



"One of the main drivers of our push for growth and employment will be in the agricultural sector," President Ferdinand R. Marcos emphasized during his first State of the Nation Address (SONA) on July 25.

The concurrent agriculture secretary spoke about his plans to address the gap in food supply and increasing prices to help consumers regain their purchasing power. Financial assistance and farm inputs such as fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, and fuel subsidy will also be extended to food producers.

Pres. Marcos also stressed the need to improve the production of various agricultural commodities by enhancing the value system from production to retail, which he likewise hopes to strengthen under his supervision.

The One DA Family welcomed Pres. Marcos as the new department head

BBM supports food production



In his first SONA, Pres. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr plans to sustain agricultural interventions by investing in scientific research and modernization in the sector. (photo credit: DA-AFID)

and presented policy recommendations for food security and sovereignty in the next six years during the June 21 press briefing,

a day after the chief executive announced that he was taking over the agriculture portfolio. (Eloueza Marie P. dela Cruz)

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High-yielding rice varieties showcased

Rice varieties such as NSIC Rc 506, Rc 508, Rc 436, Rc 480, Rc 402, Rc 216, and Rc 160 were named as "farmers' favorites" during the 2022 Wet Season PalaySikatan Farm Walk and Farmers' Forum on Aug. 23-26.

Through the technology demonstration of the RCEF-Seed Program, crop performances of high-yielding varieties were exhibited to over 400 farmer-visitors in six technology demonstration sites in Davao del Sur, Misamis Oriental, and Lanao del Norte.

Meanwhile, Dr. Caesar Joventino M. Tado, Agusan branch director bestowed the 2022 WS RCEF Excellence Award in the large-scale category on Mayor Angel L. Yap



Farmer-participants evaluate and identify their preferred rice varieties in an RCEF farm walk.

of Lala, Lanao Del Norte on Aug. 31.

Several PalaySikatan field days are set to be conducted across Regions 10, 11, and 13. (Marelle O. Dacera-Tangog)

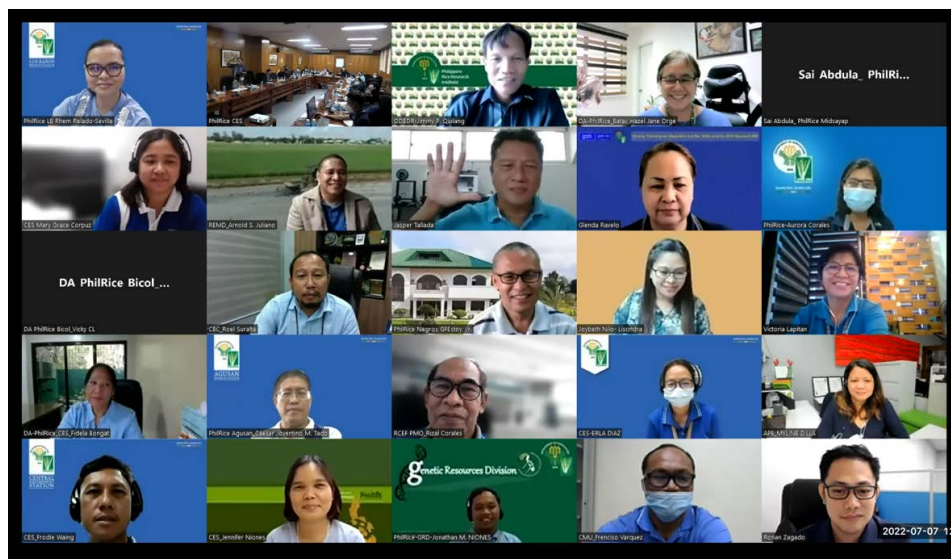
Masagana Rice Program discussed

The DA-PhilRice Management Committee (ManCom) during its 22nd regular meeting on July 7 tackled the Masagana Rice Programs, which has two strands: 150 and 200.

Masagana 150 is expected to yield 7.5t of inbred rice per hectare, while Masagana 200 aims at 10t of hybrid rice a hectare. The outgoing DA leadership drafted the Masagana proposals in response to the marching orders of the President/DA Secretary Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

The program intends to take advantage of the clustering and consolidation strategies of the One DA Reform Agenda to boost productivity while reducing production cost. It also aims to locally produce sufficient rice.

