

## Philippines and KNU sign MoU for farm modernisation, mechanisation

02 May 2023 | News

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The Philippines Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Kyungpook National University (KNU) of the Republic of Korea signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Agriculture and Fishery Development Cooperation in the presence of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

The MOU, signed by Domingo Panganiban DA Senior Undersecretary, Joel Lales DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) Director and KNU, Daegu Gyeongbuk International Development Cooperation Centre Director. MoU aims to promote the exchange of scientific and technical resources related to agriculture and rural development.

In his speech, President Marcos shared that there are now many local manufacturers of farm machines as he stressed the need to strengthen and expand the local agri-fishery manufacturing industry, so the sector would not rely on imported machinery and equipment.

The centre is expected to accelerate the mechanisation of the agricultural sector by enhancing local technological capacity to design, develop, and manufacture agricultural machinery.

Through the DA-KNU MOU, cooperative activities applying the principles of clustering and consolidation and professionalisation of human resources and clientele will also be conducted. The activities will include the organisation of professional education and staff development programs, through training courses, symposia, and conferences training on digital or smart agriculture, data science for agriculture, and advanced agricultural technology, among others.