

# FPA Newswatch

FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE AUTHORITY

HAPPY  
ANNIVERSARY!



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## FPA celebrates 39th anniversary



"THE FPA, AS a regulatory agency, started as a small agency back in the 70's...today, as we celebrate our 39th year, we have expanded in terms of services and functions, facilities, and manpower...we are here to do our best and to serve you better."

These words marked the opening of the 39th anniversary celebration of the Fertilizer and

Pesticide Authority (FPA) on May 30, 2016 as Executive Director Norlito R. Gicana officially welcomed the guests and participants to the annual gathering held at the Conference Hall, FPA Building, BAI Compound, Diliman, Quezon City.

Themed "FPA @ 39: *Kaalaman ng mga Magsasaka Mahalaga Para sa Kalusugan, Kasaganaan at Kaginhawaan ng Lahat*", the one-day activity also aimed to highlight the importance of capacitating the grassroots level, particularly the farmers, as their success in crop productivity through proper plant nutrition and pest management can advance the nation's health, welfare and food security.

But the success in farming communities will not be fully achieved without the expertise and technical support from the

government and the industry. Gracing the celebration of this success were Honorable Fredelita 'Edel' C. Guiza, Secretary of the Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM); Dr. Romulo G. Davide, Program Director of Farmer-Scientist Training Program (FSTP),

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FPA Exec. Dir. Norlito R. Gicana

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Chairman of the Pesticide Policy Technical Advisory Committee (PPTAC), and Ramon Magsaysay Awardee; and Dr. Ma. Theresa S. Cucueco, Executive Director of the Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

Furthermore, officials and representatives from the country's major industry players including the CropLife Philippines, Crop Protection Association of the Philippines (CPAP), Philippine Integrated Crop Management Association (PICMA), Fertilizer Industry Association of the Philippines (FIAP), and other associations also joined the festivity.

In her anniversary message, Sec. Guiza said that due to the collaborative efforts of the OPAFSAM and FPA and through the establishment of the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS), the Agency has now "developed a results-based performance culture...There's coordination and connectivity, computerized operations, harmonization with global standards, and upgrading". Towards the end of her speech, Sec. Guiza said, "now, we're ending our term, a new administration is coming in. But I am very, very confident that you can do it because the basic foundations have been built. And I know that with all the challenges, your regulatory function will continue to be done in an innovative and excellent manner".

#### **FSTP: Poor farmers no more**

"*Hanggang ngayon, ang ating farmers ay pobre parin* (Until now, our farmers are still poor)," said Dr. Davide as he began his presentation titled "Forcing Poor Farmers to Get Rich through the Farmer-Scientist Training Program (FSTP)".

FSTP is an agricultural research, development and extension (RDE) scheme that brings the scientific knowledge and methodologies of farming to the grassroots level with the goal to improve farm productivity and livelihood. Dr. Davide is the program's proponent.



**OPAFSAM Sec. Fredelita C. Guiza**



**L-R: Ms. Aida V. Ordas, FPA-PRD Chief; Exec. Dir. Norlito R. Gicana, FPA; Dr. Romulo G. Davide, PPTAC; and Exec. Dir. Ma. Theresa S. Cucueco, DOLE-OSHC**



**Ms. Elizabeth Ramiro  
FPA-FAD Chief**

So, how can farmers get rich through the FSTP? This program enables farmers to perform experiments in the field and to ascertain new and effective agricultural strategies in order to upsurge farm production. Also, more revenue comes in as these farmers are capacitated with organization and marketing principles and techniques.

"There is no such thing as barren soil, only barren minds," said Dr. Davide as he emphasized the importance of ceaseless extension, learning, and application of scientific knowledge that could empower the Filipino farmers and remove them from the state of poverty and marginalization.

#### **Healthy and safe farmers**

"In your quest for productivity, do not forget about safety and health," said Dr. Cucueco as she opened her discussion on "Health and Safety Practices in Farms".

