Performance of Philippine Agriculture

October-December 2017

PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

Republic of the Philippines

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Agriculture posted a 2.20 percent growth in the fourth quarter of 2017. Improvements in production were noted in the crops, livestock and poultry subsectors. On the other hand, the fisheries subsector recorded a decline in production during the same period. At current prices, gross value of agricultural production amounted to PhP500.4 billion, up by 9.27 percent from the previous year’s record. For the period January to December 2017, the sector’s gross output grew by 3.95 percent.

The crops subsector recorded a 2.66 percent increase in production in the fourth quarter of 2017. It contributed 51.20 percent to the total agricultural output. Palay production increased by 4.37 percent while that of corn declined by 5.73 percent. Increments were noted in the production of coconut, sugarcane, banana, pineapple, peanut, cassava, sweet potato, eggplant and rubber. The subsector’s gross earnings amounted to PhP289.3 billion. This was 7.05 percent higher compared to last year’s level. For the whole year of 2017, the crop subsector recorded a 6.69 percent growth in production.

The livestock subsector which shared 17.78 percent in the total agricultural production came up with a 1.84 percent output gain in the fourth quarter of 2017. Hog production, which was the major source of subsector’s growth, increased by 2.75 percent. The subsector grossed PhP85.5 billion at current prices, representing a 14.39 percent increase over last year’s record. On an annual basis, the subsector’s gross output was up by 1.12 percent in 2017.

Poultry production expanded by 4.73 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017. It accounted for 15.40 percent of the total agricultural output. Except for duck, all components of the subsector posted output gains. At current prices, the subsector grossed PhP59.3 billion, or 15.22 percent more than the previous year’s gross receipts. For the whole year of 2017, the gross output of the poultry subsector went up by 4.62 percent.

The fisheries subsector registered a 1.18 percent reduction in output in the fourth quarter of 2017. It contributed 15.63 percent to the total agricultural production. Lower production levels were noted for tiger prawn, roundscad and skipjack. The subsector’s gross earnings at current prices amounted to PhP66.3 billion, up by 7.80 percent from last year’s record. For the period January to December 2017, the subsector posted a 1.73 percent drop in production.

On the average, prices received by farmers increased by 6.91 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017. All subsectors registered price increments; crops at 4.28 percent, livestock at 12.33 percent, poultry at 10.01 percent and fisheries at 9.08 percent. On an annual basis, farmgate prices went up by an average of 4.97 percent in 2017.
A. VALUE OF PRODUCTION

During the fourth quarter of 2017, agriculture grossed PhP500.4 billion at current prices. This was 9.27 percent higher than the previous year’s record.

The gross value of output in the crops subsector amounted to PhP289.3 billion during the quarter, representing a 7.05 percent expansion this year. Palay recorded a 10.76 percent gain in the gross earnings because of improvements in the volume of production coupled with higher prices. Gross receipts from corn grew by 27.81 percent due to a significant increase in price.

Uptrends in prices also pushed up the gross values of outputs of tomato by 16.37 percent and tobacco by 13.62 percent. The same reason was cited for the increases in gross earnings from calamansi by 8.53 percent, coffee by 4.70 percent, abaca by 3.14 percent, and mongo by 0.91 percent. The combined increases in volume of production and prices brought up the gross output values of pineapple by 7.54 percent, eggplant by 12.57 percent, sweet potato by 6.88 percent, coconut by 6.62 percent, cassava by 6.52 percent and banana by 6.15 percent. Higher volume of production contributed to the 8.25 percent and 3.39 percent increment in the gross earnings from sugarcane and rubber, respectively.

Lower volume of production and prices led to the declines in the gross values of production of onion by 40.86 percent and cabbage by 36.81 percent. Because of reduction in production, gross earnings from mango dropped by 7.08 percent. Peanut recorded a 13.56 percent contraction in gross receipts as a result of price cuts.

Collectively, the gross value of “other crops” production was down by 16.45 percent during the reference quarter.

In the livestock subsector, gross value of production at PhP85.5 billion at current prices was higher by 14.39 percent this year. All components of the livestock subsector posted expansion in the gross values of production. Hog, the main contributor to the subsector’s growth, registered a 16.50 percent increment because of increases in both volume of production and prices. For the same reason, the values of production were up for goat by 9.76 percent and dairy by 5.88 percent. Price appreciation triggered the increases in the gross earnings from carabao by 7.69 percent and cattle by 2.75 percent.

