

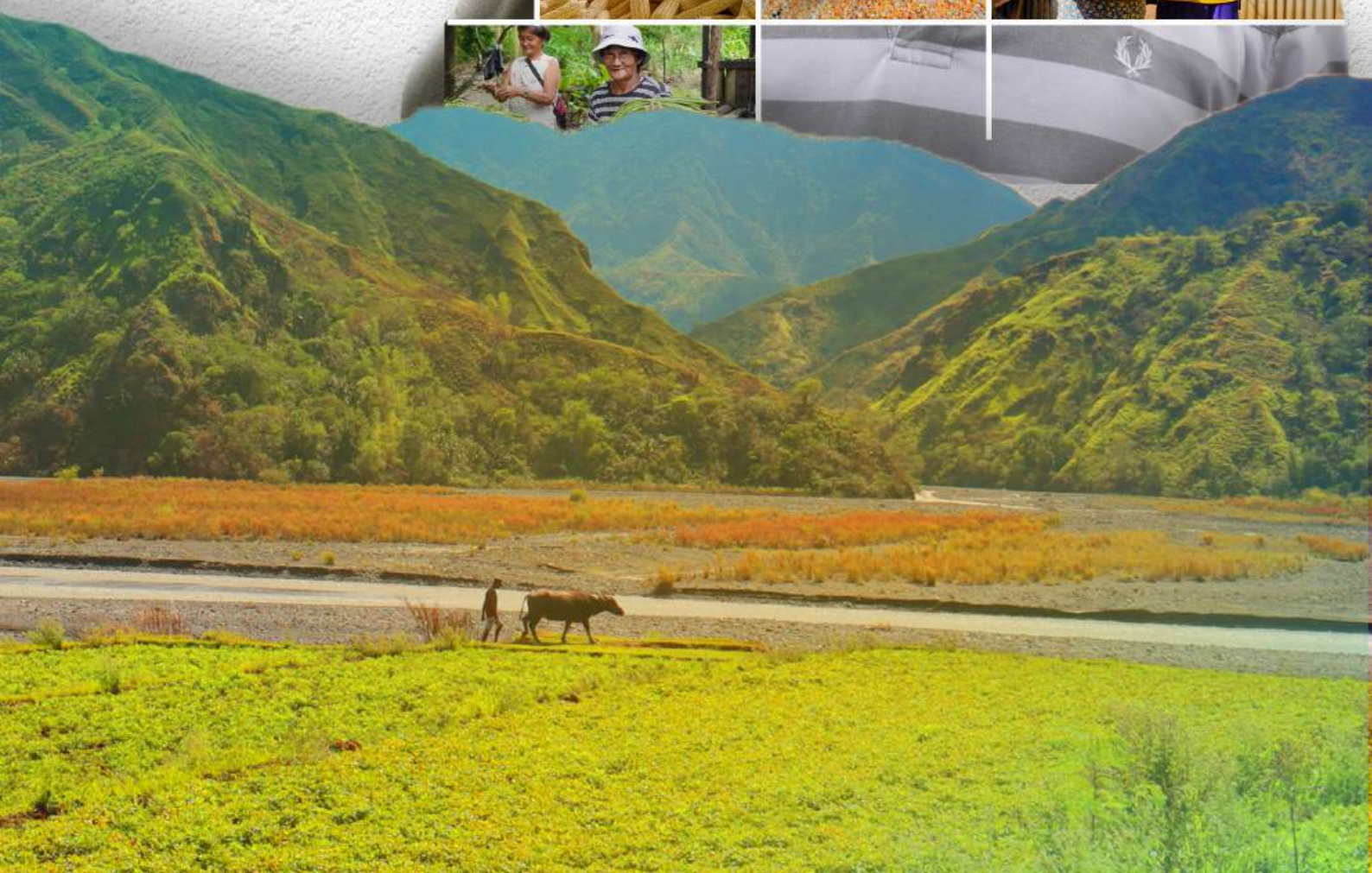


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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

2022 SAAD

SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
ANNUAL REPORT



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Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr.
Jessamae D. Gabon
Editors

Kathleen Faye Agonoy
Allanes Bagoso
Jessamae Gabon
Jennifer Valcobero
Writers

Jessamae D. Gabon
Layout and Design

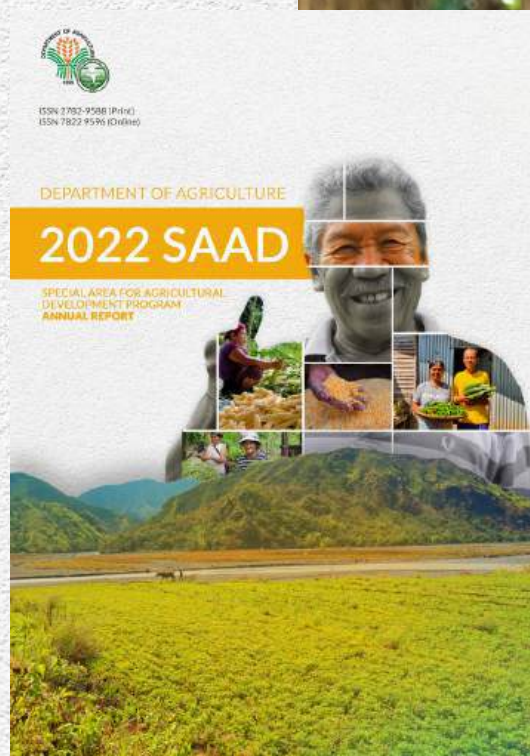
DA-SAAD IDD Unit
Maps

Darwin A. Pamatmat
Randy Ocampo
DA-SAAD OPBME Unit
Contributors

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Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, 1101

(02) 8929-7349 loc 2832/33/34
saad@da.gov.ph
www.saad.da.gov.ph





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Chapter 1: Financial and Physical Performance

To cap off its 6-year operations in 2022, the DA-SAAD Program has provided 3,542 livelihood projects to 6,503 farmers and fisherfolk groups, with 190,563 members, and 146,120 individual beneficiaries. These beneficiaries and their communities underwent processes of capacity building, finishing at 2,328 activities for social preparation that catered to 82,508 participants. On specialized training or capacity enhancement specific to food and livelihood production, 3,642 training activities were given out to 138,992 participants. For enterprise development, DA-SAAD established 390 community-based enterprises, managed by 390 groups with 19,596 members.

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Chapter 2: 2022 Physical Accomplishments

CBEs: A total of 390 community-based enterprises were established in the Program's 30 priority provinces. Growing and changing along with their enterprise, 390 FCAs with 19,596 members scale-up production by moving out of their barangay units, drawing on the longstanding *suki* system (patrons) whereby the seller and the buyer or the community demand develop a relationship that ensures purchases exclusively from one seller, and local markets to sell their products.

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Chapter 3: SAAD Saga 2022: Rehiyon Otso

In November 2022, the largest SAAD Eastern Visayas Saga event to date was held, with the convergence of various government agencies led by the DA, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Science and Technology (DOST), at the Leyte Academic Center in Palo, Leyte. The agencies came together to provide assistance and services offered by the respective offices to the marginalized farmers and locals present in the program.

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Chapter 6: Partnerships

SAAD Phase 1 reported accomplishments would not have been possible without the help of other organizations, specifically the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), and the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).

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Chapter 4: SAAD National Farmers' Database

As of 2022, the whole of SAAD IT profiling has a 96.83% completion rate for individuals and 93.83% for groups. These figures involve profiles of SAAD beneficiaries from 2017 up to the present, where 148,727 individual profiles and 3,089 group profiles for the 30 priority provinces of the program are stored and managed.

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Chapter 7: SAAD Program Directions

Overview: During its FY 2022 National Third Quarter Assessment, SAAD, a locally-funded project of the DA, has encouraged its regional implementing offices to guide its beneficiaries' participation in agricultural development as a means of enhancing transparency and accountability through CSO application. Following this, the said accreditation will help SAAD in identifying farmer groups who are eligible for DA assistance, while it is also another way of clustering its farmer-beneficiaries.

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Chapter 5: SAAD Highpoints

Overview: with the goal of further strengthening the overall program operation and implementation, an organizational structure rationalization to be adapted from the national office to regional support offices was introduced. This move shall strengthen identified approaches of the program backed with a qualified and sufficient workforce to do the legwork.

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MESSAGE FROM THE SENIOR UNDERSECRETARY

In what has been a decade of trying years, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) has developed from a blueprint for poverty reduction in the countryside into a living, functioning organization. The faith of the Filipino people in the agriculture and fisheries sector's readiness for this challenge has not been disappointed. Our progress under the SAAD Program in a short space of time has been dramatic.

Out of the many accomplishments of the Department of Agriculture over the past six years, it was the policies of the SAAD that unlocked the most meaningful opportunities in rural progress at a critical moment in national development.

Concluding its first phase with 3,542 livelihood projects that helped more than 6,503 farmer groups with 190,563 members and 146,120 individual beneficiaries across 30 priority provinces, the general arrangement of the program has proven successful beyond the expectations of many in the development community.

But each improvement raises our horizons. Each success enables us to concentrate more on the remaining problems, and on new challenges to the well-being of our people. Some of these new challenges result from our changing environment, some from new developments overseas.

Therefore, as a Nation, we must now take further steps to improve and institutionalize the elements of the program that have been of the greatest benefit to our continuing struggle to lift more impoverished Filipinos above the poverty line.

Phase 2 of the SAAD Program will be a characteristically Filipino partnership – a partnership on which private and governmental enterprise are joined to advance the national welfare. This national need calls for a national effort – an effort which involves individuals and families, local governments and communities, professional and voluntary groups, in every part of the country.



The alleviation of poverty is a continuing goal. In a democratic society where every human life is precious, we can aspire to no less.

I join President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. in commending the men and women of the SAAD Program for the success of this important undertaking thus far. I look forward to working with you as we begin second phase of the program in the weeks and months ahead.


DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR OPERATIONS

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of accomplishment that I present to you the Annual Report of the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program (SAAD). I am honored to showcase the remarkable progress and impact that this program has made in fostering inclusive and sustainable agricultural development in our country.

The SAAD program, established with the noble goal of uplifting marginalized and underserved communities, has continued to demonstrate its efficacy and importance in transforming lives and empowering our farmers and fisherfolk. Through targeted interventions, capacity-building initiatives, and holistic support, SAAD has emerged as a beacon of hope for our farmers and fisherfolk.

During the reporting period, SAAD expanded its reach, engaging with an increasing number of communities across the country. Through sustainable agricultural practices, diversified livelihood opportunities, and improved market linkages, we have witnessed improved food security, increased income, and enhanced overall well-being in the SAAD-covered areas.

Our collaborative efforts with various stakeholders, including local government units, partner agencies, and non-government organizations, have played a crucial role in the successful implementation of the program. The synergy and shared commitment to the SAAD mission have been instrumental in overcoming challenges and maximizing the program's impact.

I am particularly proud of the strides made in promoting inclusive development and empowering women and indigenous communities through SAAD. By recognizing their unique knowledge, skills, and cultural heritage, we have fostered an environment where diversity and inclusion are celebrated, and all members of society are given an equal opportunity to thrive.

While we celebrate the achievements outlined in this report, we are also mindful of the challenges that lie ahead. We recognize the need to continuously adapt, innovate, and strengthen the program to ensure its long-term sustainability. Through rigorous monitoring and evaluation, we remain committed to refining our strategies, enhancing program efficiency, and maximizing the impact of our interventions.



I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated individuals who have contributed to the success of SAAD. To our program implementers, coordinators, field officers, and support staff, thank you for your unwavering commitment and hard work. To our valued partners and stakeholders, your collaboration and support have been invaluable in realizing our shared vision.

I invite you to delve into this material and celebrate the milestones we have achieved together through the SAAD Program. May it serve as a testament to the transformative power of agriculture and the unwavering spirit of our dedicated workforce.


ENGR. ARNEL V. DE MESA, CESO III

MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The year 2022 marks the end of Phase 1 implementation of the SAAD Program. However, a chapter ending leads to a new chapter beginning.

The last 6 years had been truly a fruitful book of experiences and learnings from this state-led program focused on fighting poverty effects, promoting food security, and agricultural development for the most marginalized communities in the country. With SAAD, our priority is the poor, those who have little to no access to basic services, and opportunities to lead their personal, family, community, and agricultural developments.

SAAD's case is truly unique and comprehensive because our beneficiaries belong to the most vulnerable sectors, experiencing intersecting disadvantages from their geographic positions, to the local dynamics of power, politics, culture, and peace and order situations. The program has a solid plan identified to aid in the immediate needs (food and livelihood) of the poor, which is to engage them in food production activities. In short, SAAD has a clear vision of what to do with the resources, how to execute, who we work for, and where to lead them in our brand of development.

Various challenges were encountered such as the global pandemic, natural calamities, and unstable global economy, that intensified the effects of poverty in the target areas, yet our perseverance and dedication to continue did not waver.

We are pleased to report that since we took the direction of intensifying sustainability efforts through the establishment of community-based enterprises (CBEs), 390 groups of farmers and fishers are now engaged in agripreneurship. This translates into 19,596 individuals leading enterprising activities out of SAAD assistance, offering different agri-products, by-products, and services. It is important to note that these small to medium-scale businesses are group-managed. From once none, SAAD was able to mobilize 190,563 individuals into 6,503 organized groups, and as organizations, avail of the values-formation training, production, postharvest and value adding, financial management, and of course free start-up agricultural capital for their livelihood projects based on their and their communities' assessed needs.

We are confident that the processes and components we employ in the implementation lead our beneficiaries to where we envision them to be. This is especially affirmed by the third-party assessments revealing high efficiency and suitability ratings of the distributed projects to the communities. Additionally, respondents also share that there is a moderate impact of SAAD interventions in terms of food security, employment, health, education, investments, and livelihood expansion. Through our established collaboration efforts with the parallel agencies, income generation through livelihood projects was recorded as generally positive. Finally, the studies showed that sectoral inclusion is relatively visible in the implementation as more women farmers and leaders



are taking the lead, and actively steering organizational activities.

As we proceed to the Phase 2 implementation, SAAD will now be present in 15 regions, 56 provinces, and 619 municipalities. The Program is more committed to strengthening and expanding the modes of services and continuously leading collective progress, not only for the sake of reported numbers but for the creation of meaningful leaps towards development that are directly benefited and felt by the marginalized.

With this, I would like to commend the people behind the program's accomplishments, from the national to the regional, provincial, municipal, and barangay units. The SAAD Program will not be able to complete a fulfilling Phase 1 without their contributions. I would also like to congratulate our beneficiaries and hope to continue working side by side to attain development that they will truly value, nurtured by their own hands. Moreover, I would like to express unending gratitude to the officials, partner agencies, and organizations for their warm support.

To endings that allow new beginnings!


ULYSSES J. LUSTRIA, JR.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Since its inception, SAAD has made transformative changes in advancing the welfare of the most marginalized farmers and fishers in select “special areas” across 30 provinces in the country. Without any stone unturned, the program finished in 2022 positively and with confidence having to tap all possible points of collaboration, and synergy - putting in place policies, procedures, projects, and means to execute these projects, as well as localized arms to facilitate local operations despite budget limitations.

The core goals remain, to contribute to reduction within these special areas where basic social services are scarce either due to their geographic location, considering the archipelagic nature of the country, or communities who have peace and order issues - through community and agricultural development. These conditions expose our kababayan to rampant poverty, that gradually became embedded in their communities.

According to the framework, the Program’s impact should be measured in terms of improvement in household food consumption hence, SAAD’s first level proposition of its binary rationale, “food on the table”. The third-party Midterm Impact Assessment discussed that considering the area coverage, being able to eat three times a day as the Filipino standard frequency of meals can also be challenging in marginalized areas. However, among SAAD beneficiaries, the study revealed a steady uptrend of the beneficiaries who meet this standard of frequency, and an uptick to the percentage who are able to eat complete food groups, and recorded a relatively lower malnutrition rate among beneficiaries who received multiple livelihood interventions.

In terms of economic sustainability, a key to maintaining and improving production and income generation, the Program also dreamed of continuous and greater impact through the establishment of community-based and small-scale enterprises. With the budget limitation, and program tenure, SAAD took a holistic approach to attain this transformation among the beneficiaries as communities, to impart longer and gradually expanding impact. Livelihood packages are crafted with cognitive and affective development activities to

prepare and equip the beneficiaries with necessary skills to manage and transform the production into business.

Projects undergo different methods of studies to fit the needs of the communities, that manifested in the result of the Social Preparation and Enterprise Development Assessment, where the program scored high in the effectiveness due to suitability of projects both for farming and fishing sectors.

Community-wise, the Program also scored high in terms of project adoption, and revealed relative success in fostering community participation and unity, and generation of employment among locals.

A more detailed explanation of the results of these two (2) studies are available in the SAAD website. These evidences served as a platform for the Program in rationalizing the need to proceed to the second phase, which was officially granted through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) 2023.

Further this report shall discuss the 2022 accomplishments both in financial and physical aspects per region, led and reflected by the regional field offices of the DA who have been solid partners of the Program in successfully executing the projects in the 30 covered provinces.

It is equally important to highlight alongside financial and physical accomplishment - the community-based enterprise established as this is the final stage of the program, a direct reflection of its impact on both the beneficiaries and their communities. The report also recognized the program partners and other initiatives that horizontally and vertically augmented and extended the nature, form and intention of its services.

Finally, a section that features testimonials on the impact of SAAD in different levels and perspectives, straight from the farmer-partners.

SAAD 2022 HIGH LIGHTS





DA-SAAD EXTENSION INITIATIVES

JANUARY 2022

Agricultural extension from 2023 to 2028 and possible expansion of new areas roofed under the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) are now close to reality after various government agencies expressed their support to the program. The request for an extension was pushed under the Philippine House Committee on Rural Development (PHCRD).

Testimonials of SAAD beneficiaries were also presented before the committee. It emphasizes that the SAAD Program contributes to poverty reduction, sustainable food production, and inclusive growth as it covers the country's most marginalized areas, including communities of Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

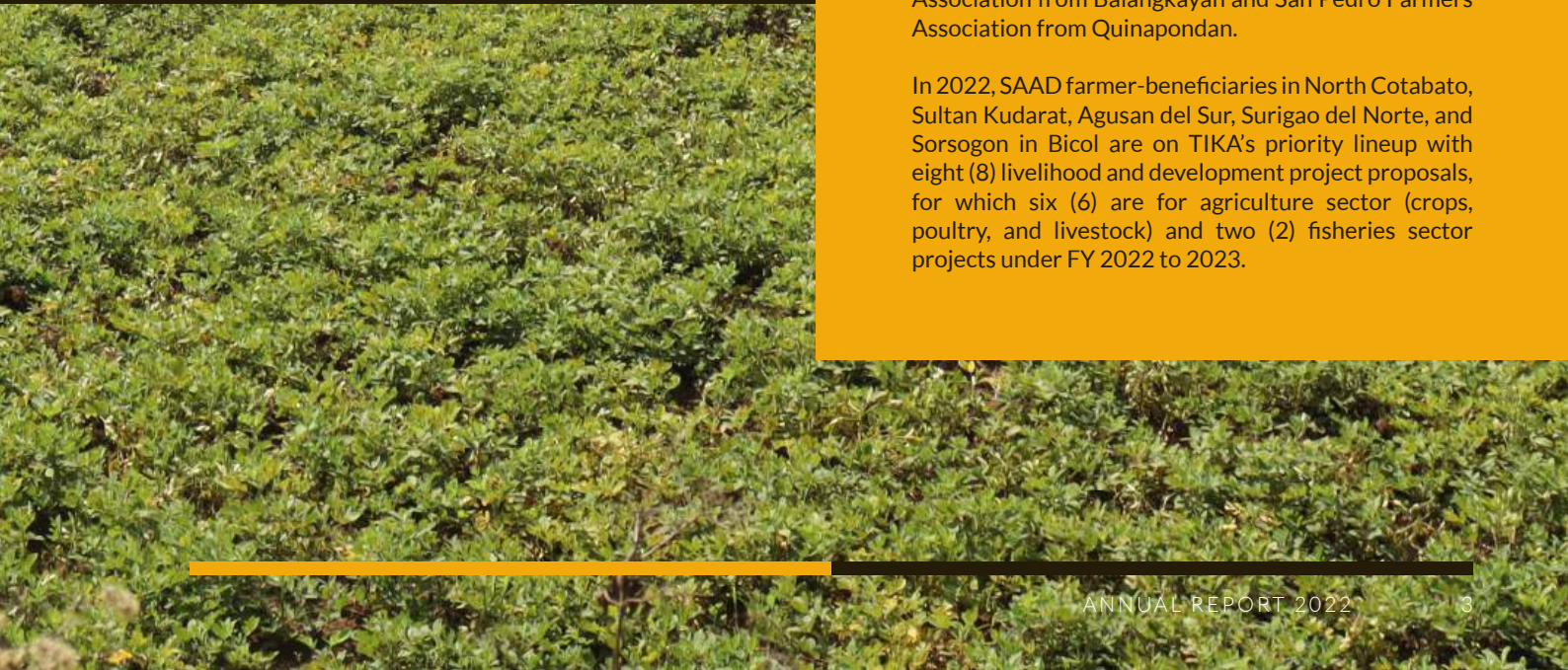
SAAD X TIKA PARTNERSHIP

FEBRUARY 2021

TIKA is known to engage in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance activities in various countries, including the Philippines. Since 2017, TIKA opened its doors to the DA-SAAD through the TIKAbuhayan Program, which aims to support sustainable production across the Philippines, targeting indigenous cultural communities (ICCs), climate risk, and economically and geographically vulnerable areas.

In 2019-2020, TIKA has provided millions worth of assistance to SAAD beneficiaries in selected areas. In Apayao, draft animal and training were granted to Katablangan Indigenous Farmer's Association and the Nanawatan Nabuangan Upland Developer Association to help in the transportation of goods, while rice production support through machinery was given to SAAD Eastern Samar FAs namely the Tabi Rice Planters Association from Balangkayan and San Pedro Farmers Association from Quinapondan.

In 2022, SAAD farmer-beneficiaries in North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Sorsogon in Bicol are on TIKA's priority lineup with eight (8) livelihood and development project proposals, for which six (6) are for agriculture sector (crops, poultry, and livestock) and two (2) fisheries sector projects under FY 2022 to 2023.





PMO ASSESSMENT

AUGUST 2022

The DA-SAAD Program was found to be highly resilient in its six (6) years of operation, based on the Program Management Office (PMO) Assessment activity conducted by the National Program Management Office (NPMO) from April to September 2022.

Participated by the 535 participants from all 11 SAAD Phase 1 regional and provincial offices, the PMO assessment is an activity that oversees the program management activities - a crucial element in the program implementation aimed at identifying the duties, responsibilities, and best practices, as well as addressing issues and concerns related to efficient flow of work.

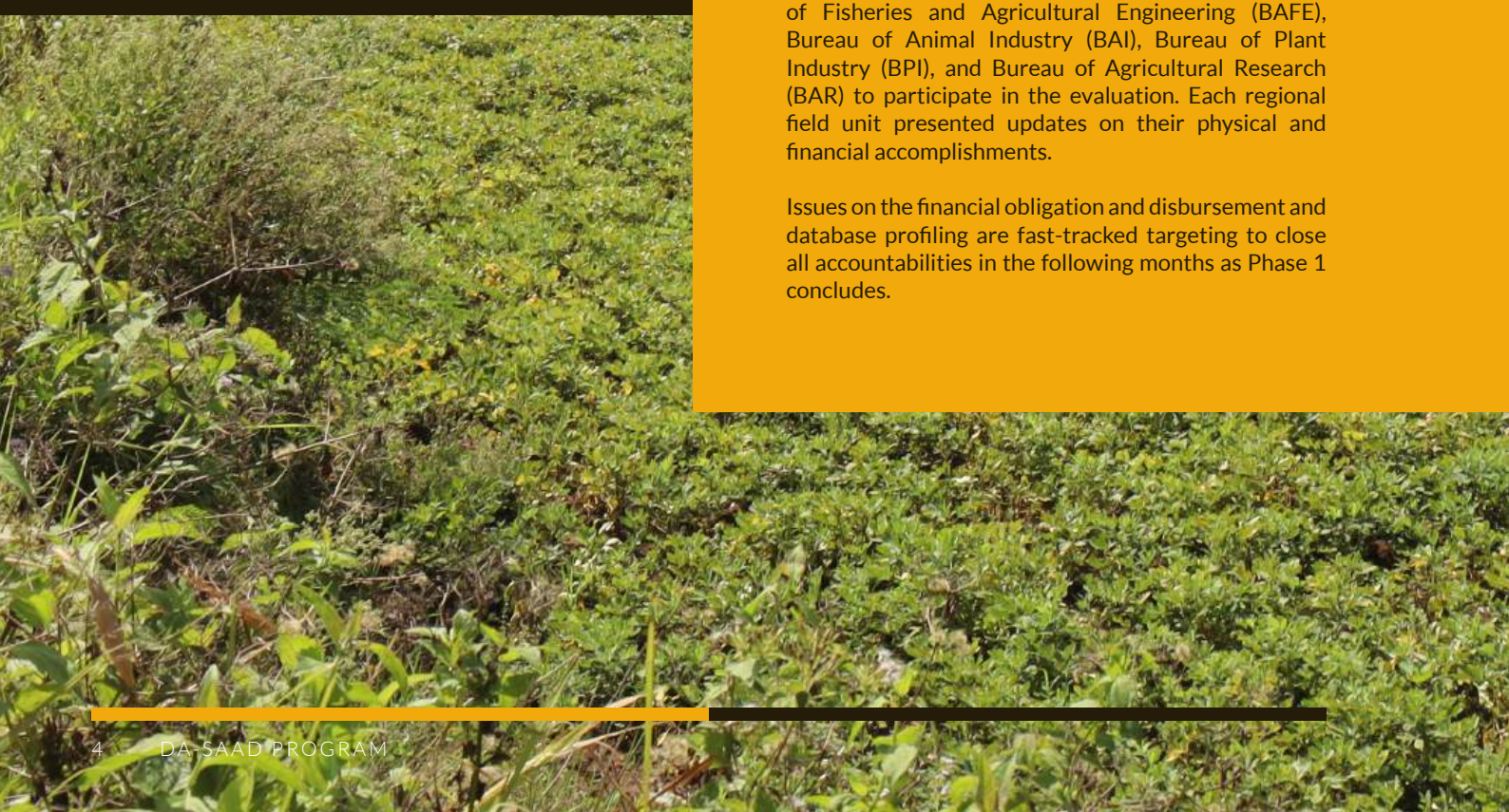
SAAD CAPS 2022 MIDYEAR ASSESSMENT, GEARS UP FOR PHASE 2

AUGUST 2022

For a midyear evaluation and to set integrated goals for the remaining months, the 11 Regional offices of the DA-SAAD Program convened. To prepare for the SAAD Phase 2 implementation, DA staff from the newly covered Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4-A joined the assessment to observe.

The floor was then opened for the Program Steering Committee (PSC) members from the DA's Budget Division, Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD), Bureau of Fisheries and Agricultural Engineering (BAFE), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR) to participate in the evaluation. Each regional field unit presented updates on their physical and financial accomplishments.

Issues on the financial obligation and disbursement and database profiling are fast-tracked targeting to close all accountabilities in the following months as Phase 1 concludes.





SAAD PROGRAM LAUNCH IN ILOCOS REGION

AUGUST 2022

SAAD NPMO and the DA Regional Field Office (RFO) 1 officials launched the beginning of SAAD Phase 2 implementation for Region 1 in San Fernando, La Union.

