

**ABOUT THE BANNER PHOTO:** A farmer-member of DA AMIA Village at Brgy. Surop, Governor Generoso in Davao Oriental showcases their cacao pods. Farmers in this village had nearly given up on cacao due to low yields and poor crop quality until DA AMIA came and revived their hope in cacao farming. Photo by DA RFO 11's Marc Ganaban



# AMIAhanDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE DA - ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION INITIATIVE IN AGRICULTURE (AMIA) PROGRAM • VOLUME 5 | ISSUE 2 • APR - JUN 2024

## DA tags P60B for climate change adaptation and mitigation in FY 2025 budget proposal

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has tagged approximately Php 60 billion for climate change adaptation and mitigation in its FY 2025 budget proposal.

The amount, which constitutes 33.4 percent of the DA Office of Secretary's proposed budget for FY 2025, has been tagged under the Climate Change Expenditure Tagging (CCET) initiative.

The CCET tracks programs and projects that help address and alleviate problems posed by climate change. Institutionalized by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and the Climate Change Commission (CCC) in 2013 through a Joint Memo Circular, it is a framework and a tool that tracks government climate change expenditures at the national and sub-national levels.

Recognizing the fundamental importance of implementing adaptation and mitigation

projects for the agriculture sector, the bulk of the climate change expenditures tagged in the DA is allocated for the transformation of the agri-food systems towards climate resilience.

DA Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO) Director Alicia G. Ilaga explained that DA's investment in climate resiliency is part of the Department's efforts to mainstream relevant climate change concerns under the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) and the Nationally-Determined Contributions Implementation Plan (NDCIP).

Strategies under the NAP 2023-2028 – Agriculture and Food Security and Water Resources relevant to DA have been included in the work plans of the Department.

In terms of the NDCIP, while the Philippine agriculture sector commitments are conditional,

the DA also has current initiatives that contribute to the attainment of the Philippines' overall commitments.

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement, conditional commitment for NDC implementation means it is dependent on the provision of means of implementation—including but not limited to scaled-up provision of climate finance, capacity building, and technology transfer—by developed countries, who are the biggest emitters of greenhouse gasses. This is based on the climate justice principle of common but differentiated responsibility. Highly-vulnerable countries like the Philippines have a miniscule GHG emission causing the climate crisis and, therefore, should be assisted by high-income countries, which are the biggest climate polluters. *(Joy Calvar-Adarayan)*



A farmer in an AMIA Village in Northern Mindanao inspects his corn crop. | Photo from AMIA Region 10

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### PH agrifood system stakeholders envision an agri sector with "cultivated resilience in a food-secure and climate-ready nation"

Stakeholders from the agrifood system in the Philippines have spoken: by 2050, they want a Philippine agriculture sector with cultivated resilience in a food-secure and climate-ready nation.

This collective vision was one of the outputs of the National Participatory Foresight Workshop: Climate Actions and Resilience for the Agriculture Sector in the Philippines organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO), held last **▶ Page 2**

**PH agrifood system stakeholders envision an agri sector...** (From Page 1)

May 21 to 23, 2024 in Quezon City, Philippines.

The three-day event was conducted as part of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness project titled "Agriculture Sector Readiness for Enhanced Climate Finance and Implementation of Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture Priorities in Southeast Asia." It brought together senior leadership and experts from the Philippine government, national and international non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, the private sector, academia, and representatives from farmers, youth, and indigenous peoples to develop a preliminary list of future climate investments for the agriculture sector.

The activity introduced the participants to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and its history in the Philippines, as well as the GCF Readiness Project. It mapped the country's agricultural ambitions and priorities, and highlighted the climate risks and vulnerabilities faced by the Philippines. Using foresight planning and with FAO's *Future of Food & Agriculture: Drivers and Triggers of Transformation* as reference, participants envisioned their desired future for the country's agriculture sector, identified national barriers and triggers of transformation, and outlined strategic actions through the development of adaptation and mitigation projects that will be the basis for future GCF proposals.



Snaps during the National Participatory Foresight Workshop: Climate Actions and Resilience for the Agriculture Sector in the Philippines conducted as part of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Project.

**Initial GCF project ideas**

Guided by the result of their collective visioning exercise on the future that they want for the Philippine agriculture sector, the participants identified climate investments and developed project ideas that would pave the way toward attaining this goal.

Four project ideas were developed during the workshop. The first project, titled "Building Climate-responsive Communities through Nature Based Solutions," aims to enhance the resilience of agri-fisheries communities through Nature-based solutions. The second, "1000 Climate-Resilient Municipalities in 100 Critical Watersheds," seeks to enhance the engagement and capacities of one million family farmers, fisherfolk, Indigenous Peoples and rural women in accessing, managing, and

implementing climate resilient agroforestry, agricultural, and fishery livelihoods.

Another project developed was the "Adoption of Climate-Resilient Aquaculture Technologies in the Philippines," which aims to increase the adaptive capacity of fisherfolk communities through the adoption of climate- and disaster-resilient aquaculture technologies that are productive and tailor-fitted to their needs and location-specific vulnerabilities.

The last project, "Low Carbon Philippine Agri-Fisheries Food Systems Transformation by 2050," seeks to decrease carbon emissions in the agriculture sector, adopt low carbon farming practices at the farmer level, and craft policy recommendations to institutionalize standards and mechanisms for carbon credits.

