



PBBM ORDERS PCA TO LEAD NATIONWIDE 100-MILLION COCONUT TREE COCONUT REHABILITATION DRIVE

Manila, Philippines – In a decisive move to revitalize the nation's coconut industry, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. has directed the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to formulate a comprehensive plan for the development and rehabilitation of the sector. President Marcos discussed the agency's ambitious coconut planting and replanting project which aims to plant 100 million trees from 2023 to 2028.

The PCA's proposed planting and replanting initiative seeks to reinvigorate the coconut industry by addressing the pressing issues of tree senility and losses due to pests, diseases, and natural disasters.

President Marcos also highlighted the need for long-term planning for the reinvigoration of the industry regardless of political changes. He urged the PCA to think beyond the timeline of his administration. *"Why will we stop at 2028 because I'm finished? Huwag nating isipin 'yun. What is the ideal? How many years do we need to take to rehabilitate the coconut industry?"* he asked.

Despite the challenges, the Philippines remains the world's largest exporter of coconut products, with the sector contributing an average of 35 percent to the country's total agricultural export earnings from 2013 to 2022. However, the PCA has acknowledged the significant hurdles that must be overcome, including increasing tree senility, losses due to pests and diseases, and the ongoing impact of climate change.

The PCA's Massive Coconut Planting Program is expected to be a critical step in securing the future of the industry. It will rejuvenate the country's coconut sector and sustain its global competitiveness in coconut product exports.

To gain momentum for the project, PCA applied a whole-of-nation approach to achieve the ambitious target of planting 100 million trees over the next five years. As the PCA moves forward with this initiative, the agency remains committed to working closely with all stakeholders to achieve a sustainable and thriving coconut sector. PCA has encouraged all concerned national government agencies, instrumentalities, and local government units (LGUs) to actively support the coconut planting and replanting initiative. Under a proposed Memorandum of Agreement, LGUs in coconut-producing provinces and municipalities will be encouraged to implement various activities, including seed farm development and coconut fertilization.

In 2024, the PCA successfully planted 8.6 million coconut seedlings, which will increase to 15.3 million in 2025, and 25.4 million annually from 2026 to 2028.

While waiting for the newly planted trees to become productive, the Department of Agriculture will implement intercropping initiatives involving coffee, cacao, and bananas to provide additional income sources for farmers. Marcos also directed the PCA to collaborate with the Cooperative Development Authority in consolidating farmers' groups and associations to streamline the implementation of the replanting program and maximize its impact on the industry. (**Czarina Mae Enarsao**)



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PCA achieves ISO 9001:2015 Certification, celebrates commitment to quality and excellence

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) marked a historic feat as it received ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System certification from TUV SUD PSB Philippines Inc. during Year-End Employee Appreciation and Accomplishments Presentation Day.

The certification underscores PCA's unwavering commitment to quality service, operational efficiency, and excellence in supporting the country's coconut industry. A TUV SUD representative formally handed over the certificate to PCA Administrator Dr. Dexter R. Buted and the agency's key officials in a ceremony that highlighted the culmination of PCA's rigorous journey toward ISO accreditation.

ADRB expressed gratitude to PCA employees and stakeholders for their collective efforts in meeting international standards. *"This certification is a recognition of our efforts, and a testament to our resolve to deliver exceptional service to our farmers, stakeholders, and the Filipino people. Quality management is a culture we are embedding into every aspect of our operations,"* he said.

The event also celebrated PCA's year-long initiatives aimed at aligning its processes with global standards. The ISO journey began with a series of workshops, including an ISO 9001:2015 reorientation in April and an internal audit refresher in May. These activities, facilitated by quality assurance experts from Pangasinan State University and the University De Dagupan, equipped PCA personnel with tools and strategies for continuous improvement.

The certification journey included extensive internal audits, development of

a comprehensive Quality Management System manual, and a second-party audit conducted in August. Each step demonstrated PCA's commitment to enhancing customer satisfaction, improving operational processes, and adhering to international quality standards.

PCA's pursuit of ISO certification aligns with the government's broader efforts to promote accountability, efficiency, and excellence in public service. Under the leadership of Administrator Buted and in partnership with the Department of Agriculture, the agency remains steadfast in its mandate to uplift the lives of coconut farmers while ensuring sustainability in the coconut sector.

The Year-End Employee Appreciation and Accomplishments Presentation Day also served as an avenue to recognize the dedication of PCA's workforce. The PCA chief commended employees for their vital contributions to the agency's success.

The ISO 9001:2015 certification places PCA among the ranks of government agencies that prioritize quality and excellence. As the agency moves forward, it is ready to set a benchmark for service delivery in the agricultural sector, ensuring that millions of Filipino coconut farmers and stakeholders reap the benefits of world-class governance and management practices. **(Kennex S. Guerzon)**

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This certification is a recognition of our efforts, and a testament to our resolve to deliver exceptional service to our farmers, stakeholders, and the Filipino people. Quality management is a culture we are embedding into every aspect of our operations



38th National Coconut Week celebrates the vital role of coconuts in the Philippine economy

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) marked the start of its 2024 Coconut Week Celebration on August 27 with a vibrant display of cultural performances, festive drumbeats, and colorful flags at its headquarters. The event marked 38 years of honoring the coconut industry's significant contributions to the nation's economy, bringing together key stakeholders, including representatives from the Department of Agriculture led by Undersecretary Roger V. Navarro, who stood in for Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr., alongside other leaders from the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) implementing agencies.

