

THE FPA BULLETIN

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FPA goes 'past-present-future' in its year-end program

As a way of celebrating another year filled with lessons, accomplishments and memories shared by FPA employees and stakeholders, the agency held its Year-End Program convening all FPA employees from the Central and Regional Office on December 6, 2019 at the FPA Auditorium.

"Let us continue to strive hard to provide the best service our stakeholders deserve," said Executive Wilfredo Roldan while citing the reforms instituted in the organization since he took the FPA leadership. He recognized the efforts by the FPA employees and the industry stakeholders which are integral in the fulfillment of the agency's mandate.

Continued on page 7

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **A Year in Review: FPA Accomplishments for 2019** p2
- **FOCU conducts pesticide handling training** p4
- **Year-end conference held** p5
- **FPA supports DSWD-DAR livelihood program beneficiaries become microentrepreneurs** p6

A YEAR IN REVIEW:

FPA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FOR 2019

- FPA started the CY 2019 by having a comprehensive review of its systems and procedures which later on became the bases of the Agency's Revised Citizen's Charter 2019. This is pursuant to the passage of the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act (RA 11032) which enabled the Agency to cut processing time and requirements for registration of fertilizer and pesticide products, licensing of establishments and accreditation of individuals such as researchers, pesticide applicators and responsible care officers.
- With FPA's desire to streamline its regulatory services, the Agency was able to come up with FPA's Strategy Map 2019-2022, a framework which presents FPA's strategies in fulfilling its four strategic thrusts —fertilizer and pesticide regulation, education and product stewardship, harmonization with international standards, and good governance.
- FPA embarked on its journey to becoming ISO 9001: 2015 certified. The Agency created the Quality Management System (QMS) Committee and its support teams which shall ensure that all requirements are aligned with the ISO 9001: 2015 Standards. The said Committee attended related capacity-building activities facilitated and sponsored by the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP).
- 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 specifically refer to the FPA ISO certification on the issuance of licenses, registrations, and permits for fertilizer. The award was received by FPA at the Philippine International Convention Center, Pasay City on 24 October 2019. Meanwhile, FRD was able to sustain said ISO Certification after the conduct of Stage 2 Certification Audit by TUV R Rheinland auditors on 20 August 2019.
- 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 2019. ISO/IEC



17025:2005 is an international standard against which 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.

- On October 2019, the FPA Board of Directors (BoD) approved the proposed amendments of the Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines for Fertilizer (Bluebook) and Pesticide (Greenbook) at the Landbank Center, Malate, Manila. These serve as the primary guide documents for the regulatory services of the agency.

Further, FPA is able to accomplish the following for its frontline services as of December 2019:

Fertilizer Regulations Division

- 991 fertilizer product registration certificates issued
- 973 licenses for fertilizer handlers, dealers and warehouses issued
- 300 Experimental Use Permits (EUPs) issued
- 2,085 certification for VAT exemption and other permits released

Pesticide Regulations Division

- 652 approved licenses for pesticide handlers, dealers, pest control operators and warehouses
- 2,670 approved agricultural product registrations
- 2,670 Experimental Use Permits (EUPs) issued
- 3,416 approved pesticide importation and other certifications

Laboratory Service Division

- 55 permits to purchase Methyl Bromide issued

Planning, Management and Information Division

- 3,247 individuals were accredited ASD, ARCO, Researcher and Drone Applicators

Further, the regional offices issued 4,066 licenses to fertilizer and pesticide handlers, warehouses and other regulatory documents. These were achieved after a thorough monitoring and inspection of 21,626 handlers and 104,322 products nationwide. It also resulted in the identification of 907 unlicensed fertilizer and pesticide handlers vis-a-vis 24 unregistered products. Further, 833 enforcement activities were conducted which includes the issuance of notice of violation (NVs), and Stop Use/Move/Sale (SUMS) orders.

On the conduct of information, education and communication (IEC) on the safe and judicious use of fertilizer and pesticides, it includes the conduct of 67 ASD trainings, 27 FATA supervised trainings, 312 provision of technical assistance, and 18 community radio information campaign activities.

Overall, there were 25,525 regulatory documents issued.





FOCU spearheads pesticide handling training

The Field Operations and Coordinating Unit (FOCU) facilitated a training on Pesticide Poison Handling, Control and Management on November 6, 2019 held at the ATI Messhall Function Hall, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

In his opening remarks, Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan shared about FPA's goal for ISO 9001: 2015 certification and he encouraged the field units (FUs) to take part in the endeavour. He said that the FUs should also leverage their service-delivery to international standards.

The activity, which aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on said subject, was attended by FPA's Regional and Provincial Officers, and technical employees from the Fertilizer Regulatory Division, Pesticide Regulatory Division, and the Laboratory Services Division.

On the first day, lectures on Pesticide Poison Handling, Control and Management, Environmental Impact of Pesticides, Effects of Fipronil and How it Affects the Human Body, Effects and Poisoning Cases of Herbicides and

Fungicides, and Pesticide Exposure Surveillance.

