

Bohol as Emerging Dairy Zone and Ubay Forage Seed Production Project Inaugurates its New Office

Although there were small-scale local government initiatives to develop dairy farming, using dairy goats and carabaos, Bohol's dairy activities are done mainly by the Philippine Carabao Center, based in Ubay.

Fast tracking the development of Bohol into a dairy zone may start this year, with the identification of certain areas of Bohol for dairy development. During a Consultative Planning Workshop on February 28, 2008, conducted by the NDA, with the Bohol Office of the Provincial Veterinarian and the Department of Labor and Employment, the following towns were recommended as initial cattle dairy zones. These are the towns of Balilihan, Calape, Catigbian, San Isidro and Tubigon. This selection was primarily based on the towns track record in their successful implementation of the Let's Help Bohol Program and the willingness and capacity of the local government units to support dairy development

With the plan to develop Bohol as a new dairy zone intense forage preparations are going on at the Department of Agriculture's Stock Farm in Ubay, Bohol, which is the base for the Forage Seeds Production Project. Funded by the Department of Budget and Management and under NDA management, the project produces and sells forage seeds to interested farmers. Not only will these seeds provide forage to direct users but this also serves as a source of income to those who only want to plant and supply seeds.



The blessing and inauguration of the Project Management Office and the Seed Processing and Storage Center at the Ubay Stock Farm was held on May 15, 2008. The ribbon cutting ceremony was held in the morning with representatives from the Provincial LGU, the Department of Agriculture and the Philippine Carabao Center in attendance, including the town mayor of Ubay, Dr. Eutiquio Bernales and ex-governor David Tirol, as well as NDA OIC- Administrator NAOMI K. TORRETA

Forage production is apparently flourishing with seed harvest reaching 143 kilograms, mostly from Flemingia. At the same time, a profit of P61,000 has been generated by the project from the sale of seeds mostly bought from Bansalan, Davao.



To ensure that the seeds would be marketed well, several marketing activities were conducted:

- Design and production of packaging materials;
- Identification of seed users;
- Business planning in May 2006;
- Conducted the Forage Production Seminar in the provinces of Cebu, Negros Oriental, Negros, Occidental, Iloilo, and Siquijor.
- Sent close to 10,000 letters and brochures to 639 towns through their MAOs and Provincial Veterinarians all over the Philippines;
- Promoted forage legumes to farmers and entrepreneurs visiting the stock farm and participated in trade fairs;
- Assisted farmers in establishing their grass-legume forage areas;

Prepared a PowerPoint presentation to promote forage legumes. The presentation advocates a grass-legume combination ♣

and capitalizes the following as legumes' selling points:

1. Legumes as excellent source of crude protein and an inexpensive alternative to concentrates;
2. Legumes as nutrient enhancers of poor roughages;
3. Legumes' year round availability, particularly during dry months;
4. Legumes as soil-nutrient pumps and fertility enhancers;
5. Legumes' multiple applications—soil erosion control, firewood, living fence, etc.



One-kilogram packs of U-bay Forage Seeds



The products packed at 50-grams & 20-grams

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