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Philippines National Dairy Authority (NDA)Â reviews strategies and proposals to increase milk production in the country

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Officials of the National Dairy Authority (NDA) recently met with Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. to discuss strategies and proposals to increase milk production in the country.

The NDA provided the DA chief with an overview of the countryâ??s current dairy situation, including a status report on project implementation, number of animals distributed in 2023, and growth figures, among others. NDA Administrator Dr. Gabriel L. Lagamayo said NDA aims to boost the countryâ??s milk output to 80 million liters by 2028, a small portion of the projected demand of 2.143 million metric tons by that time.

Increasing milk output 2.5 times over the next five years, he said, requires a dramatic increase in the number of animals in the milking line, enhancing dairy productivity, expanding distribution networks, constructing additional dairy-related infrastructures, and promoting the consumption of local milk and dairy products.

Secretary Tiu Laurel welcomed NDAâ??s suggestions and expressed full support for the dairy agencyâ??s plans. He cited the positive impact of developments in the dairy industry, describing it as â??a low-hanging fruitâ? in governmentâ??s goal of boosting agricultureâ??s contribution to the broader economy and in improving the lives of millions who depend on sector.

Pending the release of the national data for milk production from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), NDA records show that cattle production in 2023 reached 17,850 metric tons, accounting for approximately 0.8% of total milk consumption of 1.937 million metric tons. This consumption figure represents an increase of 1,372 metric tons compared to the previous year

(2022). The NDA projects a further rise in demand for milk consumption to reach 1.978 million metric tons this year.

Dr. Lagamayo stressed the crucial role of the DA Secretaryâ??s support in advancing the industry. and said, â??Based on these figures, we should advocate for greater investment in dairy cows which are the primary milk producersâ?.