



Department of Agriculture
Special Area for Agricultural
Development (SAAD) Program
daan sa maunlad na kabuhatan



The ADHERENCE

2019 Underlying Activities of SAAD: A Compendium

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The first step in making agripreneurship take root is to retool farmers, fishers, and extension agents. This is aimed at transforming small farmers and fishers into agripreneurs.

William D. Dar, Ph.D.
Secretary, Department of Agriculture

FOREWORD



When I was appointed by President Rodrigo Duterte as DA Acting Secretary in August 2019, I immediately got to work to support his advocacies to make the country food-secure and to bring more development to the countryside by making smallholders farmers and fisherfolks more prosperous.

One of the DA projects supporting the President's efforts is the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program. The program aims to bring inclusive and productivity-led transformation to small farmers and fishers, who are from the poorest rural communities, following the philosophy of our New Thinking for Agriculture. In 2019, thirty of the country's poorest provinces were covered by the program.

I can recall my personal experience with the SAAD when I became the keynote speaker of its event, SAAD Saga in Eastern Visayas Region, held in Palo, Leyte on October 25, 2019. There, I met some of the beneficiaries and saw the fruits of their labor with their various products, such as salted eggs, fresh eggs, *balut*, vegetables, rice, and delicacies.

We, in DA, are committed to strengthen the SAAD Program for it to continue its mission of helping marginalized farmers and fisherfolks by providing them agricultural livelihood.

The way forward is to help our farmers and fisherfolks, particularly the small, to become prosperous, job-generating entrepreneurs.

Through this compendium, we will revisit the efforts of the program implementers (DA national, regional, and provincial staff), local government units, partner agencies and non-government organizations through compiled press releases and feature articles published by SAAD.



May this compendium also make us more aware of the dedication and hard work of the beneficiaries - the farmers, fishers, and their families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Cee G. Dar' with a checkmark at the end.

William D. Dar, Ph.D.
Secretary

MESSAGE



As of December 31, 2019, the SAAD Program has implemented a total of 369 livelihood projects which have benefitted 20,382 individual farmers and 855 farmers' associations in the agriculture sector and 10,711 fishers and 720 associations in the fishery sector.

SAAD also helped its beneficiaries in the establishment of agri-enterprises, such as selling fresh and processed crops of vegetables and fruits; and livestock (swine - live and processed), poultry (chicken - dressed, eggs; quail eggs; duck - fresh and salted eggs).

After three years of operation, I am very satisfied that SAAD has not failed to deliver the projects to its 30 priority provinces.

The design of the program, which is to assist the poorest of the poor farmers and fisherfolks in their production and enterprise development, aligns with the Agriculture Secretary's "Bagong Pananaw sa Agrikultura" which ensures that the Department's support will lead to growth in production and income to its beneficiaries.



*I hope The Adherence: 2019
Underlying Activities of SAAO:
A Compendium will serve as a view
of what is happening in the field
and convey the inspiration to every
reader.*

Engr. Ariel T. Cayan
Undersecretary for Operations

MESSAGE



I am pleased to present to you The Adherence: 2019 Underlying Activities of SAAD: A Compendium!

This year signifies some of the remarkable events of the SAAD Program. I am most proud of the launching of SAAD Saga in eight of our covered provinces.

Through this event, we were able to share the stories of the outstanding farmers and associations, who are beneficiaries of the program, and to showcase the fruits of their labor.

Ten (10) additional provinces were officially included in the target areas, completing the 30 recipients of SAAD's agricultural and fishery livelihood interventions.

We have also continued the conduct of training, workshops, program assessments, and delivery of interventions to our beneficiaries.

SAAD has become an effective instrument to reach farmers and fishers from the most poverty-stricken areas in our country. It is the SAAD implementers' duty, from the program management to the field coordinators, to not just simply deliver to them what was promised, but also to teach and support them in becoming self-sufficient in production for their families.

2019 marks the third year of SAAD implementation and my final year as the SAAD Director. To be part of the program has been an honor and I am grateful to have had contribution in its advocacy.



Thank you for being with us through the SAAD journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. F. San Juan'.

Bernadette F. San Juan, CESO II
Director, National Organic Agriculture Program
Former Director, SAAD Program

MESSAGE



Writing news articles of the SAAD is essential so as to preserve the history of the program. SAAD has been transparent with its activities since its inception of the program and through these reports, we could ultimately show the impact to the poorest of the poor farmers and fishers.

This third publication of SAAD news articles is composed of 70 press releases and six feature articles, written by the national Public Relations and Communications Officers and contributors from the regional offices.

The said year is filled with training, workshops, meetings, and intervention deliveries.

Furthermore, the implementers were preparing some of the promising individual and group beneficiaries to develop community enterprises in their respective areas.

These, including other events where SAAD was involved, were covered and posted on our website, and now can be read in print media.



*In this regard, we warmly welcome
and present to you The Adherence:
2019 Underlying Activities of
SAAD: A Compendium!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr.".

Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr.
Deputy Director, SAAD Program

MESSAGE

I am blissful to continue to be of service by leading the SAAD Program in 2019. I commend former Director Bernadette San Juan for her deep passion and commitment to serve the marginalized farmers and fisherfolks, which resulted to a momentous event called the SAAD Saga. It became an important venue for information exchange and exhibition of products from farmer-beneficiaries, who successfully implemented their livelihood projects.

Fortunately, I was able to attend the SAAD Saga event of Sarangani in General Santos City on November 12, 2019. Hundreds of delegates, such as farmers, local government units, and partner-organizations, were present to witness 12 farmers from seven municipalities of the province showcase their products and share their inspiring stories.

In that day, I emphasized that the program will be market-driven with community enterprises to be established as well as farmers and fisherfolks be transformed as entrepreneurs.

At the end of 2019, I had a chance to improve the Implementing Guidelines of the program with the support of the SAAD National Program Management Office team to complement Secretary William D. Dar's eight paradigms of the "New Thinking Strategy" in Agriculture with goals of achieving the Philippines' food security with prosperous farmers and fisherfolks.

Transparency and accountability are necessary in government service, that is why strengthening



Through this publication, The Adherence, may you be enlightened with our advocacies and commitments to the less privileged areas and sectors of the country.

Myer G. Mula, Ph. D.
Director, SAAD Program

the Public Relations and Communications Group was one of my goals when I started my work at SAAD. I have always emphasized the importance and power of written reports, that through these we may be able to closely monitor the progress of the program and above all be known to readers. Compiling and printing the news articles is essential not just to preserve the history of the program but

also ultimately know its impact on the poorest of the poor farmers and fishers.

As a promise, SAAD Program will continue to adhere with its strategy to increase food production and the establishment of community enterprises through appropriate technology so as recipients (farmers and fisherfolks) will experience joy, happiness, prosperity and success.



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Sarangani, Philippines

Rationale

The SAAD Program is a locally-funded program of the DA, undertaking intensified social venture initiatives to increase food production and alleviate identified farmers and fishers from poverty. It started its implementation in 2017 in adopting 10 priority provinces and increasingly adding 10 more provinces each year in 2018 and 2019.

From 2017 to 2019, 113,618 farmers and fishers as well as 2,674 groups were benefitted from 2,493 agricultural and fishery livelihood projects of the program with 44 agri-enterprise established.

Promises became realities as the SAAD Program progressed with impacts in 2019 like its contribution to the poverty alleviation of its 2017 priority provinces, such as Northern Samar, Samar, and Sarangani, as recognized by the Philippine Statistics Authority and the National Economic and Development Authority.

In 2019, new leadership on both DA and SAAD was imposed. Secretary William D. Dar assured to carry out the implementation of the program to reduce the number of poor Filipinos and lift them out of poverty.

"As SAAD means promise in Cebuano, I promise you that we will continue to strengthen SAAD as a major program of the Department," Dar said during the SAAD Saga of Eastern Visayas Region in Palo, Leyte on October 25, 2019.

Meanwhile, SAAD Director Myer G. Mula already initiated changes to improve SAAD's management and implementation process in just three months. With his management skills, policies, guidelines, and organizational structure were enhanced to complement Secretary Dar's Eight Paradigms of the "New Thinking Strategy" in Agriculture.

Both Secretary Dar and Director Mula's commitment to be of service to the poorest Filipino farmers and fisherfolks led them to continue and strengthen the SAAD Program.

"We want to reach more beneficiaries through SAAD, which is designed to cater to poor households and groups," Dar said.



Introduction

"The Adherence: 2019 Underlying Activities of SAAD: A Compendium" is the realization of activities conducted through press releases and feature articles of the SAAD Program; with emphasis on accounts of program management and field operations.

The program management activities involve preparations for the implementation of projects which were spearheaded by the National Program Management Office (NPMO). Such were the usual budget and planning preparation workshops and quarterly physical and financial assessments which were conducted for both the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - SAAD.

The NPMO staff and project coordinators (regional and provincial) from DA and BFAR counterparts, have undergone training of trainers for developing community enterprises. The Entrepreneurial Development Training Workshop involves the completion of four modules: (1) human resource management and entrepreneurship; (2) marketing; (3) operations; and (4) financial management. The information technologists were also able to receive training in advanced Quantum Geographic Information System. They also had their National IT Assessment & Action Planning workshop to enhance the National Farmers Database System. These training and workshop were essential for the profiling, which is a means to measure the impact of the program in poverty alleviation.

We also recorded the field operation activities such as the conduct of social preparation in the target communities, delivery of livelihood interventions, and assistance to the marketing and enterprise development of beneficiaries. Some regional Teamwork and Values Formation workshops were also done by the Regional and Provincial Management Support Offices to strengthen their working relationships and be equipped with new knowledge which they can use to properly execute the program in their respective areas.





Kabugao, Apayao, Philippines

SAAD Saga, an event conceptualized by the former SAAD Director Bernadette San Juan where exceptional beneficiaries and their “*kuwento ng pagpupunyagi*” (success stories) were recognized and celebrated. The first SAAD Saga was launched in Zamboanga del Norte. It was also conducted in North Cotabato, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Samar, Leyte, Southern Leyte, and Sarangani.

Another noteworthy activity was the enhancement of SAAD Implementation Guidelines which was initiated by the new SAAD Director, Dr. Myer G. Mula. This is to complement Secretary William Dar’s “New Thinking Strategy” which will result to “Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita” or food security with prosperous farmers and fisherfolks.

SAAD 2019 closed with the Year-End Assessment where the NPMO was restructured into four different clusters: (1) Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation; (2) Public Relations and Communications; (3) Information Technology and Database; and (4) Administrative.

All the other written stories, updates on partnerships, beneficiaries congress, and events where SAAD was involved in were posted in the website during this year are now printed in this publication.



70

In total,

PRESS RELEASES

and

6

FEATURE ARTICLES

were documented in 2019, which were published on both SAAD's website at www.saad.da.gov.ph and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/da.saadprogram.



Catanduanes, Philippines



Apayao, Philippines



Sarangani, Philippines

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF HOGSTEL FACILITIES HELD



January 14, 2019

LEYTE – It was an event marking a milestone in the history of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program implementation nationwide, for Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) 8 is the first region ever to establish a hog facility that would enable swine producers to breed and fatten their animals more systematically.

And, it wasn't a lone facility, but two big-ticket infrastructures, which were established to benefit identified farmers' associations in Libagon, Southern Leyte, and Tabango, Leyte.

Groundbreaking of the facilities was conducted in Brgys. Pangl, Libagon and Butason 1, Tabango on October 15 and 22, 2018, respectively.

Attended by Provincial and Municipal Agriculture Office (P/MAO), and Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) personnel, Local Government Unit (LGU) officials, SAAD Program staff, the contractor, and FA beneficiary

officers and members in the two sites, each project area held a brief ceremony to commemorate the event.

Stakeholders expressed their gratitude to SAAD Program for these grants, while implementors pledged to help the recipients sustain the facilities' functionality and usefulness. Immediately thereafter, construction work began on both facilities. As of the present, one of the hogstels has been fully completed, while finishing touches were being installed in the second.

Noteworthy was the contractor's endeavor to tap local labor, thereby generating employment for the association members.

The United Farmers Association of Brgy. Pangl in Libagon, Southern Leyte and the Butason Uno Farmers Association in Tabango, Leyte stand to benefit from these hogstel projects, each costing Php 1.2 million. ###
(Michael F. Dabuet and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD CAR CONDUCTS PROVINCIAL ORIENTATION IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

January 14, 2019

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held a Provincial Orientation at Archog Hotel, Samoki, Bontoc, Mountain Province on 27 November 2018.

They were joined by Gov. Bonifacio C. Lacwasan Jr.; Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Ms. Beverly T. Pekas; SAAD Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Engracia P. Chugsayan, SAAD Admin. Aide IV Mr. Noel A. Ananey; staff from the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO), Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (OPVET), SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO), Municipal Agriculturists, Barangay Captains, and some beneficiaries.

Prior to the implementation of any program/project, orientation is of paramount importance. Through this, stakeholders will be able to familiarize themselves on the whole gamut of the SAAD Program.

Also, implementers will identify issues and concerns that might affect the program in the long run. Therefore, strategies and approaches can also be identified in order to prevent any obstructions in the process. Most importantly, orientation/consultation will provide smooth communication among the implementers, staff in the province, region, as well as other offices/

agencies.

The activity is participated by a complete attendance of barangay captains from the areas covered by SAAD. Pekas and the group applauded the barangay captains for their active participation. She stated that their complete attendance means a lot to them and hopes that it will continue until the Program ends.

Pekas also identified some of the potentials of Mt. Province which can be sustained or improved, such as:

- Producer of the best coffee Arabica,
- Producer of heirloom rice,
- Producer of native pig, and
- Producer of highland vegetables (next to Benguet).

Assistant Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Mary-jane S. Tumapang explained the beneficiary selection process as well as the intervention to be given.

An open forum was also held to focus on different issues and concerns coming from the participants. The beneficiaries were heard as their comments were noted, to be presented to the concerned officials.

The following Barangay Consultation Schedules were also lined-up:

- a. January 9, 2019 in Barangay Bekigan, Sadanga
- b. January 10, 2019 in Barangay, Latang Barlig, and Barangay Napua,

- Sabangan
- c. January 11, 2019 in Barangay Leseb, Bauko
 - d. January 15, 2019 in Barangay Dalican, Bontoc, and Barangay Pudo, Natonin
 - e. January 16, 2019 in Barangay Katengan, Besao, and Barangay Bunot, Paracelis
 - f. January 17, 2019 in Barangay Ankileng, and Sagada
 - g. January 22, 2019 in Barangay Mabalite, and Tadian

Governor Bonifacio C. Lacwasan gave his warm welcome to the participants as he also expressed his gratitude to DA for the inclusion of Mt. Province in the SAAD Program. He thanked the Agriculture Department for bringing the Program in the province by saying "I wish that the implementation of SAAD will flow smoothly. Just follow simple instructions". ### (April Jean D. Pascua and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD CAR HOLDS FIRST EVER BENEFICIARIES CONGRESS IN FLORA, APAYAO

January 14, 2019

BAGUTONG, FLORA, APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its first-ever Beneficiaries Congress in the municipalities of Pudtol (27 November), Sta. Marcela (5 December), and Flora (6 December) in Apayao.

The activities were facilitated for the farmer-partners of Flora, Pudtol, and Sta. Marcela by SAAD Apayao Area Coordinators (ACs) Ms. Ruby Ann Vicerra, and Ms. Marjorie Tangliben; Information Technologist (IT) Ms. Le Ann Aguirre; Administration Assistant III (AA III) Ms. Meliza Feliciano, and AA VI Ms. Karen Drapiza; Agricultural

Technicians (ATs) Mr. Roldan Orteza, Mr. Roniel Dugay, and Mr. Jeffrey Calizo.