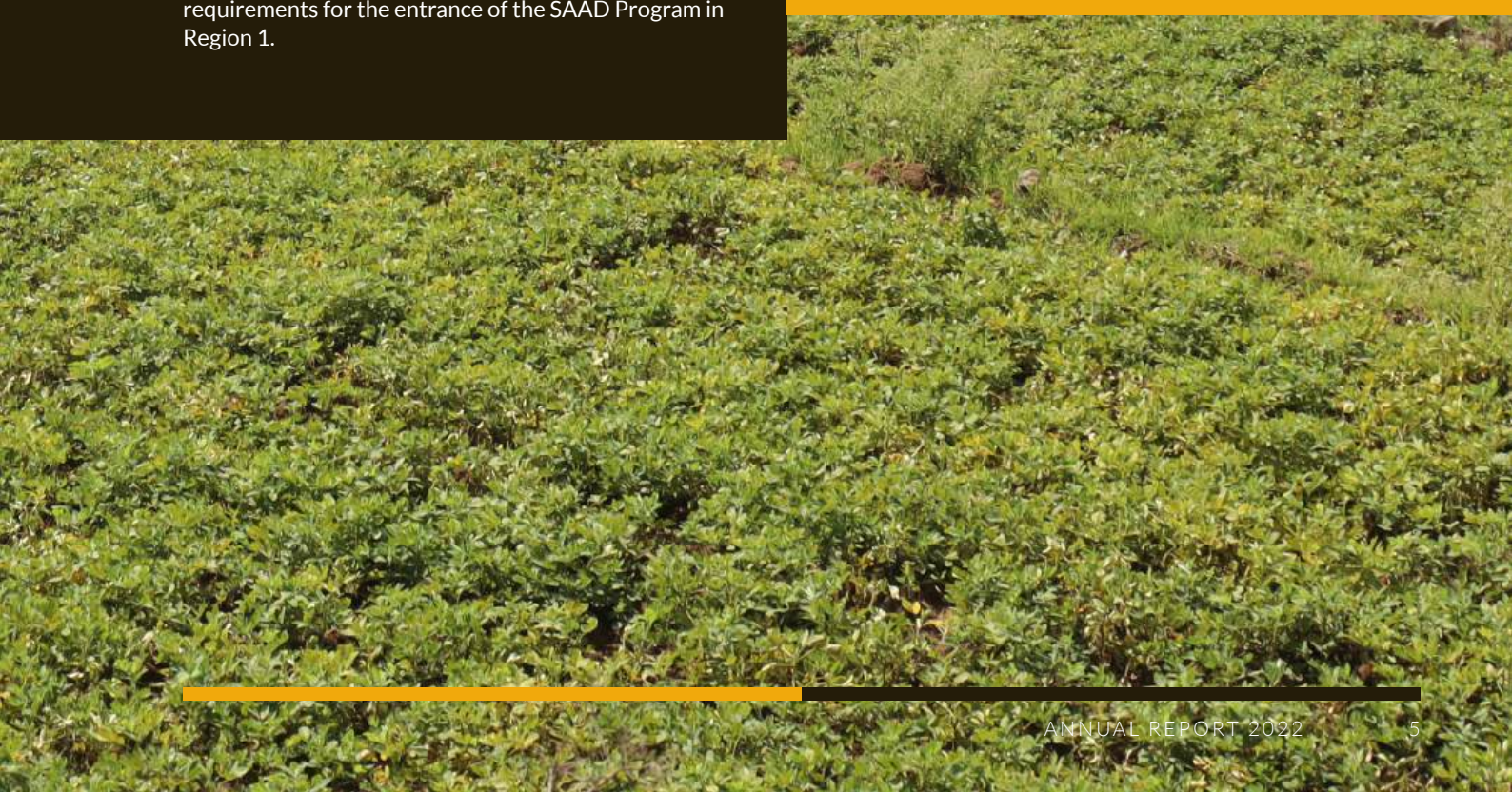
Sleeves are rolled up as delegates from the SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) led by its Director, Mr. Ulysses J. Lustria Jr., convened with the DA-RFO 1 implementers, headed by Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Regional Executive Director (RED) Atty. Jennilyn M. Dawayan. In full force, each DA RFO 1 core unit (operations, planning, budget, accounting, and provincial offices) was represented in the meeting to help build SAAD's initial structure and prepare requirements for the entrance of the SAAD Program in Region 1.

SAAD PROGRAM LAUNCH IN CALABARZON

AUGUST 2022

SAAD NPMO held an introductory meeting with the Region 4A (CALABARZON) team, one of the four (4) newly covered regions that will spearhead the SAAD Program regional implementation for its second phase.

DA Assistant Secretary for Operations and then CALABARZON Regional Executive Director (RED) Engr. Arnel de Mesa led the dialogue raising important points on the side of the regional implementing unit but sharing the same vision for the marginalized farmers and fishers in the region.





SAAD PROGRAM LAUNCH IN CENTRAL LUZON

AUGUST 2022

The DA-SAAD Program has successfully launched its operations in Central Luzon, an additional priority area that will comprise the 15 regions covered by SAAD for its Phase 2 implementation. DA-RFO 3 Focal Person Ms. Marie Joy Daguro laid down the areas' physical profiles for the execution of agricultural and fisheries livelihood projects in Tarlac and Nueva Ecija where SAAD will provide agricultural livelihood inputs starting in 2023.

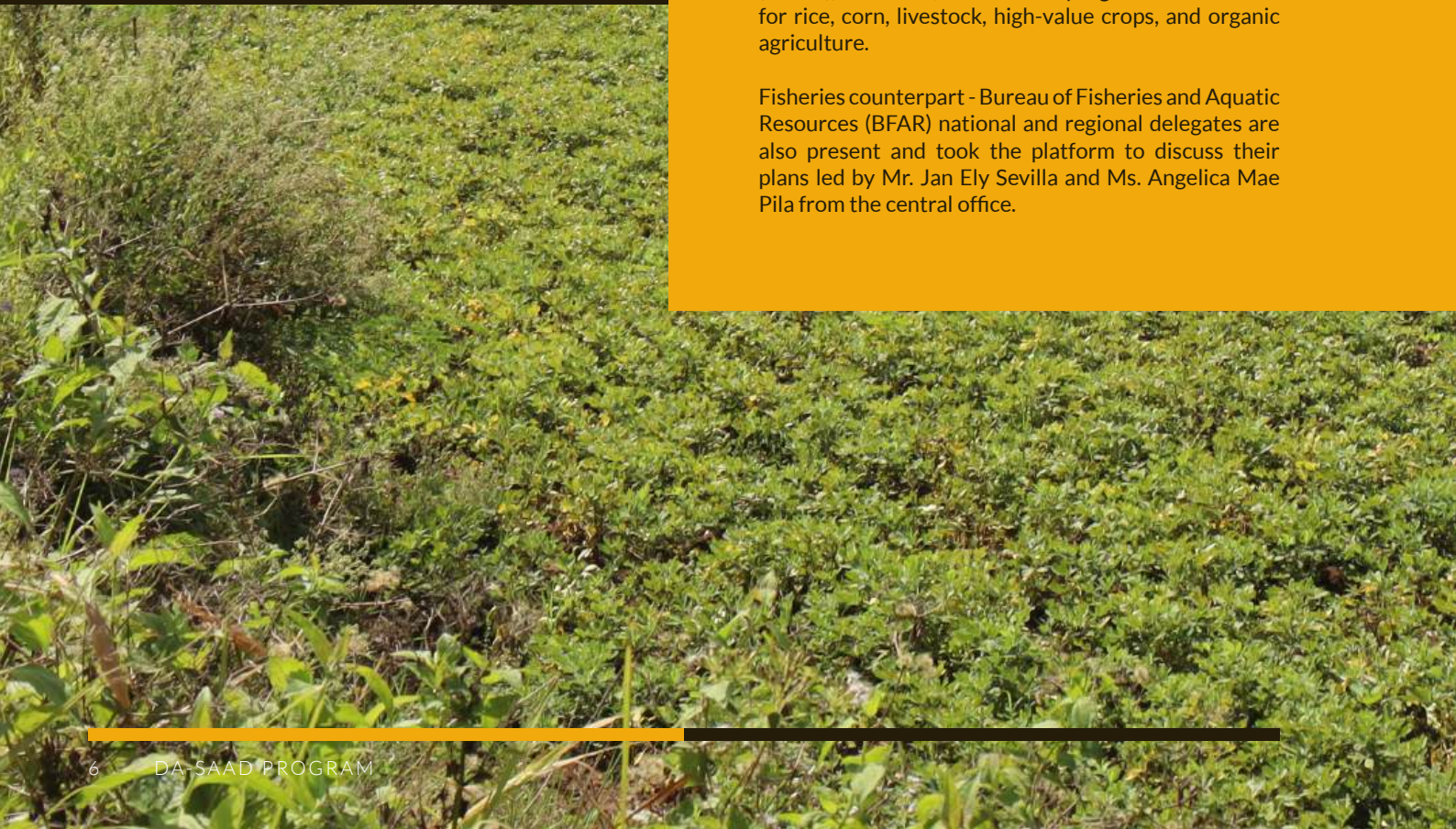
SAAD PROGRAM LAUNCH IN CAGAYAN VALLEY

AUGUST 2022

Sowing yet another story of hope, the DA-SAAD Program Phase 2 was launched in Region 2 on August 10-11, 2022 at the DA-RFO 2 Office in Tuguegarao City, Cagayan.

The activity was attended by the DA-RFO 2 Regional Executive Director Narciso A. Edillo, M.A.Ed., Field Operations Division Chief Engr. Monico R. Castro, RFO 2 representatives from Planning, Budget, Accounting, Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS), Research, and banner program coordinators for rice, corn, livestock, high-value crops, and organic agriculture.

Fisheries counterpart - Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) national and regional delegates are also present and took the platform to discuss their plans led by Mr. Jan Ely Sevilla and Ms. Angelica Mae Pila from the central office.





3ZERO SOUTHEAST ASIA FORUM WITH THE DA-SAAD PROGRAM

SEPTEMBER 2022

SAAD Program participated as co-organizer in the 3Zero Southeast Asia Forum with the theme “From programs to viable system: Ensuring inclusive and long-term model for the most marginalized” to promote a sustainable and inclusive agricultural system in Southeast Asia.

Among the SAAD delegates are association farmer-leaders including Rodolfo Andial, President of D. Riconalla Farmers Association, and Lauro Reyes, President of Lala Fishermen’s Cooperative (LAFICO), joined by SAAD NPMO Director Ulysses Lustria Jr.

REGION 8 SAAD SAGA-LED INTER-AGENCY CONVERGENCE

NOVEMBER 2022

The only SAAD Saga mounted during the transition year was led by SAAD Region 8 recognizing 10 FAs for exemplary management and performance in the five (5) SAAD-covered provinces in Eastern Visayas.

The event spearheaded by the DA-SAAD staff was held during the 9th year commemoration of Super Typhoon Yolanda’s (Haiyan) onslaught in the province. Multiple agencies converged to distribute different assistance to the marginalized sector as part of the continuous rehabilitation in the province. Pop-up stalls were assembled to feature the agricultural products of the SAAD Farmers Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs).

SAAD associations recognized were Palayanon Unlad Farmers Association (PUFA), and Balao Farmers Association from Leyte, Esperanza Bontoc Farmers Irrigators Association (EBFIA) and Magatas Rice Farmers Association (MRFA) from Southern Leyte, G.M. Osias Pambansang Mananalon Magbabaol Maguuma Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP), and Chitongco Farmers Association from Northern Samar, Lucerdoni Farmers and Fisherfolks Association (LUFFA) and Nagkaurusa nga Kababayen-an san Danao 1 from Samar, and lastly Brgy. Alang-alang Organic Farmers Association (BAOFA) and Pingan Vegetable and Livestock Producer from Eastern Samar.





SAAD CITED AS ONE OF THE PROGRAMS COMBATING POVERTY IN THE AGRI-SECTOR

NOVEMBER 2022

During the budget deliberations of the higher house, Senator Cynthia Villar, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Food identified SAAD Program and other DA projects as social protection response of the Department for farmers and fishers in the Visayas and Mindanao regions who remain to record higher poverty incidence and comprising a large portion of agricultural workers in the country. This emphasized the need to carefully study the distribution of projects and programs intended to assist the marginalized agricultural communities in the rural areas of the country.

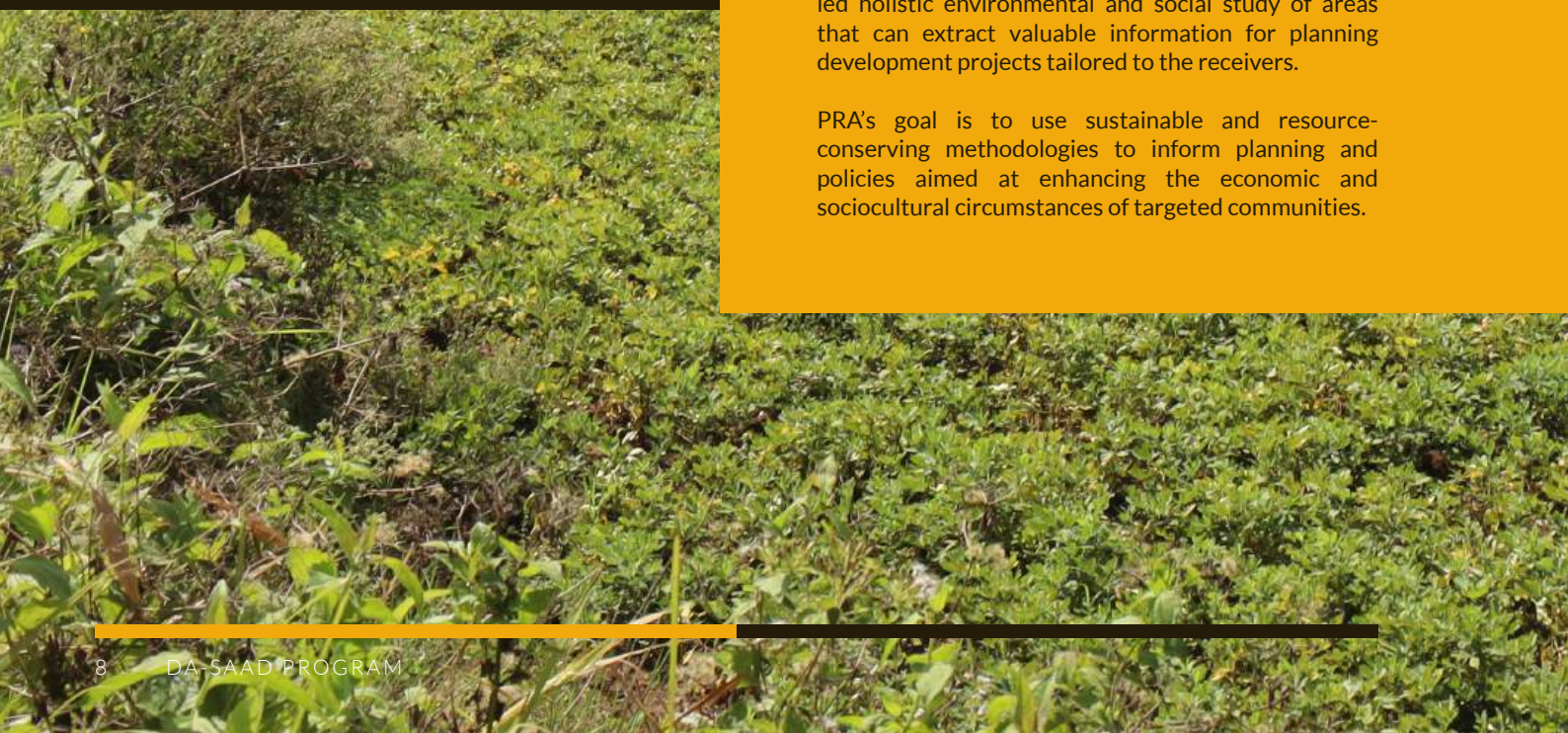
SAAD PROGRAM CONDUCTS PRA WORKSHOP IN PREPARATION FOR PHASE 2

DECEMBER 6, 2022

Amassing learnings from the Phase 1 implementation, SAAD, in collaboration with the DA CALABARZON (RFO 4A), launched the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Workshop as a head start aimed at supplying crucial tools and principles on community organizing for old and new region implementers.

The PRA Workshop is a capacity reinforcement activity for the implementers and an important part of the social preparation component of the SAAD Program geared to intensify and improve community engagement in the planning stage. PRA mainly promotes community-led holistic environmental and social study of areas that can extract valuable information for planning development projects tailored to the receivers.

PRA's goal is to use sustainable and resource-conserving methodologies to inform planning and policies aimed at enhancing the economic and sociocultural circumstances of targeted communities.





RESEARCH STUDIES PROVED SAAD'S SUCCESSFUL PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION

DECEMBER 2022

Third-party assessments were completed by partner state universities and colleges (SUCs) from 2021-2022. Research teams from the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) and Central Luzon State University (CLSU) led the two (2) different but related areas of study for the Program.

The SAAD Program Midterm Impact Assessment Study was led by the DMMMSU team, while the Social Preparation and Enterprise Development Assessment was spearheaded by the CLSU. Both studies show that the SAAD Program resulted in observed positive initial benefits for the targeted farmers and fisherfolk, particularly with respect to improving their household food consumption and other indicators of welfare gains and economic status.

APPROVAL OF DA-SAAD PROGRAM PHASE 2

DECEMBER 2022

SAAD was able to score a Department of Budget and Management (DBM) recommendation for Phase 2 implementation of Php 1.175 billion allocation for its operations in August.

The legwork for the SAAD implementation extension began with House Resolution 1421 "A Resolution Strongly Urging the House Leadership through the Committee on Rural Development to Extend the Implementation of the Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development Program for Six (6) Years from 2023 to 2028".

A tedious process, SAAD's proposals went to different levels of approval from the DBM, an internal agency assessment, until it went through the National Expenditure Program (NEP) and the final step, the General Appropriations Act (GAA) which legitimizes the inclusion of SAAD Program Phase 2 implementation under the publicly funded programs for 2023.



2022 **TIMELINE** OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

DA-SAAD NPMO conducts meeting on crafting of FY 2023-2028 Plan

In a significant step towards inclusive agricultural development, the DA-SAAD Program conducted a Strategic Planning Workshop on February 3, 2022. The workshop served as a platform to craft a comprehensive roadmap for SAAD Phase 2, which will run from 2023 to 2028. This collaborative event brought together participants from the current SAAD implementing regions, including newly covered regions such as Regions 1, 2, 3, and CALABARZON.

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

DA-SAAD NPMO discusses project proposals with TIKA Philippines

Director Myer G. Mula and Mr. Ian Kevin M. Sevilla, Special Concerns Officer, held a follow-up meeting with Director Fahri Burak Aydogdu of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Philippines, with the aim to discuss the project proposals that were submitted by the SAAD Regional Field Offices.

APRIL 25 TO 29, 2022

1st qtr National Program Assessment: How SAAD is felt on ground?

Remaining proactive while waiting for its proposed extension, the SAAD Program convened for the first time in the new normal setting to report on the progress of the program operations nationwide as its First Quarter Physical and Financial Assessment was held last April 25-29, 2022.

JULY 25 TO 29, 2022

DA-SAAD Program prepares for the end of phase 1 implementation

In line with the conclusion of the first phase of implementation, the Program gathered 33 implementers from the regional units for a training titled "Project Management Workshop towards Terminal Phase" from July 25 to 29, 2022 in Talisay, Batangas. This is to unify and ensure consistency in the narrative of the implementation of the program since its inception in 2017.

AUGUST 2 TO 5, 2022

DA-SAAD caps 2022 midyear assessment, gears up for Phase 2

Eleven (11) Regional offices gathered for a midyear evaluation, where they formulated comprehensive strategies for the remaining months of SAAD Phase 1. In anticipation of the forthcoming SAAD Phase 2 implementation, representatives from the recently included SAAD-covered Regions, namely Regions 1, 2, 3, and CALABARZON also participated in the said assessment.

AUGUST 8, 2022

SAAD meets with DA- CALABARZON for Phase 2 launching in 2023

The DA-SAAD NPMO held an introductory meeting with the Region 4-A (CALABARZON) team that will be spearheading the implementation of the SAAD Program for its second phase.

In this year's implementation, SAAD has reached the culmination of its Phase 1 with the passage of the Phase 2 implementation as its pinnacle, allowing expansion to more regions and provinces, and welcoming new administration and newly established partnership, the Program is in its burgeon stage welcoming the new phase with strengthened operational mechanism and further systematic approach.

MAY 16 TO 26, 2022

RBMERA in Western Visayas completes survey

The National Program Management Office (NPMO) of the DA-SAAD Program completed its Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Rapid Appraisal (RBMERA) for selected associations in two focused provinces in Western Visayas from May 16 to May 26.

MAY 23, 2022

RBMERA: Ushering IPs to greater development in the Mangyan community

Three (3) IP associations from the far-flung areas in the municipalities of Paluan and Sta. Cruz were assessed by the SAAD NPMO assisted by the Regional and Provincial staff to check on their overall situation including the status of production, harvest, organizational management, and market links.

JUNE 13 TO 24, 2022

SAAD national conducts RBMERA in Caraga

Supplementing farmers' management skills and linkage development through local government units were underscored during the Result-based Monitoring and Evaluation Rapid Appraisal (RBMERA) conducted by the DA-SAAD in Caraga from June 13 to 24, 2022.

AUGUST 10 TO 11, 2022

DA-SAAD meets with Region 2 for Phase 2 launching in 2023

Sowing yet another story of hope, SAAD Program Phase 2 launched in Region 2 on August 10-11, 2022 at the DA-RFO 2, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan. This activity translates to additional rural marginalized farmers and fishers receiving agricultural assistance from the program, adding to the roster of covered areas and beneficiaries as it enters Phase 2 implementation.

AUGUST 22, 2022

DA-SAAD meets with Region 1 for Phase 2 launching in 2023

The DA-SAAD Program implementers and the DA-RFO 1 officials launched SAAD Phase 2 implementation for Ilocos Region in San Fernando, La Union.

AUGUST 23, 2022

DA-SAAD meets with Region 3 for Phase 2 launching in 2023

DA-SAAD successfully capped launching leg for its operations in all four (4) newly covered regions through a meeting held in Pampanga for its Phase 2 implementation. The meeting workshop was held in Pampanga with the DA Central Luzon officials and implementers.

AUGUST 30 TO 31, 2022

More stories of Region 12 farmers as staff undergo writing and photojournal training

More field implementation stories can now be learned in Region 12 as DA-SAAD regional implementers take the Technical Writing and Photojournalism workshop on August 30 and 31, 2022.

OCTOBER 11 TO 14, 2022

SAAD recognized by CLSU as R&D partner

DA-SAAD Program was recognized by the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) as partner in research and development for the ongoing assessment on social preparation and enterprise development of the program.

OCTOBER 17 TO 21, 2022

SAAD reports current status, pursues Phase 2 preps amid impending budget adjustment

Running according to plan, the 11 regional offices of the Program and the NPMO convened for a third-quarter assessment to report on the progress of its operations nationwide on October 17 to 21, 2022 in Aklan, Western Visayas.

NOVEMBER 17, 2022

SAAD Program conducts PRA Workshop in preparation for Phase 2

Banking on the learnings from the Phase 1 implementation, DA-SAAD, in partnership with the DA CALABARZON initiated the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) Workshop for old and new region implementers as a head start aimed at providing essential tools and important principles on community organizing.

NOVEMBER 22, 2022

DA-SAAD conducts IT Assessment activity

Led by the NPMO IT Unit head Mr. Randy Ocampo, with the whole SAAD NPMO team and in partnership with Information & Communications Technology Service (ICTS) and the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), more than 50 staff from the national to regional and provincial IT units participated in the assessment and workshop aimed at upgrading the information database of SAAD from the provincial, regional, and national level in preparation for Phase 2.

DECEMBER 7, 2022

DA-SAAD NPMO presents new HR Operations Manual to regional offices

In line with the preparations for the Phase 2 implementation of the DA-SAAD Program next year, the NPMO presented the new Human Resource (HR) Operations Manual to the regional offices on December 7, 2022, via Webex. The guidelines provide standardized instructions for the regional offices to follow in terms of hiring new members of the SAAD implementation team on the ground.

OCTOBER 24 TO 28, 2022

Agri-extension workers strengthen communication practices thru C4D Workshop

To strengthen communication practices in defining and representing the realities of its beneficiaries, the regional and provincial information officers and area coordinators of the DA-SAAD Program participated in the Revisit and Magnify: Communication for Development (C4D) Workshop facilitated by the national team, from October 24 to 28.

NOVEMBER 8, 2022

Region 8 SAAD Saga-led inter-agency convergence

SAAD Saga Region 8 recognized 10 FAs for their exemplary management and performance in the five (5) SAAD-covered provinces in Eastern Visayas. The associations were: Palayanon Unlad Farmers Association (PUFA) and Balao Farmers Association from Leyte, Esperanza Bontoc Farmers Irrigators Association (EBFIA) and Magatas Rice Farmers Association (MRFA) from Southern Leyte, G.M. Osias Pambansang Mananalon Magbabaol Maguuma Magsasaka ng Pilipinas (P4MP) and Chitongco

Farmers Association from Northern Samar, Lucerdoni Farmers and Fisherfolks Association (LUFFA) and Nagkaurusa nga Kababayen-an san Danao 1 from Samar, and lastly Brgy. Alang-alang Organic Farmers Association (BAOFA) and Pingan Vegetable and Livestock Producer from Eastern Samar.

SAAD Saga held its program in this year's biggest convergence of different agencies led and organized by the DA with the DSWD, DOH, DTI, DOLE, and DOST in Leyte Academic Center, Palo, Leyte.

DECEMBER 8, 2022

Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Development visits DA-SAAD

The DA-SAAD central office was visited by the Asia Pacific Cultural Heritage Development Executive Director Amir Salamat on December 8, 2022 for collaborative partnership starting 2023.

DECEMBER 19 TO 24, 2022

Organizational reform as SAAD Phase 2 rolls in 2023

After six years of pursuing localized agricultural development for the most marginalized, DA-SAAD Program – NPMO renews its commitment to improving its services during its FY 2022 Year-end Assessment and Strategic Planning for FY 2023. Major changes by rationalizing the workforce structure will be adopted to prioritize targeted actions and initiatives in pursuit of achieving the program's objectives.



CHAPTER 1

FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE





INTRODUCTION

Over the years, SAAD Program provided holistic agricultural livelihood development assistance to identified areas in 11 regions, both for the farming and fishing sectors, executed by Regional Program Management Support Offices (RPMSOs) from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). In its final year however, the BFAR-SAAD arm leading the operations for the fishery sector has ended (2021) without budget allocation for 2022, hence the final annual report will only cover utilization and performance for the farming sector.

While the whole country is under socio-economic rehabilitation due to COVID-19 and geopolitical conflict, each state-initiated and involved transaction is crucial to ushering various sectors to economic recovery. This is especially true for the marginalized rural communities whose experience of the impact of poverty is intensified due to many factors. SAAD's direction remained in the strengthening of its campaign toward economic sustainability through community agri-enterprise activities and food security through commodity production capacity-building grants.

