

## **ProPak 5th Edition: DOST-ITDI displays new, green packaging products**

The Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) along with DOST National Capital Region are joining more than 250 exhibitors from various countries showcasing packaging technology innovations during the 5th Edition of ProPak Philippines to be held on February 12-14, 2025 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila in Pasay City.

ProPak Philippines will gather together local and international manufacturers and suppliers of machinery, technology, and materials in the sectors of packaging, filling, and processing, among others. This year, its 5th Edition is pooling 24 manufacturing and processing sectors including those from consultancy, education, and government.

For its part, ITDI will be displaying two service laboratories and six Ready-to-Eat (RTE) products developed for men-in-uniform. These include services and products being offered at the Simulation Packaging Testing Laboratory (SPTL) and Green Packaging Laboratory (GPL). The former was designed based on international standards in developing packaging design, performance evaluation, and in developing testing protocols for distribution packaging.

On the other hand, the latter was established to offer alternative packaging solutions with minimal environmental impact. Among the most promising GPL products on display are films developed from polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and chitosan (CS), as well as pectin, and bacterial cellulose. These packaging films serve as eco-friendly alternatives to petroleum-based plastics.

PVA+CS films can be used as packaging material to extend the shelf life of dry products like roasted nuts and baked goods. Pectin films, on the other hand, are environmentally friendly alternative to petroleum-based plastic while BC films are biodegradable, edible, and environmentally friendly material for food packaging and other applications.

Other products that will be featured are composite cushion made from coconut peat, pineapple fiber board, and the Pack of Duty Food Series which include RTE Chicken Adobo, Beef Curry, Steamed Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Chicken Afritada, and Bangus Sisig.

Meanwhile, DOST-NCR shall be offering its various support programs to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), including DOST's Small Enterprise Technology Upgrading Program (SETUP), among other industry support initiatives. DOST SETUP provides its beneficiaries the seed fund needed for technology acquisition, needed

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equipment and equipment upgrading, technical trainings and consultancy services, packaging and label design, database information systems, and support for establishing product standards and testing, and calibration of equipment.

ProPak 5th Edition is organized by Informa Markets Philippines. Informa creates platforms for industries comprised of more than 550 international B2B events on Healthcare & Pharmaceuticals, Infrastructure, Construction & Real Estate, Fashion & Apparel, Hospitality, Food & Beverage, and Health & Nutrition, among others.

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