



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

*Half a Century Journey:
50th Year of Heartfelt Service*



PCA 2023 Annual Report

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About the Cover

The cover design of the CY 2023 Annual Report is anchored on the milestone celebration of the Philippine Coconut Authority's 50th year as encapsulated by the report title, "Half a Century Journey: 50 years of Heartfelt Service".

The title of the report embodies the essence and gratitude to the individuals and people who were truly the core and purpose of the Authority: its treasures. The treasures who have been the lifeblood not just for the Authority, but more importantly, for the entire coconut and oil palm industries who have propelled PCA for the last 50 years. The title and the overall theme of the report reflect the Authority's efforts and commitment to providing heartfelt service to its treasures - the Institution, the Farmers, and the Industry.

Throughout the years, the memories accumulated from the rich experiences, challenges, and triumphs faced together as an Authority were already treasures in their own right. These serve as testaments to a journey that allows us to be reminded of how far we have come, while guiding us to where we are headed to.

In the cover, the collage of photos, from past to present, featured PCA's interventions through the years towards the fulfillment of the Authority's mandate of being at the forefront of the growth and development of the coconut and oil palm industries. This resonates to the pursuit of the Philippine development goal - *matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay para sa lahat*. To visualize this significant message, a photo of President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr., planting the coconut palm, represents how the national government and the PCA works hand-in-hand in the fruition of the industry's goals throughout the years.

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FOREWORD

Dr. Dexter R. Buted
PCA Administrator
(March 2024 to present)

The Year 2023 is a milestone year for the Philippine Coconut Authority as it celebrated its 50th Golden Anniversary Celebration. It is with great honor and a sense of accomplishment that the Authority presents the Annual Report highlighting the golden treasures depicting the significant strides made within the coconut industry. As an essential sector deeply rooted in the lives and livelihoods of our communities over a span of half a century, this report serves as both a reflection of PCA's achievements and a roadmap for the future.

The past year has been one of transformation and resilience.

Despite the challenges posed by global economic shifts, climate change, and evolving market demands. This is a testament to the hard work of every stakeholder, from the farmers who tend to their groves with care, to the processors who innovate to add value to our products, to the distributors who ensure that the coconuts reach markets both near and far and to each leader and staff of the Philippine Coconut Authority who did not falter in their commitments of providing excellent service through half a century.

CY 2023 operations focused on initiatives to enhance productivity through modern agricultural techniques, coupled with commitment to fair trade practices. The position of export leader in the global coconut market was maintained and led to a contribution of \$3.2B of revenues for the Philippines. PCA was also able to craft the Philippine Coconut Industry Development Plan 2023-2034 to serve as the blueprint for the Authority's operations for the next ten years.

Looking ahead, I am honored to be a part of PCA as its Administrator at the dawn of its next 50 years. I give acclaim to the foundation laid by past leaders on which we are building upon. The strong resolve to transform the coconut industry into a robust commerce both internationally and domestically is central to my leadership. This will involve continued investment in SMART technology, capacity building for our farmers, the exploration of new markets, and forging productive partnerships with the business private sector and other government agencies for the accelerated fruition of development initiatives. We will also intensify efforts on research, development and innovation ensuring that our practices support both environmental stewardship, economic growth and sustainability of the coconut industry.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our partners, stakeholders, and the dedicated individuals who have contributed to the past year's successes. Together, we are not only safeguarding the legacy of our coconut industry but also ensuring sustainability for it to flourish even more.

Dr. Dexter R. Buted



MESSAGE

Sec. Francisco Tiu Laurel
Secretary
Department of Agriculture
(November 2023 to present)

This year 2023, in unison we celebrate a remarkable milestone – the 50th Founding Anniversary of the Philippine Coconut Authority – the sole agency mandated to promote the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut and other palm oil industry in all its aspects and to ensure that the coconut farmers become direct participants in, and beneficiaries of, such development and growth.

This momentous occasion not only marks five decades of hard work and dedication but also highlights our collective achievements and the vibrant future that lies ahead. Over the years, we have witnessed the peaks and valleys of the coconut sector. From humble beginnings, it has evolved into a thriving industry that plays a vital role in the economy, provides livelihoods for countless families, and contributes to sustainable practices that protect our environment leaving a heritage for the next generation of coconut farmers and advocates.

As we reflect on the journey, it is befitting to honor the pioneers who laid the groundwork for our success, the farmers who cultivate with passion, and the industry partners who sustain and propel the industry forward. The resilience and commitment have been the backbone of our achievements.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that await us. Together under the auspices of your Department of Agriculture family, we will continue to explore new markets, embrace technology, and promote the versatility and health benefits of coconut products. Let us reinforce engagement with international and local partners to ensure a robust global presence and sustainable future of the coconut industry.

Cheers for the next 50 years of growth, innovation, and success!

Secretary Francisco "Kiko" Tiu Laurel



MESSAGE

Mr. Bernie F. Cruz
PCA Administrator
(December 2022 to March 2024)

Ipinagmamalaki ko po na ibahagi sa inyo ang *Annual Report* ng Philippine Coconut Authority para sa taong 2023. Ang taon na ito ay bahagi ng kasaysayan ng PCA dahil ipinagdiriwang natin ang ika-limampung anibersaryo nito. Ito ay isang patunay ng ating pagpapahalaga sa mga mag-niniyog at sa mga bumubuo at kabahagi ng industriya.

Ang nakaraang taon ay puno ng mga hamon at tagumpay. Tulad ng marami sa sektor ng agrikultura, hinarap natin ang mga hamon na sumubok sa katatagan ng ating mga magniniyog at ng ating industriya. Gayunpaman, ipinagmamalaki ko ang pananaig ng ating *bayanihan* at ang patuloy na katatagan at pag-asa ng ating sektor.

Sa taong 2023, sinimulan natin ang isa sa pinakamahahalagang programa ng PCA- ang *Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting Project*. Ito po ay isa sa mga *commitment* ng ating Pangulong Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. Naka-ayon sa mandato ng PCA, ang layunin ng programa ay ang pagtanim ng 100 million na puno ng niyog para muling buhayin at gawing masagana ang industriya ng pag-niniyog.

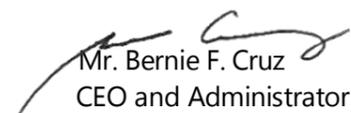
Mahigit 2.1 million *seedlings* na ang naitanim sa taong 2023 at para sa 2024 ang PCA ay nag-*target* na makapagtanim ng nasa 10 million na *coconut seedlings* para sa pagpapalakas ng produksyon sa bansa.

Sa pagharap sa taong 2024, nananatiling malinaw ang hangad ng PCA- na ang pag-bangon ng industriya ay siya ring pag-bangon ng mga mag-niniyog sa Pilipinas tungo sa pagpapa-unlad ng kanilang pamumuhay.

Nais kong ipaabot ang aking taos-pusong pasasalamat sa ating mga masipag na kawani, sa ating mga katuwang sa gobyerno at sa pribadong sektor, at lalo na sa ating mga mag-niniyog. Ang inyong sipag at tiyaga, katatagan, at sigasig ang tunay na pundasyon ng ating tagumpay.

Habang tayo ay nagsisimula sa panibagong taon, dalhin natin ang mga aral ng nakaraang limampung taon. Sama-sama nating patuloy na alagaan at paunlarin ang industriya ng pag-niniyog at ang pamumuhay ng mga kabahagi nito tungo sa mas maunlad at masagana na Bagong Pilipinas.

Maraming salamat.


Mr. Bernie F. Cruz
CEO and Administrator



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Ms. Ma. Odessa M. Pacaul
Department Manager
Corporate Planning Service

As we present the Annual Report 2023, my deepest gratitude and highest commendation goes to all those who have contributed to the successes and achievements of the past year and the 50 years of meaningful existence of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

This report is a testimony to the collective effort and resolute commitment of the men and women of the PCA in the Operations Branch, the Administration and Finance Branch, the Research Development Branch, the Regional and Provincial Offices, and other industry stakeholders who are proactive partners of the coconut industry.

Firstly, I wish to thank the coconut farmers, who are the buttress of our industry. Their hard work, resilience, and passion have driven the continued evolution of the coconut sector. Their commitment to agricultural sustainability is the foundation upon which we build our success.

Secondly, I also extend my sincere appreciation to our industry partners, including processors, distributors, researchers, and marketers. Their vigorous collaboration and relevant innovation have been instrumental in advancing PCA's goals, expanding growth in latitude, and enhancing the value of our products to be globally competitive.

Thirdly, special thanks to the government agencies, policymakers, and regulatory bodies whose support and guidance have enabled us to navigate challenges and seize opportunities. Their commitment to fostering a conducive environment for our industry's development is invaluable.

Fourthly, kudos to the members of the PCA board, management team, and staff whose leadership and dedication have been crucial in steering the organization toward the achievement of organizational goals. Their unflagging efforts behind the scenes ensure that PCA continue to move forward, even in the face of adversities and challenges.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge our customers and consumers, both locally and globally. Their patronage drives the Authority to continuously improve and innovate. PCA remains steadfast in delivering the highest quality coconut products and services that meet the expectations of the industry.

Collectively, the PCA has accomplished a great deal, and as we look 50 years frontward, I am convinced that our communal strengths and endeavors will persist to propel our industry to scale new heights.

Isang pagpupugay sa isang mas matagumpay na PCA para sa Bagong Pilipinas!

Ms. Ma. Odessa M. Pacaul

PCA's CHARTER

MANDATE

"It is hereby directed to be the policy of the State to promote the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut and other palm oil industry in all its aspects and to ensure that the coconut farmers become direct participants in, and beneficiaries of, such development and growth.

(Article 1, Section 2, P.D. 1468 or the Revised Coconut Industry Code)

VISION

The Philippine Coconut Authority: a proactive and competent institution steering the modernization of the coconut industry and the development of other palm oil industries by 2028 towards the empowerment of its farmers and other industry stakeholders.

MISSION

To develop and implement sustainable programs utilizing relevant and appropriate technologies and policies that foster growth, modernization and inclusivity across the entire coconut value chain with utmost degree of excellence and professionalism

CORE VALUES

- ✓ Professionalism
- ✓ Integrity
- ✓ Transparency
- ✓ Excellence



THE PCA LOGO

The PCA Logo is a graphic presentation of PCA's purpose and existence. It shows the following:



The CIRCLE denotes integration of the entire coconut industry under the guidance of one government agency, the Philippine Coconut Authority



The letter "C" in gold for cooperation and coordination in the management of the coconut industry and the color green as background.



The GREEN stands for fertility; GOLD for dollar earnings, income and livelihood; and WHITE for the kernel which is the main product that provides for the welfare of the coconut-producing segment of the population.

The PCA seal stands for dynamism, efficiency and foresightedness.



INTRODUCTION

THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT INDUSTRY

Throughout the years, the Agriculture sector remains to be regarded as the backbone of the Philippine economy because of the country's geographical characteristics which creates a habitat conducive for the production, propagation, and preservation of rich and diverse resources.

This is evident in the Coconut Industry, as 2.8 million coconut farmers registered under the National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS), are dependent on coconut as their main source of livelihood and employment. This represents the abundance and growing potential that the Philippine Coconut Industry has to offer.

The current statistics on production conveys that the Philippines is the second in the world in terms of coconut production.

THE PHILIPPINE OIL PALM INDUSTRY

While Coconut indeed boasts of its significance in the agriculture sector, the Philippine Coconut Authority is also mandated to be at the forefront of the growth and development of the Oil Palm Industry. There is an estimated 19,983 oil palm growers in the country and it is only proper to showcase the potential and emerging opportunities of the Oil Palm industry.

According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the Oil Palm production in the country has an average growth rate of 1.6% per annum. This is attributed to the gradual increase in the oil palm production areas with 63,380.85 hectares in CY 2022 from twenty-two (22) provinces in the country.

This translates to 3.6 million hectares of coconut land covering 26% of the total agricultural lands in the country. This percentage is attributed to the abundance of 340 million coconut trees producing 14-15 billion nuts annually. Reaping from the said production rate, there are 167 coconut processing plants at 50% utilization capacity milling 9.035 million metric tons annually.

As for the global market, the Philippines remains to hold its position as the top major exporter in the world taking pride from its top agricultural export product, the Crude Coconut Oil (CNO), thereby constituting 33.17% of the country's total coconut exports. The potentials of CNO extends in as far as emphasizing the focus on CNO processing into Coconut Methyl Ester (CME) to respond to the demand for Biofuels.

In CY 2022, there are 7.25 million oil palm bearing trees which produces 533,398 MT of fresh fruit bunch (FFB). Moreover, the country's total palm oil production is almost entirely consumed by the domestic market. Conversely, palm oil is the main imported oil in the Philippines due to the insufficient production in the country.

With such production capacity, there are eleven (11) existing palm oil mills with a rated capacity of 275 MT FFB per hour which are located in Luzon and Mindanao. Its primary product is the crude palm oil which is about 22-30% bunch weight from mesocarp and crude palm kernel oil of about 55% from endosperm or kernel.

THE TREASURES OF PCA

Given the vulnerability of the coconut and oil palm industries, there were difficulties and challenges encountered by the industries that were caused and/or influenced by natural and non-natural risks (political, financial, legal, etc.). Nevertheless, the challenges faced and the efforts contributed by every member of the industry shall serve inspiration in illustrating the stories of progress, potential, and success for both the coconut and oil palm industries.

In light of the wonderful gift of celebrating the Golden Anniversary of the Philippine Coconut Authority, this report represents the essence and gratitude to the individuals and people who were truly the core and purpose of the Authority: its treasures.

The treasures who have been the lifeblood not just for the Authority, but more importantly, for the entire Coconut and Oil Palm industries who have propelled PCA forward for the last 50 years. This report reflects the Authority's efforts and commitment to providing heartfelt service to its treasures- the Institution, the Farmers, and the Industry. This shall serve as an expression of gratitude and appreciation for the tireless contributions and heartfelt commitment of the men and women who remained strong and steadfast despite multiple challenges- all for the service of the Coconut and Oil Palm Industry.

Come with us in charting the map of this journey as we Discover, Reflect, and Anticipate on PCA's treasures in the year 2023.

Half a Century Journey: 50th Year of Heartfelt Service





PCA's Treasure: The People and the Institution

At the forefront of the industry's development, PCA recognizes that its success is inherently connected to the industry's advancement.

The organization's performance is more than just an operational requirement—it's the lifeblood of the sector's efficiency. In this chapter, PCA reaffirms its commitment to reinforcing the institution from within. Beyond addressing the needs of coconut farmers and the industry at large, the focus is on cultivating an empowered workforce, establishing impactful policies, and managing resources with precision to drive significant outcomes.

This chapter shall uncover the initiatives launched not only enhance the capabilities but also elevate the entire industry. Empowered by

PCA's core values and strategic vision, this shall highlight the ***key treasure of the Authority - the People and the Institution.***

THE MEN AND WOMEN BEHIND PCA

For the year 2023, the Philippine Coconut Authority has a total of 2,689 employees, compared to 1,983 employees in 2022. Figure 1 provides a summary of the distribution of employees among three categories: Regulars, Contract of Service, and Job Order. In 2023, there were a total of five hundred forty-three (543) Plantilla employees, one thousand four hundred twenty-six (1,426) Contract-of-Service employees, and seven hundred twenty (720) Job Order employees. As of December 2023, the Authority has achieved 64% of the authorized Plantilla positions and still needs to fill three hundred twelve (312) Plantilla positions.



Figure 1. Breakdown of PCA Employees (by Tenurial Status) for the Year 2023

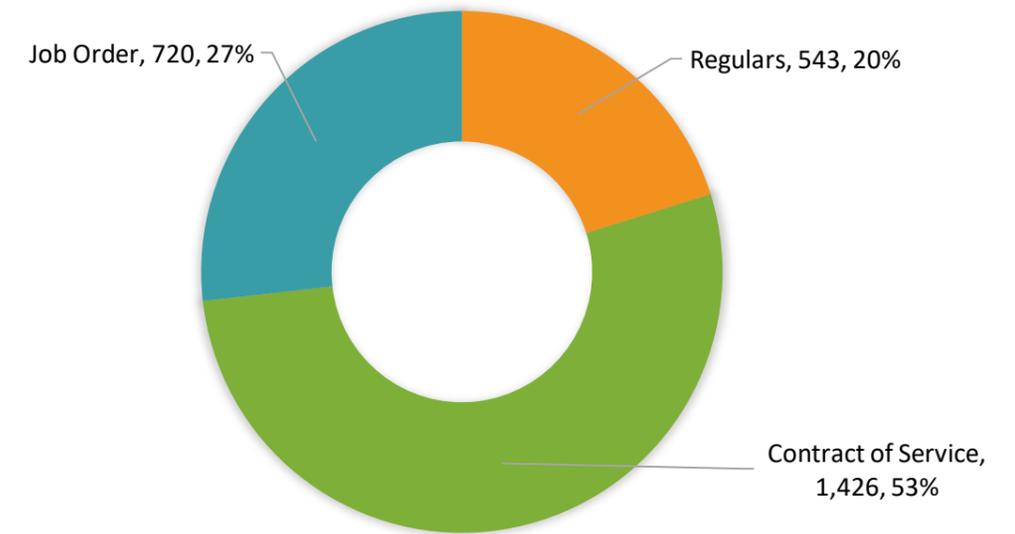
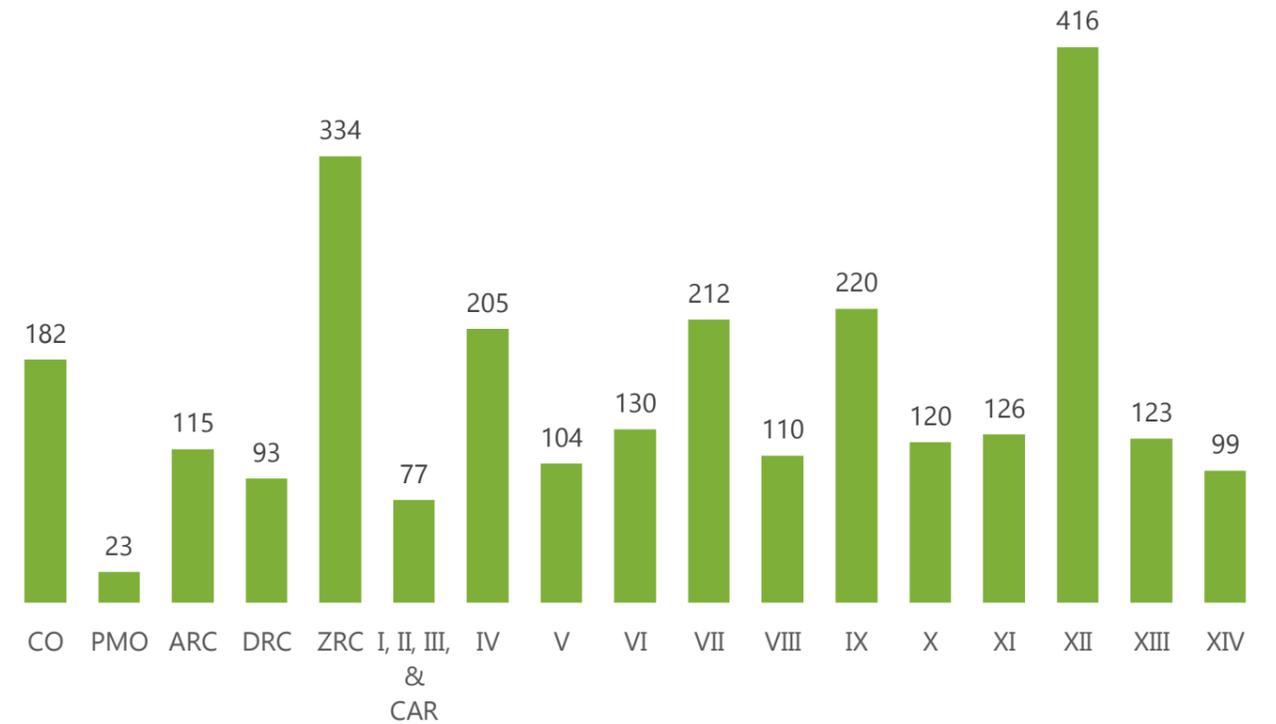


Figure 2. Breakdown of PCA Employees (by Office) for the Year 2023



PCA's TREASURE: THE PEOPLE AND THE INSTITUTION

2023 PCA PRAISE AWARDEES

In line with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) Resolution No. 010112 and CSC Memorandum Circular No. 01, S. 2001, the Philippine Coconut Authority reinforces the PCA Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence (PRAISE) Awards. The PRAISE Awards is done to recognize and reward officers and employees who have shown utmost dedication and exemplary service in achieving the Authority's performance targets and who have contributed towards the improvement of public welfare.

