

## Bagong Silangan to benefit from urban farming program

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The **Quezon City local government** has joined forces with the Departments of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Agriculture (DA) to develop a seven-hectare lot in Barangay Bagong Silangan into an urban vegetable farming site.

Dubbed as “Buhay sa Gulay,” the project aims to promote the importance of urban farming and empower urban dwellers to have an alternative source of income by producing and selling fresh vegetables.

“Buhay sa Gulay” in Barangay Bagong Silangan is DAR’s second urban vegetable farming project, replicating the success of its urban farming project in Tondo, Manila.

The “Buhay sa Gulay” QC project was launched yesterday morning to provide 70 residents in New Greenland an alternative source of income, as well as finding joy in managing and producing products from their own farm.

The city has also partnered with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and Bread Society International for the needed training and capacity building of the beneficiaries.

“This project is a huge help for the Quezon City residents, as they can provide an alternative source of income and food supply. The City Government of QC also said positively that other cities in Metro Manila would replicate this project because this is a strategic solution to address issues of food production and sufficiency, and livelihood needs of Filipinos in urban communities,” DAR Secretary John Castriciones said.

A memorandum of understanding will be signed by the agencies, together with Barangay Bagong Silangan officials, to formalize the partnership.

Beneficiaries will be trained by farmer scientists from DAR-CALABARZON, while the DA will provide them machineries and tools.

DAR said the farm expects to produce 765 metric tons of vegetables that includes 29.7 MT of eggplants, 0.7 MT of sitaw, 350 MT of pechay, 280 MT of mustasa, 25 MT of squash, 80 MT of okra, and 20 MT of ampalaya.

Through the “Buhay sa Gulay,” QC aims to be a sustainable and climate resilient city by developing alternative housing models for the beneficiaries, as

New Greenland is a floodplain that endangers traditional housing designs.

Aside from “Buhay sa Gulay,” the city has also initiated “Grow QC: Kasama ka sa Pag-unlad sa Pagkain, Kabuhayan, at Kalusugan” program, which promotes the significance of urban agriculture and food security in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic.