

THE FPA BULLETIN

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FPA receives twin ISO certifications for 2021

Capping off the year 2021, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) formally received its Certificates of Accreditation for ISO 9001: 2015 and ISO/IEC 17025: 2017 from the TUV Rheinland (Philippines) Inc., and Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB), respectively, on December 14, 2021, at the FPA Multipurpose Hall.

The award was received by Executive Director Wilfredo C. Roldan, along with Deputy Executive Director for Fertilizer, Dr. Myer Mula, and the members of the FPA Quality Management Committee. Engr. Tristan Arwen Loverses, Managing Director of TUV Rheinland Philippines Incorporated, and Michelle Esteban, Chief of Laboratory Accreditation Division of PAB, handed over the certifications.

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FPA holds orientation/re-orientation on Food Safety Act of 2013 and Regulatory Policies on Agricultural Inputs

In view of FPA's commitment to continually improve the technical capacity of its employees, specifically the Regional Field Units (RFUs), the agency conducted a seminar entitled "Orientation/Re-orientation on Food Safety Act of 2013 and Regulatory Policies on Agricultural Inputs" last June 22 via Zoom and which was participated by 110 FPA employees.

One of the key objectives was to continually improve the Quality Management System (QMS) by enhancing the capabilities of FPA employees, specifically the Regional Field Units (RFUs). Further, it also aimed to enhance the knowledge of the participants on the existing policies and guidelines on pesticide residue monitoring and familiarize the policies and guidelines on the registration of organic agricultural inputs and the licensing procedures for handlers of these inputs.

The lecturers were: 1) Dr. Pedro S. Dumaraos, Jr. for the Food Safety Act of 2013 and the current initiatives of the Department of Agriculture as one of the lead implementers of food safety in the Philippines; 2) Ms. Maria Esperanze DG. Uy - role of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) as one of the FSRAs under the Department of Agriculture and the existing policies and guidelines being implemented by their bureau for pesticide residue monitoring. Mr. Charlie T. Palilio shared the policies and guidelines on the registration of organic agricultural inputs and the licensing procedures for handlers of these inputs. Ms. Julieta Lansangan provided a refresher module regarding the safe reuse of wastewater for purposes of irrigation and other agricultural uses and shared the updated regulatory guidelines and policies pertinent to fertilizer. Lastly, Ms. Bella Fe D. Carmona gave updates on regulatory guidelines and policies pertinent to pesticides.

OASR, DAFSFG, FPA hold final webinar session on food safety

The DA Office of the Assistant Secretary for Regulations (OASR) and the DA Food Safety Focal Group (DAFSFG) in partnership with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) conducted a food safety webinar with the theme "Ligtas ang May Alam: Wastong Paggamit ng Abono at Pestisidyo" on September 15, 2021.

Serving as the final episode of the webinar series, the event was attended virtually by 491 participants nationwide composed of students (37.6%), private employees (16.7%), National Government Agency employees (15.6%), local government employees (10.1%), farmers (9%), academe (8%) and farm owners (3%).

Three technical employees of FPA served as Resource Persons namely: Mr. Wilber Newton Pollisco, Senior Agriculturist from FOCU, talked about the Overview of the Food Safety Program of FPA; Ms. Aleni Gonzales, Administrative Officer II of PMID, presented FPA's Accreditation Services; and, Leonardo Bangad, Regional Officer of FPA Field Unit II, lectured on the safe and judicious use of fertilizers and pesticides.

The activity also served as a venue for the participants to raise their concerns and inquiries on FPA's regulatory services.

Towards the end of activity, OASR and the DAFSFG encouraged the participants to watch out for their incoming activities during the Food Safety Awareness Week on October 2021. These include webinars on International SPS and Food Safety Standards, Orientation on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Medium-Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs), and Plant Sanitation and Personnel Hygiene for Food Plant Workers.

Training-workshop conducted to update FPA's Operations Manual



To come-up with a clear reference on how the organization would standardize its internal controls and workflows in order to maintain balance and coordination between and among employees, the Agency recently conducted a training-workshop on the updating of its operations manual on November 8-10 and 15-16 at the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) campus, Visayas Avenue.

Facilitated by the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID), the activity was conducted through a combination of face-to-face and virtual meeting.