This year's awardees embody dedication, innovation, and leadership, setting an inspiring example for everyone across the organization.

Ms. Cheena N. Josef, Administrative Officer V from the Property Division, was recently honored as the Central Office's Employee of the Year. Her outstanding performance and significant contributions to our central operations, particularly in procurement, were key factors in this well-deserved recognition.



Employee of the Year – Central Office
CHEENA N. JOSEF
Property Division

Two remarkable individuals were honored as Employees of the Year for the Regional Office. Mr. Ruel P. De Villa, an Agriculturist I from Region IV-A, was recognized as the Regional Employee of the Year in the technical category. His dedication led to the successful establishment of a Coconut Nursery in Nagcarlan, Laguna, with the help of the Municipal Agriculture Office, local farmers, and farmer leaders. Mr. De Villa was also instrumental in ensuring the Lawaguin Multipurpose Cooperative (LMC) met the requirements for the Coconut Shared Processing Facilities program under PhilMech. Additionally, he organized the Magdalena Coconut Farmers Association (MaCoFa), an independent and stable group, which is on track to becoming a cooperative and benefiting from CFIDP programs.



Regional Employee of the Year - Technical
RUEL P. DE VILLA
Region IV-A

Ms. Lorna B. Bisagar, an Administrative Officer V from Region XII, was honored as the Regional Employee of the Year in the non-technical category. She skillfully manages a large team, including the additional on-farm personnel for the hybridization project and National Coconut Seed Production Center, and consistently meets all document submission deadlines. As a key member of the Regional Bids and Awards Committee, Ms. Bisagar has been punctual in preparing bidding-related documents, which has greatly contributed to the region's performance and timely achievement of its targets.



Regional Employee of the Year – Non-Technical
LORNA B. BISAGAR
Region XII

The PCA-Albay Research Center (ARC) was honored with the PCA Achievers Award, recognizing their innovative research and significant contributions to advancing the organization's mission.



PCA Achievers Award
PCA ALBAY RESEARCH CENTER



Role Model of the Year
DR. CRISTETA A. CUETO
Department Manager II
Albay Research Center

Dr. Cristeta Cueto from the ARC was honored as Role Model of the Year for her exemplary leadership and conduct which have inspired her colleagues. Among her achievements, Dr. Cueto patented a technology for the mass propagation of coconuts, which has been adopted by PCA's Zamboanga Research Center and Visayas State University. She also published three books. Further, she has five accredited articles in scientific journals, and contributed chapters to other authors' books. Additionally, she developed a laboratory manual published by DOST and authored and presented five papers in international and research fora and nine papers at national science congresses.

In the Customer Service Champion category, Mr. Gabby Schyller Chris Angel Joy B. Galang from Oil Palm and Other Special Concerns and Project Division (Central Office) and Ms. Michellene C. Garcia from Region XII were celebrated for their exceptional service and dedication to customer satisfaction, both at the central and regional levels.

Mr. Gabby Galang has been serving as the National Focal Person for RA 8048 for over eight years. He has played a key role in developing revisions to the RA 8048 guidelines. Mr. Galang has effectively communicated the provisions of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 8048 by serving as a resource speaker at four (4) island-wide orientations and workshops attended by field personnel involved in the law's implementation nationwide.



Customer Service Champion Central Office
GABBY SCHYLLER CHRIS ANGEL JOY B. GALANG
Acting Division Chief
Oil Palm & Other Special Concerns/Projects Division

2023 PCA PRAISE AWARDEES

Ms. Michellene C. Garcia, CPRO III of PCA Region XII, has been awarded Customer Service Champion at the regional level. Through her efforts, the implementation of the PCA fee collection in the region has run smoothly. In 2023, the total fee collection for PCA Region XII amounted to approximately 27 million pesos. She also ensures that the regulations for trade and market activities in the region are properly monitored. Through her initiatives, most traders, dealers, and manufacturers of coconut products and by-products were registered and assisted on the renewal of their registrations, ensuring that coconut and oil palm-based enterprises are properly regulated. A total of 765 coconut entity registrants were recorded and documented in 2023.



Customer Service Champion
Regional Office
MICHELLENE C. GARCIA
Coconut Production & Regulation Officer III
Region XII

The Cost Saver Award recognized both individual and group efforts in optimizing resources and reducing costs.

Ms. Chin-Ann D. Jimenez, Agriculturist II from Region IX, stood out in the individual category. Through her efforts and close coordination with LGUs and the private sector, several trainings were made possible, including the 2-day Training of Trainers on Coconut Agrotechnology and the Training on Coconut Water Vinegar Making. She also organized Small Coconut Farmers Organizations (SCFOs) in all barangays within her assigned municipalities, ensuring that they were all registered with DOLE and accredited by the LGU. Through her efforts, four of the registered SCFOs were converted into cooperatives, significantly aiding the implementation of PCA programs and projects.



Cost Saver Award – Individual Category
CHIN ANN D. JIMENEZ
Agriculturist II
Region IX

PCA Romblon was awarded the Cost Saver Award in the Group Category. The PCA Provincial Office received three laptops from the Provincial Office of Romblon in response to their request to meet the office's needs for report generation and other office-related tasks.

Cost Saver Award – Group Category
PCA - ROMBLON



The Team of the Year award was given to the top department or office in the central office, regional office, and research center based on their achievement of approved targets/work and financial programs/plans, compliance with good governance, notable accomplishments, performance, and other predetermined criteria.

The Team of the Year Award for Central Office went to the Oil Palm & Other Special Concerns and Projects Division for their outstanding team collaboration and project execution.



Team of the Year – Central Office
OIL PALM & OTHER SPECIAL CONCERNS & PROJECTS DIVISION

Region XII was recognized as the Team of the Year for the Regional Office, highlighting their collective achievements in regional operations.



Team of the Year – Regional Office
REGION XII

PCA's TREASURE: THE PEOPLE AND THE INSTITUTION

2023 PCA PRAISE AWARDEES

The Davao Research Center was named Team of the Year for the Research Center, acknowledging their contributions to research excellence.



*Team of the Year – Research Center
DAVAO RESEARCH CENTER*

Lastly, the Personal Development Award was awarded to Ms. Jennycar S. Gallego from Region XII, recognizing her pursuit of higher education with a Master's Degree in Sustainable Development, demonstrating a commitment to continuous learning and professional growth.

The PRAISE Awards not only celebrate individual and team achievements but also highlight the organization's unwavering commitment to upholding its core values of Professionalism, Integrity, Transparency, and Excellence. Each awardee has set a standard of excellence that drives everyone to continue striving for these principles, ensuring the organization's ongoing success and growth.



*Personal Development Award
JENNYCAR S. GALLEGO (Master's Degree)
Project Development Officer III
Region XII*

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES

As part of the Authority's continuous dedication to Learning and Development, the Authority has been actively involved in organizing and participating in training activities. Staying true to the goal of empowering employees, PCA proudly engaged in one hundred five (105) training sessions in 2023.

In line with PCA's dedication to Gender and Development (GAD), the Authority hosted training sessions to guide employees through GAD strategies and policies. Some of the trainings conducted include Seminar on Anti-Sexual Harassment in the Workplace and Safe Spaces Act, Training-Workshop on the Formulation of a 6-Year GAD Agenda, and Unarmed Self-Defense Training-Workshop. These sessions play a crucial role in raising awareness about the importance of gender sensitivity throughout the organization and paved the way for mainstreaming gender fundamental concepts across the various functions of the organization.

The Authority is committed to empowering its employees by providing capacity-building opportunities that enhance their skills and knowledge, enabling them to perform their roles with greater competency and excellence. These training activities were either conducted in-house by the PCA or involved sending employees to external trainings and workshops. The training topics are diverse and tailored to the various roles and functions within the organization, covering administrative support and technical skill enhancement to project management and policy development.



Unarmed Self-Defense Training Workshop (PCA Agro-Hub Building, December 6-7, 2023)

The PCA Board

Following RA No. 10149, otherwise known as, the "GOCC Governance Act of 2011", the governing boards of every GOCC and its subsidiaries are competent to carry out their functions, fully accountable to the State as its fiduciary, and act in the best interest of the State.

The composition of the PCA Board has been restructured several times due to changes in the national administration and within the Authority itself. As a result of these transitions, the following outlines the membership of the PCA Board for the year 2023.

PCA Board Composition as of January 2023

H.E. President FERDINAND R. MARCOS, JR.
DA Secretary
Chairperson

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO
DOF Secretary
Vice Chairperson

AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN
DBM Secretary
Member

RENATO U. SOLIDUM, JR.
DOST OIC-Secretary
Member

ALFREDO E. PASCUAL
DTI Secretary
Member

BERNIE F. CRUZ
PCA Administrator/CEO
Member

FLOR L. OLIVAR
Farmer Representative
from the Luzon Coconut
Farmer Sector, Member

FRANK ROY M. RIBO
Farmer Representative
from the Visayas Coconut
Farmer Sector, Member

PEPITO P. CAPANGPANGAN
Farmer Representative
from the Mindanao Coconut
Farmer Sector, Member

PCA Board Composition as of December 2023

FRANCISCO TIU LAUREL, JR.
DA Secretary
Chairperson

BENJAMIN E. DIOKNO
DOF Secretary
Vice Chairperson

AMENAH F. PANGANDAMAN
DBM Secretary
Member

RENATO U. SOLIDUM, JR.
DOST OIC-Secretary
Member

ALFREDO E. PASCUAL
DTI Secretary
Member

BERNIE F. CRUZ
PCA Administrator/CEO
Member

FLOR L. OLIVAR
Farmer Representative
from the Luzon Coconut
Farmer Sector, Member

FRANK ROY M. RIBO
Farmer Representative
from the Visayas Coconut
Farmer Sector, Member

PEPITO P. CAPANGPANGAN
Farmer Representative
from the Mindanao Coconut
Farmer Sector, Member

BOARD RESOLUTIONS FOR CY 2023

Section 8 of the GCG Memorandum Circular No. 2012-07 provides for the list of the Specific Functions of the Board. One of which is to meet regularly, ideally at least once every month to properly discharge its responsibilities, with independent views expressed during such meetings being given due consideration, and that all such meetings shall be properly documented.

For CY 2023, the PCA Board held a total of eleven (11) board meetings via blended face-to-face & Zoom videoconferencing. Through these meetings, the PCA Board has successfully approved forty (40) Board Resolutions for CY 2023.

The highlights of its accomplishments are the following:

1. Approval of the Implementation of the Compensation, Position and Classification System (CPCS) Salary Structure;
2. Approval of the Creation of a Task Force for the Formulation and Implementation of the PCA Catch-Up and Action Plans for 2023 and the Succeeding Years;
3. Five (5)-Year Assessment and Mid-Year Planning last July 19-21, 2023;
4. Site-Visit of PCA-Ubay Coconut Seedgarden, Bohol last July 22, 2023;
5. Approval of the Conduct of Strategic Planning;
6. Approval of the Catch-Up Plan for the Implementation of Programs and Projects Under FY 2023 and Prior Years; and
7. Approval of the CY 2024 Performance Evaluation Scorecard for the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Table 1. List of Approved Board Resolutions CY 2023

Board Reso. No.	CY 2023 BOARD RESOLUTIONS
2023-001	Approving the FY 2023 Corporate Operating Budget (COB) of the Philippine Coconut Authority Amounting to P3,842,399,150.74
2023-002	Approving the Construction of a New Philippine Coconut Authority Building
2023-003	Approving the Request for the Reconstitution of the Change Management Team (CMT)
2023-004	Appointing the Three (3) Deputy Administrators for the Branches of Special Concerns, Foreign-Assisted Projects, and Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan
2023-005	Approving the Implementation of the Compensation, Position and Classification System (CPCS) Salary Structure
2023-006	Approving the Proposed Reorganization and Reconstitution of Board Committees and the Creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG) for Each Committee
2023-007	Approving the Proposed Membership in the Philippine Coconut Authority's Board Committees
2023-008	Approving Corporate Order No. 01, Series of 2023 (Amendment of Corporate Order No. 1, Series of 2022 Re: Approving And Signing Authority)
2023-009	Appointing Mr. Ernest Michael D. Livelos as Board Secretary III of the Office of the Corporate Secretary (OCS)
2023-010	Approving the Request to Engage in the Limited Practice of Legal Profession of Atty. Luz J. Perez, Board Secretary V of the Office of the Corporate Secretary (OCS)
2023-011	Approving the Amendment of the MOA Between the PCA and the Land Bank of The Philippines (LBP) and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) with regard to the Quarterly Remittance to the Bureau of Treasury of the Loan Payment Collections
2023-012	Approving the CY 2023 Annual Audit Plan with Proposed Budgetary Requirement Amounting to P2,198,815.00

Board Reso. No.	CY 2023 BOARD RESOLUTIONS
2023-013	Approving the Proposal of the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) to Amend the Terms and Conditions of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Lending Program
2023-014	Approving the Components and Budgetary Requirements of the Health and Medical Programs Subject to the Final Approval of the Amendments to the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP)
2023-015	Approving the FY 2024 Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Budget Proposal (In the Amount of P11,318,561,000.00)
2023-016	Approving the Proposed Vehicle and Motorcycle Refleeting for CY 2024 Amounting to P153,745,000.00
2023-017	Approving the Proposed 5-Year Assessment and Planning of the Philippine Coconut Authority Board on July 19 To 23, 2023
2023-018	Approving the Proposed Supplemental Budget for National Coconut Farmers' Registry System (NCFRS) Amounting to P47,900,000.00
2023-019	Re-Election of Administrator Bernie Ferrer Cruz as the PCA Administrator and Chief Executive Officer
2023-020	Approving in Principle the Program Design for the Health and Medical Program of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act
2023-021	Approving the Authority to Engage in the Limited Practice of Legal Profession of the Board Secretary IV of the Office of the Corporate Secretary, Atty. Ronina J. Tababa-Venturanza
2023-022	Approving the Implementation of the 5-Day Prescriptive Period for Board Members to Act on Board Resolutions and Minutes of the Meeting upon Receipt thereof
2023-023	Approving the Creation of a Task Force for the Formulation and Implementation of the PCA Catch-Up and Action Plans for 2023 and the Succeeding Years
2023-024	Approving the Conduct of Strategic Planning of the Philippine Coconut Authority
2023-025	Approving the Task Force for Massive Coconut Planting and Replanting and Productivity Enhancement, and its Composition and Operational Guidelines
2023-026	Approving the Modification of Funds of Locally-Funded Projects Amounting to P135,681,931.83 to Cover Additional Requirements for the Massive Planting/Replanting Initiative of the Philippine Coconut Authority Management
2023-027	Approving the Catch-Up Plan for the Implementation of Programs and Projects under FY 2023 and Prior Years
2023-028	FY 2023 Supplemental Corporate Operating Budget (SCOB) - (P171,888,045.43)
2023-029	Approving the Authority to Apply and Transact with the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) for the Procurement and Transport of Controlled Chemicals During Election Period for PCA Zamboanga Research Center (PCA-ZRC)
2023-030	Authorizing the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Administrator to Sign Procurement and Transport Documents of Regulated Substances on behalf of the PCA Board During Election and Campaign Periods
2023-031	Approving the Conduct of the Capacity-Building Training/Workshop on the Baseline Assessment of the Internal Control Systems of the Internal Audit Department on October 23-27, 2023 with a Corresponding Budget Amounting to P489,163.84
2023-032	Approval of the Conduct of the CY 2023 PCA Board Year-End Assessment and Planning - (Proposed Venue In Vigan, Ilocos Sur on December 3-7, 2023)
2023-033	Approving the Renewal of the Contract of Service Agreement of Atty. Anna Isabel S. Bugay for CY 2024
2023-034	Approving the Revised CY 2024 Performance Evaluation System (PES) Scorecard
2023-035	Approving the Revised CY 2023 Audit Manual of Operations
2023-036	Approving CY 2024 Annual Audit Plan
2023-037	Approving the Creation of a Planning Team for the Implementation of the BAICS
2023-038	Approving the Proposed Schedule of CY 2024 Regular Board Meetings
2023-039	Approval of the CY 2023 Philippine Coconut Authority Board Year-End Assessment and Planning in Bicol on January 15-19, 2024
2023-040	Approving the Reconfiguration of the Target and Budgetary Allocation of the Coconut Hybridization Program and the Authority of the Administrator to Sign the Modification of Funds

PCA'S FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE

Approved Budget

For CY 2023, the Philippine Coconut Authority Governing Board approved the Corporate Operating Budget (COB) amounting to Php 3,854,674,150.31.

In terms of expense class allocation, 21% was allocated for Personnel Services (PS), 71% for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), and 8% was allotted for Capital Outlays (CO). The COB of the Authority is composed of various sources, namely, from the National Subsidy, Corporate funds, Inter-agency funds, and the CFIDP funds.

Moreover, the corporate funds were sourced from the revenue generated by PCA in the collection of fees. Corporate funds were utilized to implement relevant Projects, Activities, and Programs (PAPs) including operating expenses that are not covered by the national subsidy through the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

On the other hand, Inter-agency funds were from other government agencies to which PCA have collaborative projects. The Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Program (CFIDP) funds, on the other hand, are solely used for the CFIDP programs.

