



ASIAN rubber producers agreed to share high-yielding clones in the Asia-Pacific region. Mindanao rubber researchers are developing high-yielding clones to improve the quality of rubber from the Philippines. Photo shows rubber farmers training with experts at a rubber plantation in Basilan island.

Asia rubber producers OK clone-sharing deal

RUBBER producing countries in the Asia-Pacific region have approved recently a "clone sharing" agreement among them to improve the quality of rubber

Dr. Abdul Aziz S.A. Kadir, IRRDB secretary-general, made the announcement during the recently concluded 2nd Philippine Rubber Investment and Market Encounter (Prime) 2015 held in Davao City.

The Malaysian Mr. Aziz said a rubber clone, which has a higher yield and particular secondary characteristics, used to take 40 years to produce

but modern technology has now made the process easier and faster.

He cited the work of Dr. Romulo L. Cena of the University of Southern Mindanao (USM) in developing the high-yield USM 1 clone after 15 years of research.

"The fluctuating price of rubber has existed since 1934 so it is nothing new. And since it is going to be up and down, it needs targeted research," he said.

It is also important for small farmers to grow rubber from good clones to ensure quality output, he

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Abaca fiber exports to UK, Asia rise 19%

RAW ABACA fiber exports rose 19% sharply to \$1.2 million during the first month of 2015 from only \$234,471 a year earlier. In volume, abaca fiber exports surge more than four times to 6,288 bales of 125 kilograms each in January from 1,440 bales the year earlier.

Shipments to the United Kingdom accounted for

54.4% or 3,420 bales, from 540 bales a year earlier; while Asia received 45.6% or 2,868 bales, up from 900 bales.

Export earnings from finished abaca products, fiber crafts, ropes, pulp, dropped in January amid lower shipments of finished products, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

The report, released yesterday, showed that the value of outbound shipments of finished abaca products fell 46.9% to \$5.44 million during the month from \$10.25 million a year earlier.

Finished products -- which include pulp, fiber crafts, cordage and fabrics -- however continued to account for the bulk of earnings at 78%.

Specifically, pulp exports earnings were at \$2.84 million (down 65.5%); fiber crafts amounted to \$557,734 (down 32.9%); cordage totaled \$827,012 million (up 7.4%); and fab-

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Conditions cited to sustain clustering

AMONG THE six conditions needed to sustain the continuity of an industry cluster, senior consultant Tetsuo Inooka of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) cited the importance of "consensus" among the team players within the cluster group.

"Decision-making in the planning and preparation of any project or activity must be by consensus, participated and shared by

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JICA mulls possible extension of project

INDUSTRY cluster teams from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao are now working on their "sustainability plans" to make sure they will continue all their activities and projects even after the ARMM Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project finally ends by May next year.

Senior adviser Tetsuo Inooka of Japan International Cooperation Agency sat down recently with all the officers of the Proj-

ect Management Offices (PMO) and the Satellite Project Management Offices (SPMO) and asked them what they need after the termination of the AICCEP next year.

"It's very important for us to know what your needs are, to be able to continue all your plans, activities and projects even without the support of JICA," Inooka said.

The possibility of extending the project beside its termination date, was

also discussed among the project officers who met with Inooka recently in Davao for the regular JICA monitoring meetings.

ARMM Assistant Trade Secretary Abubacar Datumanong asked the AICCEP project officers to come up with sustainability plans for their own cluster teams that would include funding schemes for every activity and project to be provided by participating govern-

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PHILIPPINE Cluster Bulletin

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PHILIPPINES

Clusters to boost ARMM economy

World Bank to support Islamic financing

RECOGNIZING the huge economic opportunities of Islamic financing, the Peace and Equity Foundation (PEF) in partnership with Al Qalam Institute, CordAid and World Bank (WB) Philippines, is gearing up for the drafting of a 21-year roadmap to comply with Sharia'h-based financing industry. Islamic Financing is touted as a growing "\$2 trillion" global industry,

The roadmap will be patterned from the Southeast Asian countries like Indonesia, one of the leading countries in adopting Islamic Finance in the global scale. It will be divided into three stages with seven years each of realization.

Ricardo Torres, PEF's Partnerships and Program manager, in a press conference Wednesday, told reporters this 21-year journey will commence next year.

Torres was in Davao City for the three-day Sharia'h conference dubbed as "Islamic Financing in the Philippines: A Step towards the First Seven years," at the Ritz Hotel and Garden Oases, "The first seven years will be the first step and we intend to implement it starting 2016. After this Sahria'ah confer-

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INDUSTRY clusters are expected to stimulate growth and economic development in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao.

In a presentation to the ARMM industry cluster teams in Davao recently, senior adviser Tetsuo Inooka of Japan International Cooperation Agency cited the factors for good performance of cluster activities that included the "increase in macro economic output such as stimulating more exports, creation of more jobs, and boosting more production" in all the provinces of

the ARMM region.

All these can take place in a region with established, well-organized industry clusters, commitment by government agencies to support these clusters, active involvement of key industry players, good linkages with markets and customers, practical and effective activity plans and good performance of each cluster, according to Inooka.

"Simply put, the industry cluster approach is to mobilize the resources available in the cluster to remove bottlenecks in the development of clusters and improving the business environment in the region," Inooka said.

Organizing and setting up an industry cluster team into a cooperative, an association or even a corporation can be very effective for a cluster to be recognized by nation-

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SEAWEED farmers in Tawi-Tawi island are all ears listening to the advice of seaweed experts from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources and Mindanao State University who are also officers of the ARMM Seaweed Industry Cluster team during a recent consultation meeting in the southernmost island.

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ARMM INDUSTRY CLUSTER CAPACITY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

PROJECTS



MARKETING their coffee beans is one of the top priorities of the ARMM Coffee Industry Cluster team in Sulu island. Photo shows the cluster team with coffee farmers checking out the coffee beans drying in the sun at a coffee plantation in Sulu.

Coffee markets eyed by industry cluster

JOLO, SULU -- The coffee industry cluster is sharpening its focus on the market segments being targeted by the team to help them come up with better marketing strategies to generate more sales for farmers and processors.

In a project titled "Market Promotion and Product Development" submitted to industry consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency, the team highlighted the following as components of their goal: product development, branding, packaging and labeling.

"We simply want to create more awareness for our native organic Halal coffee products in the local and export markets by intensifying our market promotions," says coffee industry cluster chairman Abdusali Ahulul.

Sulu had been well-known for having the best coffee organically grown in the island province and has the potential to be one of the leading industries here, according to cluster co-chairman Harrison Haron, provincial director of the ARMM Department of Trade and Industry.

"We can promote the brands of Sulu coffee by market research on branding and benchmarking to cities with more advanced coffee labeling and packaging. We can set up training workshops on labeling and packaging and we can produce brochures or pamphlets on Sulu coffee and participate in trade fairs and exhibits," Haron said during one Davao meeting with consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency.

