

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
**SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT (SAAD) PROGRAM**



ANNUAL REPORT



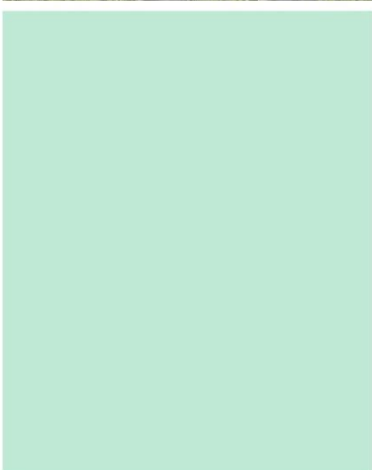


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2017 LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,



The year 2017 is a remarkable achievement in Philippine agricultural history. The Department of Agriculture, under the leadership of Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, implemented a program that seeks to help those who are truly in need: the poor farmers.

It is with great pride that I present to you what the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program has accomplished in its first year. I am proud to celebrate these achievements and continued progress in the pursuit of improved planning, implementation and delivery of interventions for the years to come.

As you read the report, I hope you will gain insight into the breadth and depth of our activities. As the director of the SAAD Program, I pledge to continue our quest on behalf of our poor farmers.

Thank you and I look forward to another amazing year with the SAAD Program.

Sincerely,



Bernadette F. San Juan
Director, SAAD Program

VISION MISSION OBJECTIVES

VISION

By 2022, SAAD is the lead agricultural development program and resource mobilization service of the Department of Agriculture undertaking intensified social venture initiatives to increase food production and alleviate poverty.

MISSION

We implement poverty alleviation programs through:

- Social Preparation that empowers marginalized farmers and fisherfolk;
- Intensified Production and Livelihood Interventions responsive to assessed needs;
- Partnerships with Private Sector and other members of the Government's Human Development; and
- Poverty Reduction Cluster.

OBJECTIVES

A. General

To help alleviate poverty in the poorest provinces of the country through provision of agricultural and related interventions to the poor in the farming and fisheries sector;

B. Specific

1. To complement DA regular programs in terms of beneficiaries and interventions;
2. To improve food production for household consumption and commercial purpose in areas of operation; and
3. To assist beneficiaries establish communal agri-enterprises.

HISTORY

Back in his term as the former governor of North Cotabato (1998-2007), now Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol initiated an agri-related anti-poverty program in the said province. Through his goodwill and dedication, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program took place and was able to provide aid in his home province. Part of its impact was the alleviation of poverty in North Cotabato thus lifting the province out of the top ten poorest provinces in the country in 2007, with reduced poverty incidence rate (from 52% down to 29%).

Upon his takeover as the head of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Sec.

Piñol brought along with him his brainchild program with the purpose of bringing it into a nationwide spectrum. Thus, the SAAD was officially launched as one of the DA's flagship programs in 2016.

The SAAD program will last for six years catering to the poorest provinces from 2017-2022 through the provision of both social preparation and livelihood interventions.



PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is the government agency in charge of food security and making food accessible to all. This obligation of the State is most critical to the poorest of the poor, who could barely eat three square meals a day. While other agencies of the State, such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provides assistance in the form of cash subsidies and livelihood support to this sector, the DA also saw it fit to provide a program that shall cater to this marginalized sector, particularly those engaged in agriculture and fisheries.

Poverty incidence in the Philippines is greatest in the rural areas where people rely mainly on agriculture and fisheries as their source of livelihood. The DA currently implements six banner programs, namely rice, corn, high value crops, livestock, fisheries and organic agriculture in its bid to boost national production on these commodities. However, due to the focus on production potentials, several areas, including those which are inaccessible, lacking in infrastructure and where the poorest of the poor generally resides, are often neglected.

The SAAD Program hopes to complement the DA national banner programs in two ways. First, SAAD shall provide interventions in areas not reached by the regular DA programs. Second, SAAD may provide interventions and schemes which are not part of the DA regular programs.

In line with the DA mandate to uplift the socio-economic situation of farmers, SAAD shall likewise assist beneficiaries to organize an efficient production, post-harvest and marketing process to improve their gains from farming and fisheries. Cluster production and community agri-enterprises along existing supply chains shall be encouraged. Innovative marketing, including digital or e-marketing, and appeal to philanthropy shall likewise be employed.



SOCIAL PREPARATION

FOOD PRODUCTION & LIVELIHOOD



Provincial Orientation



Work & Financial Planning

Workshop on Project Proposals

Needs Assessment/ Consultation

Trainings and training-related events



Backyard/ Communal Poultry & Livestock Production

Chicken

Duck

Goat

Sheep

Swine

Negative list

Farm-to-market roads

National and communal irrigation systems

Regulatory services

Large pre- & post-harvest processing equipment & facilities

Large market-related infrastructures

Training centers



Upland Rice/ Corn Diversified Farming

Rice

Corn

Backyard/ Communal Vegetable Production

Seeds & seedlings

Fertilizers

Farm tools



O We target the marginalized farmers and fisher folk, as well as those who want to venture into agriculture. UR BENEFICIARIES...

Must be poor households or groups (earning below the poverty threshold per province) who would like to engage or already engaged in agriculture and fisheries.

May be either farmers listed in the updated Registry System of Basic Sector in Agriculture (RSBSA), DA's database, MAO's farmers registry, 4Ps beneficiaries, Indigenous People's group, or members of accredited farmer organizations and cooperatives.

Preferably, must not be a recipient of similar intervention/s from DA in the last two years upon implementation.

If not formally organized, the group will be assisted by SAAD to be formally registered or accredited by appropriate government authority, provided these groups will undergo required training course/s.



PRIOR



Note: 2017 provinces were chosen based on their poverty incidence per family rating in the 2012 poverty report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA).

ITY PROVINCES

2017



P 721 million

based on the General Appropriations Act (GAA) FY2017
does not include SAAD-BFAR's budget of P 151 million

Central Office	37.576.5 million
DA-RFO CAR	66.164 million
DA-RFO VII	66.164 million
DA-RFO VIII	198.492 million
DA-RFO IX	66.164 million
DA-RFO X	89.696 million
DA-RFO XII	197.012 million

APAYAO

Cordillera Administrative Region

P 66.164 million



Covered municipalities

Calanasan	Pudtol
Luna	Flora
Santa Marcela	Conner
Kabugao	

Projects implemented

- Integrated Crop Production
- Large and Small Ruminant Production
- Poultry Production
- Market Support Project

region CAR's total

66,154.44 million

99.99%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

Farmers in Apayao graduated in SAAD's training on swine production

APAYAO – Twenty (20) farmers from Sitio Asao, Barangay Butao in Calanasan, Apayao were recognized in a graduation ceremony held on the 22nd of November 2017 for their commendable participation during the 16-week Farmer Livestock School Training (FLST) under the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

The training aims to prepare and equip farmers with the fundamental know-how of handling the pigs before their delivery.

The activity was done in partnership with the Calanasan Office for Agricultural Services, with resource speakers Municipal Agriculturist Luisa U. Magna, Veterinarian I Reah Vivian M. Piagan, and Agricultural Technologist Dan M. Sagli.



The same training was also recently conducted in Conner and Kabugao, each with 20 participating farmer-beneficiaries. A graduation ceremony is also set to be conducted in both municipalities.

All beneficiaries will receive a total of 60 gilts and boars, 20 for each municipality. The first-in-line beneficiaries

of gilt will be given breeders, feeds for at least one production cycle, and a simple piggery house. All of these are already under procurement in the provincial local government unit of Apayao.

SAAD Apayao delivered two bucks and 19 does were distributed in Barangay Aga, Pudtol while one buck and 11 does were given to beneficiaries in Panay, Sta. Marcela last November 13, 2017. The small ruminants amounted to Php 465,000.

The team is still set to deliver more goats to its farmer-beneficiaries in various municipalities.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the first-line benefi-

ciaries shall give five offspring to next-in-line beneficiaries every year for a period of three years from the time the goats have started breeding. The next-in-line beneficiaries, in return, shall give one female kid to the other next-in-line beneficiaries. This is according to the rolling out scheme of the SAAD Program Provincial Management Support Office (PPMSO) in Apayao.

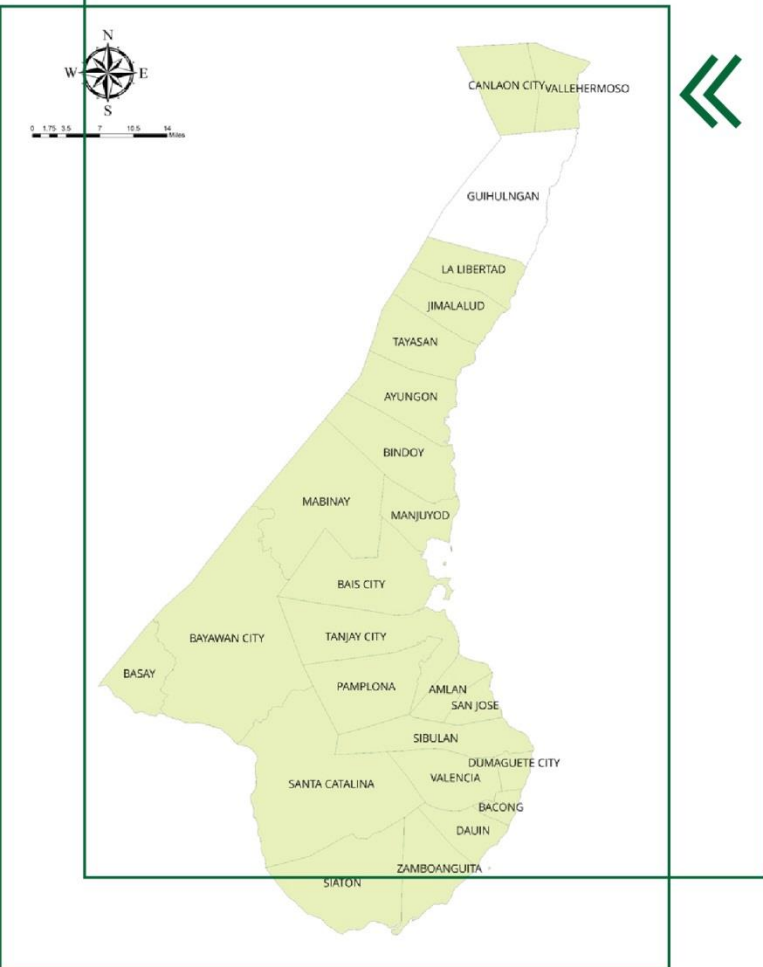


SAAD team in Apayao delivers more than 30 goats to beneficiaries

NEGROS ORIENTAL

Region 7

P 66.164 million



Covered municipalities

Canlaon City	Tanjay City
Vallehermoso	Pamplona
La Libertad	Santa Catalina
Jimalalud	Siaton
Tayasan	Amlan
Ayungon	San Jose
Bindoy	Sibulan
Mabinay	Valencia
Manjuyod	Dumaguete City
Bais City	Bacong
Bayawan City	Dauin
Basay	Zamboanguita

Projects implemented

Cattle Dispersal Livelihood Support Project was implemented in the city of Canlaon with a total of 33 beneficiaries.

In Vallehermoso, two projects namely Development Hillyland Farming for a Sustainable Agriculture and Provision of Draft Animals (Carabaos) as Livelihood for Marginalized Farmers in Non-Mechanized Farming System for 40 beneficiaries each has also been carried out.

A project called Upscaling of the Barangay Sagip-Saka of the Conservation Farming Villages or CFV-OURFood in the municipality of La Libertad as a strategy climate change adaptation and sustainable upland development in the area.

continue at page 12

region 7's total

64,204.38 million

97.04%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

Meanwhile, the Hillyland Agricultural Development Project has carried out in Jimalalud for 39 farmers.

In Tayasan, the Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement through Acquisition of Farm Machineries and the Sustainable Livelihood Enhancement through Acquisition of Swine Production projects will be implemented in the municipality, both having 73 beneficiaries.

A project called Enhancing Sustainable Productivity of 254 Ayungon farmers through provision of corn & rice seeds and organic fertilizer was also implemented.

In Manjuyod, a project called Integrated Livelihood was also carried out, benefiting 163 farmers, through vegetable production, cut flower production, rice production, dairy production, and livestock production. SAAD Negros Oriental will also provide windmill to the municipality.

Draft animals will likewise be given to 30 farmer-beneficiaries of Mabinay while in Bais City, the team will be implementing an Agro Forestry-based Native Chicken Production for its 41 beneficiaries.

