

FPA Newswatch

FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY

2016
Happy New Year!



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FPA Board holds 2016 1st meeting, GHS, PIP, OTHER ISSUES TACKLED



"TOO much agreement kills a chat." The essence of these words by political activist and writer Eldridge Cleaver best describes the argumentative yet fruitful discourse of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) Board during the year's first meeting on January 29, Friday.

In her second Board meeting, Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization Fredelita "Edel" Guiza as the new Board Chairperson led the discussions participated by official members and representatives from the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Environmental Management Bureau (EMB), and Department of Finance (DOF).

Also present in the meeting were FPA Executive Director Norlito Gicana, the Board Secretariat led

by Interim Board Secretary Rowena Reyes and the Agency's Management Committee composed of the chiefs of its five (5) divisions.

Globally harmonized system

Dir. Gicana reported that the Pesticide Policy Technical Advisory Committee (PPTAC) had met prior to the Board meeting and FPA-Pesticide Regulations Division (PRD) Chief Ms. Aida Ordas added that the Committee was planning to submit another resolution to settle the issue on the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling Chemicals (GHS) vis-à-vis Dermal Sensitization since there are pending product registration applications which are at stake.

Atty. Raul Angeles, Executive Director of the DTI-Investment Assistance Center-Bureau of

Investment, raised two concerns on the 1) inventory of all pesticide products that will be subjected to the new GHS classification and the 2) conduct of cluster consultations before the implementation of this new policy. Ms. Ordas said that they will prepare the inventory and will conduct the necessary consultations with various stakeholders in the sector/ industry.

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Resolving that the policy needs to be polished first, Sec. Guiza directed the FPA-PRD to focus on three matters: 1) legal implications of the proposed new policy/ies; 2) review of the four product applications if they are not compromising the existing policies; and 3) conduct of stakeholders' consultations.

Pending product applications

It was reported to the Board that the pending applications for pesticide registration are being reduced significantly since the hiring of one additional Agriculturist in the FPA-PRD.

Meanwhile, the FPA-Fertilizer Regulations Division (FRD) represented by its Chief Julieta Lansangan reported almost-zero backlog on pending applications, which is a result of the new 15-day deadline policy (i.e., return of lacking applications to the applicants and giving them 15 days to complete before their applications would be denied of approval).

These improvements are also the outcome of the CSC-approved Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) of the Agency which improved its timelines and delivery of service.

PPTAC/FPTAC; technical evaluators reconstitution

It was resolved by the Board that if an expert is already constituted as an evaluator, he/she shall not be part of the PPTAC/FPTAC. Also, these experts will have to sign a non-disclosure/non-conflict of interest form/s in order to maintain the integrity of all



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data and information to be handled by them.

Moreover, economists will be part of these pools of experts so that the economic implications of all decisions will be foreseen. After these amendments were incorporated, the resolutions for the reconstitution were approved.

PIP guidelines

Dir. Gicana reported on the decision of the Supreme Court relative to the PIP, which is to ban

biotech-advanced organisms (e.g. BT talong) and declared the Department Order No. 8 of the Department of Agriculture (DA) "null and void", which is the basis of the FPA Proposed Guidelines for Plant Incorporated Protectants.

He added that the FPA will not accept PIP applications while waiting for what will happen next relative to this issue. He said that the DA is conducting a series of consultations to become compliant in the SC public decision.#



