

DA7's PRIME conducts monitoring, distributes foliar fertilizers amid pandemic

The Pest Risk Identification and Management (PRIME) Project of the Department of Agriculture (DA7) continues its monthly monitoring and distributed foliar fertilizers to their farmer cooperators, amid this pandemic.

These foliar fertilizers serve as assistance or incentives to the farmers who took part in the PRIME project.

DA 7 PRIME Focal Person Magna Nola Sumagang said that these PRIME farmers are vital in the implementation of the project especially during its monthly data gathering and survey.

She said that PRIME activities such as survey, data gathering, and surveillance are done monthly to these cooperators' farm to monitor pest population in the field and prevent pest outbreak incidence.

"PRIME is a remote sensing-based crop mapping and monitoring. When gathering the needed data and information, we are using an android-based smart phones using the Open Data Kit (ODK) application for recording and faster data transmittal," Sumagang said.

The region's PRIME has a total of 60 monitoring fields and farmer cooperators located in major rice producing municipalities and cities. The project has its rice technicians and local farmer technicians to assist them during field activities.

"We have 25 PRIME sampling sites in Bohol located in Ubay (15 sites), Pilar (10 sites) and Carmen (10 sites), Negros Oriental has 22 sites located in Bayawan (5 sites), Sta. Catalina (3 sites), Siaton (2 sites), Tanjay City (4 sites), Ayungon (3 sites), Canlaon City (5 sites), while Cebu has 3 sampling areas located in Toledo (2 sites) and Asturias (1 site)," Sumagang said.