Notably, coconut farmer beneficiaries of the CFIDP also attended the celebration, with their participation underscoring the event's recognition of their vital contributions to the industry's growth. This celebration was not just a tribute to the past but a recognition of the hardworking farmers whose efforts continue to drive the coconut sector forward.

PCA Administrator Dexter R. Buted highlighted the importance of the initiatives launched during the celebration, particularly the coconut planting and replanting efforts are part of the agency's BAYANlyugan campaign, which advocates for the modernization of agriculture and the strengthening of the coconut industry.

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Together with PCA, we are all champions of the development of the coconut industry, modernizing agriculture, and building a stronger and more resilient Philippines

ADRB said, reiterating the movement's nationwide reach. He further emphasized that this event is a win for the coconut farmers, celebrating their hard work and acknowledging their central role in the nation's economic and agricultural development.

A key focus of the weeklong festivities is the nationwide simultaneous coconut planting activity, on August 28, which serves as a cornerstone for ensuring the long-term sustainability of the coconut sector. PCA has long advocated for the replanting of coconut trees to address aging plantations and secure the country's food security and economic stability. This initiative aligns with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr.'s directive to plant 100 million coconut trees by 2028, a bold vision to rejuvenate the industry and promote sustainable agricultural practices nationwide.

The celebration featured a range of events, including the Coconut Culinary Presentation, Coconut Research & Development Webinar, and a Symposium on the Benefits of Coconut Products at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). The week concluded with an Awards and Recognition Night, which recognized the contributions of farmers, workers, and industry partners.

National Coconut Week, established by Proclamation No. 142, Series of 1987, is a tribute to the enduring significance of the coconut industry, which continues to play a vital role in the nation's economic and social fabric. The PCA, together with its partners from government and industry, has been at the forefront of promoting initiatives to improve the livelihoods of coconut farmers and workers, advocating for programs that boost productivity, and addressing the challenges of climate change and resource depletion.

More than a ceremonial gesture, the nationwide planting activity is a tangible effort to revitalize the coconut sector. As the PCA calls on the Filipino public to participate, it emphasizes that these planting efforts are a collective responsibility—one that will help secure the industry's future and strengthen the country's agricultural resilience. The involvement of the CFIDP's coconut farmer beneficiaries highlights the event's deep connection to the farmers who have been integral to the industry's success.

As the 2024 Coconut Week unfolds, it becomes clear that this year's celebration is more than a commemoration of the past. It's a commitment to the future, driven by unity, sustainability, and a shared vision for a flourishing coconut industry that continues to support millions of Filipinos and build a more resilient and thriving coconut industry.

(Kennen S. Guerzon)



Coconut Farmers in Tawi-Tawi celebrate graduation from School-on-the-Air Program

In a proud display of determination, coconut farmers in Tawi-Tawi marched in celebration as they graduated from the School on the Air (SOA) program, a distance-learning initiative aimed at empowering farmers through the Masaganang Coco-Buhayan Radio Eskwela by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in Region XII.

The SOA program is part of ATI's effort to reach farmers in remote areas, providing them with accessible education through radio broadcasts. From August 6 to October 7, coconut farmers tuned in to ATI's partner radio station to learn valuable skills and knowledge about modern farming practices. To further support the program, farmers were also provided with radios and notebooks, ensuring they had the necessary tools to engage fully with the lessons. A total of 500 coconut farmers in Tawi-Tawi proudly completed the program.

Nur-Aina Bangona-Inkagan, Division Chief I of

PCA Tawi-Tawi, expressed her gratitude for the ATI program, noting that it eliminated the need for long day-long travels to teach farmers.

John Lord Oman, Information Officer II of ATI Region XII, emphasized that PCA was a vital partner in the success of the SOA program. "Ang PCA ang naging katuwang naming sa pagpapatupad ng SOA kasi sila ang naging subject matter specialist at subject matter expert natin, at may mga na-train din tayo ng broadcasting sila yung nagpapatupad on the ground." he shared.

The program did not only cover agricultural topics but also included a farm business school, ensuring that the farmers were equipped with the knowledge to turn their farms into sustainable businesses.

For many coconut farmers like Rogelio Nabua, 73, the lessons learned were a game-changer. "Ang natutunan ko dyan, mga saging sa tabi-tabi, mga pinyahan, mga kamote, cassava,

yun ang tinatanim Napakalaking pasalamat sa ating gubynerno, yun na ang ating hinihintay na pag-asaya" he shared.

Paulie Yahiya, 66, echoed the same sentiment, saying that the occasional three-thousand-peso income from coconut farming was not enough. "Tinuturuan kami magtaniam, kung paano magtaniam ng cassava, para hindi aasa, kumbaga sideline ba. Pag wala ng trabaho nakikinig, nakakakuha ng impormasyon" he said.

In addition to Tawi-Tawi, ATI also held SOA graduations in Basilan, where 500 coconut farmers completed the program. This marks the second and third SOA graduations in BARMM this year, following the first SOA graduation in Sulu in 2023. Through collaboration between ATI, PCA, and local communities, this initiative is transforming lives and creating a brighter future for coconut farmers in the region. (Lester Dela Cerna)



Longon Camili Agrarian Reform Cooperative utilizes P15 Million loan to empower coconut farmers in Romblon

Longon Camili Agrarian Reform Cooperative (LCARC), a key cooperative in Romblon province, has successfully availed a Php 15 million loan under the Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). The loan, facilitated through the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), was fully downloaded to the cooperative on July 5, 2024.