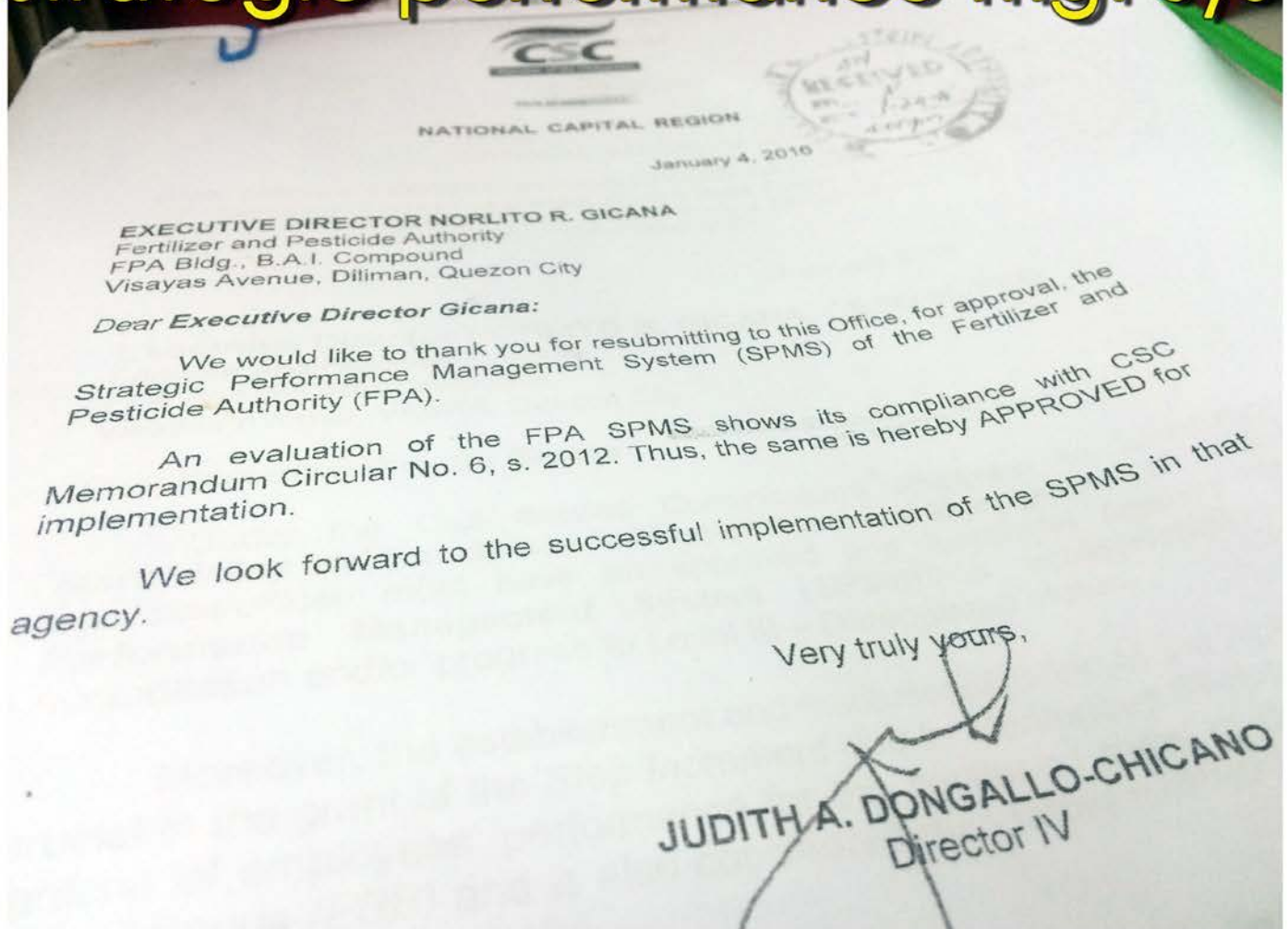
OPAFSAM Sec. Fredelita C. Guiza and FPA Exec. Dir. Norlito R. Gicana

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!**

CSC approves FPA's strategic performance mgt sys



ON January 4, 2016, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) has approved the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) for implementation.

In her letter, Atty. Judith A. Dongallo-Chicano, Director IV of the CSC-National Capital Region (NCR), wrote "an evaluation of the FPA SPMS shows its compliance with CSC Memorandum Circular No. 6, Series of 2012. Thus, the same is hereby APPROVED for implementation".

Looking back, the FPA began crafting its SPMS last 2015, wherein several seminars were conducted to establish, polish and finalize the SPMS.



Recollection:

I. Inspiration Speech by FPA Executive Director Norlito Gicana:

- National Budget Circular to increase the salaries in the government effective January 2016
- Increase in the number of personnel (75 positions)
- Less backlogs due to the timelines in the SPMS
- Status of glyphosate and gramoxone
- “What we need is the cooperation of everyone...so we can achieve our goals”

II. Reports on 2016 Budget; Updates, Issues and Concerns on SPMS (DPCR/IPCR) for 2015-16; Budget Proposals per Division/Region; PBB Status and Updates

