



THE FPA BULLETIN

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FPA pledges to fight corruption in bureaucracy, pushes of FOI law passage

Pursuant to the directive of President Rodrigo Duterte and Department of Agriculture Secretary William Dar toward the elimination of corruption in the bureaucracy, FPA Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan and OIC Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide Romirose Padin, led the signing of the Pledge of Good Governance and Zero Corruption in the agency on September 30, 2020, at the Central Office.

The event was participated by the other members of the FPA Management Committee (ManCom), as well as the different FPA Regional Field Units, who expressed their full support and joined the event through the simultaneous signing of the pledge via Google Meet.

During his speech, Director Roldan said that the values of transparency, accountability, and efficiency are pillars that will continue to guide FPA and the rest of the government in the quest for good governance.

On the same day, the ManCom members signed the Manifesto of Support for the Passage of the Freedom of

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FPA explains farm inputs dispenser's role to clients



LA TRINIDAD, Benguet, Sept. 9 (PIA) - - The trained fertilizer and pesticide dispenser is expected to guide the buyer in acquiring the appropriate and affordable farm inputs for agricultural produce who is likened to a physician issuing a prescription of medicine or supplement to a patient.

This is how Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) Regional Coordinator Reynaldo Segismundo describes the role of Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD) of fertilizer and pesticide handling towards their customers. The ASD's role is as important in guiding and assisting the farmer with the prescribed farm input for vegetable or ornamental plants. ASD

training is a pre-requisite in securing FPA license to operate as a dealer.

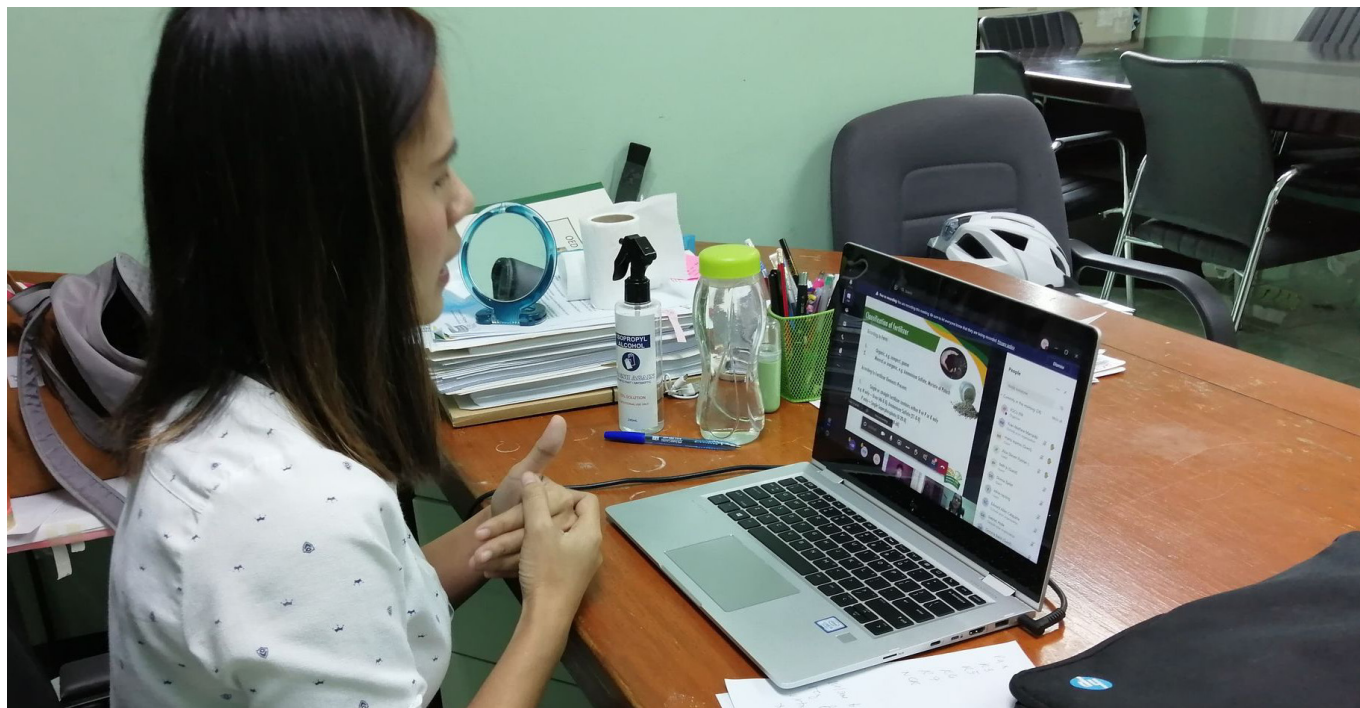
FPA mandates that all licensee or applicants for fertilizer or pesticide dealership must have at least two (2) ASD under their employ who must be trained in advising or assisting buyers of fertilizers/ pesticides on its safe handling, storage and and judicious use.

