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# S&T CARAVAN STAGES LIVELIHOOD OPPORTUNITIES IN DINGRAS, ILOCOS NORTE

By: Florde Liza L. Alida, DOST 1

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST1), through its Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) in Ilocos Norte, in cooperation to the Municipality of Dingras in Ilocos Norte, conducted the Science and Technology (S&T) Caravan for the 2nd District of Ilocos Norte at the Josefa Llanes Escoda Hall, Dingras, Ilocos Norte on April 4-6, 2018.

The 3-day activity showcased DOST programs and matured technologies that are ready for adoption through technology



Engr. Rosemarie Garcia of DOST-FNRI discussed Food Supplementation and Fortification to MSMEs in Ilocos Norte.



Dr. Teresita Pablo of Mariano Marcos State University in Batac City, Ilocos Norte introduced several technologies as source of livelihood during the technology training.



Ilocos Norte Senior Board Member Matthew M. Manotoc together with Dr. Armando Q. Ganal, DOST Regional Director graced the opening of the S&T Caravan in Dingras, Ilocos Norte.

fora, exhibits, and trainings. The technologies presented were Iron Fortified Rice (IFR), black garlic, food supplementation and fortification along with the Food Innovation and Processing Center, food safety regulations and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) mandatory requirements on application of License to Operate (LTO) for food establishments, waste management, and disaster prevention and mitigation.

Free medical assessment was also conducted using the DOST's RxBox, an electronic diagnostic device-in-a-box, which includes a blood pressure monitor (sphygmomanometer), pulse oximeter, electrocardiogram, fetal heart monitor, maternal tocometer and temperature sensor that can be used for diagnostic procedures and capable of capturing and sending patient information over a distance whenever the patient needs to be referred to a specialist.

Calibration of weighing scales from the public markets of Dingras, Solsona, and Marcos was also conducted to ensure that the measurements are synchronized with the Philippine National Standard.

The Senior Board Member of Ilocos Norte, Hon. Matthew Marcos Manotoc expressed his support to DOST for bringing the advancements in S&T to the public. He is also positive for the transfer of S&T knowledge and technologies to upgrade the lives of the Ilocanos.

The event was attended by local government officials from the 2nd district of Ilocos Norte, health workers, entrepreneurs, and more.

# EDITORIAL

## *Of creating community's springboards to S&T engagement*

This first quarter of 2018 a couple of S&T Caravans were conducted in the Province of Ilocos Norte to bring DOST Programs and services in the doorsteps of the grassroots. Laoag City and Dingras, as the host city/municipality of the two district-wide caravans joined forces with the Department of Science and Technology -Provincial Science and Technology Center (DOST-PSTC) in Ilocos Norte for the fulfillment of shared goals in addressing community's economic, education, water and sanitation, and health issues and adoption of S&T generated technologies that support farming, disaster risk prevention and mitigation, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and more.

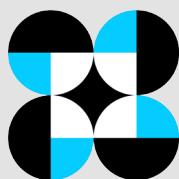


In 2016 and 2017, S&T Caravans were conducted in several municipalities in the region such as San Fabian and Dagupan City in Pangasinan, Candon City in Ilocos Sur, San Gabriel and Agoo in La Union, and Batac City in Ilocos Norte. One of the fruits of these endeavor is the creation of Municipal Science and Technology Coordinating Councils(MSTCCs), which serve as bridges for the continuous implementation of S&T programs and services in the municipality. The council is mandated to work closely with DOST provincial offices to plan, implement, and monitor S&T projects identified in their respective areas.

San Fabian Science and Technology Coordinating Council (SFSTCC), one of the active MSTCCs in the province of Pangasinan was able to conduct livelihood training, particularly on the development of bangkuang-based handicraft in Sitio Biyo, Tukok, San Fabian. Sagittaria aquatica Lam, a type of sea grass locally known as bangkuang has a strong potential for handicrafts, however these were being traded to middle men at low cost. Through the livelihood training initiated by the San Fabian STCC, the harvesters and traders of bangkuang from Sitio Biyo are now processing bangkuang into higher value products as one of their source of income. At present, the woven products are displayed and marketed at the municipality's Negosyo Center, while the support from DOST in enhancing the quality of the product is continuous.

The S&T Caravans, staging "Science for the People" is a starting point for DOST, LGUs, and other partner institutions, and private sectors to further stir up development in the community. In line with the national vision for 2040 DOST and its partners will join hands in creating opportunities for development through the S&T Caravans which will be held in all districts of Ilocos region.

