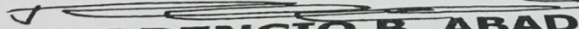


47% increase in FPA personnel APPROVED BY DBM

The highlights of the proposed one-time, existing positions in the FPA are as follows: *while a comparative matrix for the existing positions is submitted.*

The Notice of Organization, Staffing and Compensation, which shall be issued later by this Department.

Very truly yours,


FLORENCIO B. ABAD
Secretary



Executive Director NORLITO R. GICANA
Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority

Revised amount as endorsed by then PAFSAM Secretary

FROM 84 TO 159. On November 4, 2015, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) had approved the additional 75 new plantilla positions to augment the manpower and delivery of service of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA). Now, the FPA, with the support of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM), is in the process of hiring in order to complete its new total set of 159 permanent staff.

"We expect that with the additional personnel, the FPA will be able to perform and serve at its best," said FPA Executive Director Norlito R. Gicana. On November 27, 2015, the FPA Board led by OPAFSAM Sec. Fredelita "Edel" C. Guiza commended this milestone of the FPA, which has been experiencing difficulties in achieving excellence in service due to lack of personnel vis-à-vis high demand of the industry.

The DBM stated: "*Per Agency representation, said staffing actions would improve its field inspection and monitoring operations to ensure full compliance of stakeholders with FPA rules and regulations and would help the agency perform its mandate and functions effectively as a regulatory agency.*"

The approved positions will be distributed among the Agency units in the Central (CO) and Regional Offices (RO).

In the CO, a total of 29 positions, including one (1) co-terminus with the incumbent (CTI) position, were added to the roster of staff. The Deputy Executive Director III was revived, which will augment the previous lacking of DED III for both fertilizer and pesticide each.

For the Finance and Administrative Division (FAD),

five positions were approved:

1 Supervising Administrative Officer, 1 Administrative Officer V, 1 Administrative Officer IV, 1 Administrative Officer II and 1 Administrative Assistant II. For the Planning, Management and Information Division (PMID), four positions were approved: 1 Planning Officer IV, 1 Information and Technology Officer I and 2 Information Systems Analyst II.

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For the Laboratory Services Division (LSD), seven positions were approved: 4 Chemist II, 1 Biologist II, 1 Laboratory Technician III and 1 Administrative Assistant III.

For the Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD), six positions were approved: 1 Supervising Agriculturist, 1 Senior Agriculturist, 1 Agriculturist II, 1 Chemist II, 1 Agriculturist I and 1 Administrative Assistant III.

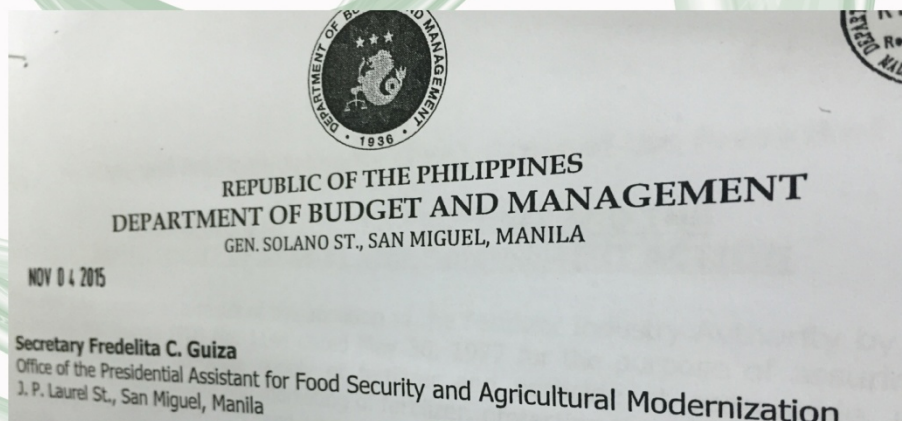
Finally, for the Pesticide Regulations Division (PRD), five positions were approved: 1 Chemist IV, 1 Chemist III, 1 Chemist II, 1 Chemist I and 1 Administrative Assistant III.