"A trained ASD is expected to ask the buyer's concerns before releasing any item not only for the sake of selling," Segismundo explained. The buyer needs to be clarified of the item labels which include the active ingredients and descriptions, handling, dosage, and warranty.

Rowena Billig, FPA Provincial Officer for Benguet and Baguio, said FPA holds ASD trainings for fertilizer and pesticide handling at least twice a year.

In the training, ASDs are taught on the categories of fertilizers and pesticides, pesticide information and management, soil and fertilizer management, fertilizer handling and management, FPA rules and regulations, pesticide first aid management, exposure to pesticides, types of pesticide poisoning, signs and symptoms of poisoning among others. (JDP/SCA-PIA CAR, Benguet).

FPA initiates online accreditation trainings, exams



The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority transitioned from face-to-face to online conduct of accreditation trainings and examinations since August 2020, in view of the suspension of mass gathering pursuant to IATF Omnibus Guidelines dated May 22, 2020.

Conducting accreditation trainings is necessary for individuals who wish to become Accredited Responsible Care Officers (ARCO), Certified Pesticide Applicator (CPA), Fertilizer and Pesticide Researchers, and Accredited Safety Dispensers (ASD). They will be issued an accreditation ID after passing the required examination and submission of essential requirements.

Through online platforms like Zoom, MS Teams, among others, the FPA, in coordination with the FPA Accredited Training Associations (FATA), has started conducting the required training course and symposium.

As of November 2020, _____ participants attended the online

accreditation trainings, which can be broken down as follows: _____ ARCO, _____ CPA, and _____ FP Researchers. On the other hand, _____ individuals attended online symposia which is necessary for the renewal of their accreditation licenses.

Immediately after attending the training, the participants have taken the examination held in the FPA Regional Offices except in BARMM. For examinees from NCR and adjacent provinces, exams were taken at the FPA Central Office in Quezon City.

The updated schedule of online trainings and symposia can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/38ZGGht> Interested individuals shall coordinate directly with the FATA for the registration requirements and reservation of slots.

Five training associations are currently registered under FPA: The Philippine Association of Certified Pesticide Applicators (PACPA), PMCP Foundation Inc., the Philippine

Association of Entomologists, Inc. (PAE), the Philippine Association of Professional Fumigators, Inc. (PAPFI) and the Kapisanan ng mga Pest Control Operators sa Pilipinas, Inc. (KAPESCOPI).

Moreover, the Field Operations Coordinating Unit (FOCU) conducted for the first time the online Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD) training on August 12, 2020. _____ individuals have already attended the online ASD trainings conducted.

Meanwhile, the Regional Field Units resumed facilitating ASD trainings while observing public health emergency protocols, when quarantine restrictions have been eased in their respective locations. Attendance to ASD trainings is a pre-requirement for individuals or business entities applying for License to Operate (LTO) as FP Dealer.