In her closing message during the event, DA CRAO Director and GCF Readiness Project Steering Committee Focal Point for the Philippines Alicia Ilaga expressed her gratitude to all who have contributed to the success of the activity. She said she was happy that the preliminary priority list of projects presented in the workshop are aligned with the DA's priorities.

"I am happy that the preliminary priority list of projects are aligned not just with our key national policies on climate change, but also with the current strategic priority of the DA, which is to modernize agriculture and boost the farm sector's production capacity and contribution to the domestic economy, especially in improving the lives of farmers and fisherfolk as well as creating more jobs," Dir. Ilaga said. (Joy Calvar-Adarayan)

**DA CRAO lauds RFO 10 for conducting first ever regional AMIA Congress**

Department of Agriculture (DA) Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO) Director Alicia G. Ilaga lauded the successful conduct of the first AMIA 10 Congress held at the Northern Mindanao Agricultural Crop and Livestock Research Complex (NMACLRC) at Dalwagan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

"I would like to thank and congratulate our AMIA 10 Team for organizing this first AMIA Congress in the region. Salamat sa pagtipon

ng ating mga AMIA partners dito sa Northern Mindanao para i-assess at ipadiwang ang implementation ng ating programa. Napakahalaga at napakaganda po ng gawaing ito," Dir. Ilaga said.

The activity, which bore the theme "Klima Atimana Para sa Malahutayong Pag-uma ug Ekonomiya," was organized by DA Regional Field Office (RFO) 10 through the AMIA Program. AMIA RFO 10 Focal Person and NMACLRC

Chief Carmelito Lapoot explained that the activity aimed to gather farmer-beneficiaries, local government units, and other stakeholders to assess and share the successes and innovations of the 11 AMIA villages in the region.

The first ever congress of the AMIA Program, the event featured a tour of different display booths showcasing the produce of the AMIA villages from various areas. Each booth also presented information on the climate risks experienced in their area and the Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) practices introduced by the DA AMIA program to help them adapt to these risks. Selected AMIA Villages in Phase 3 of the AMIA Development Pathway-AMIA's guide in tracking the progress of AMIA villages-also presented their various accomplishments and their AMIA journey.

and the Best AMIA Booth. The first contest, Best AMIA Presenter, highlighted the accomplishments of the four RFO 10 AMIA Villages in Phase 3 of the AMIA Development Pathway. The second contest, Best AMIA Booth, recognized the best booth setup among the 13 AMIA villages exhibiting their products during the congress. The Manolo Fortich AMIA Village won the Best AMIA Presenter Award, with the Libona AMIA Village securing second place, and the Magsaysay AMIA Village taking third place. Meanwhile, the Best AMIA Booth Award went to the Libona AMIA Village, followed by the Manolo Fortich AMIA Village in second place, and the Magsaysay AMIA Village in third place.

Director Ilaga, DA RFO 10 RTD for Research and Regulation Cora A. Dumayaca, and Mr. Lapoot, awarded the winners of the contest during the closing activity of the event. (Joy Calvar-Adarayan and Quennie May Camu)



DA CRAO Director Alicia G. Ilaga, along with DA RFO 10 officials, representatives from partner-agencies, and other guests, led the opening of the first DA RFO 10 AMIA Congress held in Bukidnon.

# Accelerating Climate Resilience in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment (ANRE) TA Project: Overview and Key Outputs

By: Maria Jannell Feliz Talavera

Last June 19, 2024, key officials and representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and international consulting firm NIRAS Asia Manila gathered for the culminating event for the Accelerating Climate Resilience in Agriculture, Natural Resources and the Environment (ANRE) ADB Technical Assistance (TA) Project.

The TA project is part of the Climate Change Action Program (CCAP) of the Philippine government in partnership with the ADB launched in June 2022 which aims to address climate-related challenges and

implement national policies.

Comprising two subprograms, the CCAP is implemented to enhance the institutional capacity and strengthen sector policies to support the implementation of national climate action in different key reform areas. These include strengthening planning, financing, and institutional linkages for climate action; enhancing resilience to climate impacts; and strengthening low-carbon pathways. With the completion of the required policy actions under Subprogram 1, the government received a \$250 million policy-based loan from the ADB in the same year.



Key officials and representatives from DA, DENR, ADB, and Niras Asia Manila, along with agriculture consultants, pose for a group photo during the culminating event of the ANRE TA Project.

Jointly funded by the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction, Agence Française de Développement, and the ADB, the ANRE TA project was implemented to further support the government in moving forward the climate resilience reform area of the CCAP. It aimed to support the preparation and achievement of the relevant policy and institutional

objectives of the Subprogram 2 and the implementation of climate resilience policy actions and institutional reforms required to achieve the relevant overall outcomes of the CCAP.

Here's an overview of this TA project and its outputs and sub-outputs for the agriculture sector.

## OUTPUT 1.1 Institutionalization of Climate Resilient Agriculture | Key Outputs

### Study on Advocacy & Change Management

Highlights the necessity for the institutionalization of CRAO to solidify its structure and functions in the Department.

### Gender-sensitive Action Plan for Climate Resilient Agriculture,

Proposes steps to enhance gender mainstreaming in the implementation of CRA, specifically in the development of climate-resilient farming and fishing communities and enterprises.