The loan has already proven to be a game-changer for the cooperative's 66 coconut farmer members, providing them with crucial financial support to enhance their farming activities. The funds were used for various purposes, including farm development, livestock production, copra buying and selling,

farming and gardening, purchasing farm vehicles for transportation, and acquiring essential farm machinery.

According to the cooperative, the loan has had a profound impact on its members, enabling them to boost farm productivity and improve their livelihoods significantly. With a minimal annual interest rate, the loan has provided coconut farmers with a sustainable solution to meet their financial needs while enhancing their economic activities.

For Longon Camili Agrarian Reform Cooperative, the Php 15 million loan has not only strengthened its capacity to provide financial and technical support

to its members, but it has also attracted new members interested in benefiting from the CFIDP loan program. The cooperative's financial standing has improved, and it has gained a stronger reputation as a reliable partner in the community, working alongside government and non-government agencies such as DBP and PCA.

This initiative underscores the cooperative's crucial role in empowering coconut farmers and promoting economic growth in Romblon, reaffirming its dedication to supporting local farmers and contributing to the development of the coconut industry. (Lee-Ann Carandang)

PCA and TESDA partner to enhance skills in the Philippine coconut industry



In a concerted effort to strengthen and sustain the coconut industry, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) have teamed up under the Coconut Farmers Industry Development Program (CFIDP). This collaboration aims to equip coconut farmers with the skills and knowledge necessary to thrive in a competitive market and enhance their livelihoods.

The partnership, spearheaded by PCA Deputy Administrator for Operations Roel M. Rosales and TESDA Regional Operations Management Office (ROMO) Executive Director Rosalina S. Constantino, together with their Qualifications Standards Office, has introduced a comprehensive training guide designed to transform coconut farming practices.

This guide, titled Competency Standards for Coconut Production, is now available for download on TESDA's website. It covers essential skills, such as selecting high-quality mother palms, cultivating healthy seedlings, maintaining coconut palms, and harvesting fruits and sap. Farmers will also learn key marketing strategies to help sell their products more effectively.

To ensure that farmers acquire these skills through hands-on learning, training programs are being developed at real-life farming sites. These programs will be led by expert instructors who will provide practical, field-based instruction. This initiative aims to empower coconut farmers with the tools necessary to enhance their productivity, reduce costs, and increase their income.

While the focus has primarily been on coconut farming, PCA and TESDA are already planning to extend the qualification standards to include coconut processing. Last September, the development of a competency standard on copra processing had already started. After this, competency standards will be developed for high-value products such as virgin coconut oil, coconut sugar, desiccated coconut, and coconut water vinegar.

These products have growing demand, both locally and internationally, and will open up new opportunities for farmers to diversify.

their income by tapping into more profitable markets.

Furthermore, the training will expand to cover the production of sap-based products, such as coconut wine and sugar, as well as non-food products like coco coir and coco peat. These items are increasingly sought after in global markets, further increasing the range of opportunities available to farmers.

PCA Administrator Dexter R. Buted is also keen on developing standards for coconut furniture making. By learning to craft furniture and household items from coconut materials, farmers can tap into niche markets and generate additional income streams. This specialized skill will help elevate the value of coconut by-products, turning them into functional and marketable goods.

In addition to these training programs, PCA and TESDA are developing tools for assessing the skills of coconut farmers. These Competency Assessment Tools (CATs) will ensure that certifications align with the highest industry standards, helping to maintain the quality of the workforce in the coconut sector.

This partnership between PCA and TESDA represents a crucial step toward modernizing the Philippine coconut industry. By providing comprehensive training and expanding qualification standards, the collaboration is setting the stage for a more competitive and sustainable industry. The long-term goal is to empower farmers, increase their profitability, and position the coconut sector as a key player in the global market. Through this effort, PCA and TESDA are helping to ensure that coconut farmers not only survive but thrive in an ever-evolving marketplace.

(Jimbo Mallari)



PCAAlaman

Coconut is Not a Tree Nut

While commonly mistaken for a tree nut, the coconut is actually classified as a drupe, a type of fruit with a fleshy and/or fibrous parts. Specifically, they are a fibrous one-seeded drupe. This unique classification sets coconuts apart from true tree nuts like almonds, walnuts, and pecans.

Here's why you can consume coconuts without a problem.

Many people with tree nut allergies can consume coconut without any problems. While coconuts are classified as a tree nut by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for labeling purposes, they do not commonly cause allergic reactions the way tree nuts do.

So, the next time you enjoy a refreshing coconut drink or cook with coconut oil, remember – you're not indulging in a tree nut, but rather the versatile and nutritious drupe known as the coconut!

The Creamy Secrets of Coconut Milk

Coconut milk is made from grated mature coconut flesh mixed with water.

Coconut milk contains several essential nutrients, including vitamins C, E, B1 (thiamin), B3 (niacin), B5 (pantothenic acid), and B6 (pyridoxine), as well as minerals like iron, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, and potassium.

