



## DOST-ITDI Launches New Aseptic Processing FoodtrIP Facility

The agriculture and food sectors in the Philippines continue to face significant challenges, particularly in postharvest processing. Many producers experience losses due to surplus production and the lack of accessible, efficient food processing facilities. To address this gap, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) introduced the *Smart Food Value Chain Program for the New Normal*—an initiative that unites DOST line agencies and key stakeholders in developing innovative technologies and technical services to enhance the efficiency and productivity of these vital industries.

A notable success of this initiative is the Food Innovation Center (FIC), established in each region across the country. Since 2013, FICs have been supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) by meeting their research and development (R&D) needs in food processing.

In response to the pressing issue of postharvest losses—exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic—DOST launched the *Mobile Modular Food Processing Facility* (MMFPF). This solution offers a compact, deployable, and well-equipped food processing unit on wheels that brings services directly to stakeholders.

Rebranded as **FoodtrIP**, short for *Food on-the-road Innovation and Processing Facility*, the mobile unit is a modular, fully-equipped 32-foot truck that enables food producers to process surplus crops into viable commercial products. It improves access to high-quality food processing technology, especially in underserved rural areas.

The first FoodtrIP truck, launched during the 2023 National Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (NSTW) in Iloilo, was equipped with a frying module—both vacuum and conventional—and was later deployed to Capiz State University.



### Membership:

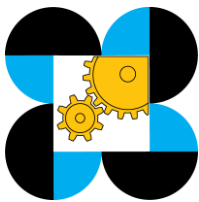
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In 2024, new configurations were rolled out to three regions, such as the **MIMAROPA** *retort module* deployed to MIMAROPA, and a drying module deployed to **Region X** and **Region IX** each.

These trucks are deployed closer to MSME clients, providing them with efficient, localized food processing solutions.

Most recently, on **July 10, 2025**, DOST's Industrial Technology Development Institute (ITDI) unveiled its most advanced FoodtrIP configuration yet: an **aseptic processing module**. Stationed at DOST-ITDI, this new unit is designed for processing beverages and fluid foods in a sterile, controlled environment. It uses ultra-high-temperature (UHT) processing, heating liquid food to over 140 °C for two to five seconds, significantly extending shelf life without the need for preservatives.

The aseptic FoodtrIP truck is equipped with a built-in steam generator, and according to DOST-ITDI Director **Dr. Annabelle V. Briones**, the installation of rooftop solar panels is being considered to enhance its sustainability.

DOST Secretary **Renato U. Solidum Jr.**, in his keynote message, emphasized the broader vision behind FoodtrIP:

"The FoodtrIP is adaptable, scalable, and community-centered—a concrete step toward a stronger system of food processing. We are not just opening a new facility, but we are opening a future where food is safer, the process is smarter, and the community is closer to every Filipino."

He added:

"Imagine our coconut water or coconut milk—which spoils easily—can now last longer when processed using this aseptic FoodtrIP truck. Farmers and the agri-fisheries sector can benefit immensely, reducing losses, adding value to their produce, and ultimately increasing their income."

Following the truck's official blessing, project leads **Mr. Rommel M. Belandres** of the Food Processing Division and **Mr. Oliver C. Evangelista** of the Chemicals and Energy Division gave guests a guided tour of the facility.

"This is the first compact and deployable aseptic processing unit in the Philippines," said Dr. Belandres. "While large manufacturers already have in-house facilities, our Aseptic FoodtrIP brings this high-end technology closer to small producers." Evangelista echoed this excitement.

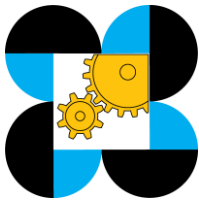
Secretary Solidum concluded by assuring continued support for MSMEs through science, technology, and innovation:

"Filipino MSMEs can expect more initiatives like this from DOST—initiatives that boost human well-being, foster wealth creation, ensure wealth protection, and promote sustainability."

(RRUdelaCruz, DOST-ITDI Media Service)

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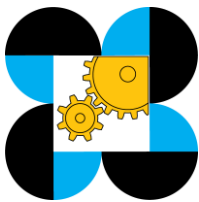




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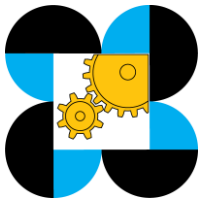


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