### Study on Climate Change Mitigation Strategies

Tackles the status of the Philippine Emission Trading Scheme, methodologies for effective greenhouse gas emission measurement in agriculture, and a cost-benefit analysis of using a water management technology (specifically alternate wetting and drying in rice production). It underscores the necessity to establish a structured carbon market landscape in the country.

### CRVA maps of Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) Provinces

These maps highlight the exposure to hazards, crop sensitivity, adaptive capacity, and overall vulnerabilities of the BARMM areas to climate change. This initiative also resulted in the development of an automated CRVA system through the use of machine learning and Artificial Intelligence (AI), which can be used in the updating of previously completed CRVA maps.



### Centralized Climate Information Service (CIS) System

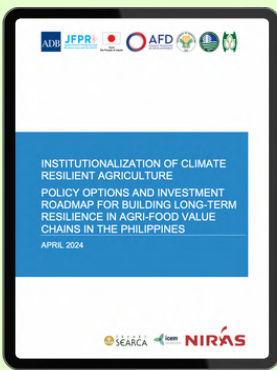
This system would house the robust menu of CRA options/practices/technologies, as applicable in local conditions, for use in the generation and dissemination of climate and weather-informed farming and fishing advisories to farmers and fisherfolk. The provision of advisories is a regular service provided by DA through the Regional Field Offices.



### Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks for the AMIA Program & the Mainstreaming of Climate Resilience in the Agri Sector

Aims to aid in tracking the progress of the AMIA Program and mainstreaming of climate action in DA programs, projects, and activities, and eventually, in the local governments' development plans and programs.

### Study on Policy Options and Investment Roadmap for Building Long-term Resilience and Agri-food Value Chains



Explores the intersection of agriculture and economic resilience in the Philippines, particularly under the pressures of climate change. It models the productivity and economic effects of climate change, highlighting adaptation and mitigation potentials. It provides a comprehensive analysis of the current status of the agri sector, its economic implications, and impacts of climate variability, and concludes with strategic investment and policy recommendations.

### Study on Scaling-up of Value Chain Linkages for AMIA Villages

Presents gaps and strategies for AMIA implementers and cooperators to be able to transform farming and fishing communities into economically sustainable and climate-resilient enterprises.

Read the full reports at: [amia.da.gov.ph/institutionalization-of-climate-resilient-agriculture/](http://amia.da.gov.ph/institutionalization-of-climate-resilient-agriculture/)

## OUTPUT 1.2 Expansion of organic agriculture

Under Output 1.2, the aim was to expand organic agriculture in alignment with the Republic Act No. 10068: Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 through the establishment of a new secretariat for governance; implementation of a certification system; and development of public expenditure programs for shared facilities, seeds, extension services, training, and research & development.

## OUTPUT 1.3 Development of climate-smart agricultural technologies

Under Output 1.3, the aim was to develop climate-smart agricultural technologies, targeting significant enhancements in research and development for non-GMO crops, livestock, fisheries, and diversified farming systems, eventually bolstering the government's commitment to climate resilience by increasing funding for relevant research and development activities.

## OUTPUT 3: Agricultural insurance for climate risk management improved

Under Output 3, the key objective was to enhance the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) through improved coverage and the development of better insurance models, including index-based insurance for effective climate risk management. The TA delivered five (5) reports and identified 55 non-life insurers interested in agricultural products but lacking technical capacity.

# AMIA regional teams review performance, share best practices during FY 2024 AMIA Midyear Assessment



Snapshots during the FY 2024 AMIA Midyear Assessment in held in Bohol from June 25-28, 2024 organized by DA CRAO and DA RFO 7 AMIA Program.

**R**egional focal persons and teams of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program reviewed their performance for the first half of the year and shared best practices in the AMIA Program implementation during the FY 2024 AMIA Midyear Assessment held from June 25 to 28, 2024 in Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

Organized by the DA Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO) and the DA Regional Field Office 7 AMIA Team, the event provided a platform for evaluating the program's progress, exchanging of knowledge on various aspects of AMIA Program implementation, and sharing of current climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) initiatives among AMIA regional focal points and teams.

During the performance review, where the physical and financial performance of each AMIA regional team during the first semester of FY 2024 were assessed, AMIA Region 5 emerged as the top performer for the period, earning recognition for its consistent and exceptional performance, followed by AMIA Regions 8 and 2 for the second and third spots, respectively. AMIA Region 10 emerged in the fourth

place, while AMIA Region 1 secured the fifth spot.

In her opening message, DA CRAO and AMIA Program Director Alicia G. Ilaga provided updates on the AMIA program's various initiatives, including the implementation of the Adapting Philippine Agriculture to Climate Change Project, and the Accelerating Climate Resilience in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and the Environment (ANRE) Asian Development Bank (ADB) Technical Assistance Project, among many others. Director Ilaga also presented the accomplishments of the AMIA Program as of June 2024, highlighting how the program and its various components facilitate the fulfillment of DA's climate action strategies.

Latest policy issuances on climate change were also discussed during the event. These include the Special Order No. 703, series of 2024, which operationalizes the CRAO in the DA for a transformative management of climate action; Department Order (DO) No. 08, series of 2024, focusing on gender-sensitive action plans for climate resilient agriculture; and DO No. 09, series of 2024, which addresses the expansion of the climate information services nationwide.