Coconut milk is a popular dairy substitute for those who are lactose intolerant or following a vegan diet. It provides a similar creamy texture and is used in a wide range of culinary applications, from savory dishes like ginataan, laing, bicol express, and curries to sweet desserts like biko and bibingka!



Significant progress in coconut hybridization efforts, eyeing a stronger future for the industry

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), continues to make impressive strides in its coconut hybridization program, with significant accomplishments despite some challenges. The hybridization efforts are part of the broader vision to modernize and revitalize the coconut industry, ensuring its sustainability and improving the livelihoods of millions of Filipinos who depend on coconut farming.

As of the latest report, PCA has successfully hybridized 66,003 coconut palms, reaching an impressive 98.81% of its target of 66,796 hybrid palms. This achievement is a clear indication of the program's success in advancing the cultivation of high-yielding. These disease-resistant coconut varieties are expected to bolster productivity in coconut-growing regions across the country.

While the program is on track in several areas, some components are still in development. The establishment of communal nurseries, which are crucial for providing hybrid seedlings to farmers, has reached 40.21% of its target, with 115 nurseries already established. Although this is below the set goal, it is a positive step forward in ensuring that hybrid seedlings are readily available to farmers, and efforts are underway to ramp up this activity.

A notable milestone in the hybridization program is the strategic planting and replanting of hybrid seedlings. With 755,912 seedlings already planted, this accomplishment marks 59.37% of the program's goal of 1 million hybrid seedlings. The steady progress reflects the increasing acceptance of hybrid coconut varieties among farmers. It demonstrates the growing momentum of the replanting campaign, which is expected to expand in the coming months.

The establishment and maintenance of seed farms has also shown substantial progress, with 16,077 hectares planted or maintained, reaching 125% of the target of 12,794 hectares. These seed farms are critical to ensuring a sustainable supply of hybrid seeds, which will be crucial for the industry's long-term growth and resilience.

Another significant development is the ongoing precision farming efforts, with 236,201 hybrid palms fertilized, marking 42% of the target of 563,710 palms. This initiative, focused

on enhancing coconut productivity through proper nutrient management, is poised for growth as the program continues to evolve. Notably, a portion of the allocated budget for seed farms has been reconfigured to support the growth of open-pollinated variety (OPV) seedlings, which will serve as parental palms for future hybridization projects, setting the stage for even greater advancements in the coming years.

On the research side, the Department of Science and Technology-Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) is monitoring 37 ongoing research projects related to coconut hybridization. These projects, which cover a wide range of topics from varietal improvement to pest management and product diversification, are laying the groundwork for more effective hybridization practices and enhanced industry growth. The research initiatives are expected to further elevate the coconut industry's competitiveness on both national and global scales.

The overall progress of the coconut hybridization program demonstrates the PCA's commitment to strengthening the coconut industry, improving farmers' livelihoods, and contributing to the country's food security. While there are areas that require further development, the program is showing solid momentum and is on track to meet its long-term goals. The hybridization efforts are setting the stage for a brighter, more sustainable future for the coconut industry, benefiting both the environment and the millions of Filipinos who rely on coconut farming.

Looking ahead, the PCA remains focused on overcoming current challenges and accelerating its efforts to meet future targets. The hybridization program is poised to become a cornerstone of the Philippine coconut sector, ensuring its growth, sustainability, and resilience for generations to come. **(Ma. Corazon Q. Florita)**

COCONUT HYBRIDIZATION PROGRAM: BY THE NUMBERS

HYBRIDIZED COCONUT PALMS:

66,003

98.81% of the target (66,796)

HYBRID SEEDLINGS PLANTED:

755,912

COMMUNAL NURSERIES ESTABLISHED:

115

HYBRID PALMS FERTILIZED

236,201

SEED FARMS (HECTARES): **16,077**

Data from PCA Operations Branch



Social workers and administrative officers train to strengthen PCA's health and medical support for coconut farmers

In an effort to enhance the delivery of essential health services to coconut farmers, the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) recently held a dynamic capacity-building training for its social workers and administrative officers. The session, attended by more than twenty participants from various PCA regional offices, was organized by the PCA Central Office.

This training was designed to equip social workers with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully implement the Health and Medical Program under Republic Act 11524, also known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act. The program aims to address the healthcare needs of coconut farmers and their families, particularly in remote areas where access to medical services is often limited.

King Arrvi B. Gaspar, Acting Division Chief of the Health and Medical Division of PCA, highlighted the importance of this initiative "Sa pamamagitan ng pagasanay, nahuhubog ang mga social worker para tugunan ang mga hamon at pangangailangan ng mga magniniyog at kanilang pamilya, lalo na sa aspeto ng kalusugan. Maiintindihan at mábibigyan nila ng tamang atensyon ang mga isyung pangkalusugan na nararanasan ng mga magniniyog---mula sa mga problemang dulot mahirap na kalagayan ng pagtatarobaho hanggang sa limitadong access sa serbisyo ng medikal. Bukod dito, ang mga social workers ay maaaring magbigay at magbahagi ng health education tulad ng mga paraan para makaiwas sa karaniwang sakit. Kapag malusog kasi ang mga magniniyog natin at mga pamilya nila, ay mas makakapagtatarobaho sila nang maayos, na magdudulot naman ng positibong epekto sa buhay."

