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## DA and NAFC Spearhead the Conduct of the National Food Summit



Her Excellency President  
Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

*"I want to convene a food summit, organized by DA to enhance policies and programs, attract investments and technology, and launch development projects that would impact favorably on energy and food supplies and prices in the medium term, while helping significantly arrest climate change. The food summit would be the platform for our rural development thrust."*

President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, in a directive dated January 2, 2007, instructed the Department of Agriculture (DA) to convene a food summit. Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap said the Summit should endeavor to come up with doable action programs to be implemented between now and 2010, taking into consideration the DA's 5-Pillar Programs of Growth on Irrigation, Credit, Market Access, Research, Development and Extension and Postharvest Facilities. The programs should also focus on addressing the emerging global challenges such as climate change and the surging food demand of fast growing economies like China and India. For a more effective implementation of programs and projects, Secretary Yap said DA should be able to find ways to better harness Local Government Units (LGUs) and the private sector as convergence points.

### *Area Wide Consultations and National Consultative Forum — Groundwork for The National Food Summit*

With the theme *"Pagkain sa Bawat Mesa, Negosyo sa Sakahan-Laban sa Kahirapan"* the DA and the National Agricultural and Fishery Council (NAFC) laid the groundwork for the National Food Summit on April 4, 2008 at the Fontana Convention Center, Clark Special Economic Zone, Angeles City, Pampanga. Pre-Summit activities were planned and successfully accomplished, starting with the consolidation of all government initiatives currently implemented to address issues and concerns affecting the agriculture and fisheries sector and the conduct of Area-Wide Consultations, which were held as follows :

#### Schedule and Venue of Area-wide Consultations

Luzon A (CAR, Regions I, II and III)	19 February 2008	Oxford Hotel, Clark, Pampanga
Luzon B (Regions IV-A, IV-B and V)	22 February 2008	Great Eastern Hotel Quezon Ave., Q.C.
Mindanao A (Regions IX, X, and CARAGA)	26 February 2008	Grand Caprice Hotel Cagayan De Oro City
Mindanao B (Regions XI, XII, and ARMM)	29 February 2008	Apo View Hotel Davao City
Visayas (Regions VI, VII and VIII)	05 March 2008	Crown Regency Suite Mactan, Cebu



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Consultation on Agribusiness Investments Held



Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap (middle) answers queries from the participants with DENR Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi (left) and DA Undersecretary Bernie G. Fondevilla (right).



Inset: Most Rev. Broderick Pabillo, D.D., Auxillary Bishop of Manila suggested to Secretary Yap to form a small group that could help the farmers discern properly on what to invest.

The NAFC-organized 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Consultation on Agribusiness Investments was held on February 20, 2008 at the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Social Hall with Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Arthur C. Yap and DENR Secretary Joselito Atienza gracing the occasion.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation is a follow through to the 1<sup>st</sup> consultation wherein the main issues raised were the need to identify undeveloped lands as well as the need to address the legal constraints on the development of these lands.

This 2<sup>nd</sup> consultation, chaired by DA Undersecretary and NAFC Executive Director, Bernie G. Fondevilla, was attended by a composite of representatives from the private and public sectors including farmers, religious groups, industry/ NGO representatives, potential investors and the academe. In his remarks, Undersecretary Fondevilla said the

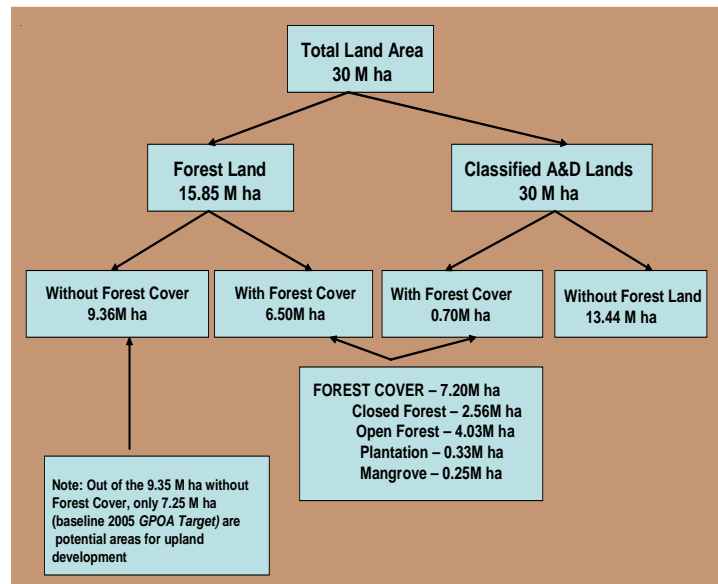
consultation was prompted by to the DA's attempt to develop the country's marginal and upland areas through agribusiness investments from China.

