As a sign of expressing gratitude and giving honor to the frontliners who are risking their lives in the name of public service, FPA Region 10 headed by Maria Sonia C. Calleja distributed food packs to some of the frontliners composed of the Philippine National Police (PNP) and personnel of other government offices who are monitoring the entry of vehicles at different entry points in the province of Bukidnon.
During the Department of Agriculture Management Committee meeting on April 6, 2020, Secretary William Dar instructed the different DA Offices, Bureaus and Attached Agencies to submit reprogrammed Budget Execution Documents (BEDs) not later than April 10, 2020 to the Office of the Field Programs Operational Planning Division (FPOPD). The meeting aimed to discuss measures for the realignment of Department funds for FY 2020 due to COVID-19 Pandemic.
As part of assessing the complaint of Four (4) household residents affected by the air contamination caused by mango spraying in Barangay Tamlamgon, Matanao, Davao del Sur, the FPA Region XI (Davao Region) conducted a site inspection of mango farmers’ field and determined the pesticides used by the farmers and their pesticide application practices. The activity was in coordination with the barangay officials and farm technicians. The end goal is to keep the safety and protection of the community and the environment from the risks associated with pesticide application.
Public Information
April 21, 2020

The FPA Region 11 conducted a training on the safe handling of pesticides during the distribution of farm inputs as an assistance to the farmers affected by the COVID-19 emergency situation from DA Regional Field Unit XI. In coordination with LGU Malalag, the activity was attended by 20 member beneficiaries of the Municipal Agriculture and Environment Office and Malalag Farmers Mango Farmers Ass. (MMFA). Safety measures to avoid spread of COVID-19 was observed like social distancing and use of masks during the training.
In the interest of the service and pursuant to the Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order No. 12, s.2020 or the Revised COVID-19 Guidelines on Service Continuity and Precautionary Measures in the Workplace dated 13 April 2020 and on the Memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 07 April 2020 on the Extension of the Enhanced Community Quarantine over the entire Luzon until 30 April 2020 and Further Guidelines for the Management of the Corona Virus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19) Situation, the FPA issued Office Order No. 4 designating some FPA personnel to act as skeleton workforce from April 14 to April 30, 2020.
To educate the public on the risks associated with the use of pesticides, the FPA XI recommended practices to avoid air contamination due to mango spraying during the dialogue between mango pesticide applicators and affected residents facilitated by the Barangay officials of Tamlamgon, Matanao, Davao del Sur.

These include the following measures:
1) Use only FPA registered pesticides for Mango;
2) Spray early in the morning for lesser chance of strong wind during application;
3) Use of alternate chemicals with less noxious/foul odor;
4) Place signage/notice of schedule of spray one day before;
5) Spray-men must have training on proper use/handling of pesticides (to coordinate pesticide supplier) and if possible avail services of a licensed Mango Contractor; and,
6) Plant additional bamboo trees/banana plants along the parameter to serve as buffer.
The FPA VI attended the coordination meeting spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture Region VI held at the PRDP Office, Capitol Bldg., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental to discuss preparations for the implementation of the “Plant, Plant, Plant Program” or “Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) Laban sa Covid-19” program to benefit farmers, fishers and consumers in Western Visayas. The program aims to increase the country’s food adequacy level during the emergency situation resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.
Assuring Supply of F/P during the COVID-19 Emergency Situation

April 28, 2020

The FPA CAR continues to conduct monitoring of fertilizer and pesticide handlers in Benguet and Baguio City to ensure the supply of such agricultural inputs and to enforce measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in f/p establishments.
The FPA Region XII headed by Regional Officer Alita Bornea continues to serve clients through work from home (WFH) and skeleton workforce arrangements. This is in compliance with the Department of Agriculture Memo Circular to facilitate the unhampered movement of agri fishery inputs including fertilizers & pesticides, and further to expedite processing of Food Lane Pass Applications.

As of April 30, the FPA XII issued a total of 59 Food Lane Passes since the start of ECQ. While the ECQ is not yet lifted, the field unit will continue to extend assistance in the provision of Food Lane Passes specifically to fertilizer and pesticide transporters in the different entry points in the region.
To assure the public of adequate supply of fertilizers especially during the COVID-19 emergency situation, the FPA Region VI conducted a monitoring of the bagging area of the BREDCO Port in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental on April 22 and April 29, 2020, respectively. Atlas Fertilizer Corporation served as the consignee of the 60,000 bags of 21-0-0, and 4,024MT of Urea Prilled transported in said dates.
The FPA attended the 3rd Bantay Presyo Advisory Committee (BPAC) Meeting on April 30, 2020 at the DA ICTS Conference Room, Arturo Tangco Building, 1st Floor, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City. The meeting discussed the findings of the Bantay Presyo Task Force from April 1-24, 2020 and come up with recommendations for the amendment of the current DA Prize Freeze order.
FPA VI serves as Frontliner during COVID-19 Emergency Situation
April 30, 2020

To facilitate the unhampered movement of agri-fishery inputs including fertilizers & pesticides, the FPA Region VI assisted in the processing of Foodlane Pass and IATF IDs at the DA-Negros Occidental, LBP Bldg., Cottage Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental.
Ensuring workplace safety against COVID-19
April 30, 2020

To keep the workplace safe from the spread of COVID-19, the FPA Central Office underwent disinfection. The activity was initiated and coordinated by FPA Region III with industry partners.
Together with other government offices, the FPA expressed its support on the call for the Filipino community to “unite with one another, to survive and triumph against the crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic.” The FPA posted in its official social media accounts the campaign social card.