Two projects called Cattle Upgrading and Dispersal for 20 farmers and Rice & Corn Seed Production for 71 farmers will be executed in Pamplona.

The team will also be distributing 85 heads of carabao as draft animals to 85 farmers in Tanjay City.

In Amlan, 28 farmers will also be given carabaos as draft animals. A project called Amlan Abakahuyan-based Manukan will also be carried out for 114 beneficiaries. A total of 498 farmers will also be provided agricultural assistance through Backyard Cattle Fattening and Integrated Livelihood Project.

On the other hand, 33 farmers from the municipality of San Jose shall also be beneficiaries of the SAAD Program through a project called Livestock Productivity Dispersal Program through Cattle Development.

Three projects namely Mechanized Organic Vegetable and High-Value Fruits Production, Integrated Cacao Development Project, and Corn Mill Provision were implemented in Sibulan for 328 farmers in the area.

An Urban Organic Gardening Project for eight barangays in Dumaguete City was, as well, executed, which will benefit 126 farmers.

In the municipality of Valencia, SAAD will be establishing an abaca nursery and will be rehabilitating 100 hectare abaca farm for the benefit of 134 farmers. Cocoa Production, Provision of Agricultural Inputs in Vegetable Production, Carabao Dispersal for Custom Plowing & Native Chicken Dispersal Project, Dairy Cattle Production & Dispersal Project, and Provision of Postharvest Multi-Purpose Solar Dryer Concrete Pavement Facility were also implemented in Valencia for a total of 440 beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, a Backyard Cattle Fattening project will be implemented in ten barangays in the municipality of Bacong. Twelve heads of cattle will be dispersed per barangay, benefiting 80 farmers.

Cattle fattening was also done in Dauin, which will benefit 114 farmers.

In Zamboanguita, the Productivity Enhancement through Acquisition of Farm Machineries and Equipment Project was carried out for 60 farmers in the area.

Various projects, such as Integrated Agricultural Development, Support to Informal Seed Growers, Certified Rice Seed Production Support, Support to Palay (Hybrid Rice) Production in Rainfed and Selected Irrigated Areas, Swine Fattening and Dispersal, and Vermi Composting, were implemented in Siaton.

On the other hand, three projects namely Support to Rice and Corn Community Seed Banking Program, Integrated Goat-based Farming Project, and Baboyang Walang Amoy were implemented in the municipality of Santa Catalina. A total of 85 farmers will benefit from the projects.

The team will also be providing postharvest machineries, such as kiskisan solar rice mill dryer, palay cutters, vacuum sealer, and chiller, for 23 farmers in Bayawan City.

Lastly, the team will give agricultural equipment, such as floating tiller, hand tractor, rice thresher, and rubberized ricemill, to 29 beneficiaries from Basay under a project called Support to Rice Production in Rainfed Areas. They will also be carrying out a Chicken Egg Production Project.

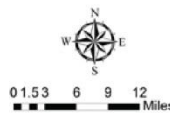


A total of 114 SAAD farmer-beneficiaries in Dauin, Negros Oriental gathered together in Dauin Covered Court last September 23, 2017 to widen their knowledge on backyard cattle fattening.

NORTHERN SAMAR

Region 8

P 66.034 million



Covered municipalities

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| Catarman | Rosario |
| Bobon | San Isidro |
| Allen | Capul |
| Biri | Victoria |
| San Vicente | Lope De Vega |
| Lavezares | Mondragon |
| San Antonio | Silvino Lobos |
| San Roque | San Jose |
| Pambujan | Laoang |
| Palapag | Lapinig |
| Gamay | Catubig |
| Mapanas | |

Projects implemented

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Enhanced Rice Production | Enhanced Vegetable Gardening | Sustainable Goat Production |
| Enhanced Corn Production | Swine Fattening Project | Poultry Production |

region 8's total

192,922.48 million

97.19%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017



April 24, 2017 | SAAD Northern Samar conducted Orientation on Season-Long Farmers Field School on Integrated Corn Production and Management to the farmer-beneficiaries in 12 identified corn areas of the province.

SAAD Northern Samar distributes hundred sets of farm equipment



NORTHERN SAMAR – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office VIII held a ceremonial distribution of farm equipment to its farmer group beneficiaries from ten (10) municipalities last October 23, 2017 at the Capitol Grounds, Provincial Capitol, Catarman, Northern Samar.

Seventy-six (76) sets of hand tractors and 35 units of irrigation pumps were given to farmers' associations from Bobon, Catubig, Catarman, Las Navas, Pambujan, Laoang,

San Roque, Mapanas, Mondragon, and Palapag. All of them are beneficiaries of the Northern Samar's FY 2016 SAAD Rice Program.

The event was attended by Northern Samar Governor Jose L. Ong, Jr., 2nd District Congressman Edwin Ong, Provincial Administrator Efren Sabong, Northern Samar SAAD Focal Person Belen G. De Pedro, Provincial Agriculturist Leonia P. Laodenio, and Northern Samar SAAD Provincial Coordinator Ferdinand Q. Ultra.

Right after the turn-over ceremony, PI Farm Products, Inc. conducted training for the given tractors and water pumps to ensure farmers will be equipped in the operation.



Northern Samar broadens farmers' knowledge on rice production



NORTHERN SAMAR – "The only source of knowledge is experience." With the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's aim to socially prepare farmers on various aspects in agriculture, SAAD team in Northern Samar started training 140 farmers on rice production last November 29 to 30, 2017.

The Training on Enhanced Rice Production cum Technology Demonstration was conducted simultaneously in the



municipalities of Gamay and Lapinig. The participants, 70 farmers each from the said municipalities, are the province's identified beneficiaries for the year 2017.

With the help of the University of Eastern Philippines through its University Extension Services and the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and Natural Resources, the farmers were able to learn seed quality, land preparation, crop establishment, nutrient and water



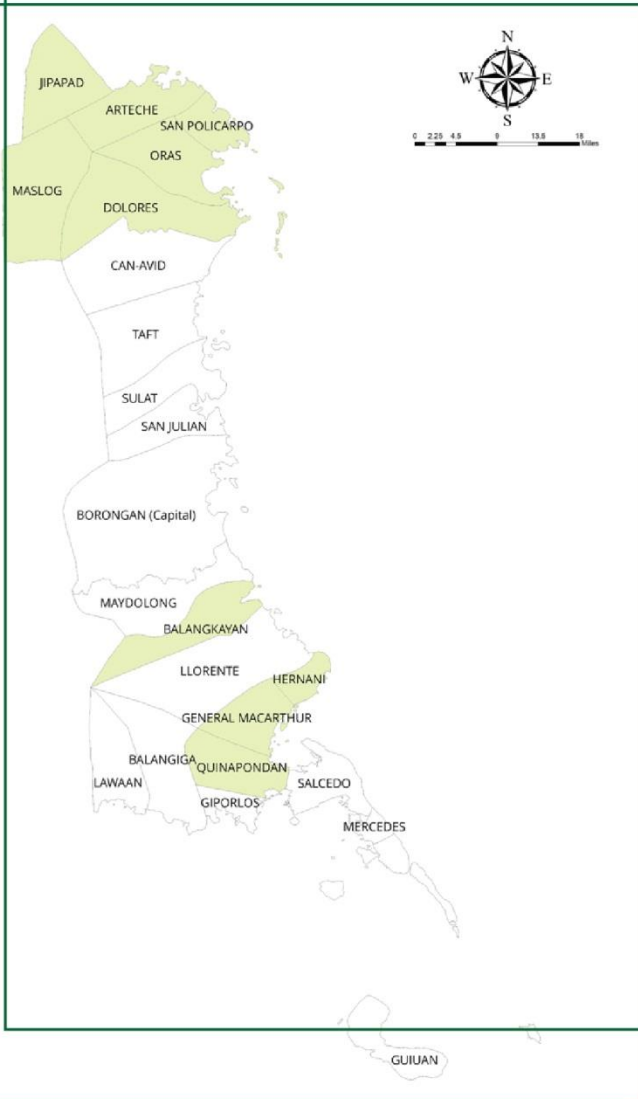
management, pest management, harvest and post-harvest management, farm bookkeeping and accounting, among others.

Meanwhile, 70 farmers from Gamay were also given a total of 210 bags of complete fertilizer, 140 bags of urea, and 70 bags of muriate of potash under SAAD Northern Samar's Enhanced Rice Production Project for the year 2017 last December 5, 2017.

EASTERN SAMAR

Region 8

P 66.034 million



Covered municipalities

Jipapad	Dolores
Arteche	Balangkayan
San Policarpo	Hernani
Maslog	General McArthur
Oras	Quinapondan

Projects implemented

- Enhanced Rice Production
- Enhanced Corn Production
- Enhanced Vegetable Gardening
- Enhanced Poultry Production
- Swine Fattening Project
- Sustainable Goat Production

region 8's total

192,922.48 million

97.19%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

More than 1400 farmers graduate in SAAD Eastern Samar Farmers' Field School



EASTERN SAMAR – A total of 1,490 farmers from various municipalities in Eastern Samar recently graduated from the province's 2016 Farmers' Field School through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

The Farmers' Field School Program of the SAAD Eastern Samar aims to equip the farmers with the newest technology that agriculture could offer.

In 7th of November 2017, 400 rice beneficiaries and 30 high-value crops beneficiaries from Jipapad, Arteche, were awarded

certificates during their graduation ceremony at Oras Municipal Gym. They were also given 12 hand tractors and five pump engine sets.

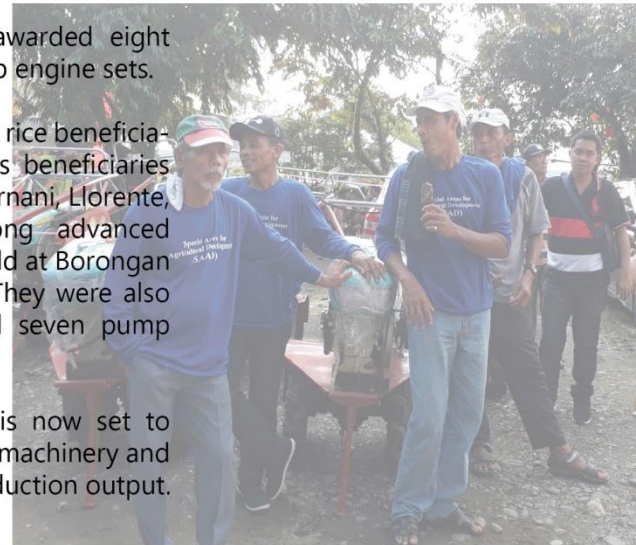
A total of 50 rice beneficiaries and 75 corn beneficiaries from Guiuan, Mercedes, Salcedo, and General McArthur also graduated from the Farmers' Field School Program on the same day at Guiuan Municipal Gym. They were awarded two hand tractors and two pump engine sets.

Meanwhile, a graduation ceremony was also held at Balangiga Municipal Gym for 300 rice beneficiaries and 75 corn beneficiaries of Lawaan, Balangiga, Giporlos, and Quinapondan on November 7, 2017.

SAAD Eastern Samar also awarded eight hand tractors and three pump engine sets.

In 9th of November 2017, 450 rice beneficiaries and 60 high-value crops beneficiaries from the municipalities of Hernani, Llorente, Balangkayan, and Maydolong advanced from the program, as well, held at Borongan City Provincial Gymnasium. They were also given 16 hand tractors and seven pump engine sets.

SAAD Eastern Samar team is now set to monitor the distributed farm machinery and the farmer-beneficiaries' production output.