Dr. Myer Mula, Deputy Executive Director for Fertilizer, explained that the operations manual shall provide the basis for monitoring individual and office performance in relation to short-term and long-term organizational goals and targets. Anchored on the Balanced Score Card or Strategy Map, such performance should contribute to the overall mandate of the Agency pursuant to PD 1144.

“This would also support the implementation of the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Delivery of Government Services Act or RA 11032 through the establishment of effective processes and the promotion of public accountability,” Dr. Mula added.

Serving as training facilitator, Engr. Henry Palaca said that the manual should be a living document. “It regularly revisited, updated and used as reference. It shall present the interrelated functions of the internal operating Divisions, Units and Regional Field Units for one to effectively and efficiently deliver public services.”

Engr. Palaca further emphasized that the Agency will be evaluated based on the strategy map of the manual. “Internal procedures and processes shall be streamlined and simplified to enhance customer satisfaction.”

As suggested by Engr. Palaca, the operations manual shall integrate the Citizen’s Charter and the Quality Manual of the Agency. He noted that there shall be a single document as point of reference.

The manual was targeted to be issued by the end of the FY 2021 or in the first quarter of 2022.

FPA launches enhanced website to better serve stakeholders

The FPA through the Planning Management and Information Division, the Office of the Deputy Director for Fertilizer and the Office of the Executive Director, launched an enhanced website of the Agency on November 18, 2021.

Developed from a user's point of view, the new website immediately features FPA's regulatory milestones, primary services, news updates, stories from FPA Regional Field Units, DA top stories, list of FPA webinars, advisories and publications. Reach and views of these information can be easily tracked through the website's built-in monitoring tool.

Other important functionality includes the enhanced user experience (UX) and interface (UI) for the users (i.e. costumers/stakeholders) to easily navigate and interact with the website. The platform can now also be used as point of reference for data on fertilizer and pesticide prices, list of licensed dealers, list of registered products, location of FPA Recognized Laboratories and FPA Regional Profiles, through the embedded interactive map.

The new website hopes to strengthen the relationship of the Agency with its stakeholders. The Agency recognizes it as a tool to promote government transparency and accountability through provision of real-time, accurate, and factual information.

The public can now also use the website to immediately relay their concerns and inquiries through the contact us menu button.

The new website can be accessed at <https://fpa.da.gov.ph/>

DA, FPA connect with FIAP on the increasing fertilizer prices

The Department of Agriculture (DA), the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) and the Fertilizer Industry Association of the Philippines (FIAP) convened via zoom virtual meeting on November 17, 2021 to tackle rising fertilizer prices. FIAP is an association composed of 19 fertilizer manufacturing and importing companies.

The meeting was led by DA Secretary William Dar with the assistance of FPA Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan. Also present from DA are Engr. Ariel Cayan, Undersecretary for Operations and Agri-fisheries Mechanization; and Dr. Leocadio Sebastian, Chief of Staff.

Recent updates provided by the fertilizer industry highlights how situation in the European Region, China, and other producing countries drive global fertilizer prices.

Factors influencing global fertilizer situation price trend

World fertilizer market situation

Mr. Nilo Arteche Cabrera of FIAP presented the world fertilizer market situation. He cited that the COVID 19 pandemic brought significant impact to the price trend as each country tried to secure domestic food production by increasing their crop areas. For instance, big countries like India, Australia, and Brazil have increased fertilizer demand than their pre-pandemic requirement.

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He added that the recent gas shortage in Europe made domestic fertilizer manufacturers to cut production due to hike in energy prices. The region now has to compete in the global fertilizer demand. Fertilizer prices in North Africa (Egypt) and the Middle East prices have been also moving upward.

China curtails fertilizer exports

With the rise in energy prices, fertilizer manufacturers in China cut their energy use. The Chinese government also made the decision to reduce carbon emission in preparation to their hosting of 2022 Winter Olympic Games. Reduced energy and carbon use now means reduced fertilizer production of the country.

Moreover, with the implementation of the China Inspection and Quarantine (CIQ) policy, fertilizer exports were curtailed due to complex procedures and strict measures for export cargoes. Urea, DAP, MOP, NPK and other fertilizer grades are among the items covered by the CIQ policy. In addition, China has to secure its domestic requirement first.