The presentation tackled 1) statistics on injuries and illnesses in agriculture caused by unsafe farming practices; 2) highlights of the OSHC study in Cordillera

Administrative Region (CAR) which stressed the importance of personal protective equipment (PPE); 3) occupational safety and health standards (OSHS) relative to the proper handling and storage of fertilizers and pesticides; and the issues on chemical safety in line with the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling Chemicals (GHS).

#### **Recognition of loyal service and talents**

In light of the loyal service of eight FPA staff, an awarding ceremony was held to inspire appreciation and motivation among the entire FPA family. The awarding of plaques, certificates and flower bouquets was led by Dir. Gicana and Ms. Elizabeth T. Ramiro, Chief of the Finance and Administrative Division (FAD).

Inspired by the annual local festivity Flores De Mayo, the FPA held a flower-inspired sing-and-dance contest to recognize the talented singers and dancers among the FPA staff. To add more fun in the anniversary celebration, games and raffle were held toward the end of the gathering. #



**FPA Exec. Dir. Norlito R. Gicana, with assistance of Ms. Josephine S. Guntan of FPA-FAD, recognizes the loyal service of Ms. Estrella F. Laquinta of FPA-Region 11, one of the eight loyalty awardees of the Agency this year.**



**TALENT CONTEST:  
1st place winner:  
OED Group**



**2nd place winner:  
PMID Group**



**3rd place winner:  
LSD Group**



# FPA Board meets before 2016 ELECTIONS

BEFORE THE MUCH awaited May 9 elections, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) Board convened on April 27, 2016 to continue its talks on globally harmonized system for classification and labelling of chemicals (GHS); pending and current product applications; plant-incorporated protectants (PIP); and other relevant matters.

Led by Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization Fredelita “Edel” C. Guiza, the meeting was attended by Board Members from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Department of Finance (DOF), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Environmental Management Bureau (EMB).

## **Efforts needed to finalize GHS**

Due to the vicissitudes in the decisions of the Pesticide Policy Technical Advisory Committee (PPTAC), the GHS adoption of the FPA has to be further studied. It was reported that in the recently held forum on GHS and dermal sensitization guested by an independent expert, the PPTAC realized that intensive research and analysis are still needed.

Hence, FPA Board Chairperson Sec. Guiza directed that the final recommendation should also contain consolidated data on the results of all GHS-related meetings/seminars; comparative analysis on the pros and cons of GHS implementation; technical considerations; terms and conditions; monitoring protocols; and other relevant information so that the Board could act accordingly.

## **Status of product applications**

Through the Strategic Performance Management System (SPMS), a tool to improve and align the delivery of services, the processing of applications for product registration is

gradually progressing as strict timelines are being complied with.

As for pesticides, 83.44% or 257 of the 308 total pending applications (as of June 30, 2015) had been acted upon as of April 22, 2016 (data based on the report submitted by the Pesticide Regulations Division to the FPA Board).

As for fertilizers, it was reported that as of March 31, 2016, 547 pending applications in CY 2014-2015 were processed for approval/disapproval and 281 applications were sent with 15-day deadline policy letters for compliance (data based on the report submitted by the Fertilizer Regulations Division to the FPA Board).

## **Fine-tuning PIP guidelines**

Since the Department of Agriculture (DA) Administrative Order (AO) No. 8 was declared “null and void” by the Supreme Court, the FPA had postponed the implementation of its PIP guidelines.

However, the Joint Department Circular (JDC) No. 1 Series of 2016 of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Health (DOH) and Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) titled “Rules and Regulations for the Research and Development, Handling and Use of Genetically-Modified Plant and Plant Products Derived from the Use of Modern Biotechnology” became

effective on April 15, 2016 stating that “No regulated article shall be released for commercial propagation unless if the regulated article is a pest-protected plant, its transformation event that serves as plant-incorporated protectant (PIP), has been duly registered with the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA).”

