

## EMPOWERING THE REGIONS VIA PEP

Rural poverty in the Philippines remains tied to the state of agriculture and environment and the government hopes to address this situation through the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP) also known as the Kennedy Round 2 (KR2) Program.

The NEDA-PEP, which is funded by the RP-Japan Grant Assistance for Underprivileged Farmers, aims to empower the regions by providing funding support to local or community agriculture based activities to enhance productivity and increase income of underprivileged farmers and rural folks in general. Among these activities include the start-up equity grant for pioneering/innovative microenterprises, capability-building/trainings on entrepreneurship and microenterprise development, market development and investment promotion.

In preserving the environment, NEDA-PEP will fund activities such as the management of the coastal resource, sanctuaries, preservation and development community based replanting, and mangrove rehabilitation.

Projects may be proposed by government agencies, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and local government units (LGUs). Private organizations may also do so but

these would have to be sponsored/endorsed by partner LGUs and/or government agencies.

For LGU proponents, funds will be channeled through the NEDA Regional Offices while for national/government agencies through the NEDA Central Office- Oversight Committee.

### Empowering the Regions

Since its inception last year, NEDA Public Investment Staff (PIS) revealed that some PhP99 million has already been allotted by the PEP to fund agricultural projects in the regions. In 2006, nine projects worth around PhP56.5 million already received funding. Among these projects include the Philippine Council for Aquatic Marine Research and Development's National Vermicompost and Vermimeal Production (PhP17.9 million); Propagation of Superior Goats for Dispersal through Reproductive Techniques (PhP15 million) of the Philippine Carabao Center; and Support to the Development of Idle Public Lands in Selected Barangays of Palayan City, Nueva Ecija (PhP300,000) of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

In January of this year, 46 agricultural projects in 11 regions worth PhP42.5 million also received funding. The CARAGA region got the biggest share at PhP9.3 million.



## Projects Approved for Funding Under the NEDA-PEP

CARAGA (Region XIII)		PhP 9,340,026
1. Techno Demo on Nature Farming Technology System for Swine	LG of La Paz, Agusan del Sur	581,581
2. One Town, One Product Rice Production Assistance Program	LG of Agusan del Norte	1,000,000
3. Establishment of Technology Demonstration Center for High Value Crops Processing	LG of Surigao City	1,500,000
4. Improving Farm Productivity in La Flora (IPs Technical and Demo Farm)	Save Mindanao Volunteers, Inc.	1,000,000
5. Backyard Piggery Production with Tubular Biogas Digester	LG of Carmen, Agusan del Norte	349,195
6. Enhancing Productivity and Quality in Aqua-marine Industry	LG of Bislig City	1,000,000
7. Organic Rice Production in support of FLGC Project of the LGU	Agusan Ecotech Foundation	997,250
8. Establishment of Fish Drying Service Facility	LG of Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur	420,000
9. Restoration of Mangrove Forest in Surigao City	City Government of Surigao City	492,000
10. Artificial Breeding Center	Provincial Government of Surigao del Sur	1,000,000
11. Parang-parang Watershed Forest Reserve Area	LG of Surigao City	1,000,000

**For Central Luzon**, PhP4.31 million has been given for four projects. Projects include Rice in the Air: Aerobic Rice Technology in Rainfed Areas of Bulacan; Ruminant Production: Cattle Growing Fattening Integration on Upland Cropping System; Salad Vegetable Production Model Farm; and Promoting Commercialization of Sweet Potato Clean Planting Materials in Luzon Support to Food and Feed Industry.

**For Central Mindanao**, PhP3.51 million will be spent for five projects. These are the Village-Level Rubber Latex Processing; Enhancing the Muscovado Processing in Sultan Kudarat; Organic Bongulan Banana Production (OTOP); Enhancing Anthurium Production in Sultan Kudarat; Updating of Tissue Culture Laboratory and Nursery.

**For the Eastern Visayas**, PhP3.32 has been earmarked for seven projects. Projects are the Vegetable Production Cum Native Chicken; Coconut Water Vinegar Production; Seaweed and Oyster Culture; Biliran Commercial Goat Raising; Baybay Delights: LSU-Developed Jackfruit Products in the Market; Probiotic White Cheese from CaraMilk; and Eucheuma Production, Processing and Marketing.

**For Western Mindanao**, PhP2 million will go to two projects. These are Coconut Husk Utilization Project Labason Small Coconut Farmers and Farm Workers Multi-purpose Cooperatives; and Increased Production of Quality Abaca Fiber through Mobile Abaca Spindle Stripping Machines.

**For Region IV-B or MIMAROPA**, PhP1.81million will be used for four projects. These are Enhanced Bio-Organic Fertilizer Production; Enhancement of Calamansi Nectar Processing; Community Based Coastal Resource Management; and Peanut Production and Product Development.

The Autonomous Region for Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) got PhP9 million while Cagayan Valley received PhP5 million for their various programs.

ARMM		PhP 9,000,000
1. Expansion of the Provincial Rubber Seedling Nursery and Planting of 500,000 Seedlings	Provincial Government of Basilan	5,000,000
2. Rehabilitation of the Abaca Industry thru Acquisition of Equipment, Capability Building and Livelihood Support	Provincial Government of Sulu	4,000,000

CAGAYAN VALLEY (Region II)		PhP 5,000,000
1. Nueva Vizcaya State University Seed Foundation Project	Nueva Vizcaya State University	865,000
2. Swine Artificial Insemination	LG of Sta. Ana, Cagayan	773,000
3. Promotion of Environmentally – Sustainable Freshwater Resources Management for Modified Aquaculture	Nueva Vizcaya State University	529,000
4. Dairy Farm Development Project	LG of Tugueguerao	1,054,000
5. Municipal Tilapia Hatchery	LG of Cabarroguis, Quirino	419,000
6. Municipal Tilapia Hatchery	LG of Diffun, Quirino	410,000
7. Integrated Agro Forestry Project for CBFM Project Beneficiaries	Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Regional Office 2	950,000

Tables by NEDA-PIS

### More Projects

**The Cordillera Administrative Region** has been allotted PhP3.59 million for five projects. Projects to be funded are the Banana Bunchy Top Eradication and Rehabilitation Program; Highland Rice Production Project; Organic Production of Arabica Coffee; Sustainable Banana Production Model in Kalinga Province; and Fabrication of Flatbed Dryers for Drying Palay and Corn.

**For the Ilocos region**, PhP999,000 has been identified for the Engineered Kawayan Enterprise Development Project; for **Central Visayas**, PhP700,000 will be spent for the Development of Sustainability Initiatives for Growth (DASIG0 Project: Bayawan Organic Farming Movement.

Source: NEDA Paper on Productivity Enhancement Program (PEP).