



FATIMA MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (FATIMA MPC)
CDA REG. NO. 9520-08000603
Poblacion, Calubian, Leyte

31 July 2023

DR. EDGARDO E. TULIN

President/Director

Visayas State University/PhilRootcrops

Visca, Baybay City, Leyte

Attention: **DR. DANIEL LESLIE S. TAN**

Vice President for Administration and Finance

Visayas State University

Dear **Dr. Tulin**,

Warm greetings from Fatima Multi-purpose Cooperative!

The Fatima Multi-purpose Cooperative (FMPC) engaged in agricultural business and envisioned improving the economic condition of vulnerable and isolated local farmers in the Visayas by providing non-financial services, particularly in the cassava production efforts for the processing of cassava granules for feed.

With promising opportunities in cassava, the cooperative is currently pursuing the establishment of a starch factory in Northern Leyte, aiming to sustainably develop the cassava industry in the region.

Our office also linked with other institutions like PhilRootcrops for technical assistance and other non-governmental organizations like Agriterria to put this plan to establish a starch factory into operation.

FMPC proposed a benchmarking visit in Thailand, the world's leading exporter of cassava starch, on September 5-12, 2023. The activity is deemed necessary to determine and document their strategies, practices, farm machinery, production and processing technologies, etc. that can be replicated or adopted in the country.

Thailand and neighboring countries have numerous modern starch factories with innovative technologies where we can gain valuable insights, strategies, and information necessary for establishing a starch factory in Northern Leyte.

In this regard, may we request the following VSU personnel, PhilRootcrops Senior Agriculturist, **Mr. Dioscoro M. Bolatete Jr.**, and **Ms. Mikaela M. Gongora** for our proposed benchmarking visit in Thailand on the above-mentioned date.

We need the expertise of Mr. Bolatete, especially in understanding the production practices and technologies including the selection of varieties appropriate for cassava starch production. On the other hand, a competent communication specialist like that of Ms. Gongora is much needed to document the entire visit.

The said staff have been a constant presence for our cooperative in our quest to establish a bigger and more progressive cassava enterprise in the region.

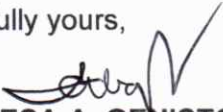
Moreover, we would like to respectfully ask your good office to collaborate with us through a counterpart fund of P50, 000.00 for each person for the said activity. FMPC will shoulder the other expenses during the travel.

When realized, the starch processing will bring great opportunities to the constituents of Northern Leyte and other provinces in the region who engaged in cassava production, especially those communities living in calamity-prone areas, as tons of cassava are needed in producing starch.

We deeply appreciate your full and constant support of Fatima-MPC. Should you have any questions, you may reach us at fatimampc_1996@yahoo.com.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,



MA. TERESA A. GENISTON
General Manager, FMPC