



## DOST-1 AWARDS FIRST UPEDS IN REGION 1; ENSURES POTABLE WATER IN NAGBETTEDAN, STO. DOMINGO, ILOCOS SUR

To guarantee potable water even in times of disaster, the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. 1 (DOST-1) through the Provincial Science and Technology Office-Ilocos Sur (PSTO-IS) turned-over the Upgraded Emergency Disinfection System (UPEDS), the first in the region, as part of the implementation of the Community Empowerment thru Science and Technology (CEST) Program last August 23, 2023.

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DOST-1 Awards PhP 3,070,020.00 worth of Assistance to Eight (8) SETUP Firms in La Union

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## EMPOWERING DOST 1 PROGRAM/PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS THROUGH TRAINING WORKSHOP ON HGDG, A PATH TO GENDER-RESPONSIVE PROGRAMS

The training workshop which focused on the "Use of Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG) Towards Gender-Responsive Programs" proved pivotal in advancing gender-responsive initiatives. Held from August 22 to 24, 2023 at the Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. 1 (DOST 1), the workshop saw the active participation of the DOST 1 program/project implementers and developers in various fields.

Ms. Reina P. Olivar, a Senior Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Specialist and a member of the National GAD Resource Pool (NGRP), provided an insightful introduction to gender analysis and the vital Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines, placing special emphasis on the use of Gender Equality and the Women's Empowerment Framework (GEWEF) for identifying gender issues and strategies. She set the stage for a series of engaging interactive discussions and thought-

provoking activities. These carefully curated sessions were designed to provide DOST1 staff with a deep understanding of the nuances of gender and development.

The training workshop witnessed a seamless continuation of the engaging sessions, with participants practically utilizing the HGDG Design Checklist. Ms. Olivar also delved into the significance of integrating the workshop's insights into the program/project cycle.

## DOST 1, DOLE CONDUCT SEMINAR ON FOOD SAFETY AND PRODUCT SHELF LIFE

Binungey, a popular native delicacy in Bolinao, is crafted from glutinous rice and coconut milk encased in bamboo tubes, cooked over an open flame. To empower Binungey producers, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) 1 collaborated with the Department of Labor and Employment Region 1 (DOLE) and the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) in Bolinao. They organized a seminar on Food Safety, current good manufacturing practices (cGMP), and Shelf Life of binungey on August 15, 2023, in Bolinao, Pangasinan.

The training aimed to provide fundamental knowledge on food safety, cGMP, and methods to extend the shelf life of Binungey. Twenty members of the Binungey Vendors Association (BIVA) of Bolinao participated in the training.

During the seminar, BIVA members demonstrated the process of making Binungey, from washing and soaking glutinous rice to roasting



the filled bamboo tubes on an open fire for 2 to 3 hours. DOST 1 Food Innovation Center (FIC) experts, Ms. Meryl A. Bernardino, and Ms. Monica May B. Varilla, assessed the cooking process and provided interventions.

Ms. Varilla explained basic food safety and cGMP, emphasizing proper food handling to prevent food poisoning and enhance shelf life. Ms. Bernardino, an MS Graduate Fellow and FIC researcher, shared techniques to prolong the shelf life of Binungey.

Expressing gratitude, BIVA members committed to applying the knowledge and techniques learned to enhance the quality of their Binungey products. DOST 1 and DOLE Region 1 will continue collaborating to ensure food safety by providing lectures and assessments to food processing firms, contributing to public awareness and product credibility.





Awarding the intervention are Mr. Decth-1180 P. Libunao, DOST-1 Assistant Regional Director for Field Operations, Engr. Jordan L. Abad, Provincial Director of PSTO-Ilocos Sur, Engr. Edison M. Acosta, DOST-1, Science Research Specialist II, with Engr. Reynaldo L. Esguerra, Chief SRS of the Environmental and Biotechnology Division of DOST-ITDI.

