

PASAMA Block Farm Visits Batangas

The PASAMA Block Farm of Magalang, Pampanga engaged in a 3-day Lakbay-Aral in the province of Batangas on November 27 to 29, 2013. Twenty four participants joined the activity, together with Pampanga Mill District Officer Mr. Adel Catuira.

On the first day, the group visited the KAMAHARI Agri-Business Multipurpose Cooperative in Brgy. Bilaran, Nasugbu. Mr. Juancho Maningat, the cooperative manager, warmly welcomed the participants and discussed with them matters related to the block farm program, as well as the other income generating projects of their cooperative.



The participants intently listen to Mr. Juancho Maningat (sitting in the middle of the group), cooperative manager of KAMAHARI ABMPC, as he explains pertinent matters during their visit.

The second day started with the group dropping by to the garage of Don Pedro Mill District Development Foundation Incorporated (DPMDDFI) at Brgy. Guinhawa, Tuy where they were welcomed by Mr. Rommel Mojica, manager for tractor operations. He oriented the participants to the kinds of services offered by DPMDDFI to the sugarcane planters in the district. Mr. Mojica also briefed the body on the different kinds of machineries and implements owned and operated by the foundation.



Lakbay-Aral participants having some photo op during their mill tour at CADP Sugar Central in Mrgy. Lumbangan, Nasugbu, Batangas.

When afternoon came, the participants had a mill tour at the CADP Sugar Central in Nasugbu. Prior to the tour, they were first briefed and given background information about the mill by representatives from the CADP administration. The tour started at the dumping area where the group personally observed the overwhelming volume of canes being milled. For the first time the participants had a first-hand account of how sugar is being processed from the sugarcane stalks and the different factory operations that follow. They also had a glimpse of the molasses and bagasse stock areas, as well as the water treatment facility. However, they were not able to see the actual refining process because it was not in operation during the visit.



Having basic knowledge on machineries and implements is important for the participants who were so eager listening to Mr. Rommel Mojica (second from left), tractor operations manager of Don Pedro MDDFI.

On the last day of the Lakbay-Aral, the group went to Ibaan to visit the dairy farm of Philsucor Board of Trustee Mr. Arnel Toreja and have first-hand observation of the milking process of dairy ruminants. Mr. Toreja entertained the visitors and told them to diversify the farming enterprise to increase income from their land. He pointed out that sugarcane farmers should learn to maximize their lands by diversifying the crops and livestock they raise, and thus make farming more profitable.



Philsucor Board of trustee Mr. Arnel Toreja (sitting at the far middle) encourage the participants to maximize their land to make more profitable farming.

The team's last stop was at the farm of Ms. Maila Toreja, which is just nearby. Instead of bringing the participants to her sugarcane farm, Ms. Toreja opted to tour them to her eco-farm where she raises various plants which are a source of added income for farmers who know how to diversify. The participants were amazed with the eco-farm of Ms. Toreja, as well as her collection of exotic animals.