

MANILA BULLETIN

Cordillera native rice production hampered by El Niño phenomenon

<http://www.mb.com.ph/articles/246396/cordillera-native-rice-production-hampered-el-ni-o-phenomenon>

mb.com.ph
Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation



110 years of service to the

THERE IS GOOD NEWS HERE.

HOME **News** Business Lifestyle Entertainment Sports AP News Bulletin Board Archives
Main News World **Regional** Motoring Opinion Education Environment

Cordillera native rice production hampered by El Niño phenomenon

By DEXTER A. SEE
March 5, 2010, 6:55pm

BANAUE, Ifugao – The Cordillera’s chances of gaining access to the lucrative world market for its heirloom or native rice suffered a serious setback after the newly planted varieties that are scheduled for harvest by mid-year have been destroyed due to the prolonged dry spell.

The “tinawon” variety of Ifugao, the “unoy” variety of Kalinga and several other native rice varieties from Mountain Province were reportedly lost after the farms dried up due to the absence of rain and sufficient water from the irrigation systems in the areas.

Based on studies, native rice varieties need sufficient water for the first three months from the time it was planted to yield a good harvest.

Because of the prolonged drought in most parts of the country, the municipal council here declared the town under a state of calamity after the municipal agriculturist’s office reported that all the rice farms in the terraces have dried up over the past several weeks.

The declaration of a state of calamity will allow the local government to utilize its calamity funds to rehabilitate its irrigation systems.

For this year, the three Cordillera provinces are supposed to export a total of 25 tons of native rice to the United States where there is increasing demand for the grain.

However, agriculture stakeholders and local officials admitted that the farmers, who planted the native rice varieties for harvest in the middle part of this year, could no longer meet the required demand.

The native rice production is part of the initiative of the Regional Development Council to enhance rice self-sufficiency and support farmers because the varieties command a higher price in the international market because of their unique aroma and the organic way of farming in the region.

Agriculture officials have advised thousands of rice farmers in Ifugao, Kalinga and Mountain Province not to plant palay anymore since it will eventually die because of the extreme heat brought by the onslaught of the El Niño phenomenon.

Print

Email

Recommended articles

3 holdup suspects slain

Rotating brownouts hit Baguio

6 Negros LGUs plan to declare calamity

Binay urges Boy Scout approach

Cebu mall opens one-stop shop facility for OFWs

Entrepreneurs encouraged to venture into dairy farming

Lanao Sur voters’ list padded by 200,000 – gov

Jail warden, 5 guards relieved; escaped MILF leader hunted

Media easing up on