Hence, the FPA filed a resolution to the Board requesting authorization to allow provisional registration for renewal applications of PIPs with the JDC as its basis. However, the Board as supported by the OPAFSAM Legal recommended for the FPA to consult with legal experts and to confer with the BPI Legal to review the resolution before elevation to the Board via referendum.

## **Updates**

It was reported that the Philippine National Police (PNP) clearance on ammonium sulfate (ammosul) was initiated due to said fertilizer’s potential explosive characteristics. However, studies have proven that ammosul will not explode and therefore, the PNP clearance was recently lifted.

Relative to the status of hiring of personnel for the newly approved positions, it was reported that over 100 applications were received by the Finance and Administrative Division (FAD). After the election ban, the applicants will be screened and evaluated immediately in order to fill-up the vacancies. #





# GENDER AND

## I. GAD Activity

On May 13-14, 2016, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) held the activity titled "Team Empowerment: Gender Sensitivity in the Workplace" to enhance unity and teamwork among all the members of the FPA family. Several activities and games were conducted to uphold gender sensitivity and to harness cooperation among the participants. It was held at The Greenery, Baliwag, Bulacan.

### o Learnings

- ☐ Differences between sex and gender
- ☐ Sex is based on physiological/biological features while gender is based on cultural/social norms
- ☐ Gender is learned through socialization
- ☐ Gender role socialization
  - Family
  - Social learning theory
  - Schools and peer groups
  - Media
- ☐ Sex cannot be changed; but gender is changeable

### o Areas of Concern

- ☐ Gender equality
- ☐ Equal opportunities for all genders
- ☐ Work relationship / dynamics among all genders
- ☐ Reduction of gender marginalization in the society and workplace



FPA female

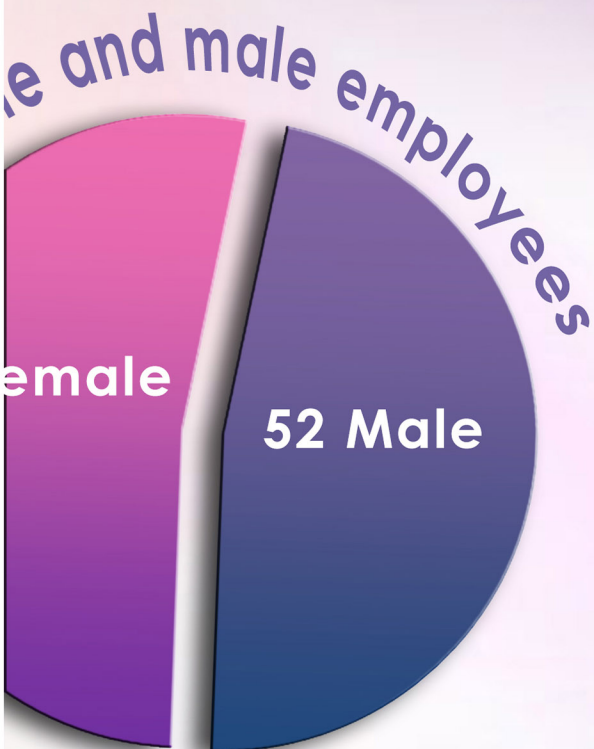
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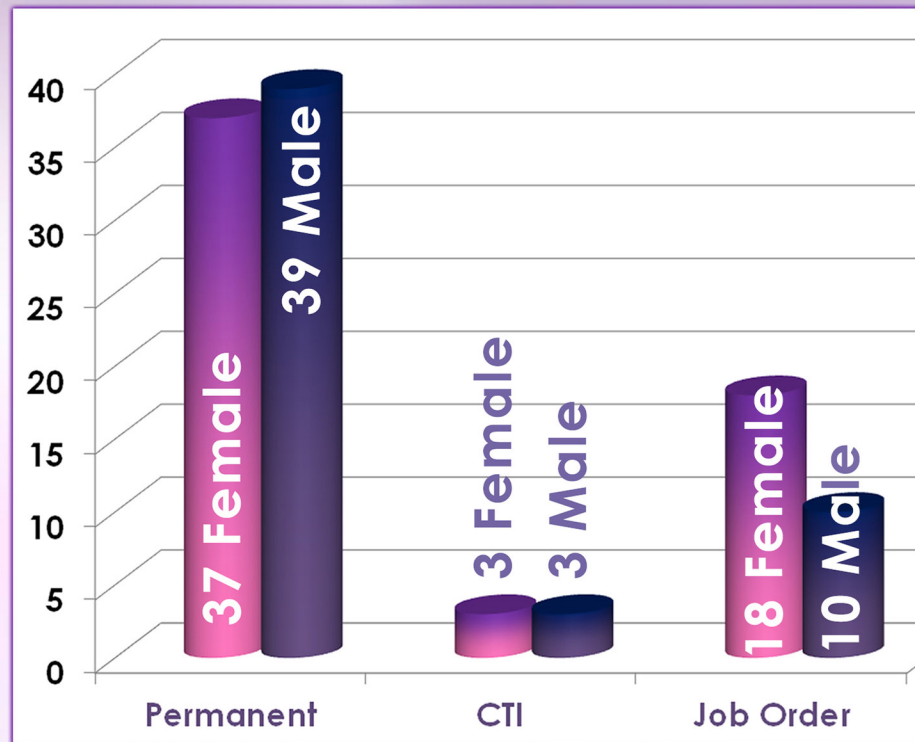