Association Presidents also gave testimonies, with the MESS Farmers Association of Sta. Marcela being highlighted with the highest income, and as the most well-known reaper in Sta. Marcela. They earned a gross income of Php 399,000 for the last cropping. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



ZANORTE WOMEN FARMERS MORE EMPOWERED BY SAAD DURING IWD

March 14, 2019

LA LIBERTAD, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – 140 farmers from the province, the majority of them are women, were more empowered with the provision of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program's agricultural livelihood assistance during the celebration of International Women's Day (IWD). The mass turnover activity was held at the Municipal Gymnasium on the 8th of March 2019.

SAAD Provincial Coordinator Ronilo Dusaban and SAAD Region IX Focal Person Reynaldo Campomanes led the event with the help of La Libertad Mayor Romeo Mejias.

The farmers' associations in Table 1 were given support on different livelihood projects implemented by SAAD Region IX for FY 2018.



Table 1. List of Farmers' Associations of SAAD Zamboanga del Norte

Association	No. of beneficiaries	Project	Barangay
1. La Libertad Agricultural Producers' Association	30	Sweet Corn and Goat Production	Sta. Catalina
2. Sitio Tuayon Farmers' Association	25	Organically Grown Vegetable Production	Mauswagon
3. Sta. Cruz Small Coconut Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative	35	Banana Production	Sta. Cruz
4. La Union Farmers' Association	25	Sustainable Upgraded Native Chicken Production	La Union
5. Mauswagon Farmers' Association	25	Sibuying Production and Processing	Mauswagon

One of the projects seen as the most progressive is Mauswagon's sibuying production as the farmers have developed a salad, an emerging delicacy in a jar, to be marketed soon. SAAD Region IX provided the materials to perfect the processing of the sibuying salad. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



LIVESTOCK AND SUPPLIES DELIVERED BY SAAD TO SAMAR ISLAND

March 14, 2019

SAMAR ISLAND – Selected farmer-partners from the island received poultry, feeds, drugs and biologics during the distribution of Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) interventions last February 12 – 15, 2019.

Distributed were 2,400 heads of chicken layer to Eastern Samar and 1,296 heads to Northern Samar. For the native chicken, 720 heads were given

to Northern Samar. The mallard ducks were distributed to the three provinces of Samar: 720 heads for Northern Samar, 480 heads for Eastern Samar and 1,200 heads to Samar.

Last January 31, 2019, the beneficiaries from Northern Samar received 360 bags of layer premium feeds equally distributed to the municipalities of Silvino Lobos and Lope de Vega, Northern Samar.

Also, on February 8, 2019, 21 bags of complete fertilizer (14-14-14) were delivered to the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Calbiga, Samar for the use of farmer-partners in the Ube Production Project.

The bottles/vials of drugs and biologics were delivered to Northern Samar and Leyte. These include multivitamins (10), wound spray (20), iron dextran (10), dewormers (100), oxytocine (4) and oxytetracycline (2).

The successive distribution was made possible with the presence of the LGUs from Samar Island, the staff of DA Region 8 and the veterinarians, as inspection committee of the said activity. ### (Michael F. Dabuet and Jennifer A. Valcobero)



FARM EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERIES DISTRIBUTED BY SAAD TO THE FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS OF SAMAR PROVINCE

March 15, 2019

SAMAR PROVINCE – A total number of eighty-five (85) farmers' associations from the Province of Samar received farm equipment and machineries. These were turned over to them by the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) – Samar through the Municipal Local Government Units (MLGUs) last February 6-8, 2019.

The inputs given were the 76 hand tractors and 50 irrigation pumps as a component of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program on Rice Production

Enhancement Project donated to the Provincial Local Government Unit (PLGU) of Samar, last 2016. The said interventions are intended to help the farmer-partners in their rice farming activity. It is also a way of introducing farm mechanization to the area, to help boost the productivity and increase the income of the farmers.

Upon distribution, the farmers were first oriented about the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) wherein it was emphasized in there that the association/s shall formulate a policy



on the proper utilization of the equipment and machineries.

The recipients also vowed to share the use of the Common Service Facilities (CSFs) to other farmers in their neighboring areas and maintain their good condition. ###
(Michael F. Dabuet and Jennifer A. Valcobero)

SMOOTH HANDS AND FARMHANDS HELPED BY SAAD

March 15, 2019

Her eyes seem tired but they are gleaming with energy. Her face appears world weary, but she's active and hardworking. Her lined and calloused hands speak volumes about life in the countryside.

Carolina Grande or "Lola Carolina", 76 years old, is a massage therapist and also a farmer. She lives at Barangay Lipata, Allen, Northern Samar. Her hands are good at applying gentle pressure, subtle rub, pounding and squeezing on aging limbs of sick and rehabilitating patients. She earns an amount of Php 350 – 500 every session done. It made her obtain an estimated monthly income of Php 4,000. Her prowess reaches as far as Catarman by mere word of mouth.

Grande talked about his late husband when they were still cultivating a four-hectare rice plantation. Their production always remained at 20 cavans because they don't have money to buy fertilizers. If lucky enough and they have extra money, they could apply 1 – 2 bags only for the entire field.

When her husband died, she became a tenant of a one-hectare rice field. It was then that time when she was chosen as a beneficiary of the Rice Production Enhancement Project by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in her area. She received 1 sack rice seeds, 6 bags organic fertilizer, 3 bags complete fertilizer, 2 bags urea and 1 bag muriate of potash.

From these inputs, she was able to harvest 78 sacks of "palay" during regular cropping. In June 2018, she was also the recipient of the same interventions. She then reaped a total of 86 sacks of palay.

As an occupant of the land, she has an obligation to give the owner atleast one-fourth of her total harvest. She gave the landlord 24 sacks of palay per cropping and sold the remaining to the local wholesalers in Allen for Php 600 each.

With SAAD, she was profusely grateful as one of the beneficiaries because aside from the increase volume of rice production, she was also trained on the value of full fertilization and its effect on rice productivity conducted by the farmers' field school of the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP). ###
(Michael F. Dabuet and Jennifer A. Valcobero)



SAAD HELD 3 TRAINING ACTIVITIES FOR ZANORTE WOMEN FARMERS

March 20, 2019

MUTIA, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program conducted a two-day technical training on Indigenous Micro-Organism, Lactic Acid Bacteria Serum, and Carbonized Rice Hull from 20-26 of February 2019 at the Municipal Gymnasium.

The activity was conducted in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Mutia through its Municipal Agriculturist Office. It aims to enhance the skills and technical know-how of the SAAD farmer-partners in the locality.

The participants are six (6) women associations from the municipalities of Newland, Diland, Buenasuerte, New Siquijor, Poblacion, and Sto. Tomas. Each association had 10 participants for the activity.



The resource speaker of the training was Dante Adrias, a former Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) scholar who also serves as an instructor in Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Dipolog and a humble farmer.

Aside from the participants, the training was also attended by the Mayor Arthur Tenorio and the Municipal Agricultural Officer Crisologo Abello. ### (Roger Dave F. Gramatica)

SAAD GIVES AGRI SUPPORT FOR ZANORTE'S 80-HECTARE CORN PRODUCTION

March 20, 2019

LABASON, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) gave farm inputs for an 80-hectare corn production area in the municipality. The agricultural support was turned over on 14-16 of March 2019 at the Municipal Gymnasium.

104 farmers of Gabu and Lawigan Farmers' Associations received 80 bags of OPV corn seeds, 80 bags of urea, and 320 bags of complete fertilizers.

SAAD Region IX conducted a short program with the help of Municipal Mayor Eddie Quimbo, Municipal Agriculturist Nena Fortich, and Corn Technician Junelyn Bandico.

The associations' presidents also took the opportunity to thank DA for giving them the opportunity to go back to farming.

The province is one of the 30 covered provinces of the SAAD Program. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD DELIVERS NATIVE CHICKENS AND CARABAOS TO NORTH COTABATO FARMERS



March 21, 2019

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Office XII distributed 300 native chickens and 7 carabaos to farmers of Mlang and Tulunan on 19-20 of March 2019.

Luz Village Farmers Association from Barangay Luz Village, Mlang received the chickens as well as 50 sacks of feeds, an incubator, 47 pieces of waterer, veterinary drugs and biologics.

Meanwhile, the Tanging Ina na Magbabaka ng Nabundasan (TIMANA) from Barangay Nabundasan, Tulunan received the carabaos.

The interventions given were under SAAD Program's 2017 downloaded funds to both municipal local government units.

SAAD North Cotabato team shares that the projects aim at increasing the farming activities and economic status of the recipients. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD PROVIDES INCOME TO FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS OF NEGROS ORIENTAL THROUGH VARIOUS PROJECTS

March 26, 2019

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Beverly Gallentes, the Vice President of Cot-cot Trollers and Fisherfolk Association (CTFA) in Cotcot, Bangolonan, Basay, Negros Oriental, boasted their Chicken Egg Production which they have benefited from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture Central Visayas (DA-CV).

"Makita gyud namo nga may income mi kada adlaw tungod sa among project," said Gallentes. (We have seen that we have income every day because of our project.)

The said beneficiary is just one of the many recipients of SAAD in the province of Negros Oriental. "Dako kaayo siya nga tabang ang maong proyekto sa among asosasyon ug sa among inadlaw-adlaw nga panginabuhian tungod kay mohatag man kini ug kita matag adlaw," she added. (This project is really a big help to our association and to our everyday living because it gave us income daily.)

The association was one of the pioneering beneficiaries of SAAD. Last 2017, they received 5 packets of chicken layers or a total of 240 heads and some layer mash. In a day, the layers produced at least 7 trays of eggs.

The ready buyers were the sari-sari store and small grocery outlets and

bakeries. Mostly, they are within the community. Even those broken eggs, they can still earn from it because some individuals bought it for the cate of their children at school.

The outright payment of their buyers will then be deposited to their bank account every month.

By December 2017, the association earned a total amount of Php 77,000, wherein 70% of it was deposited to be used for the sustainability of the project. The remaining 30% was shared equally among members.

Luz Bador, the President of the CTFA also added that the project gave them better income compared to their fishing activities.

She was also the President of the Barangay Obat Health Workers Association (BOHEWAS) in Barangay Obat, Sta. Catalina. Negros Oriental, which happened to be another beneficiary of SAAD. They received 3 packets of chicken layer egg project. With the implementation of the project to two associations, Bador led the conduct of consultations with the potential beneficiaries.

Aside from the chicken egg project, the CFTA also received floating tiller, hand tractor, mechanical rice thresher, rice mill, knapsack sprayer, certified rice seeds and fertilizers (urea and

complete) in support to rice production in their rain fed agriculture areas. On the other hand, BOHEWAS also received knapsack sprayer (plastic), water pump with complete accessories, garden hose, feeders, waterers, wheel barrow, rake, plastic drum, spade, bolo, shovel and pail.

In 2018, the municipality of Basay and Sta. Catalina both received Goat Production and Upland Rice Production Project from SAAD. For the goat production, they were given 15 bucks, 60 does, 46 bags of feeds, and construction materials worth Php 300,000 intended for the 15 goat sheds.

For the Upland Rice Production, they were also given 20 bags of dinorado seeds 40 kilos per bag, 240 bags of vermicast, 20 bags of urea, 20 bags of complete, 1 unit of rice cutter, 20 pieces of laminated sack, 1 unit of rice thresher and 6 pieces of knapsack sprayer.

The two municipalities were among the poorest of the poor based on the poverty incidence data submitted by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) last 2015.
(Jennifer A. Valcobo)



MAGPET FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS RECEIVE 80 NATIVE PIGS

April 1, 2019

MAGPET, NORTH COTABATO – Six farmers' associations and 10 individuals from the municipality received 80 native pigs from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program on February 11, 2019 at the Balindog Research Experiment Station in Kidapawan City.

The farmer-partners are from barangays Sallab, Ilian, Poblacion, Bongolanon, Tempuran, Imamaling, and Owas.

The animals given are under the Native Pig Production Project of the SAAD Program in the province.

SAAD Provincial Coordinator Jerry Tingson and Area Coordinator Anisa Allyn Saaduddin led the livestock distribution.

Office of the Municipal Agriculturist Office of Magpet, represented by the High Value Crops Coordinator (HVCDP) Jasper Lallen, and Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) representative Leslie Diazon were also present at the event.

Diazon discussed the requirements for the insurance of the farmers' livestock. The beneficiaries expressed their gratitude and acknowledged the efforts

and support of DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol and Regional Executive Director Engr. Milagros C. Casis. In return, they promised to take care of the project they received. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



HE WHO PLANTS, PLANTS A HOPE

April 2, 2019

The municipality of Siayan in Zamboanga del Norte was chosen as one of the targeted municipalities in 2017 for the implementation of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program because of its staggering poverty rate of 70.5% based from the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in 2012. Three (3) barangays – Litokey, Macasing, and Seriac – were chosen to be the farmer-partners of the program.

One of the farmer-partners in Siayan is Eden P. Mandate or "Manang Eden", a 55-year-old housewife, a dedicated farmer, and a member of the Macasing Consumers Cooperative (MACONCO). Manang Eden, a farmer for 37 years, lives at Barangay Macasing, Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte. She earns roughly Php 4,500 a month from her humble profession.

Together with her husband, they work hand in hand in their one and a half-hectare agricultural land mostly concentrated in open pollinated variety

(OPV) corn production, dependent on the subsidy being given by the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of Siayan.

Manang Eden is one of the farmer-partners selected to avail of the project entitled Upland Production and Harnessing Enterprise Development (UP-AHED) from the DA-SAAD in 2017, the pilot year implementation of the program. She received 500 plantlets of banana (lakatan variety), fertilizers such as complete, urea, ammonium sulfate, muriate of potash, and lime.

From these inputs, she started planting in February 2018. Despite knowing that there would be a little chance of survival for the plantlets to flourish given the fast approaching dry season, she took the courage to gamble.

On her first harvest on February 12, 2019, she was able to sell 25 kilograms of banana in a nearby municipality for Php 400.

Next month's harvest (March 8, 2019)

produced her 9 bunches of appetizing bananas with a total of 117 kilos sold at Php 21 per kilo in Sindangan. She earned a total of Php 2,457.

Manang Eden is still expecting to harvest an estimate of 82 bunches of bananas this April to June 2019.

As a member of their cooperative, she is obligated to give back three plantlets per banana tree so that other members of the group can also plant as well as ensure the expansion and sustainability of the project.

She expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the DA-SAAD program for choosing her as one of the farmer-partners in their locality as this project contributed an increase in her income as well as in her technical know-how.

She was equipped with the new technologies and best practices in fertilizer application. Her entrepreneurial skills were shaped through SAAD's organizational development, policy formulation, financial management, and project management training activities. Indeed, the seeds you plant today determine the harvest you reap tomorrow. ### (Roger Dave F. Gramatica and Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD DISTRIBUTES 98 GOATS TO BANISILAN, NORTH COTABATO FARMERS

April 2, 2019

BANISILAN, NORTH COTABATO – The Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program distributed 98 goats to Malagap Farmers Association on March 27, 2019 in the municipality.

The association is a beneficiary of SAAD North Cotabato's Goat Multiplier Project for FY 2018.

Present in the distribution are the association president, Carlos T. Mantac, and some of the members. The group has 436 registered members.

The event was facilitated by SAAD Area Coordinator Wenie Gonzales and other SAAD staff. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD DISTRIBUTES HOG WIRES AND FARM TOOLS TO SULU FARMERS FOR CASSAVA-CORN-PEANUT PRODUCTION

April 11, 2019

SULU – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) distributed 960 rolls of hog wires and farm tools as part of cassava-corn-peanut production project in Maimbung, Parang, Talipao, and Panamao from February 19-28, 2019.