Budget Obligation

As of 31 December 2023, the overall COB Obligation rate of the Authority is at 56% or Php 2,153,954,343.56 out of the Php 3,854,674,150.31 approved COB. The Obligation rate in terms of expense class is disaggregated wherein 23% was obligated for Personnel Services (PS), 70% for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE), 7% for Capital Outlay (CO). The specific amount is disaggregated in the table below:

Table 2. PCA's Corporate Operating Budget Obligation CY 2023

Fund Source	Budget	Obligations
Personnel Services	802,477,039.93	501,864,357.44
MOOE	2,732,383,105.05	1,504,878,739.93
Capital Outlay	319,814,005.33	147,211,246.20
Grand Total	3,854,674,150.31	2,153,954,343.56

Figure 3. PCA's Corporate Operating Budget CY 2023

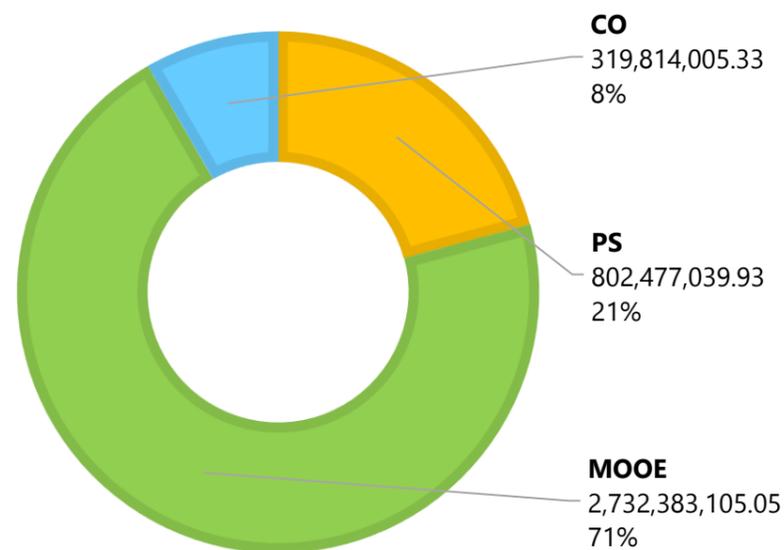
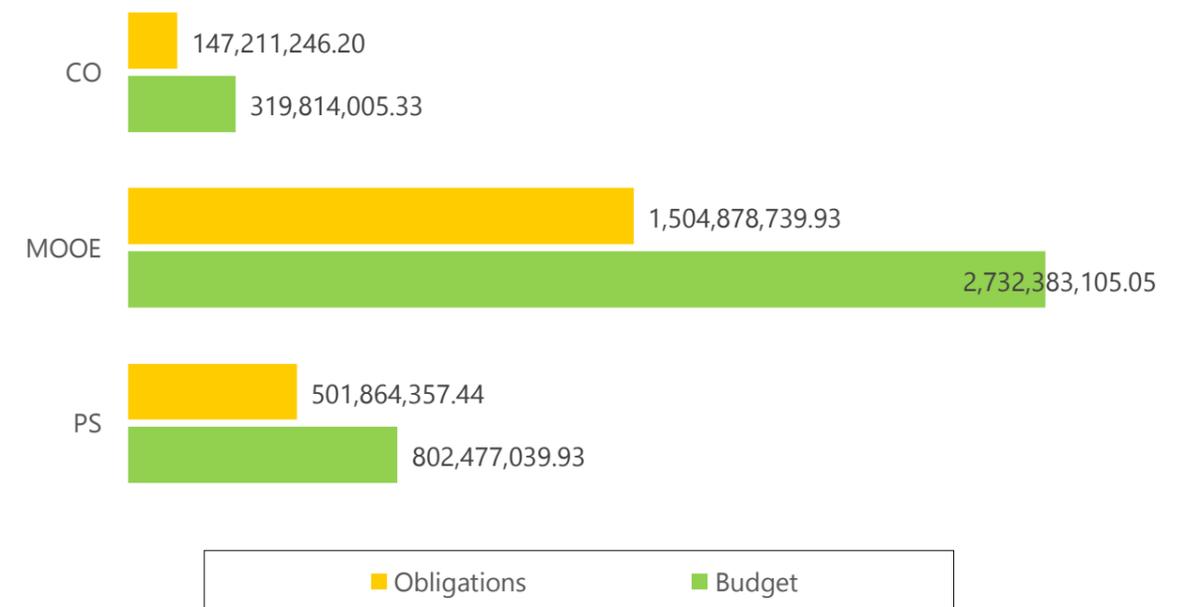


Figure 4. PCA's Corporate Operating Budget Obligation CY 2023





Proclamation No. 142 series of 1987 declares August 24-30 of 1987 and every year thereafter as the National Coconut Week under the auspices of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

In year 2023, PCA celebrates the 37th National Coconut Week celebration with the theme “Coconut Industry Modernization: Pillar of a Resilient and Sustainable Nation”. The series of event lined-up included the Opening Ceremony of the 37th Coconut Week celebration, a 2-day Stakeholders Forum, Coco Bazaar, participation in the World Coconut Congress, an Awarding Ceremony for the Coconut contests, farmers and stakeholders, and several promotional interviews and appearances which were all held from August until the 2nd of September 2023.

Year 2023 is a milestone year for the Philippine Coconut Authority as it celebrated its 50th year as an agency while fulfilling its mandate of promoting the rapid integrated development and growth of the coconut and other oil palm industries. With this important occasion, the celebration was filled with various activities for the employees, for the farmers, and for the stakeholders in the industry.

Calendar of Activities for the 50th Anniversary

Date	Activity
1 June 2023	Kick-off of the 50th Celebration Activities
1 June 2023	Employees Parade at the PCA Grounds
1-23 June 2023	PCA Sports Tournament (Basketball, Volleyball, Chess, Scrabble, Darts & Mobile Legends)
26 June 2023	PCA 50th Anniversary Fun Run and Games at the Quezon City Memorial Circle
26 June 2023	PCA 50th Anniversary Press Conference and Exhibit at PCA Auditorium
26-27 June 2023	Coconut Bazaar at the PCA Grounds
28 June 2023	PCA Got Talent at PCA Auditorium
29 June 2023	National Coconut Tree-Planting Ceremony at the Coconut Palace, Pasay City
30 June 2023	International Development Partners and Stakeholders Forum at PICC, Pasay City
30 June 2023	PCA Employees Appreciation Night at Luxent Hotel, Quezon City

Marcos to PCA: Invest in new technologies to boost coconut sector

By Ruth Abbey Gita-Carlos, Philippine News Agency, 29 June 2023, 2:22 PM

MANILA – President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on Thursday called on the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to step up its modernization efforts and invest in new technologies to ensure the resilience of the coconut sector.

Speaking during the PCA's 50th anniversary celebration at the Coconut Palace in Pasay City, Marcos said the Philippines, as a major exporter of coconut products, is now in a prime position to harness the advantage of developing the industry for the benefit of the economy and the Filipino people.

Marcos urged the PCA to continue to uplift the lives of the coconut farmers, empower them to improve their conditions and free them from poverty.

"The PCA must intensify the implementation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan to accelerate the modernization of the coconut industry and to improve the lives of our coconut farmers and their families," he said.

"Invest in technologies and initiatives that will not only safeguard but also ensure the resilience of the coconut sector of our agriculture," Marcos added.

Marcos also instructed the PCA to double its efforts to address the pressing issues besetting the coconut industry, including the effects of climate change, pests and diseases that "remain a significant threat" to coconut trees.

"As we reflect upon the last half-century, we are reminded of the valued history of the PCA, and the challenges that it has withstood to get to where it is today," he said.

Recognizing coconut trees being a source of Filipinos' livelihood, Marcos stressed the importance to continue developing and improving coconut

products to "find new uses and expand its distribution to new markets."

Marcos also acknowledged the dedicated and diligent coconut farmers for their tireless efforts to make the coconut sector "stronger."

“ Through their hard work, they are able to plant, take care of, and nourish resilient coconut trees necessary for the emergence of a stronger coconut industry that we may all reap the benefits of this essential product. ”

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Before delivering a keynote speech, Marcos also participated in the national coconut tree planting activity at the Coconut Palace.

This year's founding anniversary focuses on the theme, "PCA@50: Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future of the Philippine Coconut Industry," highlighting the agency's five-decade accomplishments in terms of empowering and revitalizing the Philippine coconut industry.

The PCA will be holding a weeklong celebration that features various activities, including the ceremonial coconut tree planting led by Marcos, a photo exhibition on PCA's milestones, a bazaar and showcase of coconut products from Filipino farmers.

Established on June 30, 1973 through Presidential Decree No. 232, the PCA is mandated to develop the coconut industry to its maximum potential anchored in a vision of a united, globally competitive and efficient industry.

Among its functions include improving the productivity of coconut farmers, research and development, infrastructure development, post-harvest facilities and development of coconut farmers' organizations and enterprises.

Coconut production in the country increased by 1.6 percent from 3.20 million metric tons (MMT) in the first quarter of 2022 to 3.26 MMT in the first quarter of 2023.

Davao Region is the top coconut producer in the country, with 487.10 thousand MT or a 15.0-percent share of the total coconut production in the first quarter of 2023. Other top-producing regions were Zamboanga Peninsula with 14.9-percent share and Northern Mindanao with 13.6-percent share.

The Philippines is a major exporter of coconut oil and other products such as copra meal and desiccated coconut, whose exports declined in the first four months of 2023.

The record shows coconut exports declined by more than half from USD1.04 billion in January to April 2022 to USD490.16 million in the same period in 2023.

The global coconut products market was valued at USD20.24 billion in 2022 and is expected to expand at an annual growth rate of 8.4 percent from 2023 to 2030. (PNA)



Source: Philippine News Agency

PCA National Coconut Tree Planting Activity led by (at center) President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. joined by (from L-R) Senator Cynthia Villar, DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, PCA Administrator Bernie Cruz, and Pasay City Mayor Imelda Calixto Rubiano

PCA's Treasure: The Coconut and Oil Palm Farmers

"Farming is a profession of hope" (Brian Brett, Canadian poet, novelist and editor). This quote encapsulates the spirit and resilience of coconut farmers in the Philippines.

The Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) has always been at the forefront of nurturing the nation's coconut industry- an industry as rich and diverse as the archipelago itself.

This chapter delves into the heart of PCA's efforts, highlighting the myriad ways, illustrating the institution's unwavering commitment to transforming the lives of its greatest treasure -
THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM FARMERS.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Sustainable Planting and Replanting of Local Cultivars Project (SPRLCP)

The Sustainable Planting and Replanting of Local Cultivars Project (SPRLCP) is one of the major programs towards farm productivity which aims on the planting of recommended local tall and dwarf cultivars in the upland and coastal areas where the hybrid varieties are deemed not suited for commercial cultivation.

533,949	490,033	3,622
Distributed coconut seedlings nationwide	Field planted coconut seedlings	Farmer beneficiaries

It supports the long-term reliability of supply to cope with the increasing demand in the domestic and international markets. PCA will distribute good quality coconut seedlings to coconut farmer beneficiaries with 0.5 to 1.0-hectare farmland and registered to the National Coconut Farmers' Registry System (NCFRS).

To continuously replace the senile and unproductive coconut palms and expansion of new areas for coconut plantation, PCA has distributed 533,949 coconut seedlings nationwide.

For 2023, about 490,033 coconut seedlings were field planted covering 3,311 hectares involving 3,622 farmer participants. There are 492,623 remaining seednuts sown in the nursery as of to date.

About 810,045 seednuts and 225,797 seedlings were sourced from PCA Research Centers and Seed Production Centers. The Regions also outsource from PCA registered Coconut Seednut/Seedling Producers, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Farmers Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs).

Distribution of Composting Facility for Biodegradable Wastes

Likewise, in 2023, about 36,194 kgs of compost were produced from the 13 units of CFBW in Regions II, VI & X. PCA provided an initial amount of PhP 75,500.00 as incentives to the compost production of Migcawayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Hindang Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Alayon Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Region X. On the other hand, the conduct of hands-on training to the newly delivered CFBW to FCAs are still on-going. In 2022, about 11,500 kgs were distributed to 55 farmer beneficiaries from the 64,614 kgs of compost produced from the 08 units of CFBW used. The initial incentives paid to Tagakpan-Balingaeng Micro Farmers Association in Region XI amounted to PhP190,000.00.



Delivery of Composting Facility for Biodegradable Wastes (CFBW) for the LaPurissima Cooperative

Photo: LaPurissima Coop Facebook



Distribution of 2 sets of CFBW at Binalan Agriculture Cooperative and Bagu, Pamplona, Cagayan

Photo: Region 2 Facebook Page

Seedfarm Maintenance

With the Seedfarm Maintenance component of the project, the steady supply of high-quality planting materials is ensured. The project aims to augment potential sources of good quality materials that will be made available to the coconut farmers to support the coconut planting project of the Authority. This is being implemented in partnership with the Local Government Units, State Universities and Colleges and private entities.

In 2023, about 18 seedfarms were maintained in selected strategic locations which were planted with recommended Open Pollinated Varieties. Some of the palms planted in Mandaon, Masbate (Region V), Bago City, Negros Occidental, Dumalag Capiz (Region VI), Capoocan, Leyte (Region VIII), Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental (Region X), Mati City, Davao Oriental (Region XI) and Columbio, Sultan Kudarat (Region XII) are in bearing and flowering stages. The seedfarms are projected to be sourced of desired planting materials for certain industries in a locality.



OPV Seedfarm at Pantukan, Davao de Oro

OPV Seedfarm at Governor Generoso, Davao Oriental

Coconut Fertilization Project

The Coconut Fertilization Project (CFP) aims in enhancing the coconut productivity, increase coconut production and farmer's income. This project involves the rehabilitation of low-bearing trees with the application of appropriate fertilizers.

In support to organic farming and sustainable agriculture, PCA distributes Composting Facility for Biodegradable Wastes (CFBW) in 61 major coconut-producing provinces for the production of compost/soil conditioner. A cash incentive of PhP 10.00 per kg or PhP 500.00 per bag of compost produced from the CFBW shall be provided to the Farmers' Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) beneficiaries.

This project not only enhanced productivity but also promoted environmentally friendly farming practices.

A total of 13,270 bags of fertilizers were applied to 158,000 (23%) coconut trees covering an area of 1,580 hectares that benefitted 1,643 coconut farmers. Further, 20,799 bags of fertilizers are for distribution to coconut farmers, 18,622 bags are for delivery while 12,250 bags of fertilizers are in various stages of procurement.

158,000	1,580	1,643
Trees Fertilized	Hectares Fertilized	Farmer beneficiaries

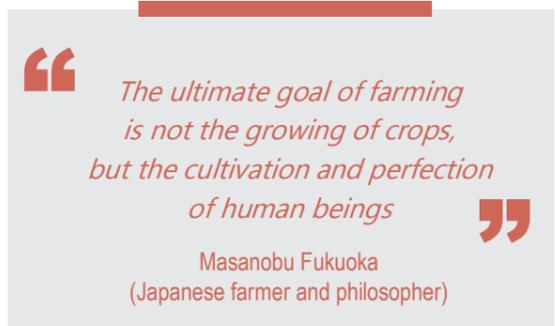
Coconut Village Development Project (CVDP)

The Coconut Village Development Project (CVDP) primary objective is to increase agricultural productivity and augment the income of the coconut farmers. On continuing project CVDP 2022, which most of the planting activities were undertaken in CY 2023 and carrying-over its accomplishments and activities.

The project focused on intercropping under coconut, such as vegetables, mungbean, corn, banana, sweet potato, and abaca, covering 5,501 hectares of intercropped coconut farms benefitting 8,672 farmers.

In addition to intercropping, the CVDP 2022 included animal integration for coconut farmers. This is another option that affected farmers may opt to pursue. In 2023, 3,550 chicken heads were distributed to 355 farmer-beneficiaries, contributing to sustainable source of income but also helps in the development of rural communities.

Through the project, a total of 279,488 packets of vegetable seeds, planted in 8,299 hectares benefitting 122,365 farmers.



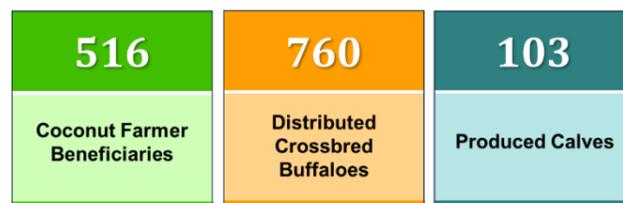
Coconut-Carabao Development Project

The PCA and Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) worked together to help coconut farmers and address issues in the dairy industry with the support of Sen. Cynthia Villar, Senate Committee Chairperson on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform.

The PCA achieved significant progress in 2023, with a 98% accomplishment rate in delivering 378 carabaos to 218 farmers in 8 cooperative conduits. While PCC attained an 85% accomplishment rate, delivering 382 dairy carabaos to 298 farmers in 9 cooperative conduits.



Positive trends in offspring production were observed, with 103 calves produced by December 2023 across participating regions. Despite reported mortalities, the ongoing construction of Dairy Boxes in various locations remained a positive indicator.



Specifically, 1 PCA commitment in Region V and 3 PCC commitments in Region VII, IX, and XII of Dairy Box Infrastructure were completed.

The Coconut Carabao Development Project distributed to 516 coconut farmers around 760 crossbred buffaloes which already produced 103 calves.

Coconut Debris Management Plan

The Coconut Debris Management Plan (CDMP) addressed the clearing of damaged coconut palms in typhoon Odette-affected areas in Regions IV, VI, VII, VIII, X, and XIII, clearing about 2,350,160 palms by PCA-hired chainsaw operators and laborers through cash-for-work.

Traps were also set up to prevent coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation. A total of 60,872 log traps were established, and 130,395 decaying debris were broadcasted with Green Muscardine Fungus (GMF). This intervention was supported by PCA Albay Research Center, Davao Research Center, and PCA Cabadbaran City Laboratory in Agusan del Norte through delivering and producing a total of 10,484.80 kilograms of GMF.

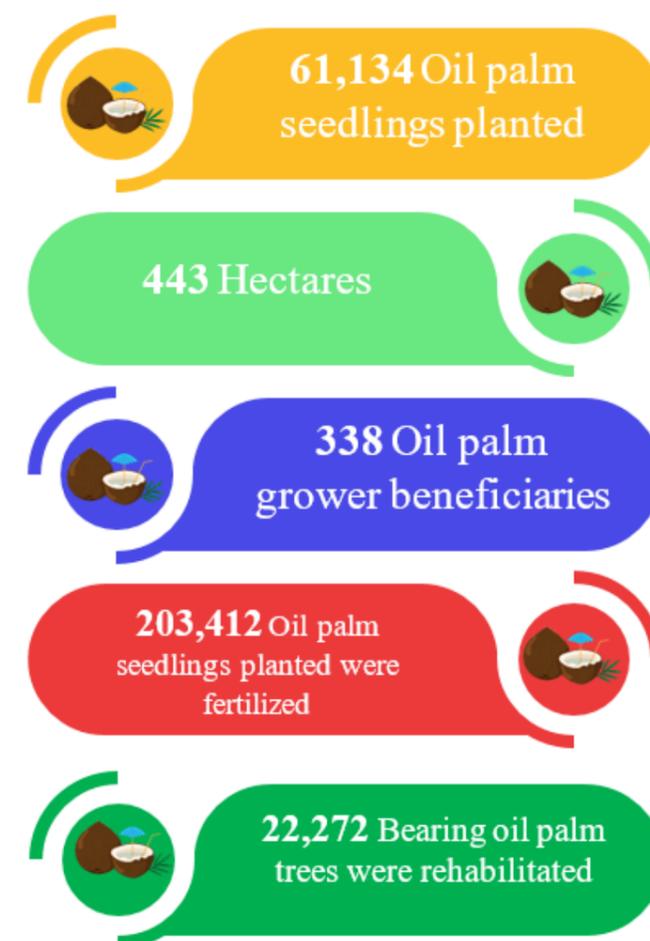
A Cash-for-Work Program was implemented to support the clearing operations, benefiting typhoon-affected coconut farmers and workers. The total amount disbursed to PCA-hired chainsaws operators and laborers amounted to PHP 137,301,442.00.

The projects have made significant steps in enhancing the livelihoods of coconut farmers. The incorporation of intercropping, animal integration, and carabao development, along with effective debris management, has contributed to increased productivity and resilience in coconut farming communities across multiple regions.

Smallholders Oil Palm Plantation Development Project

The Smallholders Oil Palm Plantation Development Project (SOPDP) primarily aims to narrow the supply-demand gap of raw materials for downstream processing into food, feed and industrial uses. The project also helps to contribute in addressing the increasing importation of palm oil to meet domestic requirement and to promote oil palm plantation development through organized growers or out-growers scheme with marketing tie ups with the oil millers.

A total of 61,134 oil palm seedlings were planted to 443 hectares where 338 oil palm growers participated. Further, about 203,412 oil palm seedlings planted in 1,474 hectares were fertilized thru the nutrient support component. Moreover, 22,272 bearing oil palm trees planted in 174 hectares were rehabilitated using mineral fertilizers which benefited 174 oil palm growers.



PCA'S TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM FARMERS

Smallholders Oil Palm Plantation Development Project

In 2023, the project implemented various initiatives on four (4) components: 1) Oil Palm Planting/Replanting, 2) Rehabilitation thru Fertilization, 3) Fertilization Yr. 2, and 4) Research and Development.

Oil Palm Planting/Replanting

Under the Oil Palm Planting/Replanting component, PCA has distributed good quality oil palm seedlings to smallholder oil palm growers. This involves planting of oil palm in open and highly suitable and/or replanting of existing oil palm plantations using high yielding (138) F1 hybrids oil palm seedlings per hectare along with the provision of fertilizer support of about two (2) bags of complete and one (1) bag of Ammonium Sulfate Fertilizers for every hectare for the first few months from planting.

For the year 2023, the target area for planting/replanting is 851 hectares in Regions IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, and BARMM to be planted with 117, 438 oil palm seedlings which will benefit 569 oil palm growers. This will be accompanied with the prescribed basal fertilizer with a total of 851 bags of Ammonium Sulfate (AS), and 1,702 bags of Complete fertilizer (14-14-14).

