Protecting the environment through heightened enforcement of the law

To ensure that fertilizers and pesticides do not harm the environment, the FPA CARAGA led by Danilo Negre, the Municipal Environment and Natural Resource Office (MENRO) and the Municipal Agriculturist in Carrascal Surigao del Sur inspected the Marcventures Mining Development Corporation, to validate its alleged disposal of Calcium Phosphate (CMP) fertilizer products containing heavy metals.

The results of the samples collected from the site showed that there is a low amount of heavy metals. However, Regional Officer Negre assured the public that the company will be constantly monitored to prevent the leakage of the fertilizer products to the nearby streams.
Fortifying collaborations and immersing in the field

A consultative committee hearing of the Committee on Agriculture was attended by Region II Provincial Officer Leonardo Bangad along with Engineer Rolando Pedro of DA-Cagayan Valley Research Center (DA CVRC), Barangay Captains, PA of Isabela, and other barangay officials of Cauayan, Isabela at the Sangguniang Bayan Hall.

The hearing aimed to discuss the proposed ordinance by City Councilor Rufino Arcega the use of non-selective herbicides in the protected forest areas of Cauayan City because such pesticide causes soil erosion in the province.
Strengthening Collaboration with the DA and its Attached Offices

Davao Region Team (Region XI) headed by Jinny Louie Ale met with DA Regional Field Office XI to discuss the latter’s plan of establishing a one-stop shop to ease the processing of requirements between DA and its attached offices and make services accessible to the stakeholders.

Mr. Ale suggested that the location of the one-stop shop should enable FPA Region XI to construct its pesticide laboratory and a warehouse for the storage of empty and confiscated pesticide containers.
To ensure compliance of fertilizer and pesticide establishments with the mandates of PD1144, the FPA Region XI headed by Regional Officer Sonia Calleja conducted a Clean Up Drive at the Grinanas Development Company Inc., Talakag, Bukidnon.
Strengthening Collaboration with the DA and its Attached Offices

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office IX spearheaded a Fall Army Worm (FAW) Provincial Task Force Meeting at the Top Plaza Hotel, Dipolog City. The activity aimed to provide updates on the status of FAW infestation, the measures undertaken by the Region, and to create a Contingency Plan to prevent its further damage in the province.

FPA Region IX Provincial Officer Dionne Mark Bohol discussed the different registered insecticides for Corn, the Safe and Responsible Use of Pesticides, and the Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM).

Officials from the DA Provincial Field Office IX, including municipal agriculturists and extension officers from the province attended the meeting.
FATA First Annual Meeting

To strengthen partnerships between FPA and members of the FPA Accredited Training Associations (FATA) and to organize the 2020 schedule of training programs for ARCO, CPA and Researchers, a meeting was held at the FPA Central Office.

The efforts of the training associations were also recognized during the meeting.

The FATA members include the Kapisanan ng mga Pest Control Operators sa Pilipinas, Inc. (KAPESCOPI), Philippine Association of Certified Pesticide Applicators (PACPA), PMCP Foundation Inc., Philippine Association of Entomologists, Inc. (PAE), and the Philippine Association of Professional Fumigators, Inc. (PAPFI).
To ensure that fertilizer and pesticide dealers comply with the provisions of PD1144 and FPA policy issuances, FPA Provincial Officer Noel Negre conducted an inspection and monitoring of dealers and agricultural suppliers at Barangays Bayabas, Adlaon, and Siloy and Sudlon in Cebu City.
Ensuring compliance with law through EUP monitoring

Region IV Provincial Officer Romulo Crucillo monitored the 12 hectare BASF State of the Art Facility serving as an Experimental Use Permit (EUP) site located in Brgy. Puypuy, Bay Laguna.

The administration of a trial for herbicide with coded compounds was observed during the actual visit. Station Manager Cecile Ebuenga guided Mr. Crucillo during the tour and provided orientation about their company facility's developments.
January 14-17, 2020

Enforcing the law and fulfilling the mandates in the field

As part of the regular monitoring and enforcement activities of the FPA in the field, FPA CAR Regional Officer Reynaldo Segismundo and Provincial Officer Rowena Billig conducted an inspection, surveillance, and IEC on the proper use of agricultural inputs in different locations in Benguet and Mt. Province.

The whole-week field activity started through a pest surveillance at the Strawberry Farm, La Trinidad, Benguet. Afterwhich, they headed to Amgaleyguey, Buguias, Benguet, for the conduct of two-day ASD training cum IEC activity to the members of the SAGPIFACO Farmers Cooperative.

On January 17, the team proceeded to Mankayan, Benguet, and Bauko and Tadian, Mt. Province to monitor compliance with FPA policies by registered dealers and provide technical assistance to farmers’ organizations who seek for FPA registration as agricultural fertilizer and pesticide dealers.

Information Unit Head Ivan Layag accompanied the team during the duration of the activity to witness and document field unit activities.
Product quality and adherence to safety

To ensure that fertilizer and pesticide products are properly stored and the warehouse observes the protocols for occupational health and safety (OSH), FPA Region IV Provincial Officer Romulo Crucillo conducted a warehouse audit of the Transworld Trading Company Incorporated located at Laguna Technopark Binan City Laguna for the renewal of its license.

Warehouse Manager Mark Louie J. Victoriano and Regulatory Officer Margarette Ramos were present during the inspection.
Product quality and adherence to safety

FPA CARAGA led by Regional Officer Danilo Negre along with Provincial Officers Jeyson Atillo and Mark Jemuel Gabriel conducted a fertilizer random weighing and sampling, and ocular inspection, to the establishment of Jeels Masagana Farm Supply (F/P Distributor) in Butuan City.

The samples collected were sent to the Central Office for analysis.
Institutionalization of product stewardship program

FPA Region II Provincial Officer Henry C. Cayaban Jr. served as resource person to discuss the safe and responsible use of agricultural pesticides and proper pesticide container disposal during the Farmers Field School conducted by the Office of Provincial Agriculturist of Cagayan held at Barangay Kapannikian, Sanchez Mira, Cagayan. The seminar was attended by 30 rice farmers.
FPA Region II Provincial Officer Noel Baliuag, Jr. served as resource person on the safe and judicious use of fertilizers and pesticides during the seminar on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on rice production which was attended by the members of the Aguibosoran Irrigators Association (SWISA).

The activity was sponsored by the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist of Cagayan held at Gumarueng Piat, Cagayan, in relation to their target to further boost the rice production of their region.