The SAAD livelihood project aims to increase the cassava, corn, and peanut production in Sulu through the provision of hog wires which shall protect 80 hectares of farm from wild animals that are known to inflict damages to local farmers. Also to be given are farm tools to assist the beneficiaries in their farming.

The hog wires benefited 105 cassava-corn-peanut farmers from nine barangays in the four municipalities. SAAD Sulu staff, led by Provincial Coordinator (PC) Jeffrey Salih and Action Officer Alrashid Salim, and DA-Sulu staff Mercyan Aspi, supervised the turnover of hog wires and farm tools to program beneficiaries held at the DA Sulu office, Capitol Site, Patikul, Sulu.

Abdullah K. Uyong of Masambu Maadil Farmers Association, Sariul Awwalon of Anak Miskin Farmers Association, and Julkim Ajabi of Bangsa Sug Farmers Association are three of many beneficiaries from Sulu who benefited from the SAAD Program. Each beneficiary received 2,000 pieces of



cassava stalks, 12 or 6 rolls of hog wires, 10 bags of organic fertilizers, a shovel, a hand trowel, a pick mattock, a bolo, a scythe, a plastic drum, and a plastic crates.

According to SAAD Sulu PC Salih, the province is not affected by El Niño that is why the majority of farmers from the municipalities of Panamao and Talipao already completed installing the hog wires using raw materials, such as madre cacao, as the post.

Other farmers already commenced their land preparation and started planting the cassava stalks while still waiting for the delivery of corn and peanut seeds.

Meanwhile, farmers from the municipalities of Maimbung and Parang are still installing the hog wires since the area did not yet have enough rain.

To effectively monitor the project implementation, the PC instructed the Area Coordinators (ACs) to conduct geotagging photo twice a month. The ACs are required to submit a progress report from the first day of planting up to the harvest period. ### (Jeffrey Salih and Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD DELIVERS UPLAND RICE SEEDS AND KNAPSACK SPRAYERS TO SULTAN KUDARAT FARMERS



April 16, 2019

SENATOR NINOY AQUINO, SULTAN KUDARAT – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture delivered upland rice seeds and knapsack sprayers to farmers from the municipality of Senator Ninoy Aquino, Sultan Kudarat on April 10 and 12, 2019.

The 170 farmers are from barangays Banali and Lagubang, who were selected to be part of SAAD Sultan Kudarat's Upland Rice Production this 2019.

In total, 340 bags of upland rice seeds and 170 units of knapsack sprayers were distributed by the SAAD Area Coordinators with the help of the concerned local government unit offices.

Sultan Kudarat is one of SAAD's 30 covered provinces which started implementing in 2018. All of the province's 11 municipalities and one city were part of the program. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

FIRST QUARTER REGIONAL ASSESSMENT OF NEGROS ORIENTAL, SIQUIJOR AND BOHOL BY SAAD PROGRAM

April 16, 2019

CEBU CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture Region-VII conducted its First Quarter Regional Assessment at Bayfront Hotel on April 10 – 12, 2019.

It was facilitated by Dr. Maria Wencisa B. Egama, the Regional SAAD Focal Person. Also present were SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) staff: Mr. Darwin Pamatmat, Planning and Budget Team Head; and Visayas Team – Ms. Ashley Mae Apigo, Monitoring Officer, Katherine Angeles, Planning Officer, and Jennifer Valcobero, Communications Officer.

The activity was participated by the Provincial Coordinators (PC's) and Area Coordinators (AC's) of the Province of Negros Oriental, Siquijor and Bohol. Each province presented its

Physical and Financial Accomplishments and Status of Implementation for FY 2017 – 2019. For Bohol, they showed the status of the geotagging of their farmer-partners since they are the new province covered by SAAD for 2019.

At the end of each presentation, the participants raised their issues and concerns on the implementation of the program. Catch-up plans to address problems were also discussed.

With the assistance of the people from the Budget, Procurement, and Accounting units, each province had set up the agreements and the next steps to be done in order to continue helping the SAAD farmer-partners of the region. ### (Jennifer A. Valcobero)



SAAD APAYAO CONDUCTS MASS DISTRIBUTION OF 33 COMPACT TILLERS

April 16, 2019

APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) – Apayao conducted a mass distribution of 33 Compact Tillers with a total worth of Php 1.65 million for the 7 municipalities of Apayao on April 3, 2019.

The tillers were distributed to the municipalities of Flora, Sta. Marcela, Luna, Pudtol, Conner, Calanasan, and Kabugao. The selection of beneficiaries considered who are vegetable growers, the feasibility of the areas for vegetable production, and the poverty incidence of each municipality.

Meanwhile, the Municipalities of Flora; Sta. Marcela; Luna; Pudtol; Conner; and Kabugao, distributed the compact tillers to 14 farmer associations. These are MAST farmers Association with 4 units; BISS with 2 units;

PACOMARNUSAN with 2 units; MARAG VALLEY with 2 units; MIDSTREAM LIVELIHOOD with 2 units; ECASAN with 1 unit; LT. MACAU with 1 unit; MULA DUR-AS with 1 unit; PIAS with 1 unit; CALAOAN with 3 units; NABUANGAN with 1 unit; BAREN with 1 unit; Blessed SAAD Farmers Association with 2 units; and Productive SAAD Farmers Association with 3 units.

Lastly, the 6 units of compact tillers that the Municipality of Calanasan received were distributed to barangays Butao, Tubungan, Namaltugan, Kabugawan, and Ninoy Aquino.

These tillers were distributed to help reduce production cost and increase the income of the farmers. ###
(Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD ORIENTS 167 FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN 2 BARANGAYS IN KALINGA

April 17, 2019

KALINGA – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Kalinga team oriented 167 SAAD farmer-partners in barangays Dao-angan and Balbalan on the project last January 30 and 31, 2019.

The orientation was facilitated by representatives of the SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) and SAAD PPMSO and was attended by Municipal Agriculturists Ms. Anita L. Caldington from Kalinga.

Kalinga is one of the covered provinces of SAAD for 2019 together with Mountain province.

The said event not only briefed the participants on the SAAD Program but also discussed the issues and concerns of the farmer-partners. ###
(Jemiema D.R. Arro)



6 TO 158 AND COUNTING...

May 28, 2019

The word “exponential” may well describe the remarkable growth of a farmer’s poultry production project in sleepy Sitio Cawilan, Brgy. Garden, Arteche, Eastern Samar, which has caused program implementers, technologists, and other stakeholders to be awed by noticing its unusual progress.

Neil M. Ladera, 49 years old, is a humble person who was into rice farming as a tenant. The half of the harvest for every planting season was divided between him and his brother-in-law who helped him, while the other half went to the landowner as his share. Most often, the income he earned is not enough to support his family’s finances until the next harvest, even if his wife pitches in by engaging into a sari-sari store business.

When he had the first chance to diversify his farming pursuits, he immediately grabbed it. For him, being an elementary graduate is not a hindrance; rather, he saw this as a challenge to improve his living.

He was chosen as a beneficiary of the 2018 SAAD Program Poultry Production Project. He received 6 heads pullets and 1.2 bags of feeds. These pullets then were multiplied because he also owned a rooster. The eggs were then incubated with the layer chickens, and the chicks have multiplied exponentially. It reaches to



158 heads.

During the monitoring made by the group of SAAD, 72 eggs were being incubated by 6 hens at the chicken coop.

Neil has not attended any formal training on poultry production, he relied much on what he had known when raising roosters, native chickens, and ducks. He wishes to have his poultry to be inspected for infections that might occur, but he was already assured by the veterinarians of the DA-RFO 8 that they will conduct vaccinations to protect the birds from migratory diseases. He was grateful that there had been no mortality cases in his poultry farm since distribution.

Neil loaned an amount of Php 10,000

from his brother-in-law abroad to use it for the construction of his elevated poultry house and the remaining pesos for the feeds of his chickens (mix of crumble and layer mash).

He planned to further expand his poultry house to accommodate the growing population of his chickens. SAAD Program did pursue its objectives by putting a stop to the culture of living just below the poverty line.

Neil is a chicken farmer who uses whatever resources he has to feed his family. The government provided him assistance through the program and he made himself one story of success. ###
(Michael F. Dabuet and Jennifer A. Valcobre)

SAAD GIVES 3,600 FREE-RANGE CHICKENS TO 180 SARANGANI FARMERS



June 10, 2019

SARANGANI – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture in the province of Sarangani in Region 12 gave 3,600 free-range chickens as livelihood projects of 180 farmers from all of its municipalities this FY 2019.

Thirty (30) farmers each from six barangays and/or associations received the 20 chickens per beneficiary in May 2019 (Table 1).

easy and inexpensive to take care of as they just roam freely in their backyards.

The livelihood project will help the local

Table 1. List of free-range chicken SAAD beneficiaries in Sarangani

Municipality	Barangay	Association	Date of Distribution
Maasim	Amsipit A	Datal Bual Farmers Association	May 21
Glan	New Aklan	n/a	May 22
Kiamba	Gasi	Gasi Corn Upland Farmers Association GACUFA	May 23
Maitum	New La Union	New La Union Farmers Association (NLU FA)	May 24
Malapatan	Tuyan	n/a	May 27
Alabel	Bagacay	n/a	

According to SAAD Sarangani implementers, the project was chosen based on the farmers' preference. They said that the free-range chickens are

farmers of Sarangani increase their income and grow the market for chicken meat and eggs. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



LOOKING GOOD: UPGRADED NATIVE SWINE PRODUCTION IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE



June 11, 2019

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE –The Upgraded Native Swine Production Project in Polanco is looking good as the 12 native black pigs provided to De Venta Perla Farmers' Association are steadily reproducing.

According to the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the province, there are already 11 piglets and six gestating sows as of 16th of May 2019.

Perfect for animal raising, 10 ready-to-breed upgraded sows and two boars were given to the 35 members of the association on December 6, 2018. The pigs are sturdy, disease-resistant, and perfect for free range.

The pigs were kept temporarily in a

simple pig pen under the tree shades while the installation of the free-range fence with post and shed is ongoing. Feeding was mixed with a half portion of commercial feeds and mainly with boiled tubers & leaves, rice & corn bran, cassava, madre de agua leaves, and mature coconut meat.

The association now focuses on expanding the number of their pigs for the growing market of native swine as lechon.

Similar project was also implemented in Barangay Sas, Gutalac; Barangay Tugop, Kalawit; and Barangays Desin & Uba, Piñan. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD'S CLAW HAD GROWN FAST

June 14, 2019

There is a group of happy women who bonded together to form an association that goes by the name, CLAW, which stands for Cansoso Livelihood Association of Workers. Based from the data of Barangay Cansoso, Matag-ob, Leyte, the group (consisting mostly of housewives who are also DSWD 4Ps members) grows assorted high-value crops which are ampalaya, pipino, string beans, onions, and others – in a 2,000 square meter lot.

The idea of organizing women came from the Municipal Agriculturist of the locality who saw an opportunity to allow willing women to engage in a livelihood project. The concept was supported by the lot owner and concurrent President of CLAW, Ms. Loretta S. Avorque. The group has 20 members and they have submitted the requirements for the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) registration. On April 23, 2018, the group was accredited.

This is how it happens. Each member of the group paid a registration fee of Php 500 and a monthly due of Php 10. It started as a lending venture and subsequently evolved into a thriving farming enterprise that brought joy to the members, especially after harvesting and selling their produce from the first production cycle and earning substantial income from it. The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program provided four units each of



wheelbarrow, bolo, garden tools (set), plastic mulch (roll), and 10 sacks organic fertilizer, while the assorted seeds came from the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist (OMA) Matag-ob.

Each member attended a three-day Vegetable Production Training facilitated by the program and the OMA. Their learnings from that capacity enhancement activity was applied in their actual gardening practice. The members manufacture their own carbonized rice hull to fertilize the garden plots.

They rented a multi-cultivator at Php 1,500 per day using the association's fund.

The production data submitted by the association to the PPMSO-Leyte on March 22, 2019, showed the group's aggregate income of Php 70,239.

The vegetables were sown on

November 26, 2018, to an average area of about 200 square meters. Each member tilled their own garden plot and was responsible for its cultivation and maintenance.

Ms. Frumencia A. Aras, became the highest earner, with a gross income of Php 9,300 for having sold 155 kilograms of ampalaya at a farm-gate price of Php 60 per kilo.

There are 15 members of the group who continuously work fulltime at the communal farm, while some opted to grow their vegetable crops at their own backyard. As agreed by the members themselves, the quarter gross income is allocated for lot rental and another quarter goes to the association funds.

The tangible returns of the project include financial independence for individual members, (which means no

longer depending on kin for maintenance medicines), nutritional and educational support for their children, and sustainability of livestock and farm animal production. The intangibles came in the form of camaraderie, goodwill, and harmonious relationships with fellow members, as well as the staff of OMA who continuously support CLAW through regular monitoring, mentoring, and handholding.

The association plans to engage in a viable hog raising project in the future, acquire a vehicle to transport their products to the Poblacion, neighboring markets and as far as Ormoc City where the vegetables sold at better prices. They are also soliciting funds from the program and the Local Government Unit (LGU) for the construction of a water system from a distant source to the farm site. ###
(Michael F. Dabuet and Jennifer A. Valcobero)

SAAD IMPLEMENTERS' SKILLS HONED TO HELP POOR FARMERS DEVELOP COMMUNITY ENTERPRISES



June 24, 2019

LUMBAN, LAGUNA – The Department of Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship (DAME) of the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) honed the technical skills of the implementers of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program at a four-day training to help poor farmers develop community enterprises.

The SAAD Entrepreneurial Development Training, conducted by the National Program Management Office, was held from 17-21 of June 2019 in Lumban, Laguna.

The course has four modules that aim to capacitate SAAD implementers so they could assist the beneficiaries in managing and sustaining the livelihood projects given to them.

Professors Glenn Baticados, Rodel Anunciado, and Nohreen Ethel Manipol of DAME UPLB are the lecturers of the training's first module – Human Resource Management and Entrepreneurship.

The training was attended by SAAD National Program Management Officers, Regional Program Management Officers, as well as national and regional representatives from the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service and Divisions (AMAS and AMAD).

In the first module, participants were grouped to practice the making of Value Proposition Canvas and Business Model Canvas – important tools in ensuring a successful start-up business or enterprise.

Aside from the two, other topics discussed include entrepreneurial mind setting, design thinking, customer empathy, branding, leadership, and conflict & change management.

Ferlynn Villarin-Basañez of DA-SAAD Region 8 shared that it is her first time to attend such kind of training and that she is glad for the interactive discussions. Randy Tubog of DA-AMAS Region 9 thanked SAAD for involving their office in the training. He said that retention of learning is effective since activities were done hands-on.

For the other three modules, the schedules are

- July 8-12 for Marketing;
- September 9-13 for Operations; and
- October 21-25 for Finance. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

POPCOM AND DA IN REGION 9 HARMONIZE INTERVENTIONS FOR SAAD FARMERS

June 28, 2019

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – In a meeting at Top Plaza Hotel in Dipolog City from 26-28 of June 2019, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Commission on Population (PopCom) harmonized their interventions to provide Responsible Parenthood and Family Planning (RPFP) information and services to the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) farmer-partners in Zamboanga del Norte.

According to the Department of Health's PopCom, the RPFP will serve as a venue for family planning demand generation.

In 2015, the majority of the RPFP classes were conducted in support of the Department of Social Welfare and Development's (DSWD) Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

PopCom and SAAD have the mutual desire to alleviate the poverty of the farmers and fishermen that is why the former is now opening its services to the poorest sectors of the country.