Meanwhile, policy recommendations made by the ManCom Kaizen (Japanese term for “good change”) committees for approval will undergo trial runs until December, then re-evaluated and discussed with



DA-PhilRice ManCom members during the 22nd meeting held via Zoom.

outside interest groups. The aim is to optimize and enhance the institute's network, external influence, and rally initiatives thru external analysis to be undertaken by the Community Relations and Stakeholder Management Committee.

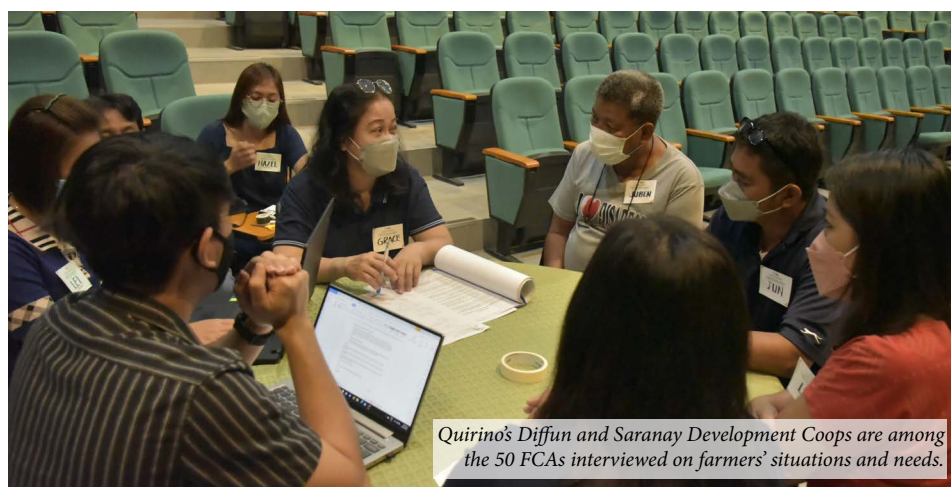
Fuel consumption control measures were likewise discussed including the administrative and financial

implications of the Php9 million contract with Petron; secondary expenses incurred during travels, meetings, and workshops; and strict implementation of the general policy of “no dispatch on Fridays and weekends,” which can be on a case-to-cases basis depending on the potential implications on commitments to extra-core and externally funded projects.

FCAs' needs assessed

To further understand their situation and determine the specific needs of farmer cooperatives and associations (FCAs) for capacity development, assistance, and support, the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) program started conducting in June-July focused group discussions (FGD) with 120 identified FCAs nationwide. The results were assessed and validated by the DA-Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (DA-PhilMech).

Fifty Luzon-based FCAs have gone through the FGD led by DA-PhilRice, with support from DA-PhilMech, Technical Education and Skills



Development Authority (TESDA), and LandBank of the Philippines (LBP).

The needs assessment analysis is part of the RCEF strategic midterm implementation under the convergence plan. FCAs are participating in the four components of RCEF: seed, mechanization, credit,

and extension. Farmers are expected to become more productive and competitive through the components.

Partner-agencies in RCEF implementation will use the results to enhance the current programs. (Minard F. Pagaduan)



R4D&E impact pathway and outcomes identified. Major challenges, thematic areas, agenda and program thrusts, implementing/scaling partners, outcomes and impacts were identified through workshop groups composed of around 100 staff members from branch stations, divisions, offices, and units during the July 20-22 StratPlan activity.

