

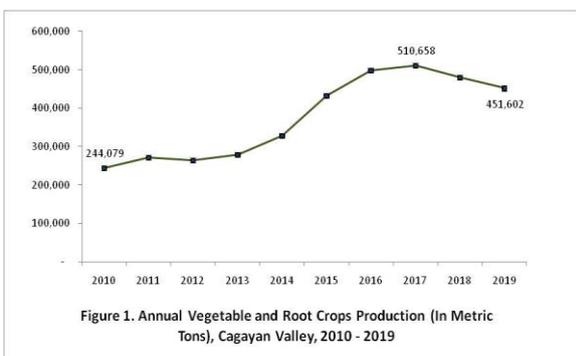


SPECIAL RELEASE

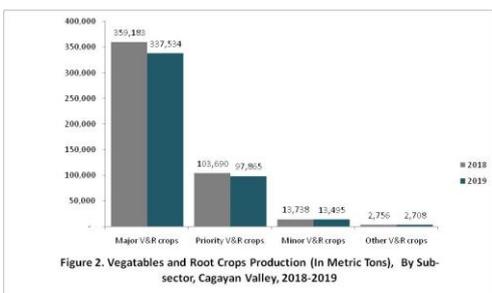
Vegetable production in 2019 still above other years in a decade

Date of Release : March 23, 2020
Reference No. : SR-2020-008

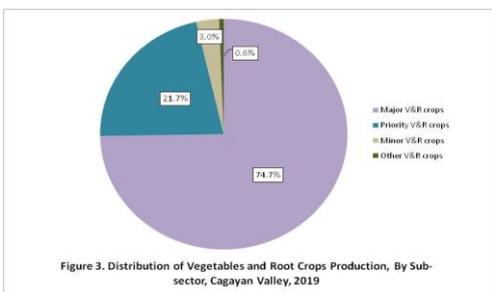
Vegetables and root crops (*V&R crops*) production in Cagayan Valley fell for two consecutive years since the highest production level was attained in 2017. Specifically, the latest annual production at 451,602 metric tons is 5.8 percent lower than the realized production in 2018 at 479,367 metric tons and exactly double in



percentage lower than the highest output in 2017. Fortunately, the 2019 production is still above the recorded production in 2010 to 2015 with the 2010 estimates recorded as the lowest in the last decade. In fact, when compared with the 2010-2013 annual estimates, the latest production is between 62.0 to 85.0 percent higher, while more than one third higher than the output recorded in 2014.



The 2019 production decrement can be deduced from the decline in all vegetable and root crop sub-sector with *major V&R crops* shrinkage up to 6.0 percent. The percentage decrease resulted in an absolute value decrement of about 21,649 metric tons and trimming down the 2019 estimates to 337,534 metric tons from the 2018 estimates in *major V&R crops* of about 359,183 metric tons. Notably, *major V&R crops* contributed to almost three fourth of the total vegetable and root crops production in the region in 2019.

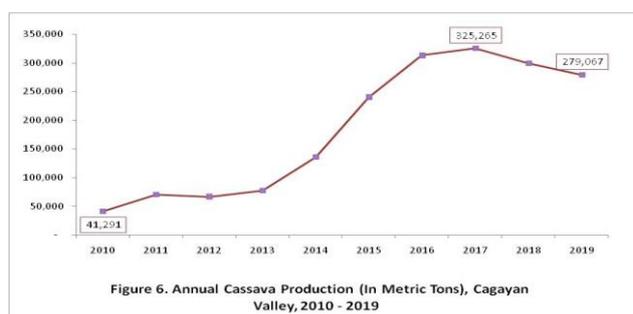
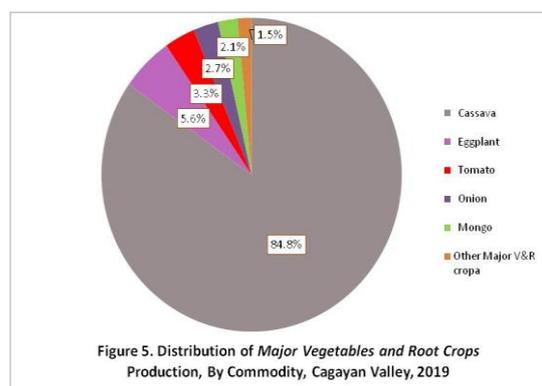
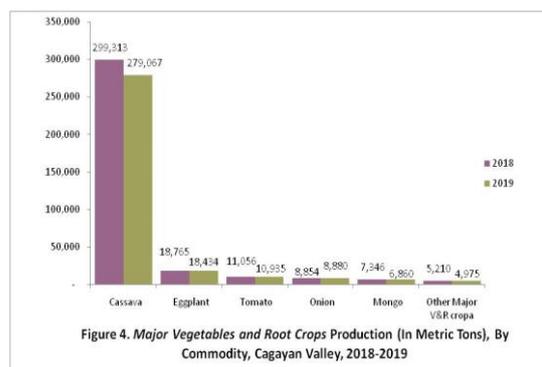