As of December 31, 2023, the project has accomplished 52% in which Regions IX, X, XI, and XII 100% delivery while Regions XIII, and BARMM are still waiting for the delivery of planting materials.

Table 3. Oil Palm Planting and Replanting Physical Accomplishment CY 2023

Region	Target				Accomplishment				Status
	Area to be Planted	No. of Seedlings to be Planted	No. of Fertilizer (bags)	No. of Farmers	Area Planted (ha)	No. of Seedlings Planted	No. of Fertilizer Applied (bags)	No. of Farmers	
Total	851	117,438	2,553	569	443	61,134	1,329.00	338	52% Accomplished
IX	73	10,074	219	56	73	10,074	219	56	100% Accomplished as of Jul 2023
X	82	11,316	246	82	82	11,316	246	82	100% Accomplished as of Dec 2023
XI	39	5,382	117	39	39	5,382	117	39	100% Accomplished as of Nov 2023
XII	249	34,362	747	161	249	34,362	747	161	100% Accomplished as of Dec 2023
XIII	247	34,086	741	163					Planting materials are scheduled to be delivered on Jan 2024
BARMM	161	22,218	483	68					For delivery

Meanwhile, the CY 2022 fund allocation with a target area of 1,474 hectares which is equivalent to 203,412 oil palm seedlings and fertilizer support of 1,474 bags of AS and 2,713 bags of complete was 100% accomplished last October 30, 2023. This benefitted 1,066 smallholder oil palm growers.

Rehabilitation thru Fertilization

Under the rehabilitation component, PCA distributed inorganic fertilizers with an allocation per hectare of four (4) bags of Ammonium Sulfate (AS), and three (3) bags of Muriate of Potash (KCL). This is to rehabilitate oil palm trees aged 4-20 years old and with the average yield of below 10MT Fresh Fruit Bunch (FFB) per hectare.

For CY 2023, the province of Palawan has a target to rehabilitate about 22,272 oil palm trees in 174-hectare area. The project was 100% accomplished last November 30, 2023 benefitting 174 oil palm growers.



Farmer Beneficiary of Fertilization in Zamboanga

Fertilization (Year 2)

For 2023, fertilization for Year 2 was introduced to add fertilizer support for the oil palm seedlings planted under Oil Palm Planting/Replanting in 2022. This involves provision of three (3) bags of AS and two (2) bags of KCL per hectare. The project was 100% accomplished in November 2023 which have fertilized a total of 203,412 oil palm seedlings benefitting 1,066 oil palm growers in Regions IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, and BARMM.

Table 4. Oil Palm Fertilization Year 2 Physical Accomplishment CY 2023

Region	Target				Accomplishment				Status
	Area (ha)	No. of Seedlings fertilized	No. of Fertilizer (bags)	No. of Farmers	Area Applied (ha)	No. of Seedlings Fertilized	No. of Fertilizer Applied (bags)	No. of Farmers	
Total	1,474	203,412	7,370	1,066	1,474	203,412	7,370	1,066	100% Accomplished
IX	235	32,430	1,175	114	235	32,430	1,175	114	100% Accomplished as of Nov 2023
X	135	18,630	675	135	135	18,630	675	135	100% Accomplished as of Oct 2023
XI	112	15,456	560	112	112	15,456	560	112	100% Accomplished as of Oct 2023
XII	380	52,440	1,900	270	380	52,440	1,900	270	100% Accomplished as of Sep 2023
XIII	430	59,340	2,150	361	430	59,340	2,150	361	100% Accomplished as of Aug 2023
BARMM	182	25,116	910	74	182	25,116	910	74	100% Accomplished as of Sep 2023

Research and Development

The Research and Development component of SOPDP has an allocated budget of PhP3,000,000 for CY 2023. This is open for research proposals related to Development/Establishment of Oil Palm Germplasm for Seed Production Area, Establishment of Dura Grove from Dura mother palms and/or conduct of farm-based research subject for the approval of the Project Review Committee (PRC).

Implementation of RA 8048

Republic Act 8048, otherwise known as the “Coconut Preservation Act” was signed into law in 1995 to recognize the coconut industry as one of the top export earning commodities for the country. As such, to preserve the coconut trees in the country, the Philippine Coconut Authority was mandated to implement the provision stated by the law. In 2013, PCA’s functions in relation to the implementation of RA 8048 was strengthened even more by passing the RA 10593 which provided PCA with police power to properly implement the law and to impose stricter penalties on violations. Further progress was made when Memorandum Circular No. 01 on the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of the RA 8048 was amended and is effective for implementation by June 9, 2023, which required lumber processors, traders, dealers etc. to register or renew their registration at higher fees compared to prior years.

Listed below are the highlights of the implementation of RA 8048 in 2023:

Number of Coconut Trees Cut

A total of 590,536 coconut trees were cut in 2023. 141,633 of those were from Region VIII. This can be attributed to senility, economically unproductive, and some were the fallen trees from the damage caused by Typhoon Odette last December 2021 which also affected regions IV, VI, and XIII. This explains the visible difference in contrast to other regions where the cut coconut trees were in the senile state and are already economically unproductive.

Number of Replacement Seedlings

It was observed that the number of seedlings for replacement are significantly lower than the total number of trees cut for 2023. As a general rule, applicants for PTC shall either plant an equivalent amount of coconut trees that they are requesting to cut prior to their application or pay a Php 50 replacement fee for every tree applied for cutting. With a total of 163,597 seedlings for replacement compared to the 590,536 trees cut, it has to be noted that the applicants chose to pay the replacement fee than to plant the equivalent seedlings. This has resulted to the increase in replacement fee collection with a total of Php 20,701,121 in 2023. The total fees collected for replacement will be used by the Authority for the replanting program by procuring good quality planting materials to be planted in coconut suitable areas.

Number of permits issued

In 2023, the Authority had issued a total of 20,296 Permit to Cut (PTC) and 21,105 issued Permit to Transport (PTT) nationwide. Based on the chart below, it was noted that the PTT issued is slightly higher than the PTC issued for 2023. It can be further observed that Region VIII has the highest issuance, followed by Regions VII and IV-A.

Figure 5. Number of trees cut vs number of seedlings replaced

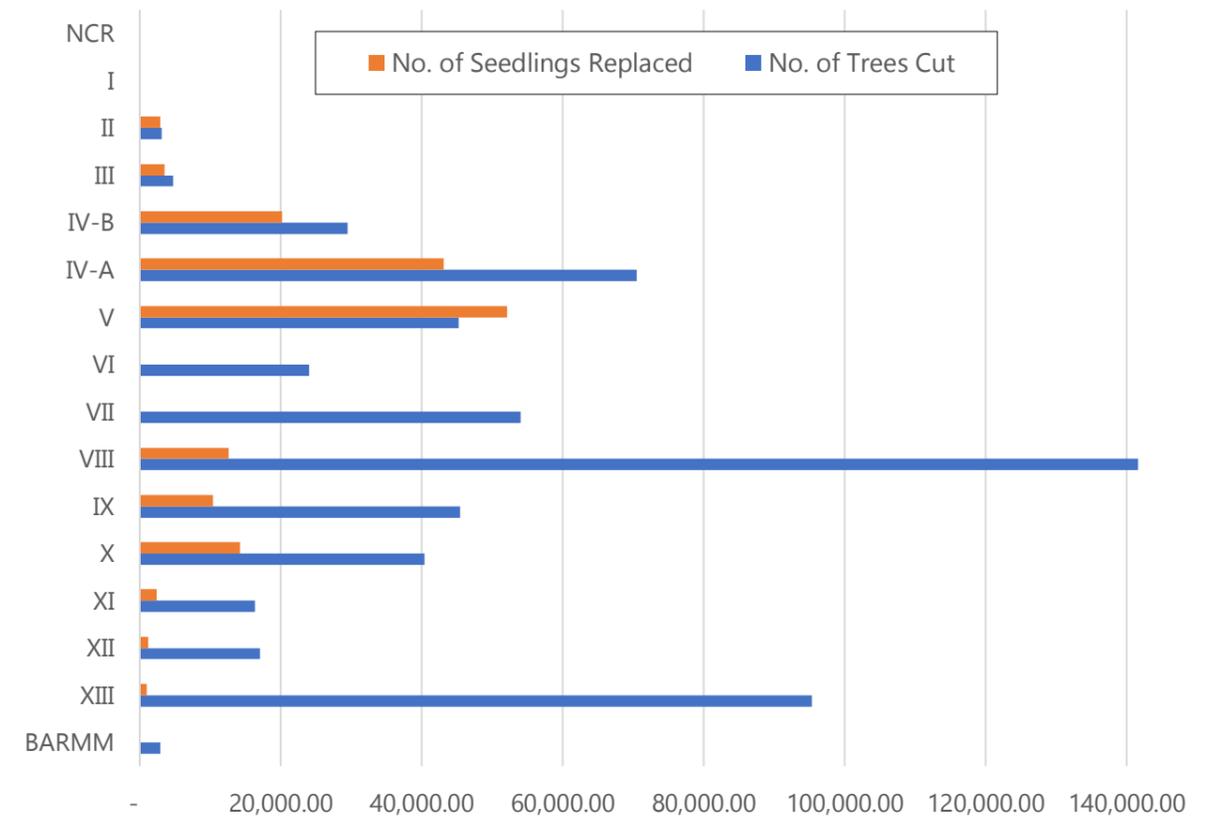
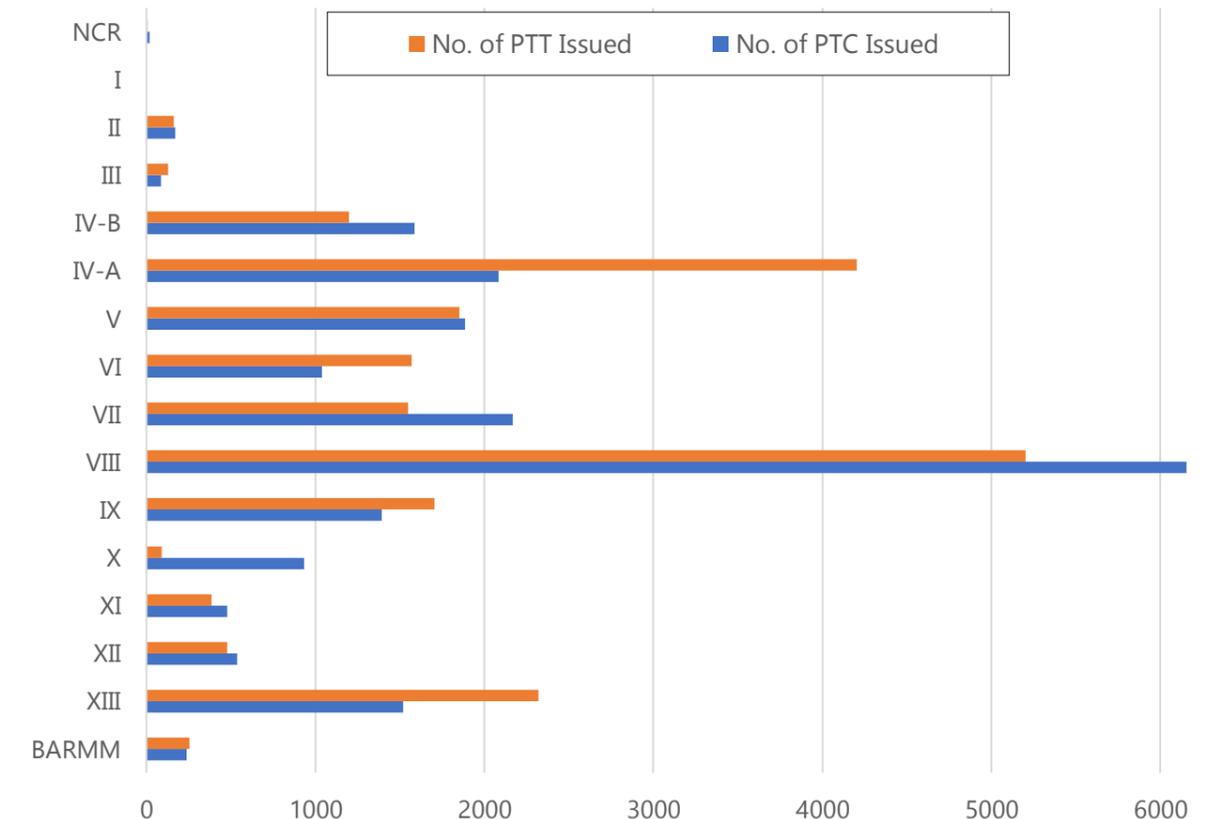


Figure 6. Number of RA8048 permits issued



Volume of Transported Coconut Lumber

For 2023, Regions VIII and XIII have transported the most substantial amount of coconut lumber for the year with 29,026,891 and 17,661,243 board feet respectively. The transported lumbers are commonly used in the construction industry for commercial purposes.

Figure 7. Volume of Transported Coconut Lumber

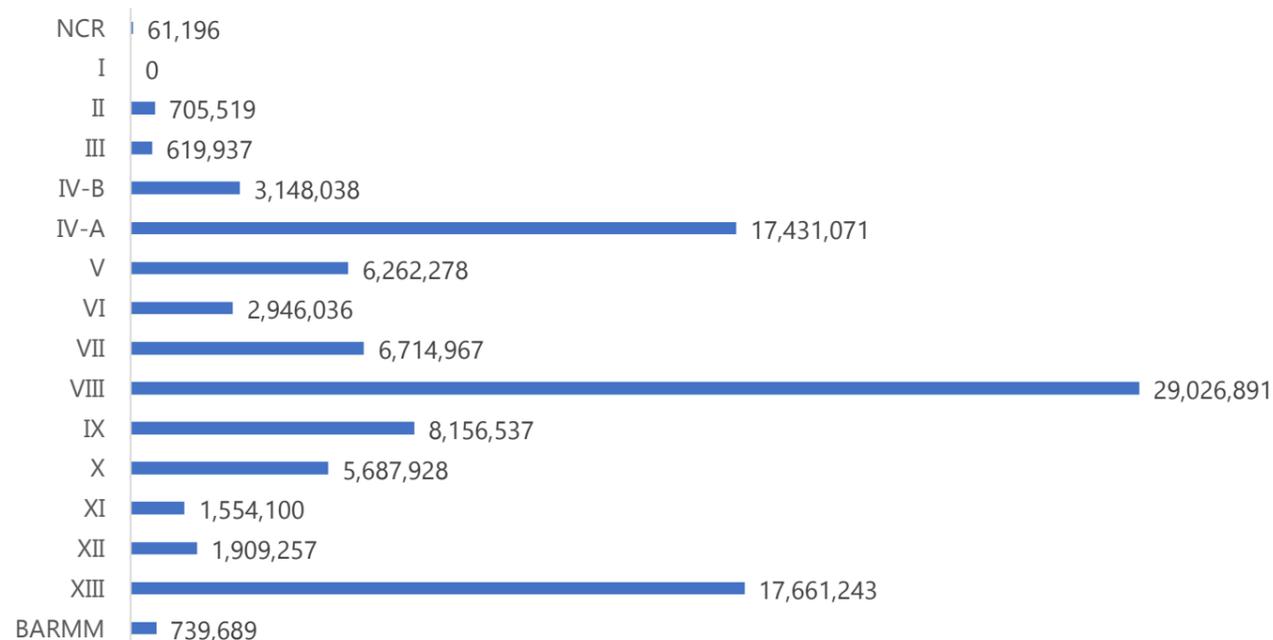


Table 5. Inventory of Registered Coconut Processors, Traders, and Powersaw/Chainsaw

Region	Number of Coconut Lumberyards, Saw Mills, Processors, Traders Registered	Number of Powersaw/ Chainsaw Registered
Philippines	5,480	5,914
NCR	99	5
I	50	3
II	26	18
III	73	18
IV-B	332	347
IV-A	330	431
V	844	495
VI	314	267
VII	932	1,491
VIII	1,390	1,376
IX	204	403
X	208	181
XI	239	322
XII	184	290
XIII	232	272
BARM	23	4

Registered Coconut Lumber Processors, Traders, and Tools of

A total of 5,480 coconut lumber processors and traders were registered to PCA for the year 2023 with Region VIII having the highest number of processors and traders registered with 1,390 while BARM having the lowest number of registrants with 23.

In terms of the number of Powersaws and Chainsaws registered, there were a total of 5,914 with Region VII having the highest number with 1,491 while Region I having the lowest number with 3.

Financial Collections

As provided by the law, PCA is allowed to collect fees that are related to its implementation which are the permit to cut fee, permit to transport fee, registration fee for the coconut lumbers and traders, as well as the registration fee of their powersaws/chainsaws. For the year 2023, the Authority was able to collect a total of Php125,134,662.79.

Permit to Cut Fees. A total of Php82,848,333.99 was collected for the year 2023 in terms of PTC related fees. Region VIII has the biggest collection with Php21,525,800.00 while Regions IVA and XIII were at 2nd and 3rd with collections of Php11,547,510 and Php10,721,600 respectively.

It is worth taking into account that with the amount of replacement fees equivalent to Php20,701,121 and with the Authority's replanting program in mind, a total amount of 237,307 OPV seedlings at a rate of Php85 will be supported some 2,373 hectares of coconut land.

Permit to Transport Fees. Moreover, the collection of Permit to Transport fees for 2023 amounted to Php29,190,814.80. Region VIII recorded the highest amount of fees collected at Php8,794,892.18 followed by Region IVA and Region XIII with Php5,225,271.36 and Php5,389,867.90, respectively.

Registrations Fees. With regards to the fees collected for the registration of the Authority's coconut lumber processors and traders, a total of Php12,839,284 was collected with the highest amount of fees collected from Region VIII of about Php3,165,885 followed by Region VII with Php3,065,379.

Table 6. Total Fees Collected on the Implementation of RA8048

Region	Permit to Cut Fee	Permit to Transport Fee	Registration Fee	Admin Fines	Proceeds on the Conduct of Publication	Total Fees Collected
Philippines	82,848,333.99	29,190,814.80	12,839,284.00	229,250.00	26,980.00	125,134,662.79
NCR	23,150.00	55,762.85	208,100.00	229,250.00	26,980.00	543,242.85
I	2,200.00		54,670.00			56,870.00
II	350,200.00	200,155.53	46,930.00			597,285.53
III	571,250.00	185,981.10	111,860.00			869,091.10
IV-B	3,250,450.00	915,295.20	785,175.00			4,950,920.20
IV-A	11,547,510.00	5,225,271.36	854,180.00			17,626,961.36
V	5,683,754.00	1,921,735.68	1,391,610.00			8,997,099.68
VI	3,871,407.99	881,912.22	552,435.00			5,305,755.21
VII	5,469,750.00	1,753,048.83	3,065,379.00			10,288,177.83
VIII	21,525,800.00	8,794,892.18	3,165,885.00			33,486,577.18
IX	8,478,300.00	2,454,631.75	707,200.00			11,640,131.75
X	5,785,990.00	173,352.20	324,105.00			6,283,447.20
XI	2,456,372.00	465,353.00	578,390.00			3,500,115.00
XII	2,630,300.00	551,618.00	439,100.00			3,621,018.00
XIII	10,721,600.00	5,389,867.90	532,705.00			16,644,172.90
BARM	480,300.00	221,937.00	21,560.00			723,797.00

COCONUT HYBRIDIZATION PROGRAM

The Coconut Hybridization Program (CHP) is one of the major programs under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan of the RA 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act. The program aims to ensure a sustained and increased supply of certified hybrid planting materials.

A total of 907,481 hybrid seednuts were produced from PCA In-House Seed Production Centers and On-Farm Hybrid Seed Production (OFHSP) sites. Additionally, 636,982 seednuts were sown in the 83 communal nursery sites. Similarly, 195,804 hybrid seedlings were planted in 1,370 hectares identified in strategic suitable areas across the country with 1,373 coconut farmer beneficiaries. Recommended fertilizers were applied to 246,416 hybrid coconut palms planted in 1,723 hectares benefiting 1,593 coconut farmers.