The poultry subsector grossed PhP59.3 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017. This represented a 15.22 percent recovery from its negative performance last year. Chicken posted the biggest growth in the gross output value at 18.10 percent and this was attributed to improvement in production and prices. A similar trend was noted for duck eggs as gross earnings went up by 2.53 percent. The 6.63 percent increment in the gross value of duck production was due to price hike. The increase
in the volume of chicken egg production translated to 7.94 percent expansion in gross receipts.

In the fisheries subsector, the gross value of output amounted to PhP66.3 billion, up by 7.80 percent this period. Except for roundscad, all major species registered positive performances during the fourth quarter of 2017. The significant increase in the gross value of seaweed production at 67.26 percent was traced to the higher volume of production and price appreciation. For the same reasons, higher gross receipts were recorded by tilapia at 13.57 percent and milkfish at 11.01 percent. Because of improvement in prices, the gross earnings from skipjack and tiger prawn went up by 5.92 percent and 1.44 percent, respectively. Yellowfin tuna grossed higher by 16.83 percent as a result of increased volume of production. Meanwhile, production shortfalls pulled down the gross value of roundscad production by 6.24 percent.

The aggregate value of production of “other species” was up by 3.08 percent in the last quarter of 2017.

B. VOLUME OF PRODUCTION

Agricultural production grew by 2.20 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017.

Outputs in the crops subsector recovered from last year’s decline and posted a 2.66 percent increase this quarter. It shared 51.20 percent in the total agricultural production. Palay output bounced back from last year’s drop and recorded a 4.37 percent gain this year. This was attributed to the increases in area harvested in CAR, Cagayan Valley, Bicol, and Central Visayas due to sufficient water supply during the cropping period and the recovery from the damages caused by the series of typhoons in 2016. In addition, the use of high yielding varieties and favorable weather conditions in most regions were cited. Corn production continued its downtrend with another drop of 5.73 percent this period. Reduction in harvest areas were reported in Western Visayas as some areas were shifted to palay and sugarcane. The frequent occurrence of moderate to heavy rains in Zamboanga Peninsula and SOCCSKSARGEN affected the crop’s growth. There were reports of flashflood and rat infestation in SOCCSKSARGEN. In ARMM, the decline in corn production was attributed to lower yield due to lack of attention to the crop’s growing stage and the decrease in area harvested because of peace and order situation.

Coconut production went up by 3.50 percent. This was a recovery from the effects of the dry spell in 2016 as more nuts were harvested in Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao Region, and SOCCSKSARGEN. Likewise, the fertilization program of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in Davao Region and SOCCSKSARGEN resulted in higher production. Sugarcane production increased by 14.37 percent due to the timely occurrence of rains during fertilizer application which favoured better cane growth in
Western Visayas. Banana production was 3.15 percent more this year because of increases in area and number of bearing hills harvested from the plantation farms in Northern Mindanao in response to higher demand for the product. Additional expansion areas from corporate farms in SOCCSKSARGEN were likewise noted. There were also bigger bunches developed in Cagayan Valley and ARMM as a result of good weather conditions. In the case of pineapple, additional areas harvested from corporate farms in Northern Mindanao and SOCCSKSARGEN led to the 2.95 percent increase in production.

The additional areas planted to peanut in Central Visayas due to higher demand, the development of more pods in Zamboanga Peninsula caused by sufficient soil moisture and the sufficient rainfall in SOCCSKSARGEN resulted in the 0.17 percent increment in peanut production. Cassava production inched up by 0.39 percent. The increase in area planted because of the continuous technical, financial and marketing assistance from private corporations was noted in Cagayan Valley. Also, there were increases in area harvested in Northern Mindanao brought about by higher demand for food, feeds and industrial uses. The improvement in sweet potato production at 1.68 percent was attributed to the expansion in area planted in Caraga due to adequate rainfall during planting time and the availability of planting materials from the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) in MIMAROPA. Production of eggplant, which went up by 5.08 percent could be traced to increase in area planted in MIMAROPA as a result of the seed distribution program of the DA-RFO and the higher demand for the product in Caraga. Meanwhile, more and bigger fruits were developed in CALABARZON due to sufficient application of fertilizer and pesticides and the increase in yield in Central Luzon because of the distribution of seeds of good quality by the Local Government Units (LGUs).

Rubber recorded an 8.90 percent improvement in production this year. In SOCCSKSARGEN, sufficient rains led to the increase in the number of tappable trees and more tapping activities were encouraged by higher price during the reference period. Similarly, more tapping activities because of sufficient rains were recorded in Caraga and Davao Region.