With this common goal, DA Region IX OIC-Regional Executive Director Dennis H. Palabrica and PopCom Region IX Regional Director Reynaldo O. Wong signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on June 26, 2019 to make the collaboration of the two government agencies official.

One of the agreements in the MOU is to strengthen the engagement of farming and fishery sector in the provision of Responsible Parenthood, Family Planning, and Reproductive Health training, seminars, workshops and services to the farmer-partners of DA-SAAD in Zamboanga del Norte.

DA Assistant Secretary for Special Projects Leroy A. Panes witnessed the ratification of the MOU. ### (Roger Dave Gramatica and Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD'S ASFA SHOWCASES THEIR LECHON BABOY



June 28, 2019

SOUTHERN LEYTE – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Southern Leyte participates in the Agri-Fair and Garden Show 2019 held at Maasin City, Southern Leyte. This is in celebration of the 59th Founding Anniversary of the province from June 27 – July 1, 2019.

The Asuncion Farmers Association (ASFA) farmer-partners of the SAAD Southern Leyte's Swine Fattening Project showcased their "lechon baboy" sold at Php 440 per kilo. Each lechon is estimated to weigh at least 45 kilos.

According to SAAD Southern Leyte Provincial Coordinator Jocelyn Cabanas, the association's income will be used for the association's funding and for venturing into another business.

The staff of DA-SAAD Region 8 also displayed salted eggs of individual farmer-partners of the Duck Production Project from the province.

On the first day of the activity, they sold out 10 trays. Each salted egg is priced at Php 10 each. ### (Jennifer A. Valcobero)



DA REGION 9 TO HOST THE FIRST SAAD PARTNERS' FORUM IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE



June 28, 2019

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Office IX finalizes its preparation for the conduct of the first ever Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Saga 2019 in a meeting at Top Plaza Hotel, Dipolog City from 26-28 of June 2019.

The SAAD Saga 2019 is a forum for the exceptional farmer-partners of the program by featuring their success stories and project management. The event will also showcase the products of the participating farmers.

However, the SAAD Saga will only feature the program's farmer-partners from the initial 10 provinces who were provided production and livelihood

interventions since 2017.

Included in the 10 provinces are Zamboanga del Norte; Apayao, Northern, Eastern & Western Samar; Negros Oriental; Lanao del Sur; Maguindanao; North Cotabato; and Sarangani.

DA-RFO IX is the first SAAD implementing unit to launch the event on July 19, 2019 at the Convention Center, Estaka, Dipolog City. Eleven (11) farmers' organizations from the province will participate in the forum and trade exhibit.

Meanwhile, the schedule of SAAD Saga event for the other nine provinces will be announced soon. ### (Jhoma S. Canlas)

A TOTAL OF 62 SAAD FARMER-BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE 124 GOATS FROM SAAD DAVAO



July 1, 2019

COMPOSTELA VALLEY – The Department of Agriculture (DA) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program – Compostela Valley Team distributed 124 goats to 62 farmer-partners at barangay Awao of Monkayo and Barangay Camansi of Montevista on May 24, 2019.

Brgy. Awao has been a SAAD beneficiary of native chicken and crop production project which includes OPV white corn seeds packaged with fertilizers, upland rice seeds packaged with fertilizers, and 8-in-1 vegetable seeds with about 380 recipients. Also was Brgy. Camansi with 100 recipients of the crops production project.

SAAD Regional Focal Person for DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) XI, Mr. Jovelle Fuertes, and SAAD Provincial Coordinator, Mr. Jose Andamon, facilitated the distribution. Other staff from SAAD and Local Government Units of the mentioned barangays were also there to assist and provide valuable inputs.

At the end of the distribution, the recipients of the project went home with smiles on their faces and have committed to produce more of what has entrusted and given to them – all for livelihood to address the poverty situation in the area. ### (Bernalyn Briones, Jake Darren Colina, and Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SAAD GIVES 300 NATIVE CHICKENS TO FIVE FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

July 3, 2019

GODOD, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture gave 300 native chickens to five farmers' associations in Godod, Zamboanga del Norte on 29 June 2019.

The chickens provided are part of SAAD Zamboanga del Norte's interventions for its FY 2019 Native Chicken Production in the municipality. The Raba Farmers' Association, Dipopor Farmers' Association, Limbonga Farmers' Association, Sarwagan Farmers' Association, and Poblacion Farmers' Association each received 60 native chickens as well as bolo knives and trowels.

According to the SAAD Area Coordinator in Godod, the project was chosen based on the preference of the farmers. The farmers said that the native chickens are not prone to diseases and able to reproduce quickly.

Meanwhile, the chickens delivered are from DA Region 9's Mahayag Livestock Breeders Center.

Limbonga Farmers' Association president Joel Porferio thanked DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol for the SAAD Program's assistance because it will be a big help to their livelihood.

The five associations also received

assistance for peanut and corn production from the SAAD Program in 2017 and 2018. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD LDS FINALLY DISTRIBUTES 2017 INTERVENTIONS FOR NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION



July 4, 2019

LANAO DEL SUR – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Lanao del Sur finally distributed the 1,420 heads of native chicken for the Livelihood Enhancement Through Improved Livestock and Poultry Production Project of the program in 2017 on 29 March 2019.

The intervention was supposed to be delivered earlier of 2018 but the DA Regional Field Office (RFO) 10 was hindered by the peace and order issue in the province.

In 2017, Lanao del Sur underwent a five-month-long armed conflict between the government and the militants known as the Marawi siege.

That is why the DA RFO 10 had a difficult time implementing the SAAD project in the province.

With the persistence of DA RFO 10, it finally delivered the chickens to 150 farmer-partners in Bacolod Kalawi in the first quarter of 2019. Each farmer received eight native chickens.

For the municipality of Marogong, 220 native chickens were distributed to the beneficiaries. Each recipient received 10 chickens.

The distribution of the intervention made the Lanao del Sur farmer-partners glad because a promise has been fulfilled. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas and Jennifer A. Valcobero)

SAAD BUKIDNON PROVIDES 300 UPGRADED GOATS TO FARMERS IN DAMULOG

July 4, 2019

BUKIDNON – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Bukidnon delivered 300 upgraded goats (250 females and 50 males) to 50 farmer-partners from the municipality of Damulog on 26 June 2019.

The distribution was assisted by the inspection team of DA Region 10 to help ensure the health of goats. SAAD Bukidnon team also made sure that goats given are the ones that are ear-tagged and placed in the

consolidation area for the Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) test.

Each farmer received one (1) packet of the upgraded goats. One packet is equivalent to 5 females and 1 male of goats.

A week later after the delivery, there was no mortality found.

The intervention given is under the Goat Production Project of SAAD for FY 2018. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas and Jennifer A. Valcobero)



3,840 LAYER CHICKENS PROVIDED TO 120 SULU FARMERS FOR EGG PRODUCTION

July 8, 2019

SULU – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Region IX, in partnership with the DA Sulu and the local government units in the province, successfully distributed 3,480 layer chickens to 120 farmers for the FY 2018 Egg Production Project on June 15 and 28, 2019.

The 120 farmers are members of eight associations, which are Bangsa Sug Farm Family Association and Matagal Egg Machine Association from Talipao; Masambu Maadil People's Association and Tiis Kasanyangan Association from Panamao; Anak Miskin Farmers' Association and Upper Patibulan Farmers' Association from Parang; and Kaha Farmers' Association and Laum Suah Farmers' Association from Maimbung.

Each association received 10 modules of egg machines and two months' worth of feeds supply. Each module consists of 480 layer chickens.

Poultry supply in the province ever since has always been imported from other places, such as Zamboanga City and other places in Mindanao.

During seasons of celebration like Maulud (Birth of Prophet Muhammad) and graduations from March to April, the price of egg is normally very high due to shortage of supply. That is why



the egg machine enterprise was introduced to the province to fill their needs.

DA SAAD Region IX expects to deliver their 2019 interventions for another Egg Production Project this August 2019. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD CONDUCTS 2-DAY DISTRIBUTION OF AGRI INPUTS FOR THE 7 MUNICIPALITIES IN APAYAO

July 15, 2019

APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development Program (SAAD) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted a 2-day distribution of agricultural inputs to poor farmers in the 7 municipalities of Apayao on May 23 and May 29, 2019.

882 farmer-partners and 5 farmer-associations in the municipalities of Flora, Sta. Marcela, Luna, Pudtol, Conner, Calanasan, and Kabugao received rice and corn seeds with complete fertilizers, organic Trichoderma, and livestock Concentrate feeds/Mineral supplements with forage seeds.

The allocation of the SAAD intervention to the seven municipalities of Apayao were distributed according to the number and needs of the farmer-partners (Table 1).

These SAAD interventions aim to help in reducing production cost and increase their income. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

Table 1. List of SAAD Distribution Activities in Apayao in May 2019

Municipality	Barangay	Number of farmer-partners	Intervention
Luna	Diagupan, Lappa, Marag, San Isidro Sur, Sebastian & Cagandungan	130 individual farmer-partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52 bags of Hybrid Rice seeds with fertilizers (Urea, Complete & Trichoderma) 29 bags of Hybrid Corn seeds with fertilizers (Urea, Complete & Trichoderma) 15 bags of Concentrate feeds/Mineral supplements with forage seeds 5 buffaloes and 29 sheep with feeds and forage seeds
	Marag Valley Association		wage goods (rice)
Pudtol	Lydia, Alem, Imelda, Capamnikian, Malagusi, Dona Loreta and San Antonio	82 individual farmer-partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 37 bags of hybrid corn seeds with complete fertilizers (complete, urea and Trichoderma) 46 bags of rice seeds with complete fertilizers (complete, urea, and Trichoderma) buffalo and sheep with feeds, Mineral/Concentrate feed, and forage seeds
	PIAs Farmers Association		wage goods (rice)
Sta. Marcela	Malekeg, Panay, San Mariano, Marcela, Barochoc, Consuelo, Emiliana, Sipu, San Antonio, San Juan, Imelda, and San Carlos	133 individual farmer-partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Bags of hybrid rice seeds with complete fertilizers (complete, urea and Trichoderma) 25 corn production projects 13 sheep with feeds, Mineral/Concentrate feed, and forage seed
	MESS Farmers Association		wage goods (rice)
Flora	Tamalug, Allig, Poblacion East, Atok and Anninpan	91 individual farmer-partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61 bags of rice seeds with complete fertilizers (complete, urea and Trichoderma) 30 corn production projects received hybrid corn seeds with complete fertilizers (complete, urea and Trichoderma)
	MAST Farmers Association		wage goods (rice)
Conner	Paddaon, Cupis, Talifugo, Guinangamman, Puguin, and Malana	178 individual farmer-partners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82 rice production projects receive hybrid rice seeds with complete fertilizers (complete, urea and Trichoderma) 65 corn production projects from Paddaon, Guinangamman, and Talifugo received hybrid corn seeds with complete fertilizers (complete, urea and Trichoderma) 31 bags of dairy feeds, Mineral/Concentrate feed and forage
	Baren Farmers Association		wage goods (rice)

SAAD IMPLEMENTERS COMPLETE MARKETING MODULE OF THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

July 16, 2019

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA – The implementers of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program completed Marketing module of the SAAD Entrepreneurial Development Training on 11 of July 2019 in Los Baños, Laguna.

The four-day training is the second module of the training that aims to capacitate SAAD implementers in assisting the partner-farmers for their community enterprises. The first module, Human Resource Management and Entrepreneurship, was conducted from 17-21 of June 2019 in Lumban, Laguna.

Professors Nanette Aquino and Jewel Joanna Cabardo of the Department of Agribusiness and Entrepreneurship (DAME) in the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) shed light on the basics of Marketing.

National and regional participants, who are from the SAAD and Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service and Divisions (AMAS and AMAD), took part in crafting Marketing Plans. A marketing plan is a report that details the marketing strategies of a business. Ramon Policarpio from AMAD Region IV-B shared his impressions about the



event and thanked SAAD for the conducting the said training.

Meanwhile, two more modules about the operational and financial aspects of Entrepreneurial Development are set to be held this September and October 2019. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD DELIVERS 70 BAGS OF UPLAND RICE SEEDS AND 11,848 BAGS OF FERTILIZERS TO LDS

July 31, 2019

LANAO DEL SUR – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program of Lanao del Sur (LDS) distributed 11,848 bags of various fertilizers and 70 bags of upland rice seeds to farmers from different municipalities this second quarter of the year.

One hundred forty-nine (149) farmers from the municipality of Madalum received the seeds along with 430 bags of complete fertilizer, 110 bags of urea, and 300 bags of vermicast on July 18 and 24, 2019. The United Nations – Food and Agriculture Organization provided the seeds.

According to the Madalum Municipal Agriculture Officer Abu Mahdi Disma, the distribution is perfect timing for farmers since the typhoon Falcon had just hit some parts of the province. Meanwhile, a total of 11,008 bags of various fertilizers were also distributed beforehand. These comprised of urea, complete, muriate of potash, ammonium phosphate, ammonium sulfate, vermicast, foliar, and Bio-N. The municipalities of Pagayawan, Calanogas, Sultan Dumalondong, Madalum, Marantao, Buadipuso-Buntong, Lumbaca Unayan, Madamda, Marogong, and Tubaran received the fertilizers on June 18, 2019.

There are still more than 4,000 bags of



fertilizers to be distributed to Masiu, Kapatagan, Malabang, and Amai Manabilang.

The interventions given were part of the FY 2017 rice and corn projects of the SAAD Program in Lanao del Sur. Due to peace and order situation, the implementers had difficulty in accessing the province. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD GIVES LIVESTOCK, MACHINERY, PLANTING MATERIALS TO APAYAO FARMERS



July 31, 2019

APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Apayao provided five (5) hand tractors, 58 sheep, and planting materials composed of 1,050 lemons and 1,050 sweet tamarinds to farmers of Flora and Sta. Marcela on June 2019.

During the celebration of Kabinnulig Festival in Flora on 19 June 2019, the tractors were awarded to three (3) associations. They are the SAMMBA (Sta. Maria, Mallig, Malayugan and Balluyan) Farmers Association, MAST (Malubibit Norte, Malubibit Sur, Anninipan, San Jose and Tamalunog) Farmers Association, and ABUWEB (Atok, Bagutong, Upper Atok, Poblacion West, Poblacion East and Balasi) Farmers Association. The former got one hand tractor while the latter two got

two each.

Fifty-eight (58) sheep were also distributed during the event. Thirty (30) head were given to SAMMBA Farmers Association of Flora while the 28 head were provided to Sta. Marcela farmers. Meanwhile, 105 farmers from barangays Bagutong, Atok, San Jose, Mallig, and Anninipan of Flora received the lemons and sweet tamarinds on 24 June 2019.

The farmers were grateful for the planting materials. One farmer shared, “Maragsakan kami unay ta makakita ken makaraman kamin ton iti kastoy nga klase nga prutas ken agyaman kami kadaytoy nga programa (We are very thankful to the SAAD Program for we are privileged to see and taste such kind of fruits).” ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD SAGA 2019 LAUNCHES IN ZDN, ELEVEN FARMERS’ ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATE

July 31, 2019

DIPOLOG CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Field Office IX launched the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Saga 2019 at the Convention Center, Estaka, Dipolog City in Zamboanga del Norte (ZDN) on July 19, 2019.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan described the event as “mga kuwento ng pagpupunyagi” as it is a forum featuring the success stories and project management strategies of the exceptional farmer-partners of the program.