December 20, 2017 | Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Eastern Samar team delivered 135 heads of swine to 45 CY2017 SAAD farmer-beneficiaries under

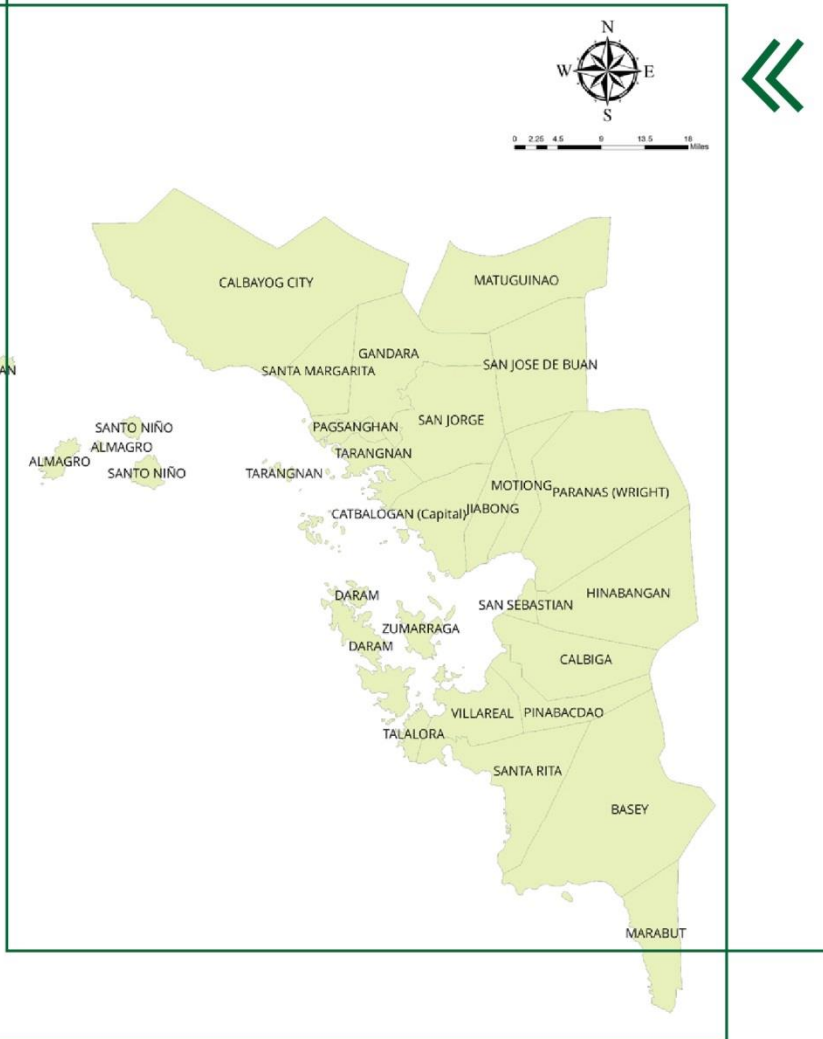
the province's Swine Fattening Project in barangays Pob #06, San Pedro, and Rizal in the municipality of Quinapondan. Each farmer received three (3) heads of swine.

December 20, 2017 | Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Eastern Samar delivered goats to 15 beneficiaries in the municipality of Balangkayan. Each beneficiary has been given three (3) heads of goats.

WESTERN SAMAR

Region 8

P 66.034 million



Covered municipalities

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Almagro | Gandara |
| Basey | Jiabong |
| Calbiga | Motiong |
| Calbayog | Paranas |
| Catbalogan | Pagsanghan |
| Pinabacdao | Daram |
| San Jorge | Hinabangan |
| Sto Niño | Marabut |
| Sta Margarita | Matuginao |
| Sta Rita | San Jose de Buan |
| San Sebastian | Hinabangan |
| Talalora | Villareal |
| Tarangnan | Zummaraga |
| Tagapul-an | |

Projects implemented

- Enhanced Rice Production
- Enhanced Corn Production
- Enhanced Vegetable Gardening
- Enhanced Poultry Production
- Swine Fattening Project
- Sustainable Goat Production
- Sustainable Ube Production
- Sustainable Ginger Production
- Sustainable Peanut Production

region 8's total

192,922.48 million

97.19%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

SAAD NEW Samar distributes more than 3,000 bags of certified rice seeds



SAMAR – The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) VIII, through its Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, just provided 3,373 bags of certified rice seeds to Northern, Eastern & Western Samar to enhance the rice industry to various identified Local Government Units (LGUs).

The SAAD team first began its distribution to nine municipalities in Western Samar, which are Basey, Jiabong, Motiong, Pinabacdao, Sta. Rita, San Jorge, Gandara, Sta. Margarita, and Calbayog, by positioning the seeds at designated drop-off

points that started on September 25 to October 5, 2017. Each of the areas received 90 bags of certified rice seeds.

From west, the team went to east to deliver seeds to drop-off points of Eastern Samar, which are Quinapondan (86 bags), Gen. Macarthur (84 bags), Maslog (84 bags), Hernani (84 bags), Balangkayan (84 bags), Dolores (86 bags), Oras (85 bags), San Policarpo (84 bags), Arteche (84 bags) and Jipapad (84 bags).

Meanwhile, a total of 860 bags of certified rice seeds were provided to Northern Samar and dropped off in areas, which are Allen (225 bags), Lapinig (70 bags), Gamay (70 bags), Capul (75 bags), Lavezares (210 bags), Rosario (70 bags) and San Jose (140 bags).



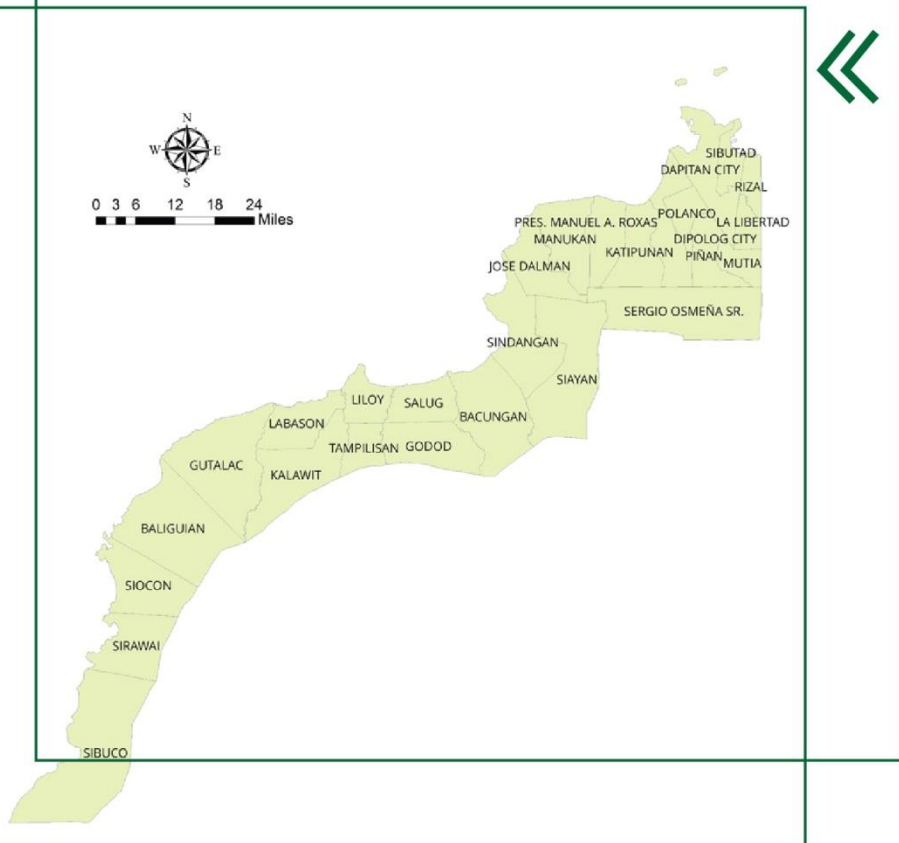
Prior to the distribution, all certified rice seeds were proven viable through the Bureau of Plant Industry – National Seed Quality Control Services' (BPI-NSQCS) seed germination test, headed by its Regional Chief, Mr. Uldarico C. Amihan.

NEW Samar SAAD team delivered the certified rice seeds ahead of their scheduled date of October 18, 2017. The team completed the distribution on the 10th of October 2017 for the farmer-beneficiaries' November to March cropping season.

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

Region 9

P 66.164 million



Covered municipalities

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Rizal | Dipolog City |
| Sibutad | Katipunan |
| Dapitan City | Manukan |
| La Libertad | Jose Dalman |
| Mutia | Siayan |
| Sergio Osmeña | Sindangan |
| Piñan | Kalawit |
| Polanco | Leon Postigo |
| Salug | Baliguian |
| Godod | Siocon |
| Liloy | Sirawai |
| Tampilisan | Sibuco |
| Labason | Gutalac |
| Pres Manuel Roxas | |

Projects implemented

Corn, Vegetable, Coffee, Mushroom, Peanuts, Goat, Cassava, Layer & Native Chicken, Upland rice, Swine, Cacao, and the like

region 9's total

62,095.86 million

93.85%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

SAAD Program launches in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte

DIPOLOG CITY — Smiles and laughter brightens the atmosphere as the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program launches in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte on June 13, 2017 at Virginia Elementary School, Brgy. Diwan, Dipolog City. Then-SAAD Program Director Lerey A. Panes graced the said event as well as steered the provision of agricultural assistance to the beneficiaries of SAAD in Diwan.

In his remarks, Panes emphasised the importance of the market for the sustainability of the agriculture in the area. He then vowed to provide help to the marginalized farmers in Diwan through the SAAD Program. Panes delivered his message in their native language, Bisaya, which made the crowd feel even more connected to him.

A ceremonial distribution of interventions followed where Asec. Panes along with Dipolog City Mayor Dexter Darel Uy, City Agriculturist Engr. Jose Kerr Porlas and SAAD Provincial Coordinator for



Zamboanga del Norte. Ronillo Dusaban handed over durian seedlings and vegetable seeds to 500 beneficiaries. Various activities including a dental mission and an information drive were, as well, carried out in the event.

Mayor Uy, on the other hand, expressed his support for the SAAD program in his acceptance and commitment message.

After the successful launch, Asec Panes together with SAAD Provincial Program Management Office of Zamboanga del Norte and Mayor Uy visited the Diwan sitio proper for a communal garden planting.



DA-SAAD Program distributed OPV white corn seeds to farmer-beneficiaries of Lawigan Farmers Association in Labason, Zamboanga del Norte last September 6, 2017.



A total of 385 sacks of organic fertilizer in the municipality of Kalawit was delivered last December 20, 2017 under the area's SAAD Corn Production Project.

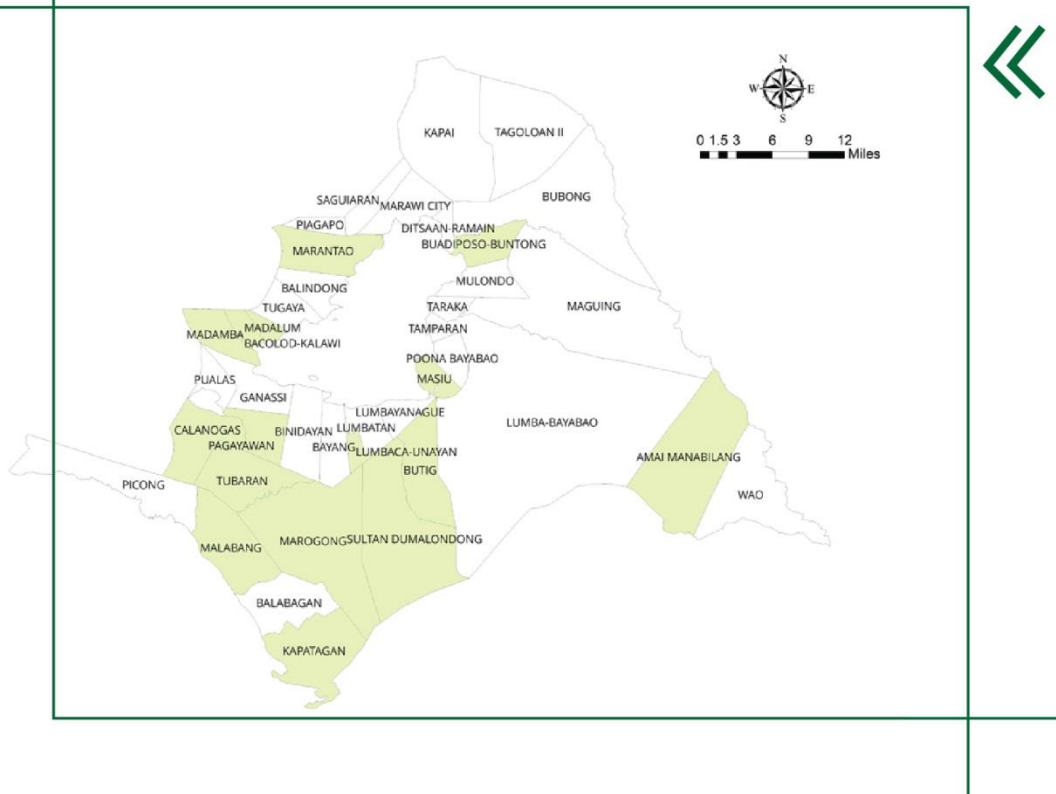


DA-SAAD delivered OPV white corn seeds and organic fertilizers to Lubukanan Farmers Association in Barangay Daniel, Maing Kalawit last September 28, 2017.

