

DOST I HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2016

DOST 1 was steadfast in implementing its programs and projects in 2016 with the vision of transforming more micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) into competitive enterprises capable of employing more individuals, empowering poor communities to have access to basic needs and generate income, and supporting S&T scholars who will become the future S&T leaders of the nation, among others.

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

The country's manufacturing sector is highly dominated by micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), thus MSMEs have a pivotal role in the attainment of the country's agenda of poverty reduction and inclusive growth. In 2016, DOST 1 provided 328 technology interventions to 130 MSMEs in the Ilocos through the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP). The interventions included equipment acquisition/upgrading, training, product packaging and labeling, technical assistance and consultancy services, and product testing. These technological interventions resulted in 18% increase in productivity, improvement in product quality conforming to local and international standards, and product marketability. Better operational efficiency enabled the MSMEs to employ 253 new individuals.

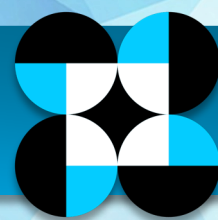
The Community Empowerment through Science and Technology Program (CEST) conducted mobilization activities which led to the development of a livelihood project in Apang, Sugpon, Ilocos Sur. The livelihood project generated employment for 12 rural folks and a gross sales of Php 10,000 starting October 2016. The basic need for potable water was also addressed.

HIGH IMPACT TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS TO PRESSING PROBLEMS

Disaster prevention and mitigation remained on the priority of DOST I. In 2016, 21 more Automated Rain Gauges (ARGs) and Water Level Monitoring Stations (WLMS) were deployed along the Minor River Basins in Ilocos Norte, La Union and Ilocos Sur.

The presence and density of mosquitoes in dengue-sensitive areas were continuously monitored in 3,590 classrooms of the 113 public and 28 private sentinel schools in the entire region, through OL trap kits. Based on the report, most of the school sentinels observed that the density of mosquitoes in their schools decreased so with the number of dengue cases.

Contamination of drinking water especially in the far-flung areas of the countryside continues to pose the risk of diarrhea and other water-borne diseases. The ceramic water filter technology offered the solution to the problem, with the distribution of 446 candle-type ceramic water filters benefiting 436 households, 5 daycare centers, and 5 barangays in Sugpon and Alilem, Ilocos Sur.



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

DOST 1's S&T services such as, laboratory testing and calibration, technical assistance and consultancy, packaging and labeling, technology trainings and technology fora benefitted a total of 3,763 MSMEs in 2016.

The 7,966 chemical and microbiological laboratory tests conducted at our Regional S&T Laboratory paved the way for improvement of food safety among our food processors, the quality of available drinking water and in managing wastewater. Calibration services ensured the correctness of measure of 1,819 volume and mass measuring devices through the standards we are maintaining that are traceable to the national standards at the National Metrology Laboratory.

The 55 MSMEs assisted with technical assistance and consultancy services resulted in reduction in waste generation, savings in raw materials, lower energy cost and compliance to good manufacturing practices leading to higher productivity. On the other hand, better packaging and labeling led to penetrate 36 new markets with increased sales of about Php18M.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

The S&T scholarships were offered to deserving students. In 2016, DOST assisted 429 college scholars. The assistance included summer orientation and enhancement, release of monthly stipends and other financial assistance, job hunting seminar and scholars summit, among others.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROMOTION AND ADVOCACY

DOST's S&T library served the information needs of 2,031 users which included students, researchers, and prospective entrepreneurs.

The programs and services of DOST, so with the appropriate technologies adaptable in the region were promoted in press releases and press conference/interviews and during technology fairs. For this year, DOST 1 had 237 press releases, 117 press interviews/conferences, participated in the National Science and Technology Fair and led the conduct of the regional celebration of the National Science and Technology Week, and S&T Caravans in San Fabian, Pangasinan, San Gabriel, La Union and Batac City, Ilocos Norte. There were more than 12,000 viewers during the S&T Fairs/Caravan in Region 1, with an equivalent value of the services provided at Php1,897,150.

DOST I's performance and accomplishments were delivered through its 67 staff, comprising 29 permanent and 38 job orders supported with a budget amounting to **Php166,720,106**.