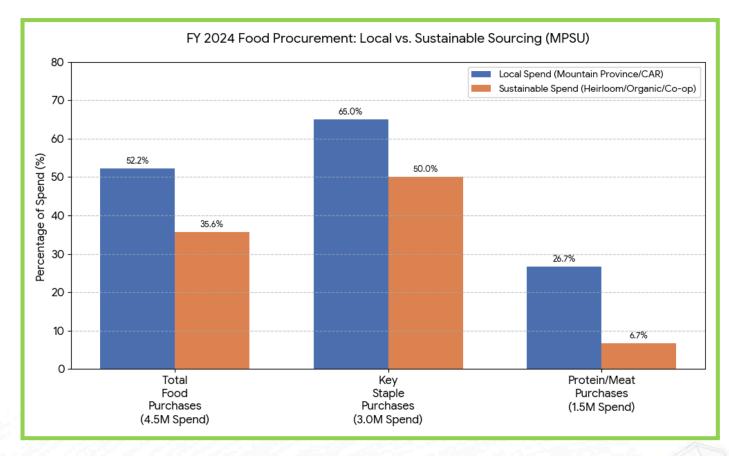
MPSU sustainable food purchases Prioritize purchase of products from local, sustainable sources.



In 2024, the town of Bontoc set out on a clear mission: to use its food budget to support its own farmers and traditional, sustainable ways of growing food. This commitment was strongly supported by a major local institution: the **Mountain Province State University** (MPSU), whose procurement decisions greatly bolstered the local market. The resulting bar graph detailing the year's spending tells a powerful story of where public spending succeeded and where the next big challenge lies.

Success in Staples: MPSU Fuels the Local Economy

The biggest win came from the fields and terraces that surround Bontoc. When the town (including large institutional buyers like the MPSU cafeteria) spent its money on Key Staples—the rice, root crops, and vegetables that are central to the local diet—the commitment to local farmers was clear:

Buying Local: A remarkable **65.0%** of the money went directly to suppliers in Mountain Province or the Cordillera region. This meant that two out of every three pesos spent on basic goods stayed right within the local economy, helping the community thrive.









Buying Sustainable: Even better, **50.0%** of that staple spend was used to buy sustainable products, such as **Heirloom Rice** from local cooperatives and organically grown vegetables. This indicates that major buyers, including the University, are not just buying close; they're buying *right*, rewarding farmers who protect the environment and preserve cultural traditions. Overall, looking at the **Total Food Purchases** for the year, the combined effort of the local government and **MPSU** successfully pushed local spending to **52.2%** of the total budget.