South Korea immediately felt the impact of said Chinese policy. Now, it has to source out its urea demand to other countries at higher prices. Urea is vital to the country for it is being used as fuel to diesel cars and cargo trucks.

Price increase of fertilizer grades

The FIAP explained the reason behind the price increase of various fertilizer grades, citing HeartyChem Corporation as their data source:

- **Urea (nitrogen)** - The hike in urea prices started from Europe and aggravated by the China restrictions for cargo exports until it was felt all over the world. For instance, Korea is buying it close to USD1,000/MT Cost FR FO in bulk. It was USD230-240/MT CFR at the beginning of 2021.
- **DAP (di-ammonium phosphate)** - Due to China CIQ policy, DAP prices started to soar with fixing price now moving close to USD1,000/MT in bulk from USD600/MT CFR in Korea last September 2021. For the fourth quarter, India recorded price of Phosphoric Acid at USD1,330/MT CFR in bulk from the USD170/MT in the third quarter.
- **MOP (muriate of potash)** - Large volumes of imports from Brazil and the increased demand in Belarus affected global MOP prices. At the beginning of 2021, it was USD230-240/MT CFR, but it is now close to USD700/MT CFR.
- **NP/NPK (nitrogen and phosphorous/complete)** - With the soar in raw material prices', NP/NPK prices are moving upward continuously. This increase has been propelled mainly by the Chinese export policy on legal inspection. With ceased China NP/NPK exports, other producers in the world are moving up the prices along with increasing feedstock prices.

Cabrera expressed that today's fertilizer crisis is different from the 2008 crisis which was more financial in context. The status quo is more complex which is interlinked to the problems brought by the pandemic, issues on food security, energy shortage, and monopoly and control of powerful countries when it comes to trading.

Comparative import data from 2018-2021

Michael Ardieta, FIAP President, presented (Table 1) the comparative import data from January 2018 to October 2021 in metric tons (MT). A notable increase in fertilizer imports can be observed in 2020 which was due to government's implementation of the fertilizer subsidy program. The 775,145 MT year-end forecast for 2021 was lesser compared to 2018 and 2019 data, but this could also be the spill over of supply from year 2020.

Table 1. Comparative import data of the six-major fertilizer grades from January 2018 to October 2021 (MT)

GRADES	2018	2019	2020	2021 YEE	JAN TO OCT. 2021	JAN TO OCT. 2020	DEVIATION (2021 VS. 2020)	% DEVIATION
Urea	952,324	885,112	1,167,490	774,145	663,321	996,800	-333,479	-33%
21-0-0	552,871	534,186	584,585	591,652	501,462	519,810	-18,348	-4%
16-20-0	221,035	259,784	238,086	205,560	168,460	167,140	1,320	1%
DAP	119,523	103,265	137,040	121,095	112,295	111,409	887	1%
0-0-60	213,555	244,177	191,789	252,622	206,025	151,573	54,452	36%
14-14-14	241,449	239,294	287,434	216,476	198,410	223,408	-24,998	-11%
TOTAL	2,300,757	2,265,818	2,606,424	2,161,550	1,849,973	2,170,140	-320,166	-10.00%

Further, Mr. Ardieta noted that the global fertilizer situation will be felt towards the end of 2021 which is the dry season for crops. Looking at Table 2, import forecasts for November 2021- January 2022 is lesser than what was recorded on the previous years.

Table 2. Projected data comparison of November to January importation in 2018 to 2022 (MT)

Fertilizer	Nov 2018 -Jan 2019	Nov 2019 -Jan 2020	Nov 2020 -Jan 2021	Nov 2021-Jan 2022
Urea	186,582	209,185	264,400	110,824
21-0-0	136,907	154,717	132,267	100,189
16-20-0	57,653	68,338	102,566	31,100
DAP	28,011	32,025	25,631	8,800
0-60-0	47,693	39,945	67,642	55,397
14-14-14	95,857	60,430	89,726	12,065
Total	552,703	564,639	682,232	318,376

Clarifying the 2022 fertilizer supply forecasts, Mr. Ardieta said that the industry is currently trying to import, as much as possible, and bring in products to serve the market. However, he raised the questions as to 1) where will be their source; and 2) if farmers could still afford increased prices. FIAP added that available supply could still serve local demand for the dry season.

