



# PAGO NEWSLETTER



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURIST'S OFFICE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO

JANUARY TO JUNE 2024

## PGOM, KOICA, GGGI inaugurates state-of-the-art Provincial Agriculture Center



*The Provincial Agriculture Center façade (left photo), Mr. Marcel J. Silvius, GGGI Country Representative addresses the crowd during the PAC's inauguration ceremony (top right photo), and Governor Humerlito "Bonz" A. Dolor along with dignitaries touring the facility, shown here (lower right photo) is the washing and cleaning area of raw products prior to processing into various value-added products.*

The Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro in partnership with the Korean International Cooperation Agency and the Global Green Growth Institute inaugurated the newly constructed Provincial Agriculture Center facility located at Brgy. Merit, Victoria on May 9, 2024. The state-of-the-art facility signifies a major milestone in enhancing the province agriculture industry's climate adaptive capacity and strengthening the agriculture value chain. Through the leadership of Governor Humerlito "Bonz" Dolor, the facility was established with the aid of the collaborative effort between the PGOM, KOICA and GGGI as part of the "Climate Resilient and Inclusive Green Growth for Poor Rural Communities: Accelerating Implementation in the Agriculture Value Chain in Oriental Mindoro, Philippines" project.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by distinguished guests including Korean Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa, GGGI Country Representative Mr. Marcel J. Silvius, KOICA Country Director Mr. Kim Eunsub, Climate Change Commission Secretary Mr. Robert Borje, and Governor Humerlito A. Dolor. Their presence accentuates the importance of the occasion and highlighted the collective efforts between local and international partners aimed at fostering agricultural development in Oriental Mindoro. In front of farmers, provincial government officials, and representatives from 12 agricultural organizations across the province, the leaders shared

their collective vision for a prosperous and self-sufficient agricultural sector.

The PAC will offer three main services, Incubation Services, Tolling Services and Facility Rentals, and Aggregation Services. It will serve as an Incubation Hub for farmers and farmer associations in developing their entrepreneurial skills, and provide them access to physical facilities for processing, packaging, distribution as well as office space and ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) equipment. Furthermore, the PAC will open opportunities for farmer associations as aggregators to prioritize the use of aggregation services for logistics support, primary processing, and warehousing at cost-effective rates that will enable farmers to increase their market competitiveness. Alongside the inauguration of the main facility are the turnover of five delivery and hauling trucks as complimentary services for the aggregation and consolidation of agricultural products.

The ceremony not only marked a significant milestone for the province's agricultural sector but also reinforced the commitment of all stakeholders to work towards a common goal. The participation of farmers and agricultural organizations reflected a widespread support for this project, paving the way for significant advancements in the local agriculture especially for the bountiful high value crop products of Oriental Mindoro. ●

## FoodtrIP all set to roll in Oriental Mindoro

By JEATienza and LMetante



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### In this issue:

- 1 PGOM, KOICA, GGGI inaugurates state-of-the-art Provincial Agriculture Center
  - 2 FoodtrIP all set to roll in Oriental Mindoro
  - 3 *Kadiwa ng Pangulo* event boosts local agriculture in Oriental Mindoro  
PGOM, MFI distributes marine engines to Bantay Dagat Fisherfolk
  - 4 PAGO, ORMT spearheads MPA monitoring in Oriental Mindoro  
PAGO helps boost bamboo production through training
  - 5 Oil-spill affected fisherfolk receives fuel subsidy from PGOM, BFAR  
Organic Agriculture training inspires local farmers
  - 6 MINSU Horticulture and ABE students gain practical experience at PAGO PDF  
Provincial Youth Congress cultivates future agripreneurs of Oriental Mindoro
  - 7 PAGO conducts Training on Coffee Production for Hanunoo Mangyan Farmers  
OrMin banana farmers capacitated on banana production and pest and disease management
  - 8 PGOM-PAGO distributes over 1500 bags of high quality rice seeds
- PHOTONEWS

A mobile modular food processing facility called the "FoodtrIP" is all set to roll in Oriental Mindoro, as the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) turnover this innovative processing facility on wheels to the Provincial Government through the Provincial Agriculturist's Office (PAGO). The turnover ceremony was one of the highlights of the Regional Science and Technology Week (RSTW) held at the Calapan City Convention Center, Brgy. Tawiran, Calapan City on May 7-9, 2024.

DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr., led the turnover ceremony together with Undersecretary Engr. Sancho A. Mabborang, Regional Director Ma. Josefina P. Abilay and Provincial Director Jesse M. Pine as Governor Humerlito "Bonz" Dolor accepted the 32-foot mobile processing facility during the opening day of the RSTW. Governor Dolor said that the FoodtrIP will go around the province to facilitate easier access for farmers and farmer associations to process their excess raw agricultural products into high-value added products for better income.

The FoodtrIP, short for Food on the Road Innovation and Processing, is equipped with modular components and auxiliary equipment. It adheres to Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) and offers flexibility and accessibility for producing marketable products from local vegetables, fruits, and crops, especially during periods of surplus. The FoodtrIP truck includes a ready-to-eat retort machine that can be used to process syrup-soaked bananas and steak arroz caldo making the FoodtrIP a valuable facility in times of calamity because of this capability to process ready-to-eat food items. The facility will be stationed at the Provincial Demo Farm in Barangay Merit, Victoria.

Meanwhile, PAGO set-up a booth alongside other exhibitors from NGAs and Academes during the duration of the RSTW. PAGO through its Value Chain Approach in Agriculture Program, showcased its diverse and innovative value-added products like roasted rice brew mix, rice milk with varying flavors, rice tea, rice wine, rice polvoron, rice brownies, rice flour, chewy rice crispies of different flavors, vacuum fried banana, dehydrated banana, dehydrated mangoes, and assorted IEC materials among others. All the showcased value-added products are developed by PAGO at its Agri-Processing Center and Rice Innovation Center. ●



RSTW visitors check on the PAGO booth and its showcased products (left), the "FoodtrIP" modular van (top right photo), Gov. Dolor and Provincial Agriculturist Christine M. Pine with DOST Officials in a ceremonial handing of key inside the FoodtrIP mobile processing facility (lower right photo).

## KADIWA ng Pangulo Event Boosts Local Agriculture in Oriental Mindoro

By JALogmao

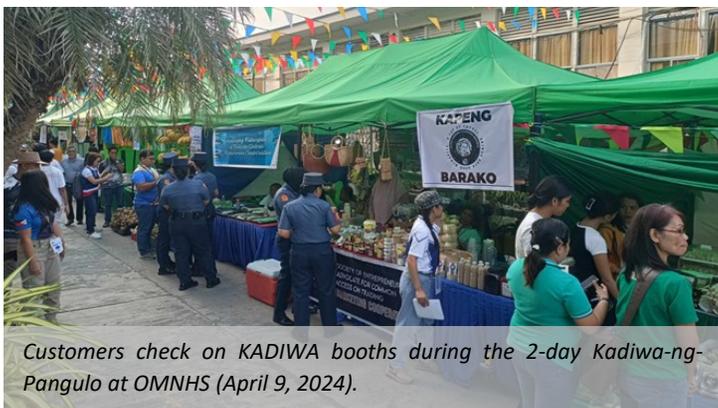
The two-day KADIWA ng Pangulo (KNP) event, held as part of the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF), was successfully conducted on April 9-10, 2024, at the Oriental Mindoro National High School (OMNHS). The event, spearheaded by the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro (PGOM), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DA) – MIMAROPA and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Oriental Mindoro, brought together various national agencies including BFAR, DSWD, NIA, DAR, DOLE, and PCA.

The primary objective of the KNP is to promote local products, raise awareness about locally produced commodities, and support farmers by helping them sell their goods and boost their income. This initiative aligns with the broader goals of enhancing the agricultural sector and supporting sustainable development in the province.