Eleven (11) farmers’ organizations participated in the event, wherein they presented their stories and showcased their livelihood products to 500 visitors. Among the 11 associations, the Bacong Fishermen and Farmers’ Association from Salug was awarded “Best Managed Enterprise” for their Layer Chicken Egg Production while the Macasing Consumers Cooperative from Siayan was granted the “Fast-Growing Enterprise” award for their Banana Lakatan Production.

The rest of the associations were given “Best Emerging Enterprise” awards. They are the Suisayan Indigenous People’s Association of Manukan, Iwag sa Mananagat Association of Pres Manuel Roxas, & Newland Women’s Association of Mutia for their Layer

Chicken Egg Production; Matunoy Multipurpose Farmers’ Cooperative of Gutalac for their Lowland Rice Production; Minlasag Farfish Association of Sibutad for their Organic Mushroom Production; Kauswagan Farmers’ Association of Baliguan for their Swine Production; Mauswagon Sibuyig Farmers’ Association of La Libertad for their Sibuyig Production and Processing; La Libertad Agricultural Producers Association of La Libertad for their Sweet Corn and Goat Production; and Gabu Farmers’ Association of Labason for their White Corn Production.

During the open forum, Dipolog City Vice Mayor Horacio Velasco suggested for better marketing and packaging of the farmers’ products, especially the organic mushrooms. He also said that the farmers are welcome to tap establishments like hotels, restaurants, and supermarkets in the city.

Aside from the local government office of Dipolog, other agencies and commercial partners such as the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Agricultural Training Institute, Department of Trade and Industry, Ta-ala Farms, Lee Plaza, and Dipolog Supermart also declared their support and commitments to the SAAD farmer-partners.

The SAAD partner-farmers deeply thanked the SAAD Program. The president of the Kauswagan Farmers' Association got emotional when she expressed her gratitude for their Swine Production project which gave them hope to be lifted out from poverty. One of the farmer-partners also said, "I used to think that SAAD is just a mere promise but now that it is finally realized, I believe this is a success that is worth sharing."

The SAAD Saga 2019 was attended by DA Assistant Secretary for Special Projects Lerey Panes, SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan, DA RFO 9 Regional Technical Director Ferdinand Gamrot, and Dipolog City Vice Mayor Horacio Velasco. It was also supported by the Municipal Mayors, Municipal Agriculturists & Technicians, SAAD Area Coordinators, and some local businessmen. ###
(Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD HOLDS FY 2019 2ND QUARTER PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT

August 16, 2019

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its FY 2019 Second Quarter Physical and Financial National Assessment at the Chali Beach Resort and Conference Center in Cagayan de Oro on August 5-9, 2019.

The DA Regional Field Office (RFO) X, led by OIC-Regional Executive Director Carlene C. Collado, hosted the event. DA-SAAD Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan, in her opening remarks, reiterated the importance of helping the SAAD farmer-partners rise from poverty.

Present in the assessment were selected officials and focal persons from the NPMO and all DA-SAAD implementing regions (CAR, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, and XIII), as well as those from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) -SAAD). Also in the event were representatives from the DA Central Office's Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD), Investment Program Division (IPD), and Planning and Programming Division (PPD), Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS), and Accounting Division (AD).

SAAD Planning and Monitoring Group Head Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr. presented



the overall accomplishments.

While each region presented their current physical and financial statuses, they also showed recent triumphs of their respective provinces. After each presentation, participants were encouraged to ask questions and suggest points for improvement.

A video presentation from the DA RFO IX's recently concluded SAAD Saga event held in Dipolog City on July 9, 2019 was shown, featuring highlights and success stories from Zamboanga del Norte.

SAAD Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Coordinator Ronilo Dusaban also shared the process of conducting the event and other preparations made.

On the other hand, the top three performing regions were awarded certificates of recognition. With physical accomplishments (30%), obligations (40%), and disbursements (40%) in consideration, Regions VIII (90.02%), V (65.83%) and X (64.67%) were recognized as the best performing regions.

The SAAD NPMO also presented the FY 2020 plan and budget proposal as well as the updates on tracking of beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, all SAAD implementing units already finalized the dates of their SAAD Saga events. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)



CANIBUNGAN FARMERS OF POLANCO, ZDN HARVEST 555 BROILER CHICKENS

August 28, 2019

POLANCO, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Canibungan Farmers' Association (FA) of Polanco, Zamboanga del Norte harvested 555 broiler chickens on August 21, 2019 under the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The beneficiaries were 30 farmers of the said association.

With many hardships along its project implementation, the Canibungan FA finally reaped its rewards. The farmers sold 699.8 kilograms (kgs) of liveweight chicken with an income of more than Php 58,000 to a private distributor.

According to the National Meat Inspection Service, the quality of the

chicken meat was good.

The broiler chickens were delivered to a dressing plant within the municipality. SAAD Zamboanga del Norte Area Coordinator Catherine Aranton, who helped and guided the farmers in project implementation, hopes that the remaining 625 chickens will meet the required minimum weight standard of the buyer in the next harvest on August 26, 2019.

The buyer's weight requirement is set at 1.3 kg per liveweight chicken. The SAAD Program in DA Regional Field Office IX also provided corn and ginger livelihood production projects to Canibungan FA in 2018. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



BRGY. NACIBAC RECEIVED DURIAN, LANZONES, MANGOSTEEN SEEDLINGS FROM DA-SAAD



September 2, 2019

LEON B. POSTIGO, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) delivered durian, lanzones, and mangosteen seedlings in the remote barangay of Nacibac, in the municipality of Leon B. Postigo, Zamboanga del Norte in August 27, 2019.

The delivery was under the SAAD's upland corn farming project, which was inspired by the Sustainable Corn Production in Sloping Area (SCOPSA). The recipients of the seedlings were members of the Nacibac Mountainside Farmers Association, a group beneficiary of the SAAD Program. The group consists of 60 members.

The local government of Leon B. Postigo thru the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, led by Ms. Evelyn Catayas, and SAAD Area Coordinator Omar Muqtar Loong, oversaw the delivery of 5,400 seedlings (1,800 seedlings each for durian, lanzones, and mangosteen) as well as 10,000 pineapple suckers.

The seedlings will serve as hedgerows to reduce soil erosion in the beneficiary's corn farms.

The Nacibac Mountainside Farmers Association expressed its utmost gratitude for the assistance of the SAAD Program. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)

NORTH COTABATO SAAD SAGA A SUCCESS

September 24, 2019

KIDAPAWAN, SOUTH COTABATO – Following the success of the first SAAD Saga event, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its second one at Kidapawan City, South Cotabato on September 19, 2019.

North Cotabato is the second province to hold the said event, following Zamboanga del Norte whose event was held last July 19, 2019.

The SAAD Saga showcases the good practices of selected SAAD farmer organizations in terms of enterprise development and management.

A total of 451 attendees, ranging from SAAD officials and personnel, local government officials, Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and other stakeholders, flocked the JCX Complex in Kidapawan City to celebrate the victories of the program's farmer-partners in the province. A trade fair was also held on location where 8 farmer organizations gathered to share their success stories and showcase their products.

The event began with opening messages from Cotabato Second District Board Member Dr. Krista Piñol-Solis, DA Regional Executive Director for Region 12 Engr. Milagros



C. Casis, Regional Technical Director for Operations Zaldy M. Boloron, and SAAD IT Cluster Head Marvin P. Segovia.

The third best implementer, the Tibao San Vicente Ferrer Multi-Purpose Cooperative from the municipality of M'lang, through its swine fattening project, produced high-quality pork products. The cooperative used to only plant rice. It was awarded Php 100,000.00 worth of government-assisted projects.

The runner-up, the Central Bulanan Farm Workers Association from Midsayap, through its egg machine and vegetable production projects, thrived by supplying eggs and vegetables to the local market. The association received Php 200,000.00 worth of government-assisted projects.

The top performing group, Magpet's Kamada Integrated Farmers Association (KIFA), formerly an all-women's association, received a swine production project. Its successes include introducing its own processed



meat products, opening its own meat shop, supplying food service establishments, and having a Memorandum of Agreement with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Magpet to have their own place in their local public market. The association won Php 300,000.00 worth of government projects.

RED Casis encouraged other SAAD beneficiaries to follow the footsteps of the winning associations to improve their livelihood and quality of life. Other SAAD provinces are currently preparing for their respective Saga events. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla and Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD IMPLEMENTERS COMPLETE OPERATIONS MODULE OF THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



September 24, 2019

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its third module of the Entrepreneurial Development Training last September 9-13, 2019 at the Baden Powell International Makiling, Jamboree Rd., Los Baños, Laguna.

Professors Dia Noelle F. Velasco and Mar B. Cruz from the Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship (DAME) from the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) shared the tricks of the trade in Operations Management.

The training, which was the third of four modules, discussed topics such as

product and service design, capacity planning, location planning, and layout planning. The first two modules, both also held in Los Baños, discussed Human Resource Management and Marketing respectively.

Forty-six SAAD personnel from the SAAD National Program Monitoring Office (NPMO) and Regional Field Offices of CAR, Regions IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, and XIII attended the four-day long training and workshop.

The final module of the training, which will be focused on Finance, is set to be held on Oct. 21-25, 2019 in Tagaytay City. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)

BARANGAYS FROM APAYAO RECEIVED CORN SEEDS, RICE SEEDS, UREA, AND COMPLETE FERTILIZER

September 27, 2019

KABUGAO, APAYAO – The Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program distributed 100 bags of corn and complete packages of fertilizer to 50 farmer-partners of Kabugao on May 18, 2019.

The farmers were from the barangays of Lenneng, Luttuacan, Laco, Baduat, and Poblacion.

Each farmer-partner received 2 bags of corn, 2 bags of urea and complete fertilizer, and 1 sachet of organic fertilizer. These farmers are also members of the Blessed Farmers, Lucky 7 SAAD, and Productive SAAD Farmer's Associations.

On May 24-25, 2019, another set of farmer-partners from barangay Karagawan and Lenneng received rice seeds and fertilizers. Twenty-three members of the Lucky 7 Farmer's Association received 50 bags of rice seeds, and 23 bags of urea and complete fertilizer.

Another 24 members of the Blessed SAAD Farmer's Association received 72 bags of rice seeds and 48 bags of urea and complete fertilizer. Each member received 3 bags of rice seeds and 2 bags of fertilizer.

This distribution of SAAD FY 2017

interventions was led by Ms. Shermyn Pecban, the SAAD CAR Agricultural Technician, with the help of the Office of the Agricultural Services (OAS), the Provincial Local Government Unit (PLGU), and the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU) of Apayao. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)



COTABATO FARMERS TAUGHT GOAT PRODUCTION BY DA-SAAD

September 27, 2019

KIDAPAWAN CITY, NORTH

COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held a goat production training last September 12, 2019.

The associations involved were, namely: Sr. San Vicente Ferrer Farmers' Association, Pres. Roxas Vendors and Agricultural Workers Association, and Brgy. Del Carmen Pres. Roxas North Cotabato Sustainable Bio-dynamic Herbal Producer Cooperative. Topics include goat breeding, diseases prone to goats, treatment, housing, and nutrition.

The training, which was held at Balindog Research and Experimentation Station (BRES), was led by resource speaker Arthur J.

Jimena.

Magpet Area Coordinator Anisa Allyn Saaduddin gave an overview on what the SAAD Program is and how will it help lift them from poverty.

Also in the training was Provincial Coordinator Jerry W. Tingson who gave a message to the farmer-partners to take good care of their new goats to help augment their income. Charie Lyn J. Quinlat, Area Coordinator of President Manuel A. Roxas, also helped facilitate the training.

The farmer-partners of the SAAD Program in Cotabato expressed gratitude for the assistance of the SAAD Program. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)



FARMER-INDIVIDUALS OF CATANDUANES RECEIVED DRAFT ANIMALS



September 30, 2019

CATANDUANES – The Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development Program distributed draft animals to the municipalities of Bagamanoc, Bato, Gigmoto, and San Miguel.

A total of sixteen head of carabao were dispersed on September 26, 2019.

One head of carabao was given per farmer-beneficiary. There are 5 farmer-beneficiaries the municipality of Bato, 4 in Gigmoto, 3 in San Miguel, and 4 in Bagamanoc.

There is an on-going distribution of SAAD Program FY 2019 interventions in the province of Catanduanes. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)

FARMER ASSOCIATIONS IN APAYAO RECEIVE 30 HORSES FROM TIKA



September 30, 2019

CONNER, APAYAO – The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) awarded horses to farmer-partners in the province of Apayao through the Special Area of Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) last September 18, 2019.

Two farmer associations, the Katablangan Indigenous Farmer's Association and the Nanawatan

Nabuangan Upland Developer Association, each received 12 mares and 3 stallions. Prior to the delivery, the farmer-partners were trained on September 3-4 by the SAAD Program.

Barangay Chairmen, Hon. Benito Lugayan and Hon. Isidro Lebang from Katablangan and Nanawatan, respectively, received the horses for the associations.

The awarding was led by Mr. Mohamed Enes Hancioglu, Deputy Country Director of TIKa, and Mr. Danilo P. Daguis, Regional Focal Person of SAAD-CAR.

Also present were Digna D. Villanueva from the Agricultural Production Coordinating Office (APCO) of Apayao, Daisy B. Yogyog, Jovy Valenciano and Dr. Dale Askey Reyes, personnel from the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO), Area Coordinator Garry D. Tinguey, Agricultural Technician Shirla T. Kengay, Karen D. Drapiza, personnel from the Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO), and personnel from the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Conner, Apayao.

Aside from the awarding, there were also 5 units of multi-tiller given to the Calaoan Livelihood Farmer's Association (1), Nabuangan Region Livelihood Association (1), and Baren Farmer's Association (3). ### (Jennifer A. Valcobero)

DA-SAAD AWARDS SHEEP AND HAND TRACTORS TO APAYAO FARMERS

September 30, 2019

APAYAO – The municipality of Flora, Apayao celebrated its Kabinnulig Festival 2019 and it highlighted the awarding of certificates of 5 units of hand tractors and 58 head of sheep through the Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

The hand tractors were awarded to the 3 associations in the municipality led by Mayor Rodolfo B. Juan, together with the Municipal Local Government Unit. SAMMBA (Sta. Maria, Malign, Malayugan and Balluyan) Farmers Association received one unit, while MAST (Malubibit Norte, Malubibit Sur, Anninipan, San Jose and Tamalunog) Farmers Association and ABUWEB (Atok, Bagutong, Upper Atok, Poblacion West, Poblacion East, and Balasi) Farmers Association received two units each.

The hand tractors, which cost Php 825,000, were given last June 19, 2019.

Together with the distribution of hand tractors, 58 head of sheep were also distributed to the municipalities of Flora and Sta. Marcela. Thirty (30) head of sheep were given to SAMMBA Farmers Association of Flora while the 28 head of sheep were given to Sta. Marcela. The sheep, worth Php 1,740,000, were gladly received by the SAAD partners.

The awarding activity was held at Sta.



Marcela. It was spearheaded by the Agricultural Production Coordinating Office (APCO) of the province Ms. Digna D. Villanueva and Mayor Rodolfo B. Juan. Area Coordinator Marjorie Tangliben, Agricultural Nel Mark A. Rasay and Roldan A. Orteza, Municipal Agriculturist Franklin Abad, Focal Person Japhet Agbayani, assisted in the awarding ceremony.

In Flora, SAAD Area Coordinator Marjorie Tangliben, SAAD Agricultural Technicians Roldan A. Orteza, and Nel Mark A. Rasay headed the awarding and distribution of the sheep. Along with them were the Municipal Agriculturist (MA) Ms. Evelyn Cabulay and SAAD Focal Person of the municipality Ms. Gladys Lamug.