In one meeting with JICA consultants, the coffee cluster team identified three product segments as: processed beans for brewed

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Abaca cluster sets up demo farms in 3 areas

MARAWI CITY -- Three abaca techno-demo farms in three strategic farm areas in Lanao del Sur are set to be established by the abaca industry cluster team sometime in December (2015) this year.

"Abaca demo farms are needed to show abaca farmers in Lanao the correct way to plant and grow abaca using the right methods and technology that will produce high quality abaca fibers," says abaca cluster chairman Pundato Alug.

In a recent Davao meeting with consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency, the cluster team chairman said their big drawback was the delay in the actual planting of the abaca corms (seedlings) because they were not yet available at that time.

Dr. Amer Comadug, a professor at the Mindanao State University who works closely with the abaca industry cluster on the project said that the land in the three areas of Madamba, Calanogas and Balabagan had already been prepared, cleaned up and cultivated and made ready for planting abaca for the abaca demo farms

Machinery, equipment and materials needed for the three demo farms had already been bought by the abaca cluster team which include brush cutters, drawbar carts, shovels and barbed wires, according to Comadug.

Each one-fourth hectare demonstration farm in the three areas will show abaca farmers from the neighboring villages the right way of preparing the land, how to prepare and irrigate the soil, how to maintain and

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TRADING POST for raw rubber and semi-processed rubber will soon rise in the City of Lamitan in Basilan island. Rubber trading center is one of the plans this year drawn up by the ARMM Rubber Industry Cluster. Photo shows workers packing raw rubber for traders buying the commodity.

Seaweed model nurseries eyed in Tawi-Tawi areas

TAWI-TAWI -- Model sea-based nurseries will soon be established in the coastal areas of Bongao, Panglima Sugala, Sitangkai and Sibutu after the construction of the nursery modules during the later part of this year.

In a recent report to consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency, cluster project team leader Dra. Jumelita Romero said these four coastal areas were inspected thoroughly to find out if they are suitable as model sea-based nurseries.

"We have to inspect and assess these areas very carefully if they are really suitable as model sea-based nurseries," Dra Romero told the JICA consultants during

a recent Davao monitoring meeting.

During the actual culture of native or indigenous seaweeds in these nurseries, the cluster project team will check the yield and quality of the carrageenan content and study its seasonality and maturity, according to project team leader Dra. Romero.

The same study will be done to the new seaweed cultivars they produced inside the laboratory of Mindanao State University -- the project team will also check the yield and quality of the carrageenan content as well as its seasonality and maturity.

Since it takes time for the new seaweed cultivars to grow, these steps are ex-

Lamitan to establish rubber trading center

LAMITAN CITY -- Setting up of a rubber trading center officially in this city is being eyed by the rubber industry cluster as one of their sustainability plans next year after the end of the ARMM Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project.

Locally known as a "Bagsakan Center", it is a trading post or market place where rubber farmers deliver their raw rubber or semi-processed rubber to waiting traders and spot buyers ready to buy the commodity.

"We've always wanted to have our own Bagsakan Center right here at Lamitan so that our farmers might get better prices from

traders and processors waiting to buy all that rubber," says vice-chairman Doming Narsico of the rubber industry cluster team.

Having this trading center, according to Narsico, is just one of the local ordinances the industry cluster wants the city council to deliberate and pass to help local rubber farmers generate more income from rubber.

Also included in their list of local ordinances is the creation of rubber cluster teams in other towns of Basilan island to make sure every rubber farmer in the whole island benefits from the clustering approach of

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Technical training draws ARMM palm oil farmers

COTABATO CITY -- Two technical training events on farm management in the towns of Parang, Maguindanao province and Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat province held in October 2015 attracted some 70 palm oil farmers and growers, according to

palm oil chairman Suharto Ibay.

"This training is very important for our farmer and growers who need formal training in operating and managing their own farms as business ventures," says palm oil chairman Ibay.

In a recent monitoring report to consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency, Ibay said the cluster team hired the services of farm management experts from the University of Southern Mindanao to conduct the technical training on farm management designed specially for the palm oil industry.

The palm oil industry cluster has been pushing for more training programs for palm oil farmers and growers in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao since last year to prepare the region for further ex-

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Seaweed cluster to produce manual for seaweed farmers

TAWI-TAWI -- An information manual will soon be produced by the seaweed industry cluster team for seaweed farmers and growers here in the island of Tawi-Tawi.

Seaweed cluster co-chairman Dr. Filemon Romero said this manual is expected to be released towards the termination of the industry cluster project next year (2016) after the team finished gathering the results of their studies on the new seaweed cultivars and native seaweeds grown in the sea-based nurseries at Bongau, Panglima Sugala, Sibutu and Sitangkai.

"Many seaweed farmers and growers are looking forward to have copies of this seaweed manual next year, we'll make sure copies will be made available to them," Romero said.

The information manual will include the proper selection of seaweed farming sites, correct seaweed farming methods, correct time for harvesting the raw seaweeds, and good seaweed farming management practices, according to Romero.

All the sea-based seaweed nurseries will be turned over to seaweed farmers in the four seaweed-growing areas of Tawi-Tawi during the later part of the

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MODEL seaweed nurseries are now being set up in the coastal areas of Bongao, Panglima Sugala, Sitangkai and Sibutu, all in Tawi-Tawi island. Photo shows the fabrication work on "floating nurseries" which comprise of a wooden frame and empty plastic container that floats on the sea with sunken twines to grow the seaweeds.

SPOTLIGHTS



BUYING of Philippine rubber has risen the last three years as rubber growers and processors are exerting more efforts to increase the quality of rubber produced in the country. Photo shows a rubber production expert in Basilan showing how to tap rubber latex from a tree to tapper trainees.

Dairy capital to rise in Cagayan Valley

SAN AGUSTIN, Isabela—Mayor Virgilio Padilla here has asked the national government to help the municipality boost the dairy industry here and provide every support and assistance possible to help it become the dairy capital of Cagayan Valley.

"I am optimistic that with the assistance of the national agencies, the town will be able to generate more jobs for the people, improve nutrition, boost farmer's livelihood and become the province's dairy production center," Padilla said.

A fourth-class municipality, San Agustin has 23 barangays or villages in the foothills of the Sierra Madre mountain ranges that dominates the Cagayan Valley. Most of the village people here make their living through rice farming, live-

stock raising and carabao or cattle breeding.

At least 16,973 hectares are planted to major crops such as corn, cassava and banana with rice on the side leaving much of the rugged terrain in the Cagayan Valley to a wide range of livestock such as carabao, cattle, goats, etc that have contributed to the revenues of this municipality, according to Padilla.