## Development of CRA Packages and Sharing of Best Practices

In line with the directive of DA Secretary Francisco Tiu-Laurel Jr., CRAO facilitated a workshop on the development of CRA Packages of Technologies. The workshop included the identification of appropriate CRA interventions per province, ecosystem, and city/municipality which can assist in the DA's provision of climate-risk based interventions and support services.

Another highlight of the event was the conduct of a Knowledge Exchange Session on the best practices on the AMIA Program implementation as well as recurring challenges faced by AMIA teams and solutions that work. The session included five rounds of simultaneous discussions between AMIA regional teams on various aspects of the AMIA program implementation.

The activity also introduced the centralized Agro Climatic Advisory Portal (ACAP) system and the Automated Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) System which were developed under the ADB TA Project. *(Quennie May Camu)*



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**Ka-AMIA, get the latest news and updates about the AMIA Program through AMIAhanDA issued as a quarterly publication by DA-CRAO!**

Let's learn about  
**Climate Resilient Agriculture**  
 here in our  
**CRAssroom**

The Virtual CRA Classroom of AMIA that features Climate Resilient Agriculture or CRA, an important topic in increasing the resilience of the agriculture sector against the effects of climate change.

## LESSON NO. 2

# Climate-Resilient Agriculture Technologies & Approaches for Irrigated Lowland Ecosystem

### Stress-tolerant rice varieties

Stress-tolerant rice varieties are developed to withstand environmental stresses that adversely affect rice production in the country.



### System of Rice Intensification (SRI)



SRI is an innovation in rice production system developed to increase land and water productivity, labor, and capital with less external inputs. It can be adopted for different rice varieties.

### Rice-fish/rice-duck system

The rice-fish system is an integrated crop management where fish is raised concurrently or in rotation with rice crop in a symbiotic relationship, while the rice-duck system is an integrated farming method of growing rice and raising ducks on the same land.

### Site-specific nutrient management

Site-specific nutrient management is a technology that aims to optimize soil nutrients supply that match crop requirements according to a specific timeframe and inherent spatial variability.



### Ecological engineering for biological pest control

Ecological engineering in lowland rice agro-ecosystems is done by planting flower strips in rice fields. These strips serve as habitats for beneficial arthropods that control pests.



### PalayCheck system

The PalayCheck System is a rice integrated crop management (RICM) system that applies the principles of seed quality, and preparation, crop establishment, nutrient management, water management, pest management, and harvest management.



### Controlled irrigation (alternate wetting and drying technique)

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) is a water-saving technology that farmers operating irrigated rice lands can use to reduce irrigation cost and water input so that water can be used for other purposes.



### Sorjan system



The Sorjan system is a land modification technique that constructs a series of alternating deep sinks and raised beds as adaptation in flood-prone or swampy areas.

### Rice straw management



Rice straws are rice by-products when harvesting that are considered agricultural wastes. Rice straw management techniques aim to use these agricultural wastes for farming and household purposes.

Learn more at: [tinyurl.com/CRACompendium](https://tinyurl.com/CRACompendium)

# AMIA DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY REALIZED:

## Sta. Victoria's AMIA Journey

**N**ot all dreams turn into reality, but for Sta. Victoria, Ilagan, Isabela Barangay Captain Ludivico Balbin, dreams do indeed come true.

“Lahat ng mga pangarap ng mga tao dito sa aming village na giginhawa ang pamumuhay na parang panaginip lang noon, unti-unti naming nakakamit dahil sa mga tulong na ibinigay at mga oportunidad na binuksan ng AMIA,” noted Balbin, who was the former chairman of the AMIANan Farmers Entrepreneur Agricultural Cooperative, an AMIA Village located at Barangay Sta. Victoria.

AMIA, or the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture, is the DA's banner program on climate change. The program builds climate resilient communities called AMIA Villages to serve as model communities where climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) practices and technologies are tested and promoted. In these villages, vulnerable farming communities are empowered to

identify their climate risks and select common adaptation strategies to boost resilience and productivity.

For Balbin, AMIA is an embodiment of a dream come true—a fulfillment of their hope for a better life for their families and community.

Reflecting on the struggles of the past, Balbin noted, “Dati, mahirap ang buhay dito sa amin. Noon, pagkatapos ng taniman ng palay, aantayin mo na lang iyong harvest season; walang mapagkakakitaang iba.”

As there were no other available sources of income, Balbin said people in their community used to

go up to the mountains to cut ratan trees which they sell for an extra income. “Ngayon, hindi na nila 'yun ginagawa. Bukod sa ipinagbabawal, nandiyan na ang AMIA,” Balbin explained.

Due to poverty, he said most farmers in the community found it hard to send their children to school. “Walang nakakapag-aral talaga. Mahirap kasi ang buhay.”

### **Paving the way for progress**

Balbin and his fellow farmers at Barangay Sta. Victoria were organized in 2018 by the DA Regional Field Office (RFO) 2 AMIA Program into the AMIANan Farmers Entrepreneur Agricultural

Association to help them address their longstanding and multiple climate risks of drought, typhoon, and flooding. Now a cooperative, the AMIANan AMIA Village was introduced to various CRA technologies and practices aimed at helping them adapt to their identified climate risks. These include farm diversification to promote multiple sources of income, the use of climate information services, and the adoption of various water management technologies like the installation of solar-powered irrigation systems, among others.