Relatively, *priority V&R crops*, *minor V&R crops* and *other V&R crops* also posted decrement in production with the former sub-sector decrease at 5.6 percent and the latter two at 1.8 percent

apiece. *Priority V&R crops* contributed more than one fifth in the total vegetables and root crops production while *minor V&R crops* and *other V&R crops* shared 3.0 and 0.6 percent, respectively.

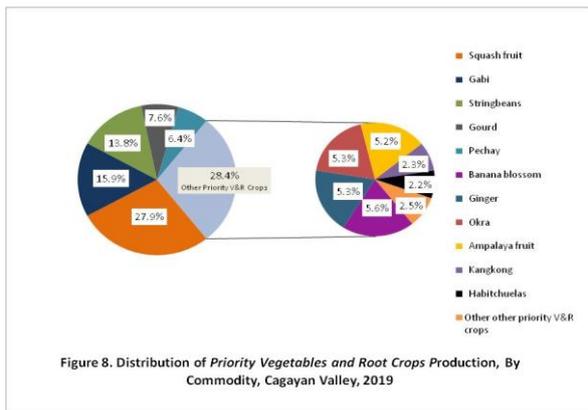
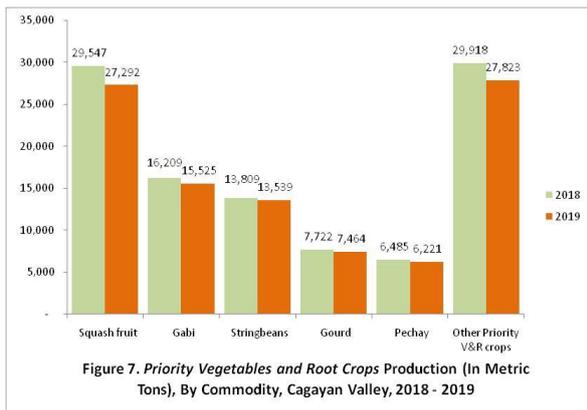
Cassava posted the biggest production setback

Unfortunately, cassava production which collared about eighty five percent of the *major V&R crops* in the region last year posted the biggest setback. From the 2018 estimate of 299,313 metric tons, it went down by more than twenty thousand metric tons or about 6.8 percent decrease. The big cut shaped the estimate of production in 2019 to only 279,067 metric tons. Except for onion production, all other commodities under the *major V&R crops* produced last year also exhibited below the 2018 level of production. In detail, eggplant production which shares 5.6 percent in 2019 overall *major V&R crops* production shrunk by 1.8 percent or from the 2018 production estimate of 18,765 metric tons to 18,434 metric tons last year. The same holds true with tomato and mungo production with the former commodity falloff by 1.1 percent (from 2018 production of 11,056 metric tons to 10,935 metric tons in 2019) and the latter commodity by 6.6 percent (from 2018 production of 7,346 metric tons to 6,860 metric tons in 2019). Both commodities had a combined share of 5.4 percent in the total *major V&R crops* production in the region last year. Other major V&R crops production (which includes peanut, cabbage and garlic) also swerved by 4.5 percent, the downward trend caused by shortfall in the production of peanut and cabbage while slight increase was noted for production in garlic. Other major V&R crops production shared only 1.5 percent in the total *major V&R crops* production. As pointed earlier, onion production in 2019 appreciated a little bit, from its 2018 production estimate of 8,854 metric tons to 8,880 metric tons in 2019 or about 0.3 percent increment.



