

## **Zambo farmers, irrigators receive 2.8-M worth farm machines and equipment, rice seeds**

ZAMBOANGA CITY - The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office IX (DA9) Rice Program turned over farm machinery, equipment and rice seeds amounting to ₱2,884,563 to farmer's associations (FAs) and irrigator's associations (IAs) at the Manicahan Covered Court, Zamboanga City on November 17, 2020.

Through the DA9 Rice Program - Agricultural Machinery, Equipment and Facilities Support Services (AMEFSS), thirteen (13) FAs and IAs from District II were awarded with farm hand tractor (1), rice reaper (1), floating tiller (1), riding-type transplanters (2), rice thresher (1), and knapsack sprayers (6).

Among the recipients were Bolong San Isidro IA, Manicahan Busog and Tadtaran IA, Preza Curuan IA Curuan and Vitali, Zone 3 Bunguiao IA, Luuk Madalum FA, Lower Tigbao FA, Camino Nuevo FA, Mampang Irrigated FA, Tictap IA, Sitio Dabuy IA, Lower and Upper Quiniput IA and Sibulao Mangusu Vitali IA.

A share of 56 bags of rice seeds out of the 90 bags for Zamboanga City were also distributed to Curuan and Vitali agricultural districts as recovery and rehabilitation support under the Rice Program's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). Since October this year, rice farms in the said districts have been affected by consecutive typhoons that hit the country.

DA9 Agricultural Program Coordinator (APCo) for Zamboanga City Arnulfo Estrada addressed the problems encountered by the farmers in the recent calamities.

"We (DA9) are always ready to provide the farmers with seeds because we have buffer stocks which come in at times of crisis, like these heavy rains, flash floods and other natural disasters," said Estrada.

ZC Chairperson on Committee on Agriculture Councilor Atty. Al-Jihan Edding also empowered the farmers with her disclosure of the increased budget for the agri-fishery sector for the year 2021 citing the procurement of three heavy-duty tractors with implements and the enhanced livelihood projects for the farmers and fisherfolk.

Nathan Dawang, the President of Preza Curuan IA expressed gratitude to DA9 and the city government for the farm assistance on behalf of the association beneficiaries.

Present during the turnover activity to show support were representatives from the Office of the City Agriculturist and Office of the District II Congressman, together with the association presidents and members.

-----