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DOST Doubles Produce of This Lone Ilocos Sur Peanut Products Coop

By Imelda Castro-Rivero



This lone peanut butter producer of Ilocos Sur is a proof of the government's help to Filipinos who want to establish their own businesses.

After some of its members trained with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in September 2008, the Metro Luba Coconut Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Barangay Luba in Santa Lucia town of Ilocos Sur embarked on producing peanut products. The Coop received a total of P855,000 grant from the different government agencies including the P75,000.00 from the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) thru the Ilocos Sur Science and Technology Center.

According to Nemesia H. Salvador manager of the Coop, DOST helped Metro Luba Coop got a mechanical stainless steel peanut roaster.

The peanut roaster made peanut processing easier and faster than before. The roasting of the peanuts became uniform, and the volume of peanuts that can be roasted per batch tripled - from two kilos with the oven they formerly used to up to six kilos per roasting time. More finished products come out of the plant each day because of the roaster. The oven has been used full time for cooking peanut cookies and other peanut delicacies.

Although the number of peanut butter bottles they produce each month depends on the availability of peanut which is seasonal, the cooperative has noted an increase in sales.

The improvement of the production of the cooperative is also due to the other assistance from DOST which is a training on current Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) of the staff in charge of processing. Here they learned the importance of quality and food safety in food manufacturing.



The grant from other government agencies was used for the Coop's oven, freezer, peanut grinder, processing materials and equipment, operational capital of the business of making peanut products such as peanut butter, peanut chocolates, and the building of the processing house.

Salvador believes that with these grants, and the trade fairs from the government Pinoys can succeed in any business in this country. She shared that some do not understand the beauty of a cooperative because they cannot wait and see. If they do they would not think of going abroad to work because here in their own provinces there is work to provide for their families.

"People who taste our products come back for more because ours is finer and has a differently wonderful taste that others don't have," she proudly shared. The peanut butter they produce is being compared to those produced from other provinces.

She added that what she wants now is a training on the management of the business, and the development of their processing house to fulfill the registration requirements of the Bureau of Food and Drugs which she hopes will be granted by the government as soon as possible.

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