Dr. Carissa Paz C. Dioquino, Head of the National Poison Management and Control Center – Philippine General Hospital (NPMCC-PGH), Engr. Ana Trinidad F. Rivera, Director IV of the Foods and Drug Administration (FDA), Dr. Allan R. Dionisio, Chairman of the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Dr. Charmaine Victoria Micu-Oblefias, Medical Officer IV of the NPMCC-PGH, served as resource persons.

Day two of the training composed of capacity-building activities in relation to the target goal of the agency towards agency-wide ISO certification and the implementation of Republic Act No. 11032 or the Ease of Doing Business Act. It covered workshops on Lean Management and Streamlining of Frontline Services which were facilitated by the FPA ISO QMS Management Committee and Secretariat.

It was emphasized that the Quality Objectives of ISO 9001:2015 is to issue ninety- four (94%) of regulatory documents/reports within the prescribed

timeline and to maintain a 'Very Satisfactory' rating on the customer satisfaction by December 2019. The FPA ISO QMS Management Committee further shared the importance of looking for the causes of delays on the processes, and reviewing the system for relative improvements, through the application of risk analysis.

Finally, the last day of the training included a lecture-discussion on Ending Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) which was facilitated by the Gender and Development Committee (FPA-GAD). An open-forum which intends to address the needs and concerns of the Field Units concluded the activity.

Antonio Cruz, Acting Deputy Executive Director for Fertilizer, advised the participants to be responsible in familiarizing the mandates and functions of the agency and the Department of Agriculture (DA). He explained that this would come in handy when answering simple questions related to FPA services from the public and will eventually help in advancing the current directives of incumbent DA Secretary William Dar.

Year-end National Conference held



To evaluate the agency's accomplishments for the FY 2019 and to set up plans for FY 2020, the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID) facilitated the conduct of Year-End National Conference held at the FPA Central Office Function Hall.



The activity kicked-off through the presentation of the Salient Features of Revised Fertilizer Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines by FRD Chief Julieta Lansangan, and of the Pesticide Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines by Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide Eric Divinagracia, and the discussion of the Revised Citizen's Charter by FOCU Supervising Agriculturist Suzettie Alcaide.

The next day, Elizabeth Ramiro, FAD Chief, together with OIC-Budget Officer Genalyn Guardiano, presented the Financial Performance Review and Presentation of the FY 2020 Budget Based on NEP.

Afterwards, all the FPA Regional Offices presented their Physical Performance Review covering January to November 2019.

On the third day, a field inspection training course and a knowledge sharing with the industry was

organized to enable the FPA Regional and Provincial Officers to update their knowledge on the emerging practices for pesticide management.

A discussion on the pesticide regulatory practices in the State of California, United States, was delivered by Alexander Lagman, an environmental scientist from the Department of Pesticide Regulation, Central Regional Office of Clovis, California.

Other lectures included Pesticide Residues, Toxicology and Maximum Residue Limits by Eric John Cruz, a licensed chemist and Head of Pesticide Management Division of the National Crop Protection Center – University of the Philippines Los Baños, Occupational Health and Safety by FPA Evaluator Dr. Wernher Bautista, and Product Stewardship Program by Joel Rosario of CropLife.

On the last day, the FPA employees have undergone orientation on the Implementing Rules and Regulations of RA 11032 otherwise known as Ease on Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery (EODB-EGSD) with ARTA Representative Jaifreed Cabangal who served as the resource person. He shared about the prescribed processing time of government services, automatic approval, reengineering of systems and procedures, accountability of heads of offices/agencies, citizen's charter, and the penalties under the act.

In the afternoon, a lecture on Basic Photography and Social Media Management was facilitated by the Information Unit to capacitate the FUs in properly documenting their field activities, and observing effective content sharing online.

FPA supports DSWD-DAR livelihood program beneficiaries become microentrepreneurs



handling of fertilizers, pesticides and other agricultural inputs. All topics are covered by the dealership required examination or the Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD) examination.

Even if individuals or groups are non-CLAAP beneficiaries, FPA has already been supporting local farmer's associations desiring to venture into fertilizer and pesticide dealership business. FPA advises farmers that it is easier [and cheaper] to register as a farmer's association than as an individual dealer, and formation of a cooperative would require registration from the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA).

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) through its Regional Field Units strengthens partnership with other government agencies in enabling livelihood program beneficiaries to be engaged in viable livelihood or microenterprise projects like fertilizer and pesticide dealership.

As such, the FPA is being tapped by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to conduct capacity-

building activities for individual farmers and farmers organizations/ associations who are beneficiaries of the "Convergence on Livelihood Assistance for Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Project" or the CLAAP, a program being jointly implemented by DSWD and DAR which aims to expand and increase farmer's access to economic opportunities.

During trainings, FPA introduces to the beneficiaries the requirements for dealership and provides lectures on responsible use and proper

FPA Cagayan Valley conducts series of seminars to graduating agri-students



Henry Fronda, Regional Officer of Region II, said that the seminar was customized to introduce discussion on fertilizer and pesticide application and management.