The village currently has 102 ha. of rice production area and 200 ha. for corn production. In addition to

rice and corn, farmer-cooperators also produce cassava, raise poultry and livestock, and grow vegetables to diversify their income. Other interventions provided by the AMIA program include various agricultural machineries, swine and chicken layer production, seeds and seedlings, nursery for fruit trees, series of training and capacity development activities, and the establishment of the AMIA Climate Information and Learning Center, a two-story building serving as the cooperative's office and learning and training center.

A platform for partnership, AMIA helped open various opportunities for the village. Soon, more interventions and support services



Sta. Victoria AMIA Village's Climate Information and Learning Center which also serves as the cooperative's office and training center.

poured in, coming not just from DA banner programs and projects, but from fellow national government agencies, provincial and city local government units (LGUs), and other organizations as well. Today, AMIANan has already acquired land and other properties, and maintained a positive net surplus, making it a model AMIA Village in Cagayan Valley.

Balbin attributes much of this progress to AMIA's support and interventions. "AMIA ang nagbukas ng mga magagandang simula ng pagtaas ng ani at kita ng mga magsasaka dito sa amin," he explained.

With increased opportunities to earn multiple incomes, the farmers in the village were soon able to better support their family. "Kung dati walang ibang pagkakakitaan, ngayon, marami nang naituro sa amin, gaya ng pag-aalaga ng mga hayop, swine, chicken, at mga vegetables. Talagang napakalaking tulong sa amin. Napataas talaga ang pamumuhay ng mga tao dito," Balbin reflected.

**More prepared to face the threat of climate change**

Aside from helping alleviate their lives from poverty, Balbin is particularly grateful for how AMIA enhanced their ability to prepare for various climate challenges. "Noon, wala tayong pagha-handa sa climate change. Hindi kgaya ngayon na alam na natin kung kailan tatama ang mga kalamidad, kaya napagpa-planuhan na natin ang gagawin sa bukid. Dahil 'yan sa impormasyon galing sa AWS natin, sa PAGASA," he noted.

AWS or Automated Weather Station (AWS) refers to a device that

automatically records meteorological data at regular intervals. Under the Climate Information Services (CIS) of the AMIA Program, AWS are installed in strategic areas near AMIA Villages to enhance the accuracy of local weather forecasts. This data is translated into farming and fishing advisories by DA to assist farmers in making timely decisions on their agricultural practices. DA RFO 2 AMIA Program has an AWS installed at the AMIANan communal farm area which provides members of the village with text messages containing real-time weather updates. These messages are complemented by the 10-Day and Seasonal advisories produced by DA RFO 2, which are shared with the farmers through group chats.

Additionally, agricultural training and seminars provided by DA, the LGU, and other organizations have been instrumental in increasing the resilience of the people in the village. "Kung paano natin itataas pa ang kaalaman natin, nandiyan palagi ang AMIA. Iyan siguro ang dahilan kung bakit gumanda ang buhay ng mga tao dito sa village-dahil sa mga training at intervention na bigay ng AMIA at iba pang organisasyon," Balbin explained.

On behalf of his fellow farmer cooperators, Balbin extends his gratitude to the DA and the AMIA Program. "Maraming salamat sa mga intervention, mapa-fertilizer, seeds, machinery, livestock-talagang napakarami. Sa palaging seminar at training. Sa land preparation, nandiyan 'yung mga tractor; sa harvesting, nandiyan 'yung mga rice and corn harvester. Maraming, maraming salamat talaga," he said, his eyes glassy with unshed tears.



Various interventions provided to Sta. Victoria AMIA Village.

**A progress affirmed and attested**

The AMIA Program's impact to the village was affirmed and attested by Balbin's daughter, Amiko, who has been helping his father and the officers of the village in the daily operations of the cooperative. "Dati ang hirap ng buhay dito, sobra," Amiko echoed his father. "Ngayon, siyempre, may farm machineries, may mga operators, may mga trainings and interventions, ang laking tulong talaga," she recalled.

The progress experienced by the members of the village has allowed them to be able to send their children to school. Inspired by their parents and how agriculture transformed their lives, many

children of the village officers, including Amiko's younger brother, chose to study agriculture in college.

"Na-inspire 'yung kapatid ko sa AMIA kaya nag-take ng agriculture. Actually, halos lahat ng mga anak ng officers ng AMIA sa coop, ang kinuha nila, agriculture. Graduate na po 'yung iba," Amiko shared, the smile on her face prominent.

With AMIA inspiring a next generation of farmers and agriculturists to build on AMIANan's progress, the village is on the road towards a more sustainable, prosperous, and resilient future. (Joy Calvar-Adarayan with reports from DA RFO 2 AMIA's Rayward Salas Carlos)



“ Lahat ng mga pangarap ng mga tao dito sa aming village na ginhawa ang pamumuhay, na parang panaginip lang noon, unti-unti naming nakakamit dahil sa mga tulong na ibinigay at mga oportunidad na binuksan ng AMIA.

- Ludivico Balbin

James Arnel Balbin, Amiko's younger brother, is a BS Agriculture candidate at Isabela State University. Amiko shared that her brother had explored other courses before finding his passion for farming through AMIA and excelling in BS Agriculture.



Current AMIANan Cooperative Chairman Lito G. Cuevas during the graduation of his son, Tommy Kim M. Cuevas. Tommy graduated with a degree of BS Agriculture from the Isabela State University.