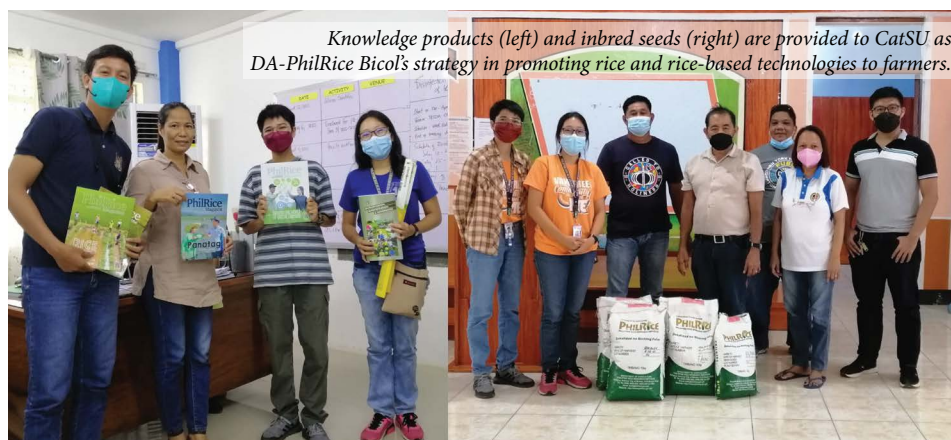
News from the Branch Stations

Info sources expanded

DA-PhilRice in Ligao City, Albay boosted its support to rice farmers by providing extension services to agricultural information intermediaries. Chosen as a One-Stop Information Shop (OSIS), Catanduanes State University (CatSU) received knowledge products and newly released inbred seeds on July 26-27.

An OSIS Satellite was also established in its Panganiban campus.

"With the OSIS setup in campus libraries, farmers' associations, and government offices across the regions, services are extended to the clients by effectively disseminating technologies and information on rice and rice-based farming," Dr. Victoria C. Lapitan, branch director, said.



Demo sites of saline varieties (NSIC Rc 468 and Rc 606) in Gigmoto and Baras, Catanduanes were also visited for monitoring and geotagging. Partner seed growers in the area were interviewed to record and organize their farm schedules, activities, and expenses using the AgRiDOC app, a mobile app for farm management methods.

Binhing Palay Farms are being established in all provinces in Bicol and Eastern Visayas Regions to provide farmers access to high-quality inbred rice varieties adapted to specific environmental stresses.



Future rice specialists complete season-long training

Seed production expert Fidel M. Ramos facilitates hands-on training of specialists on roguing — the process of finding and removing off-types.