To cap off its 6-year operations in 2022, the DA-SAAD Program has provided **3,542 livelihood projects** to **6,503 farmers and fisherfolk groups**, with 190,563 members, and 146,120 individual beneficiaries. These beneficiaries and their communities underwent processes of capacity building, finishing at **2,328 activities for social preparation** that catered to **82,508 participants**. On specialized training or capacity enhancement specific to food and livelihood production, 3,642 training activities were given out to 138,992 participants. For enterprise development, DA-SAAD established **390 community-based enterprises**, managed by 390 groups with 19,596 members.



ABOUT SAAD PROGRAM

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) is essentially anchored on poverty incidence reduction, and local food production activation, through livelihood assistance for marginalized Filipino farmers and fishers. The program is committed to the development of marginalized Filipino communities by improving their economic conditions through the creation of livelihood opportunities in the agriculture and fishery sectors.

SAAD's inception primarily targeted to assist beneficiaries, and their household in food sustenance, providing "food on the table" by giving access to capital to engage in agricultural activities. The program then operated under four (4) components – Program Management, Social Preparation, Production and Livelihood Interventions, and Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development – that are designed to sustain and maximize beneficiary development while under the program.

These components serve as pillars of the operational framework with the ultimate goal of holistic transformation of the socio-economic conditions of the communities, and the shaping of its members' *bagong pananaw sa agrikultura* (perception in agriculture) as a tool to gain freedom from poverty.

The Program Management component comprises activities that are preparatory and operational to ensure efficient and effective program implementation. It also includes monitoring and evaluation to draw relevant inputs to enhance practices and policies.

Meanwhile, the Social Preparation component encompasses a series of training including a needs assessment of the beneficiaries to ensure readiness and empower SAAD beneficiaries in accepting and managing the projects. This component also increases the adaptability of projects among the recipients and also includes active coordination with partner agencies and organizations for possible collaboration.

The Production and Livelihood Interventions component entails the livelihood projects given based on the assessed needs of the recipients. Interventions given to selected beneficiaries range from animals, crops, fisheries production, post-production inputs, tools, machinery, facilities, and equipment to improve their farm and fish production practices and productivity. As a strategy, the beneficiaries usually receive mixed long-term and quick-yielding inputs fitted to their needs, with consideration for sustenance or income resources.

Lastly, the Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development component corresponds to the program's initiatives to help communities create enterprises by establishing market linkages and providing technical assistance and logistic support. This component streamlines linkage opportunities for state-funded as well as private programs to keep the projects sustainable and productive. The establishment of micro-scale enterprises (MSEs) is a clear indicator of the project's adaptability on the ground.

Following the four components, it transformed farmers and fishers and their projects to produce enough food and target enough surplus to engage in entrepreneurship. As smallholders, the program guided the producer-beneficiaries to establish community-based enterprises (CBEs) so even when they graduate from the program, the capital shall roll and the production will be sustained.

Essentially, beneficiaries are selected based on poverty incidence among families released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in 2012 and 2015, with the inclusion of conflict-stricken areas under the E.O. 70 series or End Local Communist and Armed Conflict (ELCAC) in 2019.

SAAD started under the leadership of former Assistant Secretary of the DA for Planning, Project Development, and Special Projects, Mr. Lerey A. Panes in 2017. This was followed by development expert Ms. Bernadette F. San Juan in 2017-2019, and agricultural scientist Dr. Myer G. Mula from 2019-2022. From August 2022 to the present, SAAD is led by another development practitioner, Mr. Ulysses J. Lustria Jr.

The National Program Management Office (NPMO) facilitates the conduct of the program through its four clusters: 1) Administrative and Procurement, 2) Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation, 3) Public Relations and Communications, and 4) Information Technology. They are responsible for the creation of policy guidelines for the regional and provincial support units. Further, it leads the planning, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation, among other processes necessary to run the program.

It is guided by an operations manual containing the program's framework, principles, and structure of the execution of projects in the 30 poorest provinces of the country where it operates.

In total, the program has crafted policies that addressed the gaps and constraints encountered throughout the implementation.

Some of these are:

1. Formulation of social preparation guidelines
2. Creation of guidelines on the creation of nurseries and multiplier farms
3. Provision of appropriate agricultural and fisheries technologies such as diversified farming and balanced fertilization
4. Partnership with national and foreign fund donors that provide interventions and logistic support
5. Continued support to marketing and enterprise establishment through social preparation, specialized training, and market linking
6. Guidelines on Community participation in Procurement that would enable the procurement of goods and services within the community reducing cost and assuring quality through commodity adaptability

VISION

By 2022, SAAD will be the leading agricultural development program and resource mobilization service of the Department of Agriculture, undertaking intensified social venture initiatives to increase food production and alleviate identified farmers and fisherfolk from poverty.

MISSION

We contribute to the poverty alleviation of 30 priority provinces with high poverty incidences and areas covered by Executive Order No. 70 (series of 2018) through:

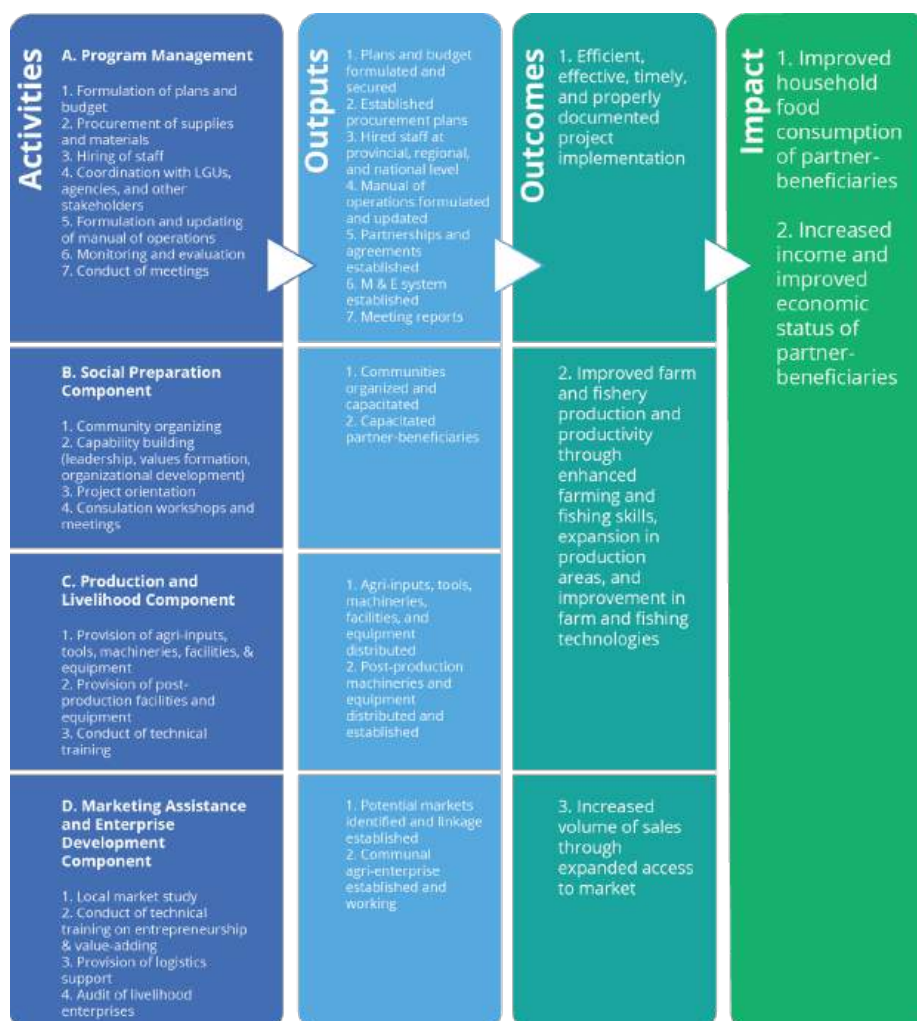
Social Preparation that empowers marginalized Farmers and Fisherfolk;

Intensified Production and Livelihood Interventions responsive to assessed needs; and

Partnerships with the local government units, private sector, and other government agencies and stakeholders.

SAAD PROGRAM FRAMEWORK

Figure 1. DA-SAAD Program Framework





2022 FINANCIAL AND PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE

An objective measure of how well a program has performed over the year is through its overall financial health. Tracing financial performance is based on quantifiable indicators and metrics in terms of utilization, obligation, and disbursement of funds allocated to the national and regional arms of the program. This provides insight into whether the offices have acted competently in the proper and just utilization of public funds toward the attainment of its goal of contributing to food security and reduction of poverty in the identified marginalized areas in the country.

SAAD Program scored a Php 923.79 million fund allotment from its initial proposal of Php 1.39 billion per the General Appropriations Act (GAA) of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). This is a 33.5% decrease from the proposed fund allotment for the activities of the program. As a result, the SAAD implementing units prioritized targeted allocations from the slashed funds to program management and various agri-livelihood projects. Varying strategies from the 11 regions include adjustment of project and target beneficiaries and reprogramming of integrated or multiple commodity projects to single commodity projects.

Table 1. FY 2022 Overall Agriculture Sector Fund Utilization (Php '000)

Particulars	Allotment (Php)	Obligation (Php)	% Obligation	Disbursement (Php)	% Disbursement
Total	923,789	860,310	93	644,718	75
NPMO	37,204	21,256	57	16,1068	76
CAR	123,550	115,799	94	88,298	76
MIMAROPA	59,921	57,091	95	53,569	94
Region 5	104,494	104,489	100	80,313	77
Region 6	72,178	63,547	88	61,033	96
Region 7	78,480	72,988	93	36,582	50
Region 8	135,998	125,682	92	73,949	59
Region 9	89,559	88,938	99	75,181	85
Region 10	62,100	57,617	93	38,070	66
Region 11	47,231	45,564	96	39,702	87
Region 12	79,860	74,765	94	51,747	69
Caraga Region	33,214	32,574	98	30,169	93

With the 12 implementing units, SAAD finished with a 93% (Php 860.31 million) fund obligation and 75% (Php 644.72 million) disbursement from its Php 923.79 million total budget allocation for FY 2022 (Table 1). Unexpended balances will be carried forward until the first quarter of 2023, which means that the central and regional arms can still use the fund for the continuous delivery of services in their areas of operation.

Overall, SAAD has an accumulated budget of Php 6.94 billion for both farming and fishing sectors activities.

The financial performance reached 97% (Php 6.64 billion) in terms of obligation as of December 31, 2022 report. For disbursement, the program utilized 79.% (Php 5.28 billion) from 2017 to 2022 obligated funds (Table 2). It should be noted in the overall utilization for agri- and fisheries sectors that the significant difference stems from the DBM-approved scheme for the fisheries sector led by the BFAR that ran for only three (3) years per province from 2017, expanding until it reached 30 target provinces (2017-2021 total running period of operations).

The remaining unobligated fund is due to delayed or failed procurements from ineligibility to non-participation of suppliers. This then affects disbursement performance causing delays in the distribution of livelihood projects, where full completion and delivery is prerequisite to funding liquidation.

For the fisheries sector, with a total budget allocation of Php 1.11 billion since 2017, BFAR-SAAD achieved 98.17% of its financial obligation and 82.68% of its disbursement performance. It has implemented livelihood projects varying from aquaculture and capture-fishery production, and postharvest processing benefitting 5,982 individual fishers and 209 fisherfolk groups with 8,713 members.

Table 2. Overall Financial Accomplishment for agriculture and fisheries sectors from 2017-2022 Allocation (Php '000)

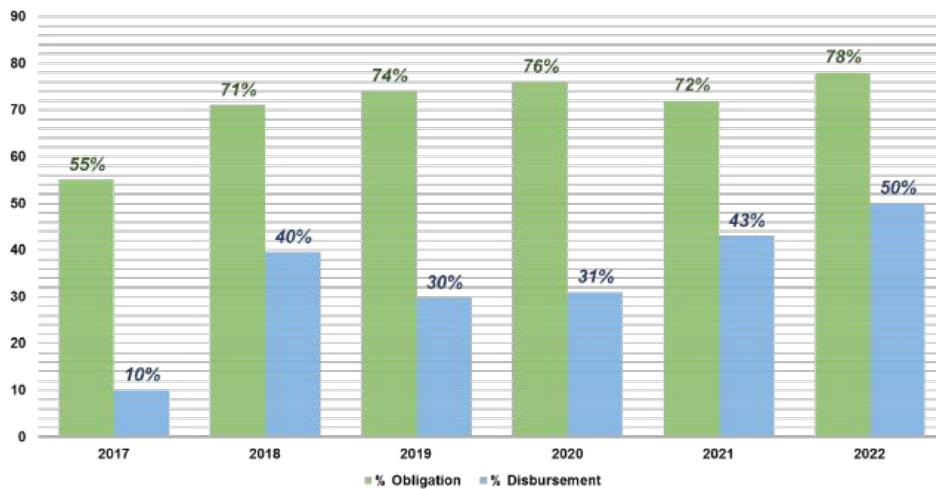
Year	Allotment (Php)	% share (GAA)	% Allotment	Financial Obligation (Php)	Financial Obligation (% share on GAA)	% Financial Obligation	Financial Disbursement (Php)	Disbursement (% share on GAA)
2017	872,535	12.75	12.75	855,172.81	12.50	12.47	694,768.27	10.46
2018	991,268	14.49	27.24	936,392.69	13.68	26.18	796,530.44	11.99
2019	1,430,340	20.90	48.14	1,394,532.20	20.38	46.56	1,167,207.74	17.57
2020	1,132,616	16.55	64.69	1,112,964.60	16.26	62.82	1,037,710.09	15.62
2021	1,492,782	21.81	86.50	1,483,948.72	21.68	84.50	940,469.73	14.16
2022	923,789	13.50	100.00	860,310.23	12.57	97.07	644,717.54	9.70
Total	6,843,330.00	100.00		6,643,321.00	97.08		5,281,404 (5,281,403.81)	79.50



FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REVIEW

FY 2022 3rd quarter performance has set the highest record throughout Quarter 3 performances since 2017 (Figure 2).

Figure 2. DA-SAAD Quarter 3 Comparative Performance (% Financial Accomplishment for FY 2017 to 2022)



The 2022 third-quarter financial performance report showed that obligation and disbursement performance accounted for the highest percentage. This means that the national and regional operating units have improved in terms of fund utilization, rendering strategies for the effective financial management of funds allotted to various projects the program provided to its clients.



FY 2023 FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS

On December 16, 2022, the DBM released the Php 1.21 billion FY 2023 GAA of the Program for both the agriculture and fishery sector. Both sectors incurred a significant decrease from their proposed National Expenditure Program (NEP) allocation: with a 38.28% decrease from the Php 1.18 billion proposal of the agriculture sector, and 17.04% for BFAR's initial proposal of Php 586,750 million for the first year of Phase 2 implementation.

Amid the downsized budget for FY 2023, the national and regional offices will continue to deliver its agri-fishery livelihood projects, enlisting different initiatives from the operating units. Measures include 1) compressing activities, 2) reducing numbers of municipalities, livelihood projects, and group beneficiaries, 3) freezing staff hiring, 4) informing the local government units (LGUs) that only social preparation and livelihood projects are the priority activities, 5) adjusting projects' budgets, and 6) reprogramming integrated or multi-commodity projects to single commodity projects. The course of action will vary per region.

For FY 2023, Php 725.40 million will be allocated for the farming sector and Php 486.75 million for the fishery. With the addition of Regions 1, 2, 3, and CALABARZON, SAAD will be present in 56 provinces covering 619 municipalities for its expansion for another 6 years (FY 2023-2028). The selected areas are based on the top third municipalities with the highest poverty incidence reported by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and 5th and 6th class based on Department of Finance (DOF) Order 23-08 income classification.

With the same thrusts as Phase 1, SAAD Phase 2 is designed to contribute to the reduction of poverty incidence in its covered areas through its four (4) core components, 1) Social Preparation, 2) Food Production and Livelihood, 3) Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development, and 4) Program Management where all activities are anchored fulfilling rational gradual development to its clients.

With the 6-year extension, while SAAD will no longer cover previous beneficiaries, it intensifies the social preparation component adjoining needs assessment tools to provide the most suited livelihood to the beneficiaries.

The second implementation phase shall continue the diversification and integration of livelihoods such as crops, livestock, fisheries, postharvest-related projects, and value-adding based on the assessed needs of its beneficiaries considering feasibility results from the Beneficiary Needs Assessment (BNA) and Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA).

**Table 3. FY 2023 Financial Projections for agriculture sector
(Php '000)**

DA-SAAD	GAA		
	MOOE	CO	TOTAL
TOTAL	585,461	139,940	725,401
NPMO	23,330	500	23,830
CAR	42,424	500	42,924
RFO 1	13,294	7,330	20,624
RFO 2	26,090	5,001	31,091
RFO 3	30,250	10,333	40,583
CALABARZON	20,020	300	20,320
MIMAROPA	35,473	13,000	48,473
RFO 5	74,600	10,131	84,731
RFO 6	31,234	8,500	39,734
RFO 7	47,919	12,700	60,619
RFO 8	61,095	26,000	87,095
RFO 9	43,140	14,500	57,640
RFO 10	39,050	9,500	48,550
RFO 11	26,628	6,000	32,628
RFO 12	35,206	9,260	44,466
RFO 13	35,708	6,385	42,093

**Table 4. FY 2023 Financial Projections for fishery sector
(Php '000)**

BFARSAAD	MOOE	BUDGET TOTAL
TOTAL	486,750	486,750
NPMO	14,602	14,602
CAR	34,073	34,073
RFO 1	9,735	9,735
RFO 2	9,250	9,250
RFO 3	9,735	9,735
CALABARZON	4,868	4,868
MIMAROPA	58,410	58,410
RFO 5	48,675	48,675
RFO 6	24,337	24,337
RFO 7	48,675	48,675
RFO 8	58,410	58,410
RFO 9	24,338	24,338
RFO 10	24,337	24,337
RFO 11	29,205	29,205
RFO 12	58,895	58,895
RFO 13	29,205	29,205



S-CURVE: FY 2022 SAAD PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

A. INTRODUCTION

Since the midterm implementation year of the program, it has adopted measures and tools in assessing its overall performance, one of which is the S-Curve. The S-Curve is a tool that analyzes the tangible accomplishments of a project vis-à-vis the financial investment used to deliver such activities. It is used to monitor time series data and is represented through a line graph to show the trends, intersections, and gaps of implementation that shall serve as the basis of a program and project in alignment with its overall goal. Also, it is used to correlate the financial and physical accomplishments of the program.

The importance of the S-Curve is that it shows the progress of the program in achieving its overall goal. It provides a pathway to understand the importance and relevance of the activities it conducts with the financial support that it receives and utilizes. Moreso, it provides policymakers a reference on the adjustments needed in its guidelines to narrow down gaps and formulate strategies to achieve its goals.

In lieu, the program highlights the use of S-curve to correlate figures both physical and financial as a basis of its annual and overall performance.

B. SAAD INDICATORS

Physical Indicators

In general, the program's physical performance is based on the program's activities generated through indicators. These indicators represent the derived output of each core component that the program implements to achieve its goal. In addition, these

indicators are separated into categories - input and output indicators.

In the DA setting, the input indicator refers to the interventions provided by an agency whether it is goods or services. On the other hand, the output indicator refers to the beneficiaries that received the input provided.

For the SAAD Program, its indicators follow the definition of the DA in terms of the input and output levels. Furthermore, it relates its input indicator to the primary goods and services it provides to its beneficiaries as defined in Table 5.

Table 5. SAAD Indicators

Component	Input indicator	Output Indicator
Social Preparation	Social Preparation activities conducted	Participants of Social preparation activities
Food Production and Livelihood	Livelihood Projects implemented	Individual beneficiaries of livelihood projects
	Livelihood Projects implemented	Group beneficiaries of livelihood projects
	Specialized training conducted	Individual farmers/fisherfolk trained
Market Assistance and Enterprise Development	Fully established Community-Based Enterprises (CBEs)	Group beneficiaries of Fully established CBEs
	Partially established Community Based Enterprises	Group beneficiaries of Partially established CBEs

Financial Indicators

On the financial part, the program follows the government terms and measures used to assess its financial utilization. In terms of fund source, the program is funded through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) as a locally funded project.

As defined in Table 6, these indicators are used to derive the financial performance of each DA operating unit including the SAAD Program.

As defined in Table 6, these indicators are used to derive the financial performance of each DA operating unit including the SAAD Program.

Table 6. Financial indicators

Financial Indicators	Details
Allotment	Budget allocation based on GAA
Obligation	Amount earmarked/reserved for a specific activity
Disbursement	Amount paid based on obligation
% Obligation	% Obligation over allotment
% Disbursement	% Disbursement over obligation

C. FY 2022 PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Based on the discussed overall performance, only the agriculture sector (DA-SAAD) has been funded in the fiscal year 2022. As such, the program's overall performance is reflected by a one (1) year gap between the agriculture and the fisheries sector (BFAR SAAD).

In relation, the DA-SAAD was allotted Php 923.789 million for the year. It was able to obligate 93% (Php 860.31 million) and 75% (Php 644.71 million) which was disbursed by the end of 2022. In addition, it delivered 486 livelihood projects to 1,394 group beneficiaries with 38,902 members.

Though the program only achieved 93% obligation, it recorded its highest disbursement rate of 75%. The disbursement rate is attributable to the continuous effort of the program in fast-tracking project implementation and securing necessary documents to facilitate its accounts payables.

D. OVERALL SAAD PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

For the six (6) year period of the program, it has covered a total of 146,120 individuals and 6,503 groups (189,841 members) and has provided a total of 3,542 livelihood projects. In the process, it was allotted Php 6.84 billion and was able to utilize 97% (Php 6.64 billion) and 79% (Php

5.28 billion) in terms of obligation and disbursement, respectively.

The process of fund allocation is based on the approval and allocation of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) to the DA implementing units. The percent share of accomplishment of the DA and BFAR SAAD is subjected to the totality of fund allocation it receives from DBM.

For agriculture, it had a share of 84% (Php 5.72 billion) in financial allocation while 16% (Php 1.11 billion) was allotted to the fishery sector. In terms of physical accomplishment, the agriculture sector contributed 87% (3,086 livelihood projects) on the overall physical accomplishment of the program while the fisheries share is at 13% (456 livelihood projects) (Table 7).

The agricultural sector had a more significant contribution in terms of percent share on the overall performance of the program since it was allotted a higher budget ceiling by DBM on a per annual basis. In addition, the years of implementation also contributed to the sharing highlighting a one-year gap between the two sectors. However, in terms of financial utilization, both programs exhibited high utilization demonstrating that both sectors were able to fully mobilize its implementation.

Table 7. FY 2017 - 2022 Livelihood Projects implemented and financial allocation per sector

Sector	Livelihood Projects implemented	Beneficiaries			Total Fund Allocation (Php '000)	Obligation (Php '000)	%	Disbursement (Php '000)	%
		Individual	Group	Group Members					
Total	3,542	146,120	6,503	189,841	6,843,330	6,643,321	97	5,281,404	79
Agriculture	3,086	105,149	5,124	161,577	5,724,263	5,543,798	97	4,379,564	79
Fisheries	456	40,971	1,379	28,264	1,119,067	1,099,523	98	901,839	82

E. SAAD S-CURVE

Through the physical and financial accomplishments of both sectors, the S-curve aims to correlate each performance relative to the other. The physical and financial performance was represented through the indicators' livelihood projects implemented and obligation, respectively. The livelihood projects represent the program's main intervention since these have the bulk of the program's fund allocation; they are a result of Social Preparation and the basis of CBE establishment. On the other hand, financial allocation is represented by the GAA/Allotment (target) and Obligation (actual).

As defined, the GAA represents the program's availability of funds while the obligation is a means to reserve a portion of the funds for procured goods and/or services upon the award of contract to the winning supplier. With these representations, the program was able to exhibit the gaps and formulate strategies in addressing these issues to keep the program on track with its implementation process.

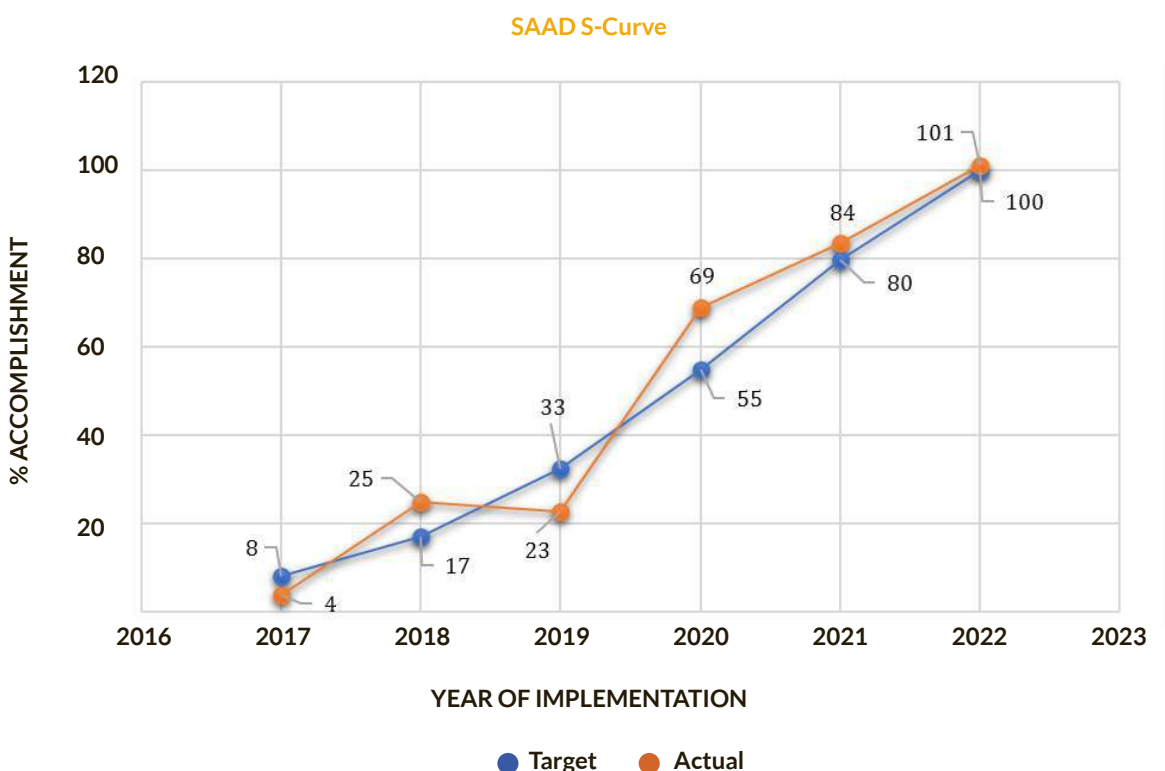
In addition, the mechanics of S-Curve computation requires the unaccomplished targets to be added to the succeeding fiscal year upon their actual accomplishment. This is also a

major cause of the gaps (over-accomplishment) reflected on the S-Curve.

As seen in Figure 3, the program was able to attain a 101% accomplishment relative to its physical and financial performance. The 101% accomplishment is attributed to additional livelihood projects that were implemented due to savings. This means that during the procurement process, some of the project interventions were procured at a lower price resulting in the excess budget (savings) that were used for procurement of additional livelihood interventions. These additional livelihood interventions added to the computation of the S-Curve and resulted in 101% accomplishment.

On the other hand, the gaps in 2017 and 2019 reflect the under-accomplishment of the program due to the late establishment of the Program Management Offices (PMOs) in 2017 and the late release of funds in 2019. Further, the late establishment of PMO resulted from the late creation of clear policy directions, late workforce hiring and capacitation, and delayed procurement process resulting in a low physical accomplishment.