Next steps

Moving forward, Sec. Dar expressed that the country could utilize government to government relations with China and other countries to address prevailing issues. China serves as the major source of Philippines fertilizer imports due to its lower cost than other producing countries such as Vietnam, Qatar, Indonesia, Malaysia.

The Secretary also shared that this could be just like what the Embassy of Iran did when they expressed willingness to a Mutual Agricultural Cooperation with the country, which includes exportation of fertilizers. He advised the FIAP to coordinate with FPA and present their proposed government actions. Agreements shall be endorsed by the FPA and DA to the Office of the President for him to have informed-decision on the matter.



FPA GADFPS participates in the 18-Day Campaign to end VAWC

The FPA Gender and Development Focal Point System (GAD-FPS) spearheaded the kick-off of the Agency's observation of the 18-day campaign to end Violence Against Women (VAW) on November 25, 2021 at the FPA Multipurpose Hall for Central Office. The Regional Field Units attended the event via zoom virtual platform.

Along with the campaign, FPA launched several programs such as the #SanaAllSafeSpaces, CineJuana 2021, use of related social media profile frames and hashtags, and promotion of videos and infomercials on VAW and Safe Spaces Act (SSA) produced by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW).

The event started with a welcome remark by Deputy Executive for Pesticide Eric C. Divinagracia. After which, Atty. Janelyn I. Aquino-Pabalete discussed the provisions of RA11313 or the Safe Space Act, which was previously the "Bawal Bastos" bill. This act aims to ensure that all individuals would have a safety zone whether in a personal or public space.

As a major highlight of the event, the FPA Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) for Sexual Harassment Cases was launched. The committee will be headed by Ms. Gina C. Tomimbang, the Chief Administrative Officer of the Finance and Administrative Division (FAD). The Vice-Chairperson will be Atty. Janelyn I. Aquino-Pabalete of the Office of the Executive Director (OED). The members are Mr. Errol John A. Ramos of the Planning, Management, and Information Division (PMID); Ms. Ronalyn G. Mayuga of the OED; Mr. Arnulfo L. Arausa, Regional Officer of FPA Region 7; and Ms. Jane G. Apostol, Senior Agriculturist from the Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD) and representative of the FPA Employees Association (FPAEA).

Afterwards, entries submitted for the #DoTheMachoChoir Challenge (FPA Edition) were presented. This was participated by the Fertilizer Regulation Division (FRD), Office of the Executive Director (OED), Laboratory Services Division (LSD), FOCU, FPA Region V, FPA Region VI, and FPA Region IX. The challenge aims to spread awareness against catcalling and to promote safe spaces for all gender while showcasing the participant's creativity and talent.



FPA receives twin ISO certifications for 2021

From page 1

The ISO 9001:2015 allows organizations to ensure a quality management system based on recognized international standards. On the other hand, ISO/IEC 17025:2017 is a validation for the technical competence and capability of the Agency's laboratory in carrying out tests and generating valid and reliable laboratory test results.

ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Certification by Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB)

In June 2021, FPA thru the Laboratory Service Division (LSD) attained ISO/IEC 17025:2017 certification after passing the remote assessment of the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB). Ms. Esteban lauded the FPA for continuing to improve for better service to the people. She hopes that the ISO certification will aid in providing service with quality, credibility, and integrity.

ISO 9001:2015 Certification by TUV Rheinland (Philippines) Inc.

Meanwhile, FPA successfully maintained and expanded the scope of its ISO 9001:2015 Certification after passing the remote assessment by the certifying body in October 2021. Such accreditation now covers the issuance of licenses, registrations, and permits on fertilizer, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals.


The initial ISO 9001:2015 recognition was achieved in October 2018 covering [one core function which is] the issuance of licenses, registrations, and permits on fertilizer through the Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD).

Director Lovers commended the FPA for going through the rigorous process of achieving quality work. By achieving international standardization, he encouraged the agency to continue giving excellent service to the people.