# From security guard to resilient farmer

Joebert Conejo, a 48-year-old farmer in Banate, province of Iloilo, exemplifies the power of determination and family support. Joebert worked as a devoted security guard for 16 years, putting in hard hours and spending time away from his loved ones. One day, he made a life-changing decision after realizing that his profession was having an enormous impact on his family life: he decided to till the land he inherited and joined the Abate Banate Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Village Farmers Association.

Leaving behind the uniform and night shifts, Joebert embarked on a new journey that promised not only a steady income but also the opportunity to be closer to his wife, Rodiosa, and their two children. His

initial days on the farm were challenging, but Joebert's dedication and the support of his family turned these challenges into stepping stones for success.

Today, Joebert earns a monthly income of at least PhP 20,000.00 from his flourishing farm. He also benefits from various support and interventions as a member of the Banate AMIA Village. His venture is not just a source of income but also a passion project that has brought his family closer. Joebert established an *Instagrammable* garden full of colorful flowers and abundant vegetables. His farm has diversified spaces including rabbits, native pigs, a vermitea setup, rice fields, tilapia ponds, hydroponics, aquaponics, and medicinal plants.

Joebert's farm is more than just a business, it's a living classroom for his children. He teaches them all that he learned from the AMIA Program, especially the importance of planting and cultivating their own food, a crucial lesson especially in light of recent inflation concerns. His farm has become a local attraction, known for its picturesque landscapes and organic produce. His children, inspired by their father's hard work and dedication, are learning the values of self-sufficiency and sustainable living.

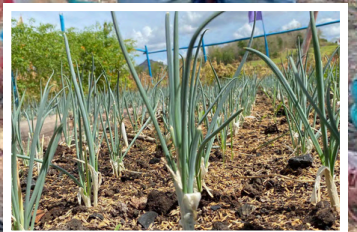
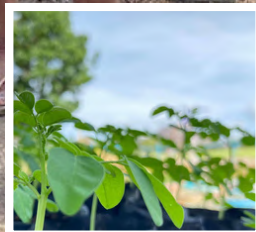
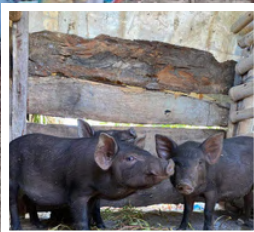
Joebert's farm has also become a resource for his community. Students from Northern Iloilo State University regularly purchase his vermicast, rabbits, and lettuce for

their research studies. Joebert takes pride in offering free demonstrations of his farming practices, sharing his knowledge and inspiring others to embrace sustainable agriculture.

Even amidst the challenges posed by the recent El Niño phenomenon, Joebert's crops have thrived. This resilience is a result of the collective effort and love that his family pours into the farm every day and the lessons he learned from the AMIA Program. Joebert's story is a powerful reminder that with passion, hard work, and the support of loved ones, one can overcome any adversity and achieve their own success.   
(Chrystal Jane Almendralejo, DA AMIA Western Visayas)



Snaps of Joebert Conejo and his farm. Photos by Chrystal Jane Almendralejo.





# #AMIANewsInBrief

From Cordillera to Caraga, here are latest news about the AMIA Program as implemented by DA-AMIA regional teams:

Compiled by: Quennie May Camu

**CAR**



**DA-CAR PREPS CORDI'S NEW AMIA VILLAGES THROUGH PARTICIPATORY CLIMATE RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office-Cordillera Administrative Region, through its Field Operation Division, and the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture (AMIA) in collaboration with Research Division, recently conducted a Participatory Rapid Appraisal (PRA) and Participatory Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (PCRVA) in various provinces in the region. This initiative aims to identify suitable areas for the establishment of new AMIA Villages, emphasizing a participatory and interdisciplinary approach to project development that actively involves farmers in the process. The activities took place between April to May in Aguinaldo, Ifugao; Rizal, Kalinga; and Paracelis, Mountain Province. [Read more at: @amiacordillera](#)

**REGION 1**



**DA-AMIA ILOCOS INTRODUCES AUTOMATED WEATHER STATION TO VILLAGE PARTNERS**

The Department of Agriculture - Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (DA-AMIA) program in the Ilocos Region introduced the Climate Information Service - Automated Weather Station (AWS) - in a series of briefing activities to its five village partners in June, 2024. The AMIA villages tapped were those from the municipalities of Anda and Sison in the province of Pangasinan, San Emilio in Ilocos Sur, and Badoc and Marcos in Ilocos Norte. Around 32 farmers and local government unit representatives from these villages attended the activity and were trained with the management of AWS. The AWS is a device that collects data on weather conditions as rainfall, temperature, humidity, and wind speed. [Read more at: @climatechange.da.ilocos](#)

**REGION 2**



**CC-AMIA CONDUCTS SIMULTANEOUS AWS INSTALLATION, REPAIR, AND MAINTENANCE IN VARIOUS AMIA VILLAGES IN REGION 02**

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office No. 02 (DA RFO 02) through the Climate Change-Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (CC-AMIA) Program installed one (1) set of Automated Weather Station (AWS) at Magapuy, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya and conducted repair and maintenance to the existing AWS in Lucban, Benito Soliven and Sta. Victoria, City of Ilagan, Isabela and in Nararagan, Ballesteros, Cagayan on July 2-4, 2024, respectively. The AWS, which gathers weather data that can be stored and accessed via cloud based or webpage link, can help farmers in their day-to-day decision-making processes particularly on the schedule of crop irrigation, and fertilization, among others. [Read more at: @amiacagayanvalley](#)