The training covered a wide range of essential skills, with a focus on Basic Life Saving techniques. Participants were taught the crucial steps of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), ensuring they are equipped to respond to emergencies. Experts from the Department of Health shared valuable insights into healthcare systems that will aid in the program's

implementation. A seasoned social worker provided practical tips and strategies drawn from real-world experience in the field.

The PCA Health and Medical Program, a vital component of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), will be rolled out nationwide, reaching coconut farmers in both urban and rural areas.

Dennis D. Andres, Acting Department Manager II of the PCA, underscored the program's significance: "Sa programa na ito nandoon pa rin ang Philhealth, Malasakit, DSWD... on top of all the benefits they could get still they have the health and medical program from PCA na pwede nilang asahan. Covered nito ang lahat ng sakit, lahat ng aksidente. Pag NCFRS registered ka, eligible ka to all the programs and programs, you should have an area of 5 hectares and below."

As PCA Administrator and CEO Dexter R. Buted emphasized, "The CFIDP's Health and Medical Program is more than just healthcare; it's about ensuring that our social workers are the lifeline connecting farmers to the medical services they desperately need. Their work will have a profound impact on the lives of coconut farmers and their families."

The training concluded on a hopeful note. As participants returned to their respective offices, they left not only with valuable knowledge but also with a renewed sense of purpose. These social workers and administrative officers now play a crucial role in delivering healthcare to one of the country's most vital yet underserved sectors—the coconut farmers. (Diane Joy Felipe)

PCA launches training and strengthens support systems under CFIDP

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has launched a specialized training program designed to empower its Community Organizers (COs) from various regions. This initiative, part of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), aims to enhance the skills of the COs, who serve as vital intermediaries between the PCA and coconut farmers nationwide.

The CFIDP was established to enhance the capabilities of coconut farmers, improve their livelihoods, and encourage industry growth. As the primary agency responsible for implementing the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (Republic Act No. 11524), PCA is committed to lifting coconut farmers out of poverty by providing them with essential government benefits.

Through this training, Community Organizers received comprehensive lessons in financial literacy, business planning, and counseling, with a strong emphasis on understanding the policies and regulations under the CFITF Act. The aim is to equip these frontliners with the necessary tools to effectively assist coconut farmers in accessing government programs, meeting eligibility requirements, and securing crucial loans for modernizing and expanding their businesses.

In addition to the training, PCA is expanding its workforce by adding more COs in various regions and provinces. These COs will play a key role in providing tailored support to local coconut farmers, helping them participate in CFIDP programs and enabling them to improve their agricultural practices. This hands-on approach promises to boost the capacity of coconut farmers and cooperatives to engage in government projects and ultimately drive industry-wide growth.

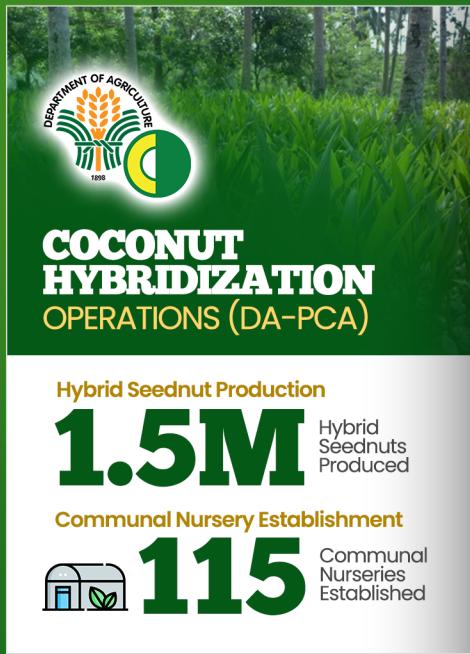
With these efforts, PCA continues to reaffirm its commitment to the development and empowerment of the coconut industry. The agency's strategic focus on farmer education and access to resources is setting the stage for a stronger, more sustainable coconut sector, with coconut farmers at its heart. (Ma. Corazon Q. Florita)





Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT FY2024

HYBRIDIZATION

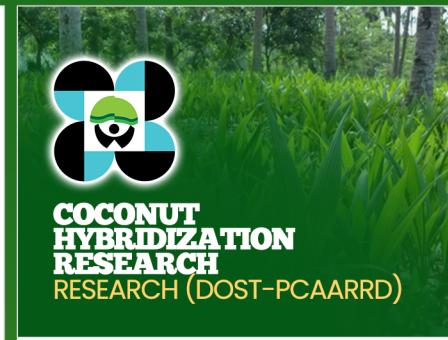


Strategic Planting and Replanting
755,912
Hybrid Seedlings Planted

Seedfarm Establishment
16,077
Hectares planted and/or maintained

Precision Farming Through Nutrient Support
707,107
Hybrid Palms Fertilized

Professionalizing Hybridization Crew
561
Trainees Trained



Ongoing Research Projects Monitored **37**

37 Research Technology Chains include Varietal Improvement and Selection, Cultural Management, Pest Management Product Diversification and Processing, R&D Results Utilization, Capability Building, and Socio-Economic and Policy.