The farmer-partners expressed their gratitude for the assistance of the SAAD Program. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)

SAAD FARMERS IN SARANGANI PERFORMED MASS HARVEST ACTIVITY

October 2, 2019

GLAN, SARANGANI – Farmer-partners of the Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) from Sitio Datalbulol, Barangay Sufatubo, from the municipality of Glan, Sarangani province, harvested upland rice on September 24, 2019.

Members of the Brgy. Sufatubo Farmers Association harvested at least 30 sacks of upland rice. The harvesting activity was spearheaded by SAAD Area Coordinator Ms. Prezy B. Requiso, personnel from the provincial Local Government Unit (LGU) of Sarangani, and the municipal LGU of Glan. The harvesting was part of the FY 2017 budget.

One beneficiary, Mr. Gorgonio Romasasa and his daughter Marissa expressed their gratitude for the assistance of the SAAD Program. They were pleasantly surprised by their bountiful harvest. They shared that prior to becoming beneficiaries of the program, they struggled to find rice seeds and only planted squash and few other vegetables. Now, they no longer needed to buy rice elsewhere.

Romasasa also benefited from the provision of livestock such as goats and muscovy ducks. The 5 initial ducks he received from the SAAD Program had increased to more than a hundred. Due to the success of their farm,



Romasasa was able to buy his own swine. His income had increased enough to support his children's college education.

Since the intervention of SAAD, their farm has taken notice from former Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Secretary Gina Lopez, Sarangani Governor Steve C. Solon, and the mother of Senator Manny Pacquiao, Mrs. Dionesia D. Pacquiao.

The mass harvest activity was previously featured in the television program, G Diaries.

The farmer-partners thanked former DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Pinol, Regional Director for Region 12 Milagros C. Casis, and Sarangani Governor Solon for their support. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla and Prezy B. Requiso)

SULU GOV TAN IMPRESSED WITH DA-SAAD LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS



October 2, 2019

MAIMBUNG, SULU – In a meeting on 25 September 2019, Sulu Governor Abdusakur Tan shared that he was impressed at the agricultural livelihood projects implemented by the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the province.

Governor Tan said to the SAAD Sulu team that the provincial local government office will craft a resolution for the continuation of SAAD's implementation in the province through the DA instead of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

One proof of the SAAD Program's impact in Sulu is the Chicken Layer Egg Production Project implemented at Barangays Laum Maimbung and

Matatal in the municipality of Maimbung this June 2019.

The Bangsa Sug Farm Family Association with 30 SAAD beneficiaries and Matatal Egg Machine Association with 27 SAAD beneficiaries received the following inputs: a) 20 modules of egg machine (48 heads of chicken per module), b) two-month supply of feeds, c) 2,000 egg trays, d) 20 wheelbarrows, and e) a training program.

According to DA SAAD Region 9 Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Alejandro Cordova, the average production per day is at least 14 trays of eggs classified as medium, large, and extra-large.

Each association can earn at least Php 2,500 to Php 3,000 per day. Their savings were deposited at their bank accounts.

The mortality rate of the chickens is at 1.5% or seven (7) deaths out of 480. They died due to volvulus (a medical condition in the intestines), incidents, and snake attacks.

The farmers thanked the DA and said it is their first time to see government in action.

The Chicken Layer Egg Production Project of the province was also implemented in Parang, Talipao, and Panamao. ### (Jhoma S. Canlas)

PALAY THRESHERS DISTRIBUTED TO MASBATE FARMERS' ASSOCIATIONS

October 4, 2019

MASBATE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) distributed five (5) rice (palay) threshers to the three (3) farmer's associations from the province of Masbate on September 24, 2019.

The distribution was held at Masbate Center for Livestock Development, Barangay Asid, Masbate City. The activity was spearheaded by DA Region 5 Regional Executive Director Rodel Tornilla with the assistance of the SAAD regional and provincial staff.

The following farmers' associations received the threshers:

- Guindawahan Association of Pio V Corpuz with one unit;
- Mandaon Farmers Association Incorporation of Mandaon with three units; and
- Kalambuan Rice Farmers Association of Pio V with one unit.

The distribution of the machines is part of the FY 2018 Rice Production Project implemented for the Masbate farmers.

(Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD JOINS SOCIAL SECURITY ACADEMY, PH RANKED 2ND BEST DELEGATION



October 4, 2019

The Philippines ranked 2nd Best Delegation among 32 countries and some international organizations in the ninth edition of the Social Security Summer Academy held from 16 to 27 September 2019 in Turin, Italy.

The academy, conducted by the Training Centre of the International Labour Organization (ITC-ILO), trained key persons to develop comprehensive and efficient national social protection systems through the diversified and need-driven curriculum of 20 elective courses and 10 plenary sessions.

The Philippine delegation was represented by Mr. Ulysses Lustria, Jr. of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD), Ms. Hannah Giray-Carcido of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) – Policy Development and Planning Bureau (PDPB), and Ms. Ruth

Honculada-Georget of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

As a program designed to help the country's poor farmers and fisherfolk and considered as a social protection project, the DA SAAD took part in the training. Among 84 participants, DA SAAD Planning and Monitoring Head Mr. Lustria was hailed as the top 2 student based on exams' results.

SAAD and convergence with social protection agencies and other stakeholders.

The DA SAAD has already initiated convergence activities with social protection agencies such as the DSWD. It has also worked with SUCs and the private sector.

The academy emphasized that linking agricultural projects, such as the SAAD Program, with other social protection interventions, increase the livelihood of project success.

Coherent and combined social protection and agriculture interventions support the reduction of poverty and hunger.

Turin Action Plan

During the training, the Philippine delegation met with Ms. Natalia Winder Rossi, Senior Social Protection Officer and Social Protection Team Leader of the FAO.

A proposed Turin Action Plan was formulated wherein the DA shall be involved in various activities. One activity is the review of the draft Social Protection Operation Framework (SPOF) Plan and M&E Results Framework of the Philippines. The SAAD is also included in the said draft. There is also interest in providing technical support to DA on mitigating the impact of the Rice Tariffication Act (RTA) among small farmers.

Meanwhile, FAO supported the conduct of an evaluation study of the SAAD Program. Preparatory activities are already being done. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



MORE DISEASE-FREE, TISSUE-CULTURED BANANA PLANTLETS FOR SIAYAN FARMERS

October 15, 2019

SIAYAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE –

From over 30,000 disease-free, tissue-cultured lakatan plantlets distributed from 2017 and 2018, the farmer-partners from seven (7) barangays of Siayan received additional planting inputs of 25,000 lakatan plantlets for 2019.

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) targets local farmers to venture into the banana business industry.

The additional lakatan plantlets were distributed to farmer-partners on October 11, 2019.

The farmers also attended a banana technical training, held from October 10-11, 2019 at Siayan Training Center, to strengthen and enhance their capability and knowledge in establishing a small banana plantation. The training concluded with an on-the-field actual demonstration of banana planting.

The resource speaker for the training, former High Value Crops Development Program coordinator George Valiente, shared the beauty of establishing a banana lakatan industry in the province of Zamboanga del Norte and its huge demand in the market.

DA 12 RED CASIS TO NOCOT FARMERS: PLANT FOR READILY AVAILABLE FOOD

October 9, 2019

NORTH COTABATO – “Magtanim para hindi na kayo bibili, nandiyan na ang healthy food sa paligid. Every time gusto mong magluto, mayroon kang lulutuin at mayroon kang ibebenta.” The Department of Agriculture (DA) 12 Regional Executive Director Milagros Casis reminded North Cotabato (NoCoT) farmers to plant after receiving agri-livelihood inputs from the Special Area of Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program.

The DA-SAAD provided inputs for corn and vegetable production projects to 163 North Cotabato farmers from three municipalities.

Forty (40) farmers from Barangay Balindog, Kidapawan City received



hybrid corn seeds, fertilizers, vegetable seeds, and garden tools on October 8, 2019.

Meanwhile, 83 farmers from Barangay Arizona, Midsayap got corn seeds, fertilizers, knapsack sprayers, vegetable seeds, and garden tools on October 3, 2019.

On the same day, the SAAD Program also provided the same corn and vegetable production inputs to 40 farmers of Barangay Sinapangan,

Libungan.

Aside from DA 12 RED Casis, SAAD national, regional, and provincial staff as well as provincial, municipal, and barangay local government office representatives were present at the distribution ceremonies.

As SAAD fulfilled its promises, DA 12 RED Casis asked the farmers to realize and sustain the livelihood projects given to them. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

He said, "with quality management paired with good sanitation, you can produce good quality bananas that could potentially attract buyers." Valiente also explained the strategies and techniques on pre-harvest activities like land preparation, layouting, fertilizer application, watering, as well as pest management and control.

He also added some knowledge on post-harvest activity for the proper handling of the fruit to ensure good quality produce for buyers.

Moreover, Siayan Municipal Agricultural Officer Edu Velasco stressed: "Let us take this opportunity to learn more of the proper management of propagating lakatan so that we can produce quality products that are comparable to distinguished banana farms in Mindanao." ### (Roger Dave F. Gramatica)



SAAD CELEBRATES UPLAND RICE HARVEST FIELD DAY IN SINDANGAN, ZANORTE

October 15, 2019

SINDANGAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Farmer-partners of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program from Barangay Imelda, municipality of Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte (ZaNorte) commenced their Upland Rice Harvest Field Day on October 8, 2019.

About 16 SAAD farmer-partners from the barangay will harvest their upland rice this October 2019. The farm area of SAAD farmer Rowena Tayrus was chosen for the start of the harvest activity.

About 40 sacks of upland rice were harvested with the help Tayrus' fellow farmer-partners and participants of the activity.

Supporting the activity were Ronnie Ansiling, Sanggunian Bayan Member and Committee Chairman on Agriculture; Luz Dela Cruz, Sindangan Municipal Agriculture Officer; and Roger Dave Gramatica, DA-SAAD Area Coordinator.

Ansiling shared his view on the importance of the project. He said, "Let us be thankful to DA-SAAD Program for the provision of seeds and fertilizer inputs for this upland rice production project. Let us repay them by showing that we can sustain and expand the project in our locality."

Edgardo Empang, a farmer-partner from Barangay Imelda, shared his experiences to achieve a bountiful harvest. He said, "Before SAAD came, we barely fill-up our stock room with our produce. Now that SAAD came and chose us to be their partners for this project, I am confident that I can fill my stock room with upland rice harvest."

Some farmer-partners from nine (9) barangays of Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte have already started their upland rice harvest while some are still waiting for their hard-earned efforts. A total of 100 farmer-partners were chosen to benefit from the Upland Rice Production Project under the DA-SAAD FY 2018 budget.

Each farmer received two bags of upland rice seeds, complete fertilizers, urea, 20 bags of vermicast, one liter of herbicide, one liter of pesticide, and one kilo of rodenticide. They were distributed on December 7, 2018. Of the nine barangays, the harvest activity was embraced by the farmer-partners of Barangays Imelda, Motibot, and Lapero. ### (Roger Dave F. Gramatica)



SAAD DISTRIBUTES VEGETABLE PRODUCTION INPUTS TO CATANDUANES

October 15, 2019

CATANDUANES – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Catanduanes of the Department of Agriculture (DA) distributed inputs for Vegetable Production Project to six (6) covered municipalities, which are Bagamanoc, Baras, Bato, Gigmoto, Panganiban, and San Miguel.

The inputs include 440 sets of garden tools (shovel, rake, hoe, and sprinkler), 220 drums, 1,100 seedling trays, 110 wheelbarrows, and 1,100 organic fertilizers. They were distributed from September to October 2019.

Fifteen (15) farmer-groups received the inputs for communal vegetable gardening. They are from the following barangays: a) Barangays Salvacion, Suchan, and Quezon of Bagamanoc, b) Barangays Salvacion, San Miguel, and Cabuyuan of Panganiban, c) Barangays Tilod and San Miguel of Baras, d) Barangays Cagraray and San Roque of Bato, e) Barangays San Pedro, Sioron, and San Vicente of Gigmoto, and f) Barangays Balatohan, San Marcos, and Tobrehon of San Miguel.

The distributions were spearheaded by SAAD Area Coordinators of Catanduanes, and assisted by the local government officers, municipal agriculturists, and High Value Crops Development Program agricultural technician John Eric Bernal.



The Vegetable Production Project, which is primarily intended for the beneficiaries' food consumption, is part of SAAD Catanduanes' implementation for FY 2019. ### (Melrose Bernal)

SAAD DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN 2,700 MALLARD DUCKS IN BUKIDNON

October 22, 2019

IMPASUGONG, BUKIDNON – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the Department of Agriculture (DA) Region 10 distributed 2,757 mallard ducks to Bukidnon farmers on October 15, 2019.

One hundred (100) farmers from barangays Kalabugao and Hagpa, Impasugong received the ducks as part of the Integrated Agricultural Livelihood Project of SAAD Bukidnon for FY 2018.

The mallard duck production, coined as 'Itik Pinas Project', will contribute to the food security and poverty alleviation of the local farmers. It also aims to increase the duck population in the area and contribute to the production of eggs for the balut and salted egg industry.

The farmers will market the eggs to the local buyers, who transport them to Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental. This December 2019, the farmers will attend a training on Itik Pinas Production.

Aside from Impasugong, the municipalities of Talagag, Baungon, Malitbog, Cabanglasan, San Fernando, Quezon, Kitaotao, Kibawe, Damulog, Pangantucan, Kadingilan, and Kalilangan are also beneficiaries of the Integrated Agricultural Livelihood Project.

Beneficiaries will get support on corn, vegetable, coffee, cacao, and livestock & poultry production. Livestock and poultry assistance varies covering cattle, mallard duck, and swine. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD CONCLUDES ITS 3RD QUARTER ASSESSMENT FOR THE YEAR 2019

October 22, 2019

DAVAO CITY – The Special Area for Agriculture Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) concluded its FY 2019 3rd Quarter Physical and Financial Assessment on the 18th of October 2019 in Davao City.

The SAAD regional top performers are DA Cordillera Administrative Region with 61.03% financial performance, Region 8 with 60.72%, and Region 5 with 60.63%.

Meanwhile, the overall obligation of the SAAD Program is 74.77%, which is equivalent to Php 799,974 million. Present at the event is DA Assistant Secretary for Special Projects Leroy Panes, who reminded SAAD leaders to implement agri-livelihood projects that provide high profit for the farmers and have access to markets for the remaining years.

This is in line with the new Agriculture chief William Dar's mission, "Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita". The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) also presented their physical and financial accomplishments.

BFAR-SAAD obligated 77.73% of its fund, which is equivalent to Php 289,932 million.

The event also tackled important issues



relative to the procurement process of the SAAD Regional Program Management Support Offices (RPMsOs).

The SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) will provide recommendations and solutions to the issues as the 4th Quarter of this year targets 100% budget obligation.

DA Regional Field Office 11 hosted the event. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD WELCOMES NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR DR. MYER MULA



October 29, 2019

QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) national, regional, and provincial staff welcomes its new Director, Dr. Myer G. Mula.

Dr. Mula is a renowned scientist, agriculturist, researcher, and writer. He has authored more than 100 scientific materials to include books, journal articles, monographs, and paper presentations.

He heads the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University's research, development and extension (RDE) proposal preparation and member of the University Review Committee for RDE.

He was also a Senior Scientist on Seed Systems for eight years at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) in

Telangana, India.

His successful stint at ICRISAT paved the way for developing a model to sustain quality pigeon pea, groundnut, and chickpea seeds not only in India but also in the Philippines.

Dr. Mula succeeded DAAgribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division Director Bernadette San Juan, who held the SAAD director post for two years.

