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The Philippines onion industry receives P326.97M from DA for productivity enhancement

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To boost local food production, the Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA), through its High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), has allotted P326.97 million worth of interventions for onion this 2023.

From this, P69.949M is earmarked for onion production support services, including the provision of seeds, seedlings, and other farm inputs; P3.2M for irrigation network facilities; and P1.9M for extension support, education, and training.

In addition, the program allotted P6.486M for farm production-related machinery and equipment distribution; P2.359M for production facilities; and P2.5M for postharvest and processing equipment and machinery distribution.

Seven onion cold storage facilities amounting to P240.575M will also be established this year in key production areas. These cold storage facilities, with up to 10,000-bag capacity, will benefit the Pangasinan Onion Growers Association in Umingan, Pangasinan and the Federation of Aritao Farmers Onion, Garlic and Ginger Association in Aritao, Nueva Vizcaya.

Cold storage facilities with 20,000-bag capacity will likewise be awarded to the New Hermosa Farmers Association in Hermosa, Bataan; the Nagkakaisang Magsasaka Agricultural MPC in Talavera, Nueva Ecija; and the Valiant Primary Multipurpose Cooperative in Bongabon, Nueva Ecija.

The Salvation United Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative and the Samahang Gumagawa Tungong Tagumpay Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Rizal and Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro will also receive 20,000-bag capacity cold storage facilities.

A total of ten farmersâ?? cooperatives and associations (FCAs) from the MIMAROPA (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, Palawan) region received a financial grant totalling P40 million through the DA Enhanced Kadiwa: Sagip Sibuyas Project.

More than 7,800 FCA members benefited from the project in MIMAROPA.

Under the Sagip Sibuyas Project, eligible FCAs shall use the grant of up to P5M for trading capital to cover the costs of procuring onions directly from farmers, hauling and delivery to markets and cold storage facilities, and storage rental.

The DA also provides market linkage services to ensure that the onion FCAs have ready markets for their produce, including fast food chains and institutional buyers.