Figure 3. SAAD S-Curve for fiscal year 2017 - 2022



In 2018, the program was back on track in terms of policy directions set by a change in management. It was able to implement its backlogs from 2017 and added the accomplishment of its 2018 targets resulting in a positive gap in 2018. As stated, 2019 experienced a dip in its performance due to the late release of the GAA to all national government agencies including DA. The late release of funds was due to the conflict between the versions of Congress and the Senate of the proposed 2019 budget which led to a standstill in approval. The GAA was released in April 2018 and the implementation commenced afterwards. Region MIMAROPA, 6 and 13 were mostly affected since 2019 was the 1st year for these 3 regions.

Subsequently, the program was able to implement its 2019 delayed projects in 2020 and continued until 2022. This is reflected in the S-curve which showed overaccomplishment for the years 2020 until 2022. These over-accomplishments were reflected because of the continuing physical accomplishments from the previous fiscal year that were added to the current year's accomplishments.

But on another note, the years 2020–2021 were the most difficult years of the implementation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main effects of it were the reprogramming of activities due to restrictions, manpower immobilization, procurement limitations, and the like. However, the program was still able to attain its overall performance even with such difficulties. This may be attributed to the policy adjustments, workforce capacity and resiliency, and the overall support of the program from all the DA operating units.

Table 8 shows the cumulative physical performance of both sectors including financial performance (obligation) per year. This served as the reference for computing the SAAD S-curve

F. PROJECT FORMULATION AND LIMITATION

One of the unique traits of SAAD is the provision of its livelihood projects. These livelihood projects are referred to as a package of interventions that include primary inputs (such as seeds) and secondary inputs (fertilizers, tools, technical training, etc.). During the early years of the program, the derivation of targets from the livelihood project was based on the type of projects being implemented. As it progressed, the targets were based on the number of projects based on beneficiaries and location.

This in turn caused variations in the reflection of the targets and accomplishment of the program in terms of livelihood projects, specifically the 1st half of the project implementation. Though these figures may vary based on the criteria it was counted from, it still reflects the same beneficiary recipients.

For the annual report, the figures presented were based on the submitted official report through the DA's Budget Accountability Report 1 (BAR 1). This is for the consistency of presented data from the previous annual reports published.

Table 8. S-Curve Physical and Financial Targets and Accomplishments

Indicator	Annual Physical and Financial Accomplishment													
	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022		Total	
	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual	Target	Actual
Number of Livelihood Projects Implemented	192	91	211	309	369	258	530	666	590	618	481	486	2,373	2,428
Financial Allocation (Php '000)	872,535	855,173	991,268	936,393	1,430,340	1,394,532	1,132,626	1,112,965	1,492,782	1,483,949	923,789	860,310	6,843,340	6,643,321



CHAPTER 2

2022 PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Physical accomplishment refers to the extent to which the program has achieved its objective in terms of delivering tangible agricultural inputs and services to beneficiaries, as well as the extent to which the beneficiaries adopted and benefited from these interventions.

The SAAD's physical accomplishments encompass a range of initiatives aimed at improving the livelihood of marginalized and disadvantaged farmers and fisherfolk. This includes engaging in successive and gradual activities such as social preparation activities, specialized training, livelihood projects, and establishing community-based enterprises.

As the SAAD Program concludes its Phase 1 implementation in the 30 priority provinces, SAAD in 2022 completed 523 social preparation activities for 11,578 participants from 311 groups; 717 specialized training for 18,256 individuals learners; 486 livelihood projects for 1,394 groups with 38,902 members; and established 230 community-based enterprises (CBEs) for 230 groups with 12,954 group members (Table 9) in 2022, alone.

Table 9. DA-SAAD FY 2022 Physical Accomplishment

SAAD Operating Unit	Social Preparation Activities	Specialized Training	Livelihood Projects	CBEs
CAR	155	49	128	39
MIMAROPA	13	18	14	3
Region 5	6	52	33	20
Region 6	32	57	54	13
Region 7	75	44	24	12
Region 8	100	128	49	11
Region 9	40	55	62	103
Region 10	30	-	57	2
Region 11	8	46	6	12
Region 12	62	201	28	8
Region 13	2	67	31	7
TOTAL	523	717	486	230

In the 6-year period of operation, SAAD Program provided 2,328 social preparation activities attended by 82,508 participants; 3,642 specialized training for 138,992 farmer-learners; 3,542 livelihood projects for 146,120 individual farmers and 6,503 groups with 190,563 members; and established 390 community-based enterprises for 390 groups with 19,596 group members (Table 10) from 2017-2022.

LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS

Given the fisheries sector scheme, only the agricultural arm of SAAD was able to implement new projects for 2022. DA-SAAD has implemented 486 livelihood projects for 1,394 farmer groups, comprising a total of 38,902 group members. This included 26 rice-related projects, 62 corn-related projects, 114 high-value crop-related projects, and 284 livestock and poultry-related projects.

As the program approached its conclusion, individual beneficiaries were gradually formed into groups in line with the initiatives of clustering and consolidation of farmlands and farmers. Considering this strategy, livelihood interventions decreased from last year's record as individual beneficiaries are formed into groups. Actual projects implemented per association are significantly enlarged due to the integrated livelihood scheme that aims to provide short-mid-long term yield and benefits (in monetary or consumption terms) to the beneficiaries.

DA-SAAD's counting system for the project is based on the main commodity. This means for example that if the main production package is in poultry production, HVC production inputs provided to the groups are considered as support projects for poultry production. This is especially true under the "enterprise development packages" handed out by some regions.

Without any assurance of an extension, the SAAD Program in 2022 focused its efforts on increasing and measuring its impact in the covered communities. To carefully gauge the weight of its core components, the Program initiated the Midterm Impact Assessment Study, and the Social Preparation and Enterprise Development Assessment (SPEDA). These studies were conducted by the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) for the midterm impact study and the Central Luzon State University

Table 10. SAAD Physical Accomplishments from 2017-2022

SAAD Operating Unit	Social Preparation Activities		Specialized Training		Livelihood Projects		CBEs	
	A	F	A	F	A	F	A	F
TOTAL	2,328		3,642		3,542		390	
CAR	270	21	440	74	562	22	40	4
MIMAROPA	33	23	39	15	87	46	7	-
Region 5	15	45	313	24	509	86	29	1
Region 6	109	25	250	6	190	36	45	9
Region 7	225	38	247	41	245	58	12	-
Region 8	493	4	291	73	586	49	18	-
Region 9	209	29	266	8	435	15	175	-
Region 10	48	75	93	18	156	55	2	7
Region 11	22	7	340	24	66	13	15	-
Region 12	546	3	836	67	131	43	8	10
Region 13	16	54	142	35	119	33	7	1
TOTAL	2,004	324	3,257	385	3,085	456	358	32

Table 11. DA-SAAD FY 2022 Implemented Projects and Beneficiaries

SAAD Operating Unit	No. of Projects	No. of Beneficiaries	
		Group	Group Members
TOTAL	486	1,394	38,902
CAR	128	127	5,460
MIMAROPA	14	59	1,799
Region 5	33	141	4,595
Region 6	54	124	4,097
Region 7	24	252	5,743
Region 8	49	144	3,608
Region 9	62	159	5,097
Region 10	57	71	3,187
Region 11	6	46	920
Region 12	28	240	3,330
Region 13	31	31	1,066

(CLSU) for the SPEDA. With high hopes for extension, the partner-state universities revealed positive points and emphasized pitfalls of the implementation that can be improved for better execution. Both studies revealed that in the agriculture and fisheries sector beneficiaries, SAAD brought observed positive impacts in different socio-economic facets such as an increase in meal frequency (primary goal) as well as household investments (economic capacity increase).

The last year of implementation also advanced partnerships with DA banner programs, local government units, and reinforced group mobilization of beneficiaries. Strategic packages of livelihood projects were also continued with the inclusion of enterprise development capacity building and inputs provision to encourage the groups toward the expansion of their services and products. Additionally, SAAD no longer provided projects to farmers who are

not members of associations.

In line with the partnership, the regional arms of SAAD arranged formal recognition rites and graduation ceremonies for the beneficiaries, and at the same time, their formal turnover to their respective local government care.

From 2017-2022, SAAD in the agriculture sector implemented 3,086 livelihood projects for 5,124 farmers' associations, with 161,577 members and another 105,149 individuals. In the fisheries sector, there are 456 livelihood projects that reached 1,379 groups with 28,986 members apart from 40,971 individual beneficiaries.

Table 12. SAAD implemented projects from FYs 2017-2022 for DA-SAAD

SAAD Operating Unit	Livelihood Projects						GRAND TOTAL
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TOTAL	374	700	634	357	535	486	3,086
CAR	58	80	38	73	185	128	562
MIMAROPA	-	-	24	28	21	14	87
Region 5	-	270	130	34	42	33	509
Region 6	-	-	10	56	70	54	190
Region 7	47	69	80	8	17	24	245
Region 8	174	145	162	26	30	49	586
Region 9	47	76	101	71	78	62	435
Region 10	16	20	12	18	33	57	156
Region 11	-	17	26	5	12	6	66
Region 12	32	23	21	13	14	28	131
Caraga	-	-	30	25	33	31	119

Table 13. SAAD implemented projects from FYs 2017-2022 for BFAR-SAAD

SAAD Operating Unit	Livelihood Projects						GRAND TOTAL
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TOTAL	28	81	101	168	78	78	456
CAR	2	4	3	7	6	-	22
MIMAROPA	-	-	11	19	16	-	46
Region 5	-	27	14	45	-	-	86
Region 6	-	-	6	15	15	-	36
Region 7	10	9	15	16	8	-	58
Region 8	11	17	14	7	-	-	49
Region 9	3	5	7	-	-	-	15
Region 10	-	7	11	22	15	-	55
Region 11	-	1	3	2	7	-	13
Region 12	2	11	8	22	-	-	43
Caraga	-	-	9	13	11	-	336



PHASE 1

SAAD'S PROVINCES COVERED

SAAD Phase 1 (2017-2022) provided its services to farmers and fishers across 11 regions. The livelihood projects benefited 146,120 individual beneficiaries and 6,503 farmers and fishers cooperatives and associations (FCAs) with 190,563 members (farmers and fishers).

It operated in the top 30 provinces with the highest poverty incidence rate according to Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 2012 and 2015 data. Considering the island equity scheme, farmers from 440 municipalities and 27 cities were given livelihood assistance and capacity-building initiatives. These areas are also identified as Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) and National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC) communities.

PHP 6.84B

TOTAL BUDGET SINCE 2017
97% UTILIZATION RATE (PHP 6.84)

390

ESTABLISHED
COMMUNITY-BASED
ENTERPRISE FOR
AGRICULTURE AND
FISHERIES SECTOR

3,542

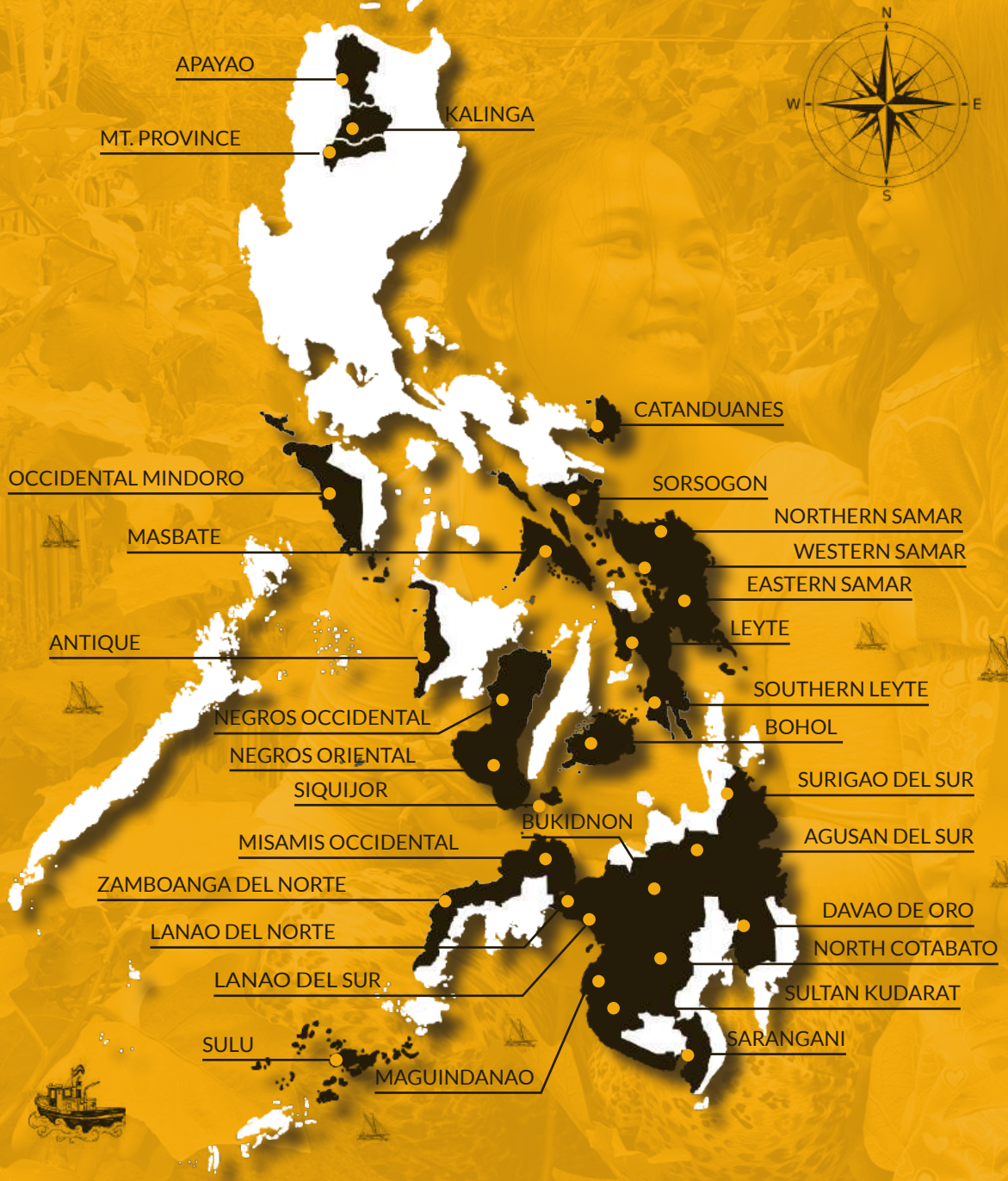
LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

6,503

FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK
ASSOCIATIONS WITH
189,841 MEMBERS SERVED

146,120

INDIVIDUAL
BENEFICIARIES
CATERED



RICE SUPPORT



CORN SUPPORT



HVC SUPPORT



LIVESTOCK SUPPORT

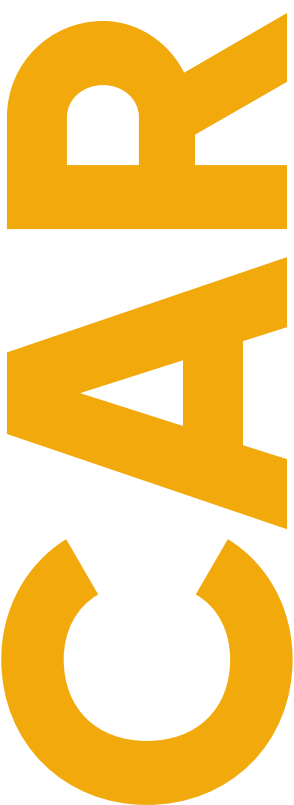


POULTRY SUPPORT



CAPTURE & AQUACULTURE

LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT



CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Among the basic sectors, farmers in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) remain to be among the least developed. With the program’s inception, CAR became one of the target regions in 2017, covering 3 provinces: Apayao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province with poverty incidence rates: 43.3%, 40.7%, and 44.7% respectively according to Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 2015.

In its 6th year of implementation, SAAD CAR headed by the DA-CAR Field Office delivered a total of 128 livelihood projects which mainly focused on high-value crops, livestock, and poultry production. Through this, a total of 5,460 beneficiaries from 127 farmers associations have benefited from the project.

Table 14. Cordillera Administrative Region FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Apayao		Kalinga		Mt. Province		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Group	Actual	Grp
HVC	12	11	4	4	10	9	26	24
Livestock and Poultry	23	23	41	41	38	39	102	103

As a landlocked area, CAR is located in the north-central part of Luzon and is bounded by Ilocos Norte and Cagayan in the north, Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija in the south, Cagayan Valley in the east, and Ilocos Region in the west. It has a mountainous topography hosting 13 river basins for irrigation of agricultural lands.

The region’s major crop production are palay, corn, vegetable, and fruit crops. The region also generates production on livestock and poultry such as carabao, cattle, hog, goat, chicken, and duck and fisheries through excavated ponds and rice paddies.

In SAAD’s case, several commodity production on livestock (swine, cattle, goat), poultry (duck, chicken), high-value crops, and root crops have the highest rate of adoption because of their potential value-adding market and high-yielding crop produce. SAAD CAR farmers are also engaged in meat processing, large ruminant production, poultry marketing, wine processing, balut making, table egg marketing, fertilizer and corn seeds marketing, ground coffee processing, salted egg marketing, turmeric marketing, goat enterprise, mushroom enterprise, soft broom enterprise, and sugarcane vinegar partially-established enterprises.

Throughout the Phase 1 implementation, Cordillera Administrative Region was able to usher in the establishment of 40 community-based enterprises (CBEs) engaged in corn, rice, high-value crops (HCV), livestock, and poultry production. These enterprises are group-led by 6,033 members of 40 associations.



APAYAO

Apayao is located in the northwestern part of Luzon, one of the six (6) provinces in CAR, comprising seven (7) municipalities namely; Calanasan, Conner, Conner, Luna, Pudtol, Kabugao, and Sta. Marcela.

With the affirmative response of the program, the province of Apayao in FY 2022 prioritized 12 livelihood projects for the production of high-value crops enhancing 11 farmers associations, with 300 member-beneficiaries.

The main economic activity of the province is highly devoted to agricultural production, particularly food and industrial crops like palay, corn, pineapple, banana, coffee, and cassava.

Apayao accommodated farmers belonging to the indigenous Isnag, Kankanaey, and Tinguian, as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising vegetable, fruit trees, wine, and soybean production were given out intended to yield from short to medium-term to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



KALINGA

Over the 3 years, the province of Kalinga was included as one of the priority provinces of the SAAD Program. During FY 2022, the Program delivered 45 poultry agricultural livelihood projects, 4 of which were high-value crops, and 41 livestock and poultry. In total, 45 groups and 2,651 farmers benefited.

The province is instituted with seven (7) municipalities namely; Balbalan, Pasil, Lubuagan, Pinukpuk, Rizal, Tanudan, and Tinglayan, and one component city called Tabuk City – the capital town and physically subdivided into 153 barangays (PSA, 2018).

The province’s top crops produced are sugarcane, followed by banana, and coffee. Local products include coffee, fruit, rice wine, chili products, indigenous rice, vegetable chips, handwoven clothes, and garments (PSA, 2018).

SAAD Program has farmers belonging to the indigenous subtribes of Sumadel, Butbut, Naneng, Ga’dang, Guilayon, Pangol, Gamonang, Itawis, Ibanag, Ilimos, Cal-owan, Gamonang, Ymagao-gao, Uma, yAbleg, yCagaluan, Guina-ang, Salegseg, Gubang, Dao-angan, Banao, as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC.





MT. PROVINCE

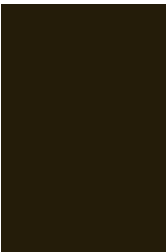
In 2018, Mountain Province ranked 13th in the poverty incidence of families according to PSA. With an ultimate goal of holistic transformation of agricultural, and socio-economic conditions of the communities, Mountain Province was tapped to receive SAAD's services.

Through the livelihood and production component, the province carried out 2 umbrella livelihood projects, comprising 10 high-value crops and 38 livestock and poultry. In total, SAAD Mountain Province provided 48 livelihood projects which benefited 48 groups with 2,033 members in 2022.

MP is a lone district comprising 10 municipalities namely; Barlig, Bauko, Besao, Bontoc, Natonin, Paracelis, Sabangan, Sadanga, Sadaga, and Tadian, where 144 barangay units nestle.

Farming has been the primary source of income of residents in the Mountain Province and is the second top producer of the region for white potatoes and with 9.8% of the regional production, cabbage with 6.25% and carrots with 4.6%.

SAAD Program's farmer beneficiaries belong to the indigenous Bontok, Kankanaey, and Applai, as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC.



MIMAROPA

MIMAROPA is located in Luzon’s southern region. It is archipelagic and consists of the sizable group of island provinces of Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan. Mindoro is further divided into Occidental and Oriental Mindoro.

SAAD MIMAROPA has made a striking contribution in providing services to the marginalized farmers and fishers in the province of Occidental Mindoro, catering to a total of 200 individual beneficiaries 75% of which are Indigenous Mangyan. In 2022, the Program has successfully delivered 14 livelihood projects ranging from rice, corn, high-value crops, and livestock and poultry to a total of 59 farmers associations.

Livelihood provisions include rice, corn, high value crops production, and livestock and poultry-related projects.

Projects such as vegetable production are seen to give incremental improvements in the economic conditions of farmers, mainly because vegetable production is typically short-term yielding crops, hence capital and profit cycle is fast and continuous. For 2022 implementation, observably Ready-to-lay (RTL) production showed positive adoption for 2 of newly established CBEs of farmers granted with said production assistance.

Mechanization of postharvest is the strongest phase observed in the course of 2022 implementation, mainly because interventions provided include the provision of sets of machinery, accessories, and specialized training necessary for operating, and maintaining the machine. Mechanization has helped FAs mostly from Mangyan IP groups engage in rice and corn production in reducing postharvest expenses and losses; reports from the field estimate a 50% to 60% reduction in postharvest expenses.

To further give wider market opportunity for the FAs there is a possible strengthening of FAs’ skill and capabilities for value-adding and expanding market linkage. This is through providing value-adding training and innovating their produce to increase its market value, as well as expanding the FAs’ market linkage through networking - this entails active product exposure through different market chains.

Table 15. MIMAROPA FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Occidental Mindoro		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Rice	3	20	3	20
Corn	2	10	2	10
HVC	5	17	5	17
Livestock and Poultry	4	12	4	12



OCcidental MINDORO

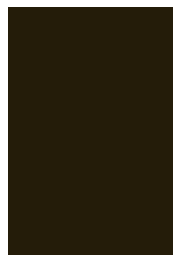
Occidental Mindoro occupies the western portion of the island of Mindoro and extends to the northwest, with a total area of 5,865.71 square kilometers.

In 2019, five (5) municipalities that recorded a high poverty incidence rate based on the PSA 2015 in Occidental Mindoro were considered for inclusion in the program. The municipalities are home to indigenous Mangyan people, which constitute most of the SAAD MIMAROPA beneficiaries.

After six (6) years, a total of 6,272 farmers were selected and organized into 188 groups, and another 2,453 individuals became beneficiaries of the SAAD Program covering 11 municipalities and receiving projects on rice, corn, high-value crops, and livestock and poultry related projects. These projects are coupled with holistic capacity enhancement from organizational, values formation, leadership, to production, postharvest and enterprise development.

Aside from palay, OccMin has wide variety of crops produce from cassava, mangoes, banana, cashew, to corn among others. Additionally, OccMin farmers' and fishers' are also engaged in livestock and poultry management and vermicast production.

In total, SAAD was able to usher in the establishment of three (3) community-based enterprises, managed by three (3) groups engaged in corn, high-value crops, and ready-to-ly production. These are run by three (3) groups with 75 members under umbrella projects such as HVC and livestock and poultry.





BICOL REGION

The SAAD Program led by the DA Regional Field Office 5 was launched in three (3) provinces namely Catanduanes, Masbate, and Sorsogon in 2018. In 4 years, SAAD Program delivered various agricultural assistance and livelihood projects including support for rice, corn high value crops, as well as livestock and poultry. During FY 2022, the region carried out rice, corn, HVC, livestock, and poultry production projects. This planned intervention benefited 4,595 beneficiaries from 141 farmers associations.

Catanduanes, Masbate, and Sorsogon provinces qualified to the Program listing poverty incidence rates of 33.6%, 35.5%, and 31.7% (PSA, 2015) respectively. In total, SAAD Bicol operated in 18 municipalities.

For SAAD beneficiaries in the three (3) provinces, integrated livelihood projects comprising crops, livestock, and poultry were given out intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium term production. In 2022, SAAD Bicol ushered 29 fully-established CBEs, from 29 groups, operated by 1,409 members.

Table 16. Region 5 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Catanduanes		Masbate		Sorsogon		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Rice	2	3	3	15	3	5	8	23
Corn	-	-	2	6	2	2	4	8
HVC	3	18	3	16	3	29	9	63
Livestock and poultry	4	17	4	12	4	18	12	47

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CATANDUANES

Catanduanes is a province in the Bicol Region encompassing the southeastern peninsula of Luzon. It is a lone district, consisting of 11 municipalities, which are Bagamanoc, Baras, Bato, Caramoran, Gigmoto, Pandan, Panganiban, San Andres, San Miguel, Viga, and Virac.

SAAD operated in the province of Catanduanes in 6 municipalities from 2018 to 2022. The province received a total budget of Php 86 million for 4 years that benefited 1,209 individual farmers and 125 groups. In 2022, SAAD Catanduanes provided rice support, vegetable, organic agriculture, chicken, and duck productions in the province, which benefited 38 farmer associations and 975 group members.

Agriculture is a major industry in the province with rice, corn, high-value crops and coconut being the main agricultural products. Farmers also rear livestock and poultry animals.



MASBATE

Masbate is a coastal province in the southeastern peninsula of Luzon. Masbate, Ticao, and Burias are its 3 main islands. It has 20 municipalities, a capital city, and 550 barangays on a total land area of 404,770 ha. According to the 2015 census, the province has a population of 892,393.

In said province, SAAD operated in 6 municipalities from 2018 to 2022 with a total budget of Php 219 million that benefited 200 groups with 6,615 members. In 2022 alone, SAAD Masbate implemented four (4) livelihood projects on rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock, and poultry production enhancing production capacity of a total of 1,965 group members and 49 farmers' associations. Agriculture is a major industry in the province with rice, corn, high-value crops and coconut being the main agricultural products. Farmers also rear livestock and poultry animals.





SORSOGON

Sorsogon province is located at the southern tip of Luzon, or the tip of the Bicol peninsula, and faces Samar Island to the southeast across the San Bernardino strait, and Ticao Island to the southwest. It is divided into two (2) districts with 14 municipalities, and a capital city. All of the towns, with the exception of landlocked Irosin, are located along the coast.

With the Program's inception in 2019, it operated in six (6) municipalities from 2018 to 2022 with a total budget of Php 148 million that benefited 212 groups with 5,722 members. Livelihood projects given out range from rice, corn, cassava, high-value crops, organic agriculture, chicken, and duck production.

During FY 2022, SAAD Sorsogon executed 12 livelihood projects on rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock, and poultry production. With this, 54 groups and 1,655 group members have benefitted.

Sorsogon is an agricultural province where rice is the major seasonal crop while coconut and pili are the major permanent crops. Other major seasonal crops are corn and bananas. Native chicken and swine have the most inventory for the poultry and livestock industries in the province with 755,000 and 94,466 count, respectively, in 2019.



WESTERN VISAYAS

SAAD entered the Western Visayas Region under the leadership of the DA RFO 6 in 2019. There are two (2) priority provinces covered by the program which are Antique, and Negros Occidental. In 2022, it implemented 54 livelihood projects which include rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock and poultry. This benefitted 124 groups with 4,097 members (Table 17).

