

DOST-ITDI introduces

## **Sustainable, eco-friendly packaging at ProPak PH 5<sup>th</sup> Edition**

Three new, green packaging materials from the Industrial Technology Development Institute (DOST-ITDI) take center stage at ProPak Philippines 5<sup>th</sup> Edition held on February 12-14, 2025 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila in Pasay City.

The trade show gathers together more than 250 local and international manufacturers and suppliers of machinery, technology, and materials in the sectors of packaging, filling, and processing, among others. It pooled these exhibitors from 24 manufacturing and processing sectors, including Agro-Industries, Beverage / Brewing, Confectionery Manufacturing, and Industrial Product Manufacturing.

Since 2019, ProPak Philippines has been the main trade event facilitating technology transfer and connecting manufacturers and business owners with the most suitable technology, machine, and equipment for packaging.

Presently, the global packaging industry is facing challenges among which are sustainability of materials, regulatory compliance, supply chain disruptions, and balancing product protection with minimal packaging. Further, the industry is tasked to consider reducing environmental impact and meet consumer expectations for ethical practices. The clamor from concerned groups to use green packaging is increasing.

In support, Dr. Angel Basbasan, Jr., Team Leader of the Green Packaging Laboratory (GPL) under the Packaging Technology Division of DOST-ITDI, developed three new, green materials.

“We are excited to show industry the three most promising of the GPL products that are on display this week. These are films made from polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) and chitosan (CS), pectin, and bacterial cellulose (BC),” he said.

These materials are alternative packaging solutions that have minimal impact on the environment. PVA+CS films can be used as packaging material to extend the shelf life of dry 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. What makes these three different is that these are not only green, these are also eco-friendly.

A packaging material to be considered as eco-friendly should have four key features. These are: (1) made from recycled/ recyclable materials; (2) sustainable; (3) does not contain pollutants and chemicals which harm the environment and the user; and (4) uses renewable energy to source, transport, and produce.

With ProPak Philippines, Dr. Basbasan thus hopes that the public and industry will see, learn, find, and network with key players as he presented the new green packaging materials during the trade show forum on February 14. His colleague Engr. Ericson Nolasco also presented their division's Transport Packaging Testing Services at the said forum.

Other GPL products that will be featured in the trade show are composite cushion made from coconut peat and pineapple fiber board. Side products from the Pack of Duty Food Series for men-in-uniform include RTE Chicken Adobo, Beef Curry, Steamed Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Chicken Afritada, and Bangus Sisig.

ProPak 5<sup>th</sup> 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.  
(AMGuevarra\ TSD-ITDI)

###