Moreover, the production of coconut pollen is an integral activity in the production of single cross coconut hybrid seednuts. About 967.6 kg of pollen were produced from Davao Research Center, Zamboanga Research Center and New Coconut Seed Production Center which were distributed to various OFHSP sites nationwide.

In view of the importance of the coconut and oil palm industries to the Philippine economy, the Authority envisioned the ambitious efforts to increase the income and productivity of the 2.5 million coconut farmers and 19,983 oil palm farmers thru developmental programs to promote greater productivity, poverty alleviation, education, and social equity and agricultural modernization of the coconut and other palm oil industries.

Hybrid Seednut Production

The mass production of high-yielding coconut hybrids for distribution to qualified farmers involves the utilization of the recommended parental palms to produce single-cross coconut hybrid. The production of hybrid seednuts in PCA Seedgardens and on-farm hybrid production sites owned by individual or institutional partners is anchored on the Assisted Pollination Technique following Good Agricultural Practices (GAP).



Photo: PCA Operations Branch

Practice of assisted Pollination Technique following Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) on Coconut.



Open pollinated variety coconut nursery under CHP-Seed Farm Establishment delivered at Tanjay City, Negros Oriental last December 2023 (Photo: PCA Region VII)

Seed Farm Establishment

Establishing a seedfarm aims to produce sufficient hybrid seednuts for future needs of the Authority. The project involves partnership with Local Government Units (LGUs), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), Coconut Farmer Organizations (CFOs), Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), and private individuals through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The area shall be planted with selected dwarf coconut cultivars (as mother palms) and tall cultivars (pollen source) to augment potential sources of good-quality planting materials.



Photo: PCA Operations Branch

Communal Nursery Establishment

The management of a communal nursery aims to produce quality nursery-raised polybagged hybrid seedlings for distribution and eventually planting in suitable areas of farmers. The established nurseries are communal that are centrally managed and located near the area for planting and replanting.

PCA's TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM FARMERS

Strategic Planting and Replanting

The program aims to deliver quality hybrid seedlings for planting and replanting in selected suitable sites to replace senile or unproductive palms, those damaged by natural calamities, and complement the regular planting and replanting program of the Authority. To achieve economies of scale, maximize the benefits of the assistance provided by the government, and ease of monitoring, the farmer-participants will be clustered. This will also ensure that marketing of raw materials and other coconut products and by-products are assured.



Delivery of coconut hybrid seedlings



Photo: PCA Operations Branch

Planting of coconut hybrid seedlings

Precision Farming Through Nutrient Support



Application of fertilizers

This program demonstrates the production potential of the hybrids provided with needed inputs and proper cultural management practices that encourage other farmers to engage in coconut hybrid planting. Application of fertilizers delves into the heart of the Philippine Coconut Authority's Coconut Hybridization Program, specifically focusing on the transformative impact of a strategic fertilization program.



Photo: PCA Operations Branch

Distribution of fertilizers

Professionalizing Hybridization Crew

Building and upgrading the knowledge and technical skills on Assisted Pollination Technique (APT), Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Pollen Collection and Processing, and CHP Operations aim to professionalize the coconut hybridization workforce, PCA Personnel, farmer-partners, and farm service crew.



Hands-On Training on On-Farm Hybridization Protocols and Nursery Management

PCA's TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM FARMERS

COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND (CFIDP)

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Fund (CFIDP) was a significant source of support for various initiatives. This fund was strategically allocated to maximize impact, supporting programs that directly benefited farmers and their families.

The Program Management Office (PMO) is a department-level unit of PCA. It handles the overall coordination of the programs approved for implementation under the CFIDP, coordinates the documentation and reporting of outcomes to the PCA Governing Board, manages the accountability requirements with the implementing agencies and generally ensures compliance with Republic Act No. 11524.

CFIDP Health and Medical Missions

Health and well-being were integral to the PCA's support for farmers. The CFIDP Health and Medical Missions provided much-needed healthcare services to farming communities.

The CFIDP On-the-Go provided a venue for the relevant coconut industry players to participate in an activity where different programs, projects, and services were provided to the eligible beneficiaries as identified by the law. The activity catered implementing agencies, target beneficiaries, potential beneficiaries, development partners, and the local government units.

In 2023, various activities were tagged as CFIDP On-The-Go. These include Health and Medical Missions and several trade shows/exhibitions.



CFIDP On-The-Go Medical and Dental Health Mission at Ubay, Bohol last July 17, 2023

CFIDP-On-The-Go Information Caravan and Medical and Dental Health Missions

The PMO, through its Health and Medical Division and PCA Regional Offices launched CFIDP-On-The-Go Medical and Dental Health Mission to provide health and medical services to coconut farmers and their families. In conjunction with this, the PMO also launched the CFIDP On-The-Go Information Caravan to increase the knowledge and awareness of coconut farmers on the national program components of the CFIDP, with emphasis on the Health and Medical Program for Coconut Farmers and Their Families.

In partnership with the national and local government, as well as the private sector a total of seven (7) medical and dental health missions and eight (8) information caravans were conducted between July and October 2023, benefiting a total of 6,316 coconut farmers and their dependents.



Figure 8. Nationwide Location of CFIDP On-The-Go Medical and Dental Health Mission



CFIDP On-The-Go Medical and Dental Health Mission at Ubay, Bohol last July 17, 2023

During these health missions, the farmers were provided with free medical and dental consultation, prescription medicines and tooth extraction. In some regions, the PCA and its partner institutions also provided free eye check-up and eyeglasses, diagnostic tests, and minor surgeries and circumcision. They also received health kits containing medicines for common illnesses and minor injuries, as well as toothpaste and toothbrush for dental hygiene. Part of these health missions and information caravans is the conduct of surveys to determine the health status of the coconut farmers which can help PCA in providing better and appropriate interventions for their well-being in the future.

Several Programs Under CFIDP

During the second year of CFIDP implementation, the implementing agencies, with the support of LGUs and other key industry stakeholders, successfully launched several programs aimed at benefiting coconut farmers and their families.

Aside from the Health and Medical Program, below is the overview of the CFIDP accomplishments for the year 2023:

Crop Insurance Program

PCIC was able to provide crop insurance to 246,354 coconut farmers, covering 201,345 hectares of coconut land, with the amount Php 10 billion of insurance coverage.

Scholarship Program

As of December 2023, CHED has already received 5,012 applications for the Coconut Farmers Scholarship Program for the 1st Sem SY 2023- 2024. Out of 5,012 applicants, 3,136 coconut farmers students are qualified and accepted as CoScho Scholars, of which of them are taking up agriculture-related courses. Among these students, 2,121 scholars have already claimed their financial assistance Training for Farmers ATI conducted 161 Training of Trainers (TOTs) and 311 farmer-level trainings and accredited 120 farms as farm schools and learning sites for the coconut sector. Additionally, ATI conducted 82 information caravans nationwide to intensify the dissemination of information regarding the CFIDP programs and their benefits as well the registration to the NCFRS, to coconut farmers, especially those in far-flung areas. TESDA, on the other hand, has enrolled 6,264 farmers and family members to various TESDA technical/vocational coconut-related trainings. Out of this number, there were 4,791 graduates from these courses.

Organization and Empowerment of Coconut Farmers Organizations/Cooperatives

For this period, CDA has trained 1,166 cooperatives (CFCs) and have also organized 273 coconut farmer associations and organizations (CFOs/ CFAs) into cooperatives, supported by capacity building trainings.

Coconut Hybridization – Operations

Relative to the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act and under the CFIDP, PCA implements the Operations component of the Coconut Hybridization Program (CHP). This program aims to produce high-yielding and quality planting materials through on-farm hybridization and establishment of communal hybrid nurseries. Hybrid seed nuts are provided to qualified coconut farmers in highly suitable areas to replace unproductive and senile palms and increase the overall production of coconuts in the country, from the current average of 44 nuts/tree/year to about 120-150 nuts/tree/year.

From January 2023 to November 2023, PCA hybridized 63,451 palms and produced 903,266 hybrid seed nuts. PCA also established 78 hectares of seed farms with 110 hectares on-going nursery operations/land preparation and 39 sites for communal nurseries. As a result of the production efforts, PCA planted around 186,224 hybrids in 1,414 hectares of coconut areas. The remaining produced hybrid nuts will be planted in suitable farms in the fourth quarter of FY 2023. To increase the productivity of existing hybrid palms, about 236,456 palms in 1,654 hectares of land were fertilized. Furthermore, PCA trained 477 hybridization workers and personnel such as agriculturists, emasculators, and pollinators. They were also trained on hybridization technology, good agricultural practices, pest management and farm maintenance to ensure efficiency and sustainability in order to guarantee high success rate and high quality of hybrid nuts.

Coconut Hybridization – Research

As of December 2023, DOST-PCAARRD was able to package seven (48) IEC materials and approved and funded 14 proposals on hybridization research for implementation, and monitors 13 ongoing projects related to hybridization.

Intercropping of Coffee and Cacao Program

As of December 2023, HVCDP was able to distribute 139,580 and 280,285 coffee and cacao seedlings, respectively. Also, 208,475 kg of organic fertilizer were distributed and 99,900 and 106,200 coffee and cacao trees were fertilized, respectively.

Dairy Integration

As of November 2023, NDA was able to distribute 45 dairy animals (15 pregnant heifers and 30 breedable heifers) awarded to Manggalang Agrarian Reform Cooperative (MARBENCO) located in Sariaya, Quezon benefitted 15 beneficiaries last December 20-21, 2023.

Market Research, Assistance, and Promotions

Per their report, DTI was able to profile and provide market access and exposure to 25,229 coconut farmers and assisted 5,365 coconut farmers and 87 coconut farmers cooperatives/ MSMEs with their registration requirements. They also conducted 63 local trade fairs and participated in 215 local trade fairs which generated Php 105 million in sales.

Shared Processing Facilities Program

The PhilMech, in collaboration with PCA, CDA, among others, was able to identify 44 recipients - coconut farmer cooperatives and LGUs, for the CFIDP Shared Facilities Program. These SPFs are already procured but awaiting for the construction of building facilities and following its installation of 44 SPFs for 44 CFCs that will benefit 26,261 coconut farmers.

Infrastructure Development Program

As of December 31, the DPWH completed the construction of 16 Farm-to-Market Roads (FMRs) with a total length of 14.178 km for 2023 across seven (7) regions.

Credit Program

LandBank of the Philippines was able to release loans amounting to Php 27.36 million to fourteen (14) coconut farmer cooperatives and MSMEs and six (6) individual coconut farmers. While, the Development Bank of the Philippines was able to release loans amounting to Php 100 million to a coconut farmer cooperative with estimated 1,600 coconut farmers members to avail the credit program.

"Good health is the foundation of a productive life. By caring for our farmers' health, we ensure the vitality of our agricultural future." - World Health Organization

The year 2023 was marked by significant accomplishments for PCA and the coconut farmers it serves. Through comprehensive programs, collaborative efforts, and unwavering support, PCA has not only uplifted the livelihoods of farmers but also fortified the foundation of the coconut and oil palm industries. These efforts epitomize the true treasures of PCA: the institution itself, the dedicated farmers, and the thriving industries that sustain them.

As we look to the future, PCA remains committed to its mission of promoting sustainable growth, enhancing farmer welfare, and ensuring the prosperity of the coconut industry. With continued innovation, collaboration, and dedication, the treasures of PCA will undoubtedly shine even brighter in the years to come.

PBBM directs PCA to come up with concrete development, rehab plan for coconut industry as agency sets out plan to plant 100 M coconut trees for the next 5 years

(Article from The Presidential Communications Office, 4 October 2023)



PCA National Coconut Tree Planting Activity led by (at center) President Ferdinand Marcos, Jr. joined by (from L-R) Senator Cynthia Villar, DAR Secretary Conrado Estrella III, PCA Administrator Bernie Cruz, and Pasay City Mayor Imelda Calixto Rubiano

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. tasked the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to come up with a general plan for the development and rehabilitation of the coconut industry as the agency carries out a massive coconut planting and replanting program.

The President met with the PCA officials at the Malacañan Palace to discuss its proposed Coconut Planting and Replanting Project, aimed at reinvigorating the coconut industry by planting 100 million trees from 2023 to 2028.

Marcos also underscored the importance of inputs from coconut industry leaders in coming up with a general plan for the sector and wanted the government to implement such initiative beyond his term as president.

“Why will we stop at 2028 because I’m finished? Huwag nating isipin ‘yun. What is the ideal? How many years do we need to take to rehabilitate the coconut industry?” he asked.

“Don’t bother with political terms. Kung walang politika, walang change of administration, nakakasiguro kayo tuloy-tuloy, gaano kahaba para malagyan natin ng lahat ng mga bagong puno?”.

For the coconut planting and replanting project to gain traction, the PCA is recommending for the issuance of a Memorandum Circular (MC) that will direct all concerned national government agencies and instrumentalities and urge local government units (LGUs) to undertake efforts in support of the project.

“ There’s a big opportunity so let’s have a look at that so that we can put — we can show even just for ourselves. Kailangan natin mayroon tayong plano. Hindi puwedeng basta’t ito gagawa... Kailangan maliwanag ‘yung plano. Tiyakin natin na talagang ginamit natin sa tama. ”

President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr.

Under the proposed planting and replanting program, the PCA targets to plant 20 to 25 million trees annually from 2023 to 2028, or 100 million trees.

And through the proposed MC, the PCA wants concerned national government agencies to support the coconut planting and replanting.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement between the PCA and coconut-producing provinces and municipalities, the LGUs will be encouraged to implement coconut planting and replanting, seed farm development, and coconut fertilization, among other activities.

The PCA has launched a massive coconut planting program to address the impact of senilities and the typhoon destruction to the sector, noting that the last time that the Philippines implemented massive coconut planting program was in the ‘70s or ‘80s.

Due to budgetary constraints, the agency has only managed to plant or replant about 1 to 3 million coconut trees, which is far from the estimated 34 million trees that it needs to replant.

The PCA said in order to plant 100 million trees in the next five years, a whole-of-nation approach is needed.

The Philippines has a total area of 3.60 million hectares planted with coconut trees, or about 27 percent of total agricultural land. It has 340.60 million coconut-bearing trees capable of producing 14 to 15 billion nuts annually.

From 15.86 million metric tons (MMT) of coconut in 2012, coconut production in the country fell to 13.83 MMT in 2016 before rising to 14.73 MMT in 2018, and 14.93 MMT in 2022.

Despite these developments, the country remains the biggest exporter of coconut products, recording a total export value of coconut products amounting to US\$3.22 billion in 2022.

Coconut exports contributed an average of 35 percent to the country’s total agricultural export earnings from 2013 to 2022.

The PCA said among the challenges confronting the sector are increasing tree senility, bearing tree losses due to pests and diseases, natural disasters, and climate change impact.

Last year, the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) recorded 340.6 million bearing trees, a 6.2 million decline from the 346.8 million bearing trees a year before. PND



(from L-R) In attendance during the meeting with the President are DA Senior Usec. Domingo F. Panganiban, PCA Administrator Bernie F. Cruz, Deputy Administrator Atty. Lucius Jun-jun Malsi, Regional Manger and Acting Department Manager Dennis D. Andres.



PCA's Treasure: The Coconut and Oil Palm Industry

Indeed, the industry may not exist and prosper without the brilliance and perseverance of our coconut and oil palm farmers.

Likewise, our resilient industry players have displayed their commitment and contributions to the entire industry. Therefore, it is upon the Authority to lead and direct these efforts towards the holistic development of the industry.

This chapter shall highlight the Authority's programs and projects and how these efforts are aimed at sustaining, enriching, and strengthening an equally important treasure of the PCA - the industry and the stakeholders.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE INDUSTRY

Research Projects for CY 2023

For the year 2023, the Authority has completed a total of 11 research projects from various fund sources while there are 40 research projects that have commenced and are being conducted in the same year.

As illustrated in Figure 8, there are 5 researches completed and 26 ongoing researches under the GAA-Coconut Research Development Program (CRDP) fund. Besides GAA, DOST has also funded the completion of 6 researches and the conduct of 6 researches in PCA. Meanwhile, there are 6 ongoing researches that are funded under the CFIDP-CHP research component.

The three Research Centers and their respective divisions have effectively served their mandates as they produced and conducted researches which responds to the needs of the industry. Figure 9 shows the disaggregation of the research projects as distributed among the research centers. The Albay Research Center (ARC) has completed the most number of researches with 6 research projects for CY 2023 which are mostly funded under CRDP.

Meanwhile, Figure 10 illustrates that the Zamboanga Research Center (ZRC) has the most number of ongoing or research conducted with 14 research projects for CY 2023 from varied fund sources. Enumerated as well are the on-going projects being engaged for CY 2023.

Figure 9. Coconut Research Projects by Fund Source

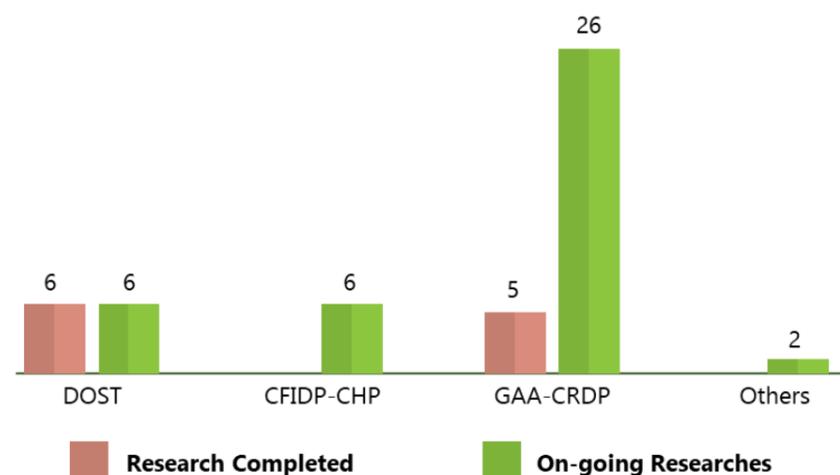


Figure 10. Completed Researches by Office

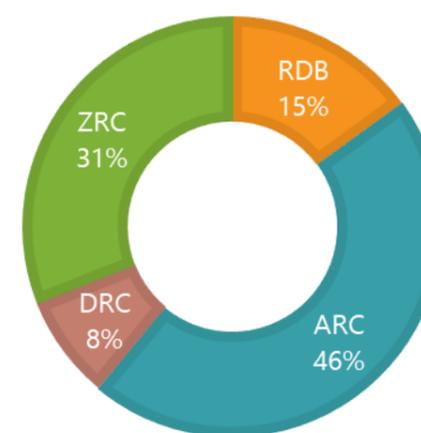


Figure 11. Ongoing Researches by Office

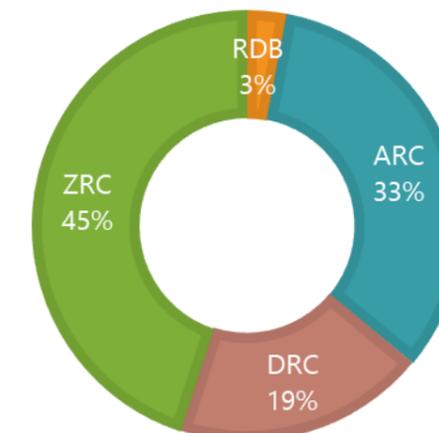


Table 7. Completed Research Projects for CY 2023

Completed Projects/Studies	Implementing Unit	Fund Source
1. Optimization of Product Formulation and Processing Protocol for the Nutritious Ready to Drink Coconut Skim Milk Beverage	Albay Research Center- Food Product Development Division (ARC-FPDD)	CRDP
2. National Farming Participatory IPM in Coconut Based Farming System	Davao Research Center- Agronomy, Soils and Farming Systems Division (DRC-ASFSD)	CRDP
3. Characterization and Product Development of Makapuno and Other Soft Endosperm –based Products	ARC-FPDD	CRDP
4. Sustainability of the Coconut Somatic Embryogenesis Tissue Culture Protocol for Mass Propagation and Multi-locational Testing of PCA recommended Plumule-Derived Varieties in Selected Provinces	ARC-Biotechnology Division (BD)	CRDP
5. Development and Promotion of Non-Food Coconut-Based Products for Industrial, Health and Environmental Applications,	Zamboanga Research Center- Non-Food Product Development Division (ZRC-NFPDD)	CRDP
6. Agri-businessizing Coconut Ethyl Alcohol for the Production of Hand Sanitizers for Use as Disinfectant Against COVID 19	ZRC-NFPDD	DOST-PCAARRD
7. Gene Expression Analysis During Coconut Embryogenesis	ARC-BD	DOST-PCAARRD
8. Propagation of Quality Planting Materials of Baybay Tall (BAYT), Laguna Tall (LAGT), and Tacunan Dwarf (TACD) Coconut Varieties through Coconut Somatic Embryogenesis Technology (CSet)	ZRC-Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Utilization Division (ZRC-PGRCUD)	DOST-PCAARRD
9. Propagation of Quality Planting Materials of Selected Tall, Dwarf and Hybrid Coconut Varieties through Coconut Somatic Embryogenesis Technology (CSet)	ARC-BD	DOST-PCAARRD
10. Enhancement of the Field Assessment Protocols and Suitability Maps for Coconut	Research and Development Branch (RDB)	DOST-PCAARRD
11. Design and Development of Solar-Powered Dryer for White Copra	ZRC-NFPDD	DOST-PCAARRD