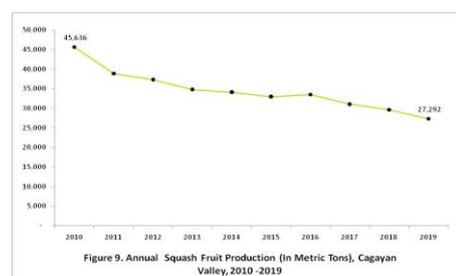
On the lighter note, cassava production in 2019 is still way above the recorded production in 2010 to 2013. Since 2017 when production hit the highest it went down for two year in a row, but the latest production is still almost four to seven times higher than the estimates established in 2010 to 2013. Surprisingly, cassava

production trend is likely to influence the trend of the total vegetable and root crops production in the region. Meaning, when production of cassava goes up, the likelihood that total vegetable and root crops production will follow barring all other extreme downward trend of other V&R crops commodities. The presumption is supported by the fact that cassava production alone is more than sixty percent of the total vegetables and root crops production in the region.



For various commodities classified as *priority V&R crops*, production in 2019 also dwindled with output of squash fruit showing significant decline across all commodities in the sub-sector. Specifically, squash fruit production went down by 7.6 percent from its 2018 output of 29,547 metric tons or a reduction of about 2,255 metric tons resulting to only about 27,292 metric tons of production last year. Similarly, gabi production also went down by 4.2 percent or about 684 metric tons over 2018 estimated production of 16,209. Both squash and gabi production contributed around 27.9 and 15.9 percent in the total *priority V&R* respectively last year. In like manner, gourd, stringbeans, and pechay production for 2019 were also below the 2018 level with gourd slashed by less than 260 metric tons and stringbeans and pechay at more than 260 metric tons. Production shortfall for these commodities was estimated at 4.1 percent for pechay (from 6,485 metric tons in 2018 to 6,221 metric tons in 2019), 3.3 percent for gourd (from 7,722 metric tons in 2018 to 7,464 metric tons in 2019) and 1.9 percent for stringbeans (from 13,809 metric tons in 2018 to 13,539 metric tons in 2019). These three commodities accounted for more than one fourth in the total *priority V&R crops* production in 2019. For other *priority V&R crops* which composed of banana blossom, ginger, okra, ampalaya fruit, kangkong, habitcheulas including pepper, carrots, white potato, cauliflower, radish, broccoli and lettuce (the 2nd group renamed as Other other *priority V&R crops* for graphical presentation convenience), total reduction in the 2019 estimated production summed up to about 2,095 metric tons or about 7.0 percent decrease from the 2018 level of 29,918 metric tons. Culling out from records, almost all commodities under the 1st group classified under other *priority V&R crops* exhibited downward trends in production with banana blossom production showing the largest cut at 1,908 metric tons from its 2018 production estimate of 7,398 metric tons. Except for pepper production, other commodities under the 2nd group displayed minimal positive output in 2019. It must be noted that the collated production of all commodities under other *priority V&R crops* shared 28.4 percent in the total production for the sub-sector.

Remarkably, squash production in the region during the past decade showed significant declines. Except in 2016 where a slight increase was noted, annual production continued to decline since 2010 at an average of more than two thousand metric tons per year, the latest production at almost one half of the production ten years ago.



In terms of commodities classified as *minor V&R crops*, I production deficit can be traced from the reduced output of ubi by 9.7 percent, camote tops by 0.6 percent and green papaya by 1.9 percent. These three commodities shared more than ten percent each in the total *minor V&R crops* production in 2019. On the other hand, production of patola, malunggay leaves and chayote fruit in 2019 appreciated lightly by 2.2, 3.5 and 2.4 percent respectively.