In Davao Region and SOCCSKSARGEN, the cuttings of old and lesser productive trees and harvesting of fewer berries due to heavy rains during the flowering and fruiting stages led to the 8.73 percent reduction in coffee production. The cutting of lesser productive trees in Zamboanga Peninsula was also reported. Mango production contracted by 10.10 percent. Farmers in Zamboanga Peninsula and Northern Mindanao were discouraged to conduct flower induction activities because of intermittent rains during the crop’s flowering stage. Tobacco production was 0.75 percent lower this year. This was traced to the decline in area harvested in SOCCSKSARGEN as some private corporations slowed down their operations. There were also reports of shifting to rubber from native variety of tobacco and this was brought about by the declining demand from traders in Zamboanga Peninsula.
There was a 2.88 percent drop in abaca production. Frequent rains in Western Visayas and Caraga resulted in lesser stripping activities.

Mongo recorded a 1.10 percent reduction in production because of the occurrence of frequent rains during planting period which discouraged farmers in Central Luzon to plant. In SOCCSKSARGEN, some areas were planted to palay due to sufficient water supply. The decline in tomato production by 0.77 percent was due to the decrease in area planted in Northern Mindanao where some farmers were unable to plant because of limited financial resources. In addition, there were lesser and smaller fruits developed in Central Visayas because of frequent rains. Onion production contracted by 0.26 percent. There was a smaller area planted to onion in Cagayan Valley because of frequent rains. Also, some native onions were harvested as leeks because of higher price and more demand. Production of cabbage was down by 0.22 percent. This was attributed to smaller heads harvested in Central Visayas due to frequent rains. Shifting to sweet potato, tomato, and squash production was noted in Davao Region because of higher cost of inputs incurred in cabbage production. The 0.36 percent drop in calamansi production was traced to lesser application of fertilizer in Zamboanga Peninsula due to frequent rains.

Collectively, other crops production decreased by 1.43 percent. Fruits such as lanzones and rambutan registered declines in production due to frequent rains during flowering and fruiting stages. Similarly, production was lower for oil palm as lesser bunches from old trees were harvested. The drop in chayote production was attributed to frequent rains during flowering and fruit development.

In the livestock subsector, production grew by 1.84 percent in 2017. It shared 17.78 percent in the total agricultural output. A 2.75 percent growth was noted in hog production. The increase was manifested in the bigger volume of disposals of stocks in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon and Northern Mindanao. This was in response to higher farmgate price per kilogram of liveweight. Likewise, the sustained demand from meat processors, Hotel and Restaurant Industries (HRIs), meat retailers and households were cited in Bicol Region, Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas. Also, higher number of heads slaughtered was reported in CAR, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, SOCCSKSARGEN and Caraga. The 0.73 percent gain in goat production was attributed to the sustained demand from eateries and households in CAR, Central Luzon, Central Visayas and ARMM. The culling of unproductive breeders in CALABARZON and higher liveweight per head in Cagayan Valley were also noted. Dairy production increased by 3.72 percent as a result of the higher productivity of dairy animals. It was also encouraged by higher farmgate price during the reference period. An increase in the number of dairy cattle was recorded in Mindanao.
Carabao production declined by 1.55 percent and this was traced to lower volume of marketable stocks for slaughter in CAR, Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Eastern Visayas and Caraga. The implementation of ordinance regulating the slaughtering of caracows in some Local Government Units (LGUs) in Ilocos Region contributed to the lower volume of production. Moreover, carabaos were still used as draft animals in Central Luzon and MIMAROPA. For cattle, production was down by 3.81 percent. Raisers and operators in Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, Central Visayas and Caraga were still building up stocks during the reference quarter. Also, there were reported closures of some cattle commercial farms in SOCCSKSARGEN because of shortage of forage which was affected by drought in the previous years.

The output in the poultry subsector continued its uptrend with this year’s 4.73 percent increase. It accounted for 15.40 percent of the total agricultural output during the reference quarter. There were newly opened commercial farms in CAR, Western Visayas and SOCCSKSARGEN which contributed in the 3.78 percent growth in chicken production this quarter. Chicken dressed in poultry dressing plants also increased in producing regions like Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Northern Mindanao, Davao Region and SOCCSKSARGEN. Production of chicken egg went up by 9.97 percent due to expansion of some commercial layers farms in Ilocos Region, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, Eastern Visayas, Davao Region and SOCCSKSARGEN. Moreover, the production of native chicken eggs grew in Ilocos Region, Cagayan Valley, Bicol Region, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Davao Region and Caraga because of the increase in adult female and higher efficiency levels. Duck egg production inched up by 0.37 percent. This was due to the higher number of adult female/laying flock in both backyard and commercial farms in Ilocos Region, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Bicol Region, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao, SOCCSKSARGEN and Caraga. Also, expansion in some commercial duck farms in CALABARZON was noted.