# DEVELOPMENT

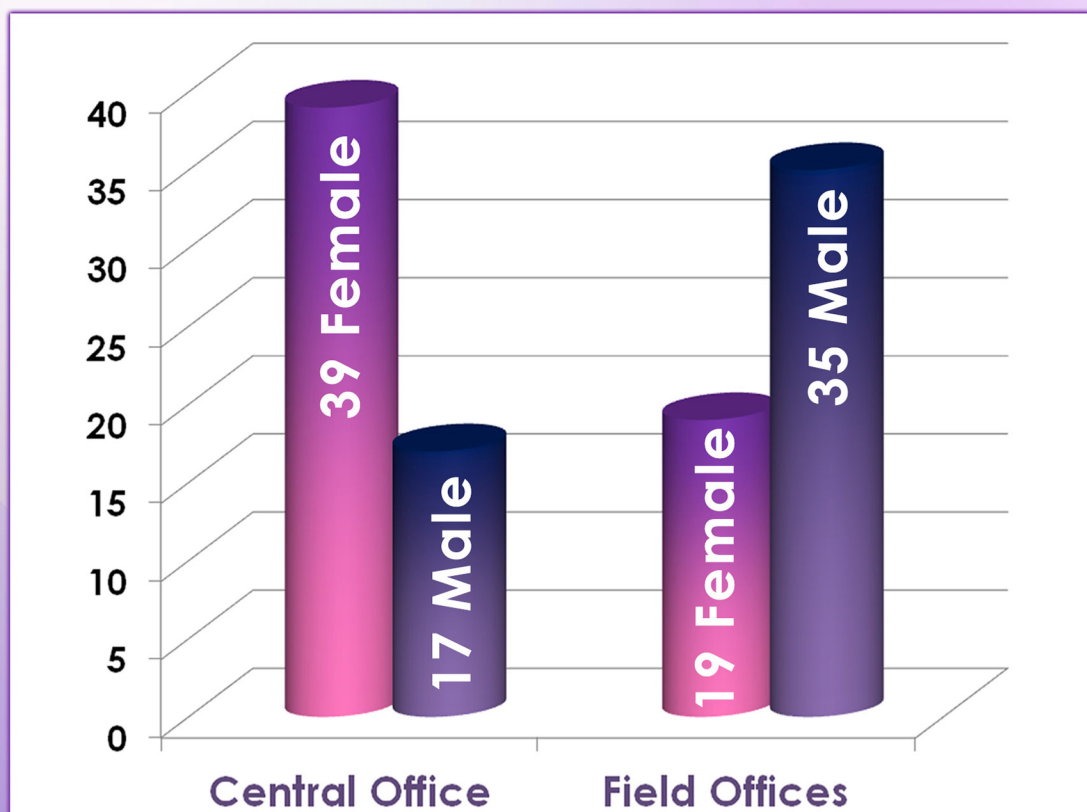
## II. GAD Socio-Demographic Profile of the FPA