In the FUs, a total of 46 positions were created. Three Supervising Agriculturists / Regional Officers will be open in National Capital Region (NCR), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and Region XIII-CARAGA. Meanwhile, 43 Agriculturist II / Provincial Officers will be distributed among the regions in order to cover the 75 provinces in the country. #

...to support the Agency in ensuring the efficient implementation of its mandate...
...rationalize the agricultural sector of adequate supply of fertilizer and pesticides...
...inherent in the manufacture and marketing of fertilizer, protect the public...
...and consistent with applicable staffing standards and guidelines, the approved staff...
...for the Agency shall consist of **159 positions**, including the existing 84...
increase of 75 positions (47%) comprising of 74 positions...
...coterminous with the incumbent item for retention...



We expect that with the additional personnel, the FPA will be able to perform and serve at its best



The FPA Board led by OPAFSAM Sec. Fredelita C. Guiza commends the approval of the DBM of the new additional personnel of the FPA.

NEWS GRAB ~

Pangilinan successor named

SOURCE: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/731520/pangilinan-successor-named>

PRESIDENT Aquino has appointed a presidential adviser on food security to replace Francis Pangilinan who resigned to run for the Senate.

Fredelita Guiza, Pangilinan's deputy, will head the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization. The position has Cabinet rank.

Apart from Pangilinan, four other Cabinet members have resigned to run for senator—Leila de Lima, Joel Villanueva, Francis Tolentino and Jericho Petilla.

Mr. Aquino has yet to name an executive director of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to replace Villanueva and a Metropolitan Manila Development Authority chair to fill the post vacated by Tolentino.

The President has appointed Benjamin Caguioa, the erstwhile chief presidential legal counsel, justice secretary replacing De Lima.



He has yet to appoint an assistant secretary for special concerns at the Department of the Interior and Local Government after Nariman Ambolodto was tapped by the Liberal Party for its senatorial slate. De Lima, Villanueva and Petilla are running under the administration coalition. Tolentino is seeking a Senate seat as an independent after he withdrew his nomination to the LP slate after an outcry over his reportedly bringing a risqué dance act to the birthday party of an LP congressman. - Nikko Dizon

Be a News Contributor!

- WHO:** All FPA staff in the Central and Regional Offices are welcome to write.
- WHAT:** You can contribute news article/s (with photos) about relevant and newsworthy FPA-related activity/ies in your region/division.
- WHEN:** Your contributions can be published every quarter.
- HOW:** Send us your contribution/s anytime through e-mail at fpacentral77@gmail.com and you will be informed if your contribution/s is/are selected to be published in the quarterly newsletter. **Thank you!**

NEW OPAFSAM SEC LEADS FPA BOARD MEETING

Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM) Secretary Fredelita “Edel” C. Guiza and new Chair of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) Board led her first Board meeting in the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) on November 27, 2015.

Among the matters tackled were 1) pending pesticide products with dermal sensitization issues relative to the GHS vis-à-vis FPA Green Book, 2) updates on approved schedule of fees and charges for additional laboratory services, 3) proposed Plant Incorporated Protectant (PIP) guidelines, 4) status reports on fertilizer and pesticide pending and current product applications and 5) updates on the DBM’s approval of the additional personnel.

“We would like to welcome the new Secretary of OPAFSAM and Chair of the FPA Board – Secretary Edel Guiza,” said FPA Executive Director Norlito Gicana on an introductory note.

Pending pesticide products with dermal sensitization issues

Sec. Guiza said that there are two options or plans of action to resolve this issue: 1) let the registrants/applicants wait for more years until the FPA fully implements its GHS guidelines or 2) process the pending applications based on the Green Book guidelines and the recommendations of the Pesticide Policy Technical Advisory Committee (PPTAC).

In PPTAC’s 2015 recommendation, the following were stated: 1) the pesticides under Categories I or Ia shall no longer be allowed for use and should be banned by the Board and 2) the PPTAC is agreeable to allow Category Ib sensitizers under certain conditions, which are still in draft form, including the provision of PPE, training of different stakeholders, availability and posting of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) which includes first-aid treatment, appropriate labeling and posting of warning signs



Sec. Fredelita C. Guiza
OPAFSAM

Institute of Health (NIH); (7) SGS and contingency measures in case of spills.

