

Ilocos Norte launches moringa, black pepper plantation

By Leilanie Adriano June 18, 2020, 4:50 pm

MORINGA AND BLACK PEPPER FARM. Capitol officials and employees join the planting of moringa cuttings and black pepper seedlings on Thursday (June 18, 2020) in Barangay Davila, Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte. Some 5,000 saplings were planted in the area with the help of barangay ranger officers tasked to maintain the plantation. *(Photo by Leilanie G. Adriano)*

LAOAG CITY – The Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) of Ilocos Norte province launched on Thursday the first community-based black pepper and moringa plantation located in the coastal village of Davila in Pasuquin, Ilocos Norte.

Led by Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Joseph Manotoc, some Capitol employees along with various stakeholders planted around 5,000 black pepper seedlings and moringa cuttings in time for the Environment Month celebration this June.

In his short speech, Manotoc said the provincial government wants to scale up production of moringa and black pepper, which are both high value crops, as these could mean better health and wellness for all Ilocanos.

“We are all feeling this calamity in so many ways but we commit to revitalize our concern for the environment and for the community,” he said.

The plantation is part of a 19,000-hectare forest land that was awarded to the Ilocos Norte provincial government by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources several years ago.

Village chief Elviro Agoo said his barangay is fortunate to host the first-of-its-kind moringa and black pepper plantation as he expressed high hopes that this project will be sustained in the future. He added his constituents are ready to assist in the upkeep of the plantation if needed.

To date, the ENRO has hired Barangay Ranger Officers in various parts of the province to carry out its greening program.

Various fruit-bearing trees, forest trees and some high value crops such as coffee, ginger and black pepper are being planted in government lands and some idle lots to provide livelihood opportunities to villagers and at the same time, boost food security in this time of health crisis. **(PNA)**

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