The decline in duck production at 5.02 percent was attributed to lesser available stocks for slaughter in CAR, Ilocos Region, SOCCSKSARGEN, Caraga and ARMM and the lag effect of avian flu that occurred in the third quarter of 2017 in Central Luzon.

The fisheries subsector posted a 1.18 percent contraction in output. It contributed 15.63 percent to total agricultural production during the reference quarter. Milkfish production continued to expand and registered a 6.19 percent growth this period. The National Capital Region (NCR) reported higher production due to abundant supply of natural food for milkfish and delayed harvests from the third quarter to the fourth quarter when fish reached the full marketable size. The newly established fishponds in brackishwater and favorable water salinity suitable to the growth of the species were noted in Central Luzon. The higher production of tilapia at 4.41 percent was attributed to proper monitoring of the quality of water, proper usage of floating feeds, high survival rate of fingerlings due to normal water level and sufficient...
oxygen level in water in the freshwater cages in Taal Lake. The usage of fingerlings of good quality and increased seeding rate in freshwater fishponds resulted in the increase in tilapia production in Central Luzon. More harvests of tilapia were observed in Bicol Region as a result of semi-intensive feeding practices in freshwater fishponds and cages. Yellowfin tuna posted a 22.32 percent increase in production due to more unloading of frozen tuna for cold storages and canneries of private landing centers. Additional unloading from other provinces due to higher buying prices offered by buyers in SOCCSKSARGEN were also noted. The gain in production observed in the municipal fisheries in Central Luzon was due to intensified fishing activities and more appearances of the species. Production of seaweeds inched up by 0.01 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017. This was traced to the increase in area planted in ARMM as a result of good weather condition.

Tiger prawn production dropped by 4.88 percent. The unrehabilitated brackishwater fishponds that were damaged during the series of typhoons last year resulted in lesser areas utilized for tiger prawn production and the high mortality of stocks pulled down the production in Zamboanga Peninsula. In Northern Mindanao, stocks were affected by white spot disease caused by water pollution. Moreover, there was an advisory from the Local Government Units (LGUs) to fishpond operators to stop operations along the perimeter of the proposed construction of Tangub-Tubod bridge. In Davao Region, some tiger prawn producers shifted to white shrimp production which had higher profitability. Roundscad exhibited a double digit reduction of 10.88 percent in output. The occurrence of Northeast Monsoon (Amihan) during the period and the strict enforcement of RA 10654 on the use of allowed fishing gears and the restriction of fishing activities within the 15-kilometer radius reduced fishing activities of commercial fishing boats in Bicol Region. Strong winds and rough seas resulted in lesser fishing activities in some provinces in Zamboanga Peninsula and SOCCSKSARGEN. Skipjack production was down by 4.75 percent. Lesser fishing activities of small commercial boats were observed in SOCCSKSARGEN due to strong winds and rough seas brought about by typhoons “Quedan”, “Salome”, “Tino”, “Urduja” and “Vinta”. Lower production was also attributed to limited appearance of skipjack in the municipal fishing areas and in Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) in Western Visayas. Production of “other” species contracted by 4.96 percent. In Zamboanga Peninsula, the reduction in Indian sardines production was caused by the decrease in the number of fishing operations due to strong winds and big waves in most fishing grounds during the period. Lesser fishing trips were observed in Eastern Visayas because of heavy rains brought about by the Low Pressure Areas (LPAs) and
typhoons “Salome”, “Urduja” and “Vinta”. In Northern Mindanao, lower production was the result of lesser appearances of school of fish and small sizes caught. The decline in frigate tuna production was brought about by lesser fishing activities of small commercial fishing boats in Eastern Visayas and SOCCSKSARGEN due to strong winds and rough seas brought about by typhoons “Quedan”, “Salome”, “Tino”, “Urduja” and “Vinta”. In MIMAROPA, there were lesser appearances of school of fish which resulted in lower catch of Indian mackerel.

