

What's Up @ dti PHILIPPINES

An internal information service by the Knowledge Management and Information Service for DTI Employees

Follow us on your favorite social networks:  DTI.Philippines  @DTIPhilippines  @DTI.Philippines  DTIPhilippines

RAPID Growth launched to benefit rural farmers



DTI Secretary Ramon M. Lopez delivers a special message during the launch of the Rural Agro-enterprise Partnership for Inclusive Development and Growth (RAPID Growth) project last 24 May 2019 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Secretary Ramon M. Lopez led the launch of the P4.7-B Rural Agro-enterprise Partnership for Inclusive Development and Growth (RAPID Growth) project that is expected to benefit rural farmers and micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country.

A value chain-based and market-driven initiative, RAPID is aimed at addressing rural poverty and unemployment through building partnerships between MSMEs and farming communities to produce globally competitive products.

“RAPID Growth project goes to the heart of what we are doing at DTI: linking farmers and businesses. And by promoting the microenterprises or those in the bottom of the pyramid, we are empowering the nation,” Secretary Lopez said during the unveiling of the project on the first day of IFEX Philippines NXTFOOD ASIA on 24 May 2019 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City.

Spearheaded by the Department’s Resource Generation and Management Service (DTI-RGMS) and funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), RAPID Growth is designed to help agriculture-based communities to become innovative, productive, and competitive.

This project will provide focused, firm-level, value chain-based, and climate-smart assistance and financing program to rural farmers and MSMEs, as well as enhanced access to institutional, regional, and world markets.

“IFEX Philippines NXTFOOD ASIA is an excellent platform to present this momentous project due to the presence of local and international food companies which can be potential partners and forward linkages to the export market in the agricultural value chains to be developed,” said Lopez.



On the same note, **IFAD Country Director for the Philippines Alessandro Marini** said the project will offer farmers and agribusinesses with a range of services, including access to finance and business and technical advisory services, as well as key economic infrastructure such as farm-to-market roads.

“To boost the rural economy and reduce poverty in rural areas, it is important that agribusiness enterprises drive a process of inclusive rural transformation, creating market opportunities for smallholder farmers as well as jobs for other disadvantaged rural people,” Marini said.

The RAPID Growth inauguration was highlighted by the signing of the pledge of commitment by leaders and representatives from the government, agricultural, trade, finance and private sectors that compose the RAPID Project Steering Committee.

Lopez said the initiative will link local farmers, MSMEs and corporations thru Negosyo Centers and other market interventions to ensure their access to raw materials, markets, technology and suitable investment finance.

RAPID Growth will focus on four agricultural value chains, namely cocoa, coffee, processed fruits and nuts, and coconut, and will be initially implemented in six regions, which are Regions 8 to 13, with 20 target provinces.

Under the project, five levels of interventions will be implemented to ensure the holistic development of beneficiaries, namely, a) direct assistance to enterprises; b) institutional strengthening; c) technical assistance to financial service providers (FSPs); d) innovation fund; and e) management, monitoring and evaluation.

Anchored in the government’s ‘Pagbabago’ pillar, this undertaking seeks to address the Philippine Development Plan 2017-2022 target outcomes which are expanding economic opportunities and increasing access to economic opportunities including smallholder farmers and fisherfolks.