DENR Undersecretary Manuel Gerochi presented the status of the Community Based Forest Management Program (CBFMP), a program that aims to promote equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth in the development of open and unproductive areas in forestlands.

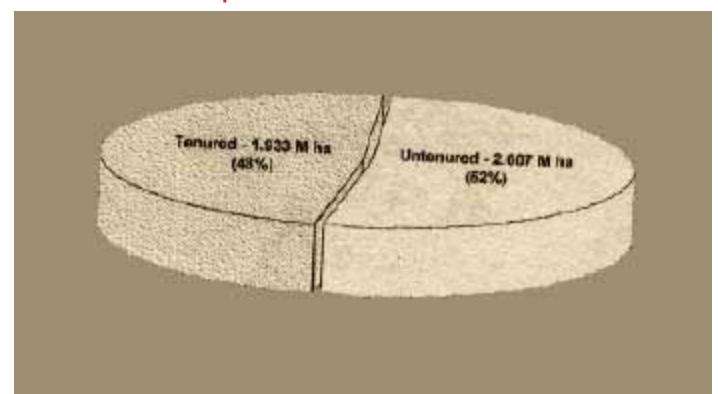
Of the total upland area of 30 million hectares, a total of 7.2 million hectares have had forest cover enhanced through the planting of economically beneficial crops, in addition to timber species.

Of the 7.2 million hectares, the DENR has committed approximately 4.0 million hectares to potential investors for agro-forestry/agribusiness development.

### PHILIPPINE FOREST COVER



### Potential Area for Upland AGROFORESTRY/AGRIBUSINESS: 4 M ha



Source: Taken from USEC Manuel Gerochi's Presentation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Consultation on Agribusiness Investment.

## A Young Filipino Farmer's Training Experience in Japan



**Benjamin Maputi, Jr.**

As part of its mandate to provide education and training services to farmers, the NAFC has been sending young farmers to Japan since 1991 to undergo hands on training in agriculture under the Young Filipino Farmer's Training Program in Japan (YFFPTJ). In 2007, under the Japanese Agricultural and Exchange Course (JAEC), 17 young farmers were chosen to be part of the Program headed by its elected Batch\_President, Mr. Benjamin Maputi Jr., a 26 year old farmer who hails from Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

Ben's passion for agriculture has been greatly motivated by an award bestowed on his family as the Outstanding Farmer/Fisherfolk Family in the Gawad Saka 2005-2006. This motivation spurred him to complete the rigid 11-month training even amid feelings of loneliness and homesickness. The training consisted of five (5) stages starting with the Japanese Language Study, followed by Farm Mechanization, Summer Agricultural Studies in the University, Prefectural Training and culminating with the Hands-On Farm Training.

Ben undertook his hands-on training on nursery for flowers and strawberries in a company named Child Flower in Chiba City, Chiba Ken. The training enabled him to experience the various phases of production and marketing. Since his host family owned the company.

Ben used his free time to gather even more knowledge and experience in nursery production as well as develop better relations with his host family and the farm workers. The training experience was not only educational but also allowed him recreation and fun time specially during the summer and winter vacations. He visited famous shrines, flower centers and farms as well as Mt. Fuji, Fujikyu Highlands, Disneyland, Kamogawa Sea World and did a tour of Tokyo.

To cap Benjamin's training, he represented the Asean trainees during ceremonies held in National Olympics Memorial Youth Center and Ibarake University.



These photos show some of the trainings he undertook during his stay in Japan.

## 2008 YFFPTJ Pre-Departure Orientation Completed



**Graduation Rites** (From left to Right) Mayor Roque S. Verzosa, Jr. of Tagudin, Ilocos Sur, Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz A. Enriquez, Executive Director Bernie G. Fondevilla, Nihongo Instructors Melinda Sigue and Manolo Martin.

On March 31, 2008, thirteen young farmers completed their preparatory course under the Young Filipino Farmer's Training in Japan.