349 Coconut Farmer Cooperatives capacitated

82 Coconut Farmer Organizations assisted to become Cooperatives



Coffee and Cacao Intercropping (HVCDP)

145 Coconut Farmer Organizations availed the program

1,030.67
Hectares of coconut farms intercropped

Dairy Integration (NDA)

31 Coconut Farmers provided with animals **147** Dairy animals provided to coconut farmers

Livestock and Poultry Integration Program (DA-BAI)

24 Coconut Farmers provided with animals

SUPPORT SERVICES



INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT (DPWH)

13

Shared Processing Facilities Constructed

3

Farm-to-Market Roads for construction

1

Research Facility



RESEARCH, MARKETING, & PROMOTION (DTI-BSMED)

101

Coconut Farmers/ Coconut-Based Enterprises Assisted with Registration Requirements (FDA, IPO, GMP, etc.)

21

Local Trade Fairs Conducted



CREDIT SUPPORT (LBP and DBP)

CREDIT SUPPORT (LBP)

₱324.1M

Amount of Loan provided

CREDIT SUPPORT (DBP)

₱15M

Amount of Loan provided

SOCIAL PROTECTION



HEALTH AND MEDICAL PROGRAM (DA-PCA)

4,048

Coconut Farmers reached and participated in the CFIDP Health Survey

4 MOAs

Prepared for consideration (DOH, PhilHealth, DSWD, and PCso)

26

Social Workers Hired



TRAINING FOR COCONUT FARMERS & THEIR FAMILIES (TESDA & DA-ATI)

Training for Coconut Farmers (ATI)

15,654

Coconut farmer participants in Farmer-Level Trainings

Training for Coconut Farmers (TESDA)

10,878

Coconut farmers graduated



SOCIAL PROTECTION (CHED, PCIC)

Crop Insurance Program (PCIC)

494,179

Coconut farmers provided with Crop Insurance

Scholarship Program (CHED)

6,038

Coconut farmers provided with Scholarship
164 scholars graduated



SHARED PROCESSING FACILITIES (DA-PHILMECH)

2
44

Shared Processing Facility Machineries awarded

SPFs identified (26 Types of Facilities)

STATUS OF FUND RELEASES (as of December 31, 2024)

₱7.35B

Funds Released to the 15 IAs

STATUS OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUND (as of December 31, 2024)

₱405M

Funds Released to PCA to be defrayed to IAs for Admin Expenses

Is the Coconut Industry, NUT (Not) OKAY?

BY: MA. ODESSA PACAUL

The coconut industry has long been an essential part of the global agricultural landscape and one of the pillars of global economies for centuries. However, for a multitude of reasons, the coconut industry is on the brink of a precipice, with Asia's coconut production spiraling downward. This has led some experts to warn of a coming "coconut cataclysm," in which supply will not meet demand, and prices will skyrocket.

To substantiate this presupposition, the Ceylon Chamber of Coconut Industries (CCCI), which represents Sri Lanka's coconut sector, has called on the government to fast-track the importation of 200 million coconuts, according to a news article published in the Daily Mirror in January 2025. The move aims to avert a crisis that threatens both domestic consumers with high prices and the export market. The current shortage has caused prices to soar to about \$0.62 per nut, affecting households and exporters alike. The Coconut Research Institute (CRI) of Sri Lanka has forecast a production shortfall of over 200 million nuts in the first quarter of this year. In 2024, coconut production fell short of 260 million nuts from the CRI's forecast, with a sharp 60 percent year-on-year (YoY) drop in coconut harvests in December 2024.

Meanwhile, the coconut processing industry in Indonesia is facing a crisis due to a surge in coconut exports, leading to a shortage of domestic raw materials, as reported by Jakarta Globe in December 2024. The lack of control over export policies has worsened the situation, affecting the production of coconut-based products despite high demand. The Indonesian Coconut Processing Industry Association (HIPKI) reported that both legal and illegal coconut exports, particularly to China, Thailand, Vietnam, and Malaysia, have been unregulated, creating an imbalance where foreign industries benefit from added value, while domestic industries struggle. Many local processing plants, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), have already shut down or faced significant losses.

The Indian Coconut Journal reported in its March 2024 issue that the coconut industry in India has been grappling with productivity concerns, declining yields, market dynamics, environmental pressures, and various other factors impacting cultivation. The lack of adoption of high-yielding coconut varieties has hindered the industry's potential. While new hybrid varieties have been developed to enhance productivity, the slow transition to these high-yielding coconut varieties presents a significant challenge to the industry's growth in India.

Back home, the perennial effects of climate change have heavily affected the Philippine coconut industry. The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) reported that an average

of 20 tropical cyclones visit the country each year, with eight or nine making landfall, mostly in

coconut-producing regions. A 2019 report recounted that the El Niño phenomenon damaged 183 hectares of coconut in Quezon province.

According to a news report by Inquirer in January 2025, the combined effects of El Niño, a series of typhoons, and the prevalence of animal diseases contributed to a 2.2 percent drop in the country's agricultural output in 2024. The combined effects of Severe Tropical Storm "Kristine" and Typhoon "Leon" wiped out ₱13.47 billion worth of local produce. Additionally, Typhoons "Nika," "Ofel," and "Pepito" caused ₱9.9 billion in damages. Changes in weather patterns are becoming more erratic. For instance, El Niño occurs during the coconut harvest season, reducing yield volumes, while heavy rainfall often occurs when farmers expect a dry season. Recurring pests and diseases are also rampant, and around 10% or 34.5 million coconut palms are going senile every year. Furthermore, the coconut industry remains highly susceptible to fluctuations in market prices, negatively affecting the income and livelihoods of coconut farmers and industry stakeholders.

