

## **Fazenda Da Esperanca Visit**

In the afternoon of April 9 2012, National Dairy Authority Administrator Grace J. Cenas and staff visited the Fazenda Da Esperanca Farm in Bangad, Milagros, Masbate to assess its dairy development efforts. The Farm Manager, Mr. Roland Muhlig toured the NDA party around the farm showing his dairy animals, which he claims were mainly products of artificial insemination from the NDA supplied dairy semen. He also toured the NDA group to his milking facilities and also gave them a taste of their dairy products. One of its dairy products is flavored milk: corn flavored milk and pandan flavored milk, both of which are very delicious.

The Fazenda Da Esperanca Farm provides solid evidence on the viability of using locally upgraded cattle for dairy production. It also serves as a manifestation that a local dairy setting may thrive in far-flung areas for as long as there are interested and dedicated farmers and the milk produce is sold. To date, the Fazenda Da Esperanca farm has around 80 upgraded dairy cattle each producing 8 to 12 liters per day.

The Fazenda Da Esperanca is a rehabilitation center for drug and alcohol dependents. The Center provides free treatments to those who willingly come to be rehabilitated. Part of the treatments for the drug and alcohol dependents is a full time work in the farm - tending to the corn and rice fields as well as the cows. With a thriving community and fertile lands, the Center is almost entirely self-reliant, providing sufficient food for everyone in the Center and creating a perfect and restful environment for troubled souls to recover.