Projects such as vegetable production, and native and chicken layer egg productions are seen to have slightly augmented the economic conditions of the farmers, due to food provision, employment, and income generation since vegetables are farmers' preferred cash crops; meanwhile live native chicken and chicken layer egg have high-market demand and have a broad supply chain network.

High-value crop production (such as ampalaya, eggplant, squash, and bell pepper) has the highest rate of adoption primarily due to short cultivation and high yield, and as potential materials for value-adding. In 2022, SAAD in Western Visayas has 13 established enterprises in rice and vegetable trading, production of ginger tea processing, peanut processing, egg selling, dressed native chicken, corn grits production, live goat trading, banana chips, and cassava production.

Value-adding is the strongest phase observed among the beneficiaries because farmers were able to engage in the processing of their raw agricultural produce and increase its value, thus increasing their productivity and income. However, there is still a need to strengthen capacity on post-harvest through clustering and product consolidation.

Over the years, SAAD Western Visayas has assisted 528 farmers' associations, with an actual individual member count of 19,963 who accessed different services and assistance from the program.

For SAAD beneficiaries in the two (2) provinces, integrated livelihood projects comprising crops, livestock, and poultry were given out intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium term production. In 2022, SAAD Western Visayas ushered in the establishment of 13 CBEs, managed by 13 groups, with 506 members. In total, the region finished with 45 fully-established CBEs, from 45 groups, operated by 1,921 members engaged in varied rice, HVC, and livestock and poultry productions.

Table 17. Region 6 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Antique		Negros Occidental		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Rice	4	5	6	14	10	19
Corn	3	5	5	13	8	18
HVC	9	26	14	35	23	61
Livestock and Poultry	3	8	10	18	13	26





ANTIQUÉ

Antique is one of the six (6) provinces in Western Visayas and one (1) of the four (4) provinces on the island of Panay. It was considered a SAAD area after registering an 18.4% poverty incidence rate among families (PSA, 2015).

Present in three (3) municipalities, in 2022, SAAD provided 19 livelihood projects to 1,473 members of 44 farmer groups in Lau-an, Valderrama, and San Remigio.

Among SAAD Antique's clients are indigenous Iraynon Bukidnon, as well as barangay units such as the village of Aningalan in San Remigio identified as ELCAC/GIDA.

Palay, sugarcane, and corn are the major crops produced in Antique. Coconut, banana, saba, and sweet potato are the top five other crops produced in the province based on the volume of production. Palay has the largest volume of production while sugarcane has the highest yield in the province.

Meanwhile, swine is the major livestock for backyard and commercial purposes. Chicken, classified as broiler, layer, and native or improved, dominates the poultry industry. Next to it are ducks.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising rice, corn, high-value crops, poultry, and livestock were given out intended to yield from short to medium-term to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Same with Antique, SAAD was introduced in Negros Occidental in 2019, under DA Western Visayas. Gradually increasing coverage, SAAD Negros Occidental finished the Phase 1 implementation in four (4) municipalities. Don Salvador Benedicto is a pilot site in the province followed by Calatrava and Moises Padilla in 2020, and Toboso in 2021.

A total of 80 groups with 2,624 members could access capacity to boost their production of rice, corn, high-value crops, lowland and upland vegetables, goat, and native chicken coming from the 35 livelihood projects provided by SAAD.

SAAD in Negros Occidental assisted indigenous communities namely Bukidnon and Ata Bukidnon as well as barangay units such Lalong, Mahilum, Lipat-on in Calatrava; Macagahay, Odiong, Crossing Magallon, Quintin Remo, Inolingan, Guinpana-an, Montilla, and Magallon Cadre in Moises Padilla; and Igmaya-an, Bunga, Bagong Silang in Salvador Benedicto identified as ELCAC/GIDA areas.

Volcanic presence in the province makes its soil ideal for agriculture. Thus, 80% of all arable land on the island is cultivated with palay, corn, banana, sugarcane, and coconut. Sugarcane has the largest volume of production and yields at 67.63 metric tons per hectare (PSA, 2018).

Swine has the greatest production among all livestock in the province. On the other hand, chicken has the most production compared to ducks, both for backyard and commercial purposes.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising rice, corn, high-value crops, poultry, and livestock were given out intended to yield from short to medium-term to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.

CENTRAL VISAYAS

SAAD Region 7 has forwarded transformative projects to three (3) provinces: Negros Oriental, Bohol, and Siquijor. In FY 2022 the region has successfully delivered a total of 24 livelihood projects varying from rice, corn, high-value crops (HVCs), and livestock and poultry.

Livestock and poultry dominated these projects accounting for 60% or 15 projects out of 24. These projects are mostly carabao and cattle production. The overall 24 livelihood projects have been beneficial to 252 farmer groups, which translates to 5,743 individual beneficiaries of Central Visayas.

To ensure SAAD beneficiaries will have a continuous source of income, the Program provides integrated livelihood, an intervention coupled with commodities that have different time ranges of yield. For 2022, SAAD-provided integrated livelihoods in Central Visayas are usually large-ruminants coupled with either crop production or vermicast production, since large-ruminants (such as goat and cattle) are long-term yielding production.

Projects on vegetable production are seen to give incremental improvements in the economic conditions of farmers, mainly because vegetable production is typically short-term yielding crops, hence capital and profit cycle is fast and continuous.

For 2022 implementation, observably livestock and poultry production showed positive adoption with seven (7) newly established CBE in the same year. The other four (4) CBEs are for HVC, one (1) under corn, and seven (7) livestock and poultry. Throughout the years, a total of 12 CBEs were established operated by 888 members.

Table 18. Region 7 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Negros Oriental		Siquijor		Bohol		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Rice	1	4	0	0	0	0	1	4
Corn	1	25	1	15	1	25	2	65
HVC	3	19	1	1	2	52	6	72
Livestock and Poultry	7	3	3	33	5	100	15	136

SAAD Region 7 accommodated five (5) FAs situated in ELCAC identified areas, accounting to a total of 73 SAAD beneficiaries in the area. The FAs were awarded large-ruminant production (goat and cattle).

SAAD’s strategy is to address the community needs like in Siaton where most farmers are situated in desolate lands where it is not suitable for agricultural activities, hence providing large-ruminant is appropriate to provide farmers livelihood consequently, aiding the condition of the soil with large-ruminant manure.





BOHOL

Bohol is an island province that consists of a main island and 75 smaller outlying islands. The province is the 10th largest island in the Philippines with a surface area of 4,821 sqm and a coastline that stretches over 261 km.

SAAD Bohol has successfully implemented eight (8) livelihood projects to six (6) municipalities from crops such as corn, peanut, banana, and vegetable productions to livestock and poultry like carabao, cattle, and native chicken. The livelihood interventions catered 101 of Boholano farmers' association.



NEGROS ORIENTAL

Negros Oriental consists of 19 municipalities, five (5) cities, and 557 barangay units. Characterized by low, ridged mountain ranges, some of which are found near the coastline, the province is suitable for the agriculture and fishery industry.

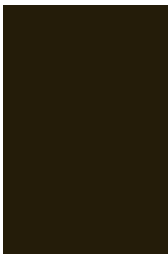
As of 2022, SAAD Negros Oriental has delivered 12 livelihood interventions to 12 municipalities, accounting to 46% coverage of SAAD in the province in terms of municipalities. The livelihood projects vary from different types of crops, livestock and poultry, aquaculture, organic fertilizer production.



SIQUIJOR

Siquijor is mostly mountainous, and several of the slopes reach the sea, creating cliffs with sharp drops. The province of Siquijor is rich in pre-colonial customary norms of faith healing, the reason why it has gained its name as “Healing Island.” The culture of Siquijor has continued to be celebrated and practiced by the mananambal.

SAAD Siquijor has successfully implemented 5 livelihood projects in 6 municipalities, from various crops and livestock and poultry, assisting 1,124 individual beneficiaries, or 19 farmers’ associations in 2022.





EASTERN VISAYAS REGION

From 2017 until 2021, SAAD has implemented 586 livelihood projects in Northern Samar, Southern Leyte, Eastern Samar, Leyte, and Western Samar. The commodities provided to the beneficiaries are rice, corn, HVC, and livestock and poultry which help sustain the livelihood of marginalized farmers and provide opportunities to increase food security in the region.

Based on the data of PSA in 2018, Eastern Visayas has a poverty incidence among families of 23.95%, almost 10% lower compared to 33% in 2015. The significant decrease can be attributed to various interventions provided by both government and non-government organizations in the region.

In total, SAAD was able to usher in the establishment of 11 community-based enterprises, managed by 11 groups engaged in livestock and poultry production; it has brought economic opportunity to a total of 301 individual farmers in the region.

Table 19. Region 8 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Northern Samar		Southern Leyte		Eastern Samar		Leyte		Samar (Western Samar)		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
HVC	-	-	-	-	4	9	1	2	-	-	5	11
Livestock and poultry	8	25	8	15	11	34	9	34	8	25	44	133

8
REGION



LEYTE

Leyte’s mountain range divides the island into eastern and western plains that also serves as a line that delineates the language difference between the populace in each side of the province. The western portion faces Cebu, thus people speak the Cebuano dialect. While folks on the eastern side speak Waray.

The province is known for its production of various crops such as corn, coconut, banana, and root crops like cassava, and sweet potato, as well as rice.

SAAD operated in nine (9) out of 18 municipalities in Leyte when the program started in 2018. Livelihood assistance ranging from rice, corn, cassava, swine, and poultry was given to select farmers who qualified for the program.

In 2022, the Program provided one (1) high value crop, and nine (9) livestock and poultry projects in the province. The ten (10) livelihood projects are being managed by a total of 36 FAs or a total of 1,059 individual farmers.

Further, one (1) FA belonging to identified areas under the Municipality Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (MTF-ELCAC) provided poultry livelihood intervention.



SOUTHERN LEYTE

Southern Leyte’s agricultural profile is characterized by a mix of crop production, livestock farming, and aquaculture.

Since SAAD operated in 2018 it has covered nine (9) out of 18 municipalities in Southern Leyte accounting to a 50% coverage of the program in terms of municipalities. Livelihood assistance ranging from rice, corn, cassava, swine, and poultry was given to select farmers who qualified for the program.

In 2022, the SAAD implemented eight (8) livestock and poultry projects that benefited 15 groups.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising mallard duck, corn, vegetable, and native chicken were given out intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.





EASTERN SAMAR

Eastern Samar is a coastal province with a land area of 461,716 ha and a population of 477,168 based on 2020 data of PSA, which represents 10.49% total population of Eastern Visayas. The province is composed of 22 municipalities and 597 barangays.

Poultry is also a major industry in the province. Though the chicken industry in Eastern Visayas drops slightly by 1.24% in the second quarter of 2022 compared to the same time in 2021 based on PSA data, the increases in chicken inventory in Eastern Samar (55.37%), Leyte (61.66%), and Samar (16.72%) contributed to the increase in the total chicken inventory of the region in the second quarter of 2022.

In 2022, SAAD has provided four (4) high value crops, and 11 livestock and poultry related projects in the province. The 15 livelihood projects are being managed by a total of 43 FAs accounting to 1,051 individual beneficiaries.

Further, ten (10) FAs belonging to identified areas under the Municipality Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (MTF-ELCAC) were provided livestock and poultry livelihood interventions.



NORTHERN SAMAR

Northern Samar has 24 municipalities composed of 569 barangay units. SAAD implementation in the province started in 2017 with 10 livelihood projects for 3,083 individual farmers, and 90 FAs. For 2022 alone, the program implemented 8 livestock and poultry projects enhancing livelihood and production capacity of 25 groups with 649 group members.

With a land area of 243,084 ha, agriculture is the province's main industry as most of the population is engaged in farming and fishing. The agricultural production is dominated by coconut, rice, and corn production. Other commodities produced in the province are banana, root crops, vegetables, and fruits. Livestock and poultry, as well as fishing, also play a vital role in Northern Samar's economy.

SAAD has provided a total of eight (8) integrated livelihood projects comprising corn, high-value crops, livestock, and poultry which were given out intended to yield from short to medium-term to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production. The eight (8) projects are being managed by a total of 25 FAs.

Further, four (4) FAs belonging to identified areas under the Municipality Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (MTF-ELCAC) were provided livestock and poultry livelihood interventions.



SAMAR

Samar is a coastal province with a land area of 604,803 ha situated in Eastern Visayas. According to the 2020 data of PSA, the province has a population of 793,183. Samar is composed of two (2) cities, 24 municipalities, and 951 barangays.

About 18% or 101,954 hectares of Western Samar's total land area is dedicated to agriculture. The province is known for its abundance of agricultural crops, with the DA Farmers' Guide Map listing crops such as abaca, banana, cacao, cassava, coconut, corn, legumes, oil palm, papaya, pineapple, rice, rubber, sugarcane, sweet potato, taro, vegetables, and yam as suitable for the province.

In 2022, SAAD Program delivered eight (8) livestock and poultry related projects implemented in the province which benefitted 25 FAs with 536 group members.

Further, one (1) FA belonging to identified areas under the Municipality Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (MTF-ELCAC) was provided with upland rice and vegetable production.

ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA & SULU

The DA-SAAD Program included Zamboanga del Norte as one of its first 10 provinces to receive interventions in its initial year of implementation in 2017. Sulu was added in 2018. Despite being located in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), the province was strategically placed under the supervision of DA-SAAD 9.

In 2022, the region successfully implemented 62 integrated livelihood projects related to corn, high-value crops, and livestock and poultry which benefitted 159 groups from Zamboanga del Norte and Sulu (Table 20). This includes rice, corn, cacao, cassava, banana, peanut, ginger, honeydew, mushroom, onion, fruit trees, cattle, carabao, goat, chicken, duck, and vegetables.

From 2017 to 2022, SAAD Region 9 has assisted 743 farmer's associations, with an actual individual member count of 30,440 who accessed different services and assistance from the program. There are also 6,851 total individual beneficiaries who were able to access the program's services. Throughout the implementation, SAAD Region 9 has given out 435 livelihood projects.

The Layer Chicken-Egg Production has the highest rate of adoption among beneficiaries as reflected in the number of established enterprises under the said commodity (123 overall, and 63 for 2022 alone). SAAD in the Zamboanga Peninsula finished with 175 established community-base

Table 20. Region 9 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Sulu		Zamboanga del Norte		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Corn	4	11	10	15	14	26
HVC	-	-	9	26	9	26
Livestock and poultry	7	22	32	85	39	107





SULU

Sulu is the third largest province in BARMM next to Maguindanao and Lanao del Sur. The province recorded an increase in terms of poverty incidence among families in 2018. From 40.2% in 2012, it increased from 63.8% in 2015 to 75.3% in 2018; and the later rate resulted in its inclusion in the SAAD Program. The municipalities of Talipao, Panamao, Parang, and Maimbung were covered in 2018. In 2019, SAAD Luuk and Indanan, and in 2021, Patikul. SAAD Sulu accommodated 7 municipalities from 2018 to 2022.

In 2022, the diversified farming project implemented in Sulu includes the variation of egg production, and cassava-corn-peanut production integrated farming. Farmers accommodated in the province belong to the indigenous Tausug and land-based Samal community, as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC specifically in Patikul.

Agriculture is a major industry in the province with rice, corn, high-value crops, and coconut being the main agricultural products. Farmers also rear livestock and poultry animals.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising cassava, corn, peanut, and vegetables were given out intended to yield from short to medium-term to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

Zamboanga del Norte was one of the pilot provinces of SAAD implementation in 2017. Prior to its inclusion in the Program, the province had a poverty incidence rate of 50.9% in 2015 making it the 8th poorest province in the country.

SAAD Zamboanga del Norte accommodated farmers belonging to the indigenous Subanen community as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC and GIDA. A total of 8,456 individual farmers from 27 municipalities in the province were selected as beneficiaries of the program from 2017 to 2022.

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture and Fisheries of the PSA, 26% of the total land area is intended for agricultural use, 8% of it falls under arable land (lands/parcels under temporary crops, temporary meadows and pastures, and temporarily fallow) and the remaining 18% falls under permanent crops, permanent meadows and pastures. Major crops produced in the province are coconut, corn, palay, banana, cassava, rubber, and vegetables.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising cassava, corn, banana, and cattle were given out intended to yield from short to medium-term to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.

NORTHERN MINDANAO

REGION 10

DA Regional Field Office 10 implemented SAAD in 2017 covering the provinces of Bukidnon, Lanao del Norte, and Misamis Occidental. The program gained ground by having the individual farmers start to earn from their livelihood projects. Aside from the traditional agri-livelihood interventions, farm machinery and equipment were granted for the group beneficiaries to engage in farm service businesses.

For FY 2022, DA Region 10 has provided 57 livelihood projects to 8,406 members of 115 farmer groups. The beneficiaries received various interventions in the form of corn, high-value crops, and livestock and poultry projects geared towards sustainable agricultural development (Table 21).

Livelihood projects for corn, vegetable, livestock and poultry production are seen to have augmented the economic conditions of the farmers, as these provide an added source of household earning for the farmers. Livestock production has the highest rate of adoption as it requires less inputs while giving a higher earning rate.

Production is the strongest phase observed among the beneficiaries as SAAD is primarily geared towards augmenting the farmers' productive capacity. The beneficiaries will be further capacitated in terms of postharvest processing and value-adding by coordinating the farmers' needs to other DA programs and linking them to other government agencies for the continuity and sustainability of their projects.

Over the years, SAAD Region 10 has assisted 144 farmers associations, with an actual individual member count of 10,169 who accessed different services and assistance from the program. On top of this, 7,449 individual farmers were also given livelihood grants. The Region finished with 2 CBEs established, managed by 75 farmers under HVC and livestock projects.

Table 21. Region 10 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Bukidnon		Lanao del Norte		Misamis Occidental		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Corn	15	25	7	9	6	6	28	40
HVC	4	4	4	4	2	2	9	10
Livestock and Poultry	6	6	8	9	6	6	20	21





BUKIDNON

The implementation of SAAD in Bukidnon started in 2018 with 13 municipalities (Baungon, Talakag, Malitbog, San Fernando, Kalilangan, Pangantucan, Damulog, Kibawe, Kadingilan, Cabanglasan, Impasug-ong, Kitaotao, and Quezon) having the highest poverty incidence rates. Two (2) years later, the program expanded to two (2) more municipalities, Lantapan and Sumilao. In 2022, 25 livelihood projects were provided to 35 groups with 875 members.

From 2017 to 2022, SAAD Bukidnon operated in 15 municipalities. In 2022, it provided 15 corn, 4 high-value crops, and 6 livestock and poultry-related projects in the province.

Beneficiaries belong to Higaonon indigenous tribes, as well as 17 barangay units identified as ELCAC areas.

Agriculture is a major industry in the province with rice, corn, high-value crops, and coconut being the main agricultural products. Farmers also rear livestock and poultry animals.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising rice, corn, vegetables and livestock and poultry were given out intended to yield from short to medium-term to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.

These served farmers from 15 municipalities - Baungon, Talakag, Malitbog, San Fernando, Kalilangan, Pangantucan, Daulog, Kibawe, Kadingilan, Cabanglasan, Impasugong, Kitaotao, Quezon, Sumilao, and Lantapan.



LANAO DEL NORTE

Lanao del Norte, in the national geographical setting, is situated in the southern part of the Philippines. Like any province in Mindanao, it has coastal to mountainous ecosystems since it lies along the coast of Iligan and Kolambugan Bays stretching up to the tip of Panguil Bay and extending to the coast of Illana Bay in the south. The poverty incidence in the province has dropped from 38.1% in 2015 to 19% in 2018 as manifested by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

In 2022, SAAD provided 7 corn, 4 high-value crops, and 9 livestock and poultry-related projects to the province.

SAAD primarily accommodated Meranaw farmers in Lanao del Norte, being the predominant Muslim tribal group in the province. The program covered 4 barangay units identified as ELCAC.

Based on the PSA 2018, 52% of the total area in the province was used for farming. The major crops in the province are; palay, corn, coconut (with husk), banana, cassava, and sweet potato while livestock (cattle, carabao, goat, swine) and poultry (duck and chicken) got the highest inventory of animals.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects consisting of rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock, and poultry were distributed with the goal of yielding from short to medium-terms, allowing beneficiaries to consume or sell low-yielding produce while also taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

In 2019, SAAD expanded to the province of Misamis Occidental where five (5) municipalities were covered - Baliangao, Bonifacio, Concepcion, Panaon, and Sapang Dalaga. In 2020, the program covered additional two (2) new municipalities which are Aloran and Don Victoriano.

In 2022, SAAD provided 6 corn, 2 high-value crops, and 6 livestock and poultry-related projects in the province.

Misamis Occidental accommodated farmers belonging to the Subanen Tribe, as well as four (4) barangay units identified as ELCAC.

Misamis Occidental is a major contributor to fisheries production in Region 10 because it is a coastal area with vast potential for capture and aquaculture. In the agriculture sector, 37% of the provincial total area is devoted to planting main crops such as palay, corn, coconut, banana, cassava, and mango; while native/improved chicken got the highest number for animal inventory.

SAAD's strategy is to provide integrated livelihood projects for corn, vegetable, livestock and poultry intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



DAVAO REGION

The DA-SAAD at its most fundamental was aimed at contributing to poverty reduction among the poorest of the poor. This entails going to Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) places to assess the needs of beneficiaries.

In Davao Region, SAAD was implemented in 2018 in the sole province of then Compostela Valley, now Davao de Oro led by the DA Regional Field Office 11. From the get-go, the management realized that the interventions done on the ground should be relevant and timely for the communities.

The Program was launched in five (5) municipalities until it expanded to cover the entire 11 municipalities of the province in 2020. Since 2018, SAAD Region 11 has provided animal and crop-based livelihood projects. For FY 2022, 6 high-value crops and livestock and poultry commodities benefited 920 members of 46 farmer groups (Table 22).

Table 22. Region 11 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Davao de Oro		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
HVC	2	13	2	13
Livestock and Poultry	4	33	4	33





DAVAO DE ORO

Projects such as mallard duck, native chicken, banana, and abaca productions are seen to have augmented the economic conditions of the farmers, due to income resource opportunities and high-yield potential. Livestock and poultry production has the highest rate of adoption evident in the number of CBEs established. SAAD in Davao Region has enterprises in five (5) commodities (banana, chicken, mallard ducks, and abaca plantlets with postharvest [stripping machine]).

Over the years, SAAD in Davao de Oro has assisted 116 farmer's associations, with an actual individual member count of 2,355 and 7,760 individuals who accessed different services and assistance from the program.

Located in the middle-eastern part of the Davao Region, Davao de Oro covers 22% of the region's total land area. The province is divided into 11 municipalities, all covered by SAAD in 2020. Out of 237 barangays in the province, 59 barangays were served by the program, two (2) of which are ELCAC barangay units in Laak.

Among SAAD Davao de Oro's clients are indigenous peoples of Mansaka, Mandaya, and Manobo tribes, as well as barangay units identified as both in ELCAC/GIDA areas of the province.

Davao de Oro's major economic activity relies on agriculture production. Palay and corn are major crops, while banana and other industrial crops such as coconut tops are also actively produced.

For SAAD, integrated livelihood projects comprising banana, abaca, corn, mallard ducks, native chicken, and upgraded goats were given out intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.

SOCCSKSARGEN

In its thrust to contribute to poverty reduction beyond a direct effect on farmers, the SAAD Program of the DA, spearheaded by the Regional Field Office 12 has provided livelihood assistance to four provinces of SOCCSKSARGEN with high poverty incidence rate among families in 2012 and 2015. The region started its program implementation in Cotabato (44.8% poverty rate in 2012), Sarangani (46%), and Maguindanao (54.5%) in 2017; and reached Sultan Kudarat (41.2%) in 2018.

In 2022 alone, SAAD has provided 28 livelihood projects related to rice, corn, high-value crops, and livestock and poultry, directly benefited by 240 farmer groups. Due to the adaptability of their areas, the production of upland rice, corn, vegetables, and cattle has the highest adoption rate. SAAD Region 12 has reported 8 established agribusinesses from various commodities provided.

Over the years, SAAD SOCCSKSARGEN has assisted 1,088 farmers' associations, with an actual members count of 13,700. Additionally, 28,840 individuals have accessed SAAD livelihood grants. These farmers received various services and assistance provided by the program from training, production, to postharvest activities.

Table 23. Region 12 FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implemented

Commodity	Sarangani		Sultan Kudarat		North Cotabato		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Rice	1	7	1	12	1	6	3	25
Corn	1	7	1	6	1	6	3	19
HVC	4	29	4	19	1	1	9	49
Livestock and poultry	4	42	4	36	5	69	13	47





COTABATO

Located in the central part of Mindanao, North Cotabato has 543 barangays, 17 municipalities, and 1 city. From being the poorest province of the Philippines in 2012 with a poverty incidence rate of 44.8% among families, Cotabato was in the 16th spot with 34.5% incidence rate among families in 2015 based on PSA data. The trend of poverty rate decrease continued until 2018, with 23.6%.

In 2022, SAAD provided eight (8) livelihood projects including 1 rice, 1 corn, 1 high-value crop, and 5 livestock and poultry-related livelihood in the province.

Among North Cotabato SAAD farmers belong to the indigenous Aromanon, Teduray, Manobo, B'laan communities as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC and GIDA.

Cotabato is predominantly an agricultural area producing major crops such as palay, corn, coconut, mango, and banana. Livestock and poultry were also abundant in the area such as carabao, cattle, goats, duck, and chicken. SAAD's strategy is to provide integrated livelihood projects comprising corn, upland rice, high value crops, vegetable, poultry, livestock intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



SARANGANI

Prior to its selection as one of the covered provinces of SAAD in the region, in 2012, Sarangani reached a 46% poverty incidence rate among families. From 2015 and 2018, the province recorded a significantly lower rate at 45.2% and 36.1% respectively. SAAD Sarangani accommodated seven (7) municipalities from 2017 to 2019.

In 2022, SAAD Sarangani provided 1 rice, 1 corn, 4 high-value crops, and 4 livestock and poultry-related projects in the province.

Sarangani accommodated farmers belonging to the indigenous Blaan, T'boli, Tagakaulo, Kalagan, Manobo as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC/GIDA.

Agriculture is a major industry in the province with rice, corn, high-value crops, and coconut being the main agricultural products. For livestock, swine is considered the most producing number of heads grown in the region, and chicken with the highest inventory for poultry.

For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising Upland rice seeds, OPV white corn, vegetables seeds, livestock, and poultry, post-harvest facilities were given out intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



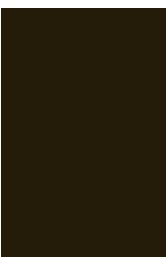
SULTAN KUDARAT

When the SAAD Program started implementing in Sultan Kudarat, the province had a 41.2% poverty incidence rate among families based on PSA data from 2015. It decreased by almost 17% in 2018 and with a rate of 24.3%. The province is composed of 11 municipalities, 249 barangays, and one (1) city.

A total of 7,470 individual farmers were selected as beneficiaries of the SAAD Program covering 11 municipalities from 2017 to 2018. In 2022, SAAD provided 1 rice, 1 corn, 4 high-value crops, and 4 livestock and poultry-related projects to the province (10 livelihood projects). This benefited 73 groups with 1,100 members.

SK accommodated farmers belonging to the indigenous Teduray, Manobo, Tboli, Tagakaulo as well as barangay units identified as ELCAC and GIDA.