In the early 1990's, San Agustin piloted a carabao crossbreeding program in a Memorandum of Agreement of the then Philippine Carabao Research and Development Center now called the Carabao Center at Cagayan State University with the full support of the Department of Science and Technology office in Cagayan Valley. (Brenda Jocson / MANILA STANDARD)

Davao banana exports drop 68% in Q1-2015

BANANA exports from the Davao Region for the first quarter of 2015 dropped by 68.3 percent compared to the same period a year earlier.

Export FOB (free on board) value of bananas, fresh or dried were pegged at \$94.2 million from January to March, much lower compared to \$297 million during the same period last year.

The banana export production in gross weight during the same period also went down to 349,483,515 kilogram (kg.) against last year's 808,611,852 kg.

"We're expecting banana exports to go down this year because of the El Niño and it will continue to drop way up to 2016," Stephen Antig, executive director of the Pilipino Ba-

nana Growers and Exporters Association (PBGEA) told business reporters.

He also said tariffs imposed on banana products shipped to Japan, which is considered the country's major commodity with FOB value of \$37.5 billion, is also one of the factors affecting banana exports.

Based on the Philippine Statistics Authority data, fresh or dried bananas, including plantains, placed second as the top exported commodity in the region during the period, with coconut products on top with \$106.6 million.

Top destinations for banana exports included Japan (\$37.4 million), China (\$33.7 million), Iran (\$8.1 million), Korea (\$5.1 million) and Singapore (\$1.8 million). (SUN STAR DAVAO)

Japan tire manufacturer to buy more rubber in PH

A JAPANESE tire manufacturing company has increased its local sourcing for rubber in the Philippines by 32 percent as of August 2015 from only six percent in 2012, a company official said.

Currently the only car tire manufacturer in the Philippines, Yokohama Tire Manufacturing Company has started its expanding its operations in Asia and has begun laying down plans to source raw rubber from neighboring Asian countries.

Rubber industry cluster coordinator Sitti Amina Jain said her industry cluster team recently had a talk with Yokohama Tire new president who informed the industry group that they had already increased their local buying of rubber in the

country from six percent in 2012 to 32 percent starting in August of this year.

Jain, a top executive of the Department of Trade and Industry in Zamboanga region said that based on 2012's Yokohama local sourcing, the company was buying very little volume of raw rubber from the Philippines "due to the very low quality of the natural raw rubber produced in the Philippines"

The remaining 94 percent of the company's demand for rubber were imported from other Asian rubber-producing countries such as Indonesia and Thailand.

"What we did is we joined hands with Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and work on improving the quality of rubber. We met with all

the DTI regions in Mindanao as well as other regions in central Luzon and the Visayas," the DTI official said.

A laboratory has been set up by concerned government agencies with the Philippine Rubber Industry Association (PRIA) to address the need of the country to improve the quality of its raw rubber.

Jain said Yokohama is willing to increase its local sourcing of raw rubber in the Philippines as long as rubber growers and processors in the Philippines will comply strictly with the ISO 2000, a high international standard for rubber.

"That's why we set up a rubber testing laboratory for the rubber processors in the country to have an avenue to check the quality of their products, to make it comply with the international standards,"

At present, Mindanao has a total of three rubber testing laboratory. These are the DOST laboratory in Zamboanga, which is being prioritized by the government to be ISO-accredited, Philippine Rubber Testing Center (PRTC) in University of Southern Mindanao, and Department of Agriculture (DA)-operated rubber laboratory in Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay.

Yokohama, is also

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PHILIPPINE banana exports are down as production buckles from the harsh effects of El Niño in the country these past months. Japan is still the Philippines' top banana importer.

Mindanao coffee supply can't cope with demand

COFFEE SUPPLY from the Philippines cannot cope with the world demand, a challenge that Mindanao can meet and supply, according to Nicholas Matti, chairman of the Philippine Coffee Board Inc.

"With the world's coffee demand keeping on increasing, our production is hardly catching up with the demand and that's our biggest challenge. We are positive we can address this with various programs now promoting and developing the coffee industry," Matti said at the sidelines of the Coffee Festival opening dubbed as "Coffee Origins 2015" recently at the Abreeza Ayala Mall in Davao City.

He said that outside Mindanao they are revitalizing the coffee industry in Cavite and Batangas, among other provinces in the country.

"We really need to increase our production because talking of quality we can beat other countries. What we are trying to do now is niche marketing," Matti said.

He stressed that the

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Development plan to boost Cordillera coffee industry

A FRAMEWORK plan to develop the coffee industry has been drawn up by the Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project (CHARMP) to boost the growth and development of the coffee industry in the region.

CHAMRP Manager Cameron Odsey said the plan involves four strategies: 1) increase productivity, 2) expand production, 3) increase profit of coffee farm-

ers and entrepreneurs, and 4) improve the quality of coffee beans. The overall plan is to target an increase of 50 percent in yield and output from every coffee tree.

Odsey said the design is to promote the adoption of a zoning scheme for all coffee plantations in Cordillera to increase coffee productivity in the entire region. The highest yield per tree can be produced by identifying suitable areas for specific

Guimaras growers to export mango exports to the US

ILOILO CITY -- Fresh and processed mangoes from the nearby island of Guimaras are being considered as high quality export products by the Department of Trade Industry (DTI).

"Guimaras has lots of mangoes. In fact, I hope, the island can come up with some good quantity that would be enough for export," said Senen M. Perlada, director of the DTI Export Marketing Bureau.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority show the province produced 9,194 metric tons of mango in 2012.

Mr. Perlada said the island province can position itself as a high quality mango exporter to the United States.

"With mangoes, we can do a geographic indication, and this island have the right to do that. There is also an opportunity for the province to go organic considering its natural boundary," he said.

A geographic indication (GI) is a sign on products with a specific geographic origin and whose qualities

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COFFEE production in the Cordilleras is expected to go higher as coffee growers joined hands to boost output and quality to meet growing domestic and foreign demand for coffee in the Asian region.

ACTIVITIES



ABACA harvesting and processing were seen right inside an abaca plantation in Zamboanga del Sur during a recent benchmarking visit by members of the ARMM Abaca Industry Cluster team who studied the proper ways of growing, harvesting, and processing abaca.

Cluster learns abaca production in Zambo

ZAMBOANGA -- A benchmarking trip by the abaca industry cluster to the three provinces of Zamboanga recently provided a complete exposure from their visits to the best-managed abaca plantations by farmers and growers to abaca fiber processing--up to the hand-crafting of various abaca products.

"This is the most significant part of our cluster activities this year. It will change the way our abaca farmers work in the farms and the potential big income they could earn by making products from abaca fiber," says abaca cluster chairman Pandato Alug.

A visit to the model abaca plantations owned and managed by farmers of Agrarian Reform Beneficia-

ries of Marcelino Cooperative (ARBEMCO) in Zamboanga Sibugay gave the abaca farmers of Lanao del Sur province a glimpse of how an abaca farm should be run, applying good agricultural practices (GAP).