Before we go nuts over these misfortunes, let's look for the silver lining. Despite these challenges, the future of coconut farming depends on embracing innovation and sustainability. Automation is increasingly becoming a central aspect of coconut farming, and its implementation holds the promise of improved yields and quality. The International Coconut Community (ICC) reported that precision farming techniques, such as drone-based monitoring and soil sensors, enable farmers to optimize resource utilization, minimize environmental impact, and enhance crop yields. Another innovation is the use of digital solutions, such as blockchain and QR codes, at the heart of traceability.

For example, AgriLedger, a blockchain solution, empowers farmers by providing a digital identity to each coconut, making the supply chain more transparent and equitable. An Amaron robotic coconut climber, invented in India, reduces the risk of accidents for farmers climbing coconut trees, while NavaDesign and Innovation has developed an automatic coconut sap-harvesting robot based on artificial intelligence and solar energy. BioCNG (Biological Compressed Natural Gas) systems, produced in countries such as Brazil, China, India, and the United Kingdom, convert coconut water waste into energy. Additionally, advancements in crop genetics and biotechnology hold promise for the development of disease-resistant coconut varieties, further bolstering crop resilience and sustainability. As we live in a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous) world,

technology is a game-changer for the coconut industry.

Now, where does the Philippine coconut industry stand in this uphill battle of cracking the tough nut? The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), under the leadership of Administrator and Chief Executive Officer Dexter R. Buted, has successfully convinced Malacañang to allocate an additional budget of nearly ₱3 billion for the BAYANIYUGAN coconut massive planting and fertilization program. This initiative aims to revitalize both the coconut and salt industries. The master plan for this twin productivity program, crafted with the guidance of Deputy Administrator for Operations Roel Rosales, targets the planting of 100 million trees across the country and the fertilization of more than 98 million low-bearing mature palms by the end of 2028 using a whole-nation approach. Coconut and salt farmer cooperatives and associations, PCA-accredited coconut seedling and salt producers, local government units, state universities, and other government agencies will participate in the program, providing planting materials and agricultural-grade salt fertilizer.

Plans to modernize PCA's research centers are also underway to improve their ability to address complex socio-technical challenges. A strategic meeting with the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) College of Agriculture and Food Science (CAFS) was recently conducted to explore UPLB's role as the country's national university in spearheading initiatives among State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to support PCA's mission of revitalizing the coconut industry by designating UPLB as a strategic site for planting coconut seedlings and the cultivation of new coconut hybrids at its experimental farms. Sustainability and productivity are the foci of all these PCA initiatives, ensuring that the next generation will still have a thriving coconut industry.

So, is the coconut industry nut (not) okay? Your answer is as good as mine. I guess it is also good to mention that the recent move to challenge the constitutionality of the 2025 General Appropriations Act (GAA) before the Supreme Court is an indicator that the famous line "It's okay not to be okay" does not apply to this particular scenario. The impending non-release of the additional budget could jeopardize the implementation of the PCA programs which will address the productivity and sustainability of the coconut industry.

Former OFW turns coconut farm into thriving enterprise, leads local farmers in Quezon

Luzviminda Villapando Giangan, a former Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW), has successfully transitioned from working abroad to becoming a full-time farmer and leader in her community. Since returning to the Philippines in 2019, Giangan, affectionately known as Minda, has revitalized her family's 5-hectare coconut farm, turning it into a productive and profitable venture.

Upon her return, Minda set about making the farm more efficient, generating income from a variety of coconut products, including copra, whole nuts, coconut shells, buko, and occasionally, makapuno. Recognizing that many of the farm's coconut trees were aging and producing fewer fruits, she took the initiative to replant and infill the farm. Leveraging the support from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) through the Participatory Coconut Planting Project and Coconut Seedlings Dispersal Project, she introduced recommended coconut varieties that meet current market demands. Today, she serves as a farmer-cooperator for the communal nursery under the Coconut Hybridization Project of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).

Minda's leadership and upbeat personality have made her a respected figure among fellow coconut farmers in Brgy. Niing, San Antonio, Quezon. Her efforts led to the formation of the Coconut Farmers Association of San Antonio Quezon, which aims to create a sustainable and enterprising coconut industry. She emphasizes the importance of farmers organizing themselves, stating that such associations are crucial for accessing new technologies, credit facilities, government support, and market opportunities. "Organized coconut farmers are an asset," Minda notes, "as they have the power to tackle production challenges and find solutions to the problems they face."