LANAO DEL SUR

Region 10

P 89.696 million



Covered municipalities

- Amai Manabilang
- Bacoled Kalawi
- Buadipuso-Buntong
- Butig
- Calanogas
- Kapatagan
- Lumbaca Unayan
- Madamba
- Madalum
- Malabang
- Marantao
- Marogong
- Masiu
- Pagawayan
- Sultan Dumlondong
- Tubaran

Projects implemented

- | | | |
|------------------|-----------|---------|
| Corn | Rice | Duck |
| Vegetable | Livestock | Cassava |
| High Value Crops | | |

region 10's total

89,695.27 million

100%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

SAAD Lanao del sur shares its eight objectives

According to Carlota Madriaga, SAAD Region 10 Deputy Focal Person, Special Area for Agricultural Development Program in Lanao del Sur aims to accomplish the following eight objectives.

1 Keeping Food Always In The Home (FAITH) Garden Technology, a backyard fight against hunger

2 Increase alternative livelihoods, including small livestock production

3 Encourage Lanao del Sur's Department of Agriculture to work on expanding the province's agriculture coverage and on making the province rice sufficient by 2019 through the adoption of hybridization and updating rice technology

4 Cover livelihood projects, such as production, processing, and value-adding components, that will promote project sustainability and help improve the economic situation in conflict-affected communities

5 Encourage investments in agriculture that promote area-based development

6 Prioritize investments that can increase and sustain productivity

7 Invest in programs that will increase resilience to climate risks & disasters, pests, and diseases

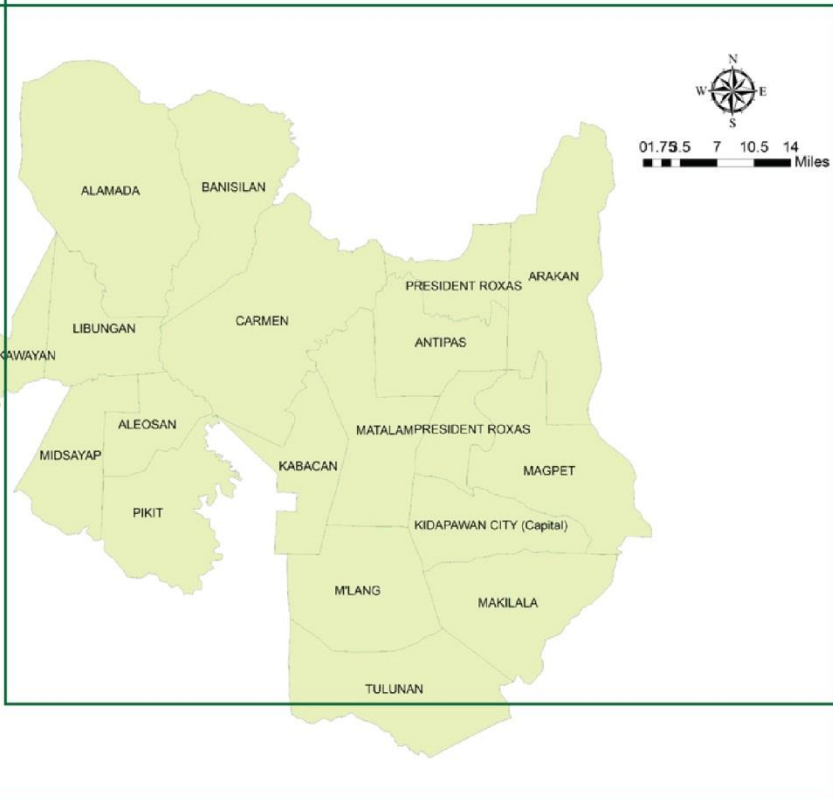
8 Prioritize farmers and fisherfolk in all of their interventions

With these goals, the SAAD Program in Lanao del Sur will surely do its best in reaching out to the poorest & untouched farmers and rebuild the lives of those who were affected by the recent war in Marawi.

NORTH COTABATO

Region 12

P 50 million



Covered municipalities

- Alamada
- Banisilan
- Pigcawayan
- Libungan
- Midsayap
- Pikit
- Carmen
- Aleosan
- Pres Roxas
- Matalam
- Mlang
- Arakan
- Antipas
- Magpet
- Kidapawan City
- Makilala
- Tulunan
- Kabacan

Projects implemented

- | | | |
|------------------|------------|----------------|
| Livestock | Vegetables | Rice |
| High Value Crops | Corn | Infrastructure |

region 12's total

193,526.60 million

98.23%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

Various post-harvest equipment to benefit 200 farmers in North Cotabato



NORTH COTABATO – Various post-harvest equipment were recently turned over for the benefit of 200 farmers in the municipalities of Tuluhan, Pikit, and Midsayap in North Cotabato under the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agriculture Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

Seventy corn farmers of the Bituan Farmers Association received a corn sheller with complete accessories last 5th of December 2017 in a turnover ceremony held in Barangay Bituan, Tuluhan.

The 12.5 horsepower corn sheller, worth P128, 000, can save farmers from the additional expense they used to incur from private shellers.

What Bituan farmers would only need to worry is a P20 fee as contingency fund.

In the program led by SAAD North Cotabato, together with the Office of Provincial Agriculturist staff Engr. Elena Regonton, Karen Resentes, and Elvira Mendoza, a social preparation training was also conducted to teach farmers how to operate the machine and to lay out rules for the members' utilization of the equipment.

The Bituan farmers said they are thankful to them would be a great

contribution to their livelihood. They are still expecting to get corn seeds, fertilizers, and livestock (such as pigs and chicken) from SAAD.

In the municipality of Pikit, one unit of corn sheller, one unit of rice thresher, and one unit of trailer with transmission were also given to 50 farmers of Muslim Christian Lumad Free Farmers Association and Gli-Gli Farmers Association last 6th of December 2017 at the Municipal Plaza of Pikit, North Cotabato.

The equipment aims to help Pikit-farmer beneficiaries incur lesser costs in

post-harvest activities, thus resulting to increased income.

In Midsayap, one unit of 36 HP four-wheel drive tractor with complete accessories was also turned over to Golden Field Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Salunayan last December 8, 2017. The equipment will help 80 farmers in their farm operations.

Meanwhile, certificates of commitment were given to 15 registered farmers' associations in Kidapawan City during its 9th Kawayan Festival held in the Municipal Plaza Band Stand last December 8, 2017.

Katumaan sa mga SAAD for North Cotabato farmers

NORTH COTABATO — "Katumaan sa mga SAAD" (The fulfillment of promises). Promised agricultural interventions to Luanan farmers in North Cotabato was fulfilled as the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program of North Cotabato team distributed 140 bags of hybrid corn seeds in Barangay Luanan, Aleosan last December 27, 2017.

Engr. Milagros C. Casis, DA-RFO XII Regional Executive Director, spearheaded the mass distribution together with Cecilia A. Parcon, the DA-RFO XII SAAD Focal Person, and Jerry W. Tingson, SAAD North Cotabato Provincial Coordinator.

Brgy. Luanan is the poorest barangay in Aleosan. Given this situation and committing the "katumaan sa mga SAAD", the Department of Agriculture made sure that this barangay receives interventions that help uplift the living condition of the people. In addition to the hybrid corn seeds, Director Casis also committed to giving more livelihood interventions.

Since Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol assumed the post, the people of Luanan are hopeful that their needs will be addressed and yes, they were right! They can expect to receive more interventions from the Department of Agriculture. *Dec 27, 2017*

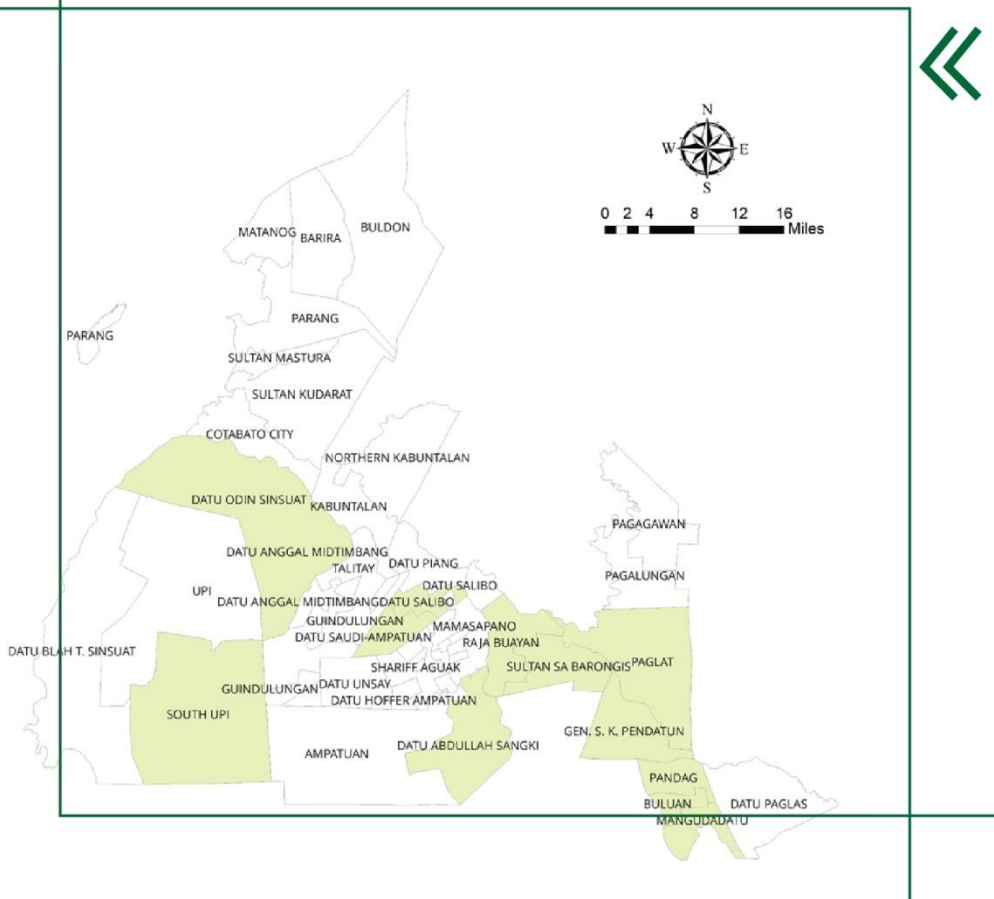


Before the end of 2017, SAAD North Cotabato delivered 6,577 bags of fertilizer components for rice and corn production farmer-beneficiaries in Magpet.

MAGUINDANAO

Region 12

P 50 million



Covered municipalities

- Datu Odin Sinsuat
- Daru Salibo
- Rajah Buayan
- Datu Abdullah Sangki
- Paglat
- Buluan
- Sultan sa Barongis
- Datu Saudi
- Gen SK Pendatun
- South Upi
- Pandag
- Mangudadatu

Projects implemented

Livestock, Vegetables,
Machineries, and the like

region 12's total

193,526.60 million

98.23%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

SAAD Program launches in Maguindanao; gives hope to farmer-beneficiaries



MAGUINDANAO – A brighter future awaits the local farmers of Maguindanao as the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program officially launches in the said province in BBGM Function Hall, Buluan on May 02, 2017, Tuesday. Under the program, 20 out of 36 municipalities in Maguindanao will benefit from various agricultural interventions.

SAAD focal person for Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN), Cecilia Parcon, kicked-off the event with a brief orientation and presentation on the SAAD program, followed by the opening remarks of Maguindanao Governor Esmael Mangudadatu.

Gov. Mangudadatu welcomes all the participants in the special occasion that may change their current situation. He, however, reminds everyone to remain contented with what they have and possess self-control. The ceremonial distribution of agri-inputs to the beneficiaries followed. This includes small farming equipment and tools, fertilizers (liquid and solid), tarpaulin, rice and corn seeds and others.

Then-SAAD Program Director Lerey A. Panes along with Region 12 Executive Director Engr. Mila Casis and Hon. Mangudadatu, steered the ceremonial distribution of agri-inputs to the farmers of Maguindanao. The interventions, under the P25M first tranche of SAAD budget for the province, will be formally distributed through the Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) headed by Norma Piang, Provincial Coordinator for Maguindanao.

Following the ceremonial distribution, Engr. Casis gave her message of encouragement to the farmers as well as to the

people behind the SAAD Program. In her speech, she said “development is transforming the lives of people, not just the economy” thus pushing the SAAD team to join in the fight against poverty in the country.