"Many of our farmers are still deep in their old traditional ways of planting and growing abaca. Looking at a well-managed abaca farm and seeing their high quality abaca fiber there, opened their eyes on the proper methods of growing abaca in the farm," Alug said.

The abaca cluster chairman said it was also significant because they had the opportunity of looking at a Decorticating Machine used by ARBEMCO that

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Coffee growers mull using organic fertilizer

JOLO, SULU -- Coffee growers here are thinking of using more organic fertilizers and botanical pesticides in managing the soil of their coffee farms and controlling pests and plant diseases.

In a training activity called "Cultural Management" of coffee farms set up recently for Sulu coffee farmers by the coffee industry cluster team, farmers were lectured by coffee experts from the Department of Agriculture in four

Farmers' Field School sites in the province with topics focusing on soil fertility, soil nutrients, identifying pests and diseases of coffee.

"Everything in this training is hands-on for all coffee farmers. Each must know how to fertilize the soil properly and manage the soil nutrients the correct way. Each must know how to identify pests and diseases of the coffee tree," says coffee industry cluster chairman Abdusali Ahalul.

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NURSERIES are now growing coffee seedlings in the island of Sulu after the ARMM Coffee Industry Cluster team worked overtime to set up coffee nurseries for farmers in the southernmost island.

Rubber cluster to continue trainings, set up nurseries

LAMITAN CITY -- The rubber industry cluster team has vowed to continue their training activities on rubber farm management, production technology, sharpen the tapping skills of rubber farmers and establish several Budwood Rubber Nurseries to produce high yielding clones of rubber trees.

In a sustainability plan presented to consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency, vice-chairman Doming Narsico said all their training programs for rubber farmers in Lamitan will continue and will even extend to other towns in the island province of Basilan as they begin to replicate the rubber industry clustering approach after the end of the ARMM Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project or AICCEP.

"We will continue all our training activities with the help of our partner government agencies and the city government. We will also set up rubber nurseries to produce high yielding clones," says Narsico during a recent Davao meeting with JICA consultants.

Also included in their sustainability plans is the setting up of a Training Center for rubber farmers in Basilan where formal training seminars, assessment and accreditation of rubber farmers will be conducted.

Narsico said they want to see the establishment of a Training and Assessment Center for the rubber industry with the support of JICA and the government's Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) even after the end of the AICCEP project.

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Coffee farmers learn harvesting techniques

JOLO, SULU -- Many Sulu coffee farmers are slowly realizing now that the old traditional ways of harvesting the coffee beans had to go, as far as coffee agri-experts from the Department of Agriculture are concerned.

In the first DA Farmers' Field School site in Sapah Malaum, Indanan here in this island province, farmer participants were

lectured on the proper way of harvesting the coffee berries from the tree and then asked to show, one by one, how to pick the right berries and harvesting them properly.

"After listening to the lectures, we expect the farmers to understand the proper way to harvest and demonstrate to fellow participants how they would harvest the coffee berries,"

says coffee industry cluster chairman Abdusali Ahalul.

Every lecture at all the four FFS sites, is followed by a hands-on demonstration by farmer participants to make sure the correct harvesting methods are thoroughly understood by all of them.

Strip harvesting, according to Ahalul, is a very common practice among

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SEMINARS on improving the quality of rubber producing and processing drew participation on from rubber traders, processors and cooperatives in Lamitan City, Basilan.

Rubber traders, coops attend quality training

LAMITAN CITY -- A whole day orientation on managing the quality of rubber production and processing on the last week of November was expected to change the mindsets of rubber processors, rubber cooperatives, and rubber traders on the international standards of rubber quality.

"It's important to change the way we think about rubber quality here. Everyone involved in producing and processing rubber has to aim for the international standards of quality," says rubber cluster vice-chairman Doming Narsico.

The ARMM rubber industry cluster team gathered together some 30 participants composed of rubber traders, rubber processors, cooperatives of rubber farmers, and local government units involved in helping the rubber industry in a one-day activity called an "Orientation on Quality Management System" or QMS.

Rubber cluster chairperson Mayor Rose Furigay said the industry and the city of Lamitan are determined to boost and upgrade the quality of rubber being produced and processed in this city and the whole island of Basilan.

The active Lamitan city mayor in her role as the rubber industry cluster chairperson joined the cluster team recently in distributing a total of 225 pieces of tapping knives, 360 plastic coagulating pans and 310 copies of their Rubber

Production Techniques booklets to the 150 farmers, workers, and growers who graduated from the training seminar-workshops on tapping techniques and rubber quality improvement.

"We want all our rubber to meet the international standards of foreign tire manufacturers. Better quality rubber means higher income for our rubber farmers and processors. More earnings for this industry means economic growth for Lamitan and the whole province of Basilan," Furigay said. (Philpress News)

Despite disruptions, coffee activities moving forward

DESPITE some disruptions, the activities and projects of the coffee industry cluster has been moving forward, achieving most of their goals and helping hundreds of coffee growers and farmers in Sulu province.

"We're moving forward with all our activities and projects as planned even with some disruptions, like stray animals or military operations in some coffee farm areas. So far, we've accomplished what we plan to do for coffee farmers here," says coffee cluster chairman Abdusali Ahalul.

In a recent monitoring meeting with consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency, Ahalul said the coffee cluster team has finally set up a pilot coffee nursery as model for coffee farmers in the province and set into motion their Farmers' Field School with the help of the Department of

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NEW ABACA plants are now growing at the three nursery sites in Lanao del Sur as abaca farmers got the seedlings from the ARMM Abaca Industry Cluster team who worked closely with FIDA and DA for technical assistance.

SIDELIGHTS



SEAWEEDS grown in the neighboring countries of Malaysia and Indonesia are rising in bigger volumes and better quality. ARMM Seaweed Industry Cluster members are thinking of a benchmarking visit to Sabah. Photo shows seaweeds drying in a Tawi-Tawi seaweed farm.

Seaweed cluster mulling plans on Sabah benchmark

TAWI-TAWI --- If there are some savings in their funding budget, members of the seaweed industry cluster team are thinking of a benchmarking trip to nearby country of Sabah, just a four-hour boat trip away from the island province of Tawi-Tawi.

"There are many things we can learn from our Malaysian and Indonesia brothers in growing quality seaweeds in large volumes," says Dr. Filemon Romero, co-chairman of the seaweed industry cluster during a recent monitoring meeting in Davao with consultants of Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Although this is just a plan discussed and talked about by the seaweed cluster, the team is hoping they would have enough savings from all their projects and activities in Tawi-Tawi to cover the cost of travel to the nearby country.

So far, the cluster team

had already visited seaweed farms and identified various problems of seaweed growers and farmers in several seaweed-growing areas all over the island.

Romero said the data gathered from the 40,000 hectares of seaweed farms in Tawi-Tawi helped the seaweed cluster team in producing high-quality seaweed seedlings for growers and farmers in the island.