A total of 41 exhibitors participated in the event, featuring 33 farmer cooperatives and associations, one Diskwento Caravan invited by the DTI, and 7 Mercado ready-to-eat stalls. The KNP showcased a wide array of products such as fresh fruits and vegetables, rice, processed agricultural goods, agricultural crops, souvenirs, discounted grocery bundles, and ready-to-eat foods. Over the two days, the event attracted approximately 6,475 visitors and generated total sales amounting to PHP 445,014.50.

Following the BPSF KNP, another KNP was held in line with the 122nd Labor Day Celebration. The KNP was held at the Provincial Capitol Complex from April 29-May 3, 2024. Led by PGOM, DOLE, DA-MIMAROPA, and DTI, the KNP included 14 farmer cooperatives and associations, one Diskwento Caravan, and 3 Mercado ready-to-eat stalls. The total sales of the 5-day event amounted to PHP 86,137.35.

The success of the KNP event underscores the importance of such initiatives in fostering local economic growth and supporting the agricultural community in Oriental Mindoro. ●



Customers check on KADIWA booths during the 2-day Kadiwa-ng-Pangulo at OMNHS (April 9, 2024).

## PGOM, MFI distributes marine engines to Bantay Dagat Fisherfolk

By MMalaza and EAtienza



Gov. Dolor, MFI and other PGOM Officials with the different beneficiary Bantay Dagat groups poses in front of the distributed marine engines.

In a continued effort to provide assistance to the oil-spill affected fisherfolk, the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro and the Malampaya Foundation, Inc. distributed marine engines to Bantay Dagat of the province on May 13, 2024 at the Multi-purpose Building Sports Complex, Barangay Santiago, Naujan.

Governor Humerlito “Bonz” A. Dolor spearheaded the distribution of 46 marine engines along with food packs. He is joined by MFI Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mr. Rufino Bomasang and MFI Executive Director Ms. Karen Agabin. The distribution of marine engines is part of the continuing support to the Oil-spill Recovery Plan of the Provincial Government.

The MFI has been an active partner of PGOM and PAGO through its Fishery and Coastal Resource Management Division in various programs and projects that aims for the conservation and protection of marine resources of the province as well as the welfare of the fisherfolk.

Governor Dolor expresses his gratitude with MFI especially that it is one of those entities that immediately provide assistance during the oil-spill incident that happened a year ago. Furthermore, he was proud to announce that the oil-spill response in the province and its subsequent containment led to the fastest oil spill recovery in the country. A testament to the collective effort and unwavering dedication of the Provincial Government, its partners and the people of Oriental Mindoro in addressing the challenges posed by the oil-spill incident.

Also present during the turnover ceremony are Naujan Municipal Mayor Hon. Henry Joel C. Teves, Vice-Mayor Great Delos Reyes and SB Members, Sangguniang Panlalawigan Members Alely Casubuan-Tan and Fay Ilano-Navarro, and Provincial Agriculturist Christine M. Pine ●

## PAGO, ORMT spearheads MPA Monitoring in Oriental Mindoro

By EAtienza



PAGO, ORMT divers during the assessment and survey of one of the MPAs.

A total of 29 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the province has been successfully surveyed as spearheaded by the Provincial Agriculturist's Office and the Oriental Mindoro Resource Monitoring Team (ORMT) during the MPA Biophysical Assessment Monitoring that was conducted from February 6 to May 3, 2024. The MPA Biophysical Assessment Monitoring is biannually conducted. Using standardized protocols, MPAs are regularly assessed and monitored to provide data consistency and comparability across surveys and feedback to MPA Management Councils.

The assessment is a joint undertaking of PAGO and ORMT, the technical arm of the Oriental Mindoro Marine Protected Area and Fishery Law Enforcement Network together with Bantay Dagat Associations, LGUs through the Barangay and Municipal Agriculture Office/Fisheries Management Office, MPA Management Councils, and Malampaya Foundation Incorporated (MFI). One of the major accomplishments of the monitoring is the sighting of an endangered marine species which is the "Pawikan" (Sea Turtle) at the Tujod Fish Sanctuary at Barangay Herrera, Naujan.