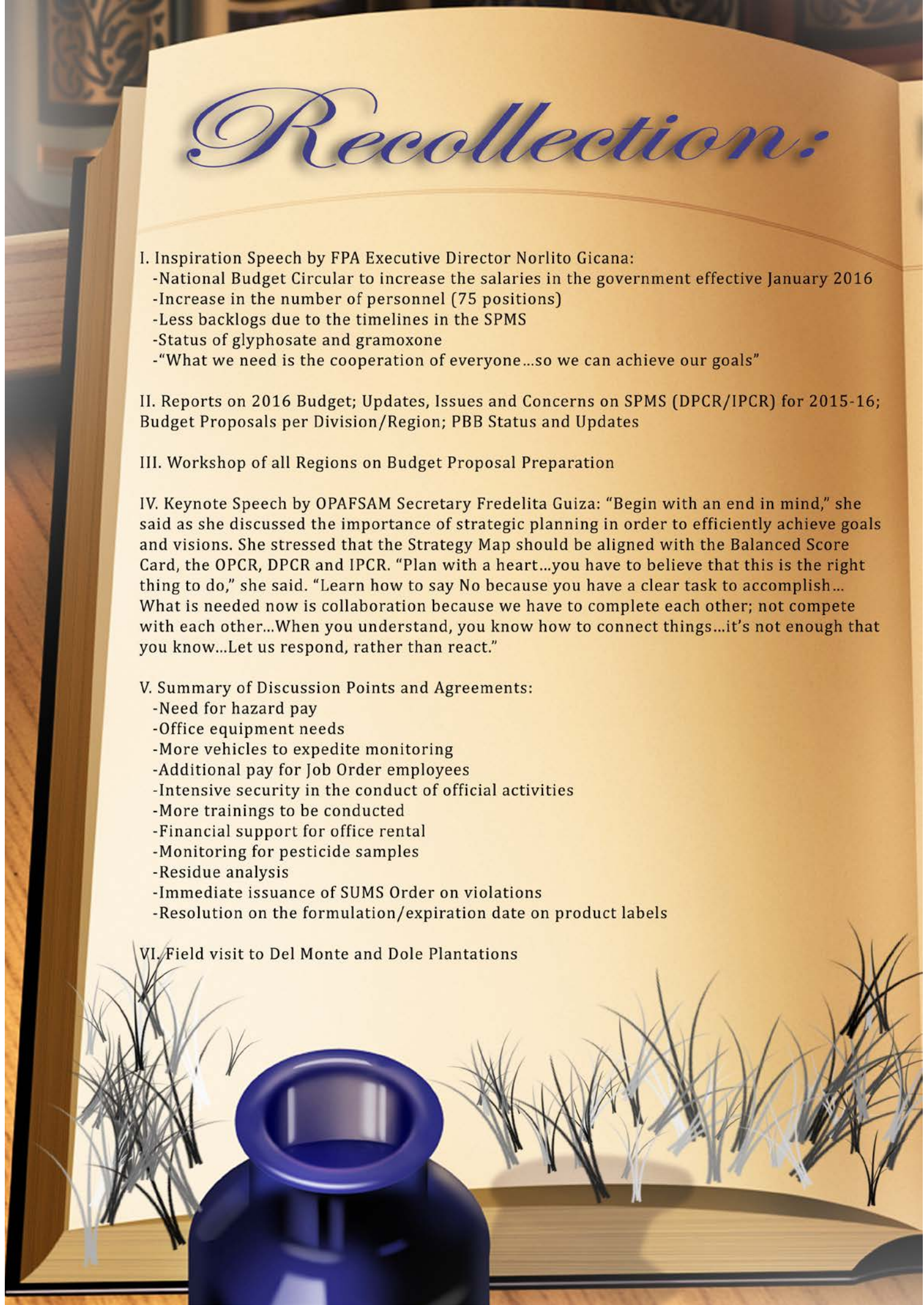
III. Workshop of all Regions on Budget Proposal Preparation

IV. Keynote Speech by OPAFSAM Secretary Fredelita Guiza: “Begin with an end in mind,” she said as she discussed the importance of strategic planning in order to efficiently achieve goals and visions. She stressed that the Strategy Map should be aligned with the Balanced Score Card, the OPCR, DPCR and IPCR. “Plan with a heart...you have to believe that this is the right thing to do,” she said. “Learn how to say No because you have a clear task to accomplish... What is needed now is collaboration because we have to complete each other; not compete with each other...When you understand, you know how to connect things...it’s not enough that you know...Let us respond, rather than react.”

