

Dairy Multiplier Farm (DMF) Partners in Mindanao Attends 2nd Dairy Forum



(L-R: Manager Marilyn B. Mabale, Maragusan Mayor Cesar C. Colina, and Engr. Isidro V. Albano listens as NDA Operations Manager Dr. Jaime Lopez explains the details of the NDA's dairy dispersal program.

Twenty-one (21) dairy farmers from 13 Dairy Multiplier Farms (DMF) in Mindanao and 17 NDA staff including Operations Dept. Manager Jaime M. Lopez and Coop Dev't Officer Edwin Calubag of NDA Central Office converged at Albano's Stock Farm in Maragusan, Compostela Valley last June 13-14 for the 2nd quarter DMF forum.

The NDA Mindanao Field Office spearheads the conduct of the fora to facilitate and address issues and concerns the DMFs may encounter in raising dairy animals.

The 2nd Dairy Forum focused on calf rearing, economics on dairying and discussions on the status of the DMFs, sharing of experiences including challenges in rearing dairy animals. Sharing of new dairy technologies was done through lectures and video presentation. A lengthy discussion was centered on how the dairy farmers can be economically viable and sustainable in their dairy enterprise.

Quoting the comment of Mr. Jun Barros, "we will continue to have more "dairy victims" unless farmers' problems and concerns shall be addressed, everyone can move forward". He stressed the need to resolve the perennial problem of profitability that many have learned thru experience and at a very expensive learning process. He emphasized that there is a need for DMFs to work together and praised the NDA for it is the first time that the NDA through the participation of Operations Dept. Manager (referring to Dr. Jimmy Lopez) listened to the views and recommendations of the dairy farmers' group.

He suggested to stop using the word "small hold" farmers in distinguishing it from the DMFs. He reasoned that both farmers are the same people operating dairy farms in Mindanao.

Another output of the forum is the creation of the Mindanao Dairy Development Council (MDDC) which was conceptualized after the 1st DMF Forum held in April 10-12, 2013. The MDDC is a non-stock non-profit association with advocacy function that will act as the clearing house to address the concerns of the dairy farmers. At present, MDDC's membership includes dairy farm operators, individual and juridical. The group proposed to expand membership to livestock sector namely carabao, goat and cattle raisers, Unified

National Artificial Insemination Program (UNAIP) practitioners, the Philippine Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA) with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Education (DepEd) and the National Nutrition Council (NNC) as honorary members. To institutionalize the MDDC, a core group was created to prepare the constitution and bylaws of the organization.

The forum ended with a tour the DMF owned and managed by Engr. Isidro "Toto" V. Albano who was able to set-up a cattle shed with loafing area, calf shed, growing shed and a milk processing center in one year. Toto Albano received his Batch 13 dairy animals in July 2012.

The group looks forward to the next DMF forum which is set on August at the NJB Farms in Zamboanga City.



Brothers Noel and Toto Albano guide the group to the dairy farm.