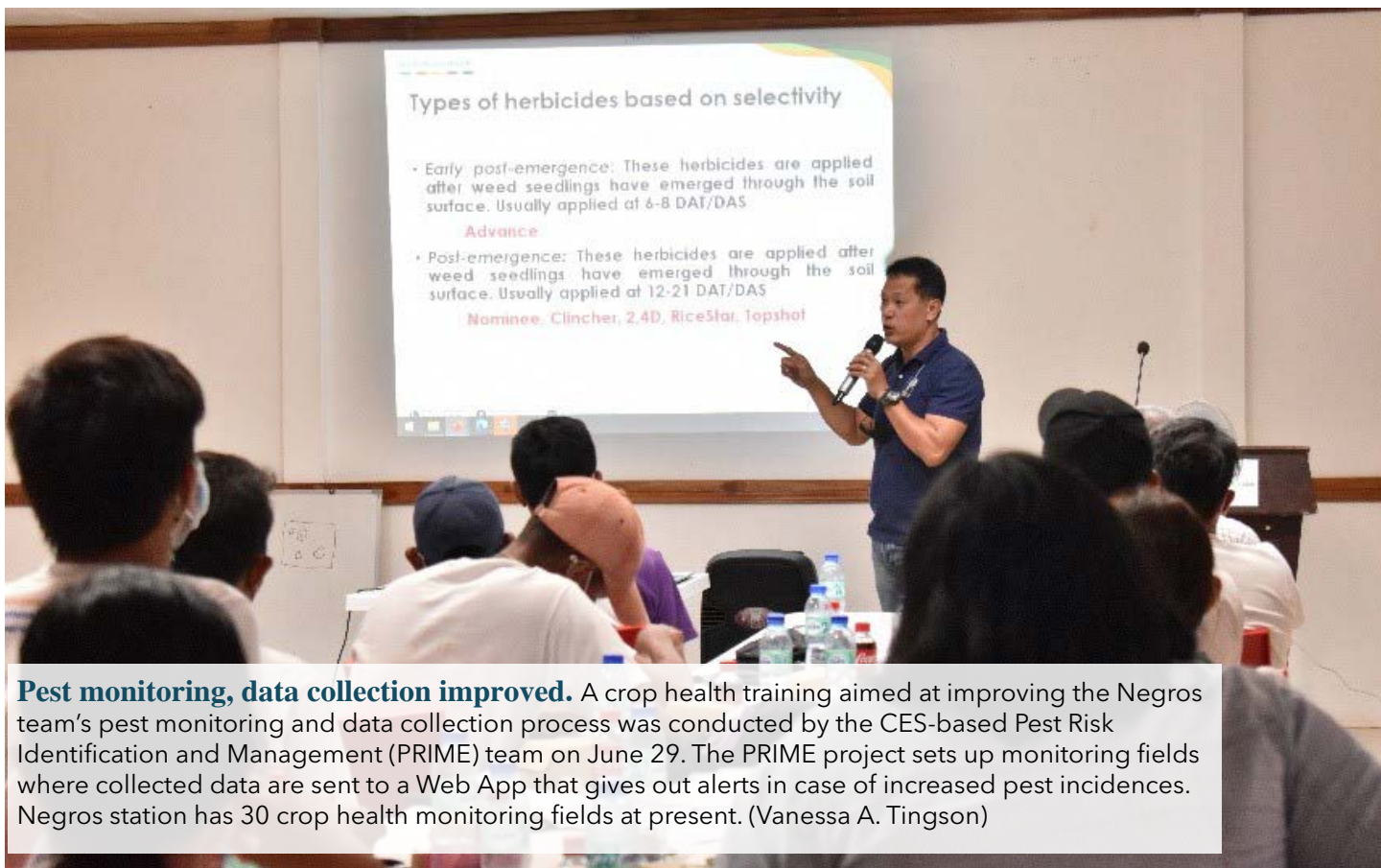


Twenty-six trainees from Ifugao, Kalinga, Quirino, Nueva Vizcaya, and Cagayan finished the season-long Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Specialists' Training Course (RCEF-RSTC) on Aug. 30 at DA-PhilRice Isabela.

The training course, which started on May 30, tackled three modules that ignited their passion to assist farmers and improve agriculture; strengthened their understanding and appreciation of the scientific principles, or the "WHY's" behind rice production technology recommendations and practices; and improve the delivery and sharing of rice production technologies to farmers.

This 15th batch of RCEF-RSTC applied the blended learning approach wherein the trainees underwent the online sessions while managing their own techno-demo in their area before they participated in the two-week hands-on training at the station.

"These trainings were conducted to nurture future rice specialists who are ready and willing to help our rice farmers in boosting their produce," said Lea dR. Abaoag, Training Component lead of the RCEF-RSTC.



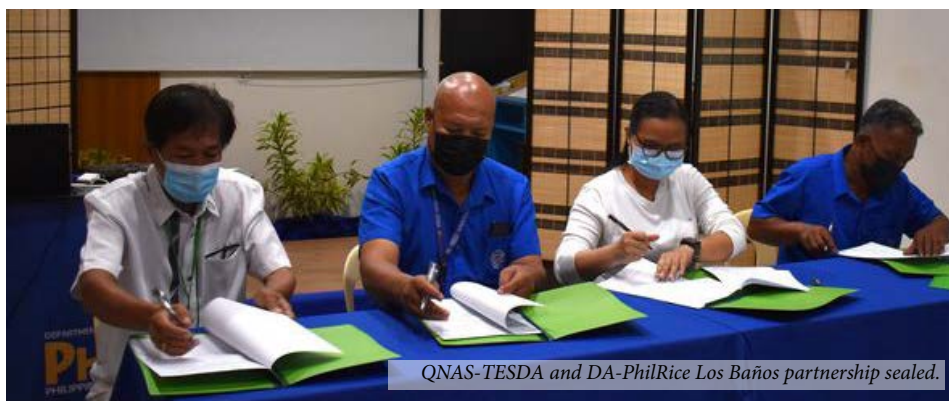
Pest monitoring, data collection improved. A crop health training aimed at improving the Negros team's pest monitoring and data collection process was conducted by the CES-based Pest Risk Identification and Management (PRIME) team on June 29. The PRIME project sets up monitoring fields where collected data are sent to a Web App that gives out alerts in case of increased pest incidences. Negros station has 30 crop health monitoring fields at present. (Vanessa A. Tingson)

Los Baños and QNAS-TESDA partnership sealed

With an aim to expand the reach of services to seed growers and farmers in CALABARZON, DA-PhilRice Los Baños signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with Quezon National Agricultural School-Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (QNAS-TESDA) on Aug. 15.