Executive Director Bernie G. Fondevilla in his message said the trainees should know for themselves by now their mission/vision in life and purpose in going to Japan. The graduates are : Walter S. Samaniego, Jr. - Sta Lina, Luna, Apayao; Dario D. Gullos - Sofronio, Espanola, Palawan; Jonathan L. Vibar - Lubnac, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur; John Christian C. Anayas - San Antonio, San Miguel, Iloilo; Arggie R. Gagete - Salinas, Bambang, Nueva Viscaya;

Jeric N. Embalzado - Calidngan, Carcar, Cebu City; Randy P. dela Cruz - Calabuanan, Baler, Aurora; Dominique T. Acedera - San Miguel Heights, Laoang, Northern Samar; Ryell N. Lavado - Mateuna, Tayabasan, Quezon; Emmanuel E. Nunez - Pano-on, Lambangan, Cabanglasan, Bukidnon; Raymon S. Pilar - Tubo-Tubo, Monkayo, Compostela Valley; Abdullah M. Abdulhamid - Panggao, Saduc, Marawi City, Lanao del Sur; and Rey Richard D. Ababa - Purok 3, Barangay San Mateo, Butuan City.

## DA and NAFC from page 1

Participated in by heads of regional farmers' and fishers' organizations, industry and professional associations, sectoral groups (consumer, transport, religious), Regional Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Councils (RAFCs/PAFCs) and the academe as well as executives of LGUs, members of Congress, regional heads of national government agencies (NGA), and officers of Regional Development Councils (RDC), the area-wide consultations effectively captured critical concerns in agriculture relating to the DA's 5 Pillar Programs of Growth as well as concerns in agricultural policy and on the environment and identified corresponding strategies to address these concerns.

NAFC's Technical Group headed by Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz A. Enriquez, along with her team composed of Estrella Tulay, Cyril Soliaban, Elgie Namia, Cecile Lupisan, Celeste Villena, Alexander Daroya, Julie Opuencia, Floreliz Avellana, Cleopaz Ventic, Conchita del Rosario, Sarah Bales, Pedro Dumaraos, Marilu Peralta, Romeo Ladao and Jose Redentor Besenio, Normita Castillo, Catherine Viray, Solidad Bernardo, Rosano Donasco and Apolonio Macaia, consolidated and processed the results of the consultations.

Following the area-wide consultations was the National Consultative Forum held on March 11, 2008 at the SEAMEO-Innotech in Diliman, Quezon City. Leaders of National Farmer/Fisherfolk Organizations, National Industry/Professional Associations, RAFCs and the



Angeles, Pampanga



Great Eastern Hotel



Cagayan De Oro City



Academe, members of the Secretary's Technical Advisory Group (STAG) and officials of DA and its Attached Agencies and Bureaus participated in the forum.

During the forum, the participants were divided into workshop groups, according to the DA's 5 Pillar Programs of Growth and an additional two (2) groups to cover Policy Support and Environmental Concerns. In each of the workshop groups, the concerned DA agency or bureau presented an issue paper relevant to the pillar concerned. The presentation, together with results of the area-wide consultations

# of Agriculture Summit 2008

Wat Mesa  
kahan-  
rapan!



served as take off points for discussions and deliberations on strategic interventions needed. These were then prioritized and responsible government agencies were identified and the monitoring mechanisms were drawn up.

Secretary Yap thanked the attendees for participating in this important consultation prior to the conduct of the National Food Summit. He related that in the Cabinet meeting he attended earlier, President Arroyo directed the DA and the NFA to “use all available resources to ensure food sufficiency and lessen the impact of the food crisis due to the increasing tightness of supply of rice in the market.”



Davao City



Cebu City



SEAMEO Innotech  
Quezon City

He relayed that he requested an augmentation fund and was given P2.8 billion for a

proposed cross commodity food program.

The fund will be used to implement a package of

intervention measures such as the importation of rice in the short term, purchase of certified and hybrid seeds for rice, expansion of corn production, revitalization of dairy breeder stocks, implementation of a swine feeds assistance and vaccination program, expansion of the Gulayan Project, enhancement of the various Tindahan Natin and Bigasan ni Gloria outlets in the province, establishment of more barangay terminals and bagsakan centers, setting up of more techno-demo farms and implementation of a postharvest program.

He exhorted all Regional Executive Directors (REDs) to go out and spend more time in the field and work more closely with the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) especially in the aspect of production and extension. On research, he said, the challenge is to bring down and transfer the various technologies in the shortest possible time through the SUCs and the LGUs.