FPA assures quality fertilizers for RRP farmer-beneficiaries



The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority supports the Rice Resiliency Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) by providing technical assistance necessary to assure quality fertilizers intended for rice farmer-beneficiaries.

Starting May 2020, the FPA was tapped by DA to assist the latter in ensuring that fertilizers pass the quality standards through sampling of urea and 14-14-14 fertilizers, laboratory analysis, ocular inspection of warehouses, and the proper transport and storage of these inputs. Behind this effort are the FPA Regional Field Units who worked closely with the DA Regional Field Offices and Local Government Units (LGUs).

The FPA Field Units also continues to conduct monitoring and enforcement activities among agricultural suppliers amid the pandemic, in compliance with the DA Memorandum Order Number 26 Series of 2020.

RRP includes the distribution of inbred and hybrid rice seeds with fertilizers to both rainfed and irrigated areas, on top of the existing Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), and support to inbred and hybrid farmers under the National Rice Program (NRP).

The project has three components wherein the distribution of fertilizers is covered under the second and third components which are the Expanded Inbred Rice Production and the Expanded Hybrid Rice Production, respectively.

The DA explained that the RRP farmer-recipients will receive seeds according to the size of their farmland, and fertilizers, at two bags per hectare (ha) for inbred and three bags/ha for hybrid areas.

Secretary Dar said that the use of quality seeds and appropriate fertilizers would help in achieving high productivity in rice.



FPA reminds public to be vigilant in buying fertilizer, pesticide products online

The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority warns the public of online sellers and traders who do not have a legitimate license from the Authority and whose products are unregistered, as required by Presidential Decree 1144, and the Fertilizer and Pesticide Regulatory Policies and Implementing Guidelines.

“For them to be assured of safe and effective agricultural inputs, buyers should patronize only FPA registered fertilizer and pesticide products being sold by our licensed dealers,” Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan said.

In the Memorandum Circular No. 17 issued by the Agency on August 13, the public was advised to verify registration and licenses in the list of handlers and registered products posted on the FPA website, <https://fpa.da.gov.ph>

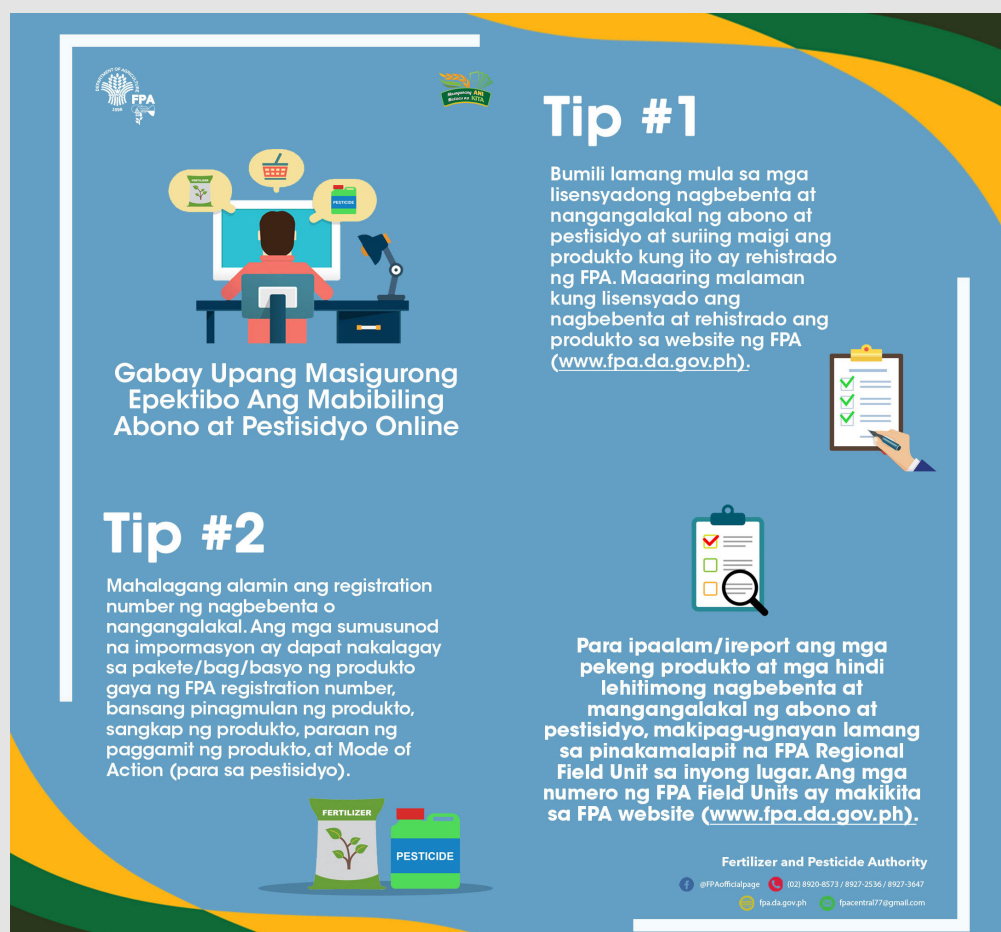
The said document also explained that relevant information such as license and registration numbers, raw materials, and country of origin shall be prominently