V. Summary of Discussion Points and Agreements:

- Need for hazard pay
- Office equipment needs
- More vehicles to expedite monitoring
- Additional pay for Job Order employees
- Intensive security in the conduct of official activities
- More trainings to be conducted
- Financial support for office rental
- Monitoring for pesticide samples
- Residue analysis
- Immediate issuance of SUMS Order on violations
- Resolution on the formulation/expiration date on product labels

VI. Field visit to Del Monte and Dole Plantations

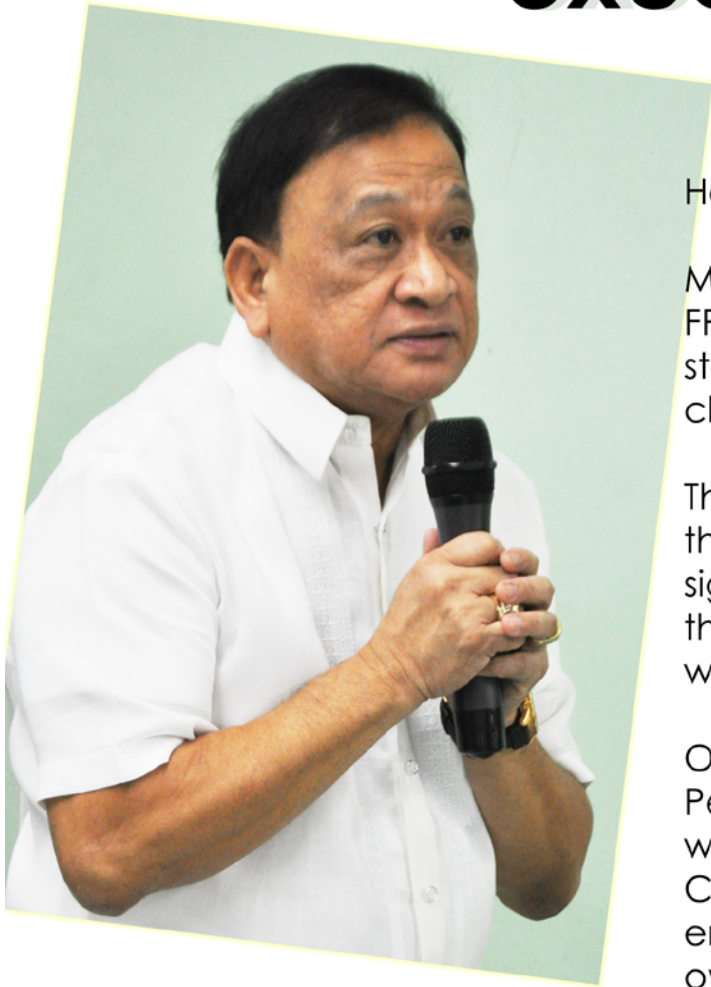


National Planning Conference

March 2-3 2016
Cagayan De Oro City



executive director's CORNER



Happy New Year!

My warmest greetings to all members of the FPA family, including our abled officials and staff, our diligent partners, and our earnest clients and stakeholders nationwide.

The first quarter of 2016 had a lot in store for the Agency as it is during this quarter that significant developments were achieved through the concerted efforts of the FPA with its partners.

On January 2015, the FPA's Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS) was approved by the Civil Service Commission (CSC), which fueled the enhancement of the Agency's services and overall performance.

Also this quarter, the FPA was able to convene the FPA Board and the Pesticide Policy Technical Advisory Committee (PPTAC), which had helped the Agency in improving its efficiency in the implementation of its regulatory protocols. Among the pertinent issues tackled by these policy-making bodies were Dermal Sensitization, Globally Harmonized System (GHS), Aerial Spraying, and Plant Incorporated Protectants (PIPs).

Meanwhile, the Agency has proposed the development and construction of a new building to supplement the needs of the Laboratory Services Division (LSD) as it intensively analyzes fertilizer and pesticide samples as a requisite to product registration to ensure that its quality conforms with standards.

With these milestones, we would like to thank all the people and institutions who have been with us, providing support and expertise in the entire process of achieving such. We hope to have more fruitful endeavors and results through these internal developments and strong partnerships.

Thank you and Mabuhay!

NORLITO R. GICANA, CESO III
Executive Director

The Success of Empty Pesticide Container Retrieval Project in **BENGUET PROVINCE**

Words and Photos by Rowena Billig

THE two-year project on Empty Pesticide Container Retrieval / Triple Rinse Project in Benguet province is about to end by April 2016. It started in July 2014 with the construction of two collection centers located in Barangays Loo and Amgaleyguey, Buguias, Benguet.

Later, a collection center in Caponga, Tublay, Benguet, where the sorting and packing are being done, was established by the project's funding and implementing association of agro-chemical companies – CropLife Philippines. A project coordinator was hired and being paid by the CropLife Philippines.

