



Department of Agriculture
SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
Cordillera Administrative Region

A BOOK OF SUCCESSES

2021





DA-SAAD CAR

Department of Agriculture
Special Area for Agricultural Development
Cordillera Administrative Region

The DA -SAAD CAR Coffee Table Book is a collective effort of the entire Cordillera SAAD team steered by the designated Book Committee which has provided insight and on the ground information to collectively form the success stories chronicled in this compilation.

These stories are designed to give us hope to the brighter future of the agriculture sector as seen in the individual success of each SAAD beneficiary.

Culled from the stories on the ground to the pages of this initial offering of the Northern Luzon SAAD Program, we present the members of the committee, whose contribution is vital to the accomplishment of this book.

This book entitled “DA SAAD CAR: A Book of Success 2021,” is a compilation of stories from the Cordillera SAAD areas since the inception of the program in 2017 and is published by the Department of Agriculture - Cordillera Administrative Region - Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) annually.

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Since the inception of the DA SAAD program, the sincere hope to serve the marginalized has been slowly realized.

Through the SAAD program, a total of 30 priority provinces with high poverty incidence rates among families have been given assistance in both agriculture and fisheries since 2017.

For the Cordillera Administrative Region, we have three priority areas; the Mountain Province, Kalinga and Apayao which targets those who need assistance and technical support to jumpstart enterprise and ultimately, bring food on each table.

We now have 125 Farmer Cooperative Associations comprising 7,865 farmer beneficiaries spanning 338 livelihood projects covering 157 barangays in the three areas of the SAAD coverage.

On my assumption as DA Secretary, we immediately introduced the eight paradigms of New Thinking for Agriculture aimed to embody the new administration of the department for the benefit of all stakeholders.

The SAAD Program is composed of four major components – 1) Program Management, 2) Social Preparation, 3) Production and Livelihood Interventions, and 4) Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development.

The Cordillera region is rich in resources, culture, heritage and tradition which each program of the department aims to honor by advocating cultural sensitivity and an acceptance of the community.

The success stories are a testament not only to the success of the SAAD program but also to the communities which we serve. The success of one is the success of the entire department as a ONE DA family.

Let me congratulate the DA-SAAD CAR Management and the Book Committee team for conceptualizing and publishing the first SAAD BOOK on success stories!


HON. WILLIAM DOLLENTE DAR, PH.D.

As we take part in our nation's fight against unethical information dissemination, we at the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) continue to work in the name of transparency while communicating for development. However, we believe that communication finds its balance not only in building a critical exchange but also in telling stories of inspiration, affirming the efforts of our stakeholders and partners in achieving the SAAD's goals.

The creation of this book is an attempt to honor our SAAD farmers and program implementers in the Cordillera. We are proud to present to you a documentation of inspiring accounts reaped from the fields of Apayao, Kalinga, and the Mountain Province.

Having to share our local farmers' narratives, from the program's inception to the establishment of their thriving enterprises which inspire and contribute to their communities' development, makes me proud and relieved that the program's proactive management and implementation approaches have, in a unique way, empowered them and at least led them to realizing their potential to improve their quality of living.

Even amidst the pandemic, our SAAD implementers, and most especially our beneficiaries once again proved that through collective action, we can empower, and protect those who are vulnerable, in hopes to reach the peak of our mission of contributing to poverty alleviation and imparting positive change, environmental justice, and agricultural progress.

These changes have been noticed by the members of the legislative department who initiated the calls for the program's extension, as they witness the effects of the program to their constituents.

Again, I am grateful for where we have come. I hope that this book immortalizes our experiences and triumphs to inspire ourselves and others as instruments of positive transformation.




MYER C. MULA, PH.D.

National Program Director-SAAD



The gauge of success may be vague but for the first Special Area for Agricultural Development [SAAD], it is measured by how many we have saved from hunger and groups prodded into enterprise development.

Since the inception of the SAAD – CAR in 2016, the program has reached 7,865 farmer beneficiaries and covered 338 barangays in our three provinces of concern, namely; Apayao, Mountain Province and Kalinga.

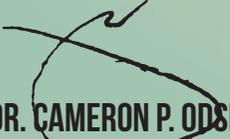
The impact and importance of the SAAD projects to the target beneficiaries can be seen from its goals and objectives which aim to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors in agriculture and fishery, ultimately to uplift the way of life of each Cordilleran farmer.

