, with production

losses amounting to 1,586 MT valued at P71 million.

The typhoon inflicted the greatest damage on banana farms, banana being one of the major crops planted in this part of the country. An estimated 50,096 hectares, or 30% of the total area affected by the typhoon, were banana plantations and farms. This resulted in 1.9 million MT of losses in banana farms valued at an astounding P22.2 billion, or 80% of the total value of production losses brought about by Typhoon Pablo.

The other biggest production losses due to the typhoon were in high value crops (P1.9 billion), corn (P1.6 billion), coconut (P1.1 billion), and rice (P476 million).

The proposal for the Typhoon Pablo Special Agricultural Financing Facility was presented to the ACPC



The ACPC Typhoon Pablo Special Agricultural Financing Facility is intended as a special calamity credit fund specifically for the purpose of relending to farmers and fishers affected by Typhoon Pablo. The cost of fund under the facility is being reduced to bring down the interest rate for farmer and fisherfolk borrowers in the calamity-affected areas (Photo courtesy of Google images).

Governing Council by ACPC Executive Director Jovita M. Corpuz. In the proposal, it was emphasized that the special calamity credit fund is specifically for the purpose of relending to farmers and fishers affected by Typhoon Pablo. The facility will initially be funded with P60 million through the on-going ACPC Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program (CBAP). The cost of fund under the facility is being reduced relative to other existing programs to bring down the effective interest rate

for farmer and fisherfolk borrowers in the calamity-affected areas.

The facility will be implemented by cooperative banks that are already participating in the CBAP or are eligible under the CBAP guidelines and whose operations cover the areas affected by the devastation of Typhoon Pablo.

ACPC Resolution No. 2 of 2012 was signed during the 53rd Meeting of the ACPC Governing

Council held on December 20, 2012. The members of the ACPC Governing Council are Department of Agriculture (DA) Undersecretary Bernadette Puyat, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Deputy Governor Nestor Espenilla, Jr., Department of Finance (DoF) Undersecretary Jeremias Paul, Jr., Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Undersecretary Mario Relampagos, and National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Deputy Director General Emmanuel Esguerra.



Typhoon Pablo inflicted the greatest damage on banana farms in Mindanao. An estimated 50,096 hectares of banana plantations and farms were affected by the typhoon, resulting in 1.9 million MT of banana production losses valued at an astounding P22.2 billion (Photo courtesy of Google images).

The Bukidnon Cooperative Bank is one of the cooperative banks participating in the implementation of the Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program. The provinces that it can service under the special facility are Bukidnon and Agusan del Norte.

Orientations on Typhoon Pablo Calamity Loan Program in Bukidnon, Regions 11, 12, 13 and Other Affected Areas

By Norman William S. Kraft

The Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) organized and conducted an orientation meeting on the Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program on January 8, 2013 at the Cooperative Bank of Bukidnon in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. The orientation meeting was held to fast-track the implementation of the Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program, which was approved by the ACPC Governing Council on December 20, 2012.

The specific objectives of the orientation were: a) to present the features and guidelines of the calamity loan program to eligible cooperative banks operating in the typhoon-affected Regions X, XI, XII and XIII; b) discuss and resolve possible issues and concerns regarding program implementation; and c) set concrete and doable program targets.

The orientation was led by ACPC Deputy Executive Director Ramon C. Yedra. Also in the ACPC team were Director Norman William S. Kraft,

Messrs. Allen Ducusin, Ding Pereyra, Rudyard Roxas and Ms Mariepaz Faustorilla. The activity was attended by five (5) cooperative banks (i.e., the cooperative banks of Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, North Cotabato, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur); four (4) Regional Agri-Credit Desk Officers from the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Units (DA-RFUs) X, XI, XII and XIII; and six (6) Provincial Agri-Credit Desk Officers from the provinces of Bukidnon, Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Norte.

Upon consultation with the participating cooperative banks, it was agreed that the interest rate to eligible farmer and fisherfolk borrowers under the calamity

loan program would only be up to a maximum of 8% per annum (p.a.). Service charges, on the other hand, will only be up to 4% p.a.

The cooperative banks that have already agreed to participate in the calamity loan program service the following priority provinces:

Priority Province	Servicing Cooperative Bank
Misamis Oriental	CoopBank of Misamis Oriental
Lanao Del Norte	CoopBank of Misamis Oriental
Camiguin	CoopBank of Misamis Oriental
Bukidnon	Bukidnon CoopBank
Agusan Del Norte	Bukidnon CoopBank (thru CoopBank of Agusan Norte)
Agusan Del Sur	CoopBank of Agusan Del Sur
Compostela Valley	CoopBank of Misamis Oriental CoopBank of Agusan Del Sur
Davao Del Norte	CoopBank of Misamis Oriental CoopBank of Agusan Del Sur
North Cotabato	CoopBank of Cotabato
Surigao Del Sur	Consolidated Cooperative Bank
Misamis Occidental	Consolidated Cooperative Bank
Davao Del Sur	Consolidated Cooperative Bank



ACPC Deputy Executive Director Ramon C. Yedra (in white polo shirt) explains the concept and features of the Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program to officers of cooperative banks operating in the typhoon-affected Regions X, XI, XII and XIII during the orientation meeting conducted in Malaybalay, Bukidnon on January 8, 2013.



As part of her commitments under the agreed initial actions per region, DA-RFU 11 Alternate Regional Agri-Credit Desk Officer, Juvy Pregon, immediately organized briefings, information dissemination and credit matching activities on the ACPC Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program in the provinces of Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental and Davao del Norte. Photo shows Ms Pregon explaining the program to farmer-participants in Compostela Valley (Photo courtesy of Ms Juvy Pregon).

It was also agreed during the orientation that the Agri-Credit Desk Officers (RACDOs and PACDOs) will help the cooperative banks in identifying specific areas (i.e., municipalities and barangays) that were affected in the calamity by providing the banks with copies of the official reports containing the lists of affected areas in their respective jurisdictions. The reports, which should be duly signed by the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) or the Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO), will be the bases of the cooperative banks in setting their targets under the calamity loan program.

The participants worked together during the orientation to come up with initial and doable actions and targets per region under the program. The Agri-Credit Desk Officers (ACDOs) committed to organize and coordinate program briefings, information dissemination and credit matching in the affected areas in their respective regions and provinces.

Consequently, DA-RFU 11 Alternate Regional ACDO Juvy Pregon was able to mobilize and conduct briefings for farmers and fisherfolk on the special calamity loan program within the month of January in Tagum City, Davao del Norte; Nabunturan, Compostela Valley; and the towns

of Boston, Cateel, Baganga and Caraga, Davao Oriental.

Likewise, DA-RFU 12 Alternate RACDO Josalyn Jomud initiated the conduct of program orientations in the same month in the towns of Pigcawayan, Pikit and Kabacan in North Cotabato; Isulan and President Quirino in Sultan Kudarat; and Norala and Banga in South Cotabato. Those who attended the orientations were members of farmers' associations, irrigators' associations, cooperatives and people's organizations.

In February, DA-RFU 13 RACDO Malou Gruyal spearheaded the conduct of an orientation on the



DA-RFU 11 Regional Technical Director Bernadette San Juan (standing, right) helps orient participants in the municipality of Cateel, Davao Oriental on the Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program and other assistance being provided by the DA for the victims of the calamity. Davao Oriental is one of the provinces hardest hit by Typhoon Pablo (Photo courtesy of Ms Juvy Pregon).



Davao del Norte Governor Rodolfo del Rosario also informed farmers of assistance being made available by the provincial government during the orientation on the Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program that was held at the Bulwagang Panlalawigan in Tagum City, Davao del Norte on January 30, 2013 (Photo courtesy of Ms Juvy Pregon).



Farmers and fisherfolk in each of the provinces affected by Typhoon Pablo were very keen to learn about the ACPC Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program in the orientations that were organized by the DA-RFUs through the initiative of their Regional Agri-Credit Desk Officers. Photo shows the participants in the orientation held at the Bulwagang Panlalawigan in Tagum, Davao del Norte on January 30, 2013 (Photo courtesy of Ms Juvy Pregon).



Cooperative banks participating in the ACPC Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program joined the orientations organized by the DA-RFUs covering the areas affected by Typhoon Pablo to help explain to participants the features of the calamity loan program. Photo shows Coopbank of Agusan del Sur representative, Mr. Macabasa, explaining the bank's guidelines under the program to participants in Compostela Valley (Photo courtesy of Ms Juvy Pregon).

special calamity loan program for the municipalities of Lingig, Hinatuan, and Tagbina and the City of Bislig in the Province of Surigao del Sur.

The swift combined actions of the participating cooperative banks as well as the DA-RFUs have helped disseminate information about the program and encouraged qualified farmers and fisherfolk in the typhoon-affected areas to avail themselves of

the DA's and ACPC's special calamity loan assistance. As of the first week of March, ACPC has already approved the P5 million funding request of the Cooperative Bank of Agusan Del Sur, which caters to affected areas in the provinces of Agusan Del Sur and Compostela Valley. Funding request is also being awaited by ACPC from the Coopbank of Misamis Oriental which services various affected provinces, also including Compostela Valley.

For Davao Oriental, ACPC is still in exploratory talks with the King Cooperative which has already signified willingness to partner with the ACPC in extending credit assistance to farmers and fisherfolk affected by the typhoon. Aside from Davao Oriental, the cooperative will also service other areas where they have branch operations as well, e.g. Compostela Valley.



