

Through R&D, DOST-ITDI and Kai-Anya Food, Inc. step up commercial viability of *RTE Arroz Caldo*



One December morning, DOST-ITDI (Department of Science and Technology-Industrial Technology Development Institute) was visited by a technology taker seemingly inspired with an idea that has been brewing in her mind for quite a while – that is, to improve her product and hopefully, widen its reach and create its own market niche. Her product is ITDI's *Ready-to-Eat (RTE) arroz caldo*, a result of Packaging and Technology R&D (Research and Development).

Thus, on December 5, 2019, Milagros G. Bagaporo, Plant Manager of Kai-Anya Food, Inc. met with ITDI's Technological Services Division Chief Nelia Elisa C. Florendo to discuss and possibly, pursue several product development plans on *RTE arroz caldo*.

Kai-Anya has been a licensed producer of *RTE arroz caldo* since 2015. During the meeting, Bagaporo with her Q&A Supervisor Marvin N. Malasa expressed their interest and eagerness to market a more palatable and nutritious *RTE arroz caldo*.

Among the plans that they hope to implement with the assistance of ITDI include product improvement and/or reformulation, improved packaging system and design, increased production, and market positioning through *Halal* certification. Both are also eyeing for the possibility of making the product available in supermarkets.





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Aiming to increase volume of production, Kai-Anya is currently building a new facility. Through a newly approved financial assistance from DOST's Small Enterprises Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP) it acquired a water retort, a new addition to its line of production equipment. Meanwhile, product packaging is done through a private toll packing facility.

Packed in stand-up retort pouches, *RTE arroz caldo* is handy and can be eaten without water or drinkables, and remains good for consumption for one year.

Going by the brand '*Pack of Hope*' it is now produced and sold by Kai-Anya Food, Inc. to DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) which distributes it as part of its "*go bag*" that contains emergency relief goods for victims of disasters or calamities in the country.

With this development, ready-to-eat foods can be made more accessible and readily available for all especially during calamities which are now becoming more frequent and challenging. RTE foods are also ideal during such times when utilities like water and electricity are often down.

And all these are made possible through R&D; creating jobs, and making lives better and bearable for Filipinos especially during trying times! (*DDGotis, DOST-ITDI S&T Media Service*)

Morocco