



ALL SMILES- The FPA Board with DA Secretary William D. Dar as the Chairperson and FPA officials and employees have worked together for the 2019 edition of Bluebook and Greenbook.

FPA board approves revised Bluebook and Greenbook

The Board of Directors (BoD) of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) approved the proposed amendments to the Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines for Fertilizer (Bluebook) and Pesticide (Greenbook) at the Landbank, Malate, Manila on 24 October 2019.

With DA Secretary William Dar serving as the Chairperson, he said that FPA's role in the rapid agricultural growth in the country is crucial. He emphasized the need for an efficient processing of registrations for fertilizer and pesticide to comply with the Ease of Doing

Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act.

FPA Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan said that the revised guidelines present the updated regulatory requirements for fertilizer and pesticide which meet the current demands of agency's stakeholders.

He noted that the revisions are product of the FPA consultations with its stakeholders in the industry, academe, and technical consultants.

"Their guidance enabled FPA on what to do and what to change without sacrificing the quality of the registration and the regulatory function of the FPA. We want to respond to the needs of the public and the stakeholders," he said.

In the new version of said guidelines, provisions for the Mode of Action (MoA) on product labeling and drone application for pesticide spraying have been integrated. It also presents updated requirements for Experimental Use Permits (EUPs), and the acceptance of third-party authorizations (TPA) for pesticide.

Other members of the BoD include the heads of the Food and Drugs Administration (DOH-FDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Environment Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), Department of Finance (DoF), Philippine National Bank (PNB), and the Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI). They have sent their representatives during the meeting. //

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FPA warns public to report distribution of fake pesticides

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) advises the public not to buy fake pesticides in the market.

After reports of smuggled pesticide products from China has been confiscated in Cagayan Valley, Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan, in his opening remarks during the Pesticide Handling Training held at the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) facilitated by the Field Operations and Coordinating Unit (FOCU) on October 28, said that such should not be availed of since these may harm both the user and the environment.

He advised farmers to always buy registered pesticides by the FPA by looking at the product label.

"It is obvious that some of these products came from other countries since their label is written in a foreign language, making it hard for us to understand their chemical contents," he said.



FPA notes that pesticide products with foreign labels like the ones confiscated in Vagayan Valley are not registered and should not be distributed.

He explained that farmers tend to buy cheaper smuggled pesticide products without them considering the efficacy and safety of the product.

Dir. Roldan then asks the public to report incidence of entry and proliferation of pesticide products to FPA Central Office and its Regional Offices for confiscation.

"The public may also refer to the FPA's social media accounts

and website where they could be updated on fertilizer and pesticide regulations, and be educated on the information campaign efforts of the agency."

Meanwhile, FPA has the mandate to ensure the safety and quality of fertilizer and pesticides through product registration, institutionalization of product stewardship program, and conduct of relevant information campaign. //

FPA participates in CSC's RACE to Serve Fun Run



The theme 'Civil Service @119: Upholding Integrity and Building a High-trust Society,' FPA employees joined other participating government agencies during the RACE to Serve Fun Run organized by the Civil Service Commission held at the Quirino Grandstand, Manila.

The activity aimed to raise funds for the Pondong Pamanang Lingkod Bayani (PLBi), a program which honors public servants who died in the performance or pursuit of functions, duties, and responsibilities. It also aimed to promote the importance of having a healthy lifestyle.

Fun run winners received corresponding cash prizes. First, second, and third placers for the 3K category received Php7,000, Php5,000, and Php3,000 respectively, while placers in the 5K run won Php10,000, Php7,500, and Php5,000 respectively. For placers in the 10K race, the CSC awarded cash prizes of Php15,000, Php12,500, and Php10,000. //

FPA receives award from GQMC for establishing, implementing ISO



The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) received recognition from the Government Quality Management Committee (GQMC) for successfully establishing and implementing a Quality Management System Certified to ISO 9001:2015 in compliance with Executive Order No. 605 series of 2017.