Total: 110 employees  
(as of June 30, 2016)



Number of female and male employees per appointment status



Number of female and male employees per assigned post



# IN FOCUS:

## Fertilizer Policy Technical Advisory Committee

By virtue of FPA Special Order No. 31 Series of 2016, the Fertilizer Policy Technical Advisory Committee (FPTAC), a recommendatory body addressing all fertilizer-related issues, was revived and reconstituted. The members are: Dr. Domingo Angeles, Crop Science Cluster (CSC)-UPLB as Chairman; Dr. Erlinda Paterno, CSC-UPLB; Dr. Rosario Monsalud, BIOTECH-UPLB; Dr. Calixto Protacio, PhilRice; Dr. Silvino Tejada, Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM); Dr. Ernesto Brown, Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD); and Dr. Roel Suralta, PhilRice.



On May 12, 2016, the FPTAC held its first assembly together with OPAFSAM to review the Committee's responsibilities; to elect a new Chairperson; and to discuss the revision of the Blue Book.



On June 27, 2016, the FPA held a formal meeting in Los Baños, Laguna to tackle important matters on product registration requirements; explosive chemicals; and foliar and liquid fertilizer standards.

# 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](mailto:fpacentral77@gmail.com) and you will be informed if your contribution/s is/are selected to be published in the quarterly newsletter. **Thank you!**



# SERIES OF ACTIVITIES HELD TO TACKLE pesticides, GHS & dermal sensitization

## Forum on DS and GHS

On April 20, 2016, the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) organized the “Forum on Dermal Sensitization (DS) and the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS)” in collaboration with the CropLife Philippines to settle the issues plaguing the industry relative to these two important aspects.

The forum was attended by officials and representatives from the Pesticide Policy Technical Advisory Committee (PPTAC), Office of the Presidential Assistant for Food Security and Agricultural Modernization (OPAFSAM), Food and Drug Authority (FDA), University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and the pesticide industry associations.

Dr. Debabrata Kanungo, an international consultant on medical toxicology and human health assessment of chemicals and pesticides, was invited as key expert. According to him, the products should undergo risk assessment in order to ascertain threshold levels and to manage potential risks. “Our concern is more for the farmers and they can be helped through proper label requirements and other important aspects since from there you can find if it is highly toxic or not. You can give management prescriptions as well in order to reduce risks,” said Dr. Kanungo.

Relative to the implementation of the GHS, Dr. Kanungo suggested “[the FPA] could create a group to examine whether to adopt or not. Look into the implications of the adoption. Get better consultation and bring together all the stakeholders. Since FPA is a signatory, you have to adopt in one way or another but look at all the angularities and implications.”



FPA Exec. Dir. Norlito R. Gicana officially welcomes the guests and participants of the forum held at the Board Room, FPA Building, BAI Compound, Diliman, Quezon City.

## PPTAC meeting

The learnings from Dr. Kanungo’s presentation urged the PPTAC to meet after the forum and to review their previous recommendation to the FPA Board as to the adoption of the GHS with dermal sensitization being the immediate consideration.

The PPTAC resolved to consider the following aspects as they plan to revise their policy recommendation: 1) re-review process of the pesticide products; 2) benchmarking on the GHS adoption of other countries; 3) creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) and a writing group for the policy guidelines and implementation; 4) conduct of a study on the exposure for validation; 5) risk assessment and management; 6) revision of the Green Book; and 7) consultations with experts.

