

## **DA-11 readies RPCs to help Davao farmers in palay processing and marketing**

As Davao rice farmers brace for the low buying price of palay this harvest season, the Department of Agriculture in Davao region (DA-XI) taps seven Rice Processing Centers (RPCs) in the region to provide processing and marketing support to rice farmers.

With the RPCs, DA-XI Regional Executive Director Ricardo Oñate, Jr. said that rice farmers will not just sell palay at a lower cost but milled rice at a reasonable price.

“These RPCs are operational and would provide drying and milling services to our rice farmers at an average of P1.90 per kilo and P95 per sack whether you are a member of a farmers’ association or just an individual rice farmer who seek custom milling service,” said Oñate.

In Davao del Sur, KOIKA RPC DAVAO is located at Brgy. Sinaragan in Matanao while in Davao de Oro, one RPC is located at Brgy. Libasan in Nabunturan and another in Brgy. Maparat Compostela. In Davao del Norte, two operational RPCs located at Carmen and Brgy. Visayas in Sto. Tomas while in Davao Oriental, two established RPCs located at Cateel and Brgy. San Vicente in Banaybanay.

“Our rice farmers in the region will never have to fall victims of abusive traders as they will now able to process and market their own produce. We want to transition our rice farmers from being mere producers to rice traders. With that, we can realize our twin goal of Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita,” Oñate said.

Meanwhile, DA-XI Rice Program coordinator Jacinto Macoy, Jr. said that for farmers to demand higher price for their milled rice, they should ensure the quality of their produce.

“Our RPCs help addressed the need for an improved milling system in the country. The facilities that we have in the RPCs are a product of modern science and innovation that assures increase in milling recovery, efficiency, mechanism and performance in grains—the milling capacity and process as a whole,” said Macoy.

He added that the agency is currently coordinating with the Local Government Units (LGUs) to help rice farmers ferry their produce from farms to RPCs and eventually reduce their transportation cost.

“It is a full package of support. From production phase, we provide quality seeds, fertilizers and free technical consultation and it will not stop there. We want our farmers to derive income from agricultural value-chain activities,” he added.

He also encouraged both farmers and consumers to report uncompetitive buying of rice to authorities such as DA and DTI.

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