displayed in the packaging/bag/bottle. These are information being required by FPA among industry stakeholders in their product labels and implementation of Product Stewardship Programs.

As such, the public should also avoid products that are smuggled, underweight, expired, and does not conform standards.

To encourage wide dissemination of such campaign, the FPA seeks the cooperation from industry stakeholders including dealer’s associations or cooperatives. The FPA Field Units shall also integrate these reminders in their conduct of information, education, and communication (IEC) campaigns.

The public may report unscrupulous sellers and unregistered products being distributed to any of the FPA Field Units through email and telephone numbers listed on the FPA website.



Tip #1

Bumili lamang mula sa mga lisensyadong nagbebenta at nangangalakal ng abono at pestisidyo at suriing maigi ang produkto kung ito ay rehistrado ng FPA. Maaaring malaman kung lisensyado ang nagbebenta at rehistrado ang produkto sa website ng FPA (www.fpa.da.gov.ph).

Tip #2

Mahalagang alamin ang registration number ng nagbebenta o nangangalakal. Ang mga sumusunod na impormasyon ay dapat nakalagay sa pakete/bag/basyo ng produkto gaya ng FPA registration number, bansang pinagmulan ng produkto, sangkap ng produkto, paraan ng paggamit ng produkto, at Mode of Action (para sa pestisidyo).

Para ipaalam/ireport ang mga pekeng produkto at mga hindi lehitimong nagbebenta at mangangalakal ng abono at pestisidyo, makipag-ugnayan lamang sa pinakamalapit na FPA Regional Field Unit sa inyong lugar. Ang mga numero ng FPA Field Units ay makikita sa FPA website (www.fpa.da.gov.ph).

Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority

@FPAOfficialpage (02) 8520-8573 / 8927-2536 / 8927-3647
fpa.da.gov.ph fpacentral77@gmail.com

Congratulations! Newly Appointed Employees

Name	Position Title	Nature of Appointment	Organizational Unit
Paul Kristian J. Berjuega	Chemist III	Promotion	LSD
Jonsie D. Baysa	Administrative Officer V	Promotion	FAD
Divine Hyacinth E. Elcano	Administrative Assistant II	Original	FAD
Robilyn O. Sarmiento	Agriculturist II	Original	RFU III
Roel P. Valdez	Agriculturist II	Original	RFU III
John Mark A. Manangan	Agriculturist II	Original	RFU I
Jennie M. Basilio	Agriculturist II	Original	RFU XII
Jayar V. Rivera	Agriculturist I	Original	PRD
Kaezelle Anne R. Sambo	Administrative Assistant III	Original	LSD

FPA strengthens manpower with newly appointed employees

To boost internal capacity in delivering regulatory frontline services, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) hired seven employees with original appointments and promoted two personnel from March to July 1 this year.