ASec. Panes also gave a piece of advice to the recipients of the SAAD program to change their mindset or consciousness in order to successfully alter their environment. To boot, “Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, a pro-farmer, is ready to help the needy thus the establishment of the SAAD program.” He also mentions that Mindanao is a “sleeping giant” with its rich resources; hence, all farmers must work hand in hand to utilize and make the most out of it.

The program launching of the SAAD Program in Maguindanao closed in peace and high hopes for the betterment of the lives of the local farmers and of agriculture in the said province.

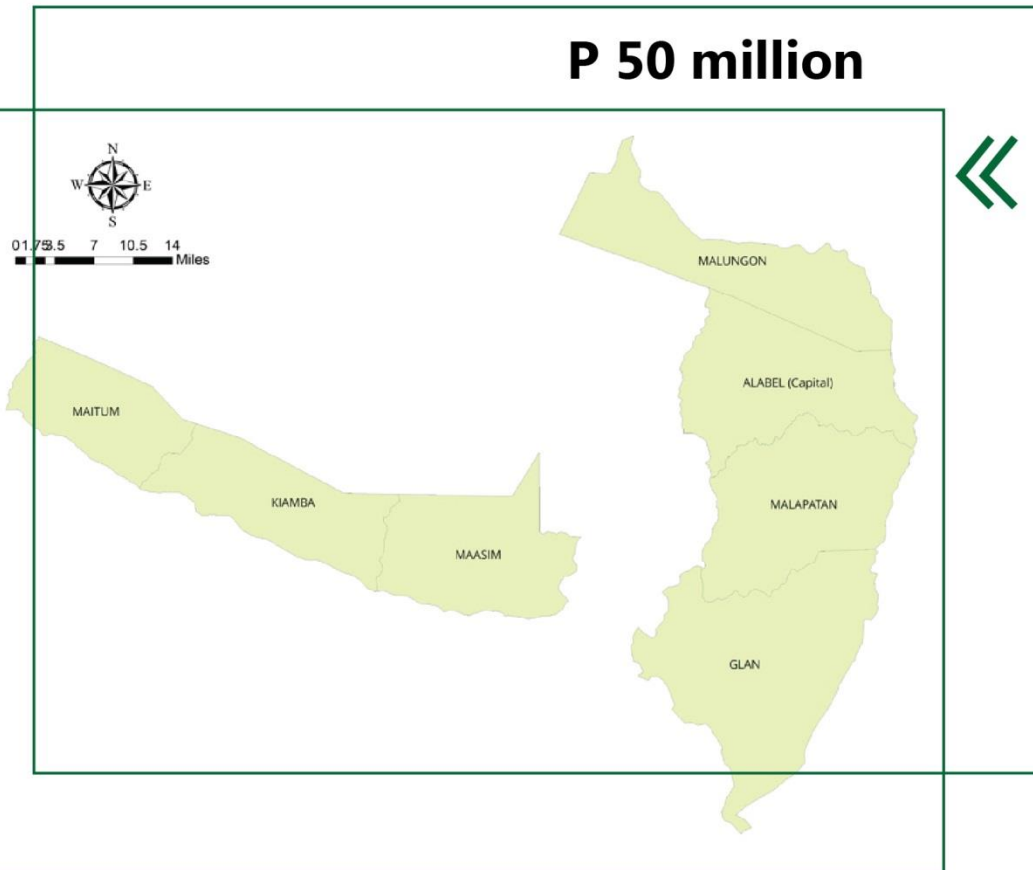
Debulaeg Utto, Officer-in-charge of the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) in Maguindanao officially closed the ceremony with his message of support for the SAAD Program.

Utto, Gov. Mangudadatu, Engr. Casis and ASec. Panes, along with Daud Legasi, OIC of Provincial Agricultural Office of Maguindanao and Mosibicak Guiabel, Provincial Agriculturist, signed the “Commitment of Support” for the implementation of the SAAD program in the area.

SARANGANI

Region 12

P 50 million



Covered municipalities

- Malungon
- Alabel
- Malapatan
- Glan
- Maasim
- Kiamba
- Maitum

Projects implemented

- Upland rice
- Corn
- Vegetables
- Livestock
- and the like

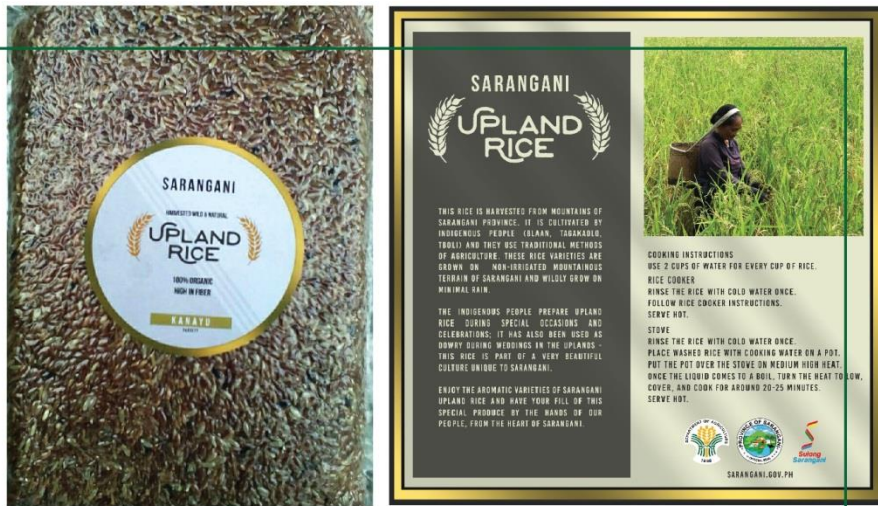
region 12's total

193,526.60 million

98.23%
obligation rate

as of Dec 31, 2017

Sarangani launched organically grown upland rice products



SARANGANI – The province of Sarangani just launched its organically grown upland rice products produced by farmers, who are beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, last 7th of November 2017.

The different variety of rice, packaged in a classy gold branding, were cultivated by Indigenous people (B'laan, Tagakaolo, and T'boli) of Barangay Upo, Maitum, Sarangani through traditional methods of agriculture.

More than 180 farmers, who were targeted as beneficiaries of the SAAD Sarangani program for FY2016, contributed to the product launching as

they had just recently harvested more than 100 metric tons at the end of October.

In DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol's recent visit in the area during their Thanksgiving celebration, he remarked how he wants Sarangani to be the model area of the SAAD Program as it is the most successful due to its streamlined and efficient implementation. He also lauded Sarangani Governor Steve Solon and the farmer-beneficiaries for their fruitful yield of organic brown rice and other varieties of upland rice.

In the said event, the DA chief also handed out a check worth P75m, which is the P25m second tranche of the FY2016 Continuing Funds and the P50m FY2017 Current Funds, to the provincial government of Sarangani.

For the coming years to come, Sarangani expects to expand its SAAD upland rice and be known as a major supplier of organically grown produce.

Sarangani's best organically grown upland rice can be bought at P60 per kilo.



Sarangani farmers celebrate a bountiful harvest



SARANGANI – The Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol graced the Thanksgiving Day in Barangay Upo, Maitum in Sarangani last October 23, 2017. The said event, organized by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, along with the Provincial Government of Sarangani, aimed to celebrate the bountiful harvest of the SAAD beneficiaries.

The said activity is an initiative of Sarangani Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon under the project called Sarangani Diversified Upland Rice Development Project, which was made into reality through the SAAD Program.

Through the event, SAAD farmer-beneficiaries had the chance to share their blessings to others and to thank God for their bountiful harvest.

SAAD Sarangani also had its Thanksgiving Days in Glan, Malapatan, and Alabel recently where Gov. Solon encouraged the farmers to give back to the church and to their communities, save some for their personal consumption and finally market their remaining harvest. In that way, they will be able to manage their produced crops while securing food on their own plates and sharing their blessings.

Sec Piñol also announced that DA plans to establish a P120m rice and corn complex in a bid to boost the production of the said plants' varieties in the area. It will also serve as the marketing center for local traders, who will buy from the local farmers' produce.

Meanwhile, checks amounting to P75m was also turned over to the Sarangani PLGU on the same day for the



“Malaking tulong sa katulad kong mahirap na magsasaka na umunlad ang upland rice.”

Jimmy Pondivilla

one of more than 2,600 SAAD
Sarangani beneficiaries

Upland Rice in Sarangani, ready for

Published on August 15, 2017

GLAN, SARANGANI — With a mission to provide food security and increase the productivity of the marginalized farmers and fisher folks, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program penetrates to the remotest areas in the country, searching far and wide to lend a hand that would help lift those in the pit of poverty out of their current situation.

Sarangani, one of the top ten priority provinces of SAAD for 2017, is among the poorest provinces in SOCCSKSARGEN or Region XII. According to its

Provincial Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon, the hard-to-reach parts of Sarangani, which are upland areas, are the ones pulling the poverty incidence of the whole province up to the ceiling. The lack of access to such areas is one of the main reasons why the local government could hardly infiltrate to the locals and indigenous people in the province.

The SAAD Program's implementation in the Sarangani province is therefore vital to those in dire need of the government's assistance, especially in agriculture, who are often unreached by such.

Jimmy Pondivilla

14 years as farmer
from New Aklan, Glan, Sarangani
member of New Aklan Farmers Association



Minda Dalama

farmer since childhood
from New Aklan, Glan, Sarangani
member of New Aklan Farmers Association

harvest; farmers to gain more profit and food security

In the mountainous areas of New Aklan, in Glan, Sarangani, where development could hardly stretch, there sprung a tiny community called Sitio Surang, with people coexisting with plants, trees, and animals, striving to make a living and support their families with the little amount of money they earn from farming.

Jimmy Pondivilla is one of those upland farmers who struggle to live in this far-flung area. Born in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, the 40-year-old farmer left his hometown to live with his wife in the highlands of Sarangani in 2003. Jimmy and his wife have three children, all of whom they are sending to school in town hours away from their home. Farming is the main source of livelihood of the Pondivillas alongside raising livestock and putting up a mini sari-sari store.

Jimmy plants upland rice, corn, banana and cacao in their 12-hectare land. Every day, he risks his life by taking the trail they engraved on the muddy and slippery mountain side of New Aklan just to maintain their farm.

Manual farming is evident in Sitio Surang since the farmers have no access to any form of machinery. Hence, with his sickle or bagging hook, rice sacks and a vessel made from an old plastic water container, Jimmy, would manually harvest the upland rice he planted about four months ago to sell it in the market in the lowland areas as well as to his co-farmers in his community. He also used to hire farm laborers to assist him in harvesting which adds up to his expenditures.

The months of August-September are intended for harvesting their crops. However, even with the large farmland, Jimmy admitted the money they earn is still insufficient to support their expenses. Harvesting from his upland rice and corn doesn't necessarily guarantee him and his family a good fortune. Only when they were able to sell all their allotted harvests and save up from buying seeds to plant again and compensating the farm workers, could they provide for their children's needs.

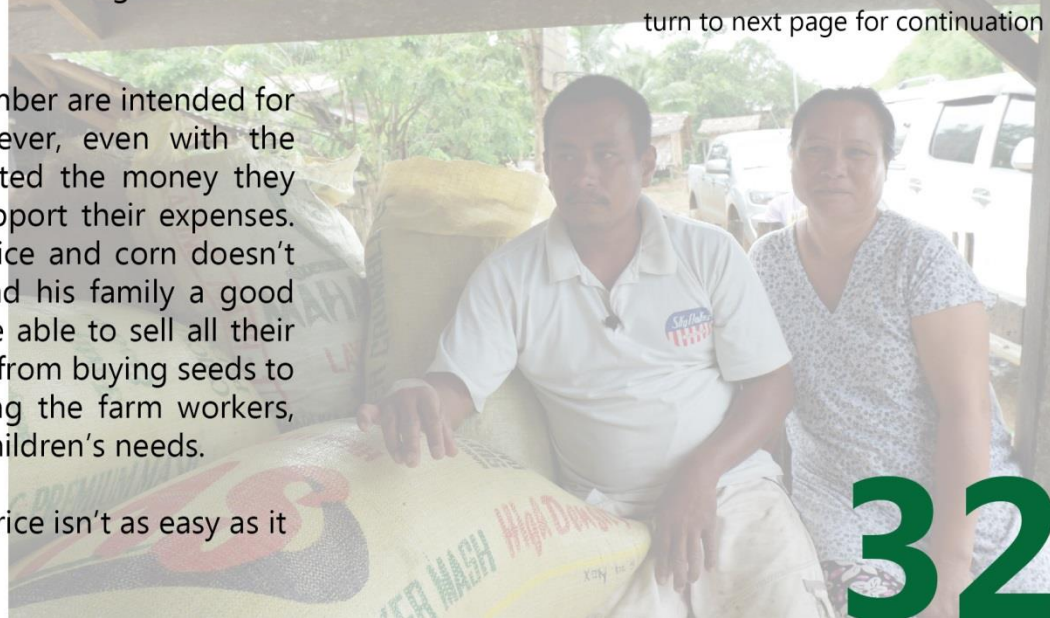
Selling their harvested milled rice isn't as easy as it



sounds for before finally be able to reach the market, Jimmy had to travel the long and mud-covered roads of the mountain. Farm-to-market roads (FMRs) have not yet been established in the area, causing difficulties in transporting their produced crops. Horses are still their number one friend on their way to the marketplace. This means more days of traveling back and forth just to sell their products, not mentioning the challenges they suffer from when even a little rain pours along the way.

