



8 March 2023

NAME

Designation

Agency Name

Address

Dear **Ma'am/Sir**:

Greetings!

The **Regional Inclusive Innovation in MIMAROPA (RIIM)**, one of our initiatives under the MIMAROPA Regional Research, Development, and Innovation Committee (RRDIC), aims to institutionalize efforts in engaging the academe, industry, regional line agencies, and other relevant stakeholders and collaborate towards commercialization of market-oriented research and the development of outputs that leads to increased regional competitiveness. It also aims to strengthen partnerships for the implementation of Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) activities in the region.

Last February 8-9, 2023, we conducted an LGU-Industry-Academe Consultation-Workshop which served as the takeoff point for the implementation of the RIIM. Through the said activity, representatives from LGUs, Regional Line Agencies, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), various Industry sectors, and DOST attached agencies including DOST-PCAARRD and DOST-ITDI convened and through the help of an expert facilitator, were able to map out Key Innovation Actors, identify initial priority commodities and product, identify value chain constraints, and possible S&T interventions to ensure that RDI endeavors are aligned and geared towards local economic development in the region. Below is the summary of the workshop outputs:

Province	Priority Commodity	Challenges Requiring RDI-related solutions	Collaborative RDI Projects
Occidental Mindoro	Salt	Limited supplies and inconsistent/undocumented process for production	Development and prototyping of alternative kiln design; Improvement on salt farm management
	Onion	Lack of cold storage facilities	Development of alternative low-cost storage facilities adaptable to household and

"Hatid ay makabagong solusyon!"

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			village-level production practices
Oriental Mindoro	Calamansi	Need for sustainable high-quality and disease-free planting materials	-R&D for foundation blocks, sanitized facilities of clean planting materials, disease indexing, diagnostic test kits; -Breeding of seedless calamansi; physical, biochemical, and molecular characterization of Mindoro calamansi
		Limited production and seasonal availability	Off-season production
Marinduque	Saba banana (<i>Musa acuminata</i> x <i>Musa balbisiana</i>)	Limited/inconsistent quality of raw material supply for production of banana chips	Tissue cultured laboratory for Saba banana; New product development for other product variants and over-ripe stocks
Romblon	Marble	New Product development from Marble wastes (Dust, Selvedge cuts/rejects, rubbles and slurries)	Local processing and packaging of calcium bicarbonate as primary/secondary raw material for industrial applications such as raw material for toothpaste production
Palawan	Cashew	Low yield of cashew tree exacerbated by growth of fungus when rain occurs during flowering	Development of Bio-chemical formulation to minimize harmful effects of fungus and anthracnose during flowering season of Cashew
		New Product development: out of cashew apples and shells	Multi-modular processing facility (for production of new products from cashew



			fruit and fuel bricks from shells)
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There was noticeable enthusiasm and willingness to collaborate in order to find innovative and relevant solutions to issues confronting industries. Hence, we have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as there is a need to sustain this commitment through institutionalized mechanisms for dialogue and collaborative problem-solving.

In view of the above, to formalize our usual collaborative engagements as enablers of the Innovation Ecosystem, we would like to invite your institution to execute a MOU with other Key Innovation Actors for the sustainability of this initiative. We have attached for your comments/inputs/concurrence the draft MOU. We wish to receive your comments/inputs, if any, on or before **March 13, 2023 (Monday)**. Should there be no comments received by the deadline, we will take it to mean that the stipulations in the MOU are accepted. Final version of the MOU shall be circulated with the concerned agencies for signing.

Moreover, we would like to invite you to a ceremonial MOU signing to be held tentatively on March 24, 2023. It is currently being worked out with the RDC Secretariat for the said activity to be part of the 1st Quarter Full Council MIMAROPA Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting at the Heritage Hotel, Pasay City, Metro Manila.

Our staff, **Mr. Carl Francis O. Javate**, shall coordinate with your office regarding this matter. Should you have concerns, your staff may reach him at his mobile number: (+63)9167894919 and through his email address: cfojavate@mimaropa.dost.gov.ph and nimu@mimaropa.dost.gov.ph.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

DR. MA. JOSEFINA P. ABILAY
Regional Director

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