Table 8. Ongoing Research Projects for CY 2023

Ongoing Projects/Studies	Duration
A. PRODUCTION & PRODUCTIVITY PROGRAM	
PROJECT 1. INTEGRATED COCONUT-BASED FARMING SYSTEMS AND GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES (PCA-DRC)	
1. Nutrient and Water Management of Coconuts and Intercrops in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao	2021-2024
2. Development of GIS Pest and Disease Forecasting and Management Strategies	2021-2023
3. Integration of Entomopathogens in the Biological Control System of Coconut	2022-2023
4. Understanding the Mechanism of Biocide Movement in Coconut	2022-2023
PROJECT 2. VARIETAL IMPROVEMENT AND BREEDING (PCA-ZRC)	
5. Genetic Resources Conservation of Important Foreign Accessions in The National Coconut Genebank	2021-2024
6. Establishment And Evaluation of Adaptable Planting System And Product-Based Farming In Calamity Prone Coconut Regions	2021-2024
7. Regeneration of Coconut Accessions in The PCA's Genebank in Zamboanga (Talls and Dwarfs)	2019-2024
8. Sustainability of the Coconut Somatic Embryogenesis Tissue Culture Protocol for Mass Propagation and Multi-Locational Testing of PCA-Recommended Plumule-Derived Varieties in Selected Provinces	2020-2024
9. Performance evaluation of the farmer-produced from high value cultivars for specific product lines (for coconut sap sugar, VCO, coco water, etc.) in strategic locations	2020-2021
10. Performance of Dwarf by Tall Crosses Using Outstanding Varieties with Special Traits	2019-2024
11. Production of Improved Breeding Populations for High Value Industrial and Nutritional Coconut Products	2019-2024
B. PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT	
PROJECT 1. FOOD PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT (PCA-ARC)	
12. Development of Strategies to Produce High-Value Food Products by Utilizing VCO and its By-products (formerly -Development of Strategies to Produce Good Quality and High-value Coconut-based Food Products)	2021-2023
13. New Title: "Development of Harvest and Post-Harvest Management Protocol on Fresh Young Coconut for Farmer-Responsive Commercialization" (Former title: Technology Packaging and Promotion of Fresh Young Coconut (Buko) for Farmer-Based Commercialization)	2022-2023
14. Design and Development of Village-level Post-harvest and Processing Machineries for Coconut	2022-2024
15. Development and Promotion of Non-Food Coconut-Based Products for Industrial, Health and Environment Applications	2021-2023
16. Characterization of the sugar contents of coconut water of different coconut cultivars in different stages of maturity.	2020-2023
17. Utilization Of Palm Biomass (Coconut & Oil Palm) For Ethanol and Other Chemicals	2019-2024
C. MODERNIZATION	
PROJECT 1. BIOTECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS (PCA-ARC)	
18. Optimization of Coconut Somatic Embryogenesis Protocols Using Somatic Tissues of Coconut	2021-2024
19. Sustainability of the PCAARRD-DOST CSET Projects for Mass Propagation and Multi-locational Testing of PCA recommended Plumule-Derived Varieties in Selected Provinces	2019-2023
20. Application of Molecular Techniques for the detection of coconut diseases and characterization of biological control agents of major insect pests of coconut	2021-2024

Continuation... Table 8. Ongoing Research Projects for CY 2023

Ongoing Projects/Studies	Duration
New Projects Funded for 2023	
1. Utilization of Recommended Varieties for Buko Production in Strategic Farmers' Plantation (PCA-ZRC)	2023-2025
2. Development of spray-dried coconut sugar protocol (PCA-ZRC)	2023-2025
3. Production and Utilization of Coconut Methyl Ester (CME) Using Upgraded Village-Level Oil Mill at PCA-Zamboanga Research Center (PCA-ZRC)	2023-2025
4. <i>Cadang-cadang</i> Disease containment Program (PCA-ARC)	2023-2026
5. Investigating the Genetic Fidelity in CSET - derived Cultures of Coconut (<i>Cocos nucifera</i> L.) (PCA-ARC)	2023-2025
6. Mass Production of Embryo-cultured <i>Makapuno</i> seedlings and establishment of demo farms in strategic locations (All PCA Centers)	2023-2025

Ongoing Projects/Studies	No. of Years
CFIDP-CHP Research Component	
1. Collection and Evaluation of Promising Coconut Cultivars in Targeted Areas for Conservation, Utilization and Hybridization (PCA-ZRC)	5 years
2. Performance Evaluation of the Newly-Developed Single Cross Hybrids Using Selected Varieties with Special Traits (PCA-ZRC)	5 Years
3. Evaluation of Coconut Accessions at PCA-ZRC for Heat and Drought Tolerance Towards Hybridization (PCA-ZRC)	4 Years
4. Profiling of Coconut Hybrids and Outstanding Local and Foreign Coconut Varieties for Commercially and Industrially Important Physicochemical Properties Towards a Market-responsive Coconut Industry (PCA-ZRC)	3 Years
5. Development of Multi-parent Coconut Populations using Outstanding Dwarf and Composite Varieties for Increased Yield and Tolerance for Biotic and Abiotic Stresses (PCA-ZRC)	5 Years
6. Surveillance and Detection of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Genotypes and their Natural Enemies in Hybrid and Local Coconut Variety Plantations (PCA-DRC)	3 Years

Ongoing Projects/Studies	Funding
Projects Funded by Other Agencies	
1. Pest Management Strategies for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle in Typhoon Odette Affected Areas (PCA-DRC, PCA-ARC, PCA Region XIII)	DOST-PCAARRD
2. Development of Fermented Food Products from Mature Coconut Water and Coconut Skim Milk By-products from Virgin Coconut Oil (VCO) Processing Technology (PCA-ARC)	DOST CRADLE Program
3. Developing the IP-TBM in Department of Agriculture's Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA-DRC)	DOST-PCAARRD
4. Development of Wine from Coconut Sap (RDB-LSD)	Embassy of Japan
New Projects	
1. Utilization of Pinoy Coco <i>Sorbetes</i> as Base Formulation for Commercial Ice Cream Products of the Bicol Region (PCA-ARC)	DOST-TAPI
2. Development of Mitigating strategies for the Coconut <i>Cadang-cadang</i> Threat (PCA-ARC)	
(a) P2: Transcriptomic Analysis of Healthy and <i>Cadang-cadang</i> -infected Coconut Palm (PCA-ARC)	DOST-VIP
(b) P3: Application of Anti-Sense Technology for the Coconut <i>Cadang-cadang</i> Disease: A Proof-of-Concept Study (PCA-ARC)	DOST-VIP

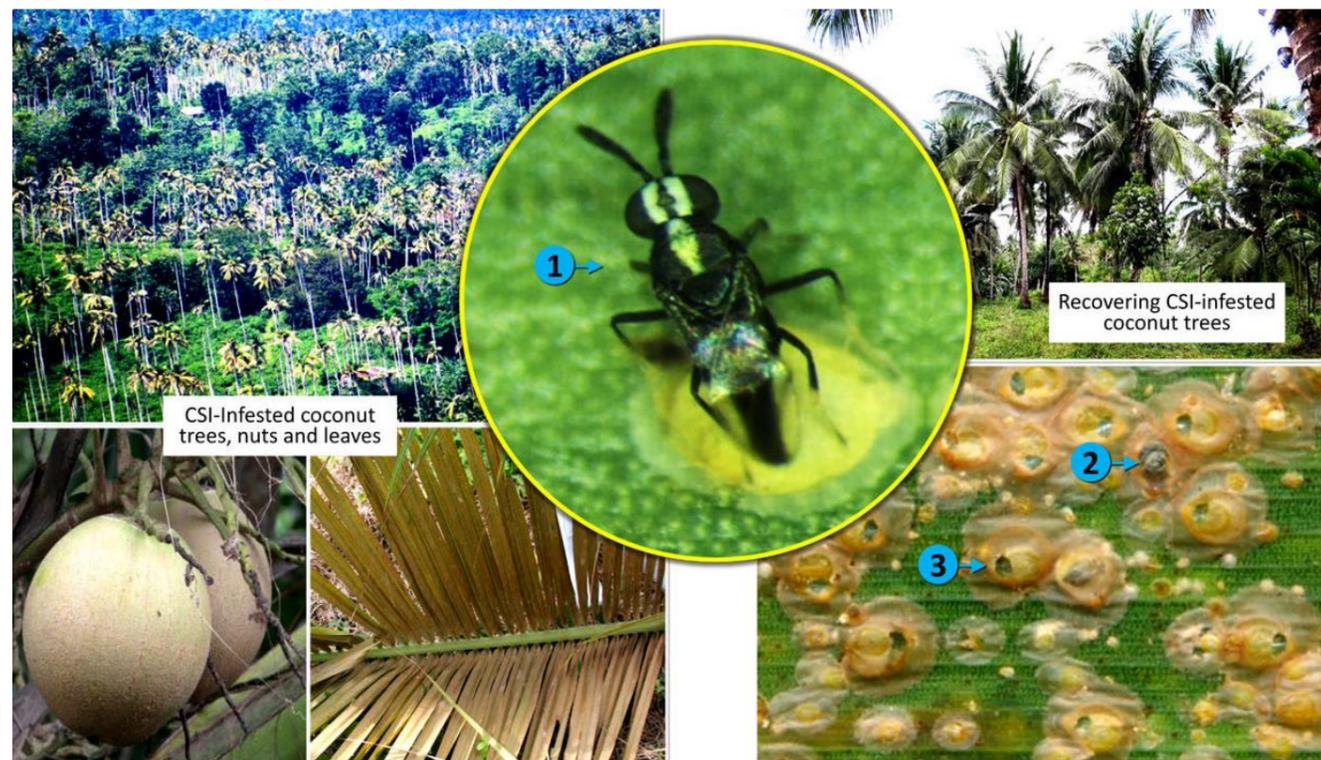
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE INDUSTRY

Research Projects for CY 2023

Among the roster, the respective Research Centers boasts of relevant and notable research/technologies/ interventions that are worthy to be highlighted in this report. In particular, the Albay Research Center through its Biotechnology Division, focused on strategies in Integrated Pest Management. In order to manage the coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), ARC produced the Green Muscardine Fungus (GMF) which is a biocontrol agent against CRB. A total of 4,360.5 kg was produced by ARC and was distributed to Regions I, II, III, V, VI, VII, and VIII.

Aside from the GMF, PCA-ARC released the parasitic wasp, *Comperiella calauanica*, a natural enemy of Coconut Scale Insect (CSI) in 2023. Successful establishment of *Comperiella* was observed in March 2023, about seven (7) months after the first release and after the first two (2) releases (Aug. 25, 2022 and Jan 12, 2023). Assessment of infestation in November 2023 after *Comperiella* releases showed decreasing CSI population. Younger leaves of infested palms looked healthier and green.

CSI-infested coconut farm in Brgy. Tinampo, Bulusan, Sorsogon in July 2022: Severely-infested tall palms with almost all fronds withered, yellow to brown in color in November 2023: One year after the releases of the biocontrol agent, *Comperiella calauanica*, CSI-infested palms started to recover with young, green, healthy fronds.



1 A mature *Comperiella* ovipositing inside the body of CSI

2 Immature *Comperiella* parasitizing the CSI

3 A hole caused by the exiting of mature *Comperiella*

On the other hand, the Davao Research Center (DRC) engaged on researches that focuses Nutrient and Water Management for a Climate Change Resilient Agroecosystem. The project aims to develop water and nutrient management for a climate change resilient coconut agroecosystem. Dwarf coconut cultivars used in hybridization activities were used as the experimental palms in PCA-CVCSPC (Tacunan Green Dwarf) and PCA- NCSPC (Catigan Green Dwarf). The findings strongly support the integration of GAP, including organic fertilization, mulching, cover cropping, intercropping, and livestock and poultry integration, as crucial components for enhancing the productivity and climate resilience of coconut-based farming systems. The study advocates for the widespread adoption of these practices by coconut farmers to sustainably improve crop yields, soil health, and overall ecosystem resilience in the face of changing climate patterns.



Coconut palm with circular/loop irrigation system in PCA-NCSPC, Aroman, Carmen, Cotabato



Coconut palm with circular/loop irrigation distribution network applied with biofertilizer (MykoVam)



Coconut palm applied with cocopeat and organic fertilizer



Cacao tree mulched with coconut husk

PCA'S TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM INDUSTRY

In the Zamboanga Research Center (ZRC), the Coconut Scale Insect (CSI) had recurred in former outbreak areas. In this regard, a mitigation action plan was prepared to curb the infestation with the following pest management interventions.

- Leaf pruning (removal of infested palms) of palms
- Chemical control thru oil spraying and trunk injection of botanical biocides
- Biological control thru mass rearing and release of predators and parasitoids
- Surveillance and monitoring of affected areas and non-affected areas
- Establishment of checkpoints in affected areas
- Project Monitoring- A Task Force was created to monitor mitigation activities.

A total of 25,612 palms were infested out of the 40,666 palms planted. The following measures were done to control the infestation: (a) pruning, (b) use of systemic insecticide - Drill-Pour-Plug of Dinotefuran, (c) spraying of contact insecticide - Lambda cyhalothrin, (d) fertilization, (e) use of biological control agents - parasitoids and predator, and (f) irrigation/watering of palms.

The status of recovery of CSI-infested palms was assessed, a month after treatment. Rapid Ground Assessment was utilized to monitor the pest population, with the CSI Counting Software employed for scanning and analyzing leaf samples. The results revealed a reduction in infestation levels; however, traces persisted in the treated palms. Regular observations play a crucial role in detecting any potential reoccurrence or lingering issues that may necessitate further attention.



Pruning of medium-height palms



Trunk injection



Releasing of Biological Control Agent



Spraying of medium-height palms



Spraying of seedlings before withdrawal



Fertilization

PCA's TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM INDUSTRY

Post-Harvest Machineries

Aside from the effective mitigation of CSI, ZRC through the Non-Food Products Development Division (NFPDD) is also involved in ongoing research projects on the Design and Development of Village-level Post-harvest and Processing Machineries for Coconut.

The following post-harvest machineries were to be developed and are being reviewed:

- 1) Vacuum-Type Evaporator for Coco Sugar and Other Products
- 2) Copra Expeller
- 3) Biomass Shredder with Wood Chipper
- 4) Coconut De-sheller
- 5) Rotary Composter for Biodegradable Wastes in coconut farms
- 6) Coconut Shell Smoothing Machine



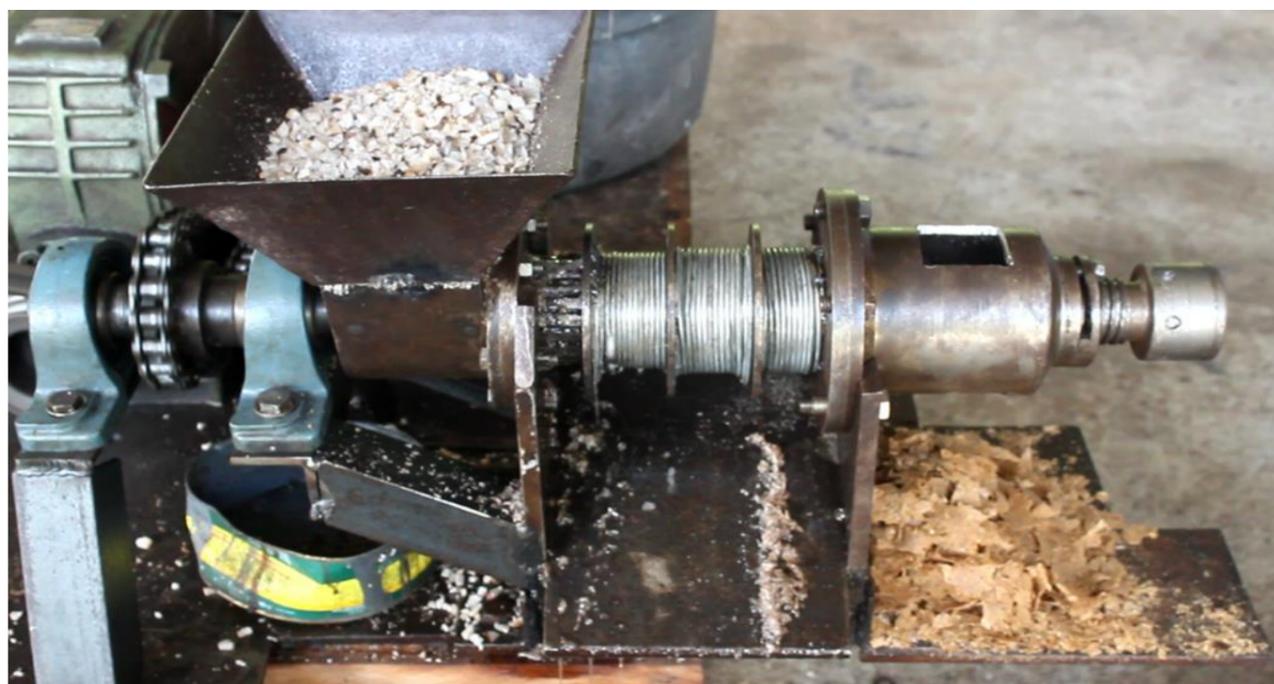
Actual prototype of the Vacuum-Type Evaporator



Actual prototype of Biomass Shredder with Wood Chipper



Actual prototype of the Coconut De-sheller



Actual prototype of the Copra Expeller



Actual prototype of Rotary Composter



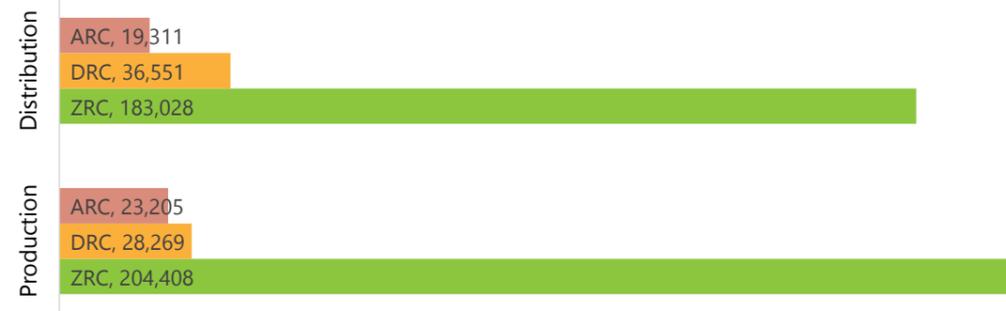
Actual prototype of the Coconut Shell Smoothing Machine

PCA's TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM INDUSTRY

Production of Planting Materials

The Research and Development Branch (RDB) is also overseeing the production of hybrid planting materials for the Coconut Hybridization Program component under the CFIDP and the production of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPVs). Specifically, the RDB has accomplished and produced a total of 255,880 and distributed 238,891 single cross hybrid planting materials.