Aside from the long and unpaved roads, pests are their main enemies in farming upland products. These little filches eat up most of Jimmy's crops causing a painful decrease in their earnings. Hence, pesticides are greatly needed. Postharvest processes are also an obstacle to the absence of a well-functioning rice miller and corn sheller.

turn to next page for continuation



Rudy Dalama, on the other hand, is also a farmer residing in the mountains of New Aklan, Glan, Sarangani. He and his wife, Minda Dalama, raised and supported their four children with their upland farming in their four (4) hectares acquired farmland, backyard farming and livestock (two pigs) raising.

However, even with a vast land, Minda and his husband only earn a net worth of P20,000 for every harvest season. This will only give them P5,000 pesos for a month, which isn't enough to support his family's daily needs and the schooling of his two children. Hence, to add up to their profit, Rudy is driving a habal-habal, a service motorcycle, in which he seldom earns P300-P400. Just like Jimmy, Rudy also suffers greatly from the loss in farming and the costs of marketing their upland products, which in turn makes his profit even shorter as compared with his family's expenses.

Jimmy Pondivilla and Rudy Dalama are just two among the chosen beneficiaries of the SAAD Program, who face the same problem in their decades of farming in Sarangani. The irony of having large farm areas yet a very low income has long been haunting the local farmers of the said province. The New Aklan Farmers Association (NAFA), where both farmers along with 123 others are members of, was selected as the recipient of the program's agricultural intervention which aims to suffice the need of the local farmers and farm-workers in order for them to surpass the hindrances of a bountiful harvest.

Last May, NAFA received 80 kilograms of Upland Rice Seeds per farmer, which Jimmy, along with the other recipients, is now about to finish

harvesting by the first week of September. About 91.28% or 398 hectares of the total land area identified for the SAAD Program (436 Has) have already been planted with Upland Rice while 70.52% or 134 hectares from the total land area for OPV White Corn (190 Has) was planted as reported last June 2017.

These are expected to be reaped on August until September of this year. In fact, just as last August 8, 2017, Jimmy already harvested a total of 50 sacks of upland rice from the SAAD Program on the 10-12% of his total farm area, each sack costs approximately P2,700. He said he will be selling 30 sacks in the market and leave the remaining 20 for his community and his family.

On the same day, the SAAD Program Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) of Sarangani, with the assistance from the Provincial Government, provided knapsack sprayers to help the farmers get rid of pests without harming their plants and lands.

Prior to the provision of agri inputs, a series of social preparation training were also done which included Farmer's Assemblies, Production Technology training on Rice and OPV White Corn, Crop Protection, Vegetable Production and Postharvest Storage Training, Animal Healthcare Management and other farming methodologies.

These aimed to equip the farmers, particularly those who are new to having an organization like Rudy and Minda, on the proper methods of farming as well as to prepare them in managing the interventions they were about to receive.





Both Pondavilla and Dalama were thankful for being selected as the SAAD Program's beneficiaries as well as for the effort of the government to reach out to farmers like them who are living in distant areas. With the assistance they have received, both are confident that they will be having more profit and enough food to leave on their plates.

Sarangani Gov. Solon likewise expressed his gratitude for the SAAD Program implementation in his beloved province. He also commended the effort of DA in improving the upland rice industry in Sarangani. "We would like to say thank you to the Dept of Agriculture – Sec Piñol, salamat po na binigyan niyo kami ng [thank you for giving us a] chance to prove ourselves that we can make this project happen," said Solon in an interview.

This, according to Minda will be beneficial in protecting their lands from the damage of using inorganic fertilizers and other erroneous methods of planting. She as well shared how they could spare from paying for a separate sprayer now that they will be having their own knapsack sprayers. "This could mean a lot for us, for we will be able to save more and prevent our lands from further damages," she said in their native language in an interview.

Aside from Upland Rice and Corn Seeds and Knapsack Sprayers, the program is about to distribute vegetable seeds, farm tools such as sickles, bolos, hand trowel and grab hoes, garden tools, fertilizers, and livestock – goat, native chicken, ducks, horses and carabaos with feeds and veterinary supplies for the beneficiaries in the municipality of Glan. These and more interventions are expected to be distributed by the third and fourth quarter of 2017 as per DA-RFO XII Executive Director Milagros C. Casis. The towns of Alabel, Malapatan, Malungon, Maasim, Kiamba and Maitum will also be receiving training and agri-interventions under a total budget of P100 million for the province of Sarangani.

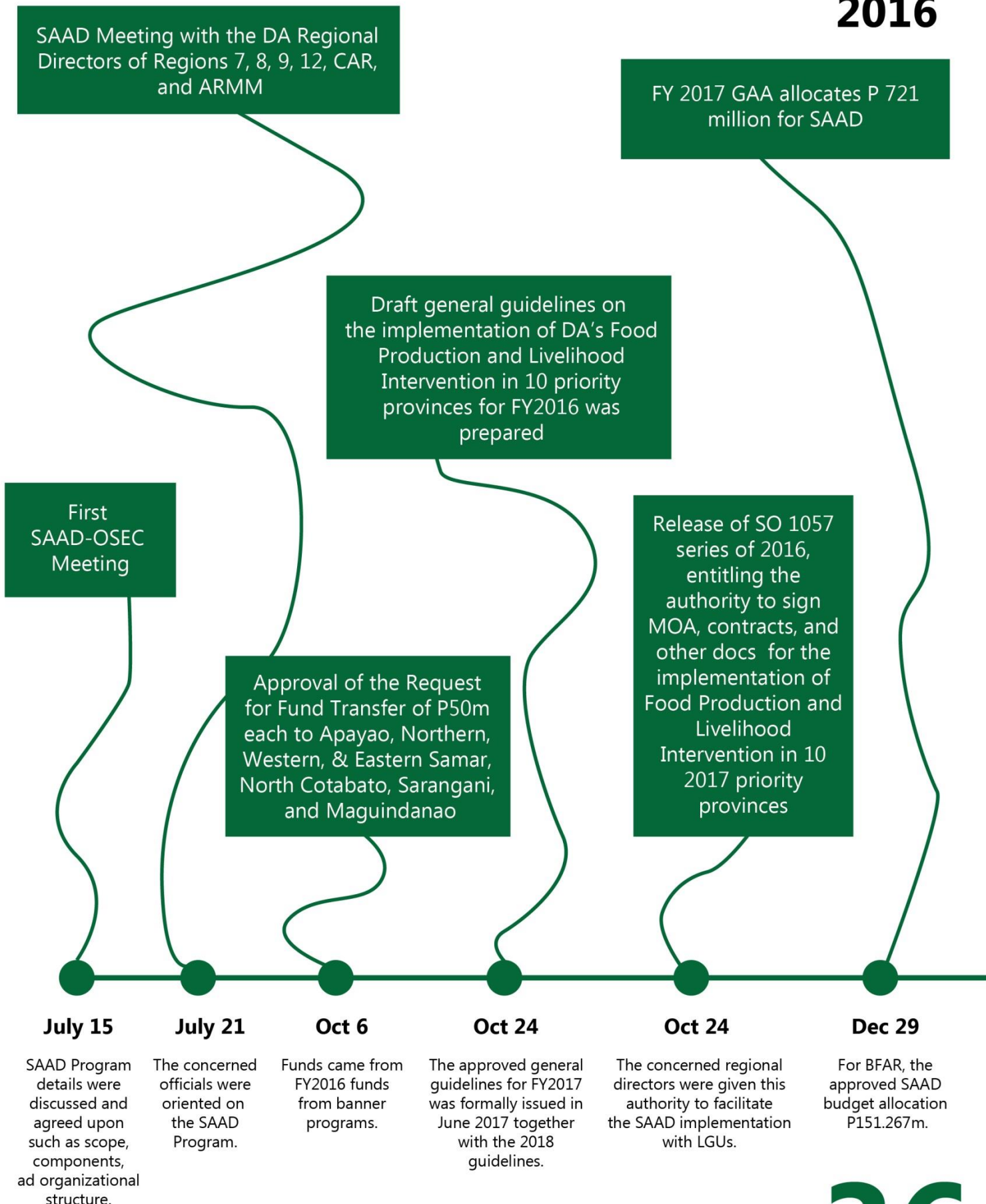


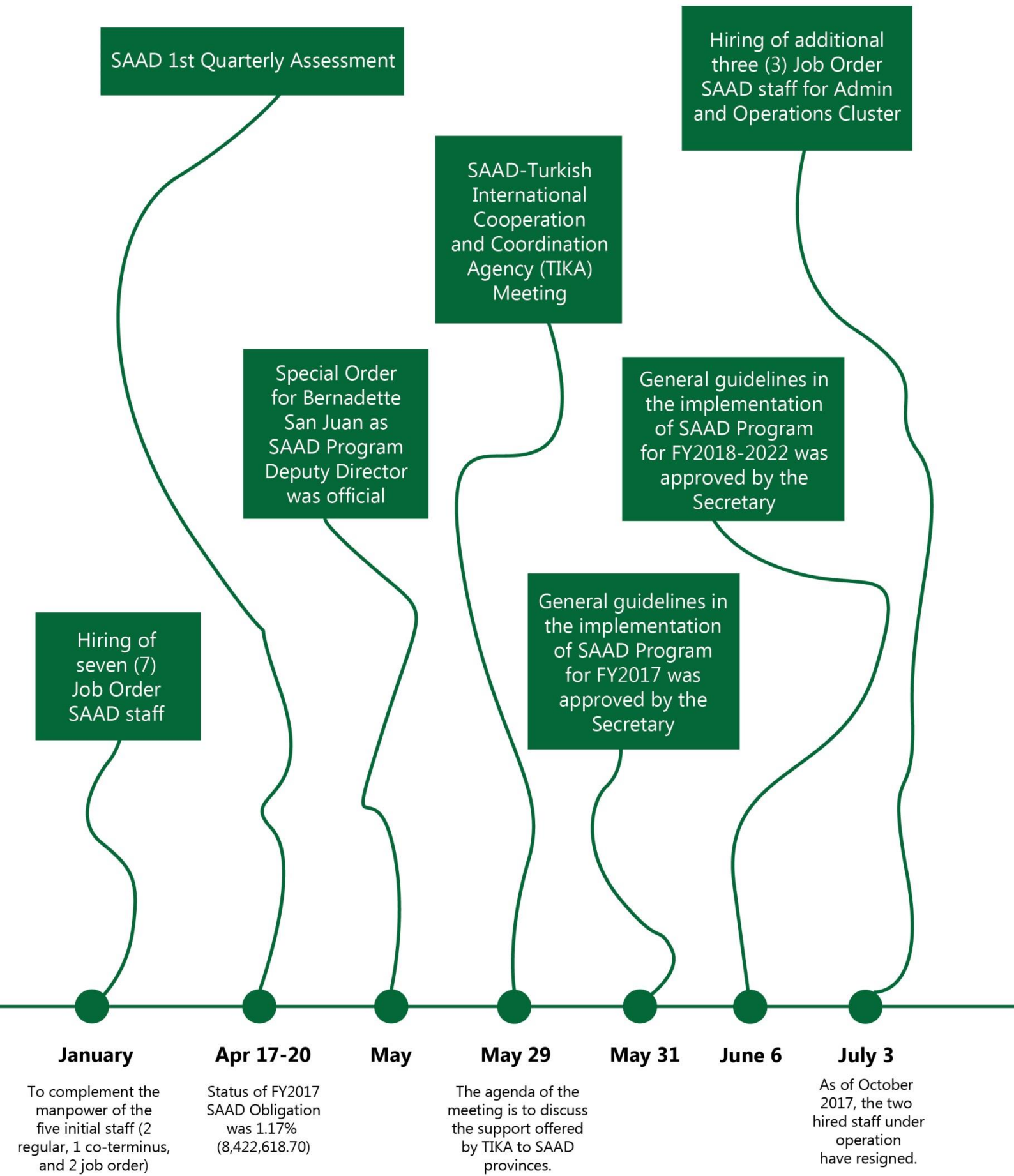
Meanwhile, the Provincial government of Sarangani and the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) XII have prepared a harvest festival in the province, which was held last October 2017. With this, beneficiary farmers like Jimmy and Rudy from Barangay New Aklan in Glan are expected to attend and sell their harvests fresh from their upland farms to the public.