The Journey

FPA's ISO journey started in 2015 when the Agency crafted and continuously aligned its operations manual to ISO 9001:2008 requirements. It was in mid-2017 when the FPA Management decided to institutionalize and establish its own QMS as a technical regulatory organization following the Philippine National Standard (PNS) on ISO 9001:2015.

FPA qualifies for 2019 Performance-Based Bonus

		Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority				
<p>Assuring the agricultural sector of adequate supplies of fertilizer and pesticide at reasonable prices, rationalizing the manufacture and marketing of fertilizer, protecting the public from the risks inherent in the use of pesticides, and educating the agricultural sector in the use of these inputs.</p>		FY 2019 (PBB Status)				
		Good Governance Conditions		Streamlining and Process Improvement of Agency Services		Non-Compliant
		Transparency Seal	Compliant			
		PhilGEPS Posting	Compliant			
		STO and GASS Requirement				
		QMS Requirement	Compliant	FY 2018 APCPI	Compliant	
		FY 2019 APP NON-CSE	Compliant	Financial Reports	Compliant	
		Indicative FY 2020 APP NON-CSE	Compliant	Prior Years' Audit Recommendations	Compliant	
		FY 2020 APP-CSE	Compliant			
		Undertaking of Early Procurement	Non-Compliant	Budget Utilization Rate	46.13%	
		Other Cross-Cutting Requirements				
		Agency's Review and Compliance Procedure of Statement and Financial Disclosure			Compliant	
FOL Compliance			Compliant			
Agency's System of Ranking Delivery Units			Compliant			

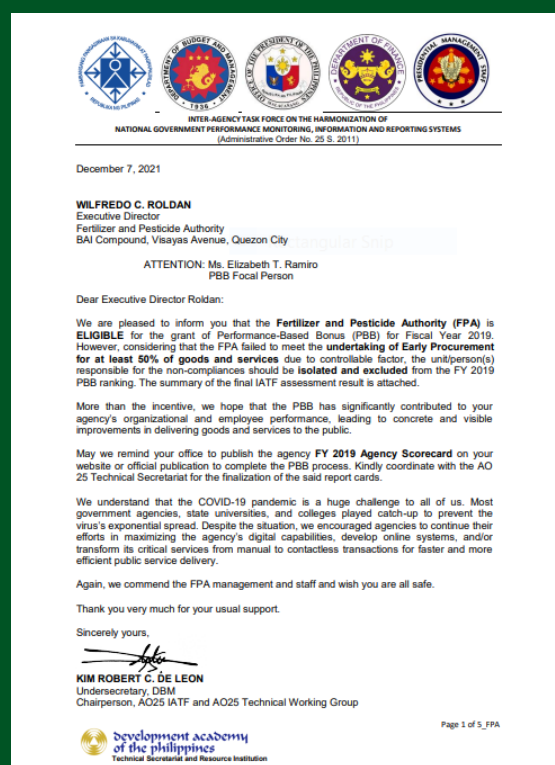
The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) is found eligible for the grant of Performance-Based Bonus (PBB) for the Fiscal Year 2019 by the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Harmonization of National Government Performance Monitoring, Information, and Reporting Systems.

The PBB is awarded to those compliant with the following measurements: good governance, streamlining and process improvement, support to operations (STO), general and support services (GASS), freedom of information (FOI), and other cross-cutting requirements.

FPA, along with other agencies that withstand the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic is commended for continuing to deliver goods and services to the public. Moreover, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is hoping that this incentive will contribute to the continuous improvement and growth of the FPA's organization and employees. It aims for the agency to have heightened transparency, stronger public accountability, be more inclusive and people-centered, and have eased transactions with other agencies and stakeholders.

However, the DBM commanded that the units and persons responsible for the non-compliance will be isolated and excluded from the FY 2019 PBB ranking after the IATF assessment found out that the FPA failed to meet the undertaking of early procurement for at least 50% of goods and services and the Disbursements BUR due to uncontrollable factors. The FPA also did not report reduction in its processes as they reasoned that required documents, signatures, or turnaround time were already the minimum and further reductions would affect the efficacy or the quality of service.

The DBM advised FPA to periodically update its Citizen's Charter to reflect necessary revisions. In addition, the FPA is also encouraged to maximize digital and technological capabilities by developing online systems and transforming critical services as contactless transactions for faster and more efficient public service delivery.