The Secretary also pointed out the low spending absorptive capacity in the regions and stressed the need to unleash these funds immediately to spur further growth in the countryside.

Finally, Secretary Yap said that he welcomed all the hard work that has been done in the consultative sessions and with the renewed focus on agriculture, the opportunity must be seized to improve operations, use funds in a faster and effective manner and forge stronger relations with the AFCs, LGUs and SUCs.

## Current State of Marine Fish Resources Needs to be Assessed

In the quarterly meeting of NAFC's Committee on Fisheries and Aquaculture (CFA) held last September 2007, a resolution was unanimously approved requesting the conduct of a policy review on the status of the country's major fish stocks. Thus, on February 4, 2008 the CFA held a special meeting for this very purpose.

Attended by experts from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (BFAR-NFRDI), USAID Fish Project, World Wild Life Fund (WWF) and UP in the Visayas (UPV) together with the regular members of the CFA, invited guests from the Palawan Council for Sustainable

Development, Chairperson of the Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council of Negros Occidental and Chairpersons of Regional Agricultural and Fishery Councils I and IVA, the discussions focused on the need to create reference points in determining the actual status of stocks of groups of fish and agree on the corresponding management measures needed should over exploitation be established.

Studies show that there is a general declining trend in fish catch, change in species composition reduced fish size and that these are clear indicators of over exploitation of fish resources. According to the experts, a possible way of establishing reference points

is the use of the exploitation ratio or E value. This measures the actual fish stocks based on fishing mortality over the total mortality of stocks from natural mortality and fishing mortality. In the meeting's conclusion, the CFA recommended the use of the E value to establish reference points in determining the state of marine fish resources but cautioned should be continually reviewed and that measures to conserve and manage such resources should be revised or abolished in the light of new information.



CFA Chairperson Dr. Enrique T. Carlos (middle) presiding the meeting with CFA Secretariat Liza E. Barile (Right) and Sarah L. Bales (Left) **Fisheries experts present the results of their studies on Philippine marine fish resources.**

## The 25<sup>th</sup> Conference of the AFEO is Hosted by the Philippines

Asean Federation of Engineering Organizations (AFEO) is the organization of the national engineering/technological institutions of the ten ASEAN member countries of Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines. Its objectives consist of promotion of goodwill, cooperation and global competitiveness, among others, of engineering professionals in the region.

With the theme *Engineering, Energy and the Environment: Ensuring Survival for Future Generations*, the 25<sup>th</sup> Conference was hosted by the Philippines under the helm of the Philippine Technological Council, the umbrella

organization of engineering and architectural professional associations in the Philippines, in cooperation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Energy (DoE). Held at the Waterfront Hotel and Casino in Lahug, Cebu City, the conference had DoE Secretary Angelo Reyes as its keynote speaker and was attended by about 500 participants from the 10 ASEAN countries.

As part of the conference, an exhibit was also held with twenty five (25) government and private companies from the member countries participating. From the Philippines, the Philippine Society of Agricultural



**PSAE National Secretary, Engr. Francia Macalintal distributed NAFC brochures and other materials during the exhibits.**

Engineers (PSAE) set up a series of exhibits that included one from NAFC, featuring NAFC's vision, mission and mandates.

A highlight of the conference was the induction

of twenty (20) new members of the ASEAN Engineers, including PSAE National Secretary, Engr. Francia Macalintal of NAFC as the organization's 409<sup>th</sup> member.

## New JICA expert takes post at the DA



(Left) JICA Expert Mr. Araki meets with Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz A. Enriquez during his visit to NAFC

The new Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) expert to DA is Mr. Yasunori Araki. He started his tour in November 2007 and is expected to stay for two (2) years. Born on October 21, 1957 in Hiroshima

City, Mr. Araki graduated in 1980 from Tokyo University, majoring in Agronomy.

After graduation, he worked with the Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and stayed until

1999 with a three-year stint (1989-1992) as an agricultural attaché in an unofficial Japanese Embassy in Taipei, Taiwan. From 2000-2002, he was named the JICA expert to the MAF of Laos and from 2004-2007

was the JICA expert in MAFF in Cambodia.

NAFC looks forward to a fruitful working relationship with Mr. Araki especially in the packaging and approval of its proposed macro projects for funding under the 2KR Project. Projects in the pipeline include *Technology Management for Competitive Agriculture and Fisheries Sector*, a P55 million project to be implemented by the Bureau of Agricultural Research and *Agriculture: A Partner in Progress*, a P200 million project to be implemented by NAFC.