In the town of Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, DA-RFU 12 Alternate RACDO Josalyn Jomuaed (standing) led the orientation on the ACPC Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program for farmers and fisherfolk. She was joined in the orientation by representatives from the Cooperative Bank of Cotabato. (Photo courtesy of Ms Josalyn Jomuaed)



An orientation on the special calamity loan program was also held in Norala, South Cotabato for farmers and fisherfolk in the Province of South Cotabato affected by Typhoon Pablo. (Photo courtesy of Ms Josalyn Jomuaed)



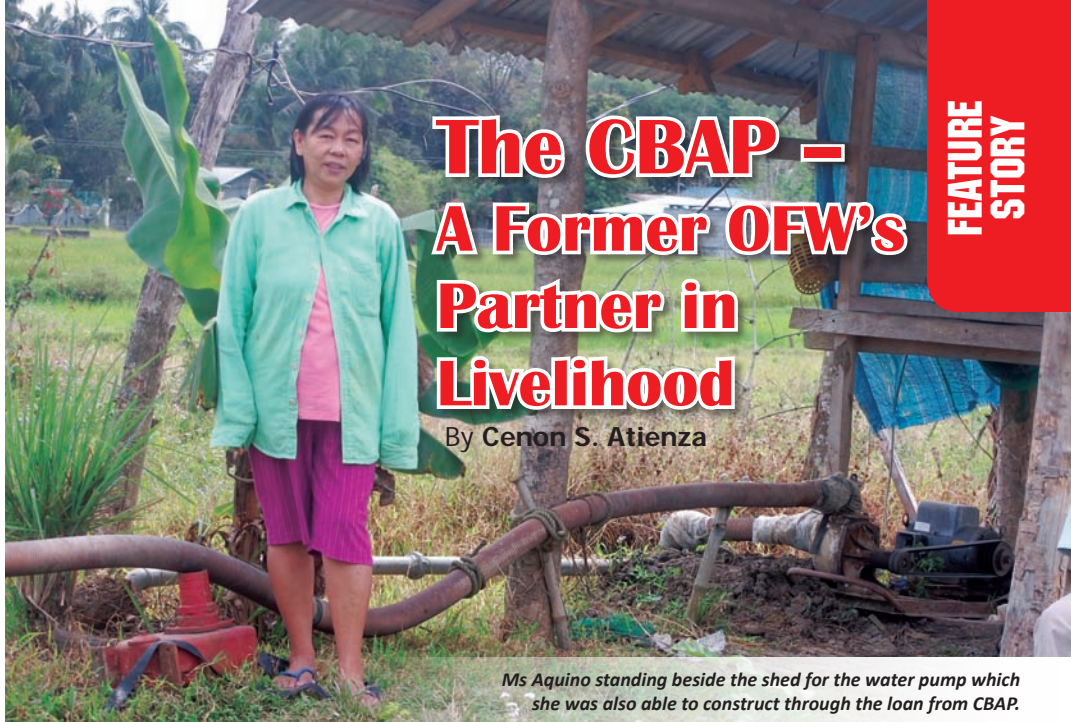
Farmer and fisherfolk participants in the orientation on the Typhoon Pablo Special Calamity Loan Program held in Kabacan, North Cotabato. (Photo courtesy of Ms Josalyn Jomuaed)

It was a fine Wednesday morning in 2012 when I met Ms Miriam Aquino. Ms Aquino is a former Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) who used to work in Hongkong. In 2006, after working abroad for eight years, she said she finally decided to return home to Barangay Wacal, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya and stay for good to look after the kids and her husband, Guillermo.

The decision to come home was not an easy one to make, though, according to her story. Especially since she knew that there was neither ready work nor income waiting for her in her own native land. What she knew then that their family had was around more than two hectares of land that they owned and which had some potential for both agricultural and fishpond uses. So, she just decided to set her sights on these as the family's possible sources of income on her return.

Ms Aquino told me that, at first, the funds she was able to save up from her years of working abroad enabled her to utilize one hectare of the land for planting rice. However, she later learned that the actual revenues from the small rice farm were a lot short of what she used to earn as an OFW. This brought her into thinking again about developing some fishponds near their one-hectare rice farm. With money still derived from her savings as an OFW, she oversaw the construction of four ponds, each one measuring an area of 2,000 square meters.

However, Ms Aquino said that they would not have been able



The CBAP – A Former OFW's Partner in Livelihood

By Cenon S. Atienza

Ms Aquino standing beside the shed for the water pump which she was also able to construct through the loan from CBAP.

to operate the fishponds at all if not for the Cooperative Bank of Nueva Vizcaya (CBNV). “The Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program (CBAP) being implemented by the CBNV has helped a lot in terms of providing capital to small farmers like me,” Ms Aquino told me. From an initial loan of P50,000 from the bank in 2007, she said she was able to complete improvements in the ponds and buy tilapia fingerlings.