FPA launches 2nd season webinars to educate stakeholders on regulatory mandate

Through the Planning, Management and Information Division, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority organized a free webinar series from October 15 to December 15, 2021. An initiative from the Information Unit, the series was in its second season purposely to educate stakeholders on the different regulatory services of the agency. The activity also served as a platform where public inquiries and concerns could be addressed.

A total of 522 participants attended the webinar. The participants were mainly farmers, fertilizer and pesticide business owners, and agricultural professors and students.

For the first episode, Mr. Eric C. Divinagracia, Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide, discussed the FPA Mandate and Functions, which provided an overview of the agency's services, its jurisdiction, and limitations. On the other hand, Ms. Julieta B. Lansagan, Chief of the Fertilizer Regulations Division, explained the different global trends in fertilizer prices. A total of sixty-one participants attended the said episode.

For the second episode, FPA invited Usec. Ariel T. Cayan, Undersecretary for Operations and Agri-Fisheries Mechanization and Dir. Dionisio Alvindia, Philippine Integrated Rice Program Director. Usec. Cayan and Dir. Alvindia encouraged the participants to be market players in the fertilizer and pesticide industry to support the supply of agricultural inputs and contribute to the relative stabilization of local prices. In addition, Mr. Ranilo M. Maderazo, President of Planters Products, discussed the regulatory requirements on the issuance of licenses for fertilizer handlers. A total of sixty-five participants attended the activity.

The third episode revolved around the different tips on avoiding fake fertilizers and pesticides from illegitimate sellers. Leonardo C. Bangad explained the importance of reading the labels found on the pesticide bottles and gave examples of interpreting these labels. A total of twenty-four participants attended the event.

The Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD) spearheaded the back-back episode to discuss the different services under their division and its requirements and procedures. Mr. Marlo B. Deblois explained the requirements for issuing Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) and TUP, EUP, and other certificates for fertilizer regulation. A total of 82 participants attended the fourth episode. On the other hand, Mr. Mike P. Cuento discussed the requirements for issuing VAT Exemption Certificate and issuance of License to Operate (LTO) as fertilizer handler, dealer, dealer-repacker, mango contractor, warehouse registration, and fertilizer manufacturing plan/repacking site. Ninety participants attended the fifth episode.

The Planning, Management and Information Division and the Laboratory Services Division explained the different services under their respective division. Ms. Aleni Peach D. Gonzales discussed in detail the FPA Accreditation Services. She elaborated the requirements on how to get the license for Accredited Responsible Care Officer (ARCO), Certified Pest Control Applicator (CPA), Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD), Fertilizer and Pesticide Researchers, and FPA Accredited Training Association. The Laboratory Services Division, represented by Ms. Erica Mae G. Gacutan, Mr. Paul Kristian J. Berjuega, and Ms. Sharmaine D. Tecson, discussed the following topics: Issuance of Permit to Purchase Methyl Bromide, Laboratory Analysis of Fertilizer and Pesticide Samples. One hundred fifteen participants attended the sixth episode.

The Human Resource Management Unit under the Finance and Administrative Division caps off season 2 of the webinar series through the Virtual Orientation on Pag-ibig Fund's Online Service. Employees from the agency took this as an opportunity to clarify their concerns regarding their problems on their Pag-ibig ID and other online services offered by the said office.

Participants gave excellent feedback at the conclusion of the second season of webinars. With this, the Information Unit intends to continue its efforts to provide accurate information to the public about the agency's various regulatory functions. The 3rd season of webinars will start in the first quarter of 2022.

FPA capacitates report officers on news writing, photojournalism



Designated Report Officers of Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) from the Central and Regional Offices have undergone a Communications Training on December 15 – 16, 2021 at the FPA Multipurpose Hall, BAI Compound, Visayas Ave., Quezon City.

Paul Joseph Nuval, an Educator and Researcher at the Department of Development Communication (DevCom) in Benguet State University, served as resource person. He discussed about the fundamentals of news writing and photojournalism.

News Writing

Explaining what particular activities of FPA would be ‘newsworthy’, he said that the participants must consider those that have social relevance and addresses current issues.