Florde Liza L. Alida  
Associate Editor



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# SETUP BACKS TECHNOLOGY UPGRADING FOR 4 MSMEs IN ILOCOS NORTE

By: Katrina F. Ronquillo, DOST 1

The Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) 1 has recently provided a total of P3,005,950.00 worth of S&T assistance to 4 business firms from the Province of Ilocos Norte.

The beneficiaries of the Program were Aracelie Food Products from the municipality of San Nicolas, Eugene's Advertising and General Services and Merchandise of City of Batac, JBT Prints and Graphic Designs Services and Laoag Graphics Engineering Designs, both from Laoag City.

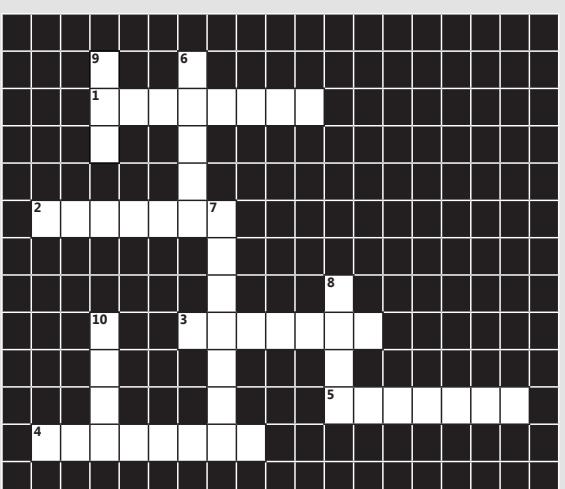
Aracelie Food Products, a food manufacturing firm engaged in the production of barquillos and Turones de Mani, is owned by Jimmy P. Alonzo Jr. He was granted an amount of P225,950.00 to help him acquire Food-grade Peanut Grinder and provide appropriate packaging and labeling to preserve the brittle texture of his products.

On the other hand, upgrading of production equipment for digital printing services is the concern of Laoag Graphics Engineering Designs. The owner of the firm, JC V. Salvador, needed better equipment that will allow him to cater more printing jobs and meet the demands of his customers. With this, SETUP granted the assistance amounting to P550,000.00 for the acquisition of Sublimation Printer and Heat Press.

Eugene's Advertising and General Services and Merchandise and JBT Prints and Graphic Designs Services availed of S&T assistance through SETUP for the second time. The former is engaged in the production of stainless steel, metal and plastic build-up signs and printing of labels of various food products while the latter is involved in printing services particularly for tarpaulin and food product labels. This year, Eugene's Advertising and General Services and Merchandise, owned by Eugene B. Pasion, is slated to acquire Laser Machine for Metal and Non-Metal worth P680,000.00. Early on, the firm received SETUP assistance in the acquisition of Dual Head Printing Machine.

In addition, an assistance worth P1,550,000.00 was awarded to JBT Prints and Graphic Designs Services for the purchase of Offset Printer, Die-Cutting Machine and Paper Cutting Machine. The firm can now accommodate large bulk of orders from their customers sans the outsourcing of printing services.

It is expected that more micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) will become recipients of S&T assistance through the provision of technological innovations. SETUP intends to strengthen the country's innovation system by addressing the technological requirements of MSMEs.



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

### Across

1. The first Philippine microsatellite launched into space in 2016.
2. It is known as the fastest-running animal on earth.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is a metal which melts on palm of the hand, due to its low melting point at 29.76 °C.
4. Recent study says that \_\_\_\_\_ should be washed longer to eliminate heavy metals and bacteria.
5. This planet is called the smallest of the ice giants and has greater mass than Uranus.

### Down

6. Last name of the Ilocano inventor who invented way to induce more flowers in mango trees through ethrel and potassium nitrate.
7. Last name of the 15 year old international award-winning inventor of biodegradable plastic bags from Fountain International School in San Juan City, Metro Manila.
8. PH Standard time is also known as \_\_\_\_\_ Time.
9. Iron Deficiency Anemia is lack of blood in the body.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Fortified Rice is a type of rice blended with Iron.

