



DOST-ITDI BRINGS SALT TECHNOLOGIES TO OCC. MINDORO

Salt processors in Occidental Mindoro got a tech boost as ITDI turned over its salt harvester and transferred its salt washer technologies at a ceremony held on June 22, 2022 at the Processing Plant of the Tamaraw Salt Producers Cooperative (TAMACO) in San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

DOST Undersecretary for R&D Dr. Rowena Cristina L. Guevara delivered her prerecorded Opening Remarks while Occidental Mindoro Provincial S&T Director Maria Ethelwilda Coronacion spoke for DOST-MIMAROPA Regional Director Dr. Ma. Josefina P. Abilay and DOST-PCIEERD Supervising SRS Laarni Piloton for Executive Director Dr. Enrico C. Paringit. ITDI Salt Processing Project Leader and Senior SRS Engr. Oliver C. Evangelista likewise gave his message.

In addition, San Jose Mayor Hon. Romulo Festin expressed his gratitude to DOST for its support to their MSMEs. He was particularly grateful for the transfer of the salt washer technology to their salt farmers through TAMACO Chair Felix Bernales.

During the ceremony, ITDI further turned over its new salt harvester to JALD Industries Corporation through its President John Arnold Duque.

Also present was Ernilyn Brown of the S4CP-CRADLE Program who, in her Closing Remarks, encouraged everyone to support S4CP's initiatives.

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Aside from ITDI, others who were at the event include the monitoring team of PCIEERD, staff of JALD, TAMACO, and LGU-Occidental Mindoro, as well as representatives of DTI-MIMAROPA and the Occidental Mindoro State College.

The DOST-ITDI developed salt harvester is specially designed to mechanize the process of crushing, washing, and harvesting salt in deep crystallizer saltern. Particle size of produced salt is similar to that produced using shallow salt crystallizer. It can also shorten harvesting period from months to couple of weeks, addressing salt farmers' concerns on impurities, contamination, and economic losses. Meanwhile, the salt washer has been designed to increase the purity of salt to at least 97% (dry weight) as required by RA 8172. It can be operated continuously at 1250 kg/hr. It utilizes saturated brine as washing medium which can be filtered and recycled back to the unit for reuse. Both technologies can be adopted by other solar salt producers that use deep crystallizer salterns, providing opportunities not only to the local salt industry but to the local fabrication industry as well.

Job well done, ITDI Salt Project Team! (*RRUde laCruz //ICOW*)



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