**REGION 3**



**AMIA-CENTRAL LUZON TRAINS AMIA BENEFICIARIES ON ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

The Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Regional Field Office III organized a comprehensive series of trainings aimed at enhancing various skills essential for enterprise development. The trainings, held from June 24-28, 2024 in Angeles City, Pampanga, focused on Social Preparation, Business Plan formulation, Enterprise Management strategies, and Simple Bookkeeping techniques. The training program had 100 participants composed of beneficiaries from 14 newly established AMIA villages, as well as key officials from their respective provinces, including the Provincial Agriculturist, Municipal Agriculturist, and Provincial Veterinarian, and their staff members who participated in the training. [Read more at: AMIA Central Luzon](#)


**REGION 4A**



**PAGSASANAY SA PAGPAPALAKAS NG CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGIES: ISINAGAWA SA POLILLO GROUP OF ISLANDS**

Idinaos kamakailan ang pagsasanay sa Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) na naglalayong palakasin ang kakayahan ng mga magsasaka sa harap ng pagbabago ng klima. Ang nasabing pagsasanay ay pinangunahan ng DA-CALABARZON sa pamamagitan ng Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture, katuwang ang ilang lokal na pamahalaan ng Polillo at Burdeos, Quezon. Ito dinaluhan ng 71 magsasaka mula sa apat na mga asosasyon. Layunin ng pagsasanay na makatulong sa pagpapabuti ng produksyon ng iba't ibang pananim sa kanilang lugar. Bilang bahagi ng pagsasanay, isinagawa rin ang Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) sa kanilang mga taniman upang tiyakin ang ligtas at mataas na kalidad ng mga produkto at upang mapanatili ang proteksyon ng kapaligiran. [Read more at: @AMIA.4A](#)

**REGION 4B**



**PAGSIBOL SA KABILA NG HAMON NG PAGBABAGO NG KLIMA: ANG PAGPAPALAKAS NG BINUNGA-YOOK FARMERS ASSOCIATION KATUWANG ANG AMIA PROGRAM**

Sa maliit na bayan ng Buenavista, Marinduque, matatagpuan ang kwento ng katatagan at muling pag-usbong ng samahan ng mga magsasaka ng Binunga-Yook Farmers Association--isang samahang tinatag mula sa prinsipyo ng komunidad, likas-kaya, at pagsibol na kumakatawan ng pag-asa laban sa hamon ng nagbabagong panahon. Dalawang taon makalipas, ang samahan ay dumaan sa panghihina at pagkawatak-watak dahil sa mga hamon ng klima, kalamidad, at kawalan ng pondo. Ngunit nang makita ng Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) ng Department of Agriculture (DA)-MIMAROPA ang potensyal ng samahan at ang kanilang paniniwala sa agrikultura, ipinakilala nila ang kanilang proyekto na community-based climate resilient livelihood program. [Read more at: @AMIA.MiMaRoPa](#)

**REGION 5**



**AMIA BICOL SPEARHEADS PSF PROPOSAL ENHANCEMENT WORKSHOP**

Naga City, Camarines Sur - The AMIA Program, together with the Climate Change Commission and DA Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (DA CRAO), spearheaded the People's Survival Fund (PSF) Proposal Enhancement Writeshop last April 15-19, 2024 in this city. This activity was participated in by the nine Municipal Local Government Units (MLGUs) and four Provincial LGUs with AMIA Villages. The activity aimed to enhance the climate change adaptation project proposals of LGUs. "Under AMIA, we advocate for the integration of climate change issues into the plans and programs of our LGUs, science-based tools like Maps and CIS offer evidence-based data to justify adaptation strategies for climate change effects," said DA CRAO Director Alicia G. Ilaga. This initiative underscored AMIA's commitment to enhancing local resilience. [Read more at: @daamiarfo5](#)

**REGION 6**



**WESTERN VISAYAS LGUS TRAIN ON CLIMATE INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR AGRICULTURE**

The Department of Agriculture (DA) Western Visayas Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture (AMIA) Program conducted an activity focusing on the integration and institutionalization of climate information as a core function of Regional Field Offices (RFOs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) on June 18 to 20 in Iloilo City. This initiative, led by AMIA Project Leader Carmelita C. Fantilan, along with the AMIA team and their Climate Information Services (CIS) Focal Person, Chrystal Jane Almendrajeo, aimed at enhancing the capabilities of RFOs and LGUs in utilizing climate data to improve agricultural practices and bolster resilience against climate change. Under Memorandum Circular No. 4 series of 2020, DA RFOs are mandated to provide weather-based farming and fishing advisories as a regular service. [Read more at: amiawesternvisayas](#)

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**REGION 7**



**AMIA 7 CONDUCTS INTENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAM FOR PRODUCT VALUE ADDITION IN DAANBANTAYAN'S AMIA VILLAGES**