# 14 MSMES IN LA UNION RECEIVE P9.6M DOST ASSISTANCE IN CY 2017 FOR ENTERPRISE UPGRADING

By: Racquel M. Espiritu, PSTC La Union

The Department of Science and Technology - Region 1 (DOST-1), through its Provincial Science and Technology Center in La Union (PSTC-LU), has invested P9.6M in CY 2017 to fourteen (14) micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) for enterprise upgrading under the Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program or SETUP.

Of the total DOST investments, half of it or P4.8M was allocated to eight (8) furniture shops, 21% or P2M to one (1) rice miller, 15% or P1.5M to three (3) food processing firms and 14% or P1.3M to two (2) GDH (Gifts, Decors and Handicrafts) firms. The fund assistance was used to improve their operations and boost their productivity and competitiveness through acquisition of appropriate production equipment and facilities such as 3-in-1 machine (thickness planer, jointer, circular saw), mortiser, automated beam saw machine, rice color sorter, automatic digital gas oven, convection oven, stainless steel tables, cooling racks, bread slicing machine, cake mixer and calamansi juice extractor.

Technical assistance in securing License-to-Operate (LTO) from the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), and consultancy services such as food safety assessment, energy audit, cleaner production assessment, occupational safety and proper plant layout were provided to these firms to improve process flow and operations, minimize costs and wastages, and produce better quality product.

On the other hand, continuing technical consultancies and monitoring activities were conducted to 23 other assisted MSMEs in La Union that were provided with Innovation System Support for CY 2015 and CY 2016, with a total project cost of more than P10M. These firms were able to generate a gross income of P244M and directly employed eighty (80) individuals in CY 2017.

DOST SETUP was launched in 2002 as a nationwide strategy to encourage and assist MSMEs to adopt technological innovations. The program enables firms to address their technical problems through technology transfer and technological interventions to improve productivity. The program advances the cost of technology for the acquisition/upgrading of production equipment/facilities to be refunded over a minimum period of three (3) years without interest/collateral. Likewise, it includes the provision of trainings, technical assistance and consultancy services, packaging and labeling, and product testing and analyses.

The program focuses assistance to the following priority sectors: 1) Food Processing, 2) Furniture, 3) Gifts, Decors and Handicrafts, 4) Agriculture/Marine/Aquaculture/Forestry/Livestock, 5) Metals and Engineering, 6) Information and Communication Technology, 7) Health and Wellness Products, and 8) Halal products and services.

For firm/enterprise interested to avail the DOST-SETUP assistance, they may contact or visit the nearest DOST Office in their area.

## CABA'S FARMERS UPGRADE SKILLS ON BANANA PROCESSING AND BAMBOO BASKET WEAVING

By: Princess P. Abuan, PSTC La Union

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) – Region 1, through the La Union Science and Technology Center conducted trainings on banana wine, banana chips and bamboo basket weaving to San Cornelio Integrated Livelihood Association for Women and Men (SCILAWME) at San Cornelio, Caba, La Union last February 27-28, 2018. The training which was initiated by Hon. Philip Caesar P. Crispino, Mayor of the Municipality of Caba aimed to create income opportunities and upgrading the skills of the participants.

Ms. Rossana P. Abat, instructor at Food Technology Department, College of Technology, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Mid-La Union Campus (DMMMSUMUC) discussed and oriented the participants about the current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) in order to eliminate instances of contamination and food poisoning and to ensure consistency and control according to quality standards on all product outputs. Further, Mr. Mario Macusi and Ms. Pelagia Maala, officers of Bamboo Growers Basket Association from Tubod, Sudipen, La Union shared their knowledge on harvesting quality bamboo as well as the proper peeling, cutting, and slitting process before weaving them into desired products.

Ms. Carmencita Maglaya, President of SCILAWME expressed her sincere appreciation to DOST for giving assistance to the association especially in enhancing skills and knowledge of the participants on food processing and basket weaving. Ms. Babylyn Picar, as one of the participants also appreciated the training. She stressed that they have undergone several trainings before but more on lectures, thus she said that the demonstration on the actual processing is more important.

The SCILAWME is an association organized by the Local Government of Caba, La Union who is into banana vinegar production. The association aimed at improving the income status of its members through provision of additional livelihood trainings such banana wine and chips processing, and basket weaving.



Farmers in Caba avails training on banana processing.



SCILAWME members undergo hands-on training on bamboo weaving.

