

Philippine Development Forum

WORKING GROUP ON
GROWTH AND INVESTMENT
CLIMATE -- AGRIBUSINESS

Accomplishment Report

4 November 2008

OVERVIEW

- As an offshoot of the 2008 PDF, part of the WG-GIC Action Plan under Theme 1 on accelerating and widening investments is the preparation of strategic industrial plans for four priority sectors, namely offshoring and outsourcing, tourism, mining and agribusiness
- Concerned agencies, such as DTI, DA, BOI and LMP have conducted series of meetings which discussed how they can collaborate for the development of the agribusiness sector

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- DA was able to present the Strategic Agribusiness Development Plan Framework (SADPF), which was crafted together with JICA, and is targeted for implementation in 2009.
- DA also presented different priority commodities which can be offered to investors for possible agribusiness ventures: biofuel crops (coconut, jatropha, sweet sorghum, sugarcane, cassava), high-value commercial crops (mango, pineapple, banana, coffee, rubber, oil palm, selected vegetables), industrial crops (abaca), and mariculture

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- The importance of the intervention and activities of the National Convergence Initiative for the opening of new agribusiness lands, a tripartite effort of the DA, DAR and the DENR was highlighted, as land plays a very vital part in every agribusiness venture
- The existence of a Joint Administrative Order on the guidelines governing biofuel (producers and product) accreditation for a harmonized and simplified process among concerned government agencies, will greatly benefit local and foreign investors interested in the biofuels industry

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- A resource map for biofuels, HVCC, abaca, and mariculture was crafted and presented to the group
- The group was able to identify MARICULTURE as the sector to focus on, as the other 3 already have active investors and projects. Also, among the 4 identified sectors, mariculture has the greatest impact on poverty alleviation and employment generation
- Thru BETP and BFAR, the group was able to identify the recommended high-value mariculture species and the possible international markets for the mariculture products

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

For mariculture, the following were identified:

- The Philippines exports the following seafood products to various places in the world:
 - a. canned and frozen tuna
 - b. shrimps and prawns
 - c. crab meat
 - d. frozen octopus
 - e. live lapu-lapu
 - f. canned sardines
 - g. cuttle fish and squid
 - h. lobsters
 - i. sea cucumber
 - j. fish fillet
 - k. milk fish
 - l. shell fish
- Major importing countries are:
 - a. USA
 - b. European Union
 - c. Japan
- Considered as high-value marine species are lapu-lapu, sea cucumber, cobia, sea bass

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- The group was able to actively take part in the preparations for the LGU Conference, particularly in the TWG for Agribusiness
- Contributed to enhancing the competitiveness of the country's local government units by presenting the available opportunities for agribusiness, in the production of staples (rice and corn), high-value commercial crops (banana, mango, pineapple, vegetables), industrial crops (abaca), and biofuels (coconut, jatropha, sugarcane, sweet sorghum, cassava), in their respective areas

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- During the LGU Conference, the breakout session on Agribusiness was able to get the highest, with a total of 53 attendees including 20 local chief executives
- A Commitment to Action to Pursue Competitiveness in the Agribusiness Sector was committed to by local chief executives, which stipulates commitments to the following:
 - a. WORK towards the promotion of competitiveness through programs and projects
 - b. INTEGRATE in comprehensive local development plan competitiveness both as a philosophy and as a major development objective and to devote resources for programs and projects

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND HIGHLIGHTS

- c. SUPPORT national government initiatives
 - d. PURSUE the action plans in the areas of agribusiness as agreed by the representatives of the Local Government Units (LGUs)
 - e. PARTICIPATE in capacity building programs that would enhance competitiveness
 - f. SUPPORT the initiatives in monitoring and assessing the country's competitiveness
- The Commitment to Action on Agribusiness was signed by 20 mayors and governors who participated in the said break-out session, during the LGU Conference on October 8, 2008

UPDATES ON THE SWG-SRD ON AGRIBUSINESS

- Members consist of representatives from government agencies (DA-PADCC, DA-Planning Service, DBP), development partners/donor agencies (GTZ, AECID, CODESPA), and civil society organizations (ANGOC)
- First meeting was held last October 7, 2008, in which the group discussed on how to come up with a strategic plan on agribusiness, which should encompass concerns on rural credit and infrastructure

UPDATES ON THE SWG-SRD ON AGRIBUSINESS

- Also, during the meeting, there were discussions on the development of a workplan, to be done through workshop and to be participated by different stakeholders. It is temporarily scheduled in November 2008 with assistance from AECID.
- Second meeting was conducted last October 29, 2008 which discussed the JICA-assisted project of DA which is the SADP. A situationer on agribusiness was presented to the group, wherein the gaps were identified. GTZ, PDAP and PCARRD mentioned that they are willing to incorporate their studies on value chain analysis to be able to feed such gaps

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THANK YOU