AgroSpectrum ASIA
Envisaging Future | Updating Present

# Philippines to construct first border inspection facility in Bulacan to certify imported Agri-Fishery commodities

24 July 2023 | News

**Signs MoU to establish Cold Examination Facility in Agriculture (CEFA) with state-of-the-art testing laboratories to quality check import commodities**




**Signs MoU to establish Cold Examination Facility in Agriculture (CEFA) with state-of-the-art testing laboratories to quality check import commodities**

The Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA) is set to construct the countryâ??s first border inspection facility on its property at General Alejo Santos Highway, Angat, Bulacan. The Department allotted P2.3-billion in its 2023 budget for the construction which would include hubs in Cebu and Davao.

On July 20, the DA and Pacific Roadlink Logistics Inc. (PRLI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the establishment of the Cold Examination Facility in Agriculture (CEFA), which will house state-of-the-art testing laboratories for the examination of all imported animal, fish, plant, and other agricultural commodities. Â The project is deemed to warrant the food safety for the general populace.

The MOU signing was led by DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban, Senate Committee on Agriculture Chairperson Senator Cynthia A. Villar, House Committee on Agriculture Mark Enverga, and PRLI President Edgar Dominic Milla. Senator Villar announced that the national government will set aside budget for the construction of CEFA to other areas particularly in Southern Luzon.

BAI and CEFA Project Director Paul Limson said the construction is expected to be finished within 6 to 8 months. The facility will initially function as a 24-hour Off-Dock Custom Facility to handle agricultural imports from the countryâ??s two main ports:

Port of Manila and Manila International Container Port.

â??We must continuously assert our vigilance in protecting industry from pests and diseases that pose serious threats to agricultural productivity in the country. This partnership is a testament of our commitment,â? DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban said.

The CEFA aims to strengthen the countryâ??s capability to conduct first border inspections and improve its examination of containerized agricultural commodities. It also seeks to prevent proliferation of agricultural smuggling.

Under the MOU, the PRLI allows the government to use for a maximum of 25 years, its 10-hectare land for the CEFA, which will include a laboratory, incinerator, container yard, and truck parking, among others.

The facility will be operated by the DAâ??s Food Safety and Regulatory Agencies (FSRA): Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), and National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS).

Apart from protecting livelihood and ensuring quality and safe food for Filipinos, the said facility is anticipated to create jobs and bring about economic transformation to the province of Bulacan. Once operational, the facility is expected to employ about 1,500-2,000 unskilled workers in the province.