# DOST PANGASINAN PROVIDES TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ON BIOGAS TECHNOLOGY

By: Edward E. Ugale, PSTC Pangasinan

The Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST-1) through its Provincial Science and Technology Center in Pangasinan, in partnership with the Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) of DOST, provided technical assistance to Malingas Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC) in putting-up biogas digester in its poultry farm located at Brgy. Aliaga, Malasiqui, Pangasinan.

Engr. David Herrera of DOST-ITDI and Engr. Orlando Anselmo, Provincial S&T Director of PSTC-Nueva Ecija conducted on-site visit and evaluation of the cooperative. The experts also provided vital information to coop leaders on the biogas technology and the benefits it can give to the farm once established.

The Biogas Technology aims to improve waste management. Solid wastes (household wastes, crop residues, industrial wastes and animal wastes) used as "substrates" can be loaded to biogas digester to produce biogas. The biogas technology has been adopted in livestock and poultry farms all over the country. Aside from efficient fuel source, the biogas can help address water and air pollution; its effluent can be used as fertilizer.



Mr. John Catambing discussed the proposed location of the biogas digester to Engr. David Herrera and Engr. Orlando Anselmo

Malingas MPC is an agricultural cooperative which has three (3) tunnel vent type poultry farm that could accommodate 40,000 broilers per building or a total of 120,000 broilers. The farm is producing 1,500 or more bags of chicken manure per grow and they have seven (7) grows annually.

Mr. John Catambing, the president of Malingas MPC requested the assistance to enhance their wastes management by using chicken manure to produce methane gas as alternative source of fuel to power their generator and be used in heating their day-old chicks and in cooking food, thereby saving on electricity consumption and use of diesel fuel.

As an output, the experts will provide structural design, materials to be used, budgetary requirement, process implementation and other information for the construction of biogas digester.

# DOST GRADUATING SCHOLARS READY FOR JOB APPLICATION

By: Bernalyn P. Martinez, PSTC Pangasinan

**Seventy-seven (77)** graduating scholars of the Department of Science and Technology - Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) in Pangasinan attended the Seminar-Workshop on Job Hunting Strategies and Employment Generation held on March 15, 2018 at Pangasinan State University Main Campus in Lingayen town.

The 77 scholars are expected to graduate this April and June 2018 in their respective Science and Technology priority courses in accredited tertiary schools in the province. The seminar-workshop which has the main purpose of educating the graduating scholars the relevant job hunting skills is being done annually.

Ms. Alexander A. Apostol, Science Research Specialist II of the DOST Pangasinan welcomed the participants and shared her experiences while attending the same activity in her time as DOST scholar and in real world scenario while applying for a job.

Mr. Alex F. Ferrer, the Provincial Employment Services Office (PESO) Manager gave employment and career tips for jobseekers. He also advised that having a good attitude will lead them to land for their dream job.

Mrs. Wilfreda Vicente and Ms. Rachel S. Jose, Labor and Employment Officers of PESO Pangasinan informed the scholars the winner's attitude of a job applicant such

as the knowledge, abilities, skills and attitude. Ms. Jose, who is also former DOST scholar, added the importance of S&T, "Sipag at Tiyaga".

Dr. Rizza S. Baldonado tackled the Personality Development and Work Ethics. She also gave them some tips and advices on how to make an impressive resume and what they should and shouldn't do during job interview. "The best weapon that you have is preparation", she added.

A mock panel interview was also conducted to test the preparedness and knowledge gained by the scholars. The interviewee was randomly picked from the list of scholars. This activity aimed to give the scholars the same questions and scenarios that they might encounter during their job interview.

As part of the activity, an Exit Conference was also held on the next day to discuss the responsibilities of the scholars once they graduated and land a job. Scholars under the Republic Act (RA) 10612 or the "Fast-Track S&T Scholarship Program" will be given a position as Special Science Teacher I by the Department of Education (DepED) to teach high school students as part of their service obligation.

Also, scholarships for Master's and Doctorate Degree were also discussed, which gives an opportunity for the scholars under RA 7687 and Merit Scholarship Program to continue their studies in graduate schools. Deferment of service obligation shall be applied prior to application for graduate studies.

# Precy Valdez Ricemill: pouring affordable and quality rice grains in the North

By: Florde Liza L. Alida, DOST 1

**O**ne day, Mang Mario has to buy a sack of rice from a nearby store for them to cook during his daughter's birthday party.