"This partnership is a course of action to achieve TESDA's Abot Lahat vision," said TESDA Vocational School Superintendent Ceferino R. Tolentino Jr.

Aside from supplementary supply of seeds, the objective of this cooperation is to lessen the expenses of Quezon farmers in buying seeds.



QNAS-TESDA and DA-PhilRice Los Baños partnership sealed.

On the other hand, Los Baños branch director Rhemilyn Z. Relado-Sevilla hopes for more collaborations to help more farmers in the region, and partnerships with academic institutions that will promote the professionalization of rice farming.

This is the first collaboration of DA-PhilRice Los Baños in contract growing and pursues to further broaden its base and increase its rice seed production through strategic partnerships with other institutions to attain regional targets. (Cherry Rose F. Piñon)

Abdula holds new DA positions

Dr. Sailila E. Abdula, DA-PhilRice Midsayap branch director, holds two concurrent positions under the Department of Agriculture (DA).

He is the designated regional executive director, officer-in-charge, of DA-Regional Field Office 12 and director of the Bureau of Agricultural Research (DA-BAR).

In a turnover ceremony held Sept. 12 at DA-RFO 12, Abdula vowed to bring 'sense of continuity' in implementing the department's programs in the region.

As DA-BAR director, meanwhile, he expressed commitment to ensure the bureau's relevance and sustain its programs.



Dr. Abdula giving his message during the Turnover Ceremony of DA-RFO 12 Leadership.

Abdula was acting DA-PhilRice executive director from July 2016-Sept. 2019.

One of his notable accomplishments was the development of rice varieties NSIC Rc 120 and Rc 226 in response to infestation of tungro rice disease

in Southern Mindanao.

He garnered the Presidential Lingkod Bayan award in 2018, ASEAN Rice Science and Technology Ambassador's Award in 2017, and Gawad Saka Award Research Category in 2016.



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Awards and Recognitions



Crop Science Society of the Philippines (CSSP)

Honorary Fellow Awardee



Dr. Norvie L. Manigbas
Central Experiment Station

Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Roel Suralta
DA-Crop Biotechnology Center

CSSP Sant S. Virmani Hybrid Rice Award



Los Baños TGMS Hybrid Rice R4D Team

RCEF Midyear Internal Awards Excellence Award



Los Baños RCEF Unit

Special Citation (within Top 3)



Bicol RCEF Unit



Agusan RCEF Unit

National Academy of Science and Technology (NAST) Awards

2022 OUTSTANDING SCIENTIFIC PAPER

Genome-wide Association Mapping for the Identification of SNPs Controlling Lateral Root Plasticity in Selected Rice Germplasm of the Philippines

JMNiones, MCJCabral, RRSuralta, NLAGustin, and ASCruz, DHautea and PLLipio of University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)



Awards and Recognitions



BEST PAPER AWARDS



1ST PLACE

DEVELOPMENT AND FIRST VARIETAL RELEASE OF GOLDEN RICE BIOFORTIFIED WITH BETA CAROTENE IN THE GRAINS
RLOrdonio, MVRomero, RTMiranda, LAMiranda, TCFernando, MPB-Castillo, RJBFabros, RMBulatao, GACorpuz, MBCastillo, MQSamia, RRSuralta, AAAfonso, RMBoncodin, RFReinke, DJMacKenzie, and BPMSwamy

BEST POSTER AWARDS

CATEGORY: Crop Production and Management (CPM)/Crop Physiology and Biochemistry (CPB), Postharvest Handling, Processing and Utilization (PHPU)



1ST PLACE

UPSCALE PRODUCTION AND SHELF-LIFE EVALUATION OF HEALTHY AND NUTRITIOUS DRIED GABA RICE
RMBulatao, MBCastillo, HFMamucod, GACorpuz, ESMDelim, and MVRomero