## NAFC Scholars Complete Post Graduate Studies

Funded under the DA's Expanded Human Resource Development Program (EHRDP), five (5) NAFC staff obtained their Masteral Degree in Public Management and Rural and Agricultural Development from the Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU), as follows with their corresponding governance paper submitted.



**Estela H. Agoot**

The Young Filipino Farmers Training Program in Japan: An Assessment of the Selection Process



**Jose Redentor H. Besenio**

Assessment of Mechanical Drying Interventions for Rice Farmers: Nueva Ecija on Perspective



**Merlyn R. Galdonez**

Impact of Electronic New Government Accounting System (e-NGAs) in Selected National Government Agencies (NGAs)



**Apolonio C. Macaisa**

Impact Assessment of the LGU Financial Support to the Sustainability of the Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council in the Province of Bulacan



**Catherine A. Viray**

Enhancing Policy Formulation Through Stakeholders' Participation: A Case Study on the Lifting of the Ban on the Importation and Culture of Pacific White Shrimp (*Penaeus Vanamei*)

Also funded by EHRDP, two (2) NAFC staff completed their masteral studies in Applied Business Economics major in Food Systems Management at the University of Asia and the Pacific (UA&P).



**Ma. Belen A. Milanes**

Towards Enhancing the Competitiveness of Selected High Value Vegetables in the Philippines, and



**Cyril L. Soliaban**

Effects and Implications of the G-33 Modalities for Special Safeguard Mechanism on Philippine Agricultural Trade: The Case of Garlic, Onion, Carrot and Coffee.

# ACEF UTILIZATION PERIOD EXTENDED



**ACEF On-going Projects: (Left) See's International Banana Chips in Bulacan and (Right) Gonzales Farm Tunnel Vent Poultry in Urdaneta, Pangasinan.**

The Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) created under Republic Act (RA) No. 8178, technically ended last December 2007. However, due to the clamor of various interest groups from the agricultural sector for the extension of the utilization period of the ACEF, several requests were made both to the Senate and the House of Representatives for a law that would amend RA No. 8178.

The House of Representatives and the

Senate finally passed RA No. 9496 on December 18, 2007 and was approved on February 28, 2008. The RA is entitled "*An Act to Extend the Utilization Period of the ACEF, Amending Republic Act No. 8178, Entitled An Act Replacing Quantitative Import Restrictions on Agricultural Products, Except Rice, With Tariffs, Creating the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund, and for Other Purposes*".

As stipulated in the law, ACEF will consist of all duties collected from the importation of agricultural products under the minimum access volume (MAV) mechanism, including unused balances and collections, if any. ACEF will continue to be set aside up to the year 2015, after which the collection of duties from the MAV mechanism and the setting aside of the amount collected will terminate. However, the remaining balances at the date of expiration will not revert to the General Fund but will continue to be used for the purposes for which it was collected and set aside.

**The law likewise set the following percentages for the use of ACEF:**

- ✚ 70% for agri-based production and post-production and processing activities to achieve modern agricultural practices and for public information and promotion activities;
- ✚ 20% for research and development and its commercialization, including the upgrading of research facilities of qualified state universities and colleges, and
- ✚ 10% for a comprehensive scholarship program for agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine education

The Congressional Oversight Committee on Agricultural and Fisheries Modernization (COCAFAM) will continue to conduct periodic review of the use of the ACEF. At present, the DA are in the process of drafting the new set of implementing rules and regulations to speed up the processing and disbursement process.



## Hand-over of AFC insurance claim

Deputy Executive Director Maria Luz A. Enriquez turned over an insurance check in the amount of P50,000 to Provincial Agricultural Officer Mr. Sancula A. Tindik of Tawi-Tawi, who represented the family of the late MAFC Chairman Musa Ismula of the municipality of Sapa-Sapa. Beside DED Enriquez is Mr. Romeo P. Ladao, NAFC's Chief of the Field Monitoring Section, Local Support and Agricultural Coordination (FMS-LSCD) while other officials of the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (DAF-ARMM) observe the hand-over. Congresswoman Leonila V. Chavez of Butil Party List sponsored the insurance coverage for the AFCs under the Cooperative Insurance Systems of the Philippines (CISP).

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