

Smallholder farmers among the focus of CLP workshop



Experts discuss how climate change impacts smallholder farmers in Southeast Asia during the Manila leg of the ASEAN Food & Agriculture Road to COP27 Workshop Series to be held on September 27.

Among the panel of experts who graced the event were Dr. Saturnina B. Halos, president of the Biotechnology Coalition of the Philippines (BCP), Dr. Allan B. Siano, officer in charge of the Crop Division of DOST's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources (PCAARRD), and Dr. Vivencio R. Mamaril, director of the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards.

The resource persons discussed the sustainability of Southeast Asia's agriculture sector as well as alarming issues like overfishing, land degradation, population growth and climate change.

Based on the rationale for the program, the panel narrowed in on the findings of a 2022 ASEAN and CropLife Asia survey, wherein regional policymakers expressed concern that

farmers face the biggest negative impact stemming from climate change – and an expectation that the public and private sectors work together to address the impacts of climate change, protect food systems in the region, improve education and increase access to innovation in agricultural technology and science.

As the region with the largest number of smallholder farmers and smallest sizes of farms in the world, participants delved into possible ways to cushion the impact of climate change on smallholder farmers through new technologies and innovations.

“These in turn contribute towards reducing poverty and supporting development; strengthening the sector is also key to ending hunger, achieving food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture, all of which goes towards helping the region achieve its UN Sustainable Development Goals,” CropLife Philippines said.