Due to a lot of things listed, he bought the cheapest rice displayed in the store. The next morning, he opened the sack but he found that the rice grains are mixed with many stones and hull mixed inside. Out of his dismay, he threw the rice to his chickens and rushed to the public market in town to buy another sack of rice.

Mang Mario's experience is common especially to low income families. Due to financial deficiencies, they resort to buying low-priced goods without considering the quality. However, not all low-priced goods lack the quality, some are safe to consume and much affordable like the rice of Precy Valdez Ricemill in Malasiqui, Pangasinan.

## Recounting the milestones of Precy Valdez Ricemill

The life of rice farmers in Malasiqui, Pangasinan became easier with Precy Valdez Ricemill, owned by Precy S. Valdez who established post-harvest services on rice in the 1980's. Ms. Valdez's handworks and able management paid off when the firm became a miller-hauler-contractor of the National Food Authority (NFA) of Region 1 in the 1990's. This project paved the way for the firm to improve its milling quality and capacity. The firm's supplier of palay has also expanded to Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

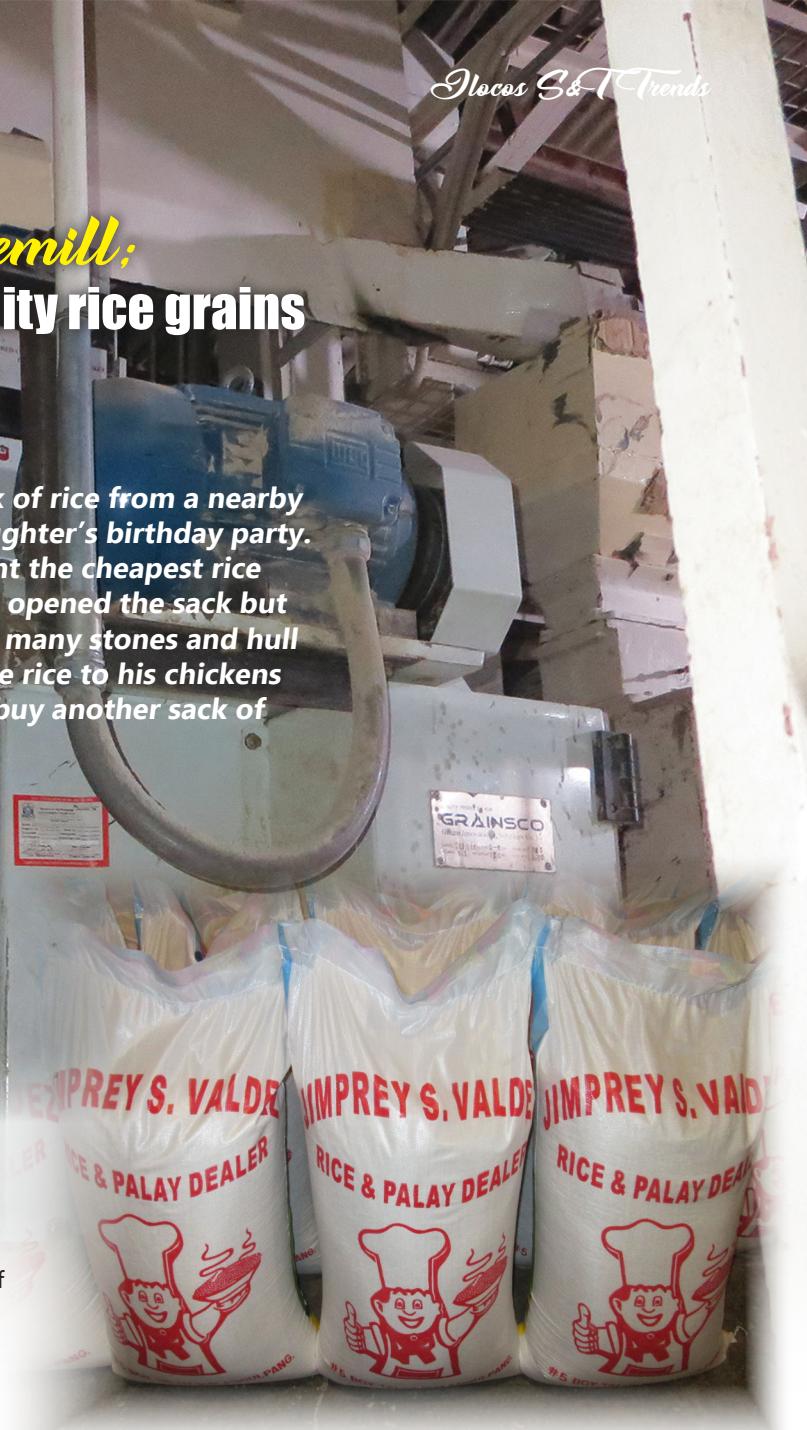
However, Ms. Valdez's untimely demise forced her son Jimprey Valdez, a registered nurse, to leave his job and continue the management of the business.

