

25 NOVEMBER 2022

AMIAHANDA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture



(L-R) NOAP Director Bernadette San Juan, CRAO & BP2 Director Alicia Ilaga, Sr. Undersecretary Domingo Panganiban, and DA OIC-Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Atty. Jane Bacayo

DA CELEBRATES CLIMATE CHANGE CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK WITH LAUNCH OF TRAINING MODULES AIMED AT BUILDING LGUS' CAPACITIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

By DA-CRAO

In celebration of the 15th Annual Global Warming and Climate Change Consciousness (CCC) Week on November 19 to 25, 2022, the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO), launched a series of training modules aimed at building the capacities of local government units (LGUs) on evidence-informed planning to help them establish resilient agri-fishery communities across the country. This is part of the DA's continuous effort to transform the Philippine agriculture into climate resilient agriculture

DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban, together with DA-CRAO and Balik-Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) Program Director Alicia G. Ilaga, led the launch of the training modules

during DA's CCC Week kick-off on November 21, 2022. Present during the launch were DA OIC-Undersecretary for Administration and Finance Atty. Jane Bacayo, National Organic Agriculture Program Director Bernadette San Juan, and representatives from the Agricultural Training Institute, CRAO's partner in the capacity development of LGUs toward climate resilience.

The activity was in line with this year's CCC Week theme "Sama-samang Tumutugon sa Hamon ng Nagbabagong Klima" and was the highlight of DA's celebration which focuses on enhancing the knowledge and capacity of the LGUs to be active partners and champions in resilience building on the ground.

The C-R-A training modules for LGUs

Dubbed as C-R-A, the training modules included the CReATE (Climate-Resilient Agriculture Through Evidence-Informed Planning) Modular National Training Program, Resilience Toolkit for Local Government Units (RTL), and Additional Decision-Support Tools.

The CReATE Program is a series of in-depth practical training on using the menu of science-based tools developed by the DA-CRAO. These are the Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment Maps, the National Color-Coded Agricultural Guide Map, the Climate Information Services, the Participatory Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment, and the Protocol on Establishing Climate-Resilient Villages. Meanwhile, the Resilience Toolkit for LGUs or RTL is a user-friendly integrated digital one-stop platform to access DA-CRAO's decision-support tools that are housed in a microsite. Lastly, Additional decision-support tools are integrated in the knowledge products for evidence-based planning. These new tools are the Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal or ACAP and the Typhoon Risk Maps.

Information materials featuring the said modules are on display at the CCC Week exhibit set up by DA-CRAO at the DA Main Building Lobby in Diliman, Quezon City. The exhibit, which runs from November 21 to 25, 2022, also showcases the various enterprise production products from the different Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Villages across the country. AMIA Villages are farming communities that serve as models of climate resilience.

Pursuing a climate-resilient Philippine agriculture

According to Dir. Ilaga, the Department's mandate on climate resilience goes beyond the NCCC Week. "We pursue climate resilience every day, 24/7," she explained. The Director, who heads the implementation of AMIA which is the DA's banner program for climate change, enjoined all DA staff to sign the Pledge of Partnership at the CCC Week exhibit and contribute to building a climate-resilient Philippine agriculture.

Meanwhile, in his opening message during the activity, Senior Usec. Panganiban underscored the core role of LGUs in pursuing climate resilience.

"LGUs' strategic role as decision makers, planners, and implementers of resiliency-building initiatives make them effective frontline partners and champions of climate-resilient agriculture. Our Regional Field Offices are already equipped with evidence-informed planning through our various initiatives. Now is the time to put the LGUs on equal footing on board as we continuously establish, expand, and replicate our adaptation strategy until all our towns, provinces and regions with farming and fishing zones are transformed," he said.

The Senior Undersecretary explained that the launch of the C-R-A training modules is in line with DA's goal of accelerating climate-resilient Philippine agriculture and building the LGU's capacity as frontline agents of change in their farming and fishing communities.

In closing, he reminded that the call for enhanced resilience for our farmers and fisherfolk expands beyond the LGU sector.

"We also enjoin each and every one here to support us as we head on with one accord, tune, and voice in this great cause. As exemplified in this year's theme, we remain hopeful na sa ating pagsasama-sama, mas marami tayong magagawa sa lalong madaling panahon.

"We need force multipliers since experts say that we are running out of time in our ongoing battle against the negative impacts of climate change. All for the name of public service for our dear farmers and fisherfolk," he ended.



Director Ilaga (2nd) and Ms. Perla Baltazar (4th) of CRAO with ATI Representatives