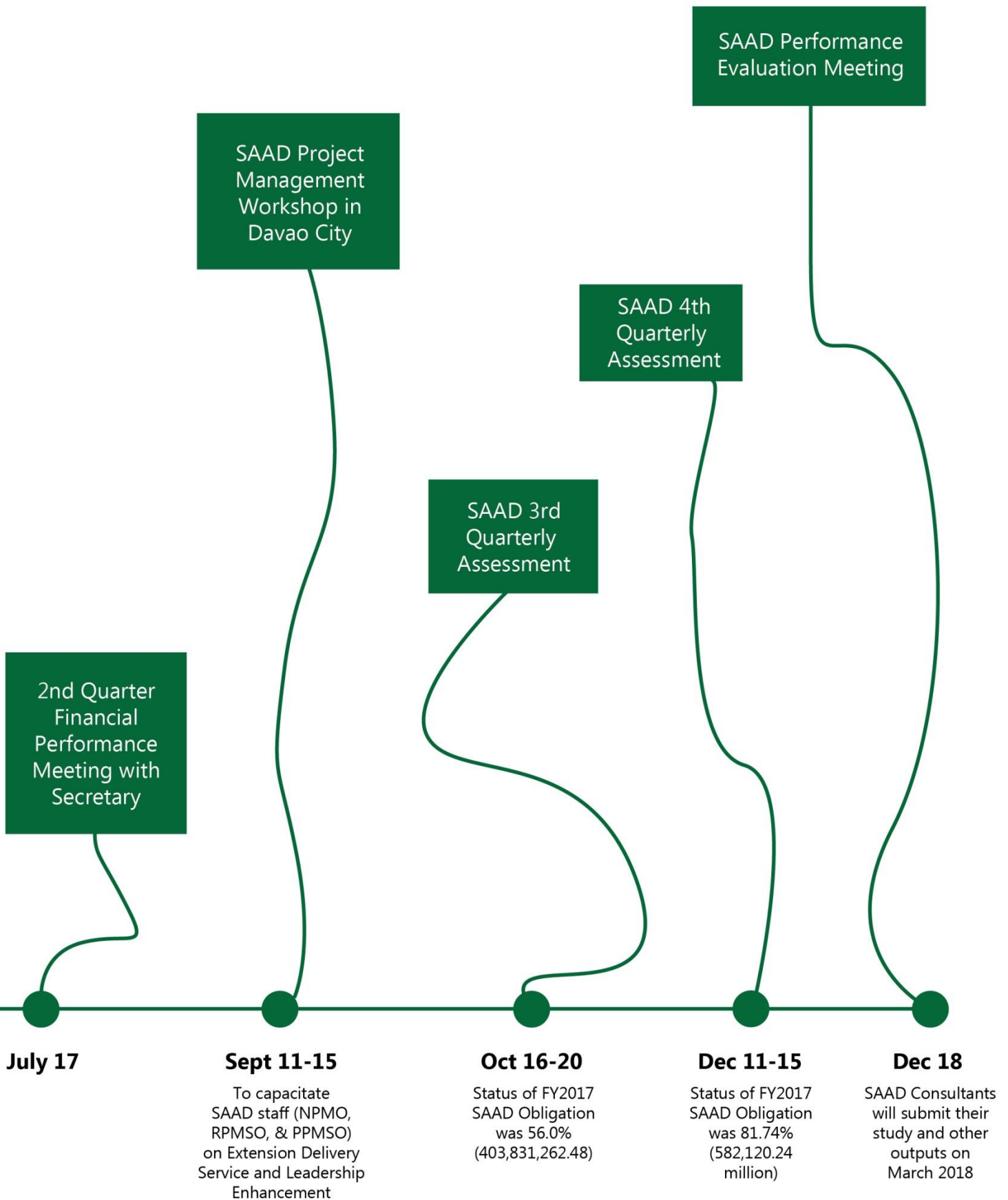
SAAD TIMELINE

**year
2016**





year 2017



PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED

Operations Systems-Related

Under operations, poor communication between regional and provincial offices was one problem seen in the 2017 implementation of the SAAD Program. Regular meetings, consultations and orientations were lacking.

Since the establishment of the national office was delayed, planning was fairly poor. Issuance of the general guidelines was also late.

Manpower Systems-Related

Under manpower, SAAD had encountered problems in signing of documents due to frequent unavailability of signatories.

Hired SAAD administrative officers also lack knowledge on the preparation of procurement documents.

SAAD also saw exhaustion of potential suppliers' stocks due to low priority in the processing of papers in Bids and Awards Committee (BAC).

Provincial and Area Coordinators aren't properly equipped in performing their assigned functions.

Meanwhile, SAAD's Technical Working Group recommended specifications that are already outdated, which resulted mostly to failed bidding.

Regional SAAD Focal Persons are also lacking focus on their tasks due to overloaded responsibilities.

Lack of technical person in the regional level, such as budget and procurement officers, was also noticeable.

Overall, dedication of the hired personnel in their jobs is lacking.

External Factors

SAAD Negros Oriental's implementation was delayed due to change in the DA-Implementing Unit.

The Marawi siege halted the SAAD Lanao del Sur implementation of DA-RFO 10. The regional office also had difficulty in finding suppliers as they are afraid to deliver goods in the area.

"SAAD shall strive in meeting the program's objectives and Secretary Piñol's directives to the program."

Bernadette F. San Juan,
SAAD Program Director

Lastly, political pressure was also distinguished as main problem in some SAAD areas.

SOLUTIONS MADE

In solving the problems encountered by the SAAD Program, the National Program Management Office (NPMO) issued a memorandum, instructing SAAD provincial team to conduct regular meetings, and a standard communication process flow.

Planning workshops were also conducted from August to present for the preparation of the 2018 implementation.

The NPMO will issue a memorandum to all concerned Regional Executive Directors regarding having an alternate to the assigned SAAD Focal Person.

The NPMO will also encourage regional offices to hire additional staff for administrative works, to conduct training on document preparation and admin functions, and to hold capacity enhancement training for the PCs and ACs.

Meanwhile, SAAD Director San Juan had re-visited the regional offices to validate and resolve issues. She had also met governors and congressmen to discuss the SAAD's guideline program.

P 703m 



The SAAD Program made significant progress in its Fourth Quarter Financial Obligation considering its low obligation in the first quarter at 1.17%. The slow implementation and low financial obligation in the beginning was partly due to the delayed issuance of the program guidelines. However, there was a significant increase in the obligation mainly because of the strengthened

SAAD team, which grew in number in the third and last quarter. As of the 18th of January 2018, the SAAD Program incurred a total of **97.60%** obligation rate, amounting to P703,921.92 million over its more than P721m General Appropriations Act (GAA) budget allotment for the year 2017 (excluding BFAR's SAAD budget).



From left to right: Rahib Abdullah (TIKA), Enes Dolukup (TIKA), Burak Saritarla (TIKA), Maria Araceli Escandor (IAD), Marvin Segovia (SAAD), Anne Lisbo (PDS) and another two PDS staff.

SAAD Program seeks possible collaboration with Turkish Agency

Published on May 31, 2017

Manila, Philippines – The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) opened its doors to the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program for a possible collaboration, in a meeting last May 29, 2017, at the Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

In a short presentation, Marvin Segovia, SAAD National Program Coordinator for Mindanao, emphasized the objective of the DA to provide affordable and sustainable food for the Filipinos, hence the creation of the SAAD Program. He also briefed the TIKA representatives on how the SAAD aims to supplement the other existing DA-Banner Programs in providing agricultural assistance to the marginalized farmers and fisherfolk in ten (10) identified priority provinces from 2017-2022.

Burak Saritarla, Country Director of TIKA in the Philippines, expressed great appreciation for the efforts of the SAAD Program to extend the help to the grassroots level where other Agencies fail to access. Thus, he, along with Enes Dolukup, TIKA’s Deputy Country Director, and Rahib Abdullah, TIKA’s Program Development Officer, generously offered support to the SAAD beneficiaries.

The support will be in the form of agricultural interventions based on the identified needs of the beneficiaries in selected priority provinces.

TIKA is a Turkish agency operating since 1992. It aims to help its sister countries (Turkish-speaking nations) to regain social structures and economic, cultural and educational sustainability through the provision of aids.

In 2015, the TIKA has extended their help to other neighboring countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia including the Philippines.



From right to left: Rahib Abdullah (TIKA), Enes Hancioglu (TIKA), Yesim Baktir (TIKA), Maria Araceli Escandor (IAD), and Bernadette San Juan (SAAD).

PARTNERSHIP WITH TIKA

In an effort to extensively help the beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, the National Program Management Office sought possible collaboration with the bilateral organization, Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) of the Republic of Turkey through their 'TIKAbuhayan Program'.

The TIKAbuhayan Program aims to support sustainable production facilities across the Philippines, targeting IP communities and comparatively less developed or disaster-prone areas.

DA-SAAD team initially met then-TIKA Program Coordinator Burak Saritarla, Deputy Coordinator Enes Dolukup, and Development Officer Rahib Abdullah in a meeting last May 29, 2017, after Saritarla expressed his interest in collaborating with the SAAD Program via email last May 22, 2017. Present in the meeting were DA-SAAD NPMO as well as DA-Project Development Service (PDS) and DA-International Affairs Division staff.

Saritarla said TIKA wishes to provide agricultural assistance through hard components with a P2.5m budget per organization. He also added that they will initially start helping the three Samar provinces since they already had other programs there.

It has been agreed that DA-SAAD NPMO will submit Needs Assessment Reports of SAAD areas to TIKA by the end of July 2017. However, due to some constraints, the team completed the study at the end of August 2017.

On June 5-7, 2017, DA-SAAD NPMO held a write-shop with DA-RFO VIII staff and came up with their needs assessment and proposed interventions.

On the 16th of June 2017, DA-SAAD NPMO held a meeting with DA-PDS to discuss some concerns with the reports for TIKA. Then-SAAD Deputy Director Bernadette F. San Juan suggested including other SAAD areas, such as Apayao and Negros Oriental, with their validated interventions.

The Needs Assessment Reports were initially sent to TIKA via email last August 3, 2017, involving Burak Saritarla, who is in Turkey then, Acting Program Coordinator Enes Dolukup, newly-appointed Program Coordinator Yesim Baktir, and Project Development Officer Rahib Abdullah. However, then-TIKA Philippines Country Director Saritarla said they need the budget estimation per project and list of suppliers.

On the 25th and 28th of August 2017, the five involved provinces have submitted their budget estimates and list of suppliers.

On the 30th of August 2017, the SAAD team finally submitted the complete Needs Assessment Reports of the five provinces – involving 17 areas and a total of 50 projects.

On the 16th of November 2017, SAAD and TIKA Philippines met with DA-PDS and DA-IAD to discuss what would be their next steps in selecting and implementing the projects.

On the 27th of November 2017, TIKA Philippines has sent a list of their 10 initially selected projects. DA-SAAD staff shall submit the shortlisted projects' proposals and evaluation forms.

In a bid to contribute to the bilateral relations between Turkey and the Philippines, TIKA set up a country office in Manila in 2015 operating under the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey.





PCIC

MANDATORY INSURANCE FOR SAAD BENEFICIARIES

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, with the help of Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, opened the door to a mandatory insurance coverage to its beneficiaries through the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC).

The concern was raised by local chief executives of 2018 SAAD priority provinces from Bicol Region --- Catanduanes, Masbate, and Sorsogon --- during a program orientation last December 4 to 8, 2017.

Leaders from the said provinces worry that their SAAD beneficiaries, who are poor farmers, may suffer and lose a lot of their crops and produce brought about by natural calamities, such as typhoons, floods, and volcanic eruptions.