**"Ang pagiging nurse nasa puso na yun, at sa nursing may management course naman so parang may idea na din ako kung papaano maghandle ng ganitong business at nag e-enjoy na rin ako dito,** (Being a nurse is in the heart already, and nursing has business management course, so I have the idea on how to handle the business and I'm enjoying it)," Mr. Valdez said when asked on how he was able to handle the business properly.

## Stepping up through SETUP

As the new owner heard about the Department of Science and Technology's (DOST) Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), Mr. Valdez immediately enrolled his firm in 2013 to enhance its production efficiency.

The DOST then has funded its two units moisture meter, one unit pneumatic semi-automatic rice huller, friction



vertical rice polisher, gravity separator, and dust collector. With these upgraded machineries and the technical assistance and consultancy services (TACS) extended through the Provincial Science and Technology Center (PSTC) in Pangasinan 1, the firm was able to increase its production capacity to 30-40 bags per hour from 20 bags per hour, with at least 50% sales increase from 25%, which contributed to increase in income by 48%, from 20%.

**"Noong luma pa yung mga gamit naming equipment, mabagal yung production namin pero noong napalitan ng mga bagong gamit, bumilis milling process. In terms of efficiency naman, matipid sa kuryente tapos mas gumanda ang mga output namin. Mula sa 48 hrs naging 24 hrs na lang ang gilingan ng bigas at halos na doble yung produksyon namin** (At first, we have slow production due to outdated equipment but when we changed it to upgraded one, the milling process become speedy. In terms of efficiency, we can save energy and we have good quality output. The milling of rice decreased from 48 hours to 24 hours and our production was doubled)," stressed Mr. Valdez.

## The new Precy Valdez Ricemill addressing societal issues

As the firm continues to trudge towards the peak of business, it is also creating opportunities to curb environmental, food and health, and unemployment concerns in the community it serves.

High consumption of power is discouraged especially in industries to sustain environment-friendly atmosphere. With the DOST's technical expertise on Energy Audit (EA), the firm was able to reduce its power consumption by 40% from as high as 60%, while its increased production of quality grains was safeguarded by providing trainings on good housekeeping and occupational health and safety standards. Further, the firm employed 45 individuals and part-time jobs to bystanders in the community especially during the rice harvest season.

With this contribution, he advised small enterprises to avail of technical assistance from DOST. Mr. Valdez said that there are many advantages in availing DOST assistance than cash loans from banks and private companies. He mentioned the interest-free fund assistance for technology acquisition and the DOST monitoring of safety and quality of products.

**"Sana ipagpatuloy nila ang pagtulong sa mga negosyante lalo na yung mga nag-uumpisa**

*pa lang kasi maganda yung vision and mission ng programa ng DOST na makatulong sa mga negosyante para maging maganda ang takbo ng negosyo. Syempre makakatulong din kami sa mga empleyado namin sa pamamagitan ng pag-increase ng kanilang sweldo* (I hope that they (DOST) will continue helping entrepreneurs especially those who are starting their business, the program of DOST have good mission and vision to help improve business operation. Of course, we can help our employees through increasing their wages)," added Mr. Valdez.

Precy Valdez Ricemill is one of the DOST 1's Top 5 Best SETUP Adaptors for 2016. At present, the firm is continuously supplying rice grains to retailers, puto and rice cake makers in Pangasinan and La Union. It also supplies red and brown rice to Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and Region II. Its products are also used for feeding programs of Local Government Units (LGUs), Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD), and some Cooperatives in Pangasinan.

**"Alagaan mu lang yung ipinagkaloob sayo. Kung anu man ang ibinigay ng DOST, palaguin** (Just take care of what (DOST) has given to you, make it more productive)," said Mr. Valdez as his advice to current SETUP beneficiaries.