Receiving the equipment on behalf of Mayor Bryan Dexter V. Tadena are Engr. Windivie R. Ines, Planning officer III of LGU -Sto Domingo, together with Nagbetedan Brgy. Captain Efren S. Pigao.

During the awarding, Engr. Abad discussed the rationale of the CEST Program and its continuous

implementation in the barangay. "This technology covers Livelihood/Economic Enterprise Development; Health and Nutrition; Environmental Protection and Conservation; and even Disaster Risk Reduction and Management as it could address clean water using solar powered technology of disinfecting deep well water, rainwater or contaminated spring water especially in times of disaster," said Engr. Abad. He also emphasized that DOST is implementing projects that can be beneficial to the community, addressing gaps identified during the Community Needs Assessment enumerating different implemented interventions along the five (5) priority areas of the program.



Meanwhile, Engr. Reynaldo Esguerra shared the story that motivated him and his team to create the system that could provide potable water to communities specially those affected by disasters.

The technology will benefit around 180 households and 758 population of the barangay whose water sources such as deep well and spring did not pass laboratory test conducted by DOST earlier this year. The UPEDS is seen to encourage livelihood in the community while providing cheaper and safe drinking water.

## DOST-I AWARDS PHP 3,070,020.00 WORTH OF ASSISTANCE TO EIGHT (8) SETUP FIRMS IN LA UNION: BOOSTING LOCAL ENTERPRISES THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS



The Department of Science and Technology Regional Office No. 1, through the Provincial Science and Technology Office (PSTO)-La Union, awarded a total of PhP 3,070,020.00 to diverse MSMEs in La Union through the DOST Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP). The event, held at the Provincial Science and Technology Office, marked a crucial moment for local entrepreneurs embracing technological advancements for business enhancement.

Led by Mr. Jonathan M. Viernes, the Provincial S&T Director, checks were personally handed over to deserving recipients, highlighting the government's commitment to economic progress through innovation. The awarded MSMEs, spanning agriculture to manufacturing, were chosen based on their commitment to using technology to improve products and services.

Financial support from DOST SETUP empowers enterprises to acquire cutting-edge machinery, increasing productivity, improving quality, and expanding market reach. Notable recipients included Dr. Ronald Alwit Farm, B Amigo's Wood Crafts Manufacturing, Mae Wood Crafts Manufacturing, IDA Wood Crafts Manufacturing, Calica's Fruit Products, 4J Padilla-Gale Ricemill, Coloma Wood Works, and Ayaoan Lumpia Wrapper Manufacturing.

Mr. Viernes emphasized DOST's pivotal role in propelling local MSMEs towards technological competitiveness, contributing to regional economic growth and job creation. The ceremony celebrated not just financial assistance but also collaboration and progress in La Union's entrepreneurial community.

As La Union continues nurturing local businesses, the event signifies the potential unlocked when innovation and support converge, propelling the region towards a more technologically advanced and prosperous future.

*Congratulations!* **DOST**  
has been awarded the

## **GADtimpala**

*Silver*

for Outstanding  
Gender- Responsive  
Agency

*and*

## **GADtimpala**

*Silver*

for Exemplary  
**GAD Focal Point System**  
**(GADtimpala AlaGAD)**



DOST Gender and Development Unit

### **DOST HAILED AS SILVER AWARDEE OF OUTSTANDING GENDER-RESPONSIVE AGENCY AND GADTIMPALA ALAGAD 2023**

The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and DOST- Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) were recognized with Outstanding Gender-Responsive Agency and Exemplary GAD Focal Point System (GADtimpla AlaGAD) award during the 14th Anniversary Celebration of Magna Carta of Women and GADtimpala 2023 Awarding Ceremony at Samsung Hall, SM Aura Premier, Taguig City.



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Mid La Union Campus, Catbangen, City of San Fernando, La Union

Telefax: (072) 888-3399  
CP No.: 0917-840-8695 or 0998-962-0232  
Email: mail@region1.dost.gov.ph

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