The Pesticide Regulations Division (PRD), headed by Ms. Aida V. Ordas, was tasked by the FPA Board to reconcile the PPTAC recommendations and results of consultations to come up with a position on this matter.

New lab fees and charges

“In totality, the fees and charges of FPA laboratory are 16.5% lower than other laboratories,”

turn to next page



The FPA Board led by Chair Sec. Fredelita Guiza (center) tackles issues relative to fertilizer and pesticide registration, among others.



Ms. Aida V. Ordas
PRD Chief



Ms. Julieta B. Lansangan, FRD Chief, reported on the status of current and pending applications of fertilizer products and licenses.

chief of the Laboratory Services Division (LSD).

Dir. Gicana added that the pesticide analysis of the FPA is a new undertaking and only fertilizer analysis was being done by the Agency before. He acknowledged the Board for their approval of the guidelines and fees which finalized the operation of the pesticide laboratory.

PIP guidelines

The Board deferred the approval of the proposed PIP guidelines since the report presentation lacks tangible data on the actual guidelines to be complied with by the stakeholders.

Also, the issue on BT *talong* is now being tackled by the Supreme Court (SC) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) which had also affected the PIP.

According to the report of Dir. Gicana, the SC decided to declare “null and void” the DA Administrative Order No. 8, which is the basis of the proposed PIP guidelines.

He added that as of now, the DA is conducting extensive stakeholders’ consultations nationwide in order to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

Additional Manpower

“The DBM recently approved



Ms. Jerolet C. Sahagun
LSD Chief

The agenda of the video—the creation of 75 new plantilla positions to be distributed among the Central and Regional Offices,” said Dir. Gicana.

He added that the FPA is awaiting for the Notice of Schedule of Compensation and Allocation (NOSCA), which was being followed up with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). #

A Recollection: Year-End National Conference

December 15-17, 2015 | FPA Building, BAI Compound, Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City



Christmas Party

December 18, 2015
FPA Building, BAI Compound,
Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City



FRD CONDUCTS stakeholders' meeting

Words by Julieta Lansangan

Photos by Jaylord Angelo Tahilan



ONE of the functions of the Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD) is to coordinate and facilitate the formulation and updating of policies and guidelines relative to fertilizer registration and licensing of handlers. The division targeted four (4) stakeholders' meetings for CY 2015 to inform them on updated policies and guidelines.

On December 1, 2015, the FRD conducted a stakeholders' meeting at FPA Training Room in Quezon City.

The meeting which was presided by Ms. Julieta B. Lansangan, FRD Chief, was composed of registrants from Northern Eagle Agri-Ventures, Inc., Agro-Alternatives, Inc., Newman Chemicals Corp., Gralius Agricultural International Trading, Agway, Ginebra San Miguel Inc., Global Green Corp., Atlas Fertilizer Corp., Petbowe Trading Corp.,

First Planters Agri-Solutions, Inc., Isabela Agro Ventures, RNM Agri-Supply and General Merchandize, Tao Commodities Traders, Inc., Philippine Farmfix Solutions, Inc., FMC Philippines, Inc., Biospark Corporation, McMai (Cebu) Trading, and Farmtech Agriland Corporation.

The agenda of the meeting included (a) FPA's Mission, Vision, Mandates and General Functions, (b) Sections 6 and 8 of PD 1144, (c) coverage of fertilizer product registration, (d) licenses issued, (e) number of processing days based on the Citizen Charter, (f) and the "Implementation of the 15-Day Deadline Policy For All Pending Applications in FRD" upon the directive of the FPA Board in its meeting held last June 30, 2015.

The queries during the open forum centered on VAT exemption for locally produced

fertilizers, limitation of Third Party Authority, revival of the National Single Window, tolerance limit on the guaranteed analysis of micronutrient fertilizers, recognition of regulations from ASEAN countries as part of the ASEAN integration, if GHS is applicable to fertilizer and if company can apply for Experimental Use Permit to upgrade the status of registration from provisional to full simultaneous with label expansion.