The monitoring team also observed an outbreak of Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTs) on three Marine Protected Areas. As a voracious coral predator, the Crown-of-Thorns starfish's abundance in the reef area can pose serious risks to the coral reef ecosystem. Collection and removal of COTs were conducted in Ranzo Fish Sanctuary, Pili Fish Sanctuary and Banilad-Guinapangan Fish Sanctuary on May 22-23, 2024.

This activity further reinforces the commitment of PAGO-FCRM and the Oriental Mindoro Marine Protected Area and Fishery Law Enforcement Network to the conservation and protection of the province's marine and coastal resources.●

## PAGO helps boost bamboo production through training

By SLOlla & LGarcia

In an effort to boost bamboo production in Oriental Mindoro, the Provincial Agriculturist's Office conducted the Training on Bamboo Production, Propagation and Nursery Management on June 6-7, 2024 at Vencio's Garden Hotel and Restaurant, Calapan City. The training was attended by 41 bamboo growers, nursery operators, Agricultural Extension Workers, and members of the Provincial Bamboo Industry Development Council (PBIDC).

Three distinguished specialists in the field of bamboo research, production and processing were tapped as resource speakers. Dr. Aida Baja-Lapis, holder of Scientist rank in the Philippine Career Scientist System delivered lectures on Bamboo Propagation, Nursery Management, Plantation Development, Bamboo Plantation Maintenance and Harvesting including harvest and processing of Bamboo Shoots for Food. Dr. Merlyn Carmelita Rivera, a former Supervising Science Research Specialist of DENR - Ecosystem Research and Development Bureau tackled on Importance of Bamboo, Climate Change and its Impacts, and How Bamboo can Address the Impacts of Climate Change. While Forester Robert Natividad, retired Chief Science Research Specialist of the DOST – Forest Products Research and Development Institute, discussed Bamboo Processing Technologies, Bamboo Processing Equipment/ Tools/ Machines, Bamboo Industries in the Philippines, Bamboo Utilization, Engineered Bamboo Products and Investment Profile. All three resource speakers are pioneers and leading personnel of the Bamboo Professionals, Inc., a bamboo advocate Non-Government Organization based in University of the Philippines – Los Baños.

Furthermore, the DA-AMIA Bamboo Project implemented in Gloria was also presented, while a bamboo farm in Nag-iba I, Naujan was also visited. This collaborative effort hopes to further develop and strengthen the bamboo industry in the province.●



Provincial Agriculturist Christine M. Pine with bamboo growers from Gloria, members of the PBIDC, and the resource speakers.

## Oil-spill affected fisherfolk receives fuel subsidy from PGOM, BFAR

By MMalaza & MGuntan

Oil-spill affected fisherfolk from the different municipalities of the province benefitted from fuel subsidy assistance provided by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources through the Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro. The provision of fuel subsidy assistance kick-started on March 1, 2024 at the Bulwagang Panlalawigan, Calapan City where a total of 516 fisherfolks from Baco, Naujan and Calapan City received P3,000.00 worth of fuel subsidies. The activity was one of the highlights of the Commemoration Ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Oriental Mindoro Oil Spill.

Governor Humerlito “Bonz” A. Dolor, who led the ceremonial distribution, proudly announces the end of the oil spill, where in only one year since the incident, the response initiated and organized by the Provincial Government and partner agencies led to the fastest oil spill recovery in the country. Furthermore, continued assistance will be provided to the affected fisherfolk not only from BFAR but also from other agencies.

Fisherfolk beneficiaries queues in line for the fuel subsidy assistance at Mena Valencia Gymnasium in Naujan.



