

ERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHO Civic Center Compound Maria Cristina Street, Dayangdang Naga City, Bicol 4400 ttp://www.cda.gov.ph @r5@cda.gov.ph fttps://www.facebook.com/cdanaga



## Farmers' Consultation Forum, Conducts in Albay: A move to Strengthen the Agriculture Industry in the Province through **Cooperatives**

By: Frances Faye O. Brojela



The Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) in partnership with the Provincial Government of Albay through the Albay Provincial Cooperative Enterprise and Manpower Development Office (APSEMDO), and Albay Provincial Agriculture Office, took the lead in facilitating a consultation session with Albay farmers. The activity, held at the Farmers Auditorium, AFBVille, Camalig, Albay, on November 28, 2023, served as a platform to engage the farming community in discussions aimed at strengthening agricultural cooperative in the province.



The objective of the consultation is to not only promote but also strengthen the agricultural cooperatives in Albay by introducing Merger and Consolidation or by establishing Federations and Unions. The APSEMDO headed by Ms. Lucille L. Arcilla and CDA Albay Contact Office Personnel join hand-and-hand in facilitating the forum. The activity was graced by Atty. Emilio D. Escueta, OIC-Regional Director, Engr. Zaldy G. Bermejo, Acting Supervising CDS, CDA Regional Office personnel and guest speakers from selected government agencies who discussed the programs and projects that can be availed by farmers.

> Mobile Hotline : 09171142842 FaxTel: (054) 4739053 Landline Globe : (054) 2050498



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Among the guest speakers were Ms. Grace Teaño, Agriculturist II-PLGU Albay, Mr. Alvin Trespeses, Provincial Head-PCA Albay & Catanduanes, Mr. Pancho R. Mella, Provincial Veterinarian and Mr. Alden D. Ragay, Senior Agriculturist-Department of Agriculture.



This collective effort signified commitment to the sustainable growth of Albay's agricultural landscape, with the collaborative involvement of different government agencies dedicated to empowering local farmers. The consultation represents a significant step in nurturing a resilient and unified cooperative community, playing a vital role in the development of the agricultural sector in Albay.





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