Indonesia has been exporting a regular supply of raw dried seaweeds to carrageenan manufacturers in Cebu who import this commodity at a lower buying price than the raw dried seaweeds coming from Tawi-Tawi and other parts of Mindanao. This competition from another country to supply raw seaweeds to local carrageenan plants has been hurting the seaweed industry in the Philippines, according to Romero. (Philippine Press News)

Poultry growers urged to get Halal for ASEAN

CAGAYAN DE ORO --- Poultry growers and farmers, specially the micro, small and medium enterprises or MSMEs were advised to secure Halal Certification to be able to market their chickens overseas once the ASEAN economic integration begin to take place by yearend.

Department of Trade and Industry regional director Linda Boniao said all the MSMEs in Northern Mindanao have so much to earn



POULTRY growers getting Halal certification can easily export their poultry products in ASEAN countries.

from the integration of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Halal food has been prepared according to Islamic law, and is free from pork products, alcohol and certain other ingredients. Islamic groups are involved in halal certification, with companies paying fees for inspection and certification carried by the Islamic Da'wah Council of the Philippines, according to Boniao.

Northern Mindanao has the third highest production volume for poultry in the country and is the only one outside Luzon. Boniao said the presence of large poultry production in Northern Mindanao means there is a big potential for exports to ASEAN members. "But

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Mindanao crafts shine in DTI trade fair exhibition

GENERAL SANTOS --- Hundreds of food processors and entrepreneurs showcased in a trade fair here the export-grade domestic processed food products and various indigenous crafts to highlight Central Mindanao's investment potentials.

The Department of Trade and Industry launched last November 2015 the second "Treasures of Region 12," a trade fair and exhibition designed to attract more local and foreign investors and link up local producers' products to foreign buyers

Senior DTI officials helping oversee the activity said over 100 entrepreneurs joined the fair at the SM shopping mall here

last November.

The fair is supported by various business groups covering the provinces of North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani, South Cotabato and the cities of Kidapawan, Gen. Santos, Cotabato, Koronadal and Tacurong. The first ever "Treasures of Region 12" products show was held last year at the same venue.

Ibrahim Guiamadel, regional director of DTI said he is thankful to the different groups helping push the five-day event forward. Exhibitors have been displaying various food products and handicrafts made of indigenous materials, such as lady bags and home decorations in booths inside the SM Mall in this city.

The DTI director said he is confident the event will attract investors and buyers of products that can be imported from producers in Region 12. The region has adequate suppliers of export grade processed foods and indigenous merchandise, according to Guiamadel.

The annual November trade fair will include services meant to improve the local business climate such as crafts special setting, counseling on financing plans and other important interventions and best trading practices. (John Unson / PHILIPPINE STAR)

DTI training held to understand Halal

THE regional office of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) initiated a training seminar under the Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) Roving Academy in Davao City to help SMEs with a deeper understanding about Halal Certification and how it can help boost the sales of their food products.

Under the topic "Understanding the Different Aspects of Halal" some 70 SME food processors undertook the training along with the DTI's officers specializing in processed fruits and nuts.

"Actually, the food processors themselves asked for this kind of training. It only proves how they really wanted to tap and seize the opportunities in the Halal food industry," said DTI Davao regional director Ma. Belenda Q. Ambi.

The training seminar focused on the Halal's global market opportunities and challenges, value chain, business opportunities, Ha-

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ARMM hands out P20-M farm machines to coops

COTABAO CITY --- To help farmers boost crop production and cut down post-harvest losses, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) distributed various farming equipment to registered cooperatives and to Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) communities in the province of Maguindanao.

ARMM Governor Mujiv Hataman and lawyer Laisa Alamia, ARMM's executive secretary and the concurrent officer-in-charge of the region's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, led the distribution of farm machineries

and implements during the opening ceremony of the 26th ARMM anniversary at the ARMM Compound in Cotabato City.

The post-harvest equipment, which include farm tractor with implements, combine harvester with implements, hand tractors with trailers and knapsack sprayers were estimated to be worth over P20 million.

Alamia said the fund used in the acquisition and distribution of the farm machineries and implements came from the Agri-Pinoy Rice and the Payapa at Ma-

turn to page 7



AGRICULTURE crops in the ARMM are expected to get a big boost from the new farm tractors and equipment provided by the regional government.

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FEATURE

‘Coco coir is produced from coconut husks, which used to be just strewn as farm wastes around the vast coconut fields of Barangay Malingao in Tubod, Lanao del Norte. But the village cooperative has found a way to make productive use of this waste.’

Lanao village weaves better future with coir

LANAO DEL NORTE, Philippines – Myrna Unabia, 34, begins her day cooking rice or boiling root crops for the day’s consumption. When not tending to her garden, or collecting copra, she usually stays idle at home.

But roughly a year ago, she started rolling a twining machine after her usual morning chores. The machine allows her to produce around 50 to 60 rolls of coco twine in a day, her sister or mother joining her daily routine.

Every Saturday, these rolls are bought at a processing center, which is also the one delivering the coco coir she uses for twining at the start of the week.

Coco coir is produced from coconut husks, which used to be just strewn as farm wastes around the vast coconut fields of Barangay Malingao in Tubod, Lanao del Norte.

But the village cooperative has found a way to make productive use of this waste. Enjoining households, they are slowly turning it into a promising enterprise.

According to village chief Leoncio Bagol, 95% of Malingao’s 600-hectare land area is planted with coconut.

To date, these husks are collected by a truck weekly and delivered to the coco coir processing center of

the Malingao Community Service Multipurpose Cooperative or MCOCO, where Unabia is among the 300 households supplying the twines. This earns them from P1,200 (\$25.64) to P1,800 (\$38.46) per week.

“This project has been a great relief to us. Now we can earn in the comfort of our own homes,” said Unabia, a mother of 5. “I can easily shell out money when my children have school needs,” she added.

Rachel Juaskin, 33, also a resident of Malingao, has advanced from coco twining to weaving geonets, which is the product made from coco twines bought by MCOCO from the twining households.

“I applied as a weaver in the (processing) plant after I took part in the training,” she said. Her husband also works at MCOCO as truck driver.

Juaskin used to sell snack items before, which she said, did not ensure a steady income. “I am really thankful for this project because it gave us an opportunity to earn. Before, the women here used to just gossip. But now, every Saturday, they look forward to a sure income.”

She earns P200 (\$4.27) a day for weaving geonets, which can be completed in 3 days.

MCOCO is a recipient of one of the big-ticket livelihood projects under the Mindanao Rural Develop-

ment Program (MRDP).

The P3.5-million (\$74,811.90) funding support was used to build the processing center and to acquire the decorticating machine used to process the husks into fiber, baling machine for the baled fiber, weaving devices, and a vehicle to transport and collect the fibers to and from households.