3RD PLACE

MINING THE PHILRICE GENE BANK FOR INDIGENOUS PIGMENTED RICE GERMPLASM WITH GOOD EATING QUALITY AND HEALTH-PROMOTING PROPERTIES
HFMamucod, RMBulatao, RoxMBulatao, RCHuliganga, JPSVillar, MDDuldulao, MCFerrer, and XGICaguiat

CATEGORY: Technology Development and Commercialization (TDC), Technology Extension/Dissemination and Education (TEDE), Health and Nutrition (HN), Socioeconomics (SOCECO), Postharvest Handling, Processing and Utilization (PHPU)



1ST PLACE

CONSUMER AWARENESS AND PERCEPTION ON LOW-GLYCEMIC INDEX RICE IN HIGHLY URBANIZED CITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES
MRMMAbad, TEMananghaya, RCYate, RKAAlbano, and JQPolipol



3RD PLACE

UNLEASHING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS OF RICE-BASED FARM COMMUNITY THRU OYSTER MUSHROOM PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING
RGARamos, PIJSebastian, JCASalinasal, and ABAtanacio

CATEGORY: Plant Breeding and Genetics



3RD PLACE

PVP REGISTRATION OF PIGMENTED RICE GENOTYPES FOR IRRIGATED LOWLAND
HTTicman, MVChico, GMOsoteo, WVBarroga, TFPadolina, and ECArocena

JULY-AUGUST

Gantimpala Agad and Pasasalamat Awardees

WokTok CES KSL Implementers

Fertilizer Derby Team

RCEF-Procurement and Admin Team

VarMix-Stem Borer-Breeding Team

RCEF Branch Units:

Los Baños

Bicol

Agusan

Batac

CES

Midsayap

Isabela

Negros

Gantimpala Agad Awardees

Marifel A. Astillo (Midsayap)

Jasmin G. Requito (FMD, CES)

Elizabeth C. Ramos (RCEF-PMO)

Pasasalamat Awardees

Bernardo S. Peralta (RCFSD, CES)

Aldrin G. Castro (ODEDR, CES)

Marry Joy M. Calpito (ODEDR, CES)

Kirk N. Felarca (Midsayap)

Loven Babes O. Rafallo (Bicol)



News from the Branch Stations

Hungary donates machines to Midsayap

DA-PhilRice through its Midsayap branch on June 29 received three units of agricultural machines from the Government of Hungary through its embassy in Manila as part of a technical cooperation on agricultural research and technology.

The MUMGÉP grader, tractor drive branch chopper, and Umwelt suspended rotary hay rake are expected to boost the branch's rice research and production activities.

Dr. Titanilla Toth, ambassador of Hungary to PH, turned over the machines in simple ceremonies witnessed by DA-PhilRice Executive Director John C. de Leon, OIC-Deputy Executive Director for Research Eduardo Jimmy P. Quilang,



Midsayap Branch Director Sailila E. Abdula, and Ms. Rivka Hanna Pintuan from the DA-International Affairs Division. Training of technical staff and

operators are set in September and October, respectively, while training of farmer-cooperatives will start in November-December.

PhP25M seed warehouse to rise in Batac

Farmers in Northwestern Luzon are assured of high-quality and viable seeds from DA-PhilRice Batac with the construction of a PhP25M seed warehouse.

Funded by the DA-RFO 1, the multi-purpose storage facility for rice seeds and other crops will also be utilized as a one-stop shop for clients who are buying high-quality inbred seeds.

With an area of 1,152sqm, it consists of two rice seed storage areas, processing area for bagging, drying, and staging area, an office room, and a meeting room. It is expected to be finished on Dec. 31.



The groundbreaking ceremony, conducted on July 19, was attended by officials from the city government of Batac, DA-RFO 1, DA-PhilRice CES, Commission on Audit, National Tobacco Administration, Mariano

Marcos State University, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, DA-Ilocos Norte Research and Experiment Center Batac Station, and DA-Bureau of Plant Industry-National Seed Quality Control Services.



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