On June 21, 2024 fuel subsidy assistance and distribution continued at Mena Valencia Gymnasium in Naujan where 407 fisherfolk from Naujan received their assistance. While a total of 1,105 fisherfolk from Bulalacao, Mansalay, Bongabong and Roxas also received the fuel subsidy assistance on June 25 and 26, 2024. The fuel subsidy assistance will have a total of 4,000 beneficiaries, with the remaining municipalities still set for distribution.●

## Organic Agriculture Training Inspires Local Farmers

By SLOlla



Participants and speakers of the Organic Agriculture Production Training proudly display their certificates. The training includes hands-on activities, engaging lectures, and insightful discussions, fostering a deeper understanding of sustainable farming practices among attendees.

Over two insightful days, 45 participants from Calapan, Naujan, Victoria, and Bongabong gathered at Vencio’s Garden Hotel & Restaurant in Tawiran, Calapan City for an intensive training session on Organic Agriculture Production. The event held on June 27-28, 2024, is a remarkable opportunity for farmers and agricultural enthusiasts to enhance their knowledge and skills in organic farming practices.

Mr. Nelson Gabutero, an organic farming advocate and owner of Gabutero Organic Farm, delivered a lecture on Organic Fertilizer

Production and Organic Concoctions and Extracts. Participants were highly engaged, sharing their experiences and discussing best practices in organic production. Furthermore, the participants were guided through the practical aspects of organic fertilizer, concoctions, and extracts production during a participatory hands-on session. This immersive experience solidified their learning and provided valuable takeaways for their own practices.

Furthermore, Ms. Apple Joyce Malapote, the Training Coordinator for Organic Agriculture from Mary Help of Christian School - Parang, Calapan City delves into Organic Vegetable Production, while Ms. Nikkian Mapalo of DAMIMAROPA, shared the Organic Agriculture Program for Oriental Mindoro and the opportunities organic farmers can benefit.

The training concluded with a reflective session, where 2 farmers shared their impressions and experiences. Ms. Teresita Villanueva expressed her gratitude, “As the breadwinner of my family, the two days were worth it. The lessons were relevant to my situation. We go home with joy in our hearts because of what was thought and shared by the speakers. Our questions were answered thoroughly.” Furthermore, Mr. Jaime Mendoza shared his experience, “I’ve attended other organic training sessions before, but this one was thorough. This training was comprehensive and truly educational. As someone eager to pursue organic farming, the explanations and solutions for pests were clear and practical”.●

## MinSU Horticulture and ABE students gain practical experience at PAGO's Provincial Demo Farm

By VJSanchez

Six (6) Bachelor of Science in Horticulture students from Mindoro State University (MinSU) – Main Campus successfully completed their on-the-job training (OJT) at the Provincial Demo Farm (PDF) of the Provincial Agriculturist's Office in Merit, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. The OJT program started on February 6 and culminated on April 30, 2024.

The OJT students were trained on all farm operations and services offered at the PDF, which includes Agriprocessing, Banana Tissue Culture operations, trichoderma production, soil testing using STK, wood vinegar production, plant propagation (budding and grafting), farm machinery operations, vegetable production areas, vertical garden, and banana and calamansi demo areas.

In a related initiative, 45 BS Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering freshman students visited the PDF on May 15, 2024 as part of their introductory course. During the visit, staff and workers demonstrated the operation of agricultural equipment and machineries at the Agri-processing facility and the newly established Provincial Agricultural Center (PAC).

These experiences provided valuable practical knowledge to the students, helping them make informed career decisions in agriculture after graduation. The Provincial Agriculturist's Office remains committed to fostering youth engagement in agriculture by providing resources and knowledge to explore and excel in the industry.

Both the OJT program and the field trip emphasized the importance of practical experience in agricultural education, equipping students with technical skills and inspiring them to pursue careers in agriculture. ●

*MINSU's Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering students during their tour of the PAC. ▶*



◀ *OJT students were exposed to practical exercises on land preparation including plastic mulch installation.*

## Provincial Youth Congress cultivates future agripreneurs of Oriental Mindoro

By VJSanchez

The Provincial Agriculturist's Office hosted the Provincial Youth Congress at the Sangguniang Bayan Conference Hall in Gloria, Oriental Mindoro on April 26, 2024. The event brought together 100 participants, including officers and members of the 4H Club from different municipalities with the aim to develop and enhance their agripreneurial skills.