The award, which specifically refers to the FPA ISO certification on the issuance of licenses, registrations, and permits for fertilizer, was received by Elizabeth Ramiro, Chief of the Finance and Administration Division (FAD) in behalf of the FPA, at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City on 24 October 2019.

Meanwhile, FPA is currently working for its 'Agency-wide' ISO 9001: 2015 certification covering all of its frontline and support services. Relative to this, the Agency continues to

undergo trainings being facilitated by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) to ensure achievement of the target.

For the third quarter, the Agency has undergone capacity-building on 5S good housekeeping, auditing QMS, and root cause analysis and corrective action formulation.

The DAP emphasized that 85 % of the reasons for failure are deficiencies in the systems and processes rather than the employee. The role of the management is to change the process rather than badgering individuals to do better.

FRD sustains ISO 9001:2015 certification

On 20 August 2019, the Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD) was able to sustain its current ISO Certification on the provision of services for the issuance of licenses, registrations, and permits on fertilizer, after the conduct of a Stage 2 Certification Audit by TUV Rheinland auditors.



In the audit, the actual flow of pre-selected processes within the scope of certification were assessed on the basis of random sampling, interview of personnel, and review of documented information.

The audit resulted into zero nonconformity.

The ISO 9001:2015 is a standard accepted internationally for quality management. It acknowledges organizations that are able to provide effective customer and regulatory services through Quality Management System. //

FPA inspects banana plantations infested with white grubs, weevil in Davao

MACO, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE- To monitor the gravity of infestation caused by white grubs and weevil in banana plantations in Davao Region, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) led by Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan conducted an on-site inspection on September 20, 2019.



This is in response to the request of Davao-based researchers and banana industry for technical assistance in its control since there is no registered pesticide specific to such pest. It was reported that more or less a thousand hectares are affected.

The report added that the infestation, if not prevented, would be an added concern along with Fusarium Wilt, also known as Panama Disease that is already causing huge reduction of export bananas due to decreased in banana production.

Director Roldan said that the FPA will coordinate with industry stakeholders and other government agencies to address the concern, and for the conduct of information campaign whenever necessary. (with reports from FPA FU XI) //

FPA awards most compliant field units during annual mid-year planning



CONGRATULATIONS!- The Regional Officers of FPA II, V and X received recognition from the FPA Management for their exemplary performance.

In recognition of the valuable contribution of all the Field Units (FUs) in the implementation of the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act in the agency, the FPA initiated a simple awards ceremony during the conduct of mid-year planning at the Mambukal Resort in Murcia, Negros Occidental on August 7-9, 2019.

During the program, the following FUs were recognized when they performed better among the other regions: FPA Field Unit X for the Highest Budget Utilization Rate, FPA Field Unit V for the Most Compliant Region in the Submission of Financial Claims, and FPA Field Unit II for the Most Compliant Region in the Submission of Reportorial Requirements.

Executive Wilfredo Roldan said that the award is in recognition for the efforts of field units in fast-tracking office transactions and operations which is timely with the target for 'agency-wide' ISO certification for FPA.

The awardees received plaque of recognition and certificates which was handed over by Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan together with Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide Eric Divinagracia and Acting Deputy Director for Fertilizer Antonio Cruz. //

FPA Laboratory is now ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accredited

The Laboratory Services Division (LSD) of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) has successfully attained ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation from the Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) on October of this year.

It was on February 26-27, 2019 when LSD underwent an initial assessment on its application for ISO/IEC 17025:2005 accreditation. Actual demonstration of capability and competence was conducted by the PAB assessors to evaluate the laboratory as against the technical requirements of the standard. As part of the assessment, all LSD technical personnel were subjected to actual evaluation wherein 'witness testing' was done. The PAB, being the national accreditation body of the Philippines under the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), performed the assessment of LSD.

