Biopolymers to find own PH market

Nanoclay tech enhances material features

Nanoclay, a versatile clay-based material, has been optimized.

The Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) developed nanoclay with food packaging applications among others even as it is used as a multifunctional additive or filler in polymer nanocomposites as rheological or soft solids modifiers, gas absorbents, and drug delivery carriers.

Dr. Marissa A. Paglicawan, Head of the Advanced Materials Section (AMS-MSD) at ITDI and one of the Asian Scientists 100, listed nanoclay from local bentonite deposits as *"... a valuable advanced material in the automotive, electronics, and construction industries. It finds specialized applications in food packaging, as well as in the biomedical and biotechnological fields."*

She added that their Team is excited to find "that ONE" technologically adventurous adopter/s which will help them evaluate the marketability of nanoclay among stakeholders.

To do this, it conducted a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with stakeholders from among the plastics industries, biomedical practice, and packaging firms as participants on May 29, 2023,

Formally opened by the Deputy Director for Administrative and Technical Services, Dr. Zorayda V. Ang, she was supported by ITDI Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones in her speech which cited the *"... FGD Modality as a way to assess the nanoclay product through your eyes and consolidate the significant insights and perspectives."*

Aside from Optiwhite, the FGD was attended by seven other companies, namely Ramcar Technologies, Inc., Arthrologic, Inc., Masterbatch Philippines, Patchmed, Greenpack Plastic Mfg. Corp, LITHOS Manufacturing, and Nexpak Packaging.

(RRUdelaCruz; AMGuevarra // DOST-ITDI Media Service)

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