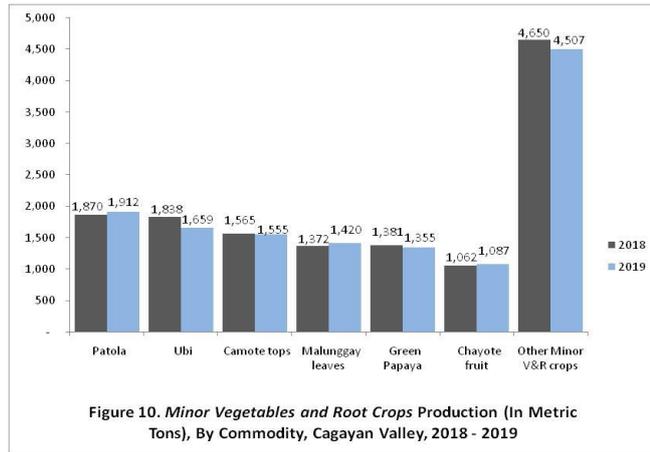


Figure 10. Minor Vegetables and Root Crops Production (In Metric Tons), By Commodity, Cagayan Valley, 2018 - 2019

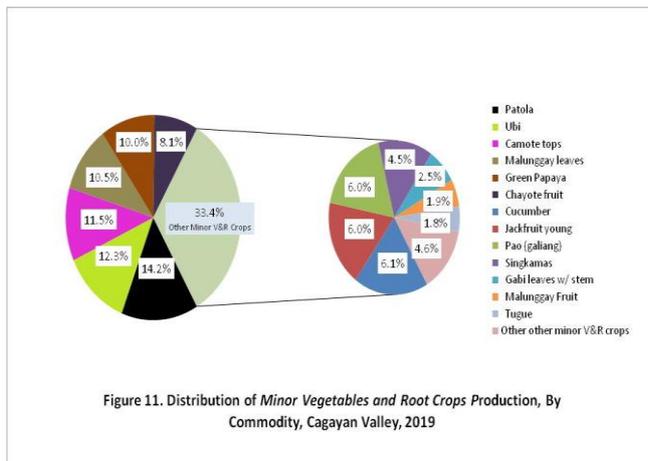


Figure 11. Distribution of Minor Vegetables and Root Crops Production, By Commodity, Cagayan Valley, 2019

Patola production clamped in 14.2 percent in the *minor V&R crops* production, the largest share among commodities in the subsector while malunggay leaves and chayote fruit nailed their shares at 10.5 and 8.1 percent. Other *minor V&R crops* commodities' production last year also bowed due to lesser output from cucumber (down by 0.2%), jackfruit young (down by 3.3%), singkamas (down by 16.4%), gabi leaves with stem (down by 0.9%),

malunggay leaves (down by 1.8%) and tugue (down by 3.4%). Only production of pao (galiang) for this group performed with minimal increase of 1.7 percent. The collated production of commodities under the other *minor V&R crops* made up to more than one third of the total production in the *minor V&R crops* sub-sector. On the brighter side, production from commodities classified as other "other *minor V&R crops*" which captures 4.6 percent in the pie of *minor V&R crops* exhibited minor increases ranging from 0.5 to 1.8 percent. Commodities included in this group are alogbati, sweet peas, bamboo shoot, chilli pepper fruit, leeks, celery and arrowroot. These commodities were produced in the region in smaller quantity with the former three commodities of not more than 200 metric tons while the latter commodities at less than 100 metric tons per year.


MARILYN T. ESTRADA
 Regional Director

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TECHNICAL NOTES:

- Production refers to the quantity produced and actually harvested for a particular crop during the reference period.
- For other crops, area planted refers to the actual physical area planted while area harvested refers to the actual area from which harvests are realized.
- Estimates of production and area planted/harvested are generated from the Quarterly Crops Production Survey (CrPS) of which there are four survey rounds in a year, that is, February, May, August, and November.