

## Philippines NCIP, DA sign the Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project

14 July 2023 | News

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The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Department of Agriculture (DA) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project (MIADP) in DA Central Office, Quezon City on July 10, 2023.

The MIADP is a six-year term project that will run from 2023 to 2028, which aims to sustainably increase agricultural productivity, resiliency, and access to markets and services of organized farmer and fisherfolk groups in selected ancestral domains and for selected value chains in Mindanao.

The MOA shall establish the overall terms and partnership to ensure that the implementation of the MIADP in Mindanao Ancestral Domains (ADs) will prioritize the rights of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs) given the project's intended development impacts.

According to Agriculture Senior Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, the project would have a total cost of P6.6 billion, wherein P5.3 billion will be coming from the World Bank's loan financing scheme.

"MIADP is designed to build the capabilities of local governments to increase the farm productivity and business opportunities of 120,000 indigenous farmers and fisherfolk in six regions across Mindanao," said Panganiban.

The Mindanao Inclusive Agriculture Development Project is the response of the Department of Agriculture to the call of Former President Rodrigo Duterte to address the lingering poverty among the indigenous peoples (IPs) of Mindanao.