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Economy

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Statistics office to register farmers, fishers for database

TACLOBAN CITY -- The National Statistics Office (NSO) will pilot the registration of farmers and fisherfolk in the three Samar provinces early next year to establish a database of agricultural information.

Raul F. Dones, regional director of the NSO in Eastern Visayas, said they will create the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). At least P605 million has been allotted for the initial conduct of RSBSA nationwide.

"Through the system, government planners and policy makers can effectively formulate significant policies for agricultural development," Mr. Dones said.

"The RSBSA will not only prioritize an increase in agricultural output. It will also prioritize income improvements of our farmers," he added.

The registration for the RSBA will start on Jan. 2 and is targeted to be completed within the first half of next year. It will be undertaken in the barangays of Samar, Eastern Samar and Northern Samar.

The database will include information such as names, addresses, farm locations, poverty level, calamity incidence and vulnerability to climate change.

The three Samar provinces were included in the 20 provinces nationwide and identified based on the ranking using the 2009 National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) poverty incidence, proportion of household population 15 years old and above who are engaged in agriculture (2007, NSO Census of Population), and proportion of barangays with more than half of its population 10 years older and over engaged in agriculture.

It should also have been declared a calamity area from 2002 to 2007. -- Reyán L. Arinto

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