Figure 12. Production and Distribution of Hybrid Planting Materials



As for the OPVs, a total of 1,379,017 Tall and Dwarf varieties were produced while 954,377 were distributed and released to the PCA Regional Offices for their planting and replanting program.

Figure 13. Production and Distribution of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPVs)



Trainings

Technology and knowledge transfer is a strategy to ensure that the technologies generated by the research centers from the implementation of its projects were useful to the stakeholders through the conduct of various trainings and technical assistance. Trainings and technical assistance were provided to various stakeholders such as farmers-beneficiaries, other government agencies, LGUs, students, cooperatives and CFIDP implementing agencies. Among the trainings conducted by the Plant Genetic Resources Conservation and Utilization Division (PGRCUD), Non-Food Product Development Division (NFPDD), and Food Product Development Division (FPDD) are the following:

PGRCUD	NFPDD	FPDD
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training and Immersion on Coconut Technologies 2. Coconut Specialist Training 3. National Coconut Specialist Training Course; 4. Benchmarking of Coconut Value added Products and By-products 5. In-house training on Basic Molecular Biology Techniques and SSR Marker Analysis 6. Coconut Hybridization Protocols: Assisted Pollination Technique for Hybrid Seed Production 7. Hybridization Protocols and Nursery Management for the Coconut Hybridization Program 8. Varietal Identification of Mother Palms and Pollen Sources for On-farm Hybridization and Hybrid Mass Production 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hands-on Training on Coir Processing and Biofertilizer 2. Production of Coconut Charcoal (in coordination with DTI) 3. Enhancing the Technical Capability of the Stakeholders on the Operation of the Selected CFIDP Shared Processing Facility (in coordination with DA-PHILMECH, with participants from ATI, TESDA, PCA and DTI, Training of Trainers) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VCO Processing 2. VCO Production and VCO personal careline products 3. Coconut cheese technology



Demonstration and hands-on practice on the operation of the ZRC-Designed shredder machine and production of organic fertilizer

PCA's TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM INDUSTRY

Awards

PCA Researchers are recipients of Best Paper Awards notably the 2023 CSSP Best Paper Award on Development Category during the 27th Federation of Plant Science Associations of the Philippines (FPSAP) held on August 31, 2023 in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan for the paper "The Philippine Coconut Authority-Albay Research Center's Coconut Somatic Embryogenesis Technology (CSEt)" led by Cristeta A. Cueto, Ramon L. Rivera, Rocelie R. Zara, Severina B. Exconde, Ma. Juliet C. Ceniza, Annabelle U. Novero, Marissa N. Estrella, Olivia C. Damasco, Maria Buena A. Ubaldo, and Maria Lourdes O. Cedo.

Furthermore, PCA Researchers also bagged the 2nd Best Paper Award during the 34th Regional Symposium on Research & Development Highlights at BU Farmers' Training Center on 28 February 2023 for the paper "Genes involved in somatic embryogenesis are differentially expressed in coconut cv. BAYT" by Cristeta A. Cueto, Dennyse C. Diaz, Melissa M. Melitante, Maria Elizabeth B. Naredo, and Maria Czet A. Fulleros won the Ms Fulleros.

Papers Published/Presented

A paper entitled "Finding the coconut *Cadang-cadang* and Tinangaja viroids, naturally occurring pathogens of tropical monocotyledons of Oceania" by JW Randles, CA Cueto, G. Vadalamai, and D. Hanold was published as part of the book "Fundamentals of Viroid Biology" published by Elsevier on November 2023.

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Laboratory Services Division is an ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accredited Laboratory which provides analytical laboratory services to various stakeholders namely Coconut Manufacturers/Processors, PCA (Operations Branch, Research Centers and Regional Offices), Other Government Agencies, Academe and Private Sector/Individuals. These services include Chemical and Microbiological Analyses of Agricultural Samples and Coconut Products and By-Products.

There are two laboratories under the Laboratory Services Division (LSD) namely the Plant and Soil Analysis Laboratory (PSAL) and the Product Quality Control Laboratory (PQCL) which is further subdivided into two sections namely Chemical and Microbiological Laboratories. PSAL caters plant/fertilizer and other Agro/Biorelated samples while PQCL accommodates analyses for Coconut Products and By-Products.

The Plant and Soil Analysis Laboratory (PSAL) received 2,279 samples composed of plant/leaf samples, soil samples, organic and inorganic fertilizers, agricultural grade salt fertilizer samples, water samples and coconut coir based organic (CCBOF) fertilizers, completed the chemical analyses of 2,252 samples with a total of 6,257 determinations performed (N, P, K, Ca, Mg, Na, Cl, S, B, Fe, Cu, Mn, Zn, Organic Carbon/Organic Matter, Moisture, pH, Electrical Conductivity and heavy/toxic metals such as As, Pb, Ni, Cd, Cr, Se, Co, Al, and Hg). The PSAL released 1,037 test reports with a total collection amounting to Php 3,738,780.

The Product Quality Control Laboratory – Microbiological Laboratory (PQCL-MICRO) received a total of 208 samples composed of VCO, DCN, Coconut Sugar, coconut food products, RBD oil, copra expeller cake, palm olein and coconut drink, with 644 determinations performed (commonly analyzed parameters include APC, YMC, coliform count, salmonella, E. coli, S. aureus, water activity and brix), 197 test results released, generating a total income of Php270,000.00.

The Product Quality Control Laboratory – Chemical Laboratory (PQCL-CHEM) received a total of 505 samples, composed of desiccated coconut, copra expeller cake, RBD oil and other samples (coconut food products and non-food products), with 529 test results released generating a total amount of Php1,571,040.00. About 1,109 determinations were performed by PQCL-CHEM with Aflatoxin as the most frequently determined parameter, followed by Iodine Value, Moisture and Volatile Matter. The laboratory also conducted survey and monitoring of aflatoxin in copra cake/meal samples with 102 samples analyzed amounting to Php306,000.00. These samples were collected by PCA Regional Offices from different companies.

LSD was able to sustain its ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Accreditation by Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB), which was initially issued in October 2021, after passing the 1st PAB Surveillance Visit conducted on January 26-27, 2023. Continued accreditation was granted until October 2026 for Biological Testing (Accreditation No. LA-2021-380A) and Chemical Testing (Accreditation No. LA-2021-381A).

In addition, the laboratory also received on February 9, 2023, the Certificate of Accreditation (FDALA-2023-004) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as a result of a successful assessment, in compliance to the FDA requirements and conditions of Laboratory Accreditation in accordance with the provisions of RA 9711 also known as the Food and Drug Administration Act of 2009, conducted on October 24-26, 2022.



PCA-LSD during the 1st Philippine Accreditation Bureau (PAB) Surveillance Visit in compliance to ISO/IEC 17025:2017 (January 26-27, 2023)

TRADE AND MARKET DEVELOPMENT

Market Promotions

In pursuit of sustaining and expanding the presence of the Philippine Coconut products in the international markets while also expanding the domestic market, the Authority has conducted and supported various promotional activities, summarized in these statistics:



Table 9. List of Domestic and International Exhibits Participated by PCA-TMDD

Event	Date
DOMESTIC TRADE FAIRS/EXHIBITS	
Filipino Food Month	April 03, 2023
124th Founding Anniversary of COA	May 02 - 04, 2023
National Farmers and Fisherfolks Month	May 08 - 12, 2023
PCA 50th Anniversary: Coconut Bazaar	June 26 - 30, 2023
National Food Fair	July 12 - 16, 2023,
National Coconut Week Celebration	August 22 - 23, 2024
National Trade Fair	August 23 - 27, 2023
Food Safety Awareness Week	October 2023
National Exporters Congress	December 7, 2023
Christmas Coconut Bazaar	December 13 - 14, 2023
Kadiwa sa DA: "Pamaskong Handog ng Pangulo"	December 19, 2023
INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITS	
ProPak Philippines	February 03, 2023
PH Food Festival Brussels	April 02, 2023
StrEat Fest 2023	May 11 - 14, 2023
Amazing Asia	June 23 - 25, 2023
World Coconut Congress	August 30 - September 1, 2023
Agra Middle East	October 9 - 10, 2023

Trade Fairs



Agra Middle East
(9-10 October 2023)



National Farmers and Fisherfolks Month
(8-12 May 2023)



National Food Fair
(12-16 July 2023)



Philippine Food Festival Brussels
(2 April 2023)

Information Campaign

To enhance the presence of coconut products, the Authority also engaged in strategies utilizing both print and online information campaigns and materials.

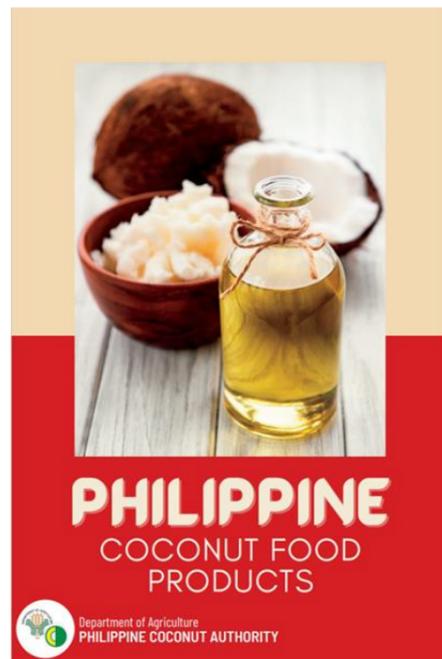
For 2023, 700 printed copies of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials produced and distributed which promotes 15 coconut products.

The Authority, through the Market Research and Promotions Division (MRPD), manages a Facebook page solely for content promoting and raising awareness on the Philippine coconut products, by-products, and the entire industry as well. The page Coconut Philippines currently has 14,517 followers with an increase of 1,752 new followers for 2023.

As for content and materials spread across online platforms, the PCA has prepared/uploaded/shared 80 digital IEC materials which were estimated to have reached and engaged 426, 375 online users.

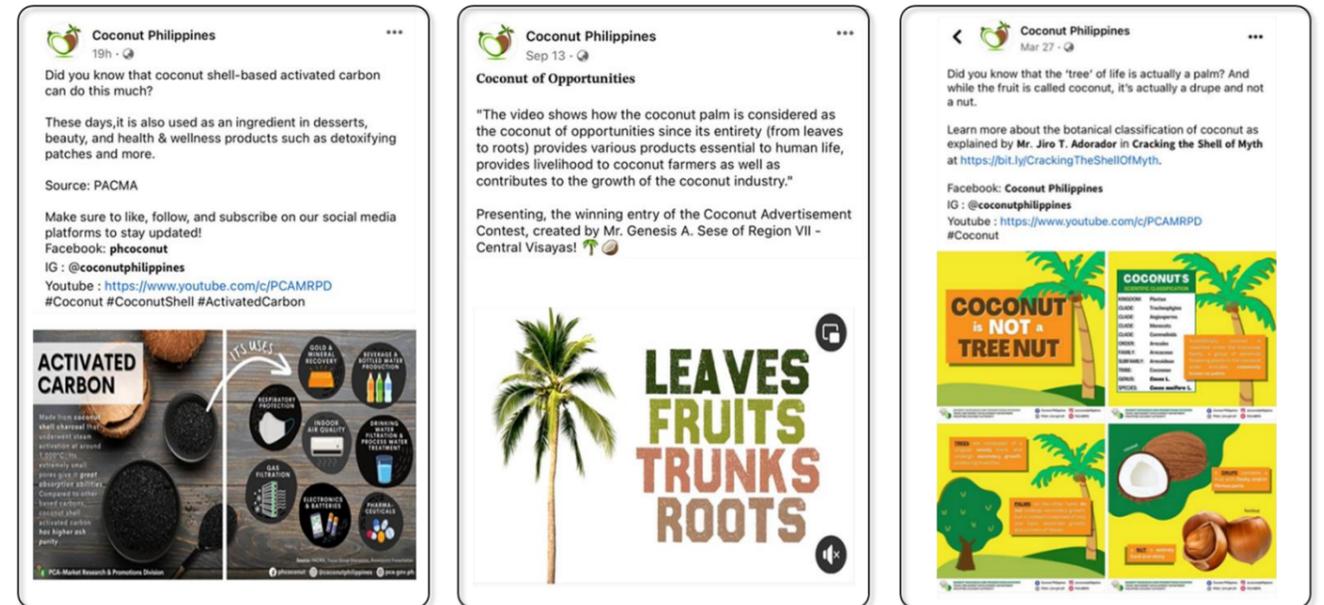


Catalog covers of printed IEC Materials



coconut
PHILIPPINES

Coconut Philippines:
Official page for market promotion



Social Media Posts under Coconut Philippines Account

Aiming to increase and expand the promotional activities, the Authority also launched contests that would harness Filipino creativity in producing creative outputs to feature the coconut products. As part of the 37th National Coconut Week celebration, a Coconut Advertisement Making Contest has been launched for 2023 and the winning ad was bagged by Mr. Genesis Sese from Region VII entitled "Coconut of Opportunities".



37th National Coconut Week – Coconut Advertisement Contest

PCA's TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM INDUSTRY

Market Assistance

Other than market promotions, the Authority has implemented the conduct of several activities that are strategically aimed at improving the competitiveness of the coconut products in the local and international markets. These activities and its corresponding accomplishments are elaborated, as follows:

a. Business to Business Matching

During the 2023 World Coconut Congress, it was an opportune avenue to conduct the business-to-business matching efforts in which the Authority was able to successfully link 8 businesses or entities matched between the buyers and the local partners. Moreover, PCA is not alone in its market assistance efforts because the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) was also an active partner wherein 55 potential buyers had been endorsed to the agency for further market linkage activities.

b. Investment Promotions

The Authority, represented by the Trade and Market Development Department (TMDD), was also active in participating and collaborating in various Investment promotion activities (conferences, showcases, etc.) to present market opportunities in coconuts.



Usapang Exports Session: Unlocking Exports Opportunities; Your Guide to Export Expansion (October 10, 2023)



Business to Business Matching during the World Coconut Congress



CoCaNut Summit - Market Opportunities cum Investment Forum (September 27, 2023)



During the World Coconut Congress Reception and National Coconut Week Awarding Ceremony. (from L-R) Dean Lao, Jr. Chairman of the UCAP; Ferdinand de la Cruz, President of Franklin Baker Company of the Philippines; and PCA Administrator Bernie F. Cruz



Industry Showcase cum Investment Conference in Zamboanga (July 27-28, 2023)

37th NATIONAL COCONUT WEEK

Media Interview and Appearances

Mr. Roel M. Rosales, Deputy Administrator for Operations and the Chair of the 37th National Coconut Week Steering Committee, has graced several media interviews and appearances to promote and raise further awareness of the significance of the celebration and the relevant activities in store for the celebration.

Opening Ceremony - 23 August 2023

23 August 2024- The Opening Ceremony of the 37th National Coconut Week celebration was held at the PCA Auditorium which brought together various partners in the coconut industry across the country. The event was graced by Department of Agriculture (DA) Assistant Secretary Rex C. Estoperez, on behalf of Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban, as Guest Speaker wherein he expressed DA's support and commitment in advancing the coconut industry. Aside from the DA, one of the biggest private sector partners shared their message of support for the celebration as delivered by Franklin Baker Philippines' President, Mr. Ferdinand dela Cruz. The Opening Ceremony also featured a Coconut Booth Design Contest joined by the PCA employees.

Coconut Bazaar - 23 to 24 August 2023

The Coconut Bazaar, which was located at the PCA grounds, featured shops of various coconut food and non-food products direct from the enterprises.

Stakeholders Forum- 23 to 24 August 2024

The 2-day forum tackled the best sustainability practices implemented by the major coconut industry players, and the possible strategies to further develop the coconut market, and the sustainable certifications required by the market.

World Coconut Congress - 30 August to 1 September 2023

In partnership with the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP), PCA participated in the 3rd World Coconut Congress (WCC) Conference and Exhibition held at the World Trade Center with the theme "Sustain the Source". Administrator Bernie F. Cruz was present during the Opening and the Ribbon-cutting Ceremony. Together with Admin Cruz were the Authority's Deputy Administrators, Managers, and Regional Managers.



PCA DA Roel Rosales during the Presscon with Philippine Information Agency regarding the Cocoweeek Celebration

Welcome Reception & National Coconut Week Awarding Ceremony

In collaboration with United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP), the Authority hosted a Welcome Reception for the WCC delegates dovetailed with the 37th National Coconut Week Awarding Ceremony at the Coconut Palace in Pasay City on August 30, 2023. The program was opened by the Welcome Message of Mr. Dean Lao, Chairman of the UCAP, President of Chemrez Technologies Incorporated, and one of the prime movers of the World Coconut Congress. An equally inspiring welcome message was also delivered by the PCA Administrator Bernie F. Cruz.

The Awarding Ceremony is an annual recognition activity for the coconut farmers and industry stakeholders. Among the awards recognized during the event are for the Industry Stakeholders namely, Top Exporter Awards, Outstanding Conglomerate Award, 100-Year Commendation, Outstanding Coconut Community Advocate, Outstanding Coconut MSMEs. The winners of the Coconut Video Ads contest were also announced featuring their creatively rendered short video ads. More importantly, the winners and awardees of recognitions for the coconut farmers were announced for the Coco Papremyo contest and the Outstanding Coconut Farmers Organizations. Lastly, the event also launched the featured coconut product innovations which were the Coco Patch from PatchMed Cosmetics Trading and the Flavored Lambanog by ProSource International.



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony during the World Coconut Congress (WCC) Conference and Exhibition held at the World Trade Center

c. Capacity Building Activities

In partnership with San Miguel Yamamura Packaging Corporation (SMYPC), the Authority successfully rolled out the Suitable Packaging for Coconut Food and Non-Food Products Seminar in 03 February 2023 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City, during the 3rd ProPak Philippines. The seminar tackled topics on the types of packaging, what they are made of, how they contribute to a product's shelf life and branding and their limitations and capacity. The seminar's goal is to give the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the coconut industry a range of packaging options that are practical and affordable.



3rd ProPak Philippines Seminar at World Trade Center, Pasay City

Market Research

As for the accomplishments in market research, the Authority was involved in conducting literature searches for inputs to standards development and IEC materials preparation and reviewed 20 literature/studies/ articles for the development of IEC Materials for 2023.

Standards Development

To further perform the Authority's mandate, PCA facilitated the crafting of Philippine National Standards (PNS) of 5 coconut products i.e. Virgin Coconut Oil for Cosmetics Use, Packaged Coconut Water, Palm Oil, Palm Kernel Oil, Palm Olein – Specification, Coconet- Classification and Specification, Amendment of Young Coconuts – Product Standard – Grading and Classification with DA- BAFS.



PNS of Young Coconut Stakeholders Consultation

Trade Information

Through the Trade Information and Relations Division (TIRD), the Authority maintains a data bank of all primary, domestic and international trade/market data; and analyzes the data gathered to provide interpretation of impact on trading of coconut oil and other competing oils for use by the PCA management and other stakeholders.

Trade Directory of PCA-registered Business Entities

In 2023, a Trade Directory of PCA-registered business entities was created through the consolidation and processing of the submitted lists of PCA-registered coconut and oil palm business entities as submitted by the PCA Regional Offices from January to November of 2023. Registered business entities were entered into the 2023 PCA Trade Directory, and were categorized into 23 commodity-based Trade Directories. This is for the PCA Management to see the overall business landscape of the Coconut and Oil Palm industry of the country, and monitor the growth of the processing and manufacturing sector of the industry. This is to serve as a guide in the decision-making, planning, and strategizing on how to fast-track the inclusive and sustainable development of the coconut and oil palm industry, minimize risks that may cause an adverse domino effect to the livelihood of the smallholder farmers and farm, and capture new investments in the industry.

Price Monitoring

Frequent and accurate monitoring of prices in the domestic and global market allows the Authority the basis for policy recommendations, decision-making, and interventions in aiding the coconut industry.