Acting Municipal Mayor Romeo Edward P. Alvarez of Gloria opened the program with welcoming remarks, expressing gratitude for Gloria being chosen as the venue. He underscored the significance of contests that promote creativity, competitiveness, and critical thinking skills among 4H members. Provincial Agriculturist Christine M. Pine then presented the services of the Provincial Agriculturist's Office (PAgo), highlighting the new Provincial Agricultural Center's role in promoting agripreneurship among farmers in Oriental Mindoro. Engr. Cristina P. Intong from the Agricultural Training Institute discussed exclusive ATI programs for 4H Club members, including financial assistance and international exchanges.

The congress featured several contests aimed at integrating agriculture and fostering agripreneurship. These included the Agri-Trivia Contest, Simple Project Proposal, 4H Promotional Merchandise Making Contest, and the Plants, Pests, and Diseases Identification contest to assess crop science and protection knowledge, and Dish Gardening.

Winners such as Mr. Gio Earl C. Laguerta, Mr. Vic A. Albarillo, Mr. Domenick Mortella, Mr. Welmar Delos Reyes, and Mr. Andro M. Dela Cruz were recognized for their achievements in various categories.

The Provincial Youth Congress was deemed successful, providing participants with valuable experiences and preparing them for future endeavors as agripreneurs and agricultural leaders in Oriental Mindoro. ●



*Provincial Youth Congress participants gathers for a group photo during the event's closing ceremony.*

## PAGO conducts Training on Coffee Production for Hanunoo Mangyan Farmers

By VJSanchez and MRamos

The Provincial Agriculturist's Office (PAgO) recently conducted a three-day Training on Coffee Production from June 24-26, 2024, at the Barangay Covered Court in Benli, Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro. This training aimed to equip 46 Hanunoo Mangyan coffee farmers with advanced knowledge and skills in coffee production technologies, pest and disease management, and marketing strategies.

The training program included a mix of lectures, farm visits, and hands-on activities. Mr. Ariel C. Lastica, a renowned Coffee Trainer from Iloilo, delivered insightful lectures on coffee seedling production technologies, the significance of windbreakers and shade trees, and comprehensive farm planning. Mr. Paul Emmanuel Bañas, owner of Sinag Coffee Roastery, shared best practices in coffee processing, the coffee supply chain, the anatomy of the coffee fruit, harvesting techniques, and coffee pulping methods.

Participants engaged in practical demonstrations such as using refractometers to determine sugar content in coffee brews, brewing coffee, and conducting sensory testing of coffee beans. On the final day, the group, along with facilitators from PAgO, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the resource persons, visited a coffee farm. They performed hands-on activities including planting coffee seedlings, identifying aging trees for rejuvenation, selecting subject plants for scion and rootstock cuttings, and practicing pruning techniques to boost productivity.

The training underscored the critical need to increase coffee production in the Philippines, highlighting the country's low self-sufficiency in coffee and its reliance on imports to meet domestic consumption. By empowering indigenous people through improved livelihood opportunities in coffee farming, the program also aimed to provide them with the skills and knowledge to produce premium coffee beans and compete in the market effectively.●



46 Hanunoo Mangyan coffee farmers participated in the three-day Training on Coffee Production shown here with the facilitators and RPs.

## OrMin banana farmers capacitated on banana production and pest and diseases management



Group photo with the participants, facilitators and resource persons.

The Provincial Agriculturist's Office organized a comprehensive 2-day training on Banana Production and Management of Pest and Diseases from June 27-28, 2024, at Imelda's Garden Hotel and Restaurant, Poblacion, Bansud, Oriental Mindoro. This initiative aimed to equip 40 participants, including banana growers and agricultural extension workers (AEWs), with good agricultural practices in banana cultivation and effective pest and disease management techniques.