ISO/IEC 17025:2005 is an international standard wherein



laboratories around the globe can be accredited. The accreditation is based primarily on the ability of a laboratory to demonstrate operational and technical competence in generating valid and reliable laboratory test results thereby allowing acknowledgment of a laboratory's competence both locally and internationally.

This milestone is a result of FPA's commitment and dedication to the provision of excellent laboratory services, through its LSD, primarily

in the analysis of fertilizers and pesticides for product registration and quality monitoring purposes which serves a crucial support function in the overall mandate of the agency.

In connection with this achievement, the official schedule of the awarding ceremony for the attained accreditation is yet to be announced by PAB, LSD said. *(with reports from LSD)*

FPA hosts the 4th meeting of NALECC-SCFAEC



The FPA hosted the conduct of 4th meeting of the National Law Enforcement Cooperation Committee Sub-Committee on Firearms, Ammunition, and Explosives Control (NALECC-SCFAEC) on June 28, 2019.

The meeting was presided by PLTC Rogelio L. Abran Jr., Chief, EEMD/ Head Secretariat of NALECC-SCFAEC. The committee members and participants have been welcomed by Antonio Cruz Jr., Acting Deputy Executive Director for Fertilizer, who also shared the mandate of FPA.

It was discussed that Nitrate, as a fertilizer input, is an integral element in the development of explosives, which needs heightened control and monitoring when being transported, delivered, and mixed as input for industrial and agricultural products. //

FPA joins celebration of world food, food safety, rice awareness



FPA actively participated in the observance of World Food Day, Food Safety and National Rice Awareness Month together with the DA and its attached offices.

FPA Field Unit XII moves to its new office

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority Regional Office XII has recently moved to its new office at the 2nd Floor KL Lucema Realty Bldg. Alunan Ave., Koronadal, South Cotabato.

On July 31, 2019, the blessing of the new office was officiated by Rev. Fr. Joel D. Aliligay, former Parish Priest of Banga, South Cotabato. In attendance are FPA Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide Eric C. Divinagracia, industry representatives, and FPA-XII staff headed by Regional Officer Jinny Louie T. Ale.

Regional Officer Ale said that the new office is more comfortable, providing bigger space so it can serve their clients better.

FPA XII recognized the effort of Supervising Agriculturist and now Acting FPA XI Regional Officer Alita. Bornea, staff of FPA-XII and Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan for making the initiative possible.

The new office will also serve as the provincial office for Sarangani and South Cotabato. //

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority continuous to participate in the yearly celebration of Food Safety, World Food, and the National Rice Awareness Month together with the other bureaus, agencies, and GOCCs attached to the Department of Agriculture (DA).

On 14-13 October 2019, the agency participated in the World Food Day celebration focusing on call for a stronger, global, national, and multi-sectoral effort to fight hunger and malnutrition and feed the planet in a sustainable way, and that agriculture has a unique and critical role in improving the world's nutritional status. The theme is 'Our actions are our future. Healthy diets for a #ZeroHunger world.'

On the following week, the agency joined the observance of food safety together with other members of the Food Safety Committee through the conduct of information drive showcasing programs and activities relevant to promoting the food safety campaign.

Finally, FPA joined the kick-off ceremony of the National Rice

Awareness Month (NRAM) led by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Philippine Rice Research Institute on November 4, 2019 at the National Science Complex of the University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City.

The activity is in support to the Filipino rice farmers and their efforts in producing the most important staple crop in the country.

Attending the event was Secretary William Dar who urged the participants to support Filipino rice farmers and vowed to educate more consumers, stakeholders and policymakers to patronize and promote the consumption of locally grown rice. //

FPA field units intensify fertilizer and pesticide information drive through community radio



FPA ON AIR- FPA Region II has been given by the DA Regional Field Office II a regular weekly timeslot in their radio program, making it a good venue for mass information dissemination of safe and judicious use of f/p campaign.