In fact, 40 municipalities from Bicol Region --- with 26 municipalities and 14 towns from Camarines Sur and Catanduanes being on top of the lists --- are highly susceptible to natural disasters, according to the Mines and Geosciences Bureau Office.

ANCE COVERAGE ARIES

With those threats on hand, DA wrote a letter to PCIC President Jovy C. Bernabe, requesting the agency to provide insurance coverage to our beneficiaries to ensure the protection of farmers from losses caused by the calamities.

On the 22nd of January 2018, DA-SAAD finally met with PCIC along with SAAD – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources. In the meeting, PCIC Department Manager Rodelia Pagaddu and PCIC Marketing Analyst Lee Ann Austria said that they are willing to help SAAD but needs to have the list of the beneficiaries, which will be provided by SAAD Regional and Provincial Management Support Offices in a later date.

Meanwhile, PCIC and BFAR SAAD are set to attend a meeting with SAAD Focal Persons on the 5th of March 2018 to orient them with fisheries interventions provided by BFAR SAAD and the possible provision of insurance to all our beneficiaries.

With the possibility of an approved mandatory insurance coverage for our farmer-beneficiaries, our goal in uplifting their lives will surely be fulfilled.

PLANS FUTURE ACTIVITIES



■ **Community Logical Framework**

In the earlier months of the year 2018, SAAD NPMO will be conducting orientations and workshops to FY 2017 and FY 2018 priority provinces to create Community Logical Frameworks (Log Frames). According to the World Bank (2000), “the Logical Framework has the power to communicate the essential elements of a complex project clearly and succinctly throughout the project cycle. It is used to develop the overall design of a project, to improve the project implementation monitoring and to strengthen periodic project evaluation”.

■ **Multi-Year Plan**

Since each SAAD province will be supported for at least three years, writing a multi-year strategic plan was recommended. The purpose of the plan is to assist the implementers and stakeholders in setting long-term strategic priorities and goals.

■ **2018 provinces’ early procurement and timely delivery agricultural inputs**

Indeed, learning from mistakes is key for improvement. One of the problems that SAAD had encountered in its 2017 implementation was the delay in procurement and distribution of interventions. Now, SAAD regional offices promise to deliver agricultural inputs in 2018 as scheduled by procuring earlier.

■ **Empowerment and training of SAAD personnel**

Various capability trainings are set to be conducted for the benefit of SAAD national, regional, and provincial staff.

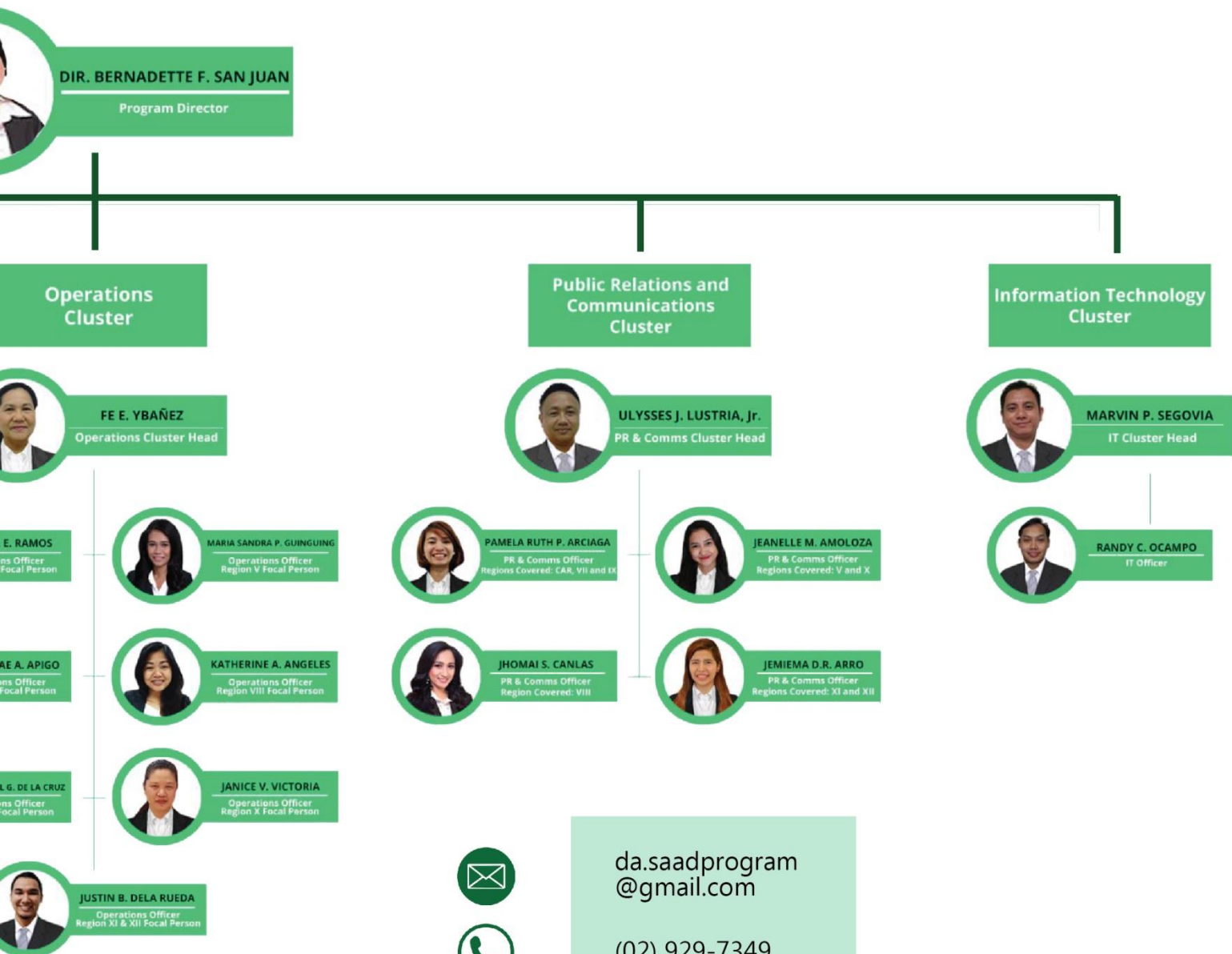


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OUR NATION MANAGEMENT



AL PROGRAM NT OFFICE



da.saadprogram@gmail.com



(02) 929-7349



www.dasaad.net



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DA-SAAD Program

OUR SAAD FOCAL PERSONS

CAR SAAD Focal Person

OIC-RED Engr. Danilo P. Daquio, CESE 0918-934-3148 saad.apy.car@gmail.com

RFO 5 SAAD Focal Person

OIC-RED Rodel P. Tornilla da5saad@yahoo.com

RFO 7 SAAD Focal Person

Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles, Jr. (035) 225-2864 ored_sec@yahoo.com
saadnegoriental@gmail.com

RFO 8 SAAD Focal Person

OIC-RTD Dr. Andrew Rodolfo T. Orais 0917-370-6564 da.saad.rfo8@gmail.com

RFO 9 SAAD Focal Person

ARD Engr. Dennis H. Palabrica 991-2437 loc 4908 dhpalabrica@yahoo.com

RFO 10 SAAD Focal Person

ARD Engr. Roxana H. Hojas, CESO IV (088) 256-6871 agri10cdo@gmail.com
(088) 856-2753

RFO 11 SAAD Focal Person

Jovelle D. Fuertes 0945-106-7650 daxiplanning@gmail.com

RFO 12 SAAD Focal Person

Cecilia A. Parcon 0920-643-0444 cecileparcon@gmail.com

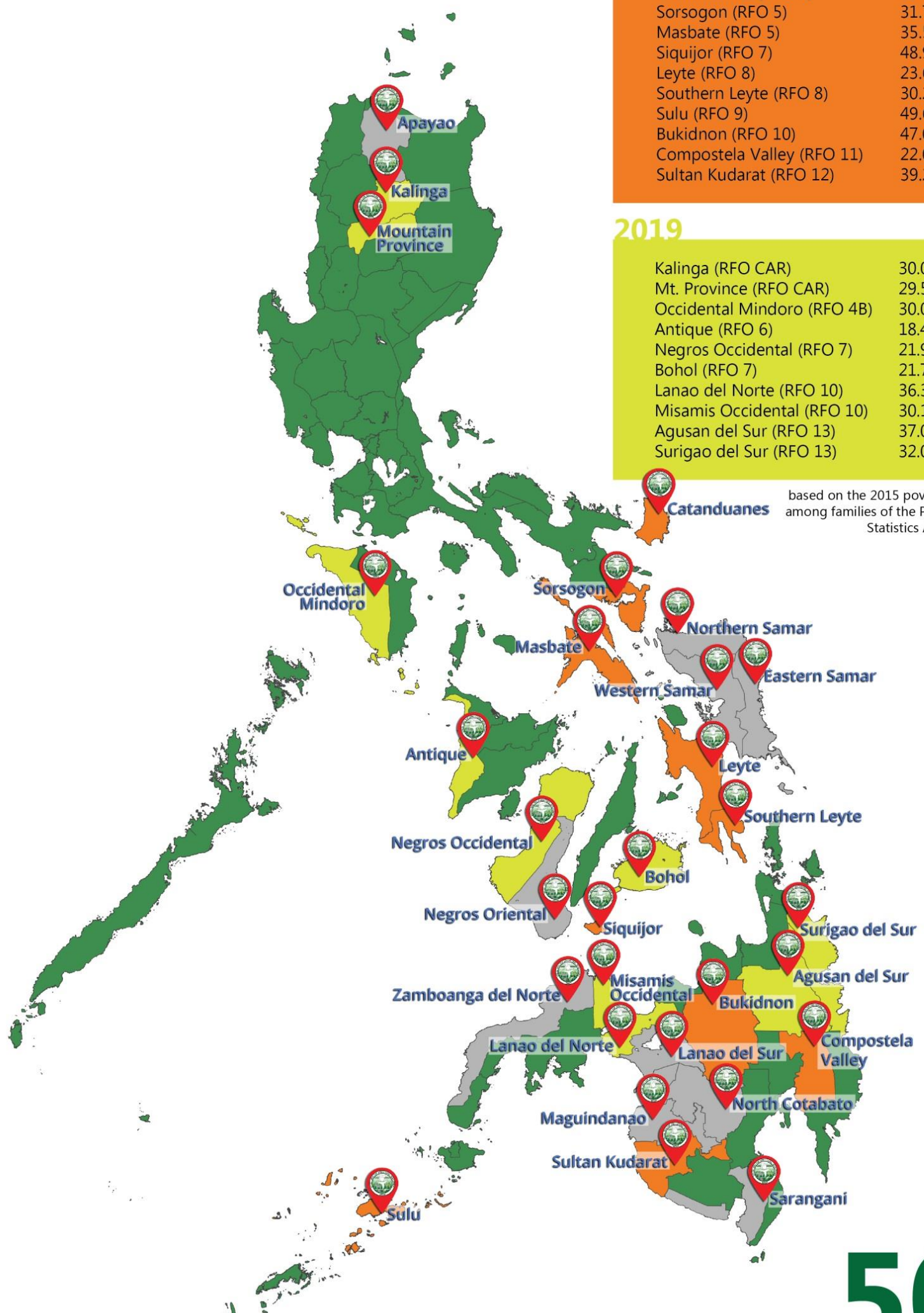
2018

Catanduanes (RFO 5)	33.6%
Sorsogon (RFO 5)	31.7%
Masbate (RFO 5)	35.5%
Siquijor (RFO 7)	48.9%
Leyte (RFO 8)	23.6%
Southern Leyte (RFO 8)	30.2%
Sulu (RFO 9)	49.6%
Bukidnon (RFO 10)	47.0%
Compostela Valley (RFO 11)	22.0%
Sultan Kudarat (RFO 12)	39.2%

2019

Kalinga (RFO CAR)	30.0%
Mt. Province (RFO CAR)	29.5%
Occidental Mindoro (RFO 4B)	30.0%
Antique (RFO 6)	18.4%
Negros Occidental (RFO 7)	21.9%
Bohol (RFO 7)	21.7%
Lanao del Norte (RFO 10)	36.3%
Misamis Occidental (RFO 10)	30.1%
Agusan del Sur (RFO 13)	37.0%
Surigao del Sur (RFO 13)	32.0%

based on the 2015 poverty data among families of the Philippine Statistics Authority





3/F SAAD Office, Department of
Agriculture New Building, Elliptical
Road, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101
Philippines

(02) 929-7349
loc 2832/33/34
www.dasaad.net