

## Philippines allots funds P538 million intervention to Caraga rice farmers

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The Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA) and its attached agencies and bureaus continue to pour out more financial resources to boost the Caraga region's rice industry.

In Caraga Region, the DA Rice Program allocated ₱260.85 million worth of agriculture interventions to rice farmers for the year 2023. This is a 76 per cent increase in budget allocation compared to last year's ₱148 million.

This year, the budget is allocated to the following interventions: ₱178.95 million for production support; ₱54.48 million for extension support, education, and training; ₱6.71 million for research and development; ₱6.94 million for agricultural machinery, equipment, and facilities; and ₱13.75 million irrigation network services.

Aside from the regular Rice Program, DA-Caraga is set to release ₱156.7 million in fertilizer discount vouchers (FDV) that would enable rice farmers to meet the recommended urea fertilizer requirement, and, in turn, increase their production. This is part of the additional funding of the government's fertilizer subsidy program that covers the 2022-2023 dry planting season.

In addition, the DA-Philippine Rice Research Institute (DA-PhilRRI) in Agusan has a target allocation of 158,630 bags of certified seeds amounting to ₱120.55 million, under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund for the 2023 dry season.