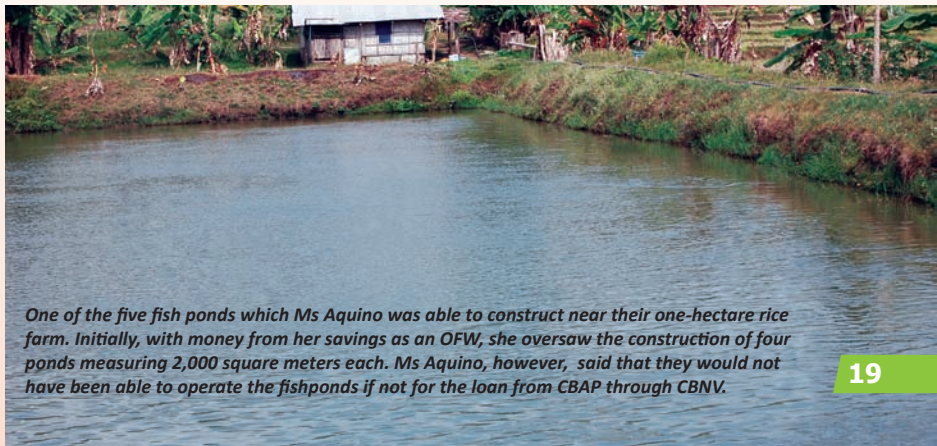
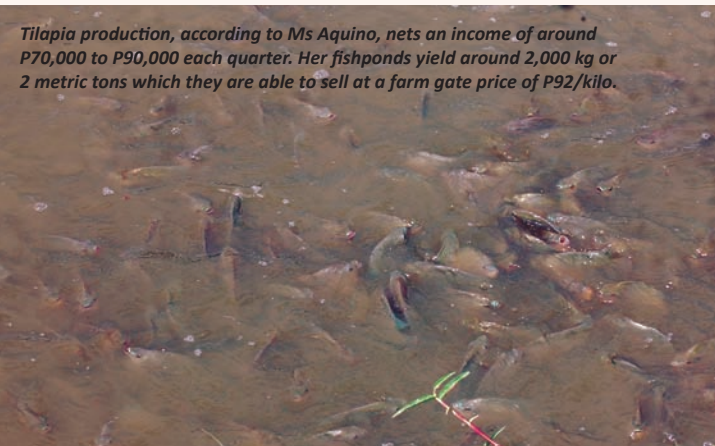
Two years ago, the Aquinos also experienced a “fish kill” in their ponds due to adverse weather conditions. CBNV again came to their rescue by approving an increase in Ms Aquino’s loan to P93,000. In the last five years, Ms Aquino was also able to construct a new pond, the size of which is much bigger than the other four ponds. She also constructed a shed for the water pump. The stocking rate of the Aquinos in their ponds is 24,000 fingerlings per hectare. “When all things are favorable,” she said, “the total harvest

is 2,000 kg or 2 metric tons (MT) in all of the five ponds, at 4-5 pieces to a kilo.” With a farm gate price of P92/kilo, each quarter nets an income of around P70,000-90,000. Their harvest is either sold to retailers in the Solano market or at their rented market stall in Ibung, in Villaverde town.

“In the four times that I availed of a production loan under the CBAP,” said Ms Aquino, “I paid a very minimal interest of only 15% p.a.” I asked her what other benefits she derived from the program and she readily replied: “I was able to provide employment to some of my townmates. Also, I made a lot of improvements in my house.”

In parting, she said: “You know what? My bold move to seek a loan from the CBNV enabled me and my husband to make a living through our fishing venture, but, to me, what is more important than that is I don’t have to be away from my family anymore...thanks to the CBAP.”

Tilapia production, according to Ms Aquino, nets an income of around P70,000 to P90,000 each quarter. Her fishponds yield around 2,000 kg or 2 metric tons which they are able to sell at a farm gate price of P92/kilo.



One of the five fish ponds which Ms Aquino was able to construct near their one-hectare rice farm. Initially, with money from her savings as an OFW, she oversaw the construction of four ponds measuring 2,000 square meters each. Ms Aquino, however, said that they would not have been able to operate the fishponds if not for the loan from CBAP through CBNV.



Equipped only with the knowledge that their family had around more than two hectares of land which had some potential for both agricultural and fishpond uses, Ms Miriam Aquino, an OFW in Hongkong, decided to return home to Barangay Wacal, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. The Cooperative Banks Agri-Lending Program (CBAP) implemented by the Cooperative Bank of Nueva Vizcaya (CBNV) provided additional capital for her agri-fishery venture. (Ms Aquino is with Mr. Roldan B. Romero, Loan Officer of CBNV.)