

Voluntary Report – Voluntary - Public Distribution

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Report Name: Philippine Government Launches Plant Plant Plant Program

Country: Philippines

Post: Manila

Report Category: Grain and Feed, Policy and Program Announcements

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Report Highlights:

The Philippine Department of Agriculture will be implementing a P31 billion (\$608 million) 'Plant, Plant, Plant Program' to enhance food security concerns amidst the country's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak. The Program aims to raise paddy production to 22.1 million tons (13.5 million tons milled rice), which would be 93 percent of the country's total demand of 14.5 million tons. Parallel to the Program is the Philippine government's plan to import 300,000 tons of rice through a government-to-government purchase arrangement.

The Philippine Government's (GPH) Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) approved on March 27, 2020 the Department of Agriculture's (DA) P31 billion (\$608 million) supplemental budget to fund the 'Plant, Plant, Plant Program' that seeks to increase national agri-fishery production, particularly rice. The supplemental budget was approved by President Rodrigo Duterte shortly thereafter.

The Program is the DA's main response in ensuring food sufficiency during the enhanced community quarantine (ECQ), which placed the main island of Luzon under 'lockdown' conditions as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic starting on March 17, 2020. The ECQ was scheduled to be lifted on April 13, but was extended to April 30. More information on COVID-19 is provided in the GAIN 2020 Oilseeds and Products Annual Report (Oilmeals, Policy Section).

The Program involves a P8.5 billion (\$167 million) 'Rice Resiliency Project' aimed at increasing the country's self-sufficiency level from 87 percent to 93 percent, according to the DA. The project aims to boost paddy production to 22.1 million tons (13.5 million tons milled rice) or 93 percent of the country's total demand (at 14.5 million tons).

The other projects under the Program include the following:

- Additional palay (unmilled rice) procurement fund of the National Food Authority;
- Expanded SURE Aid* and recovery project;
- Expanded agricultural insurance project;
- Social amelioration for farmers and farm workers;
- Upscaling of KADIWA** ni Ani at Kita direct marketing program;
- Integrated livestock and corn resiliency project;
- Expanded small ruminants and poultry project;
- Coconut-based diversification project;
- Fisheries resiliency project;
- Revitalized urban agriculture and gulayan project;
- Corn for food project;
- Strategic communications project; and
- Expanded Survival and Recovery Assistance Program for Rice Farmers & Recovery Project

**KADIWA translated from Tagalog means 'of the same spirit' in harvest and income

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority had earlier indicated a possible 9.5 percent decline in rice output during the January-March 2020 period compared to the previous year's level due to low paddy prices. Likewise, the GPH is planning to push through with a 300,000 MT rice importation via a government-to-government transaction to ensure the country has sufficient rice stocks. The importation will be handled by the Department of Trade and Industry's Philippine International Trading Corp, with details still being finalized.

Attachments:

No Attachments.