“News articles would help FPA to document its activities; educates readers by walking them through how a process or an activity is done; serves as future references; and allows the agency to comply with report requirements,” he said.

He added that news articles need to be factual, objective, and well-researched.

Photojournalism

On the other hand, Mr. Nuval explained that photojournalism is the visual documentation of newsworthy events and subjects. He said that photos should be action-oriented, people-centered and has composition.

“The greatest subject in the world will not automatically make a great image,” he shared. He encouraged the participants to consider mobile phones that are sensor-based and have high-resolution cameras to produce quality images.

FPA Communication and Information Policies and Guidelines

Moreover, the participants have undergone orientation of the FPA Communication and Information Policies and Guidelines. Ivan Layag, Information Officer III of the Planning, Management, and Information Division (PMID), served as the presenter. In line with this, the training will serve to improve the draft policies and guidelines.

“Such guide document sets the appropriate messaging, communication strategies and channels that would promote a vibrant information and communication exchange between FPA and its stakeholders; build up agency’s network; empower employees and the public; and enable policymakers to have informed decisions,” explained Layag.

He added that the guidelines would put in place a process on how the various public information activities of FPA shall be efficiently managed. “Communication-related outputs may put the reputation of an agency at risk. Accuracy, truthfulness, and error-free contents shall be observed before publication or dissemination,” he ended.

FPA recounts 2021 milestones in its year-end review

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) held its Year-End Performance Review on December 14 to 16 at the FPA Central Office Convention Hall, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

The activity was spearheaded by the Planning, Management, and Information Division (PMID). It enabled the different Divisions and Field Units (FUs) to present their physical and financial accomplishments for 2021 as well as their best practices. Issues and concerns were also discussed during the activity.

FUs Physical and Financial Performance

For the period, the FUs were able to license a total of 4,665 handlers out of their 4,022 annual targets, equivalent to 116% accomplishment (Table 1). The highest contributory is Region 11 with 572 issuances, followed by Region 10 with 452.

For January to November, the FUs monitored/visited 21,616 handlers/establishments or 123% of their total target of 17,562. Likewise, a total of 160,347 fertilizer and pesticide (F/P) products were inspected, accomplishing 153% of their 104,820 target. The FUs with the highest contribution in the physical accomplishment are Region 3 for the monitoring of handlers and Region 2 for product monitoring.

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In relation to their financial performance, the FUs were able to utilize a total of Php16.6M from their allocated budget of Php19.6M, indicating a budget utilization rate (BUR) of 84%. An increase in the utilization rate will be achieved once the claims for travelling expenses from October to December were obligated. As shown in Table 2, Region 6 is the highest spender with 107% BUR while CAR is the lowest with only 60% BUR.

Table 1. Details of Physical Performance, Field Units

Region	Licenses Issued			Handlers Monitored			Products Inspected		
	Target	Accomp.	%	Target	Accomp.	%	Target	Accomp.	%
CAR	56	179	320	840	1,145	136	4,560	11,442	251
1	273	425	156	1,202	1,087	90	9,444	12,169	129
2	215	266	124	1,680	2,035	121	10,080	20,675	205
3	283	436	154	1,680	2,316	138	10,080	12,798	127
4	386	399	103	1,680	1,347	80	10,080	8,302	82
5	293	372	127	1,440	1,849	128	8,640	11,215	130
6	364	395	109	1,440	1,929	134	8,640	11,633	135
7	326	295	90	960	859	89	5,760	5,325	92
8	229	263	115	1,200	1,690	141	7,200	11,483	159
9	167	183	110	1,080	1,367	127	4,320	10,256	237
10	330	452	137	1,000	1,134	113	3,456	7,774	225
11	629	572	91	1,440	1,343	93	8,640	9,652	112
12	250	249	100	960	1,912	199	8,160	16,398	201
13	221	179	81	960	1,603	167	5,760	11,225	195
Total	4,022	4,665	116	17,562	21,616	123	104,820	160,347	153