Part of the fund was used to purchase twining machines for a few households. But after the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) learned of the project’s potential, they added more than 200 twining machines to benefit 300 households, even including those outside Malingao.

According to MCOCO’s operations manager Cerilo Apao, demand for

geonets has been increasing ever since they started producing.

“As long as there is no power interruption, we can produce up to 70 rolls (of geonets) per month,” he said. A roll of geonet measures 1 foot and 50 meters long, and is sold for P1,850 (\$39.55).

Geonets are being used by government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways for highway construction projects that need slope protection from erosion and landslides. MCOCO has several big buyers from Surigao, Manila, and nearby provinces.

MCOCO is also producing baled fiber from half of the coco coir which are not made into geonets. Apao said that majority of the 70 bundles of baled fi-

ber they produce weekly is exported to a Chinese importer. Baled fiber is usually used as raw material for furniture cushion and carseats by auto manufacturers.

“We’re providing full support for this project because we have seen its impact on the community,” Malingao village chief Leoncio Bagol said. “Even other villages want to do the same thing and are requesting twining machines from us.”

Apart from providing employment opportunities to almost everyone in many villages, he also attributed to the growing enterprise the reduction of petty crimes like theft in their area. (Special Feature / RAPPLER.COM)



LANAO villagers learning to make twines and geonets from coconut husks are earning higher income these days. Geonets have a huge global demand.

Conditions cited...

each member of the cluster team,” Inooka told cluster teams during a recent workshop in Davao City by the ARMM Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project.

Other conditions that will boost the chances of success of every industry cluster are : organization, strategy, private sector participation, efficient and practical planning, and monitoring, according to Inooka.

The JICA consultant cited particularly the importance of private sector active participation in each industry cluster with the government and academe providing vital supporting roles in the growth and development of each industry in the country’s economy.

“Active involvement and participation by the private sector in the activities and projects of the industry cluster must be encouraged,” Inooka pointed out.

Organization was also cited as an important element in sustaining the industry cluster, since only a well-organized cluster team can function effectively in setting into motion the plans and programs of the industry cluster. Formally organizing a cluster team can take the form of a Co-

operative, an Association or a Corporation., depending on the decision of the team players themselves.

Inooka also stressed the importance of strategy and a well-worked out plan by the cluster team, especially when the plan is “efficient and practical” in achieving their objectives.

Lastly, the JICA consultant cited the importance of monitoring the activities and projects of the cluster team, reviewing and updating their objectives if necessary and re-arranging their priorities and activity plans. (Philpress News)

JICA mulls...

ment agencies and local government units from all over the region.

“Participation of these government agencies which cover these industries is very important. Each cluster must know how and where to tap sources of funds to help a particular industry,” Datumanong said.

Counterpart funding coming from different government agencies and local government units will help sustain the activities and projects of each industry cluster whose success will boost the growth and development of the region’s industries, according to Datumanong. (Philpress News)

Asia rubber...

added, noting that there are around 50,000 products that can be made out of rubber.

Mr. Aziz, formerly director general of the Malaysian Rubber Board, noted that the Philippines has “a very great future” in rubber given the “vast land areas”, but more government

help would be needed to boost the industry.

“We were wondering why a country, which supplies natural rubber to the world, did not have a Philippine Rubber Institute until 2014,” Mr. Aziz said. (Lovely Carillo / BUSINESS WORLD)

Abaca fiber exports...

rics accounted for \$20,182 (down 88.4%).

The PSA data further show that abaca pulp exports fell 68.7% to 789,543 metric tons (MT) year on year. Europe received the bulk of the shipments at 85.6%, equivalent to 675,558 MT; while Asia had 14.4% or 113,985 MT. Exports of abaca cordage, meanwhile, climbed by 23.9% to 339,500 MT from 274,100 MT. North America took up a 59.1% share of cordage shipments, Europe 14.8%, and Asia 26.2%.

According to the Philippine Fiber Industry and Development Authority, volume of abaca production in the first five months of the year also fell

compared to the same period in 2014.

The country produced 188,538.2 bales of abaca fiber in January to May, down 3.8% from a year earlier.

The Bicol Region continued to be the top fiber producer, accounting for 38.2% of the total. Next was Davao Region with a 14.1% share, while the Eastern Visayas accounted for 13.7%.

Abaca -- formerly a key raw material in rope-making but now used in specialty papers and clothing -- is a plant from the banana family indigenous to the Philippines. (Claire-Ann Marie C. Feliciano / BUSINESS WORLD)

PHILIPPINE CLUSTER BULLETIN

The Philippine Cluster Bulletin is the monthly publication of the ARMM Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project (AICCEP) a joint project of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Department of Trade and Industry of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao. (DTI-ARMM).

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DISCLAIMER

Editorial responsibility for every issue of the Philippine Cluster Bulletin lies solely on the Editor in Chief. Although every effort is made in validating and proofreading this issue under the time pressure of press deadline, we still anticipate some avoidable but unintentional errors, omissions and factual oversights. Being the sole responsibility of the chief editor, it is understood that NO member of the AICCEP project teams from either DTI or JICA is liable for any errors, omissions and oversights in every issue of the Philippine Cluster Bulletin.

MONITOR

World Bank...

ence which will be attended by some 200 stakeholders we intend to craft fully the whole roadmap," Torres said.

"We really have to invest on people because not all are comprehensively aware, we also have to build institutions and leaders, among others. We aim that by 2020 we will address the scarcity of experts on Islamic banking," he added.

Maharlika Alonto, WB consultant, said that as part of their program, they are now assisting Pakistan, Indonesian and other international Islamic Financing experts.

"They are now on the ground studying what can be replicated in the Philippines from their Islamic Financing models," Alonto said.

Torres also mentioned that PEF has partnered with international organizations like Cordaid, a Netherlands-based development finance organization in capacitating more personnel in ensuring successful Islamic Financing in the country especially in Mindanao. (Ace June Perez / SUN STAR DAVAO)

Cluster learns...

processes abaca trunks into abaca fibers as well as other installations that help dry the fiber properly. These decorticating machines are a common sight in many commercially-run abaca plantations in the southern Luzon and other parts of the country.

Alug said most of the abaca farmers in Lanao del Sur do not know how to diversify abaca fiber into other by-products that are in demand in the local markets. "All they know is to produce abaca fiber, producing them in volumes and selling them to a single pulp company in Lanao del Norte. They still don't know there are many other ways to make money from their abaca fiber," the abaca cluster chairman said.

A visit to Domingag town, Zamboanga del Sur, was also significant to the abaca cluster team, according to abaca industry cluster secretary Mautante Marohombsar of the Department of Trade and Industry who coordinated and helped organized the benchmarking visit to the Zamboanga provinces.

Various abaca by-products were shown to the visiting abaca cluster team from Lanao del Sur with the producers showing them how the products are made and what equipment are necessary to manufacture the handicrafts.