The training comprised both lecture discussions and hands-on demonstrations. Dr. Lavernee S. Gueco, a University Researcher IV at the National Plant Genetic Resources Laboratory, University of the Philippines Los Baños (NPGRL, UPLB), delivered insightful lectures on good agricultural practices for bananas, common pests and diseases affecting bananas, and the establishment of scion groves for NSIC registered fruit trees. Complementing the lectures, Mr. Paulo Jerome M. Lopez, a Farm Supervisor from NPGRL, UPLB, conducted practical demonstrations on macro-propagation of bananas and asexual propagation of fruit trees.

Participants engaged in hands-on activities, guided by Mr. Lopez, which involved using specialized tools for propagation—a skill that requires both precision and experience. The training also featured an open forum where participants could discuss their concerns about banana production, learn about new technologies, and explore various countermeasures against specific pests and diseases such as fusarium wilt and banana corm weevils.

This training significantly enhanced the technical skills and knowledge of AEWs and banana growers in Oriental Mindoro, fostering increased banana production in the province. By promoting good agricultural practices and effective pest and disease management, the training aimed to bolster the agricultural productivity and sustainability of the province's banana industry.●

## PGOM-PAGO distributes over 1500 bags of high-quality rice seeds

By LGrantoza & VDYambao



Engr. Jefte DC. Bay-ongan (left photo) shown here with rice seeds distributed for members of Salcedo Irrigators and Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (SIFAGCO) of Salcedo, Bansud and two farmer beneficiaries of hybrid rice seeds from Calapan City (right photo).

The Mindoro Rice Branding Program aims to further increase the production of Mindoro Rice and strengthen the province's position as the foremost supplier of this aromatic rice, popularly known as *dinorado*. A total of 1,000 bags of Rc218 and Rc160 varieties, notable for its aroma and taste were distributed to farmer associations in Naujan, Bansud and Pinamalayan. The *dinorado* rice commands for better market price in both *palay* and milled rice generating high income to farmers. On top of the distributed seeds, PAGO will also distribute laminated sacks in 5kg, 10kg, and 25kg variations as innovative packaging materials for the marketing of the Mindoro Rice.

While 250 bags of Registered Seeds were likewise distributed as part of the *Binhian Sa Barangay* Program. The *Binhian sa Barangay* is a community seed banking and exchange program aimed at sustaining availability of high-quality seeds. The varieties distributed includes Rc218, Rc160, Rc436, and Rc512. These registered seeds will then produce certified seeds which will be re-distributed to other farmer beneficiaries for the next cropping season.

A total of 300 bags of hybrid seeds were also distributed benefitting ten (10) different Farmer Associations. This intervention of PAGO ensures farmers access to superior-quality rice seeds and provide them with the support system to boost productivity and profitability. The distribution efforts were led by Engr. Jefte Bay-ongan, Engineer IV and Provincial Rice Coordinator and Ms. Leizel L. Grantoza, Provincial Rice Report Officer.

The Provincial Government of Oriental Mindoro distributed a total of 1,550 bags of high-quality rice seeds to rice farmers across the province through its Rice Productivity Enhancement Program under the Provincial Agriculturist's Office. Registered and Certified rice seeds were allocated to various Farmer Associations, Municipal Agricultural Offices, and walk-in clients in time for the wet season cropping. The rice seeds distribution is part of PAGO's three initiative programs to boost rice production in the province. The Mindoro Rice Branding Program, Hybrid Rice Program, and the *Binhian sa Barangay*.

## PHOTO NEWS



Governor Humerlito "Bonz" A. Dolor with members of Cacawan Sinag Agriculture Cooperative of Cacawan, Pinamalayan during the ceremonial turnover of P600,000.00 financial assistance in support of their livelihood project at the Tamaraw Hall, Provincial Capitol Complex, Calapan City (May 30, 2024).



PAGO distributed a total of 2,145 packs of assorted vegetable seeds in support to El-Niño affected farmers of Mansalay and Bulalacao shown here with PGOM Officials led by Gov. Dolor at Bulalacao Gymnasium (May 11, 2024).