

COVID-19 Update at DOST-ITDI

DOST-ITDI expands distribution of RTE foods/drinks in NCR, other regions

Some 7,000 packets of ready-to-eat (RTE) foods and drinks were distributed by DOST-ITDI to cities in Manila and three other regions as the country continues to fight off the COVID-19 pandemic.

Undeterred by the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) now in place in Luzon island, DOST-ITDI continues to provide interventions to help our countrymen cope with the challenges as we battle this pandemic.

Aside from the RTE foods the institute already provided to LGUs in March, ITDI Director Dr. Annabelle V. Briones, through Food Processing Division (FPD) Chief Dr. Norberto E. Ambagan again donated on April 7, 2020, more than 1,000 mungbean-coconut milk beverages in stand-up pouches to LGU Pasig City and LGU Plaridel in Bulacan through the Ang-Hortaleza Foundation of the Hortaleza Group of Companies in Valenzuela City.



Developed by FPD, the beverage is made from protein-rich green mungbeans and creamy coconut milk. Just like with soy milk, it can be enjoyed as an everyday healthy drink or as an alternative to dairy milk.

Lactose intolerant individuals can use it for other food preparations such as coffee, tea, breakfast cereals, shakes, and smoothies. Mungbean-coconut milk is also shelf-stable for a year.



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Meanwhile, other regions of the country continue to receive RTE foods from DOST-ITDI. On April 1, 2020, Director Briones through Packaging Technology Division Chief Daisy E. Tañafranca, donated 3,000 ready-to-eat (RTE) smoked fish rice meals in pouches to DSWD Region IVA.



Five days later, PTD-ITDI then distributed RTE Chicken Arroz Caldo in Isabela Province in Region II where 35 COVID-19 cases (7 in Isabela) have been reported as of April 21. It tapped one of the province's disadvantaged and remote barangays and DOST II's CEST (Community Empowerment through Science and Technology) Program beneficiaries.

Produced by Kai Anya Foods International, an ITDI technology adopter, PTD's RTE foods may be used as an alternative food choice to relieve hunger pangs. While ready-to-eat, those desiring hot chicken Arroz Caldo can have it heated directly in boiling water.

During the earlier part of the implementation of ECQ, on March 26, 2020, DOST-ITDI has already distributed more than 15,000 RTE Chicken Arroz Caldo in pouches in Taguig, Pasig, Manila, San Juan, and Quezon City; Davao City received 5,010 pouches of the chicken soup and rice meals.

With innovative thinking and the application of research and development advances, the science community can serve the people, help save lives, and impact change. (AMGuevarra\ ITDI S&T Media Service)

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