DA Acting Secretary William Dar appointed Dr. Mula on the 18th of October 2019 to continue the SAAD Program's mission of helping marginalized farmers and fisherfolk from 30 identified poor provinces in the country to move out of poverty.

Former DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol launched the SAAD Program in 2016 and started its implementation in 2017, as part of President Rodrigo Duterte's thrust to increase food production and reduce poverty in the country.

About the Program

The Special Area for Agricultural Development Program is a six-year, locally-funded project of the DA that is intended to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors on agriculture and fishery. It is implemented through social preparation that empowers farmers and fisherfolk; intensified production and livelihood interventions responsive to assessed needs; and partnerships with the local government units, private sector, other government agencies, and other stakeholders. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

DA SECRETARY DAR AT SAAD SAGA IN REGION 8: RURAL FARMERS, HEROES OF THE COUNTRYSIDE



October 30, 2019

PALO, LEYTE – “Rural farmers are the heroes of the countryside.” The Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary William D. Dar emphasized the big role of the rural farmers as heroes of the countryside during the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Saga event in the Eastern Visayas Region.

DA SAAD Region 8 conducted the significant event at the Oriental Hotel, Palo, Leyte on October 25, 2019.

In his speech, Sec. Dar acknowledged the impact of the SAAD Program in poverty reduction, especially in the provinces covered in the region, which are Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Samar, Leyte, and Southern Leyte.

With this recognition, he committed to

strengthen the SAAD program and allocate more funds to continue its mission of helping marginalized farmers and fisherfolk by providing them agricultural livelihood to slowly move them out of poverty.

The SAAD Program's mission was evident in the Saga event, where five farmers' associations from each province presented their success stories and showcased their products.

The Cansoso Livelihood Association of Workers from Leyte with their Vegetable Production Project was recognized as the top performer under the Organization Partner-Beneficiary Category.

The others who participated in the event are the Rural Improvement Club of Libas from Northern Samar with their Swine Fattening Project, Cagbonga



Backyard Swine and Duck Breeders Association from Eastern Samar with their Swine and Mallard Duck Production, Jiabong Upland Developers from Samar with their Rice Production Project, and United Farmers Association of Panglao from Southern Leyte with their Swine Fattening Project.

Meanwhile, five individual farmers also shared their stories. Swine Fattening Project beneficiary Riza Caliba of Eastern Samar was awarded the Outstanding Individual Farmer.

Others who joined the event are Mallard Duck Production beneficiary Maricel Galit of Northern Samar, Swine Fattening Project beneficiary Lolita Caamud of Samar, Vegetable Production beneficiary Rolando Lapore of Leyte, and Corn Production beneficiary Flora Boyoc of Southern Leyte.

Various products of the farmers, such as salted eggs, fresh eggs, balut, vegetables, rice, and delicacies, were sold out during the event. The farmers also received SURE Aid cash cards from the Land Bank of the Philippines to aid them in the drop of palay price.

The SAAD Saga 2019 is a forum for the farmer-partners of the program. It is a platform to recognize the success of the farmers and showcase their products. DA Region 12 will host the next SAAD Saga event on the 26th of November 2019, featuring the Sarangani farmer-partners. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD STAFF COMPLETES THE ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



October 30, 2019

TAGAYTAY CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program national, regional, and provincial staff of the Department of Agriculture (DA) completed the 4th and last module of the Entrepreneurial Development Training at Tagaytay International Convention Center from October 21 to 25, 2019.

The last module is about accounting and financial analysis in business operations.

The SAAD implementers, who participated the Entrepreneurial Development Training, will help the farmer-partners of the program in putting up and managing their community-based enterprises.

Professors Juan Paulino S.

Trespalacio, Jr. and Hanna D. Miranda-Quibot, from the University of the Philippines Los Baños – Department of Agribusiness Management and Entrepreneurship, were the resource speakers.

The regional participants described the training as mind-boggling as the resource speakers gave individual and group tasks, such as solving the production cost, preparing the income statement, and the cost volume profit analysis.

The previous modules were Human Resource Development, Marketing, and Operations.

The training hopes to contribute to the success of the SAAD program. ### (Jennifer A. Valcobero)

SAAD PARTICIPATES IN CONFERENCE FOR FAMILY FARMING AND THE YOUTH

November 15, 2019

QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture participated in the Knowledge Learning Market and Policy Engagement (KLMPPE) Conference entitled “Celebrating the International Decade of Family Farming: Strengthening the Role of the Youth in Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development” held at the Bahay ng Alumni, University of the Philippines Diliman last November 13-14, 2019.

SAAD Planning and Monitoring Head, Mr. Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr., and Project Development Officer, Mr. Ian Kevin M. Sevilla attended the event. The SAAD supports family farms through social preparation and food production and livelihood projects.

On the first day, Selected members of the KLMPPE Technical Working Group (TWG) delivered solidarity messages. Mr. Jerry E. Pacturan, Country Programme Officer of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) cited democratic changes, digital revolution, and climate change are critical elements affecting rural development. Ms. Wopsyjenn M. Peñas, a youth farmer and member of the PANAW-Sumilao Multi-Purpose Cooperative encouraged the youth to

utilize their acumen on technology to enhance the agricultural sector.

DA Undersecretary and Chief of Staff Ms. Cheryl Marie Natividad-Caballero underscored the importance of evolving farmers into agribusiness entrepreneurs and value-adding. Food and Agriculture Organization Assistant Representative Tamara Jean Palis-Duran stressed the role of family farming to achieve food security.

Ms. Caridad R. Corridor of Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA) and Prof. Venarica B. Papa from the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies (UP CIDS) gave importance to farmers having a voice and making their grievances known.

Members of the KLMPE TWG held a press conference to address pressing issues regarding family farming. Demonstrations were also conducted on mobilizing financial resources for rural communities, community mapping, and participatory GIS.

In the afternoon, breakout sessions were held in separate areas of the venue to discuss submitted case stories of youth farmers, their good practices, the challenges they faced and how they overcame them, and how similar successes can be replicated on a larger scale.

On the second day, another set of breakout sessions were held to discuss the seven (7) pillars of family farming and what specific changes could be done to enhance the global action plan

and related government policies such as the currently-pending Magna Carta of young farmers.

The KLMPE Conference is an effort related to the International Year of Family Farming (IYFF+5) and the United Nations Decade of Family Farming (UNFFF), both of which aim to empower the youth to engage in agricultural activities, using their proclivity to science and technology for modernizing farming procedures and eventually lifting the poor from poverty and hunger. #### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)



BFAR SAAD HOLDS FY 2019 3RD QUARTER REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT

November 18, 2019

CEBU CITY – The Special Area for Agriculture Development (SAAD) Program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) held its FY 2019 3rd Quarter Review and Assessment from 12 to 15 of November 2019 at Alta Cebu, Tugbungan Cordova, Cebu City.

The event was attended by selected officials and focal persons from the DA and BFAR SAAD central offices and BFAR-SAAD implementing regions (CAR, IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, and XIII), as well as representatives from the budget office of BFAR.

During the event, SAAD Program Director Myer Mula reiterated Agriculture Secretary William Dar's New Thinking, the "Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita". He said that to achieve our goals in the community, DA SAAD and BFAR SAAD need to be united with a common policy and management, together with other bureaus, to become more effective.

Each region of SAAD BFAR reported the current physical and financial accomplishment and status of their implementation for FY 2019. BFAR SAAD's overall obligation is at 85.05% while the disbursement is at 40.54%.

Specifically, the physical accomplishments of BFAR SAAD are as follows:



- 279 social preparation activities conducted with 9,531 individual and 116 group fisherfolk beneficiaries covered;
- 116 livelihood projects implemented with 4,707 individual and 187 group fisherfolk beneficiaries provided; and
- 54 specialized training activities conducted with 1,910 individual fisherfolk beneficiaries trained. #### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SAAD ENHANCES IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES FY 2020-2022

November 18, 2019

CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION – In a meeting on the 15th of November 2019, Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Director Myer Mula discussed the program's enhanced implementing guidelines for FY 2020-2022 with implementers from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Present in the meeting were Regional Executive Director Cameron Odsey, Regional Technical Director Danilo Daguio, BFAR representative Lois Fermin and SAAD Regional Program Management Support Officers.

The program aims to alleviate poverty by providing agricultural livelihood and development interventions in marginalized and farming communities of the country. The improved logical framework was tackled such as the social mobilization component with a community organizing sub-component; and, marketing assistance and

enterprise development seeks to identify markets, establish linkages and also establish communal agri-enterprises.

With President Rodrigo Duterte's thrust to increase food production and reduce poverty in the country, DA Secretary William D. Dar continually supported and promised to strengthen the program. The program also added those under the Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018.

The implementing guidelines of the program was improved on November 5, 2019 to complement Sec. Dar's 8 Paradigms of "the New Thinking Strategy", which are increasing productivity and making farmers and fishers prosperous. Meanwhile, the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) were included as support and co-implementing agencies. ### (Jayziel Anareta)



SAAD LUZON CLUSTER CONDUCTS TEAMWORK AND VALUES FORMATION WORKSHOP

November 20, 2019

NUEVA ECIJA – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted a three-day Teamwork and Values Formation Workshop for Luzon Cluster Area Coordinators (ACs) and staff of the Cordillera Administrative Region and Bicol Region at the Philippine Carabao Center, Science City of Muñoz from November 4 to 7, 2019.

The activity aims to strengthen the co-worker relationships, enhance communication, increase employee motivation and commitment, increase creativity and innovation in terms of problem solving, and provide an opportunity for employees to know each other better.

During the event, Ms. Maria Rechilda Dela Cueva, Shelley Gurrobat, and Cristine Margaret Atienza from Integrality Company facilitated the activity wherein participants shared their thoughts, feelings, and other behavioral factors that affect their relationship with one another.

At the end of the immersion, happy faces filled the event. Everyone has opened up on what was really happening inside an office.

One participant shared that employees may individually possess the

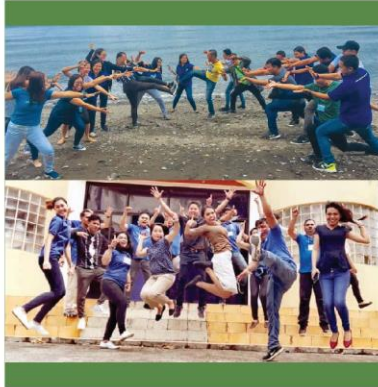


knowledge, skills, and abilities for their job, but without teamwork, trust, and a common goal, communication gaps will eventually form and prevent the organization from realizing their vision. The event made the ACs improve the line of communication within the team and remove communication barriers so that good ideas and best practices can be openly shared for greater productivity.

With the workshop, they now understand each other's strengths, weaknesses, and interests as well.

The SAAD Mindanao A and B Clusters will also be holding the Values Formation Workshop this November 25-28 and December 9-12, 2019, respectively. ### (Jennifer A. Valcobero)

THINK WELL, FEEL WELL, AND DO WELL SAAD



November 21, 2019

BAYBAY, LEYTE – Fifty-six (56) participants from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Region 8 participated in a Teamwork and Values Formation Workshop held from November 11 to 14, 2019 at the Visayas State University.

The participants, who are Area Coordinators, Provincial Coordinators, and Admin Officers, were asked to reflect on their personal and departmental gaps in three main areas – Think Well, Feel Well, and Do Well.

"Think Well" has an activity called Paint a Picture as well as interactive lectures and exercises. Paint a Picture aims to identify each team's strengths. They visualized that their group has been

featured in TIME's "Team of the Year." Each group came up with a creative photo and a headline statement to showcase their stories.

"Feel Well" consists of discussions and an examination to determine the temperament of each participant.

"Do Well" comprised of an individual activity called the Ribbon of Life, which aims to give participants a sense of how much time is spent — whether effectively or not — with every activity that they have or did.

After the lectures and exercises, the participants were once again formed into groups and performed the Unity Walk, a group activity that aims to be perfectly in sync while moving forward. In this group activity, the essence of grit and the value of perseverance were explained.

To remember all the learnings and reinforce the individual's commitment to be an effective part of the program, each participant crafted their positivity-based action plans and resolutions for the program to flourish. After crafting their resolutions, they share a toast for each member of Region 8.

The activity was conducted by the National Program Management Office in partnership with the Institute for Integrality, Inc. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas and Katherine A. Angeles)

DA-SAAD ILOILO CONDUCTS PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR FY 2020

November 22, 2019

ILOILO CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Region 6 conducts Planning Workshop for FY 2020 at Harbor Town Hotel from November 20-22, 2019.

The activity aims to strengthen and improve the implementation of the program in the province of Negros Occidental and Antique.

Present in the activity are the SAAD National Program Director, Myer G. Mula; the Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Operations and Extensions, Rene Famoso; the Chief of Operations Division, Dominador Marquez; and the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division (PMED) Chief, Mira Talabong. Discussed in the program is the status

of the ongoing projects in the three (3) municipalities of Don Salvador Benedicto, Laua-an, San Remegio.

Also discussed, are the direction and plans for the additional municipalities of Moises Padilla, Calatrava and Valderama, which are represented by the Provincial and Municipal Agriculturists of Negros Occidental and Antique.

In his speech, Mula put emphasis on the statement of President Rodrigo Duterte which is to deliver quality



services and interventions to the agricultural and fisheries sectors. He also said that the new direction of SAAD is to be a comprehensive and inclusive program. This means that SAAD will have closer coordination with other DA offices such as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Another important matter discussed is the imperative inclusion of the areas covered by Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018. This will augment the government's commitment to expanding its services.

At the end of the workshop, there are minor but relevant changes that will be incorporated in program implementation: the crafting of the SAAD's new Implementing Guidelines

for FY 2020 – 2022 which will provide improvements in addressing the needs of the regions, the appointment of only one focal person in the Central Office for both DA-SAAD and SAAD-BFAR, the conduct of one mid-term impact assessment, and the enhancement of the SAAD national website. ### (Mouril C. Legaspi and Jennifer A. Valcobero)



SAAD REGIONS 6 AND 7 ATTEND VALUES FORMATION WORKSHOP



November 28, 2019

BAYBAY, LEYTE – Provincial and Area Coordinators as well as Administrative staff of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Regions 6 and 7 attended a Values Formation Workshop held from October 14 to 17, 2019 at the Visayas State University.

Ruby Lauren Manuel, Rechilda dela Cueva, and Shelley Gurrobat, from the Institute for Integrality, Inc., led the

four-day event which was organized by the SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) to enhance the harmony within the workplace.

The participants reflected on their working experiences in the SAAD Program, including personal mistakes and professional lapses. They were taught about the importance of teamwork, knowledge, and purpose for the success of the program.

A post-activity open forum was conducted where the attendees shared their experiences and testimonials. One participant shared that the willingness to adapt, the continuous communication with co-workers, the acceptance to constructive criticism, and the empathy for others are important for an effective program implementation.

The activity was first of many values formation workshops, which will also be done with the other SAAD implementing regions. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)

SARANGANI CONDUCTS FINAL SAAD SAGA EVENT FOR 2019

November 29, 2019

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, November 26, 2019 – The province of Sarangani conducted the final Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Saga event for 2019 which was attended by 314 farmer-beneficiaries at the Family Country Hotel.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Office (RFO) 12 hosted the activity that aims to recognize the exceptional performance of farmer-partners of the SAAD Program.

Twelve farmers from seven municipalities of the province were nominated and contested for the recognition of the top three performers. They are Gorgonio Romasasa and Olivia Tata Yama of Glan; Sali Muda and Marites Enecito of Alabel; Loloy Kalintam, Dioscora Martin and Carmentica Nebres of Maasim; Maria Theresa Mante and Renato Salway of Malapatan; Ongpen Labi of Maitum; Roberto Naba of Malungon; and Zaldy Bansawan of Kiamba.