During the implementation of the Project, representatives from the non-members of the CropLife Philippines also participated through information and education campaigns and hands-on collection of empty containers from the farmers during the clean-up drives. The clean-up drives were done through the association of the staffs of the agro-chemical companies – Cordillera Agricultural Research and Extension Organization (CAREO) on September 11 & 18, 2015.

Agro-chemical companies who are members of the Crop Protection Association of the Philippines (CPAP) also contributed in the success of the project through funding of trainings on safe and judicious use of pesticide and fertilizer products in the different municipalities of the province. During the trainings, reiteration on proper disposal of empty containers was done.



Unsorted empty containers



Sorted empty containers



Handlers in Benguet, most especially the dealers became dropping points of farmers of their empty containers. Collection drums were installed in the dealer's establishments. Also, the various Local Government Units and farmer leaders helped in the disseminations and implementation of activities. The project supported the Benguet Provincial Ordinance number 11-150.

From July 2014 to January 18, 2016, the project was able to retrieve pesticide and fertilizer empty containers: 57,384 pieces of HDPE and COEX having the weight of 4,413 kilograms; 20,164 pieces of pet

bottles with the weight of 1,275.33 kilograms; 55,262 sachets; 59,826 aluminum packs; 5,646 outer boxes; and 246 glasses.

There were at least 3,190 three farmers who participated in the project. The 3.62-ton empty container collections in 2014 to July 2015 were delivered by CropLife Philippines to JOEKHM Processing Plant in Tarlac for processing into agricultural materials like flower pots and other non-food containers.

Participating farmers were given chances to win prizes/incentives from CropLife Philippines through

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provision of one raffle coupon per empty container surrendered. Farmers were able to win cash and in kind prizes (Personal Protective Equipment – PPEs, cellphones, & knapsack sprayers) during the scheduled raffle draws on September 15, 2014; December 15, 2014; March 15, 2015; July 15, 2015; October 15, 2015; and January 18, 2016. The last raffle draw will be done on April 15, 2016 at Benguet Provincial Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet.

Through the project, handlers, users/farmers, LGUs, other government and non-government entities realized the necessity of retrieving the empty containers to avoid further destruction of

the environment due to inappropriate handling, use, disposal, and storage of crop protection products. It was roughly estimated by the funding and implementing group that the percentage volume collected is 30% of the companies' sales volume since then.

Evaluation and sustainability of the project in the province and adjoining municipalities will be discussed during the stakeholders meeting on April 15, 2016, after the last raffle draw.

CropLife Philippines is enjoining all other provinces and regions to support their vision of expanding the project nationwide.#

FPA Newswatch Production

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY NFA COUNCIL MEMBERS GRANT ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS

NFA Council, particularly the Land Bank of the Philippines, approved the request of the Philippine Farmer's Advisory Board to extend its operating hours for farmers' organizations participating under the National Food Authority's Institutionalized Procurement Program (IPP). All Land Bank branches and extension offices can accommodate until 4:00 PM the encashment of NFA checks only from the farmers' organizations under the IPP. Other banking services with Land Bank are only up to 3:00 PM only as authorized by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

<http://www.nfa.gov.ph/35-news/575-nfa-council-members-grant-additional-benefits-and-assistance-to-farmers>

PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY FARMERS ATTEST A SIGH OF RELIEF ON COCONUT SCALE INFESTATION IN CALABARZON

The coconut farmers of the Southern Tagalog province have good reasons to collectively breathe a sigh of relief. The green landscape of coconut trees seen from the main roads of Southern Luzon exemplifies the triumph of the coconut industry stakeholders against the coconut scale insect (CSI). This sight is a complete reversal of the terrain punctuated with yellow leaves and withered bracts of the infested coconut trees which left farmers distraught and hopeless during the height of the pest's wide-scale infestation in 2011 to 2014.

<http://pca.da.gov.ph/index.php/10-news/61-farmers-attest-a-sigh-of-relief-on-coconut-scale-infestation-in-calabarzon>

NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION P1B FOR ANGAT AFTERBAY REGULATOR DAM

In a ceremony held at the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) office, MWSS Administrator Gerardo A.I. Esquivel turns over 1-Billion pesos to National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Administrator Florencio F. Padernal for the rehabilitation of the Angat Afterbay Regulator Dam (Bustos Dam) and its appurtenant structures.

<http://www.nia.gov.ph/publications.php?option=news&id=151#151>