To help diversify their agricultural livelihoods, two Adaptation Mitigation and Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) villages in the municipality of Daanbantayan underwent a three-day Community-Based Enterprise Development Processing Training from July 2-4, 2024 organized by DA Regional Field Office 7 AMIA Program team. The said villages were composed of three associations from Barangay Bagay and two associations from Barangay Bitoon. The training aimed to transform these communities into climate-resilient business enterprises by providing practical knowledge and opportunities for sustainable livelihood, opening new avenues for income generation and enhancing their resilience against climate-related challenges. *Read more at:*

[f @AMIASIETE](#)

**REGION 8**



**AMIA RFO 8 TRAINS AEWS ON AMIA PROGRAM CONCEPTS, METHODS**

To further mainstream the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program into provincial and municipal local government units, the Department of Agriculture (RFO 8) initiated an Agricultural Extension Workers' (AEWs) Training on AMIA Program Concepts and Methods from June 10 to 11, 2024, in Marasbaras, Tacloban City. Representatives from different DA banner programs, Municipal and Provincial LGUs, AEWS in the region, and Agricultural Program Coordinating Officers (APCOs), were gathered to discuss the establishment of AMIA Villages at the grassroots level. This undertaking also intended to encourage more AEWS to apply climate-resilient technologies, which could lead to sustainable, climate-resilient agriculture. *Read more at:*

[f @agri.region8](#)

**REGION 9**



**AMIA, RICE PROGRAM ORIENT ZAMPEN FARMERS ON EL NIÑO, LA NIÑA**

A Barangay Town Hall Meeting on the impact of El Niño and La Niña phenomena to rice production was held in Labason, Zamboanga del Norte, Titay, Zamboanga Sibugay, and Tukuran, Zamboanga del Sur.

The activity, spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture Rice Program, together with the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) team, in coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU) - Municipal Agriculture Office, aimed to prepare farmers for these phenomena. The meeting served as a venue to understand the impacts of El Niño and La Niña, which is crucial for developing adaptive strategies to ensure agricultural sustainability. *Read more at:* [f @amiaregion9](#)

**REGION 10**



**AMIA RFO 10 CONDUCTS 2024 MIDYEAR ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING WORKSHOP**

The Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 10 (DA-RFO 10) through Climate Change - Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture Region 10 (CC-AMIA R10) conducted their 2024 AMIA Midyear Assessment and Planning Workshop on June 20-21 at NMACLRC, Dalwangan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon. Present in the activity were personnel and representatives of different LGUs and CC-AMIA villages in the region. During the activity, Agro-Climatic Advisory Portal (ACAP), a climate information system, was presented by the DA RFO 10 team. Meanwhile, each participant from different AMIA villages shared the accomplishments of their villages, highlighting the positive output/outcome and gaps for improvement of the program. *Read more at:*

[f AMIARegion10](#)

**REGION 11**



**SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH OF CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN DAVAO DE ORO**

To intensify its existing efforts on climate resilient agriculture (CRA) and reinforce current milestones in the Davao Region, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 11 Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program, in partnership with the Provincial Agriculture Office of Davao de Oro and the Municipal Agriculture Offices of Nabunturan, Monkayo and Compostela, launched three new AMIA Villages and opened a nine-week Climate Resilient Agriculture Field School. This joint program, organized by DA Regional AMIA project team, was attended by 177 farmers from the Katipunan Multi-purpose Cooperative of Nabunturan, Union Farmers Association of Monkayo, Kauswagan Site-4 Farmers Association of Compostela and representatives from MLGU and PLGU. It was successfully conducted at Barangay Katipunan Gymnasium, Brgy. Katipunan, Nabunturan, Davao de Oro on May 24, 2024. *Read more at:* [f @amia0nse](#)

**REGION 12**



**AMIA DIRECTOR ALICIA G. ILAGA VISITS AMIA VILLAGE IN SOCCSKSARGEN**

Department of Agriculture (DA) Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO) and Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program Director Alicia G. Ilaga, together with DA Regional Field Office 12 AMIA team, visited last May 15-17, 2024 the Community Farmers and Empowerment Program Association (CFEPA), an AMIA Village situated at Brgy. Lamlahak, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato Province. CFEPA is composed of 100% indigenous people thriving in the field of agricultural farming amidst the threats of climate change. Despite their vulnerability to climate hazards, the AMIA Village, together with DA and its other programs, continually strengthens their collaboration and partnership through the provision of various interventions. Dir. Ilaga commended the CFEPA farmers for their dedication and hardwork towards higher productivity and better income. *Read more at:* [f @AMIASoccksargsen](#)

**CARAGA**



**AMIA CARAGA: ADVANCING CLIMATE RESILIENCE IN AGRICULTURE IN 2ND QTR 2024**

The Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture Caraga (AMIA Caraga) is making significant strides in enhancing agricultural resilience in the region amidst the growing challenges of climate change. By integrating advanced technology and comprehensive training of trainers, AMIA Caraga is setting new standards in climate-smart agriculture.

*Updates on the monitoring visit in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte:* AMIA Caraga conducted an open-dialogue session in select AMIA villages, tackling critical agricultural issues, farming diversification, and actions toward climate risks. Collaborations with local farmers and AMIA associations highlighted the importance of efficient water management and proactive measures to mitigate heat stress on crops, promoting sustainable production practices.

*Read more at:* [f @caragamia](#)

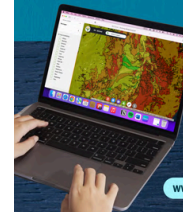
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