Representing the division were Ms. Lansangan together with Ms. Suzettie M. Alcaide, Fertilizer Product Registration OIC and Ms. Jane G. Apostol, Licensing OIC. #

executive director's CORNER

2015 has been one of the best years of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA). Let me count the ways:

- The FPA, with the support of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC), was able to establish and fine-tune its Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS). The SPMS now has been the reason for the gradual yet impressive progress in the systems and delivery of service of the Agency.
- 2015 is FPA's 38th year in public service as a technical regulatory agency and it has been a challenging experience in balancing product regulations with consumer safety and stakeholder welfare.
- The FPA was able to conduct its Gender and Development Training and first National Teambuilding, which have greatly improved the teamwork and camaraderie of the Agency's staff nationwide.
- The FPA Board was revived last December 2014 through the help of OPAFSAM and has regularly conducted meetings throughout the year which have resulted to expedition of policy reviews and implementations that aided the Agency in fulfilling its mandate.
- The FPA was able to hit 100% of its 2015 targets under its Major Final Output (MFO), which enabled the employees of the Agency to receive the Collective Negotiation Agreement (CNA) incentive and hopefully, the Performance-Based Bonus (PBB).
- The DBM approved the creation of 75 new plantilla positions in the FPA Central and Regional Offices, which will improve the delivery of service of the Agency.

In behalf of the entire FPA, we hope to bring and deliver better services and systems as we open for a new year of successes and challenges.



Happy and Fruitful 2016 to everyone! **Mabuhay!**

At the moment...

FPA attends MRL setting process seminar for future Asian review

Words and Photos by Angelo Bugarin



THE Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan held the “Seminar to Promote the Harmonization of Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) Setting Process in the Asian Region” in Tokyo, Japan last January 18-22, 2016. This seminar aims to further educate the participants on the evaluation of pesticide residues for estimation of MRL and calculation of dietary intake which will be important in the future harmonization of MRL Setting Process in the Asian Region. The participants were delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and Philippines.

There were two resource speakers for the said seminar. First was Dr. Midori Yoshida, Commissioner of the Food Safety Commission in Japan talked about Toxicological Evaluation and Risk Assessment of Pesticide Residues based on the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) guidelines. Her discussion was focused on the

acceptable daily intake (ADI) and acute reference dose (ARfD) based on the available toxicological data.

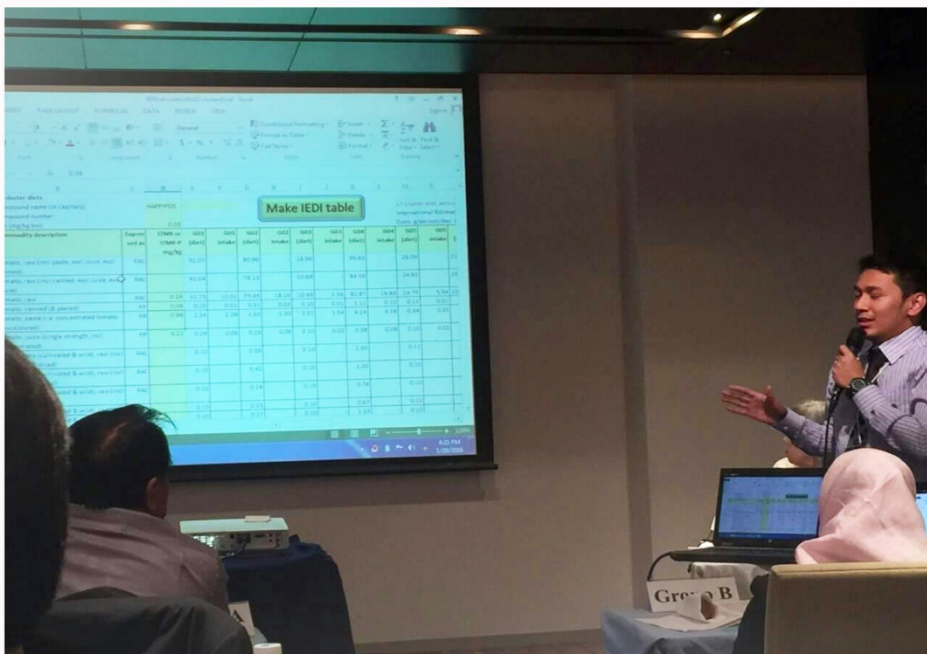
The main resource speaker was Dr. Yukiko Yamada, International Consultant for Food Safety of Japan. She basically talked about the entire JMPR Process of Setting MRL. She showed the logic and critical aspects of the evaluation process and pointed out the importance of applying basic science and past experiences in interpreting experimental data. In the five (5) day seminar, she covered the topics on: livestock and crop metabolism; environmental fate of pesticides in soil, water and sediment systems as well as during the food processing and storage; definition of residues and expression of MRL; evaluation of residue and food processing data from supervised pesticide residue trials (SPRT) and processing studies, respectively; residue in livestock; calculation of livestock dietary intake and evaluation of feeding studies; *turn to next page*