The field units of FPA continues to intensify their conduct of information, education and communication (IEC) campaign on the safe and judicious use of fertilizers and pesticides as they now maximize community radio in advancing the public information activities of the agency.

These FUs are the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas. They have actively participated in the conduct of radio guestings through referrals by the DA Regional Offices and requests by local AM and FM radio stations.

In Cagayan Valley, FPA Region II has been given a weekly regular program by the DWDA 105.3Mhz FM, a community radio initiated by the Department of Agriculture Region II. Dubbed 'FPA-R2 On Air', the program is also being broadcasted through Facebook Livestreaming.

"It was part of our plan way back to use radio in our IEC activities since more farmers listen to radio. It is also a good venue for us to further promote food safety in the region," said Henry Fronda, Regional Officer of FPA- Region II.

On the other hand, FPA-CAR headed by Regional Officer Rey Segismundo has consistently accommodated radio guestings in various radio stations in CAR like the Over Broadcast Media-Joy FM Radio 103.7, the official radio station of the province of Abra, and the Bombo Radyo- Baguio.

While on air, they have been discussing PD 1144, proper use of fertilizers and pesticides, fertilizer and pesticide handling and storage, pesticide first aid and management of poisoning cases, product stewardship program particularly on product labelling, and the Integrated Pest Management (IPM). //



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We invite all FPA employees to send us your stories, opinions, literary attempts and essays to be published in this publication. Also, we appreciate receiving your suggestions or feedbacks on how we could enhance its contents and design. Kindly send these to fpacentral77@gmail.com or coordinate with the Information Section of the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID).

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Regional Officer Alita Bornea of FPA Davao Region met with Representatives from the Everspring Indonesia, composed by some of the company's chemists and their plant manager, to discuss about the incident of container bloating of their product Oxamyl 240SL on July 3, 2019. Cognizant of the Philippine law on the regulation of fertilizer and pesticide products, the company expressed that they intend to conduct a retrieval operation of said product, in coordination with their Filipino partner the Kemika Filipinas, Inc. and their distributor Monarch Agricultural Product, Inc. This is to ensure the safety of the end-users, as well as to provide them quality inputs.



FPA Region VIII Team led by Regional Officer Francis Salvador Costas discussed Proper Handling and Usage of Fertilizer and Pesticide Products during their radio guesting at the DYSM Aksyon Radyo in Catarman Northern, Samar on July 3, 2019. Specifically, they informed the listeners regarding Presidential Decree 1144; fertilizer and pesticide regulation; handling and storage; transport and distribution; poisoning and first aid; and other related topics on the regulation of fertilizer and pesticide.

Dion Mark Bohol of FPA Region IX Provincial Officer, was tapped by the DA-RFU IX, to serve as resource person on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Corn at Brgy. Datagan, Siayan, Zamboanga Del Norte on September 4-5, 2019. He discussed the proper dosage rates for agronomic crops, importance of pre-harvest interval (PHI), and empty pesticide container management, which are all relevant when applying for GAP Certification.



As a resource person during the Training of Trainers (TOT) Course on Corn Integrated Crop Management, Regional Officer Joseph Andre John Martinez discussed the safe and judicious use of pesticides for crop protection on August 27, 2019.

Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from the different Local Government Units (LGUs) of Region I attended the said training which was held at the Tebag, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

To familiarize themselves with the fertilizer manufacturing industry and its business cycle, and to learn the best practices in field monitoring and enforcement, RFU-V visited FPA Region IV in Laguna on September 30, 2019. This activity also aimed to strengthen coordination, collaboration and knowledge sharing between and among FPA field personnel.



With the theme: "Sustaining the vegetable industry for a vibrant economy," FPA CAR Team headed by Regional Officer Reynaldo Segismundo joined the La Trinidad First Highland Vegetable Industry Week on July 10, 2019. He shared insights on the positive impact of proper and judicious use of pesticides and fertilizer to vegetable growth and productivity.