

QC trains thousands on urban farming

AMID rising prices of basic commodities, at least 6,600 individuals have participated in orientations and training on urban farming under the "Joy of Urban Farming" program headed by Quezon City Vice Mayor Joy Belmonte.

"Because we are experiencing inflation, we are intensifying the implementation of our urban farming program as more residents are asking for the training," Belmonte said.

"We realized that, with the prices of food, rice, and basic commodities on the rise, more and more people are thinking of venturing into backyard farming," she added.

This year, at least 6,600 individuals received training and were given practical tips on backyard gardening and eco-waste management.

"The goal of the project is to show that, even with a small space, urban dwellers can still farm using vertical gardens, containers, and other farming techniques," the vice mayor explained.

Those who attended the training were given starter kits containing seeds, soil and other implements for farming.

"Once you start, you are helping in reducing costs of food, providing healthy choices for your kids, and even addressing climate change. It's a win-win for the family and the city," Belmonte said.

The "Joy of Urban Farming" can also provide a source of livelihood for backyard farmers. Under the program, households that have been selling their produce earn as much as P400 per day, she said.

Since its launch in 2010, the project has attracted a total of 181,414 trainees.

Thus far, at least 166 urban farms have been put up in different villages in the city.

For those interested, weekly urban farming training sessions are being offered at the "Joy of Urban Farming" site at the Quezon City Hall Compound from Monday to Friday from 8 a.m to 5 p.m.