calculations for dietary intake of International Estimated Daily Intake (IEDI) and International Estimated Short Term Intake (IESTI); and sampling, sample preparation and analysis of raw agricultural commodities (RAC) and processed food. In between her lectures, she gave various workshops and exercises to better appreciate and apply what was discussed in her presentation.

At the end of the seminar, in behalf of all the participants, Dir. Gicana gave a short talk of appreciation for inviting all the participants to attend the aforesaid seminar. He said that this kind of seminar was very helpful and

would wish to have this kind of seminar for the FPA's evaluators to strengthen their capacities in evaluating MRLs. Dr. Yamada, reminded every participants to practice what they learn in this seminar by evaluating real data submission using JMPR Evaluation Material and Report. Lastly, she said to all participants, "Let's contribute in protecting the health of consumers and promoting food production by increasing the capacity to evaluate pesticide residue data." #



NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY NFA partners with IRRI and DA-PhilRice for rice research express lane, rice conservation and food security campaigns

NFA and IRRI sign agreement to fast-track importation of rice varieties for research purposes. The National Food Authority (NFA) will soon grant a single Certification, instead of Transport Permit, for all rice varieties that will be brought into the country by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for purposes of experimentation and research. The two agencies signed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on December 14, 2015 at the NFA Central Office in Quezon City.

<http://www.nfa.gov.ph/35-news/509-nfa-partners-with-irri-and-da>

PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY CY 2015 Gawad Saka Most Outstanding Coconut Farmer

This year's recipient of GawadSaka Award, for the most Outstanding Coconut Farmer of 2015 is Mr. Edgar G. Buhian, 52-year-old from Poblacion, Initao, Misamis Oriental, Region X. Mr. Buhian is a Geodetic Engineer by profession. He gained considerable knowledge and skills in coconut farming with his almost 8 years of involvement in the coconut industry as farmer, leader and entrepreneur.

<http://pca.da.gov.ph/pr021916.php>

NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION NIA clarifies fee collection

National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Dr. Florencio F. Padernal clarifies issues concerning its Irrigation Service Fee (ISF) collection from our farmers who are using irrigation facilities. NIA is authorized to charge ISF from the beneficiaries in national systems as payment for the services rendered in the delivery of water. It is pursuant to Republic Act 3601, Section 2, Paragraph C citing that NIA has the authority to collect from the users of each irrigation system constructed by it such fees as may be necessary to finance the continuous operation of the system. This authority was strengthened by PD 552 and 1701.

<http://www.nia.gov.ph/publications.php?option=news&id=136#136>



InFocus:

OPAFSAM INTERVIEWS NRC

ON October 22, 2015, the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM) visited the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) and interviewed FPA Executive Director Norlito R. Gicana relative to the accomplishments of the Agency under the leadership and guidance of the OPAFSAM as headed by then Secretary Francis “Kiko” N. Pangilinan. Dir. Gicana discussed the recently established SPMS, the revival of the FPA Board and the approval of the additional personnel by the DBM. #

FPA Newswatch Production

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