

## ITDI Director Briones talks with IBC 13

Promotes thermally processed RTE/D food products

IBC 13 led the production of the Presidential Communications Office's interview shoot under its Food Security and Resilience Legacy Campaign with DOST-ITDI pushing for its "Kasarpang Pinoy na Pinoy Program" as one of DOST's banner legacies.

DOST-ITDI Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones was interviewed by Mr. Armand E. Samonte, Field Producer of IBC 13 in a sit-down session at the STICA KM Facilities Center in Bicutan, Taguig City on December 11, 2024.

Dr. Briones was joined by Arthur L. Sulpico, R&D Manager of Kai Anya Foods International based in Cavite City. The firm first adopted the technology on Pack of Hope Chicken Arroz Caldo in 2019.

She promoted ITDI's Ready-To-Eat (RTE) and Ready-To-Drink (RTD) food products and beverages like the Pack-of-Hope Food Series and Pack-of-Duty Food Series.

These products were developed primarily as relief food for victims in places hit by calamities/disasters like typhoons, flooding, earthquakes, and even civil unrest. The Pack of Hope series comes in variants like Chicken Arroz Caldo, Cassava in Syrup, Ginisang Munggo, Smoked Fish Rice meal, Potato Carrot, and Chicken Corn Soups. The Pack of Duty variants of Steamed Rice, Chicken Adobo, Beef Curry, Chicken Afritada, Adobong Kangkong, and Bangus Sisig are intended for our men in uniform.



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Also, these types of food preparations, packed in retort pouches, are now gaining patronage in the market as another option for nutritious and convenient instant meals.

When asked about the reasons for developing the RTE and RTD products, Dr. Briones answered, "Since our country is frequently affected by catastrophes, the products are made primarily as relief food for victims in places hit by calamities or civil unrest where electricity and water supplies are cut-off giving them no access to safe food and drink."

"Also, considering people's busy lifestyle nowadays, these types of food packed in retort pouches provide a no-prep, no-cook but healthy alternatives," she added.

"Further, our researchers used techniques and a set of facilities on thermal processing to ensure its quality and safety before market entry," she explained when asked about the process and technology.

Concluding the interview, Dr. Briones invited interested industry investors, entrepreneurs, and existing businesses to adopt ITDI's technology on Ready-to-Eat and Ready-to-Drink food products and other technologies ready for transfer.  
(DDGotis\ ITDI S&T Media Service)