The appointments were recommended by Executive Director Wilfredo Roldan and approved by Secretary William Dar.

Dir. Roldan advised the newly hired employees to uphold integrity and accountability in public service and to become dedicated change agents for the farmers and fisherfolks.

For the Central Office, the newly appointed employees are Paul Kristian J. Berjuega, Chemist III (promoted)- Laboratory Services Division, Jonsie Baysa- Administrative Officer V (promoted)- Finance and

Administrative Division, Divine Hyacinth E. Elcano, Administrative Assistant II- FAD, Jayar V. Rivera, Agriculturist I- Pesticide Regulations Division, and Kaezelle Anne R. Sambo, Administrative Assistant III- LSD.

On the other hand, four agriculturists were hired for the Regional Field Units: Robilyn O. Sarmiento, Agriculturist II- FPA RFU III, Roel P. Valde, Agriculturist II- RFU III, John Mark A. Manangan, Agriculturist II- RFU I, and Jennie M. Basilio, Agriculturist II- RFU XII.

The newly appointed employees had undergone virtual orientation on 20 July 2020, in compliance with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 14, s. 2018 or the 2017 Omnibus Rules on Appointments and Other Human Resource Actions, Revised 2018 (ORA-OHRA).

FPA welcomes new Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide



The FPA welcomes OIC Deputy Executive Director for Pesticide Romirose Padin, as she joined the agency effective 1 September 2020.

Bringing her many years of experience in the public sector, OIC Padin expressed to become an asset to FPA through her dedication and willingness to listen and serve the interest of employees, industry stakeholders, and farmers.

Prior to her appointment in the agency, she served as the OIC- Regional Technical Director for Operation and Extensions of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 12.

FPA pledges to fight corruption in bureaucracy, pushes for FOI law passage

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Information (FOI) Law in the Philippines in the Time of COVID-19 Pandemic. The document states that “data and information are crucial in allowing our leaders to decide on matters affecting the general welfare of the public in the time of pandemic.”

“There is a need to be open to the public by providing truthful and reliable government data from different government agencies primarily dealing with said pandemic,” the manifesto further reads.

The passage of FOI law aims to promote transparency and accountability in the government.



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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Wilfredo C. Roldan | Digna M. De Leon
Advisers

Errol John A. Ramos
Senior Editor

Ivan P. Layag
Writer/Editor/Photography/Layout and Design

Mark Gandecila/Jaylord Tahilan
Photography

FPA Divisions, Sections and Field Units
Photo and Story Contributors



DA, FPA conduct joint inspection of fertilizers in Davao City

The Department of Agriculture Regional Office 12 through the leadership of Regional Executive Director Arlan Mangelen conducted a joint ocular inspection together with the representative from Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) 12 and staff from FPA-11 at the Moderntime Enterprises, Inc. warehouse in Lanang, Davao City.

The purpose of the team is to monitor the availability of stocks and conduct a random sampling of fertilizer particularly the procured imported granulated urea from Egypt which will be subject to laboratory analysis.

The said fertilizers will be used for the Rice Resiliency Program (RRP) of the Department of Agriculture. (DA RFO XI)

FPA Region V conducts Accredited Safety Dispenser (ASD) training

SAN AGUSTIN, PILI, CAMARINES SUR – Over 30 participants attended the accreditation training for fertilizer and pesticide dealers conducted by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) regional office in Bicol on September 7-8, 2020.

Attendance to this seminar is a mandatory requirement in obtaining accreditation and subsequently, a License to Operate (LTO) as Fertilizer and Pesticide Dealer/ Dealer-Repacker.

