

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, RFO 10
HIGHLIGHTS OF CY-2017 ORGANIC AGRICULTURE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

MFO 2.2 Market Development Services

1. Conduct of 4th Regional Organic Agriculture Congress

The Department of Agriculture RFO 10 conducted the 4th Regional Organic Agriculture Congress (ROAC) on June 2017 at Cagayan de Oro City. It was participated by Two Hundred Seventy (270) participants/OA practitioners all over Region 10. This activity to converge OA Stakeholders into an event filled with knowledge-sharing, skills enhancement and marketing opportunities particularly on OA research based mature technologies and practices in crop/livestock/aquaculture production & processing for the beginners/processors/researchers; product development and the Economics of Organic Agriculture for the Marketers/Processors & OA Adaptors group; Showcase/Exhibits Organic Products (processed/raw), new technology coming from the region and drafting of resolutions that will be submitted to NOAP for consolidation.

2. Conduct of Regional Organic Trade Fair

To broaden the market reach of organic products grown and produced in Northern Mindanao, a Regional Organic Trade Fair (ROTF) is staged on November 17-19, 2017 at the SM City Mall, Pueblo de Oro, Upper Carmen, here in the city.

A total of 28 exhibitors will be participating, coming from the city, municipal and provincial local government units (LGUs) and the private sector, will showcase their certified organic and naturally-grown products and other value-adding and product innovations locally produced in region 10. This activity is also in line with Proclamation No. 1030, s. 2015, declaring the month of November of every year as the 'Organic Agriculture (OA) Month'.

The LGU exhibitors comprise the provincial LGUs of Misamis Oriental, who will be promoting and selling turmeric powder and duck eggs; Lanao del Norte – assorted varieties of rice; Bukidnon – vegetables and rice; and Misamis Occidental – *kakanin* and bottled processed fishery products; and the city LGU of Cagayan de Oro – fresh vegetables and fishery products.

Adding to the roster of LGU exhibitors are the barangay and municipal food terminals of Highland Fresh – flavored milk and vegetables and LGU Salay – fruits and vegetables, respectively. Further, the Organic Trading Post of Kauswagan – fruits and vegetables will also be displaying.

Meanwhile, the private sector will also feature their respective agri-fishery products, namely: Quadro Onse – cranberry juice and planting materials; Engallado's Nature Farm and Natural Food Products – assorted processed rice by-products; Agay-Ayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative – coconut sugar; Miel de Oro – honey and dragon fruit; Limonero Fruit Drinks – lemon juice; Gats Garden – fruit juice and cheese; NAS AgriCom –

turmeric, *salabat* and ginger; VOPPTA – black rice; Queensland Farm – fruits and herbs; Kape Napalit – ground coffee; and GreenMinds Inc. – peanuts.

Completing the list of exhibitors are Venida Farm – herbs and dragon fruit; Buhian Diversified Farm – virgin coconut oil, coco sugar, fruit tree seedlings and duck eggs; Binahon Agro Farm – fruit tree seedlings and processed vegetables; Kape Maramag – ground coffee; NM Foods – banana chips; Firestar Dream Concoctions – condiments and honey; Gran Molucas – bottled palapa and processed meat; Alomah’s Garden – herbs and vegetables and Marvelous Organic Resources – farm inputs and sweet corn.

“With the participation of our different exhibitors, the visiting public will not only have the opportunity to patronize the organic products of the region, but they will also serve as our advocates for the further promotion and development of OA,” the regional director further remarked.

Now on its fourth year, the ROTF is spearheaded by the DA-RFO 10 through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division and Organic Agriculture Program.

MFO 2.3 EXTENSION SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING SERVICES

1. HOSTING OF 14TH NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURE CONGRESS

To drum up support for the organic agriculture industry, the Department of Agriculture (DA) is slated to conduct its 14th National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) on October 24-26, 2017 at the Atrium, LimKetKai Center.

About 1,600 organic farmer-practitioners, agricultural extensionists, exhibitors, enthusiasts, and other relevant stakeholders of the organic sector across the country are expected to convene the Congress with the theme *Organic Agriculture: A Smart (Science-based, Market-oriented, Adaptive, Responsive and Transformative) Culture*.

The activities to be staged include the conduct of consultations, organic trade exhibit, awarding ceremony for OA achievers, showcase of organic technology demonstration farm, and plenary sessions.

During the activity, break-out sessions for beginners, marketers and researchers was done to impart cost-effective, productive and sustainable organic farming practices.

Topics tackled include Updates on Philippine National Standard and Technical Regulations relevant to OA, Soil Fertility and Crop Suitability Mapping, National OA Plan, among others. In addition, sharing of success stories from different farmer-producers, who have already reaped the socio-economic and environmental benefits brought by OA and organic farm visits will likewise was done.