The province's economic activities are mainly in agriculture. The leading crops produced in the province are rice, corn, coconut, coffee, banana, mango, durian, and African palm. For SAAD beneficiaries, integrated livelihood projects comprising corn, upland rice, high value crops, vegetable, poultry, livestock were given out intended to yield from short to medium-terms to allow the beneficiaries to consume or sell easy-yielding produce while simultaneously taking care of commodities with medium-term production.



CARAGA

The Caraga Region consists of five (5) provinces, with a total of 67 municipalities and 1,308 barangays. The vast majority of the locals are of Visayan descent. The Manobo, Mamanwa, Banwaon, Kamayo, Higa-onon, Umayamnon, and Kalagan are among the several ethnic groups nestled in the region.

For 2022, SAAD Caraga was able to provide services and interventions to a total of 31 farmers and fisherfolks groups in the two (2) of its provinces namely Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur (Table 24).

Table 24. Caraga FY 2022 Livelihood Projects Implementeda

Commodity	Agusan del Sur		Surigao del Sur		Total per Commodity	
	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp	Actual	Grp
Rice	1	1	0	0	1	1
Corn	0	0	1	1	1	1
HVC	9	9	2	2	11	11
Livestock and Poultry	0	0	18	18	18	18

SAAD Caraga in 2022 across its 2 covered provinces was able to provide a diversified approach to livelihood projects. Livestock and poultry projects are usually complemented with high-value crops which are short-term yielding to provide FAs another source of income. Similarly, long-term yielding crops like rice and corn are also complemented with short-term yielding crops like HVC. Crop diversification not only provides another source of income but also diversifies food sources in the community and helps soil components to recover.

Thirty-one (31) livelihood projects were executed in the region, distributed to 31 groups, with a membership count of 1,066. Since 2020, the region was able to mobilize individual recipients into groups of farmers. Over the years, the Region implemented a total of 119 livelihood projects, for 135 groups, accessed by 4,795 members, and 5,328 individual farmers (during the first year of implementation).

SAAD Caraga was able to usher in the establishment of seven (7) community-based enterprises, managed by seven (7) groups engaged in goat, egg-layer production, and vegetable production. The several CBEs bring livelihood opportunities to a total of 341 farmer-beneficiaries.





AGUSAN DEL SUR

Agusan del Sur is characterized by its diverse geography, encompassing both mountainous and lowland areas. The western portion of the province is dominated by mountain ranges, including the Diwata and Manobo Mountains. These mountainous areas contribute to the province's rich biodiversity, with forests, rivers, and waterfalls dotting the landscape.

SAAD Caraga in ADS has reached four (4) municipalities, or 30% of SAAD coverage in the province. The livelihood interventions vary from rice, abaca, cacao, vegetable, and poultry.

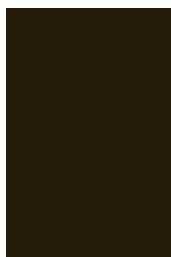
In 2022 alone the program has provided agricultural development opportunities to ten (10) FAs, accounting to 476 individual beneficiaries.



SURIGAO DEL SUR

The province of Surigao del Sur offers a diverse geographical disposition. Its eastern coast faces the Pacific Ocean, providing breathtaking views and opportunities for beach tourism. The coastline stretches for approximately 200 kilometers and is lined with pristine white sand beaches, crystal-clear waters, and picturesque rock formations.

The program has successfully delivered a total of 21 livelihood interventions to four (4) municipalities in SDS, benefiting 21 farmers' groups or a total of 590 individual beneficiaries. Livelihood interventions vary from corn, high-value crop, egg and poultry, and goat production.



SOCIAL PREPARATION



One of the four (4) core components of the Program, Social Preparation (SP) is the foundation of people's involvement in the SAAD Program implementation. This phase is the rudimentary and entry point of collaborative work among the field implementers and the communities they serve. Social Preparation is a series of activities that help identify the basic and complex needs of the target beneficiaries that shall serve as the baseline for the socio-economic improvement strategies to be employed relative to agriculture and fisheries activities. The component encompasses various needs assessment, beneficiary and area profiling, and capacity building activities.

In the last year of implementation, some expansion areas were accessed and prepped up for SAAD's assistance maximizing remaining contact points to accommodate more farmers relative to what the budget permits. The SP official processes are indicated in the 2021 published SAAD Social Preparation Guidebook, with allowances as to how RPMSOs deem the activities can be strategically conducted.

Through SP, community participation is prompted to reveal sociocultural, political, technical, and economic characteristics of the communities. To which, five (5) sub-components are employed:

1. **PROGRAM ENTRY** - includes securing permission to enter a community, introducing the SAAD Program to the locals, soliciting necessary information such as geographic, demographic and agriculture or fishery data of the area, and identifying prospective beneficiaries.

2. **PROFILING** - the act of recording data about the farmers and fisherfolk's personal information to be encrypted to the program's database. This is performed twice - before and after the delivery of agricultural and fishery livelihood inputs.
3. **NEEDS AND RISK ASSESSMENT** - the process of identifying the agricultural or fishery-related needs of the beneficiaries, the desired outcomes, and the positive and negative impact of the chosen livelihood project.
4. **FORMATION OF FARMER OR FISHERFOLK GROUP** - involves organizing the SAAD beneficiaries into a farmer or fisherfolk association or cooperative, establishing the group's leadership and by-laws, and providing them with proper documentation.
5. **CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT TRAINING** - empowers beneficiaries identified and organized before receiving livelihood inputs. It strengthens and enhances the farmers and fisherfolk's knowledge of technical, financial, and administrative aspects, as well as ideal work ethics and values. It usually includes policy formation, leadership training, bookkeeping, financial and operations management, and basic accounting, among others.

Table 25. Accomplished Social Preparation Activities for the Agriculture Sector 2022

SAAD Operating Unit	Social Preparation Activities			
	No. of Activities Conducted	No. of Participants		
		Individual	Group	Members
CAR	155	4,771	-	-
MIMAROPA	13	204	28	167
Region 5	6	188	-	-
Region 6	32	1,040	-	-
Region 7	75	2,625	-	-
Region 8	100	-	100	2,000
Region 9	40	1,200	-	-
Region 10	30	-	73	3,662
Region 11	8	-	46	138
Region 12	62	1,550	-	-
Region 13	2	-	64	128
TOTAL	523	11,578	311	6,095

Tables 25 and 26 show the executed on-ground social preparation activities of the SAAD Program for Phase 1. In 2022, focusing on groups that were assisted by the program, there are 311 FAs with 6,095 members that underwent project preparatory activities. These groups are typically expansion areas, or already targeted to receive livelihood projects from the program despite Phase 1 conclusion.

In six (6) years, DA-SAAD has successfully conducted 2,004 social preparation activities across 30 priority provinces, participated by groups, and individual beneficiaries.

Table 26. Accomplished Social Preparation Activities for the Agriculture Sector (2017-2022)

YEAR	Social Preparation Activities			
	No. of Activities Conducted	No. of Participants		
		Individual	Group	Members
2017	82	5,638	16	320
2018	100	9,906	14	280
2019	394	12,522	50	1,000
2020	135	10,838	-	-
2021	770	17,561	263	2,945
2022	523	11,578	311	6,095
TOTAL	2,004	68,043	654	10,640

Notes:

- Changes in data comparative to previous annual reports are due to continued updating and correction of information through monitoring and evaluation
- No recorded activity in 2020 due to mobility restrictions from COVID-19 pandemic
- Relative decrease in SP component by the end of the Phase 1 implementation reflects a positive saturation of capacity enhancement needs of the beneficiaries



In photos: SAAD Caraga social preparation activity with over 200 farmers from the Province of Dinagat Island (PDI) and Surigao del Norte (SDN). (DA-SAAD Caraga)



SPECIALIZED TRAINING

The SAAD Program provides specialized training to beneficiaries based on their livelihood projects (e.g. production, processing) and the commodities (rice, corn, livestock, poultry, etc.) designed to supplement or complement the level of skills and knowledge relative to the activities of the beneficiaries.

A subcomponent of the Food Production and Livelihood Component of the Program, specialized training activities aim to enhance the work process of the association, explore opportunities on expanding the services that they offer, and improve outputs or commodities that they produce. These training activities are commodity-specific.

In general, the specialized training activities are geared toward the improvement of production and enterprise development for a variety of agricultural commodities engaged by the SAAD beneficiaries.

In 2022, the SAAD Program implemented 717 specialized training participated by 18,256 individuals. Training activities covered topics to develop practices on food production, livelihood, processing, and value addition on various commodities such as rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock, poultry, aquaculture, and inland fishery.



In photos: Peanut and vegetable value addition training in Antique, headed by DA RFO 6, and DA-SAAD Region 6. (DA-SAAD Western Visayas)

Table 27. Accomplished Specialized Training for Agricultural Sector in 2022

SAAD Operating Unit	Specialized Training	
	No. of Trainings Conducted	No. of Individual Farmers
TOTAL	717	18,256
CAR	49	1,770
MIMAROPA	18	895
Region 5	52	1,566
Region 6	57	1,570
Region 7	44	1,527
Region 8	128	2,554
Region 9	55	2,142
Region 10	-	-
Region 11	46	920
Region 12	201	3,345
Caraga	67	1,967

From 2017 to 2022, a total of 3,642 technical training were provided to 138,992 farmers and fishers. This total is shared by the agriculture sector, accomplishing 3,257 training activities, and the fisheries sector conducting 385.

In the agriculture sector, activities decreased in 2019 and 2020 due to the CoViD-19 pandemic. Resulting in the limitation of implementation and budget allocation, there was also a decrease in the number of specialized training conducted in the fishery sector over the three-year period. Additionally, skill-up initiatives based on the assessed needs of the beneficiaries are ensured to be satisfied in preparation for the Phase 1 conclusion, groups' endorsement and linkage building, and enterprising activities.

Specialized training activities are identified through monitoring, evaluation, and consistent coordination activities performed primarily by the area coordinators, and provincial and regional management support units. Farmers and their projects are visited which opens an opportunity for dialogue between the program and its beneficiaries to hear out their requests for capacity enhancement. Some training activities for specific crop or animal production are replicated from the design packages of the DA banner programs.

However similar in nature, with the capacity building of the Social Preparation Component, specialized training targets skills enhancement related to the commodities produced by the groups. On the other hand, Social Preparation capacity building involves organizational development, leadership training, and advocacy, networking, and linking that aim for holistic group and interpersonal development of the associations and its members.

Table 28. Accomplished Specialized Training for Agricultural Sector for 2017-2021

SAAD Operating Unit	Specialized Training						TOTAL
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TOTAL	94	603	589	231	1,023	717	3,257
CAR	19	16	62	-	294	49	440
MIMAROPA	-	-	5	8	8	18	39
Region 5	-	70	99	4	88	52	313
Region 6	-	-	28	-	165	57	250
Region 7	30	28	48	16	81	44	247
Region 8	-	-	58	43	62	128	291
Region 9	44	91	32	19	25	55	266
Region 10	1	65	-	-	27	-	93
Region 11	-	55	41	50	148	46	340
Region 12	-	278	179	88	90	201	836
Caraga	-	-	37	3	35	67	142

Table 29. Accomplished Specialized Training for Fisheries Sector for 2017-2021

SAAD Operating Unit	Specialized Training						TOTAL
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
TOTAL	34	112	102	58	79	79	385
CAR	14	14	3	8	35	-	49
MIMAROPA	-	-	11	-	4	-	18
Region 5	-	9	14	1	-	-	52
Region 6	-	-	6	-	-	-	57
Region 7	2	6	15	16	2	-	44
Region 8	-	58	14	1	-	-	128
Region 9	-	-	8	-	-	-	55
Region 10	-	1	11	-	6	-	-
Region 11	-	9	3	-	12	-	46
Region 12	18	15	8	26	-	-	201
Caraga	-	-	9	6	20	-	67

CBES



COMMUNITY-BASED ENTERPRISES

SAAD remains committed to providing sustainable livelihood opportunities for the community's underprivileged and marginalized members. This is a strategy concentrated on the nation's fight against poverty and its effects, and the program - as an initiative especially dedicated to the marginalized rural communities engaged in farming and fishing activities for sustenance and livelihood.

Aside from providing additional sources of income and capacitating the beneficiaries to run and lead food production as a group, developing them and transforming the projects into a sustainable community enterprise will allow the beneficiaries to plan, access credit, repay debt, and most importantly, improve the socioeconomic conditions of their families and their community.

SAAD for its 6 years of Phase 1 implementation reported diverse development trajectories that build more resilient local economies. Despite being punctuated by crisis moments such as weather disturbances, the global pandemic, ASF, and other natural hazards that threatened the livelihoods of the farmers and fisherfolk groups, most FCAs were able to adjust their livelihood strategies and enhance their capability to survive and mitigate the negative effects.

A total of 390 community-based enterprises were established in the Program's 30 priority provinces. Growing and changing along with their enterprise, 390 FCAs with 19,596 members scale-up production by moving out of their barangays, drawing on the longstanding *suki* (patron) system whereby the seller and buyer develop a relationship that ensures the customer purchases exclusively from one seller, and local markets to sell their products (Table 29).



In photos: Organic Agriculture, and Rice Production training of Masbate farmers under the Enterprise Development Training initiative. (DA-SAAD Bicol Region)

The establishment of CBEs is the main objective of the Program to assure and provide sustainable sources of income for its beneficiaries. These substantial foundations are hoped to lead the FCAs to engage in government procurement-related activities.

Under Section 53.12 of 2016 revised Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 entitled "An Act Providing for the Modernization, Standardization, and Regulation of the Procurement Activities of the Government and for Other Purposes", negotiated procurement under community participation is promoted. This means that the Government Procurement Policy Board (GPPB) has approved community participation wherein a procuring entity will engage the community as a contract manager to implement locally-funded community-based projects.

“Community Participation. Where, in the interest of project sustainability or to achieve certain specific social objectives, it is desirable in selected projects, or its components, to call for participation of local communities in the delivery of goods, including non-consulting services, and simple infrastructure projects, subject to the Community Participation Procurement Manual issued by the GPPB.”

As a basic requirement for the FCAs to participate in government procurement, registration in the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) is required.

The blueprint of procurement process participation opportunity will help in the sustainability of implemented SAAD projects as it will generate local employment, promote improved farm and fishery productivity, and increase household income. Further, this shall promote participatory governance and empower rural communities underlining their active role in the economic activities of the community.

Table 30. Established Community-Based Enterprises from 2017 to 2022

INDICATOR	PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENT							Grand Total
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022		
TOTAL								
Community based Enterprise Established	1	4	21	32	101	231	390	
Group beneficiaries	1	4	21	32	101	231	390	
Group Members	40	330	898	1,731	3,622	12,975	19,596	
DA								
Community based Enterprise Established	1	2	10	15	100	230	358	
Group beneficiaries	1	2	10	15	100	230	358	
Group members	40	84	166	640	3,609	12,954	17,493	
BFAR								
Community based Enterprise Established	-	2	11	17	1	1	32	
Group beneficiaries	-	2	11	17	1	1	32	
Group members	-	246	732	1,091	13	21	2,103	
PER COMMODITY (AGRICULTURE)	1	7	23	30	132	236	429	
RICE								
Community based Enterprise Established	-	-	-	4	5	18	27	
Group beneficiaries	-	-	-	-	5	18	23	
Group members	-	-	-	70	258	1,874	2,202	
CORN								
Community based Enterprise Established	-	1	-	1	5	16	23	
Group beneficiaries	-	1	-	1	5	16	23	
Group members	-	15	-	135	208	649	1,007	
HVC								
Community based Enterprise Established	1	5	9	5	32	62	114	
Group beneficiaries	1	5	9	5	32	62	114	
Group members	40	218	145	249	1,166	2,845	4,663	
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY								
Community based Enterprise Established	-	1	14	20	90	140	265	
Group beneficiaries	-	1	14	20	90	140	265	
Group members	-	40	356	621	3,091	7,062	11,170	

However, SAAD as a special program of the DA initially was granted only 6 years to operate, which limits the program to continuously escort the organized CBEs toward full maturity. SAAD's response to this limitation focused on the endorsement of the associations to their respective LGUs for continued monitoring and technical assistance. Since the beneficiaries' graduation, continuous efforts to guide the members into legitimizing their action plans, to go through institution-dictated processes in marketing, and acquisition of additional support are provided through monitoring activities of provincial SAAD, municipal agriculture, and other related institutions' collaborative efforts.



CHAPTER 3

SAAD SAGA: REHIYON OTSO





SAAD SAGA 2022

SAAD Saga started in 2019 with the aim of highlighting “mga kwento ng pagpupunyagi.” Since its inception, SAAD Saga has served as a platform for policy discussion, product promotion, and market exposure to farmers and fisherfolks beneficiaries, as well as partners, including local government units (LGUs), agencies, and other organizations.

In November 2022, the largest SAAD Eastern Visayas Saga program to date was held, with the convergence of various government agencies led by the DA, including the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Health (DOH), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), and Department of Science and Technology (DOST), at the Leyte Academic Center in Palo, Leyte. The agencies came together to provide assistance and services offered by the respective offices to the marginalized farmers and locals present in the program.

SAAD Region 8 recognized 10 Farmers’ Associations for their outstanding management and performance throughout the implementation of the program across five provinces in the region.

The SAAD Rehiyon Otso SAGA awardees are:

Palayanon Unlad Farmers Association, recipient of the FY 2021 Rice and Duck Production Project; and **Balao Farmers Association** granted with FY 2021 Vegetable Production Project from Leyte

Esperanza Bontoc Farmers Irrigators Association, consisting of 27 small scale farmers who received the Vegetable and Mallard Duck Production Project; and **Magatas Rice Farmers Association** provided with FY 2021 Egg Layer Production Project from Southern Leyte

G.M. Osias Pambansang Mananalon Magbabaol Maguuma Magsasaka ng Pilipinas recipient of both FY 2020 Egg Production Project and FY 2021 Egg Production and Marketing; and **Chitongco Farmers Association**, with the FY 2020 Swine Production Project from Northern Samar

Lucerdoni Farmers and Fisherfolks Association who received the FY 2021 Vegetable Production Project; and Nagkaurusa nga Kababayen-an san Danao 1, a beneficiary of FY 2020 Chicken Egg Layer Production, as well as the FY 2021 Support to Chicken Layer Production from Samar

Brgy. Alang-alang Organic Farmers Association with the FY 2020 Integrated Calamansi and Egg Layer Production; and lastly the Pingan Vegetable and Livestock Producer with the FY 2020 Vegetable Production from Eastern Samar

Additionally, 32 Farmers' Associations from Eastern Visayas participated in agri pop-up booths to showcase locally grown and made products from their projects, including poultry, high-value crops, and value-added products such as chips, cookies, and other delicacies.

His Excellency, Republic of the Philippines President, and Chief of the DA delivered his keynote address, ensuring the beneficiaries of different agencies that sustained assistance is one of the priorities of the current administration.

"Putting at the top of our priority list is the continuing assistance, *at ang assistance hindi lamang iyon 'ayuda', kundi pati na sa mga livelihood (projects), pati sa mga MSMEs na tinatawag.*"

(Putting at the top of our priority list is continuing assistance, and this assistance is not limited to doling out compensation, this also includes livelihood projects, especially to what we call MSMEs [Micro, Small, and Medium-sized enterprises].)

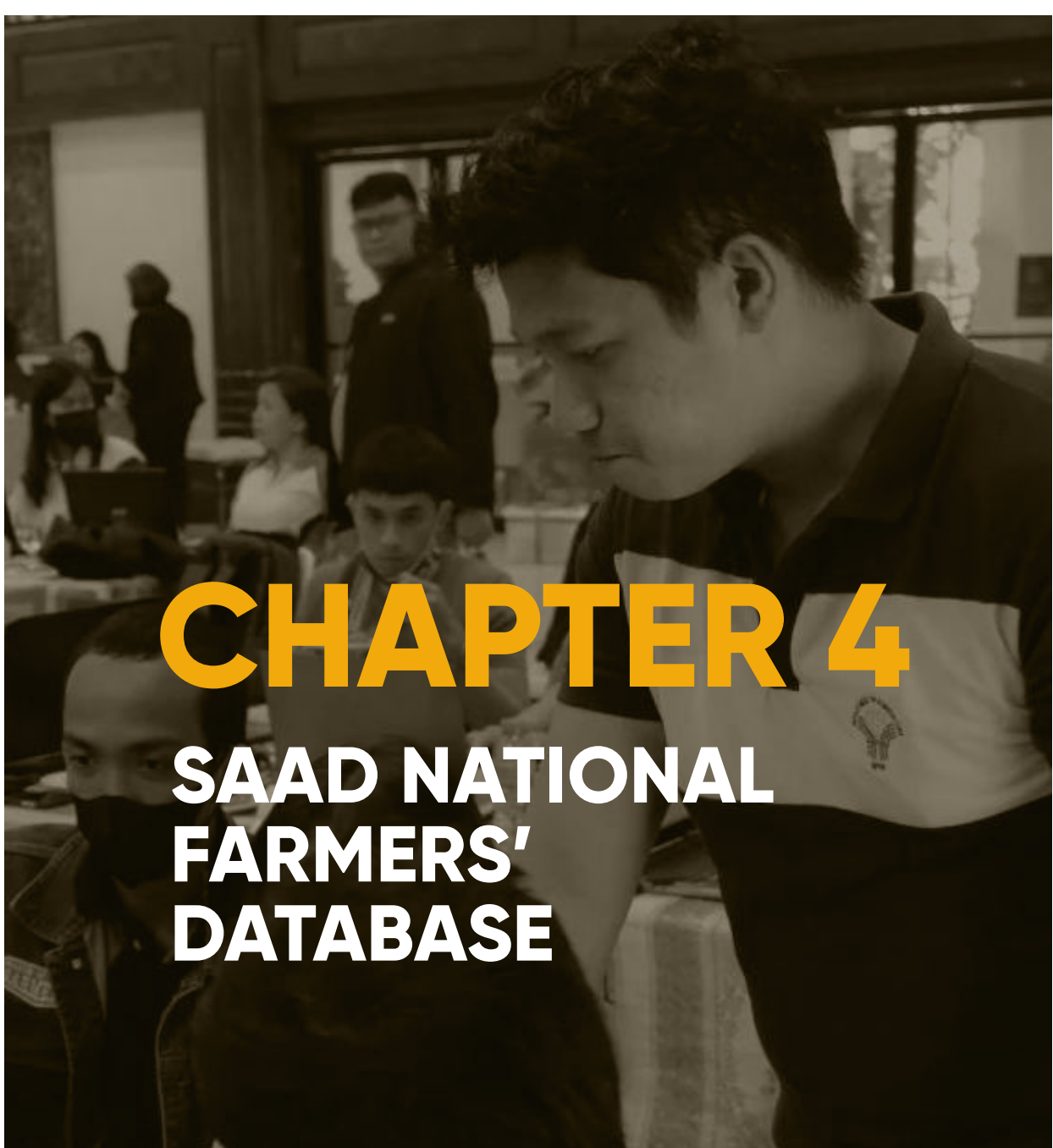
According to the President, "*Kailangan pa natin tugunan ang presyo ng commodities. Kailangan magkaron ng sapat na kita ang mga mamamayan. Kami bilang gobyerno ay nandito upang tumulong at hindi kami aalis hanggang hindi namin nakikita na kaya nyo na mag-sarili. Dahan-dahan, aabot din tayo diyan. Hindi mabilis ang pagbabago, but we are going in the right direction.*"



(We need to respond to fluctuating prices of commodities. Our citizens need to have sufficient income. We, in the government, are here to help out and we will not stop until we see that you can stand on your own. Slowly we will attain our goal. Progress cannot be attained swiftly, but we are going in the right direction.)

To date, the SAAD Saga program has hosted 7 events, with 4 conducted in 2019, including a national awards ceremony in January 2020, 2 in 2021, and 1 in 2022. In 2023 and beyond, SAAD will continue to promote farmers and fishers' products through trade exhibits and SAAD Saga forums.





CHAPTER 4

SAAD NATIONAL FARMERS' DATABASE





SAAD NATIONAL FARMERS' DATABASE

As of 2022, the whole of SAAD IT profiling has a 96.83% completion rate for individuals and 93.83% for groups. These figures involve profiles of SAAD beneficiaries from 2017 up to the present, where 148,727 individual profiles and 3,089 group profiles for the 30 priority provinces of the program are stored and managed.

Leading regions with the most uploads and completion of profiled data from 2017 to 2022 were also recognized. Leading is MIMAROPA, Region 6, 7, and Caraga with 100%; followed by Region 5 with 98.65% average completion rate.

Table 31. Status of SAAD Program Phase 1 Beneficiary Profiling in Percentage Completion

REGIONAL UNITS	INDIVIDUAL	GROUP	MEMBERS	AVERAGE
MIMAROPA	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Region 6	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
Region 7	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
CARAGA	-	100.00	100.00	100.00
Region 5	99.14	99.27	97.53	98.65
Region 8	92.81	100.00	96.75	96.52
CAR	99.78	97.39	89.03	95.40
Region 12	95.07	97.19	93.41	95.23
Region 9	92.47	82.29	72.87	82.55
Region 11	99.99	66.67	62.19	76.28
Region 10	96.04	56.13	51.29	67.82
TOTAL	96.83	93.83	90.27	93.64

For the last year of SAAD Phase 1 implementation, several agreements were formulated among the Program's Information Technology (IT) national and regional units, and its partners in the DA, through the information and database development national assessment with the goal to concluding Phase 1 beneficiary profiles and strategize management of information for the Phase 2.

"Data is the new oil. This is the best asset today," shared Mr. Xerxees Remorozo, Information & Communications Technology Service (ICTS) Planning & Standard Division Chief who led the training during the 5th IT assessment and workshop facilitated by the SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) in General Santos City from November 22 to 24, 2022.

A valuable learning earned from SAAD Phase 1 is the importance of rudimentary information that will validate the credibility of SAAD operations. Said activity was led by the NPMO IT Unit Head Mr. Randy Ocampo, in partnership with the ICTS and the DA Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA) NPMO.

More than 50 staff from different regions and provinces' SAAD IT units gathered and participated with the common objective to gain updated tools in information management in preparation for Phase 2 of the implementation which will involve new sets of beneficiaries.

Registration and database workshop

SAAD NPMO Director Ulysses J. Lustria Jr. emphasized that the database management system including the beneficiaries profile needs reform to fully realize the potential and to explore more opportunities to empower the farmers and fisherfolk beneficiaries.

During the training, SAAD IT and Database unit staff were introduced to the Information System Security Plan (ISSP) and its purpose as a framework for the organizational efforts to computerize operations. He also shared that ISSP is a digital transformation tool for food security.

Further, a lecture on Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture's (RSBSA) importance as a basis for intervention and reference for program planning was discussed by Ms. Naomi Ann P. Rufino, RSBSA Development Management Officer III. The three (3) components of RSBSA, from profiling of farmers and fishers, georeferencing of farm parcels, and interventions monitoring system were discussed.

Crossmatching of data and possible inclusion of RSBSA enrollment form for all SAAD Phase 2 beneficiaries was also suggested during the dialogue. This is necessary since DA is working on the centralization of RSBSA as the central registry system for farmers and fisherfolks in the country as the agency pursues collaborations with other government units for data sharing and system arrangements.