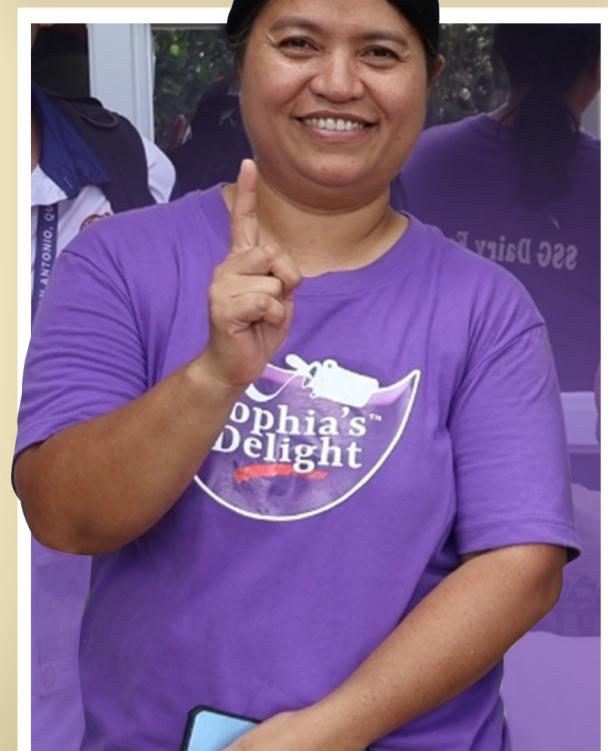
Under her leadership, the association evolved into a cooperative, the Ruminant Raisers of San Antonio Quezon Agriculture Cooperative. Through the cooperative, they secured a loan grant from the National Dairy Authority (NDA) to acquire 20 Saanen goats, a breed known for its milking capabilities. This venture has since flourished, with the cooperative now producing milk, yogurt, and cheese, which

are regularly featured at TienDa, Niyogosyo, and farmers' markets. Minda proudly shares that they have successfully repaid the loan grant, now milking 100 goats, and have maintained a spotless record with the government, which she believes opens the door to further opportunities.

The cooperative's success led to them receiving an additional 20 heads of cattle, also milking breeds, which enabled them to secure a supply contract with a major gourmet ice cream company. "All of our milk is allocated to the company due to high demand, marking a major achievement for our cooperative," Minda remarks.

Despite these successes, Minda acknowledges the challenges they faced, particularly during the early stages. In addition to the unstable condition of the farmer organization, they struggled with low farm produce prices, limited access to credit, marketing difficulties, manpower shortages, and inconsistent government support. However, Minda's focus and determination, coupled with mentorship from government officials specializing in these areas, allowed her to navigate these obstacles. The organization has remained committed not just to generating income but also to supporting the families who rely on them for employment. What began as a simple objective has now evolved into a community responsibility, ensuring that each program contributes to sustaining the livelihoods of local farmers.

As the PCA launches the Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan, Minda expresses her gratitude, noting that the CFIDP offers comprehensive solutions to many of the challenges that coconut farmers face. Her story stands as a testament to resilience and the transformative power of leadership in rural communities. **(Ramonchito Castillo)**





MESSAGE FROM THE ADMINISTRATOR

This publication marks a significant milestone for our community, and it is an honor to serve as your Editor-in-Chief as we embark on this new endeavor of the Philippine Coconut Authority together.

The creation of this magazine has been a collaborative effort, driven by a shared vision to inform, inspire, and connect with PCA employees and different partner agencies. Our aim is to provide a platform where stories are told, voices are heard, and ideas are shared.

Our Editorial team has worked tirelessly to make this publication possible. There are a lot of work needed to be done with the industry, and I am incredibly grateful for their dedication and creativity. We hope that you find as much joy in reading it as we have found in creating it. Your stories and insights are invaluable, and we encourage you to share them with us. Together, we can build a publication that truly represents and serves our community.

As we move forward, let us celebrate this new beginning and look ahead to the many possibilities that lie before us. Here's to many more editions filled with stories that inspire each one of us.



DEXTER R. BUTED
Administrator

From farm to global market:

First-ever COCONUTPhilippines trade fair spurs investment, market access, MSMEs growth

The Philippine coconut industry has taken a significant leap forward with the COCONUTPhilippines Trade Fair, a milestone event designed to enhance the sector's global standing. Organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) it is a game-changer for coconut farmers, entrepreneurs, and businesses alike.

Held from December 2 to 4, 2024, at Megatrade Hall 1 in SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City, this trade fair provided a unique platform to showcase the diverse range of coconut-based products from various regions of the Philippines. From coconut oil to personal care products and food items, the event showcased the immense potential and versatility of the coconut industry. With the participation of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), alongside industry experts, the event became a breeding ground for new ideas, product improvements, and industry-wide collaborations.

A key feature of the event was the business matching and networking opportunities it provided. Through these activities, coconut farmers and businesses connected with larger companies, entrepreneurs, and potential investors. These interactions were crucial for strengthening the coconut industry's supply chain, securing investments, and increasing its overall economic contribution. The fair encouraged partnerships that helped drive the growth of the sector and contributed to the livelihoods of farmers and local communities.

Attendees had access to a series of seminars, workshops, and panel discussions led by experts. These sessions addressed critical issues, including market trends, new technologies, sustainable farming practices, and business strategies. The event also underscored the importance of collaboration across the coconut value chain. With workshops focusing on improving production techniques and quality control, participants learned how to maximize the value of their products and tap into more lucrative markets.

The event was free and open to all, making it an inclusive opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about the coconut industry or exploring new business ventures. This openness reflected the fair's broader goal: to foster a deeper appreciation of the coconut industry's potential and empower those involved, from farmers to entrepreneurs.

As the first-ever COCONUTPhilippines Trade Fair, this event marked the beginning of a new chapter in the Philippine coconut industry, paving the way for securing a brighter, more sustainable future for the millions of Filipinos who depend on this industry. (Kennex S. Guerzon)