Table 2. Details of Financial Performance, Field Units

Region	Budget (Php)	Obligation (Php)	%
CAR	989,410	592,371	60
1	1,382,179	1,106,181	80
2	1,983,260	1,516,787	76
3	1,220,610	1,132,500	93
4	1,722,960	1,454,026	84
5	1,353,850	1,091,234	81
6	957,460	1,025,870	107
7	1,318,210	1,007,356	76
8	1,228,084	1,086,809	88
9	1,338,310	1,278,845	96
10	1,634,190	1,435,573	88
11	1,816,300	1,704,658	94
12	1,685,710	1,318,476	78
13	937,958	721,557	77
Total	19,568,491	16,472,245	84

Divisions' Physical and Financial Performance

Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD)

The FRD achieved 114% for its regulatory documents issuances for the period of January to November (Table 3). With an annual target of 3,495, it was able to issue a total of 3,979 regulatory documents. However, its financial performance is 67%, utilizing only Pph0.66M out of Php0.97M budget allocation.

Pesticide Regulations Division (PRD)

The PRD, on the other hand, issued a total of 6,438 regulatory documents or 135% accomplishment over its 4,756 target (Table 3). Budget utilization is Php1.12M out of Php1.49M allocation or 75% BUR.

Table 3. Details of Physical Performance, FRD and PRD

	FERTILIZER			PESTICIDE		
	Target	Accomp.	%	Target	Accomp.	%
Product Registration						
New	464	546	118	88	177	201
Renewal	300	429	143	595	805	135
3rd Party Authorization	142	142	100	263	312	119
Experimental Use Permit	111	111	100	449	991	221
Label Expansion				9	71	789
License to Operate	718	951	132	300	670	223
VAT and other certifications	1760	1800	102			
CAIP and other permits				3052	3412	112
Total	3,495	3,979	114	4,756	6,438	135

Laboratory Services Division (LSD)

The LSD analyzes F/P samples to support the product registration and quality monitoring function of FPA. For the period, it was able to analyze a total of 961 F/P samples or 102% overall accomplishment out of 945 samples targeted (Table 4). For its financial performance, LSD's utilization of Php1.3M exceeded its budget of P1.2M, thereby incurring 108% BUR.

Table 4. Details of Physical Performance, LSD

Fertilizer Sample			Pesticide Sample			Total		
Target	Accomplishment	%	Target	Accomplishment	%	Target	Accomplishment	%
675	662	98	270	299	111	945	961	102

Planning, Management & Information Division (PMID)

The PMID is able to accredit 3,989 individuals as Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD), Accredited Responsible Care Officer (ARCO), Certified Pesticide Applicator (CPA) and F/P Researchers. This is equivalent to 135% accomplishment of its yearly target of 2,942. Its major accomplishments include the conduct of the webinars, planning and performance reviews, compliance with the reportorial requirements on time, response to inquiries and grievances, IT support and data management, publications and social media management. For its financial accomplishment, it achieved a BUR of 88%, utilizing Php2M out of its Php2.3M budget allocation.

Finance & Administrative Division (FAD)

The FAD with its Human Resource, General Services, Budget and Accounting Sections were able to process 3,344 vouchers, which is 111% accomplishment out of its 3,000 annual target. Some of its major accomplishments include the issuance of 26 appointments and 226 contracts of service, inventory of equipment, vehicle dispatching and maintenance, procurement, hiring, collection and records management. It has a BUR of 88%, utilizing Php135.5M out of Php156M budget.

Other Matters

Tackling the issue of the fertilizer price hike, Dr. Myer Mula, Deputy Executive Director for Fertilizer, emphasized that FPA is not an importer and producer, and has no control over the prices. He directed FPA officials to refer to the published article about the issue.

Dr. Mula added that all divisions and units should revisit their way of planning, programming and targeting activities. Moving forward, he recommended the following:

- Improvement of physical target indicators
- Alignment of physical accomplishments with financial accomplishments
- Activation of email and social media accounts by the Field Units
- Regular visitation of handlers and dealers in monitoring



To provide credible and efficient service as an ISO-certified agency, Dr. Mula challenged FPA employees to be prompt and exemplify commitment to their work.

Towards the end of the activity, the IT Team requested for feedback from the regions regarding the mobile application for product registration developed to further enhance the system. In relation to this, the team announced the distribution of two tablets per region in 2022 (first batch) and the rest in 2023 and 2024. The team also discussed the accreditation system currently being developed, which eventually be rolled out to the regions. The features of the new website was also presented to the participants.

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