In November 2022, DA-SAAD Program Information Technology (IT) national and regional units underwent lectures in information management and holistic database assessment in General Santos City, Region 12 to conclude Phase 1 beneficiary profiling. (DA-SAAD NPMO)

According to IT Head Mr. Ocampo, the lectures, assessment, and workshop bank from the Phase 1 learnings to improve the security of the database and performance speed of the web server where information is stored. To avoid stalling information transmission, the whole team is moving toward changing the manner of data processing where regional IT officers will be more involved and hands-on – all for the improvement of profiling of the beneficiaries.



Where every unit of information makes up the digital reality of the program, this is essential in the overall operation to ensure the count and eligibility of beneficiaries and reflect the implementation of interventions that will be the basis of tracking the “development” – or processes of growth by collecting base information and expansion along the implementation.

NPMO Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PME) Head, Mr. Darwin Pamatmat said the program database and IT unit is highly integrated into the planning and monitoring process in promoting efficiency of the core operations of SAAD.

Mr. Pamatmat emphasized that a good set of information emulates precision, which can be used to maximize the utilization of resources. Precise information leads to a smarter and just allocation, distribution, and monitoring of the projects.

Further, in the internal aspect, information management is seen to foster accountability among involved parties, and externally, promotes transparency, seeing where resources are going such as the budget, livelihood projects, capacity building, and other support to the farmers and fishers, as well as determining and improving its appropriations.





CHAPTER 5

SAAD HIGH POINTS



STRENGTHENED ORGANIZATION, MONITORING, AND EVALUATION INITIATIVES

With the goal of further strengthening the overall program operation and implementation, an organizational structure rationalization to be adapted from the national office to regional support offices was introduced. This move shall strengthen identified approaches of the program backed with a qualified and sufficient workforce to do the legwork.

Operation, Planning, Budget, Monitoring, and Evaluation (OPBME)

From the previous Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PME), the unit followed core component-specific functions that gave way to the Operation, Planning, Budget, Monitoring, and Evaluation (OPBME) unit with three (3) subunits and staff focusing in each component of field implementation of SAAD. The following subunits are a) Social Preparation and Program Management (SPPM); b) Food Production and Livelihood (FPL); c) Market Assistance and Enterprise Development (MAED).



Information & Technology and Database Development (IDD)

The Information & Technology and Database Development (IDD) will continue to handle the database information and registry system of the SAAD Program, both for the agriculture and fisheries sector.

The registry system of SAAD shall be linked to the DA central registry or the Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). With the reinforced information system, the IDD unit is responsible for maintaining the SAAD-centered registry and linking unregistered SAAD beneficiaries to the RSBSA as a primary requirement for Phase 2 implementation. Considering the special areas targeted by the SAAD Program, the IDD unit shall act as a key unit in the endorsement of DA and BFAR beneficiaries to the centralized and recognized registry system.

In the updated database new features will be delivered such as the inclusion of farm areas of the beneficiaries to derive a more detailed database called georeferencing. This activity shall capture the exact geo-shape of the areas and plot them on the SAAD Program-developed map.

Meanwhile, the Phase 1 database information shall be stored as a means of determining duplication, and project intersection (from Phase 1 to Phase 2 eligible beneficiaries).



Public Relations and Development Communication (PRDC)

Enthralling plans and campaigns for Phase 2, PRDC launched the KAYA! Campaign that will encompass the unit's framework of branding and delivery of communication intervention and Unlad Lokal that aims to produce a coffee-table book featuring on-field documented experiences and will serve as an archive of community-based enterprises (CBEs) from Phase 1 awarded interventions.

Said unit is the program's arm to expand the reach of information, which in Phase 2, shall strive to address farmer-oriented materials for communication. The unit also transitioned from Public Relations and Communication to Development Communication with the aim to refocus materials to involve and empower local farming and fishing communities as consumers of communication and not mere subjects of discussion.

All units are encouraged to establish an editorial team coming from the core units inside the SAAD Program for more efficient transmission and reliable crafting of narratives and information materials.



Administrative and Procurement (AP)

The unit served as an important pillar in the fulfillment of administrative requirements of the implementers of the Program. AP spearheads the facilitation of budget utilization of the NPMO and their targets to conduct activities related to their line of work



TOWARD THE SAAD PROGRAM PHASE 2

From SAAD Phase 1 coverage of 11 regions focused on the top 30 most marginalized provinces, SAAD Program Phase 2 (2023-2028) will transition to assist municipalities as main target areas where 619 municipalities belonging to 5th-6th income classes, and the top third most marginalized areas based on poverty incidence rates excluding BARMM will be assessed to receive agri-fisheries projects. The selection is based on the PSA 2018 Small Area Estimates and Department of Finance (DOF) Order No. 23-08. SAAD plans to reach 546 groups (fisheries sector not included) across 15 regions and 56 provinces.

Program's Impact

In the service to objectively measure the actual impact of the Program on its beneficiaries and their communities, SAAD remains to partner with higher education institutions (HEI) to commission said studies, crucial for the improvement and calibration of the implementation.

In the recent FY2022 Year-end assessment of the National Program Management Office (NPMO), partner state universities and colleges (SUCs) presented their impact studies. Research teams from the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (DMMMSU) and Central Luzon State University (CLSU) who led two (2) different areas of study for the Program presented the results to the DA units.

The DMMMSU team headed by Prof. Keneth G. Bayani who conducted the program's midterm impact assessment, reported an overall improvement in food consumption, household income, and overall economic condition among the beneficiaries who were covered in their study. The study commenced in 2021 in 15 SAAD-covered provinces from CAR, Regions 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12.

Meanwhile, CLSU, led by Dr. Maria Excelsis M. Orden, revealed how social preparation (one of the major components of the program) can contribute significantly to the establishment of community-based enterprises. In 2018, a major shift in program direction was prompted going beyond sustenance, to target sustainability of the projects by strengthening production to enable the establishment of community enterprises.

The study covered 128 out of 182 established and partially-established enterprises in the 30 covered provinces of SAAD from 2017 to 2022. Combined observations suggest the promising results that SAAD can deliver through the institutionalization of the program. This will improve synergistic actions between concerned agencies, stronger logistics support, regular and responsive monitoring, tailor-fitting of enterprises and management, and holistic capacity building from pre- to post-production.

SAAD Program Steering Committee (PSC), Regional Program Management Support Offices (RPMOS), and concerned DA units' officials and representatives witnessed the presentation virtually, while research teams and the SAAD NPMO staff gathered in a physical set-up in Lubao, Pampanga.

The reports were received by the policymakers and influencers vigorously, seeking details, and specific recommendations as useful tools to improve and support different areas to advance the program and other DA services. Copies of the studies will soon be available to the public via print and digital format (visit the SAAD website).





PUBLICATION MILESTONE

Various publications were produced by the National Program Management Office (NPMO) to collate and document SAAD's achievements this 2022. This approach is in line with the OneDA Reform Agenda under Strategic Communications to ensure that the impact of the program on the lives of the beneficiaries had been recorded and communicated across policymakers, partner agencies, and the public. All publications were uploaded to the DA-SAAD website to provide access to everyone.

The main written output disseminated by the NPMO is the press releases which featured success stories, training, and interventions provided by the DA-SAAD Program. In 2022, a total of 349 press releases, 41 feature articles, and 6 editorial articles were written by national, regional, and provincial information officers.

The DA-SAAD NPMO also produced 19 SAADvocacy newsletters comprising the major events and activities, feature stories, and announcements from the press releases.

The COVID-19 pandemic, which started in mid-March 2020 halted its production process. There were issues and limitations in field operations, hampering the conduct of interviews and documentation needed for success stories. In spite of the struggles brought on by the pandemic, NPMO was able to produce a total of 5 SAADventures.

Meanwhile, 3 books were also produced this year which are *The Reality*, *The Progression: 2021 SAAD News Compendium*, and *The Depiction of the SAAD Program: The Tenacity of Truth*. *The Reality* is the second installment of the editorial series published by the DA-SAAD Program, following *Perspectives* from last year. *The Progression* is the fifth installation of the news compendium released by the NPMO which is a collection of press releases and feature articles this year. *The Depiction of the SAAD Program: The Tenacity of Truth* is a compendium of messages from former Director Myer G. Mula from various publications.

Further, this year NPMO along with its partner State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) produced 2 assessment studies covering the program implementation. The Midterm Impact Assessment Study was conducted by the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University and the Social Preparation and Enterprise Development Assessment was conducted by the Central Luzon State University (CLSU). The results, evaluation, and discovery of the 2 studies were instrumental to the improvement and strengthening of the program, especially in the burgeoning of its Phase 2 implementation.



CHAPTER 6

PARTNERSHIPS



Regional Technical Director Larry U. Sultan of DA-Regional Field Office 8 and Tabi Rice Planters Association (TRPA) representative during the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) assistance turnover ceremony in Balangkayan, Eastern Samar. (DA-SAAD Eastern Visayas Region)

PARTNERSHIPS

Over the past 6 years, the DA-SAAD Program has been forming partnerships with attached bureaus and non-governmental organizations to hasten and achieve its goal to help lower down the poverty incidence among farmers and fisherfolks.

SAAD Program has successfully delivered results and created felt progress in the field of rural development throughout its Phase 1 implementation because of the unified efforts of the primary movers - the farmers and fisherfolk beneficiaries, concerned local government units, national agencies, institutions, and other private organizations.

As the saying goes, coming together is a beginning but working together is a success. Through this, SAAD Phase 1 reported accomplishments would not have been possible without the

help of other organizations, specifically the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), Registry for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD), and the Civil Society Organization (CSO).

Bearing the goals of SAAD, the impact of continued partnerships is seen to be essential not only to its program beneficiaries but to the local economic development in the 30 covered provinces.

AGRIBUSINESS AND MARKETING ASSISTANCE DIVISION (AMAD)

The Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMADs) has consistently partnered with the SAAD Program over the years through marketing and enterprise development support.

In accordance with the Sagip Saka Act, AMAD serves as the Department of Agriculture's (DA) arm in supporting new programs and projects of the department. The Act establishes the Farmers and Fisherfolk Enterprise Development Program of the DA, which is a comprehensive set of objectives, targets, and a holistic approach to promoting the establishment of enterprises involving agricultural and fishery products.

In 2022, SAAD continues its partnership with AMADs through assistance in 6 regions in the following ways:

In the **Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)**, an AMAD assisted in capacitation training activities of farmers' cooperatives in terms of enterprise establishment.

In **Region 6**, Negros Occidental SAAD farmers expanded market linkages through joint trade fairs, such as the Locally Sourced Trade Fair at Robinsons Bacolod and the first Negros Occidental Cooperative Trade Fair in Panaad Park and Stadium in Barangay Mansilingan. These trade fairs featured agricultural products grown by local farmers in the province, including farmers' associations from the SAAD Program-covered areas, and aimed to expand their marketing opportunities by actively participating in similar platforms and events.

In **Region 8**, AMAD was involved in Kadiwa activities and the Kadiwa ng Pasko event.

In **Region 9**, AMAD provided training for capacity building of technical staff and assisted in market matching for the produce of SAAD livelihood projects in the region.

In **Region 12**, AMAD provided specialized training for the establishment of BPI-accredited enterprises, agri-enterprise and development training, and project proposal-making.

In **Caraga**, AMAD provided training on sustaining a business enterprise and product development among SAAD beneficiaries.

The joint consolidated farmers' market also provided SAAD farmers' associations with links to prospective clients and a venue for product promotion in an organic setting where traders and institutional buyers converged to purchase goods.

ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP AGAINST HUNGER AND POVERTY (EPAHP) PROGRAM: DA-SAAD AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM (SLP)

Consolidating efforts in social protection, welfare, and development particularly in rural centers, DA-SAAD and DSWD tie up to reinforce and extend government services to contribute to poverty alleviation, especially in municipalities that recorded high poverty incidence rates.

DSWD with their SLP mainly aims for a community-based capacity-building program that involves a two-track system in which participants are given the option to take either the (a) Microenterprise Development track or the (b) Employment Facilitation track after participating in social preparation and capacity-building activities to be conducted by the Project Development Officers from different regions.

DA, on the other hand, has SAAD which aims to contribute to the reduction of poverty in the identified provinces and municipalities with a high rate of poverty incidence by strengthening people's organization, increasing agricultural production, and the provision of support for agriculture and fishery livelihood projects for the identified poor and qualified farmer-beneficiaries.

The SAAD-SLP collaboration targets 5 regions with an overall total of 1,000 physical targets to be shared by the following region: (a) Cordillera Administrative Region, with 150 physical targets; (b) Region 5 with 132 physical targets; (c) Region 8 with 265; (d) Region 10 with 345; and (e) Region 12 with 108.

The Program affirms its undertaking in establishing the broadest possible linkages and partnerships to provide its beneficiaries with the most optimal service.

The SAAD-SLP joint effort is under the direction of the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Program, an inter-agency task force that shall ensure that government policies, initiatives, and projects on attaining zero hunger shall be coordinated and responsive. The EPAHP was created by virtue of Executive Order No. 101 which emphasizes that there is a need to carefully coordinate, rationalize, monitor and assess the efforts of concerned government agencies and instrumentalities to ensure the whole-of-government approach to eradicating hunger and achieving food security.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) shall be officially signed in 2023 for said partnership to materialize.

PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC)

The Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation is a former attached agency of the Department of Agriculture (DA). In September 2021, the government-owned and controlled corporation was turned over under the Department of Finance's supervision by Executive Order 148.

The agency's principal mandate is still focused on providing insurance protection to farmers against losses arising from natural calamities, plant diseases, and pest infestation of their rice and corn crops, as well as other crops.

As a result of recent threats to farming and fishing communities, including a string of catastrophic weather occurrences and vicious animal inspections, PCIC, now a partner agency of the DA, has stepped up its approach to entice more farmers to get insurance coverage for their crops.

As one of the locally-funded special programs, the DA-SAAD has also encouraged its

beneficiaries to enroll in the government premium subsidy. Indemnity payments were for losses due to typhoons, wind and flooding, pests and plant diseases, livestock deaths, and farmers' and fisherfolk accidents and deaths. The beneficiaries who are actively engaged in production may avail of insurance coverage – free of charge for their standing crops, poultry and livestock, and non-crop assets used in their farming and fishing operations.

Fully aware of the client's immediate need for relief in the face of complete loss or partial destruction of crops and animals, the DA-PCIC has set a 20-day period for adjustment, validation, and processing of claims.

Farmer groups in Region 8 received cash for their damaged crops such as cassava due to typhoon Odette, same with poultry raisers whose farms were damaged by strong winds.

The threat of African Swine Fever (ASF) emerging in 2019 affected livestock raisers in most parts of the country. Still, with the farmers being enrolled in the PCIC, they were able to secure insurance packages and recover part of their investments. To curb the spread of ASF, pigs have been culled as part of depopulation measures, providing the affected farmers with an equivalent stock amount. While rice, corn, and other crops farmers received indemnity checks following weather disturbances that hit the country.

REGISTRY FOR BASIC SECTORS IN AGRICULTURE (RSBSA)

RSBSA is a database of farmers, fisherfolk, and farm laborers that serves as a targeting tool, and as a policy instrument of the agriculture and fisheries sectors. This registry was created by various budget requests from the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to conduct surveys of their beneficiaries for better program targeting. The Department of Budget and Management (DBM) is the main project implementor and custodian of the registry, the registry will be used to develop programs and policies for the agriculture and fisheries sectors, and more importantly, identify farmers and fishers that should benefit from agri-related programs and services of the government.

Although registration to RSBSA is voluntary, the DA encouraged its bureaus, attached agencies, and corporation to make this a major requirement in availing of agri-fishery-related programs and projects of the agency. Once registered, the farmers, fishers, and farm workers are given priority in availing of agriculture and fishery livelihood assistance in the form of cash or farm inputs like seeds and fertilizers; livestock, poultry, and crop insurance, fuel subsidy vouchers, among others.

All RSBSA registrants are subject to the following criteria:

- a) Must be a Filipino citizen
- b) Must be at least 18 years old at the time of registration, and
- c) Must be a farmer, farm laborer/worker, fisherfolk, and/or agri-youth

In a Memorandum Circular No. 55 Series of 2021, the DA also releases guidelines for the validation activity of the updating of the RSBSA through the development of the Farmer and Fisherfolk and Registry System (FFRS). This aims to provide the DA with a systemic way of directly reaching and supporting its beneficiary farmers and fishers and serve as a reference for the targeting and monitoring of programs, activities, and projects of the Department. The FFRS is an online system that will serve as the central storage of encoded farmer profiles.

Said Validation Implementing Guidelines provide the procedures and requirements for the validation activity among the farmers, fishers, and farm workers registered in the RSBSA, encoded through the FFRS.

SAAD, a special program of the DA has also adopted and introduced RSBSA to its beneficiaries in 2020, specifically now that it has transitioned to Phase 2. Crossmatching of data is deemed necessary since DA is working on the centralization of RSBSA as the main registry system for farmers and fishers in the country as the agency pursues collaborations with other government units for data sharing and system arrangements.

With almost two years of continuous enrolment of farmers and fishers under RSBSA, SAAD has enlisted 39,999 out of 147,332 total individuals, leaving 107,333 individuals under the registration process.

The RSBSA, under Republic Act No, 11901, also known as the Agriculture, Fisheries, and Rural Development Financing Enhancement of 2022 lapsed into law on July 28, 2022.

TURKISH COOPERATION AND COORDINATION AGENCY (TIKA)

The partnership between the DA-SAAD Program and the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) was established in 2017 through the TIKAbuhayan Program with a goal to support sustainable production facilities in the Philippines, particularly in indigenous communities and underdeveloped areas affected by natural disasters. In line with the program's objective of providing sustainable food to Filipinos, this partnership complements other existing agricultural programs of the Department by providing assistance to the marginalized farmers and fishers in 10 priority provinces from 2017-2022.

The program has successfully carried out two (2) projects in Apayao and Eastern Samar. In September 2019, the Katablangan Indigenous Farmer's Association and Nanawatan Nabuangan Upland Developer Association from Conner, Apayao received 12 mares and 3 stallions each along with technical training. These animals have helped the beneficiaries transport products more easily, as their communities can only be accessed on foot.

To date, the Nanawatan Nabuangan Upland Developer Association still has 9 remaining head from the initial stocks; and the existing stocks already produced 6 offspring. The Katablangan Indigenous Farmer's Association on the other hand still has 7 remaining head from the initial stocks, however, no offspring were produced.

In August 2020, TIKA provided agricultural equipment worth Php 1.3 million to the Tabi Rice Planters Association from Balangkayan and San Pedro Farmers Association from Quinapondan, both in Eastern Samar. The equipment includes rice threshers, pump and engine sets, heavy-duty grass cutters, rice reapers, and hand tractors.

In December 2021, TIKA Country Director Fahri Burak Aydođdu visited the SAAD office to discuss the organization's interest in donating quick impact projects (QIPs) to target vulnerable communities and address agricultural and fishery production needs. Potential QIPs include cacao, coffee, mushroom, rambutan, duck, and crab production, fishing equipment, and agroforestry in areas such as Cotabato, Agusan del Sur, Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Negros Island provinces, and Bohol. Three-year plan projects for the development of agri-enterprises were also discussed.

As a result of the meeting, eight (8) SAAD project proposals, consisting of six (6) from the agriculture sector (crops, poultry, and livestock) and two (2) from the fisheries sector, were shortlisted by TIKA and are being considered for implementation in Mindanao and the Bicol Region. In February 2023, SAAD and TIKA will hold another meeting to update on the progress of the projects and interventions for 2023 onwards.

END LOCAL COMMUNIST ARMED CONFLICT (ELCAC)

SAAD collaborated with other agents of change to pool limited resources in the battle against poverty. In line with this, SAAD incorporated the provinces affected by the End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) into its implementation through Executive Order 70, series of 2018. This order institutionalizes the Whole-of-Nation Approach to achieve inclusive and sustainable peace, establishes a National Task Force for ELCAC, and mandates the adoption of a National Peace Framework.

The whole-of-nation approach addresses the root causes of insurgencies, domestic disruptions, and other violent clashes and hazards by giving utmost importance and synchronization to the delivery of basic services and social development programs by the authorities, promoting the integration of all segments of society, and guaranteeing active engagement of all sectors in the pursuit of the nation's peace objectives. This furnishes an effective approach to assist in actualizing the Filipino populace's shared hope to achieve inclusive and sustainable peace.

From 2017 to 2022, SAAD Phase 1 covered 830 ELCAC barangay units, from 30 provinces, in Regions Cordillera, MIMAROPA, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13. Inputs in the production of commodities were provided such as in rice, corn, high-value crops, livestock and poultry, inland capture fishery, and aquaculture. Beneficiaries are former insurgents, individuals, and indigenous groups rarely receiving assistance because of their remote location, and political conditions in the areas.

A significant progress was recorded in Sulu, where decades-long "bakwit" or internally displaced people, and communities belonging to geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) in the province operate flourishing group operated agri-enterprises granted by the DA-SAAD Program after reclaiming peace and order in their communities.

Through the initiative of the Provincial Task Force – End Local Armed Conflict's (PTF-ELAC) Balik Barangay Program (BBP), SAAD, among other government agencies provided various projects directed at restoring the communities of the Tausug, which was disrupted and damaged by the now ceased battle between the Philippine Army and Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG).

Under the leadership of the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office 9 (Department of Agriculture ZAMPEN), and partnership with the Provincial Government of Sulu, Joint Task Force (JTF) Sulu, and the 11th Infantry Division, Philippine Army (Alakdan Division), SAAD livelihood projects have flourished since inception in 2018.

While in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), SAAD Program in Sulu was spearheaded by the DA-RFO 9, and assisted identified municipalities in the province, mostly former battlegrounds between the Army and the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG). The BBP aims to restore barangay communities originally inhabited by Sulu locals that were declared grounds for terrorist attacks. This led to decades-long displacement of the Sulu natives. Housing, water system, roads, prayer houses, school buildings, and livelihood are among the projects centered on the socio-cultural values of the communities which were gradually built to invite the locals to re-occupy their hometowns and discourage joining the adversaries of the state.

Prior to its admission to the Program, it had a consistent increase in poverty incidence among families, rising from 40.2% in 2012 to 63.8% in 2015 and 75.3% in 2018.

Talipao, Panamao, Parang, Maimbung, Luuk, Indanan, and Patikul the municipalities that were given livelihood assistance in the province. With a total budget of Php 65.9 million exclusively for livelihood projects from 2018 to 2022, SAAD Program assisted 1,620 individual farmers and 34 groups from the Tausug ethnic group and land-based Samal communities.

During the program's implementation, the province recorded promising progress establishing 34 community-based enterprises on high-value crops and poultry commodities.



CHAPTER 7

SAAD PROGRAM DIRECTIONS



WAYS FORWARD FOR PHASE 1 BENEFICIARIES: CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATION (CSO)

In the Administrative Order No. 08 Series of 2017, the Department of Agriculture (DA) defined CSO as a domestic corporation, organization, association, labor organization, workers' association, farmers' organization, or cooperative expressing the interests and values of their members or others, based on socioeconomic, ethical, cultural, and scientific considerations, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Department of Labor and Employment - Bureau of Rural Workers (DOLE-BRW), or similar legitimate CSO as defined in its implementing guidelines.

With its objective to deepen constructive citizen engagement through collaborative and consultative practices that encourage citizen participation in order to advance the realization of genuine participatory democracy in the context of greater social and political equity and people empowerment, the DA partners with the CSO through accreditation.

Accreditation is the process by which the DA officially recognizes and authorizes a CSO as eligible to be an implementing agency or beneficiary of the Department's programs and projects using DA funds.

In the Revised Administrative Circular No. 3 Series of 2022, the DA recognizes the role of the CSOs in community development towards the successful implementation of agriculture and fishery programs and projects in the country.

The objectives stipulated in this circular include; 1) encouraging people's participation in agricultural development based on the principle of good governance, 2) ensuring that only DA-accredited CSOs can participate in the implementation of agri-fishery programs and projects, 3) promoting transparency and accountability, 4) improve the system of check and balance, 5) safeguard the use and allocation of government resources, 6) ensure efficient, effective, and ethical program implementation, and 7) guarantee compliance of existing pertinent laws, rules, and regulations.

During its FY 2022 National Third Quarter Assessment, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD), a locally-funded special project of the DA, has encouraged its regional implementing offices to guide its beneficiaries' participation in agricultural development as a means of enhancing transparency and accountability through CSO application. Following this, the said accreditation will help SAAD in identifying farmer groups who are eligible for DA assistance, while it is also another way of clustering its farmer-beneficiaries.

On the field level

SAAD hones farmers and fisherfolk organizations to be fully established and legitimized by employing organizational capacity building, provision of physical capital inputs, and setting them up for linkage and network building. Aside from institutional registration such as with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) among others, one of the goals of the program is to tap into the potential of the organization, as well as opportunities to go bigger.

The CSO accreditation by the Department of Agriculture is based on the recognition of non-governmental, and also community or sectoral organizations' role in holistic local development efforts. This move is to promote inclusion, through the improvement of mechanisms and processes that encourage participation in decision-making and localize leadership of non-government organizations (NGOs), especially in the agriculture and fisheries programs in the countryside.

Per the DA Administrative Circular 3, Series of 2022, there are two (2) accreditation levels and classifications for CSO, these are the National Level and the Regional Level Accreditation. Through said sanction, access to public funds and support to agriculture and fisheries projects may be available or intensified to the organizations. The guidelines also indicated different requirements and maintenance of a good standing set according to the Agency's parameters.

While this is a lengthy struggle, especially with the nature of the SAAD organized groups who are at the infancy level in collectivization and augmenting this challenge considering the program's support conclusion, SAAD's endorsement of the groups to the local government units is seen to be the initial step towards the accreditation of the farmers' groups.

Regional SAAD arms are tasked with collaboration for the endorsement of the groups and ensuring their standing in compliance with the CSO Accreditation guidelines. Some local government units implement community-level recognition, however, based on the guidelines, regional-level accreditation is the entry point to access additional benefits.

Source: <https://www.da.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/AC-3-Revised-CSO-Guidelines.pdf>

SAAD PROGRAM PHASE 1 WRAP UP, SAAD PROGRAM PHASE 2 INAUGURATION

Internal structure: Following Phase 2 approval, SAAD acted swiftly to rationalize its management structure ensuring interconnectedness and putting in position practitioners equipped and competent enough to deliver the demands of the program. This is a crucial step as the program caters to all new beneficiaries, some new areas, and an expansion to four (4) additional regions. Experiences during the SAAD Phase 1 revealed the importance of strongly implementing national and regional structures and underlined that the crucial part of partnerships starts within the Department.

Following this bold move were enhancements in the functions of the units in place especially in the previous Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PME) Unit, now the Operational Planning Budget, Monitoring & Evaluation Unit (OPBME). Three (3) sub-units will emerge under the OPBME to focus on and facilitate the array of activities derived from the major components of the program that are directly related to the beneficiaries. These sub-units will then create a guideline that shall be mirrored by the BFAR NPMSO and the regional implementing units.

An order for the management actors and institutions' linkage, collaboration, and intersecting duties was also institutionalized to strengthen the foundation of the whole Program Management Office (PMO) as one of its core components.

Filed as Institutionalizing the Operational Linkage and Collaboration between SAAD NPMO, DA Regional Field Offices (RFOs), and BFAR Regional Field Offices (RFOs) on the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Phase 2 Implementation or the Department Order (DO) 4, this was signed on January 27, 2023, by DA Senior Undersecretary Domingo F. Panganiban.

This move aims to boost efficiency, and effective implementation by laying down the scopes, limitations, and duties of each office. This also encourages accountability of contingents, identifies the key actors, and organizes the National Level Focal Management Group.

