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Kalinga to boost production of organic coffee, unoy rice

By Larry T. Lopez

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TABUK CITY, Kalinga, Mar. 2 (PIA) -- Seeing the growing demand for organically grown farm products in the market today, agriculture authorities here are eyeing to boost production of organic coffee and Kalinga's traditional 'unoy' rice.

Joe Casibang of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) said that since coffee and Unoy rice are Kalinga's identified One Town One Product (OTOP), the province could venture into pure organic coffee and unoy rice production, he said.

Casibang disclosed of the move, following the drafting by OPAG of the province's five year organic agriculture roadmap last month, which urges the shift from traditional or chemical farming to organic or non-chemical farming in the province.

While coffee and Unoy rice farmers in the province already use organic farming, the roadmap according to Casibang, contains new technologies that would boost production levels.

When we establish the blend between organic agriculture on coffee and Unoy rice, we would be creating a new industry as potential source of high income to farmers, Casibang said.

Through the assistance of other government agencies, the province has started its market networks on premium ground coffee products and Unoy rice here and abroad.

Today, Kalinga entrepreneurs supply supermarkets and groceries with a line of powdered coffee products like Kalinga Blend, Kalinga Brew, Kalinga Mountain Coffee, Magallaya Premium Coffee, Mananig Ground Coffee and other brands.

On the other hand, demand for Unoy Rice has tremendously went up abroad since it started to be exported to Montana, USA in 1987 through the help of Revitalized Indigenous Cordillera Entrepreneurs (RICE), Inc.

Both products of the province are now acclaimed locally and abroad because of people's demand for organically grown farm produce, which have advantages to health and environment. (JDP/LL- PIA CAR, Kalinga)

Tags: [organic farm products] [OTOP]