Corn and Vegetable Production beneficiary Dioscora Martin emerged as the top performer, who received a plaque and Php 100,000 worth of SAAD livelihood project. She was followed by Upland Rice Production Project beneficiary Gorgonio Romasasa and Corn Production Project beneficiary Carmentica Nebres, who also received plaques as well as Php 75,000 and Php



50,000 worth of projects, respectively. Meanwhile, DA-RFO 12 also gave Php 20,000 worth of project as a consolation prize to each nominee.

About the event

The event was attended by key persons who made big contributions to the program. These include the SAAD National, Regional, and Provincial Management Support Offices; Provincial, Municipal, and Barangay Local Government Offices; Provincial and Municipal Agriculturists; Sarangani Tribal Council; and farmers.

On behalf of DA Secretary William Dar, SAAD Program Director Myer Mula shared the eight paradigms of "New Thinking" for Agriculture geared towards a food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.

Also in his speech, he commended the SAAD Sarangani team, with the assistance of the local government units, for making significant contributions to the farmers' lives, especially the Indigenous People. From the province's 47.3% poverty incidence among families in 2015, the Philippines Statistics Authority reported an almost 7% reduction (40.5%) in the first semester of 2018. The SAAD Program is one of contributors in the province's decrease in poverty rate.

He also emphasized that the program will be market-driven with community enterprises to be established as well as farmers and fisherfolk as entrepreneurs.

Sarangani Governor Steve Chiongbian

Solon, who was supportive of the program since 2017, refreshed the farmers' memories on his five guides to implement an effective Diversified Upland Rice Production. These are tithing, allocating for food consumption, securing seeds for the next planting season, sharing their blessings with other farmers, and marketing.

Meanwhile, each nominee set up a booth to showcase their products, mostly is upland rice, corn, and vegetables. The top three performers also shared their journey through presentations and video documentaries.



About Dioscora Martin

Forty-five-year-old Dioscora from Barangay Nomoh, Maasim is a beneficiary of SAAD Sarangani's Corn and Vegetable Production Project in 2017. She received a sack of OPV white corn seeds and five packs of pinakbet seeds (bitter melon, okra, eggplant, tomato, string beans, and squash).

In her presentation, she got emotional and thanked the program for changing her life. From a bahay kubo, she was able to build a cemented house for her family.

With her perseverance and determination, many have seen Cora's growth as a backyard farmer. Her vegetable gardening became successful. She was able to reach many government agencies and non-government organizations, such as HOPE Foundation and East-West Company, who helped her with vegetable farming. She is now a serious advocate of farming; pushing her neighbors to plant as well. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

DA-SAAD CAR CONDUCTS 4TH QUARTER REGIONAL ASSESSMENT



November 29, 2019

BAGUIO CITY, November 25-27, 2019
– The Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program of Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) held its 4th Quarter Regional Assessment at New Rajah Soliman Hotel.

The activity was led by Danilo P. Daguito, Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Operations of DA-CAR; Balag-ey Claver Jr., Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) of Kalinga; Digna Villanueva, APCO of Apayao; Beverly Pikas, APCO of Mt. Province; and the SAAD regional and provincial staff.

Also present in the activity are the SAAD national representatives, Quincel Ramos and Jennifer Valcobero. In his message, Daguito said SAAD-CAR should maintain its status

as top performer among other regions. He also gave emphasis on the new directives of DA Secretary William Dar and SAAD Program Director Myer Mula.

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – SAAD Focal Person Michelle Peralta presented their physical and financial accomplishments. She shared that they will be in close coordination with SAAD from now on.

Meanwhile, each SAAD Area Coordinator of Apayao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province also showed their accomplishments, issues, concerns, and possible solutions. Issues include backlog in profiling of the farmer-beneficiaries from 2017 to 2019. Also discussed is the issue of SAAD CAR monthly newsletter, which will be released earlier in December. Each participant is allowed to suggest a name for the newsletter.

In addition, the SAAD national representatives presented the enhanced Implementing Guidelines for FY 2020-2022 and the SAAD Saga of Apayao which will be conducted in 2020.

To culminate the activity, the SAAD regional and provincial staff finalized their tasking on the upcoming SAAD 4th Quarter National Assessment on December 2-6, 2019 in Baguio City. ### (Faye P. Dulag)

257 AQUACULTURE PACKAGES DISTRIBUTED TO FLORA AND STA. MARCELA, APAYAO

November 30, 2019

APAYAO, November 26-27, 2019 – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) distributed 257 packages of aquaculture inputs to fisherfolk from the municipalities of Flora and Sta. Marcela.

Each package is composed of 1,000 tilapia fingerlings and two bags of feeds, which is under the Tilapia Pond Culture Project for FY 2019.

A total of 173 fishers from Flora received 149 packages while 89 fishers from Sta. Marcela got 84 packages.

The distribution of the aquaculture inputs is not in equal proportion because the content of each package is good for 200-square meter pond. Some beneficiaries have a smaller pond area so they were only provided with half quantity of the fingerlings and feeds.

The distribution was assisted by the Provincial Fishery Officer of BFAR-CAR, Meynard V. Domingo. The remaining recipients from Calanasan, Conner, and Kabugao will receive the same package in December 2019. ### (Jennifer A. Valcobero)



SAAD REGIONS IX AND X EMPOWERED THRU VALUES FORMATION WORKSHOP

December 2, 2019

DAVAO CITY, November 25-28, 2019

– The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held a three-day Values Formation Workshop at the Philippine Coconut Authority Complex, Tugbok District, Davao City.

Twenty-five provincial key players of the Mindanao A cluster (Regions IX and X) attended the workshop which aimed to develop positivity within oneself and work effectively as a team. The event had the theme, "Think Well, Feel Well and Do Well".

SAAD Program Director Myer G. Mula stressed the strengthened collaboration between SAAD and other DA units such as Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) for a smoother program implementation. Dir. Mula also reiterated the program's expansion to cover Executive Order 70 issued by President Rodrigo R. Duterte.

Through artworks, attendees shared personal work experiences, perspective and reflections to shed all negativity and regain inner peace and joy. They also discussed about building connections and being mindful of co-workers, as well as learning how to deal with different personalities to



foster a harmonious work environment.

Finally, the participants learned how to work well by feeling empowered and strategically responding to certain situations in the workplace. They were also taught to know one self's value, and live one's purpose to be effective public servants.

After the three-day workshop, the resource speakers, Ms. Ruby Lauren Manuel, Ms. Neo Madelaine Alomia and Ms. Joan Clarisse Guinto from Institute of Integrality, Inc. expressed their gratefulness on how actively the team participated in the activity.

With renewed purpose and perspective, the attendees look forward to serve the SAAD partner-farmers better. ###
(Marie Abigail G. dela Cruz and Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)

SAAD MINDANAO B CLUSTER CONDUCTS TEAMWORK AND VALUES FORMATION WORKSHOP

December 12, 2019

GENERAL SANTOS CITY, December 9 to 12, 2019

– The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program – Mindanao B Cluster (Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Offices (DA-RFOs) XI, XII, and XIII) conducted a three-day Teamwork and Values Formation Workshop at the London Beach Resort.

Seventy-five (75) SAAD staff, composed of Area Coordinators, Provincial Coordinators, and Admin Officers, participated in the event. The workshop aimed at enhancing harmony in the workplace, since most of the participants are field implementers and act as frontliners of the program.

Prior to the activity, SAAD Program Director Myer Mula emphasized the importance of their work as they face the farmers in all aspects of program

implementation.

The workshop is composed of lectures and exercises prepared by the Institute for Integrality Inc. The participants reflected on their personal and professional gaps. The importance of listening, sharing, and problem-solving were also emphasized through group activities.

At the end of the workshop, some participants shared that they now understand how to handle each other's strengths and weaknesses to improve communication within the organization.

"The learnings I've gathered from the workshop will be useful in the workplace and my personal life", shared SAAD Region 12 staff Niño Anzano. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD JOINS EFFORT TO ENHANCE SOCIAL PROTECTION AGAINST DISASTERS

December 13, 2019

MAKATI CITY, METRO MANILA, December 10, 2019 – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program took part in a knowledge sharing activity entitled, “Scaling Up Forecast Based Early Action and Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) with Innovative Use of Climate Risk Information for Disaster Resilience in ASEAN” and “MOVEUP4: Mindanao: Moving Urban Poor Communities In Mindanao Towards Resilience”, held at the New World Hotel Makati.

The aim of the activity was to discuss existing programs that mitigate natural disasters such as typhoons as well man-made occurrences such as insurgencies.

The project is a joint effort of the World Food Programme (WFO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), and the German Red Cross, and is funded by the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations. Mr. Douglas Broderick, Country Director of the WFP Philippines, delivered the opening remarks wherein he reiterated the fragility of food security in the country during trying times such as natural disasters, climate change, and terrorist activities. Assisting the poor, particularly those in Mindanao, will help achieve the second Sustainable Development Goal of the



United Nations which is zero-hunger. Ms. Ruth Honculada-Georget, Senior Consultant at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), made an overview about social protection, defined as a human right and a set of policies and programs designed to decrease poverty. Also

discussed were managing shocks affecting income in the education, healthcare and nutrition sectors and removing gender discrimination when subscribing to social protection services.

Georget also led the discussion on the creation of a roadmap for establishing a Risk-Informed Shock Responsive Social Protection System. Issues raised were such as lack of funding, focus on relief efforts than preparation before disasters, intervention providers delivering less than required, and the limited capacities of disaster risk information systems to inform social protection delivery mechanisms.

Ms. Ma. Ruzella Quilla, National Programme Development and Coordination Specialist of FAO, led the program overview and discussion of the projects, SRSP with Innovative Use of Climate Risk Information for Disaster Resilience in ASEAN: Philippines, and early actions to mitigate effects of El Nino-induced drought within a conflict context in Mindanao.

Ms. Isabelle Lacson, Program Policy Officer of WFP, shared the importance and benefits of a Forecast-Based Financing (FBF) of projects to quickly respond to disasters before they arrive, while Mr. Damien Riquet of the German Red Cross shared the application of Forecast-Based Early Action during Typhoon Kammuri.

The SAAD Program hopes to help farmer-partners become more resilient to natural and man-made disasters and occurrences to sustain their livelihood. ### (Ian Kevin M. Sevilla)

GONEGOSYO TO EXTEND SUPPORT TO SAAD BENEFICIARIES IN SARANGANI



December 16, 2019

SARANGANI, December 11, 2019 – GoNegosyo extended its support to provide marketing assistance to SAAD beneficiaries in the Sarangani province through a joint initiative meeting held at Sarangani Provincial Capitol.

Present during the meeting were Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) National Program Director Myer Mula, the GoNegosyo represented by Senior Project Development Officer Jose Alvaro Severino Nito, and Sarangani Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon. Also in attendance are the SAAD NPMO Mindanao B Cluster Focal Persons Jemiema Arro and Jacquelyn Rebusit, SAAD regional and provincial staff as well as Sarangani Provincial Agriculturist and staff.

Sarangani is one of the covered provinces, identified under the 30 poorest provinces with the highest poverty incidence, which benefited a total of 4,250 individual farmers and a total of 21 farmer associations from seven municipalities (Alabel, Malapatan, Glan, Malungon, Maasim, Kiamba and Maitum). The interventions provided were the following: upland rice production, OPV corn, dairy goats, horses and free range chicken, fisheries and aquatic resources together with agri-inputs, tools, machinery, facilities and equipment.

Dir. Mula discussed the importance of GoNegosyo to the program, which can provide linkages to partner enterprises, business opportunities, entrepreneurship-related training programs, and funding sources. He also emphasized the SAAD enterprise goals for its farmer beneficiaries, which is the provision of linkages to different markets and shaping them to become successful entrepreneurs.

SAAD'S NATIONAL FARMERS DATABASE SYSTEM ENHANCED

December 17, 2019

BAGUIO CITY, 9 to 13 December 2019 – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program enhanced its National Farmers Database System during the 2nd Assessment and Planning Workshop held at Venus Parkview Hotel.

The system, which contains the profiles and other important details of the

Governor Solon expressed his full support with the initiative. In fact, since the beginning of the program, he crafted five important principles for a successful and sustainable Upland Rice Production of the SAAD Program.

Assistance and support in marketing of products is part of it. He also noted that Sarangani has a large and growing production volume which needs to capture domestic and international market. He promised that the provincial and municipal local government units will fully support the farmers and this enterprise.

In conclusion, SAAD, GoNegosyo, DA Regional Field Office, and the Provincial Government agreed to complement each other's vision through a memorandum of agreement (MOA) towards a future agri-entrepreneurs of Sarangani farmers. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

farmers and associations who are beneficiaries of the program, was developed by the SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) Information Technologists (ITs) in 2018.

SAAD Program Director Myer Mula emphasized the importance of the farmers' profiles as a basis to measure the program's impact on poverty



alleviation.

During the assessment, the accomplishments of each SAAD implementing regions in terms of the profiled and geotagged farmers were evaluated.

The major issues laid out were incomplete data profiles of the farmers and web server glitches, some of which were resolved during the workshop.

Concerns about profiling forms were also brought up. SAAD NPMO IT Head Marvin Segovia said that the SAAD Program will still adopt the forms of the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA).

Count duplication was also a problem that is why SAAD NPMO ITs Randy Ocampo and Thoburn Gustilo continuously enhance the database system with new interfaces and options included for easier navigation, encoding, and filtering. By the end of 2019, the database hopes to be fully operational and internally accessible as the Regional Program Management Support Offices committed to complete the submission of data.

A workshop with the SAAD Area Coordinators (ACs) and ITs is set to happen in the first semester of 2020 to settle concerns regarding profile data collection and submission. ACs will profile and geotag the farmers while ITs concern is to consolidate, encode, and maintain the information gathered. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD IMPROVES NATIONAL OFFICE, STRENGTHENS PARTNERSHIP WITH ATI

December 24, 2019

TAGAYTAY CITY, December 16-19, 2019 – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) improved its National Program Management Office's (NPMO) structure and strengthened its partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) during its Year-End Assessment.

Dr. Myer Mula, SAAD Program Director, led the activity and came up with four clusters for the NPMO. The clusters include the 1. Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME), 2. Public Relations and Communications, 3. Information Technology and Database, and 4. Administrative.

Each group came up with its action and work plan for 2020. The plan consists of the deliverables and proposed schedule for field monitoring and other important events. Director Mula and Assistant Director Ulysses Lustria, Jr. will oversee the NPMO.

Meanwhile, a new inclusion in the PME Cluster will supervise the program implementation of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

The NPMO also enhanced its logical framework (log frame), which is necessary for effective program monitoring and evaluation. In 2020, the SAAD Program will partner with state universities and colleges (SUCs) to



conduct its mid-term evaluation, a study that will assess its immediate impact on the farmers and fishermen. The SAAD Saga event, a platform to recognize the success stories of the program beneficiaries and showcase their products, will also continue next year with fishers to participate as well.

SAAD and ATI Partnership

ATI Assistant Director Dr. Rosana Mula visited the event to share the enhanced direction of the bureau and how it will help the SAAD Program in its provision of training programs to its beneficiaries using its modules and training centers.

She also committed to updating the NPMO after their meeting with the regional directors in January 2020.

Social Preparation is an important component of the SAAD Program as it will help the farmers and fishers to be empowered in the management of the livelihood projects given to them. ###
(Jhomai S. Canlas)





It is often mentioned that the farmers feed the nation, however, in the SAAD Program, we envision farmers that don't just feed but also lead the nation.

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