Human Resource Manual. A Human Resource Manual was crafted in November 2022 to define the functions of each created and modified unit. This shall guide and be adopted (mirrored) by the regional support offices, which answers and addresses workforce management learnings from the PMO component of Phase 1. Through the Manual, scope, limits of duties, and points of intersections of functions are indicated. In discipline, units are essentially interrelated, hence the need for a sufficient workforce to support the operations.

Social Preparation. The Program has also begun to employ a SAAD-tailored beneficiary needs assessment or BNA to step up the precision planning mechanism for the livelihood projects of the beneficiaries. This social preparation subcomponent's output is to create a comprehensive study of each organization and community that are certain to receive assistance from the program as the main reference or basis, aside from other existing studies and profiles from the municipal, provincial, and regional level of the target areas. The BNA is a pivot from the intended participatory rural appraisal (PRA) which will be utilized in the Phase 2 implementation.

Partnerships. SAAD shall seek the DA's main agencies and practitioners responsible in relation to the operations and activities of the major components, including and prioritizing the creation of guidelines. For Phase 2, the OPBME sub-units: (1) Social Preparation and Program Management, (2) Food Production and Livelihood, and (3) Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development shall create operations guidelines that will be the standard reference of the activities for the regions' use.

Likewise, following the HR Manual for Phase 2, the IT and Database Development (IDD) Unit shall create its guidelines outlining specific procedures for gathering, collating, and managing data of the beneficiaries. Further, the IDD guidelines shall also contain data-sharing protocols for aligned registry systems such as the Registry System for Basic Sectors (RSBSA) in Agriculture.

With the aim of strengthening and expanding audience reach, the Public Relations and Development Communication (PRDC) Unit is set to converge with the DA and BFAR information arms to craft content programming customized per region. This will involve creating standard guidelines for content production, as well as terms of reference per region that will discuss the partnership between the SAAD PRDC and Agriculture and Fisheries Information Division (AFID), and the Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Information Section (RAFIS).

Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2). To improve service rendering, strengthen the impact, and maximize initiatives' reach, SAAD moves toward complementing the clustering and consolidation approach by aligning its implementation guidelines to accommodate only farmer and fisherfolk groups, and provide assistance and training to organized beneficiaries. In this perspective, SAAD aims to increase the impact of the projects and programs of the DA through social preparation, livelihood generation, increased food production, marketing, and enterprise development in consolidated and clustered beneficiaries.

Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS). In line with the MAED component guidelines creation, the ultimate goal of SAAD for the FFAs to sustain operations through the creation of Community-based Enterprises (CBEs). For this, AMAS and SAAD shall partner entailing 1) complementation of AMAS, AMAD, Fisheries Industry Development and Support Services Division (FIDSSD); and Fisheries Production and Support Services Division (FPSSD); 2) introduction of other strategies tailored for SAAD CBEs; and (3) identification and efficiency-building of process related to marketing.

National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC). SAAD and the NAPC shall explore points of convergence in the registry of agriculture actors, involvement of the NAPC in planning and budget activities of SAAD, and policy crafting in line with both institutions' approaches to achieving poverty reduction agenda. Further, the NAPC shall facilitate the introduction and inclusion of SAAD to stay in the loop of sectoral activities and possible assistance.



CHAPTER 8
TESTIMONIALS





BRICK BY BRICK, BUILDING DREAMS WITH SAAD: ANNE SACRO'S STORY

Dimakel nak nga narigat iti biyag mi ngem iti han pulos kaya iti riknak ket tay makitak nga haan nga makapangan iti ustu iti annak ko nga uppat. Bahay kubo lang idi ti balay mi, kanayun kam sireken ti danum nu kasta nga agtudu. Ngem gapo iti gaget kin tulong iti programa ti SAAD, nakitak idi namnama. Bilang maysa nga ina, pamilyak iti pagal-alak iti inspirasyon ko isu nga ar aramidek amin nga kabaelak.

Anne Sacro, DA-SAAD beneficiary of Vegetable Production Project in 2019



(I grew up not knowing what life is beyond poverty. Witnessing my four children deprived of their basic needs motivates me to further persevere for a better life. Previously, our house was a nipa hut. We used to experience flooding inside our house due to natural hazards caused by typhoons. But thanks to the hard work and help of the SAAD program, I saw hope. As a mother, I am driven to work hard to provide for the needs of my children.)

Forty-nine-year-old (49) Anne Sacro has four (4) children, wears many hats such as offering laundry service, tailor, and farm labor to make ends meet.

With her modest income, Anne shared that her family couldn't afford a decent house to live in.

In 2019, SAAD Program was launched in the municipality and tapped the Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association where Anne is an active member. They received a high-value crops production project, where Anne initiated propagating vegetable seedlings in the rain shelter also provided by the program.

With the assistance, she was able to boost her vegetable production which allowed her to accumulate more income from selling them in their locality. "Maraming Salamat SAAD, dakel iti naitulong na kanyak etuy nga proyekto" (Big thanks to SAAD for helping me and my family toward greater progress), added Anne.



TURNING THE TABLE AROUND: STORY OF ARYA MAKINA FA

Nakatulong po sa aming mga katutubo ang pagiging service provider dahil dati wala kaming ginagamit na makina. Malaki ang naging pagbabago sa aming mga katutubo. Dati, nanghihiram kami ng gamit sa mga Tagalog. Ngayon, sila ang aming sineserbisuhan.

Rowel Sinigmayon, Arya Makina Farmers' Association President

(Being a service provider helped us a lot because we did not have machines to use before. There was a big improvement in our lives as IPs. Before, we only borrow machines from Tagalog farmers. Now, we are the ones who provide them with farm service.)

On July 30, 2019, SAAD kick-started the group's farm services by awarding the Equipment and Postharvest Facility Project worth Php 1.6 million. Ten (10) members of the association received relevant training

and capacity building in operating farm tractors with the help of the local government unit of Abra de Ilog before 2019 ended. The group assigns a member that will be in charge of each machine and equipment for every operation, taking turns to distribute the chance of earning.

"Maganda ang proyekto na ito dahil puro kami mga katutubo at ang makina ay nakatuon talaga para sa amin" (The project is good because we are all IPs and the machines are given specifically for us), said Tulfo Mabindang, another operator and FA member.

The project also helped the beneficiaries' families stay afloat at the peak of the pandemic. The rice crop the group harvested was sold and the income was given to the members. *"Nung panahon na nag-umpisa ang pandemiya, walang-walang pagkain ang mga tao...may palay ang asosasyon na 37 bags [na binayad sa aming serbisyo] kaya napagdesisyonan namin na ipagkaloob sa mga miyembro yung napagbentahan [para may panggastos sila],"* Mr. Sinigmayon said.

(When the pandemic started, the people had nothing to eat...our association had 37 bags of rice which we received as payment for our service so we decided to sell it and give the money to our members so they will have means.)

President Sinigmayon shared that one of the blessings of being a service provider is that it created job opportunities for IPs to provide for their needs and send their children to school.

COMMUNITY VEGETABLE HUB, SAN PASCUAL FA EARNS PHP 1.3M

Lubos po ang pasasalamat namin sa SAAD sa mga tulong na ipinagkaloob sa aming asosasyon mula sa mga gamit sa pagtatanim ng gulay hanggang sa mga training na isinagawa. Dahil dito, may mga magulang na napag-aral ang kanilang mga anak at ito na rin ang nagtataguyod sa araw-araw naming pamumuhay.

Jonathan B. Gemino, President of SPVGA

(We are very thankful to SAAD, for the assistance that was given to our association from the inputs to the training that were conducted. Because of this, parent-members managed to support their children's education and it has been supporting us to survive on a daily basis.)

The San Pedro Vegetable Growers Association (SPVGA) in San Pascual, Masbate with 45 members, consisting of mostly women (37) and 8 men, cultivates a total combined area of 14.0 hectares (ha), each with 0.5-1 ha. They are vegetable growers cultivating okra, bitter melon, chili, eggplant, upo, sitao, squash, pechay, mungbean and kangkong among others.

In 2018, they received inputs for the Vegetable Production Project from SAAD and started gathering their harvest in 2019 and consolidating their earnings from their sales.

From 2019 to 2021, 32.8 metric tons or 32,884.5 kilograms of assorted vegetables were harvested and sold to the neighboring barangays of San Pascual and Claveria. It recorded a gross income of Php 1,317,167.50.

The earnings of some members were used for paying the school fees of their children, repair and construction of their houses, and buying some of their daily needs.



"Karamihan po sa amin ay nakakapag-paaral na ng aming mga anak, nakapag-paayos ng bahay at nakakabili ng mga gamit sa pang-araw-araw mula sa mga pinagbiling gulay" (Most of us managed to support our children's education, renovated our houses and we also managed to buy our daily needs from our vegetable harvest), Jonathan stated.

On February 19, the association initiated a trial-making of processed vegetables such as squash molido, squash halaya, veggie empanada, and salabat in barangay San Pedro, which was assisted by the SAAD Area Coordinator, Ms. Elia Kim E. Longcayana together with the Agriculture Technician in San Pascual, Mrs. Chona E. Villapane.

To date, some of the association members are already selling empanada while preparing for the next planting season.



NEGOCC ORGANIC FARMERS SPICE UP PLANTING THROUGH GINGER FARMING, LEADING TO HEALTHY YIELD

Manami gid magtanum sang luy-a, manami magtanum sang crop nga may maayo nga epekto sa health sang isa ka tawu. Nasadyahan man ako magtanum sang lupa kag ang luy-a ang isa sa tanum nga kinahanglan mo gid gamiton ang imo kamot kag tanan wala ginagamitan sang makinarya.



Vecente Lareta, member of the Pandanon Integrated Upland Small Farmers' Association (PIUSFA)

(I like being a ginger farmer. It's wonderful to plant a crop that has a positive effect on people's health. I also enjoy working with the soil, and ginger is a crop where you use your hands in most of the cultural management employed in the soil because nothing is mechanized.)

Organic farmers of the Pandanon Integrated Upland Small Farmers' Association (PIUSFA) in Barangay Pandanon, Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental are taking their respective roles in bringing forth ways to. From 2019 up to 2022, the group was identified as a beneficiary of Vegetable Production Project, and capacity building through a series of social preparation and technical training activities.

PIUSFA Chairperson Ubaldo Ceralbo Jr. said their collective efforts sustain their goal to improve their production of pesticide-free vegetables, thus supplying the increasing demand for organic produce in the Province of Negros Occidental.

"We are generating income from growing vegetables. And we are happy that the SAAD projects help us to earn more despite the problems that we encountered especially during the pandemic when some of us lost our jobs and

livelihood," said Mr. Ceralbo.

Ms. Agelia Belegorio, a single parent dependent on her vegetable farm, said she struggles to support her only daughter since she had no fixed income.

Now that she got to participate in the livelihood project, she is now able to provide for her daughter's needs and used some of her income from her ginger harvest to buy a pair of school uniforms for her daughter, a Grade 11 high school student, since face-to-face classes resumed.

After receiving enterprise development training in 2021, the group started producing processed goods such as salabat or powdered ginger tea and tea bags. Although still at small-scale production, PIUSFA's salabat is slowly gaining consumers in their community because of its known health benefits.

The group recently showcased their salabat during the Tatak Coop Negrense Trade Fair at Panaad Park and Stadium in Bacolod City. They are constantly improving their labeling and packaging so they could trade their products to institutional buyers.



(The SAAD Program helped us so much with our livelihood. We received all the inputs for free, including the carabao which will help us in land preparation. Farming is not really a tiring job. Yes, it requires effort, but what a joy once you receive the rewards and start earning. Now, we can really tell that there is a change in our situation. Before the program came, we were in big debt and it was hard for us to sustain our daily needs. With SAAD, we were given the relief and security we were looking for for the past years. We can now sustain our daily needs.)

In 2018 Minol Rice and Vegetable Farmers Association was identified and included as SAAD beneficiaries. The FA cultivates a 3ha land of rice and vegetables such as ampalaya, cucumber, eggplant, squash, and string beans. The 45-member FA is led by Mr. Renante Daguing, 45-years-old.

CAMARADERIE IN THE FIELD, REAPS A GOOD HARVEST

Dako kayo ug natabang ang SAAD Program sa amoang panginabuhian, libre tanan inputs plus naa pa gyud mi kabaw nga sa umaabot amoa magamit sa pagpanguma. Ang pagpangulay dili gyud na nimu hunahunaon nga kapoy, sa pagkatinood kapoy gyud, peru malipay raka nga mka kita naka sa imuhang kakugi labi na kong makatagamtam naka sa abot ug sa imuhang ginansya. Sa pagkakaran, makaingun mi nga anaa najud kausbanan sa among kahimtang saunaha bisan asa lang gyud mi mangita ug asa kabayloan ug kwarta i-palit ug bugas ug uban pa nga panginahanglanon. Karon pinaagi sa SAAD kani nakahatag namu ug kagaan sa among kinabuhi any time naa name makoot nga kwarta ug ipalit sa panginahanglanon sa pamilya.

Renante Daguing, SAAD Bohol Best Farmer awardee, President of the Minol Rice and Vegetable Farmers Association



Mr. Daguing is a habal-habal (makeshift motorcycle service) driver earning Php 250 a day. Seeking ways to earn more, he was convinced by his co-drivers to engage in vegetable farming. At the beginning, he tried to plant ampalaya in his small parcel of land and realized that growing vegetables is not an easy job; it takes patience, determination, and strength. In 2019, he was given an opportunity to be part of the integrated carabao-based production and vegetable production project of the SAAD program.

Through his vegetable earnings, he was able to pay off all his debts and support his children's education. In 2020, his eldest, Rhian Marie, graduated with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology, while his son, Reymark, is in his 3rd year taking up a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. His other children are currently at the secondary level. During the interview, Mr. Daguing mentioned three elements of success in his farming. These are "KKK", which stands for Kwarta, Kakugi, and Kahibalo which means Resources (money), Diligence, and Knowledge.

He envisions the FA to become market consolidator of produced vegetables for each member to minimize competition and that he could directly link the products to buyers and standard price for each seller. The group also looks on the possibility of food processing to maximize the product and minimize the losses. They also practice in-house loans, and saves money into cooperative for the group.

CUYA: YOUTH ATHLETES TURN POULTRY RAISERS IN SAMAR



“Han umapi ako han CUYA dire na ako na aro hin paralit sugad hin sabon, shampoo ngan panload. Nakakabulig pa ako panalagudti ha balay. Ngan tikanga ak umapi, dire na karag ngan meada na gamit akon oras kay aadi ako naduty ha manokan, meada pa ako nababaroan parti pag ataman han layer chicken. Dire parehas han una na bugoy bugoy la, yana responsible na,”



Cantongtong United Youth Association (CUYA) from Barangay Cantongtong Jiabong, Samar was once a team of 30 young basketball players established in February 2018. They realized that it would be best to help their parents during sembreak in crop farming.

Following the steps of their mother people’s organization, Cantongtong Agrarian Rice Farmers Association (CARFA), this group of youth decided to form an association under the name CUYA and registered their group at the Department at the Labor of Employment (DOLE) in February 2020. The members are between 13-35 years old.

On September 7, 2020, the group received the 384 Ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken including layer feeds, egg trays, antibiotics, multivitamins, and egg weighing scale amounting to Php 942,600.

They pay 1 tray of eggs per week as a rent for the 35,000sqm within the barangay for their communal poultry house. Each member contributed for the expense of the construction of the poultry house counterpart.

Members shared the 10% of their profit, while the remaining income went to the poultry house expansion, cage, additional

150 RTL chickens. With the help of the profit shares they have received they become less dependent to their parents on providing their everyday necessities.

(When I joined CUYA, I was able to provide my needs like shampoo, soap, and load for my mobile phone. I can also share a little amount of cash to my parents. Joining this group helped me manage my time wisely and even gain knowledge on egg layer management during my schedule on our poultry farm. I changed from being a happy-go-lucky person to a responsible poultry raiser now).

The youth saw the opportunity of establishing a feeds store in the community as there are no accessible stores in the barangay. CUYA now plans to sustain the project through gradual replacement of old stocks after its peak of egg production.

As they envision to serve their community and help the out of school youth, the group applied for an accreditation of their Agricultural learning site under RCEF to the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI). They also encourage other municipalities in Samar through training activities such as youth organizing, capability building, and basic farming.





EGGS-TRA MOM: TALIPAO SAAD FARMER'S POULTRY JOURNEY

Bilang ha nag-uuhan ha SSKFA, in iya angan-angan ko ha manga tarbilang sin parhimpunan namu sumambu in pagusaha namu. Sah ha tungud sin baran ko, mabaya ako awn hinang ko matutug iban usaha ha supaya hika tukbal ko in kagunahan sin pamilya ko. In parhimpunan namu naka tabuk daing ha DA-SAAD manok mag iklog daing sin September 2021, maraw in guwa sin pag usaha namu. Naka tawuh ako sin pyamimi kagunahan ha iskul sin manga anak ko iban pyagluun ko sin tinda tinda ko. Malaggu pag sarang sukulan namu pa SAAD ha tabang kya tukbal kamu.

Arfhaina Antayani, President of SSahaya Sin Kawman Farmers Association (SSKFA) in Sulu

(As president of SSKFA, I dream that our members will be successful in our small business. As for my own, I also dream of having a stable business with good income to sustain our family's needs. Our association received the DA-SAAD Chicken-Egg Production Project in September 2021, and it has given us good results since. I was able to save the extra-income and spend it to buy supplies to build a small sari-sari store. We are all very thankful to SAAD for the help.)

Arfhaina Antayani, 37-year-old, is a mother of four (4), and president of the Sahaya Sin Kawman Farmers Association



(SSKFA) based in Barangay Lumpung Pigh Daho, Talipao, Sulu. She currently leads a 23-member farmers association (FA) who manages a small-scale production and processing of crops such as cassava, banana, coconut, and abaca.

In September 2021, 16 members of the SSKFA received the FY 2021 Layer Chicken-Egg Production Project of the DA-SAAD while the remaining 7 members received the Cassava-Corn-Peanut Production project under FY 2022.

"Pag iyanun ko in manga panaiban ko subay kami matuyu. Bukun hat ako lumingkud iban umatud kanila, magpakaun da sab ako sin manok, mag put itlog iban maglanu sin laum pagal manok," explained Arfhaina.

(I encourage the members to work hard. I do not just sit and observe the members, I also feed the chickens, harvest the eggs, and maintain the cleanliness of the farm.)

"Guwa daing ha pagdagang-dagang ko, in magkausaha ko dittu na kawaun ko in manga kagunahan si manga anak ko ha iskul. Mag sarang sukul tuod ako ha SAAD sabab awn na mahuwathuwat namu supaya mapinda na in kabuhianan namu," added Arfhaina.

(Aside from having my own general merchandise store, my earnings were able to pay for my four [4] children's school needs. I am very grateful to SAAD because they gave us hope to change our lives.)

REVIVING LOCAL SWINE INDUSTRY WITH SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOOD

In the upland barangay units of Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental, most housewives contribute to their household income by raising pigs in their backyards. However, due to the price hike in feeds, some pig raisers stopped their operations and turned to help their husbands work on the farm.

Kanao-Kanao in Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental is primarily an agricultural area where most residents plant coconut, corn, root crops, and fruit trees as their main source of living.

In October 2019, members of the KSFA received a livelihood package under the Swine Production Project. Through the DA-SAAD Program, 40 members of the Kanao-Kanao Small Farmers' Association (KSFA) including Perlita Sumalinog benefited from this.

Stay-at-home mothers like Perlita raise livestock in their backyard as a way of contributing to their family's livelihood.

In their first production cycle, the majority of the KSFA members sold their piglets after weaning while some fattened their hogs and sold them in live weight.

By capitalizing on their knowledge and skills in swine raising acquired through SAAD training, the KSFA members were able to earn profitably from the SAAD's swine raising project. The group reported Php 90,700.00 combined income by selling piglets and fattened hogs in 2021-2022.

(I am thankful for the swine provided by SAAD because it helped my family during the pandemic. I settled my debts, I also paid tuition fees for my college student, and even bought materials for our house).

She shared that the feed assistance provided by the program for the first production cycle allowed the KSFA members to buy feeds for the following cycles. For her family, Perlita said they strategize to lower the cost of feeds by planting yellow corn on their 3-hectare inherited land as an added source of nutrition for their pigs.

In time for her sow's fourth production cycle, Perlita bought a hybrid boar worth Php 12,000. She intentionally bought the boar for crossbreeding. She also offered the boar for breeding at a fee or pay-in-piglet scheme, as an added source of home-based income.

Naga-pasalamat gyud ko sa baboy nga gihatag sa SAAD kay nakatabang sa akong pamilya katong kasagsagan sa CoViD. Nakabayad ko sa akong mga utang, nakatabang ug gasto para sa akong estudyante sa college, ug nakapalit pud me ug gamit diri sa balay.

Perlita Sumalinog, Kanao-Kanao Small Farmer's Association (KSFA), Misamis Occidental





HERDING HER FUTURE: SAAD FARMER BOUGHT LOT, BUILT HOUSE FROM GOAT RAISING INCOME

Kaning lote ug payag, tungod sa kanding jud ni.



Narcisa Navales, Upgraded Goat Production beneficiary

(The lot and this house, they're from the goats).

For two (2) consecutive years, Narcisa Navales was an individual beneficiary of the SAAD program's Upgraded Goat Production. She received two (2) does in 2019 and a buck and a doe in 2020.

Upgraded Goat Production has been a mainstay livelihood project for SAAD RPMSO 11 since 2018. Based on a needs assessment, the project was identified as an intervention for Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas because of the small ruminant's hardiness and live weight selling potential.

Upgraded goats are the offspring of a native breed and either an Anglo-Nubian or Boer pairing. They are hardy and pose better monetary rewards for individual beneficiaries within a year of distribution.

Barangay Mahayahay in Maragusan provided plenty of grazing area for the livestock, which Navales took advantage of and slowly increased her herd. Soon after, she started selling does and bucks she deemed dispensable.



In Davao de Oro, live weight selling prices of goats go at a minimum of Php 3,500 for a 15 kilograms (kg) doe. From 2020 up until writing, she has earned Php 95,500 from selling goats alone. She sold 18 goats in total, averaging a little more than Php 5,300 each. Two does from the lot fetched an impressive price of Php 10,000 each.

"Katong nikabat ug unom akong mga inahan, tag-duha tulo akoang dal-on ibaligya. Nakatabang jud ang SAAD sa amoang pangandoy" (When I reached 6 does, I would sell two or three. SAAD's helped us with our dreams), she said.

Getting a lot nearby the barangay's center is practical for Ms. Navales' work and her children's schooling. Mahayahay is the topmost barangay in one of the mountainous parts of the municipality and accessibility to basic living resources means a significantly improved quality of life. It also decreases vulnerability to a potential brush with communist forces.

In the lot she bought, she also built a house. There's a makeshift pen for her goats to rest in the evenings beside it. Currently, Ms. Navales has three goats remaining, two of which, named Pine and Melda, are pregnant.

"Proud jud kaayo ko muingon nga tungod jud sa kanding, ug SAAD naa mi karon diri" (I'm so proud to say that because of the goats and SAAD, we are where we are now), she concluded.



'DI LANG PAMPAMILYA - INVESTMENTS THROUGH SAAD PROJECT



Daku ang tabang sir sa SAAD. Kanang simbahan nga makita ninyu sa pikas bungtod, halin sa SAAD ang gipatindog ana pati kaning solar sa among balay. Bisan ang motor sir nga ginagamit sa akung anak sa hauling kay gikan apil pa.

Embato “Datu” Tinggalong, Tboli Aklanon beneficiary of Upland Rice Production Project

(SAAD is a big help to us. Part of that church you can view from here is from my sponsorship out of my income, and also this solar panel, even the motorcycle that my son uses for hauling is from my SAAD income too.)

Embato “Datu” Tinggalong is a 56-year-old Tboli Aklanon from the highland of Sitio Europe. He usually earns Php 4,000 monthly from his banana, sayote, and green onions produced in his backyard to support his big family.

In 2017, he received the SAAD’s Upland Rice Production Project prioritizing upland rice seeds cultivation in a 5ha area along with other crops such as banana, abaca, green onions, purple and white corn, peanuts, cassava, and several fruit trees. With SAAD, he became the second-highest producer of upland rice in Tuanadatu.

In the third quarter of 2018, Datu harvested 1.5MT of upland rice from a 1ha area for the first production. He allocated it for his family’s consumption and shared some with his relatives and churchmates.

With the promising result, he introduced upland rice production to his community and also encouraged them into planting said commodity. In 2019, Datu decided to expand a hectare to increase his production. Following the same production procedure, his harvest doubled in the second cropping, giving him a 3.2MT harvest.

As a member of the T’boli community, Datu follows traditional farming rituals. He and his family perform a dawn ceremony in the rice field asking for good germination, rain, and pest time off. They also hold another ceremony before harvesting to honor nature for its fertility and bounty.

Around 10% of Datu’s total harvest was provided to the community in the form of upland rice seeds ready for the next planting season. The seeds were thoroughly selected to ensure good germination. The share your blessing movement has been practiced by the community for five years now.

Additionally, he shared another 10% of his yield’s income Php 5,460.00 to sponsor the establishment of a community church. He now also owns a motorcycle which he uses in transporting his farm products and a solar panel that provides light in the evening.



SAN LUIS FARMERS REINVEST IN ABACA PRODUCTION

Pag abot sa SAAD na solbad gyud ang among problema (kabahin sa paghagkot). Ang abaca dire sa amo gina-laguras ra gyud, kasagaran malata na lang kay dili maapas. Karon dako kaayog kalahian. Ang usa ka semana nga pag hagkot makaya na sulod sa usa ka adlaw.



Santos Escalicas, MuFA President, beneficiary of Abaca Production

(The SAAD Program has been a big help to all members of MuFA. We used to strip our abaca harvest manually. But given how tedious the process was, we could not process them all, which is why some ended up rotting. Now, with the stripping machines from the program, what used to take a week of stripping is now possible in a day or two.)

Muritula USAID Farmers' Association (MuFA), from the municipality of San Luis in Agusan del Sur, had 60 initial members selected by the local government, and the provincial agricultural office to receive the SAAD Program assistance for abaca production project. Later on, the group accepted additional members to strengthen their workforce.

Abaca production is not new to MuFA. Municipal Agriculturist Cesar G. Burdeos shared that San Luis was once a top producer of abaca fibers, according to a report by the Land Bank of the Philippines in 1992. Recognizing familiarity as an advantage and the potential of revitalizing the abaca fiber industry in the province, MuFA sought abaca production as its main project.

MuFA obtained Php 5,900,564.21- worth of abaca production and processing support from the SAAD Program from FY 2019 to 2021. In hindsight, SAAD provided three (3) sets of abaca production assistance to the group for each fiscal year that includes abaca seedlings, farming inputs, carabaos for hauling and stripping machines.

"Dako gyud og kalahian ang produkto sa makina kompara sa demano. Karon mas mahal na ang palit sa among lanot, doble na ang presyo," said Mr. Antonino Real, a MuFA member.

(There is a huge price difference between the fibers processed through the machines and the ones stripped manually. High-grade fibers [S2] are sold at around Php 80, which is double the price of the low-grade [Binaba].)

The contemporary machines and practices introduced by the program equip MuFA to produce not just high-quality fibers but also improved production efficiency.



SAAD PROGRAM
PHASE 1
2017-2022



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

3rd Floor, DA New Bldg Elliptical Road, Diliman,

Quezon City, 1101 Metro Manila

Telephone: (02) 8929 7349

Email: saad@da.gov.ph