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## DOST Tech on Wheels “FoodtrIP” is rolling to Mindoro this April 2024



Local farmers have something to look forward to this April 2024 as a Department of Science and Technology (DOST) technology on wheels is set to roll to Oriental Mindoro!

The FoodtrIP or Food on the road innovation and processing is a model processing plant on wheels with modules for different sections and processing auxiliaries. DOST MIMAROPA’s thermal processing truck features a water retort capable of producing shelf stable food products. This deployable food processing facility aims to extend the reach of STI-based, value-adding interventions for the agri-fisheries sector of MIMAROPA

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The FoodtrIP is a Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP)-compliant food processing facility on wheels, allowing flexibility and accessibility to develop viable commercial products from local vegetables, fruits, and crops, especially when there is a surplus. The drying module, developed and designed by the DOST Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI), is housed inside a 32-foot van.

For the MIMAROPA region, the FoodtrIP truck features a retort machine for ready-to-eat food such as bananas in syrup and beef arroz caldo. It will be housed at the Provincial Agricultural Office (PAGO) in Barangay Merit, Victoria, Oriental Mindoro and DOST-MIMAROPA will serve as its official monitor on site.

The turnover ceremony is led by DOST Secretary Renato U. Solidum, Jr., Undersecretary for R&D Leah J. Buendia, Assistant Secretary Diana L. Ignacio, and DOST ITDI Dir. Annabelle V. Briones. DOST MIMAROPA Regional Director Ma. Josefina P. Abilay accepted the technology during the official turnover ceremony on April 3, 2024.



DOST Secretary Solidum emphasized the potential value of the FoodtrIP truck to the farmers of Oriental Mindoro. He said, *"Our pursuit of food security, encompasses programs that enhance local capabilities so that we can stand by a food stockpile that is sufficient in quality and quantity, as well as safe, and nutritious."*

He added that the mobile processing facility can help farmers add value to their crops, reduce losses during production, and increase their income.

DOST ITDI Director Briones said that, *"We aim to cater to the food processing needs of*

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*nearby provinces of MIMAROPA. With FoodtrIP, we can service food processing training and demo facility needs of our farmers to assist them in times when there is over abundance or food shortage."*

She added that the goals of the DOST-ITDI funded project titled Development of Mobile Modular Food Processing Facility were five (5) FoodtrIP trucks developed and four (4) deployed to Regions MIMAROPA, Western Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, and Northern Mindanao.

DOST MIMAROPA Regional Director Abilay expressed her gratitude upon receiving the mobile food processing facility, which can empower and transform the lives of the communities in the MIMAROPA region. She gave an assurance of their full commitment to ensure that innovation will be effectively utilized and leveraged in their region.

Look forward to seeing this FoodtrIP truck in DOST MIMAROPA's celebration of the Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Week (RSTW) celebration from May 7-9, 2024 at the Calapan City Convention Center, Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro.

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