FPA Executive Director Norlito R. Gicana said that as soon as the PPTAC releases its revised policy recommendation, this will be subject for consultation and will then be elevated to the FPA Board for review and approval.

## Board meeting

On April 27, 2016, the FPA Board held a meeting and tackled DS and GHS as its top agenda.

Cognizant to the PPTAC’s decision to review and revise their policy recommendation relative to GHS

adoption, the Board resolved to wait upon the final recommendation of the PPTAC and advised for the said recommendation to contain consolidated data on the results of all GHS-related meetings/seminars; comparative analysis on the pros and cons of GHS implementation; technical considerations; terms and conditions; monitoring protocols; and other relevant information so that the Board could act accordingly.

## Pesticide industry meeting

The developments on DS and GHS were discussed during the pesticide industry meeting on June 2, 2016, which was attended by CropLife Philippines, Crop Protection Association of the Philippines (CPAP), Philippine Integrated Crop Management Association (PICMA) and other involved institutions.

As the policy on the adoption and implementation of GHS is under review, the industry was requested to provide support on the following matters: 1) list of all the DS products, their usage per crop basis, and their alternatives/substitutes if any; and 2) list of all products falling under the Category 1. Dir. Gicana said that these information materials will be needed for the re-review process of all pesticide products, especially those that will be affected by the new policy. #



## NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

### RICE REGISTERS NEGATIVE INFLATION RATE IN FIRST SEMESTER OF 2016

An Inflation Report for the second quarter of 2016 recently released by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), said food inflation increased by 2.3 percent in the second quarter of 2016 from 1.6 percent in the first quarter "on tighter supply of agricultural products due to El Nino and pest infestations." In contrast, it said "rice prices continued to decline compared to year-ago levels" due to ample supply.

<http://www.nfa.gov.ph/35-news/697-rice-registers-negative-inflation-rate-in-first-semester-of-2016>

## PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY IFUGAO FARMERS LEARN TIPS ON BACKYARD COCONUT GROWING

Encouraging the Ifugao farmers to venture into a new livelihood endeavor that is found feasible in the province, personnel from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) gave tips on backyard coconut growing. The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) invited the 45 interested farmers during their sortie called 'Kordilyera Para sa Agham at Teknolohiya: A DOST S&T Roadshow'.

<http://http://news.pia.gov.ph/>

## NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION NIA, SNAP COMPLETE MARIS RESERVOIR OPTIMIZATION

Officials of the National Irrigation Administration and hydropower company SN Aboitiz Power-Magat inaugurated the completed MARIS Optimization Project here on June 1, 2016. NIA Administrator Florencio F. Padernal and SNAP-Magat Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Joseph S. Yu led the ceremony. The project, completed on March 22, 2016 will add some eight million cubic meters of storage in the MARIS reservoir for irrigation. The project also included other dam improvements such as provision of two new gantry cranes, security fence, and safety handrails which will improve the dam operational safety and irrigation water delivery of NIA.

<http://www.nia.gov.ph/>

# Unregistered pesticides surrendered in Benguet

Words and Photos by Rowena Billig

BENGUET – UNREGISTERED PESTICIDE products bearing alphanumeric Thai characters were surrendered by an unnamed trader in La Trinidad Benguet on June 27, 2016.

This was an outcome of the collaborative efforts of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) Regional Office-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG)-Benguet Provincial Offices and the concerned local government units (LGUs).

The following products were surrendered: a) 60 bottles of

Siammectin (500 mL each); 18 bottles of Bou Quet (500 mL each); and 38 bottles of Rexzone Paraquat Dichloride (1 L each).

One case of Siammectin products containing 24 bottles was packed in a sack of feeds/rice bran.

Meanwhile, the Bou Quet products were packed in two cases per sack. Each case, which contains 12 bottles, was wrapped with a protective cellophane. At the back of the sack, "Debris" was written using a permanent marker.

On the other hand, the Rexzone Paraquat Dichloride products were cased and packed in a sack. One case contains 20 bottles. #



## FPA Newswatch Production

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