C. FARMGATE PRICES

On the average, prices received by farmers increased by 6.91 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017.

The crops subsector registered an average price gain of 4.28 percent. The prices received by palay farmers continued to grow with this year’s 6.13 percent increment. This was influenced by the higher buying price from traders who were anticipating the increase in market price of rice because of diminishing inventory in the National Food Authority (NFA) depositories. Corn bounced back from previous year’s price cut and came up with an average price gain of 35.58 percent. Traders offered higher buying price due to sustained demand for corn for feed use, while production was lower during the quarter.

More demand from food processors, local vendors, institutional buyers and tourists pushed up the prices of coconut by 3.01 percent, banana by 2.90 percent and pineapple by 4.45 percent. The uptrends in the prices of coffee by 14.71 percent and mango by 3.36 percent resulted from the continuous reduction in volume of production. The same reason was cited for the 2.03 percent increment in the price of mongo. Tobacco posted a double digit price hike of 14.48 percent due to lower production and higher demand, particularly for native variety, which commanded a higher price. Abaca was priced 6.19 percent higher this year because of increasing demand, while volume of production was lower. The growing demand from local consumers triggered the price increment of cassava by 6.11 percent, sweet potato by 5.12 percent and eggplant by 7.14 percent. Prices of tomato and calamansi went up by 17.28 percent and 8.92 percent, respectively. These were attributed to the declining volume of production and sustained high demand from local consumers, local traders and establishments for both commodities. Price of garlic went up by 6.91 percent as there was no reported production during the quarter.

Sugarcane was priced 5.35 percent lower this year. The drop in the price of peanut by 13.70 percent was influenced by abundant supply in the market due to the presence of imported peanut. Likewise, decreases in prices were recorded by onion at 40.71 percent and cabbage at 36.67 percent due to poor quality of the produce.
The price reduction of 5.06 percent registered for rubber was traced to low buying price in the world market.

Prices in the **livestock subsector** increased by an average of 12.33 percent. All livestock products registered higher prices in the fourth quarter of 2017. Lower volume of marketable stocks for slaughter pushed up the prices of carabao by 9.39 percent and cattle by 6.82 percent. Sustained demand from Hotel and Restaurant Industries (HRIs) caused the increase in prices of hog by 13.39 percent and goat by 8.96 percent. The price of dairy grew by 2.09 percent and this was brought by higher demand from local consumers and processors.

The **poultry subsector** bounced back from last year’s price cut and recorded a price hike of 10.01 percent this quarter. Chicken meat prices expanded by 13.80 percent because of higher demand from HRIs and households. The volume of available stocks for slaughter went down causing the price of duck meat to increase by 12.27 percent. Price of duck eggs went up by 2.16 percent due to increased demand from food establishments, balut processors and local consumers. Meanwhile, price of chicken eggs posted a 1.85 percent drop as a result of expansion in production.

The **fisheries subsector** registered an average price increase of 9.08 percent. Prices went up by 4.54 percent for milkfish and 8.77 percent for tilapia. These were traced to better quality of species harvested during the period. Lower supply pushed up the prices of tiger prawn by 6.64 percent and roundscad by 5.20 percent. Due to higher demand, price increases were noted for skipjack by 11.21 percent and seaweed by 67.20 percent. Higher production of yellowfin tuna resulted in the 4.49 percent price reduction.
Table 1. Value of Production in Agriculture at Constant Prices, Philippines, 2015-2017
(in million pesos)

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<th>SUBSECTOR</th>
<th>October-December</th>
<th>January-December</th>
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<tr>
<td>CROPS</td>
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Table 2. Growth Rate of Value of Production in Agriculture at Constant Prices, Philippines, 2015-2017
(in percent)

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<th>SUBSECTOR</th>
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<th>January-December</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CROPS</td>
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### Table 3. Value of Production in Agriculture at Current Prices, Philippines, 2015-2017  
(in million pesos)

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### Table 4. Growth Rate of Value of Production in Agriculture at Current Prices, Philippines, 2015-2017
*(in percent)*

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Table 5. Percentage Distribution of Value of Production in Agriculture, Philippines, October to December, 2015-2017 (in percent)

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Table 7. Growth Rate of Volume of Production in Agriculture, Philippines, 2015-2017

(in percent)

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Table 8. Average Farmgate Prices in Agriculture, Philippines, 2015-2017
(in peso per kilogram)

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### Table 9. Growth Rate of Average Farmgate Prices in Agriculture, Philippines, 2015-2017 (in percent)

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