"We took the initiative after knowing that there is not enough exposure on responsible use of agricultural pesticides, pesticide product label interpretation, product stewardship and insect resistance management (IRM) in the schools," he explained.

He added that these are essential topics which can be covered by the licensure examination for agriculture (LEA), thus the activity would also serve as a preparatory and review course.

The FPA Region II, in partnership with Croplife Philippines, facilitated a series of seminars on the safe and judicious use of fertilizer and pesticides to the different State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in Cagayan Valley on November 19-21, 2019.

The activity targetted senior and graduating agriculture students coming from the Isabela State University (ISU) - Cauayan City and Echague Campus, Quirino State University (QSU) - Maddela and Diffun Campus and the Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU).

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from page 1



The industry stakeholders in attendance also expressed their acknowledgement of FPA's initiatives and current directions as they commit to remain as FPA's partners in building a strong foundation for the development of the fertilizer and pesticide industry. It comes along with it the social responsibility to educate the farmers and the general public on the safe application of agricultural inputs.

During the occasion, the FPA employees travelled back to the past, the present and the future when everyone dressed themselves according to appropriate fashion of their social generation: Millennials (29 y/o and below)- past, Xennials (30s-40s)- present, Generation X

and Baby Boomers (41 y/o and above)- future. The gig defined the theme #FPAGens which can be interpreted as 'the old generations shall remain young at heart and live longer, and the younger generations shall carry on the legacy started by the older generations.'

The event showcased the talents of FPA employees when the Central Office and the Regional Offices battled during talent showdown. In the end, the Mindanao Cluster (Regions IX-XII, Caraga and ARMM) was declared the champion, achieving the feat for three consecutive years. Their winning entry was a video presentation centered on 'hopefulness and sharing blessings despite the

odds brought about by the recent earthquakes that hit their region.'

Best dressed employees of the different generations are also given recognition and prizes.

Past Generation:

- Jonalyn Tolero, PRD (Female)
- Rustom Taduyan, FU XI (Male)

Present Generation:

- Sharmaine Tecson, LSD (Female)
- Angelo Bugarin, LSD (Male)

Future Genetion:

- Imelda Rasay, FU XI (Female)
- Charles Joseph Follasco, FU X (Male)



EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Let our voices and stories be heard in this publication. This is your publication, our publication!

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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A Barangay Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Team (BPMET) Provincial Forum was attended by FPA CAR Team headed by Regional Officer Rey Segismundo on December 12, 2019. BPMET serves as the body that monitors and evaluates the Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project (CHARM2) activities and provide the project administration and implementing units with information. They also show how implementation problem could be recognized and reported as quickly as possible to the proper authorities, and thus encouraging solutions.

Various Stakeholders from the Province of Benguet (Barangay, Municipal, Provincial Representatives, DA-CAR Family, Academe, and NGOs) participated in the event held at Ben Palispis Hall, Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet.



In line with the implementation of FPA Administrative Order No. 26 s. 2007, Alita Bornea, FPA Region XII Regional Officer, along with Provincial Officer Joey Pascua, conducted a site inspection and validation of the waste water facility of the Sarangani Energy Corporation (SEC) located in Barangay Kamanga, Bayan ng Maasim, Sarangani on December 18, 2019.

The said activity was conducted in response to SEC's request for the certification of their landscapes to be used for 'Fertigation' or the addition of fertilizers to liquid solutions to make soil amendments, water amendments and other water-soluble products into an irrigation system.

Deputy Executive Director for Fertilizer Antonio G. Cruz Jr. and FRD Chief Julieta Lansangan attended the stakeholder's meeting organized by the Association of Central Visayas Agri Inputs Manufacturers and Distributors held at the Sunburst, Mango Ave in Cebu City on November 19, 2019.

During the event, Deputy Cruz Cruz delivered the welcome remarks and administered the oath taking of the duly elected officers of the association. Afterwards, Julieta Lansangan, FRD Chief, gave a lecture on the FPA's mandates, fertilizer Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) with emphasis on product registration and licensing of handlers.



FPA Region VII Provincial Officer Noel Negre was invited for a media interview at the MyTV Cebu Parasat and Skycable on October 21, 2019. He discussed about the mandates of FPA and its general functions including fertilizer and pesticide licensing and registration, product quality and adherence to safety, public information and stakeholder collaboration for strengthening fertilizer and pesticide regulations.

On the other hand, FPA Region VII Provincial Officer Andy Cornell Bornillo, answered public inquiries regarding the mandates of FPA, how to interpret product labels, and the application of pre-harvest interval (PHI) at the 888 Local TV program.

FPA XII led by Regional Officer Jinny Louie Ale with the support of his provincial officers, the Management and Board of Officers of the SAVESGROW-MPC., and Croplife Regional Action Network (CRAN 12) representatives, facilitated the conduct of information drive on proper pesticide container disposal, and the collection of empty pesticide containers on October 9, 2019. The members of Sarangani Vegetable Seed Growers Multi-Purpose Cooperative actively participated which coincided with the observance of the Cooperative Month Celebration with a theme: "Environmental Protection, We Care, We Grow" at Malungon, Sarangani Province.