The daily farmgate and millgate process of copra, and prices of cooking oil were also monitored, processed, analyzed to provide the PCA management and stakeholders information on the price and market trend. For CY 2023, a total of 240 Daily Monitoring Price (DMP) reports were prepared. Consolidated data were disseminated to PCA Regional Offices, and stakeholders, and posted in the PCA website and social media sites. Major sources of daily copra prices are the PCA Regional Offices, while the source of cooking oil prices is the United Coconut Association of the Philippines (UCAP).

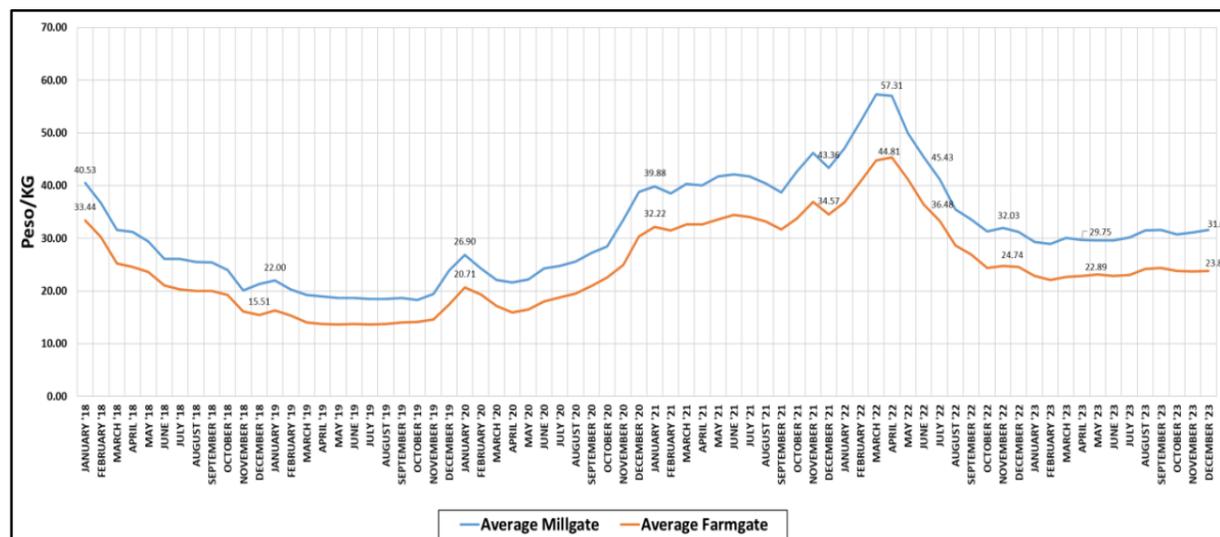


Figure 14. Statistical Data on Daily Copra Prices (Farmgate and Millgate) 2018-2023

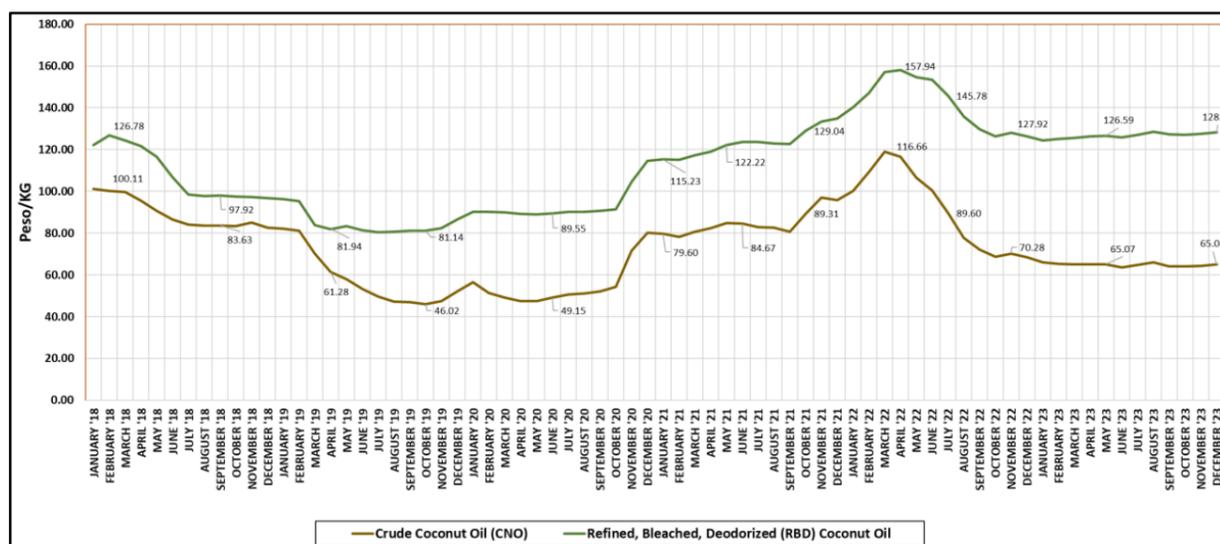


Figure 15. Statistical Data on Daily Crude and RBD Coconut Oil Price

Aside from copra and cooking oil prices, the Authority has also monitored the domestic and global prices of coconut and competing products.

Coconut and Oil Palm products are both internationally-traded commodities. Coconut products are the country's biggest agricultural exports, thus monitoring their export and import performance are of great importance. A product of these diligent monitoring and analysis is the preparation of the 2022 Philippine Coconut Industry Trade Performance Report, and the Agribusiness Opportunities in the Coconut Sector which are both made accessible through the PCA website.

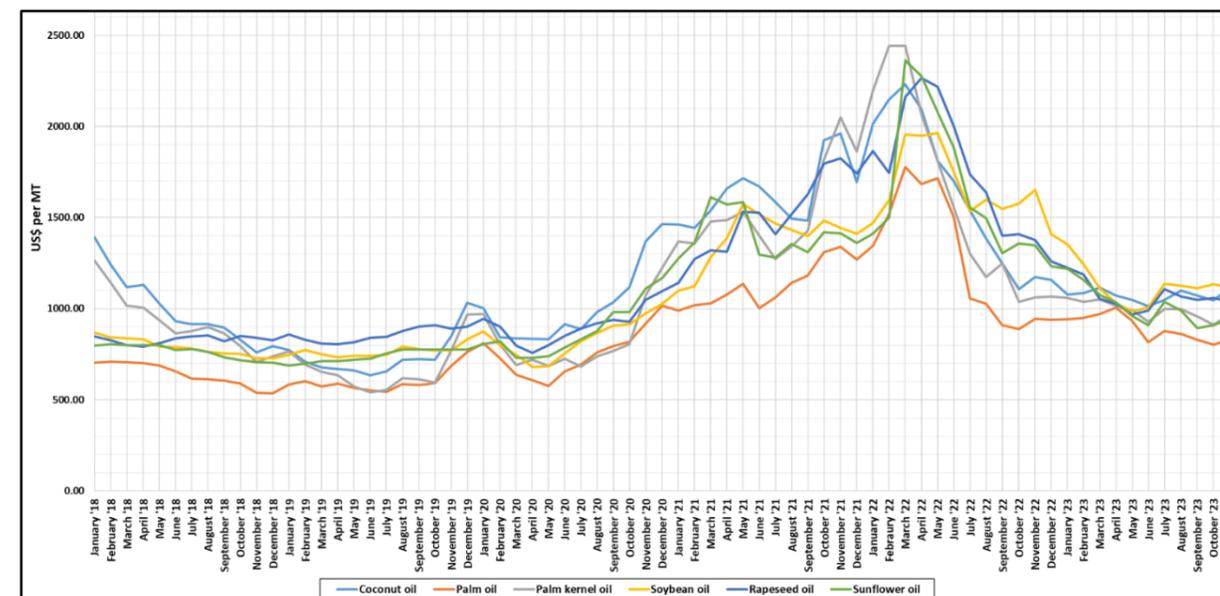


Figure 16. Statistical Data on World Price of Vegetable Oil

Item	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Volume of Top Exports (000 mt)					
Coconut Oil	983.59	919.91	1,174.09	920.50	913.36
Bananas, Fresh	2,855.64	3,126.20	4,403.50	3,808.47	2,432.31
Pineapple & Products	880.29	739.20	973.76	990.78	1,037.45
Desiccated Coconut	116.08	145.02	156.07	144.26	163.32
Tuna	307.19	172.22	117.53	131.65	92.30
Tobacco Manufactured	26.52	69.52	37.63	35.97	38.94
Seaweeds & Carrageenan	35.49	37.20	48.04	40.56	38.48
Rubber	133.31	118.44	125.01	159.87	202.64
Tobacco Unmanufactured	57.45	37.09	40.43	32.42	40.76
Copra Oil Cake	344.11	369.81	304.60	213.25	320.30
Value of Total Agricultural Exports (FOB in Million USD)	6,579.50	6,117.84	6,677.06	6,199.96	6,785.86
Value of Top Exports (FOB in million USD)					
Coconut Oil	1,614.77	1,075.45	932.04	899.00	1,431.08
Bananas, Fresh	1,129.58	1,382.11	1,963.84	1,644.30	1,138.59
Pineapple & Products	582.77	443.58	617.35	674.54	709.94
Desiccated Coconut	340.83	338.41	256.75	260.74	396.08
Tuna	520.64	495.36	472.42	477.74	386.95
Tobacco Manufactured	168.96	298.83	311.63	302.52	301.82
Seaweeds & Carrageenan	174.29	200.74	250.23	197.91	222.57
Rubber	103.07	81.83	81.32	99.56	165.84
Tobacco Unmanufactured	108.76	142.85	154.45	130.48	159.76
Copra Oil Cake	63.65	66.30	60.80	44.18	67.54

2022 Philippine Coconut Industry Trade Performance Report

Additionally, trade information assistance is not limited to price monitoring and analysis because the Authority opens its doors to clients/stakeholders who needs trade-related information with regard to the coconut industry. For 2023, through the TIRD, PCA has provided services to 112 clients/stakeholders inquiries (52-walk in, 29-phone call, and 31-email) on trade data request, trade directory of coconut and oil palm business entities and referrals.

Trade Relations

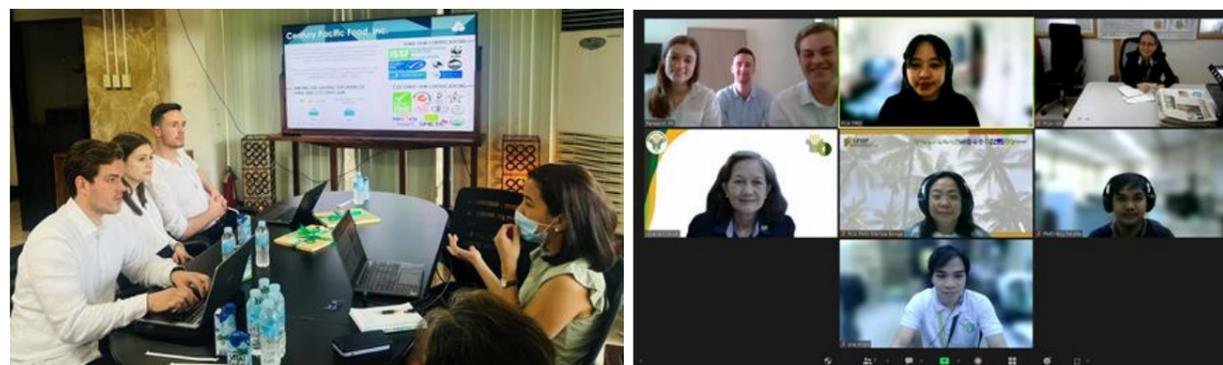
The Authority is also keen on developing institutional linkages with domestic/foreign sources to strengthen liaison activities with the government and other private entities; serving as PCA's Consumer Action Center and Industry Liaison Center; and assisting and providing a forum for resolution of domestic and international trade/market related issues and conflicts. In line with this, consultations/meetings/fora were organized/conducted/facilitated for the stakeholders.

Stakeholders consultations/meetings conducted and/or facilitated:

- 25 January 2023- Experts Meeting on Philippine Position on Issues regarding Coconut Industry raised during the PH-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Meeting on Agriculture
- 24 February 2023- Virtual Stakeholder's Consultation Meeting on Coconut Sugar
- 6 March 2023- Briefing with DA-Foreign Agriculture Service Corps (FASC) and other government



Briefing with DA-Foreign Agriculture Service Corps (FASC) and other (6 March 2023)



Assistance to Market Study of University of Groningen Researchers for Farmers Direct (8-22 April 2023)

Trainings/Seminars supported and/or participated in:

- 2 February 2023 - Consultation and finalization of 2022 Philippine Standard Commodity Classification (PSCC)
- 6-9 June 2023 - PCA on-boarding in the Tradenet Platform Facilitated
- 2 August 2023 - Classification and Identification of food and agriculture-related commodities
- October 2023 - Save the Coconut Foundation Inc. (SCFI) Strategic and Operations Planning Activity (PCA as resource person)
- November 2023 - Sustainable Coconut Partnership Conference in Indonesia
- December 2023 - China (Hainan) International Coconut Industry Forum in China



Consultation and finalization of 2022 Philippine Standard Commodity Classification (PSCC) (2 February 2023)



2023 Sustainable Coconut Partnership Conference (November 2023)

Inputs to Proposed Policies

In terms of performing its Trade Relations functions, the Authority also took an active participation in reviewing and providing significant and relevant inputs to new or proposed trade agreements and policies. Among the numerous policies and proposals reviewed, it is worth noting that the PCA has provided valuable inputs on the area of Food Security. Specifically, PCA actively participated in the development and finalization of the Draft PNS/BAFS 368: 2023 re: Design, Operation, Assessment and Accreditation of Food Import and Export Inspection and Certification Systems and formulation and finalization of the 2024-2028 DA Food Safety Strategic Plan.

Trade Issues Acted Upon

In 2023, through the TIRD, PCA has addressed and acted on important trade and regulatory issues and concerns faced by the stakeholders and players in the coconut and oil palm industries. Among these concerns are to address the impact to trade of the proposed EU regulation on Mineral Oil Hydrocarbons (MOH) limits and use of sterol level of Coconut Oil; Irregularities in the Importation of RBD Palm Oil and Palm Olein; Complaints on low copra price; Delayed issuance of the Joint Administrative Circular on Packaging, Handling and Transport of Coconut Shell Charcoal, Activated Carbon and Other Coconut Shell Products; Prohibited Commodities for Export and Import among others.

Encompassing the mandate of promoting the growth and development of the coconut and oil palm industries, the Authority is also in the forefront of regulatory functions that are mandatory in further strengthening the industry.

Trade Regulations

As for trade-related regulations, the Authority shall coordinate, monitor, and facilitate the oversight functions of devolved rules and regulations on domestic trading, marketing and exporting of coconut and oil palm products and by-products. Specifically, PCA participated in participated in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Workshop wherein the Preliminary Impact Assessment (PIA) of PCA AO 01 s 2005 or the Implementing Rules and Regulations to Enforce Standards in the Production and Marketing of Virgin Coconut Oil during the Workshop on Regulatory Impact Assessment facilitated by BAFS and BSAFE/Winrock Int'l. The Authority also reviewed the SPS Protocol for the Export of Fresh Young Coconut from the Philippines to China and PCA Board Resolution 079-2019. This is in relation to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) scientific opinion on the Pest Categorization of Coconut *Cadang Cadang* Viroid; prepared comments and recommendations on the draft Implementing Guidelines for the Management and Utilization of the Competitiveness Enhancement Measures Fund Under RA 8800 or the Safeguards Measures Act; and organized an in-house meeting regarding the Effects of Implementing B5 to Philippine Exports of Coconut Oil and Other Coconut Products in response to the query at the 3rd World Coconut Congress on why B5 is not yet implemented.

Capacity-building on trade and regulation

To further accelerate and update the knowledge and awareness on the trade and industry regulations, the Authority organized/conducted capacity-building activities for PCA's field personnel on the following topics:

- 3-7 July 2023 - Training on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for Organic Certification
- 28 November-1 December 2023 - Hands-on Training on Risk-based Plant Inspection of Coconut and Oil Palm Food Processors for Provincial Officers



Training on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) for Organic Certification (3-7 July 2023)

Site Visits and Inspection

Aside from capacitating the enforcers in the PCA field offices, the Authority has also exercised its regulatory functions through site visits and inspection on coconut-based manufacturing plants, and coconut farms on compliance to food safety standards, and other market-requirements.

- 22-24 February 2024- Coconut Processing Plants/Farm Sites in Davao (Region XI)
- 20 April 2023- Joint Plant Inspection with RIV for PCA Registration of Company at Tanauan, Batangas
- Farm visit at Coconut Farm Hybridization Project at Barangay Banjo, Tanauan, Batangas
- 20-25 April 2023- Plant visits at Coconut Processing Plants in Batangas, Quezon, and Laguna
- 3-7 July 2023 - Farm inspection at three (3) coconut farms in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte on compliance to Organic Certification
- 31 November 2023- Risk-based Plant Inspection at Coconut-based food manufacturing plants

PCA's TREASURE: THE COCONUT AND OIL PALM INDUSTRY

PCA and the INTERNATIONAL COCONUT COMMUNITY (ICC)

On July 2024, the Philippine Coconut Authority welcomed the International Coconut Community (ICC) for a five-day visit in the Central Office at Quezon City, and in the PCA Research Centers in Davao and Zamboanga. The main agenda of the visit was to discuss ICC's projects and programs and likewise, for PCA to share updates and developments on its respective programs and projects. The delegation was composed of Dr. Jelfina C. Alouw, ICC Executive Director, and Ms. Mridula Kottekate, ICC Assistant Director.

The ICC Secretariat met with Admin Bernie F. Cruz, Deputy Administrator for Administrative and Finance, Atty. Lucius Jun-Jun Malsi regarding the preparations and support for the ICC-Cogent activity from 27-20 November at Los Baños, Laguna. It was also attended by Ms. Erleen Manohar, Cogent Coordinator and Dr. Johnny Batalon, PCAARD Director for Research and Development.



PCA welcomes ICC. (from L-R): Ms. Erlene Manohar, Cogent Coordinator; Dr. Johnny Batalon, PCAARRD Director for R&D; Mr. Bernie F. Cruz, PCA Administrator; DR. Jelfina C. Alouw, ICC Executive Director; and Ms. Mridula Kottekate, ICC Assistant Director

In the visit to Davao Research Center, Dr. Alouw and Asst. Dir. Kottekate was welcomed by Dr. Liberty Canja, DRC Department Manager, and the rest of the DRC team. Dr. Canja presented the activities of DRC in generating information and technologies on mineral nutrition, culture management, integrated pest and disease control, among others. The ICC Secretariat also visited the Centre's laboratories for crop protection, and breeding and pollen propagation, and the National Coconut-Dairy Training Center and Malagos Garden.



Dr. Alouw and Assistant Director Kottekate welcomed by the PCA Davao Research Center team led by Department Manager Dr. Liberty Canja

On the other hand, Dr. Canja and Ms. Orense of DRC accompanied the ICC Secretariat to Zamboanga Research Center (ZRC) where they were welcomed by its Acting Department Manager, Mr. Luisito Peñamora and joined by Dr. Cristeta Cueto, Albay Research Center (ARC) Department Manager. ZRC presented its activities on the Non-Food Product Development Division which featured charcoal briquette-making from coconut shells and displayed the coconut accessions maintained by the center.

Aside from that, the ICC Secretariat visited ZRC's Tissue Culture laboratories; witnessed the demonstration of d making biodiesel from coconut oil and the fueling of a vehicle using the said biofuel; and was presented with the copra dryer developed by ZRC.

Overall, the ICC Secretariat has expressed their gratitude and appreciation for the PCA and the Research Centers in accommodating their visit and that they were impressed with centers' activities that were presented.

ICC Secretariat's visit to the Philippine Coconut Authority was informative and productive for both PCA and ICC. The Authority looks forward to more enriching and productive activities that will further strengthen the collaboration between PCA and the ICC.



ICC Executive Director and Assistant Director visited the PCA Zamboanga Research Center. Also, welcomed by Dr. Cristeta A. Cueto, PCA Albay Research Center Manager, Dr. Neil J. Melencion, Regional Manager of PCA VI, and the rest of the ZRC team of researchers.

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