## REGION 1: ALL SET FOR TELEMEDICINE

By: Carla Joyce Cajala, DOST 1

The Telemedicine training for Region 1 was successfully conducted by the Department of Science and Technology Region 1 (DOST 1) in collaboration with the Department of Health Region 1 (DOH 1) and University of the Philippines Manila- National Telehealth Center (UP Manila- NTHC) in line with the primary goal to improve the primary healthcare of the country. The week-long training started in Ilocos Norte on February 6, 2018, then to Ilocos Sur on February 7, 2018, La Union on February 8, 2018 and lastly in Pangasinan on February 9, 2018.

Telemedicine is a process that starts from the Rural Health Unit when the Municipal Health Officers and City Health Officers assess the patient. In situation when the doctor needs help or collaboration on the management of the patient's condition, the medical data is sent online through the National Telehealth Service Program server or SMS. The e-health nurse assigned to moderate and triage cases on the server will direct the concern to the appropriate clinical specialist assigned for the



province. In cases where the clinical specialist for the province is not available, the concern will be redirected to the Philippine General Hospital. Once final diagnosis and advice has been uploaded back to the server, the information will be forwarded to the doctor in the RHU to provide the patient with an appropriate medical care. The whole process takes place in 24-48 hours. Emergency cases are not yet encouraged for Telemedicine.

The training was attended by health workers and officers from the municipal to provincial levels of each province in Region 1. Clinical Specialists from the DOH-accredited hospitals, namely, Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center (MMMHC) Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITRMC) and Region 1 Medical Center (R1MC) also attended the Telemedicine training.

The last day of training was graced by the Regional Director of DOH Region 1, Dir. Myrna Cabotaje. She encouraged collaborative efforts of the Municipal Health Officers and Clinical specialists for the provision of better delivery of healthcare service in the region. The Provincial Science & Technology Directors and staff from each province assisted in the conduct of the trainings and provided messages to the trainees for the realization of the project.



## STAKEHOLDERS JOIN HANDS TO IMPLEMENT IFR ORDINANCE IN LA UNION

By: Florde Liza L. Alida, DOST 1

The Department of Science and Technology through the Provincial Science and Technology Center of La Union led the discussion on the implementation of Provincial Ordinance No. 118, series of 2017 or the Iron Fortified Rice (IFR) Ordinance on February 7, 2018.

The IFR Ordinance signed in September 2017, aims to protect and promote the sustained health and nutrition in the province. The ordinance mandates all Local Government Units (LGUs), National Government Agencies, and other government agencies to use La Union Iron Fortified Rice in all undertakings such as feeding programs, disaster risk programs or operations, daycare centers, local government unit canteens, government-owned hospitals, public school canteens, rehabilitation centers, meeting and conferences and other establishments or activities serving rice.

The discussion was attended by representatives from the partner-agencies such as the Department of Health



A round table discussion on Iron Fortified Rice Ordinance led by Dr. Armando Q. Ganal, DOST I Regional Director.

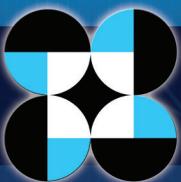
(DOH), Department of Social Welfare Development (DSWD), National Food Authority (NFA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Nutrition Council-La Union, DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute, and the Department of Education (DepEd). Representatives from the Provincial Capitol of La Union, Nutridense Food Manufacturing, and rice millers from the province also participated in the meeting.

Ms. Alma Gonzales from the DSWD Regional office presented the projected beneficiaries of the agency's supplementary feeding program with IFR in La Union while the Ms. Jovita Calaguas from the DOH Regional Office said that they have been providing IFR to pregnant mother in selected areas in the region in order to help develop the growth of the child. She added that the DOH is positive for the adoption of IFR in the public and private hospitals,

and food establishments. Further, other agencies also expressed their support in implementing the IFR Ordinance in La Union.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rocky Doctor, the President of the Nutridense Food Manufacturing from Pangasinan, one of the adaptors and suppliers of Iron Rice Premix (IRP) and IFR said that they will assist rice millers in La Union in order to increase the sustainability and supplies of IFR.

Iron Fortified Rice is an enriched rice produced by mixing ordinary rice with IRP, a grain-like kernel made from a blend of rice flour and iron produced using hot extrusion technology. The intake of IFR enhances body strength, activates brain performance, boosts body resistance against sickness, and contributes in reducing anemia. IFR has longer shelf-life than any other type of rice.



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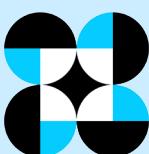
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