

**PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HOUSTON ATTENDS COMPLETION CEREMONY
OF LANDMARK PH-TEXAS LIVESTOCK TRAINING PROGRAM**



Consul General Gunther Sales (1st row, 2nd from left) with the inaugural cohort of the Training of Trainers (TOT) under the Philippines-USA Partnership on Ruminant Livestock Genetic Improvement Program (PUP-RLGIP)

Nacogdoches, Texas [02 July 2026] — Consul General Gunther Emil M. Sales attended the Completion Ceremony of the Reproductive Herd Management Training of Trainers (ToT) Program on 02 July 2026, held at the Walter C. Todd Agricultural Research Center of Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU) in Nacogdoches, Texas.

The six-week program, conducted under the Philippines-USA Partnership on Ruminant Livestock Genetic Improvement Program (PUP-RLGIP), trained twelve Filipino agriculturists, veterinarians, and private sector representatives in advanced reproductive technologies, including artificial insemination, embryo transfer, and modern breeding science. The cohort, drawn from the Philippines' Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Offices across Luzon,

Visayas, and Mindanao, the National Dairy Authority, the Philippine Carabao Center, and private ranching operations in Bukidnon, represents the inaugural class of a "training of trainers" model designed to multiply the program's impact well beyond the participants themselves.

In his remarks, Consul General Sales underscored the significance of the training for the Philippines' food security and rural development. He noted that the twelve participants now carry home not only technical expertise, but also the capacity to train others. He emphasized that strengthening the Philippines' livestock sector is not merely a technical or economic undertaking, but one that speaks directly to the livelihoods of smallholder farming families and the country's long-term food security. He further described the program as reflective of the broader partnership between the Philippines and Texas, expressing hope that the collaboration would continue to grow well beyond the inaugural cohort.

The training seeks to help address a critical gap in the Philippine livestock sector. An estimated 95 to 97 percent of the country's cattle are owned by backyard and smallholder farmers with limited access to improved genetics and breeding technologies, a gap that has helped drive the Philippines' continued dependence on imports, which account for an estimated 60 percent of the country's beef supply and 98 percent of its dairy supply.

By equipping trainers to bring reproductive and genetic improvement techniques directly to smallholder communities, the program aims to strengthen domestic food security and improve rural livelihoods over time. At the same time, the initiative reflects the significant potential and growing depth of agricultural and scientific cooperation between the Philippines and Texas, built through sustained technical collaboration, shared expertise, and institutional partnership between Philippine agencies and Texas-based institutions like the DA and SFASU and the University of Texas System, respectively, underscoring a relationship the Consulate General looks forward to seeing continue to grow.

The Philippine Consulate General in Houston, which covers a six-state jurisdiction comprising Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas, continues to support initiatives that strengthen economic, scientific, and cultural ties between the Philippines and communities across its jurisdiction.