"We had lively discussions after the benchmarking, sharing what we learned, what we've seen and what we can do together as a cluster team to improve the lives of abaca farmers and their families in the province," says Marohombsar. (Philpress News)

Clusters to boost...

al government agencies and local government units to get their full commitments and support.

"The benefits of clustering come from the relationship and linkages with good cluster players, supporting agencies, input suppliers and customers or markets,"

Japan tire...

in the process of expanding in 2017 and planning to produce some 60,000 tires per day. According to the tire manufacturer, the new, bigger manufacturing plant will be located here in the Philippines and will be the biggest of all the Yokohama plants in the world--- even much bigger than the mother plant based in Japan.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the Philippines produces a total of 453,052.00 metric tons (MT) of rubber as of 2014. The biggest bulk of the total rubber production comes from Mindanao's rubber plantations.

The Mindanao's rubber-producing regions are Zamboanga Peninsula, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Northern Mindanao, Soccksarge, Davao Region, and Caraga Region. (Ace June Perez / SUN STAR DAVAO)

Coffee growers...

Topping each of the coffee trees to produce more branches and prevent them from growing too high, were also included in the lectures and hands-on demonstration at the FFS site, according to Ahalul

"Some coffee trees grow too tall and unproductive, but many farmers are hesitant to prune or cut off the top branches of the old coffee trees to rejuvenate them," Ahalul said.

The coffee industry cluster has continued advocating the use of organic fertilizers using the wastes generated by the farmers' own farm activities and making their own insecticides and pesticides using decaying fruits taught to them by DA agriculture experts at the FFS training workshops held right at the farm.

"If every coffee farmer is willing to make their own organic fertilizers and botanical pesticides, they don't have to spend money anymore on buying chemical fertilizers and pesticides," Ahalul said.

DA agriculture experts here are pushing for coffee farmers to do regular pruning of their coffee trees, removal of water sprouts and correct spacing in planting of coffee seedlings. (Philpress News)

Coffee markets...

coffee for coffee shops, processed roasted beans for gourmet packs, and processed coffee beans for multinational coffee companies like Nestle.

Most of these coffee beans come from five coffee processors in Sulu that include Lupah Sug Coffee Processing, Sulu Lupah Sug Coffee Co., Peoples' Alliance for Progress MP Coop, Kankitap MP Coop, and Talipao Coffee Processing, according to Haron. (Philpress News)

Guimaras growers...

or reputation are due to that origin, according to the World Intellectual Property Organization. Examples of these products with GIs are Tequila and Roquefort cheese.

Guimaras mangoes are well-known but are not sold under an official GI. The National Mango Research and Development Center under the Department of Agriculture -- Bureau of Plant Industry is based in Guimaras.

There are existing mango producers and growers on the island that are ready to ship their products to the foreign markets, according to Perlada.

"There are a few in Guimaras that are qualified as export-ready, so we have seminars on a regional platform for exporters," he said.

DTI Undersecretary Zenaida C. Maglaya said her office will be working through its Guimaras provincial office to be able to achieve these export goals.

"When you have the volume, you can export. It is more of peculiarity or something unique in a product. Identify what your strengths are," Ms. Maglaya said. (Louine Hope Conserva / BUSINESS WORLD)

Despite...

Agriculture.

With the FFS training program generating so much interest among coffee farmers in the whole island of Sulu, the cluster's target of 120 farmers in four sites overflowed to 170 participants, or an excess of 50 farmers.

Although the peace and order condition in the province is now fairly stable, coffee farmers are now used to the military operations around them from time to time, a scenario also common in other parts of Mindanao.

"We're already used to all of them after all these years and living normal lives, working hard and continuing all our work and programs for the coffee cluster," says co-chairman Harrison Haron, provincial director of the Department of Trade and Industry.

Some of the country's best-tasting coffee, according to coffee experts, comes from the island province of Sulu in the southernmost Philippines. (Philpress News)

Lamitan to...

Japan International Cooperation Agency

The rubber industry cluster also wants the Lamitan city government to ban the use of foreign substances or chemicals, like battery solution, etc, to coagulate rubber latex which reduces the quality of raw rubber and lower the buying price of rubber in the local market.

To make sure processed rubber coming from Basilan is always of high quality, the cluster team also wants

Technical training...

pansion of the fast-rising industry in the ARMM.

Several foreign investors from the Middle East, Indonesia and Malaysia have expressed keen interest in making large investments in palm oil plantation and refinery mills in the ARMM.

Out of the total area of 975,300 hectares planted to palm oil, the ARMM has a total of 103,000 hectares of

Coffee farmers...

Sulu coffee farmers, but the series of FFS training conducted at selected sites inside coffee farms, are expected to change the mindsets of these farmers eager to learn the new technology in coffee farming.

Also included in the FFS lecture-workshops were lectures on the proper processing of coffee berries using both the dry and wet methods, according to Ahalul.

After learning the correct way of processing the berries, the farmers were also lectured on "proper drying, quality standards, and storing of the Green Beans" followed by actual

Rubber cluster...

The rubber cluster vice-man said their sustainability plans also include benchmarking trips to rubber manufacturing companies by Lamitan's rubber farmers and processors and rep-

Poultry growers...

to realize the region's potential, MSMEs still need to do more in terms of Halal certification" Boniao said.

Mindanao plays an important role in trade among neighboring countries Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, and Singapore, according to Boniao.

Boniao said the large multinational companies in Northern Mindanao will not have a problem with

ARMM hands...

saganang Pamayanan (PAMANA) programs.

The Agri-Pinoy Rice program is one of the banner initiatives of the Department of Agriculture targeting rice farming and uplifting the lives of Filipino farmers in the region. The PAMANA program, on the other hand, is the national government's peace and development framework for conflict-affected areas.

"We urge the farmers to

a city ordinance requiring all rubber processors in Lamitan and elsewhere in the island, to be ISO-registered to guarantee that all the rubber produced and processed here follow strict international standards, according to Narsico.

With the rubber industry cluster here being headed by the City Mayor as its chair person, Narsico is hopeful these all these city ordinances to be realized will boost the growth and development of the rubber industry in this part of the country. (Philpress News)

palm oil plantations. Other palm oil growing regions include Western Mindanao (102,000), Northern Mindanao (154,000), Southern Mindanao (104,000), MIMAROPA region of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan (16,300), SOCSKARGEN region of South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos (112,000) and Caraga, the largest palm oil growing region with 384,000 hectares. (Philpress News)

field demonstration of processing.

When the coffee beans are dried, the farmers were taught how to sort out the quality beans from the defective beans, segregating them before moving on to the next stage of processing.

One problem faced by the coffee industry cluster is the lack of drying and processing facilities for coffee in Sulu, according to Ahalul, but steps are being taken by the cluster to get these facilities and equipment from government agency offices that support the growth and development of the coffee industry in Sulu. (Philpress News)

licating the industry cluster to other towns in the island that expressed interest in organizing rubber cluster teams to boost the growth of the industry and help local rubber farmers. (Philpress News)

their exports come ASEAN integration. But for her, the government should focus on helping MSMEs survive in the large ASEAN market.

Latest data from the DTI showed that MSMEs in Bukidnon generated 6,561 jobs with domestic sales of P225.52 million.

Presently DTI is focusing on key MSME industry clusters such as coffee, cacao, coco coir, processed

enhance their knowledge on farming technologies to boost agriculture in the province," said Alamia. She reiterated that the farming equipment distributed will help increase agricultural activities of Maguindanao farmers especially in rice and corn production.

Under the Agri-Pinoy Rice program, the recipients were the Mindanao State University (MSU)-Maguindanao, Al Muizz Farmer and Livelihood Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Ekssalam Farmers

Abaca cluster...

manage the farm area, how and when to apply fertilizer, how to use the right pesticides properly, etc.

Comadug said the abaca cluster team has also published recently an information leaflet translated in the Maranao dialect on the proper way of planting and growing abaca plants, written specially for abaca farmers in Lanao del Sur whose dominant dialect is Maranao.

This Maranao leaflet on abaca farming will be distributed to abaca farmers after training and workshops on the proper way to plant and grow abaca to be scheduled soon in the province. (Philpress News)

Mindanao coffee...

country's farmlands have what the coffee industry needs. "We have the altitude, the elevation, volcanic soil, manpower, water, among others which are essential in the industry," he said, adding that in coffee farming "one should do everything to make it flavorful."

At present, the country is producing only 30 percent of the actual demand of the Philippines annually at 100,000 metric tons (MT). "We only produce 30,000 MT but we have about 100,000 MT annual demand, and with the 70,000 MT shortage we are importing some 50,000 MT from other coffee-producing countries," he said.

Of the 30,000 MT country's annual production, Matti said 70 percent of this were produced in Mindanao. Davao City is one of the coffee-producing areas in the island along with Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Bukidnon, Sultan Kudarat and South Cotabato. (Ace June Perez / SUN STAR DAVAO)

DTI training...

Halal's historical perspectives, Halal in the Asean economic community and the steps on how to secure Halal certification.

"This is a good indicator because the SMEs wanted to know all the prospects and opportunities of the Halal food industry, they are interested on how to make their businesses a Halal certified establishment," Ambi said.

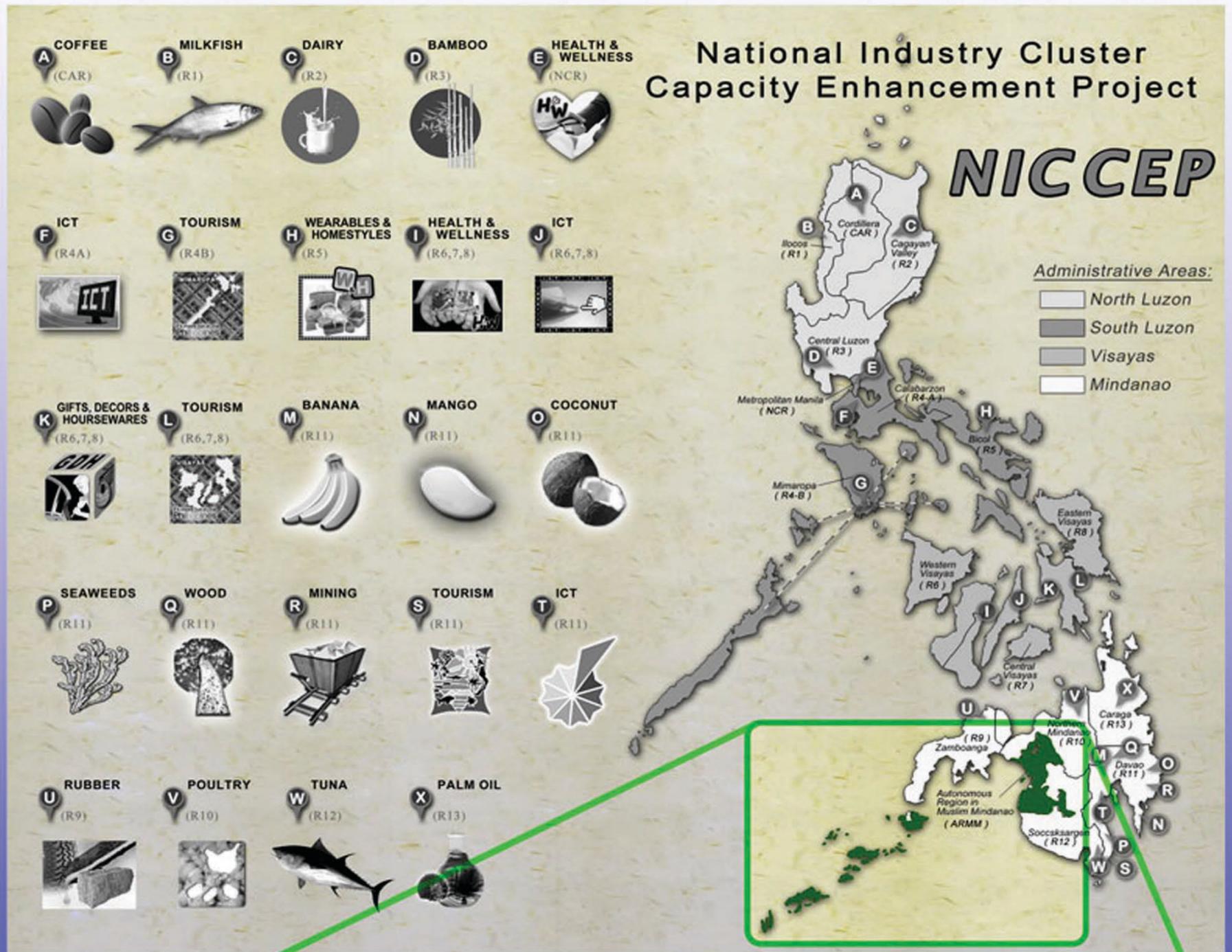
Ambi also said that the Halal food industry is very lucrative and has a big market which the country needs to take advantage especially with the coming of the ASEAN integration. (SUN STAR DAVAO)

Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and Kalumenga Kadatatabanga Farmers Association.

The PAMANA beneficiaries were El-Grande Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Datu Odin Sinsuat Women's Producers Cooperative, Talayan Agri-Farm Industry Marketing Cooperative, Tunggol Farmers' Producers Cooperative, and Greenfield Producers Cooperative. (ARMM Bureau of Public Information)

AICCEP PROJECT MAP

Industry Cluster Project Map



Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Industry Cluster Capacity Enhancement Project

- ABACA
- COCONUT
- COFFEE
- PALM OIL
- RUBBER
- SEAWEEDS