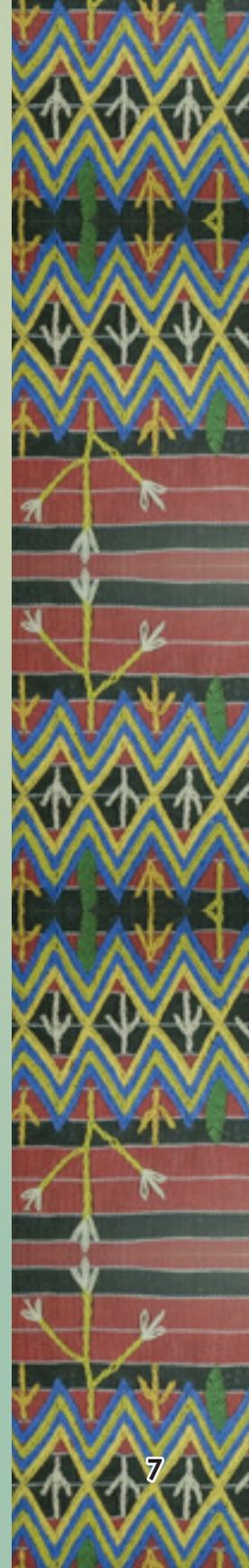
The path to agricultural enterprise has been taken in the SAAD CAR program as we helped build 125 Farmer Cooperative Associations in our identified areas of concern. These groups are slowly going into the path of sustainability with the Department guiding them into independence away from dependence or dole out mentality.

With the SAAD program coming to a close, a full and curated documentation of events and highlights since its inception in 2016 has been endeavored resulting to the publication of the first SAAD coffee table book that the Cordillera has spearheaded, the stories reflect hope, happiness and the future of farming and enterprise in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

The success of each SAAD farmer is the success of everyone in the nationwide program, the stories on the field which tell of the struggle of each who has embraced the SAAD as a way of life is indicative of an unwavering passion to improve our way of life.

The stories in this book, show the resiliency of each Cordilleran and the hope for the future, may the SAAD success stories become the success of all.


DR. CAMERON P. ODSEY
OIC-Regional Executive Director



On its 5th year of implementation, the goal to alleviate poverty in the program areas is still a challenge. The pandemic had a heavy impact on the implementation of the program.

It is at these trying times that public service is most needed. The SAAD staff as public servants never ceased to do their obligations to serve the public. They have shown commitment and professionalism amidst the risk of the Corona virus.

The book manifests the efforts of the program implementors and their success stories on the field, a testament to a seamless management and implementation which the SAAD Cordillera prides itself to have.

The DA-RFO-CAR through the SAAD program has strived to improve farm and fishery production and productivity through capacity building, participatory planning and monitoring, strengthening organizations, and provision of the much needed inputs for livelihood projects.

May the success stories of SAAD beneficiaries in CAR serve as an inspiration to other farmers.




DANILO P. DAGUIQ, PH.D., CESO IV
Regional Technical Director for Operations

As we continue to implement the programs and projects of the Department of Agriculture through the Special Area for Agricultural Development or SAAD in the provinces of Apayao, Kalinga and Mountain Province in the Cordillera Administrative Region, the need to chronicle developmental activities implemented and related to this project should take precedence.

In 2017, SAAD started Apayao Province and expanded in Kalinga and Mountain Province in 2019.

From 2017 to 2021, SAAD's operations in Apayao covered 45 Farmers Cooperative Associations or FCA's in 123 Barangays with 125 projects, Kalinga covered 50 FCA's in 43 Barangays with 58 projects, while Mountain Province covered 50 FCA's in 44 Barangays with 64 projects, all-in-all having a total of 145 FCA's covered in 210 Barangays in the region with 237 projects.

This book shows a pioneering historical accounting on how this special project of the Department of Agriculture Cordillera Regional Field Office has been implemented in the provinces of Apayao, Kalinga and Mountain Province.

The presentation of success stories documented by SAAD Cordillera from identified marginalized farmer beneficiaries belonging to different FCA is a testament of how this special project has been instituted in terms of the delivery and monitoring of various intervention projects to these farmer beneficiaries.

The publication of this book seeks to serve as a pioneering template for other special projects of the Department of Agriculture on how and what specific technical and strategic support may be provided to future marginalized farmer beneficiaries.

It is also our hope that this book of documented success stories would inspire other marginalized farmers to have access to similar special projects of the Department of Agriculture, that seeks to improve the livelihood opportunities.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. A. Claver'.

BALAG-EY A. CLAVER
SAAD CAR Operations Officer



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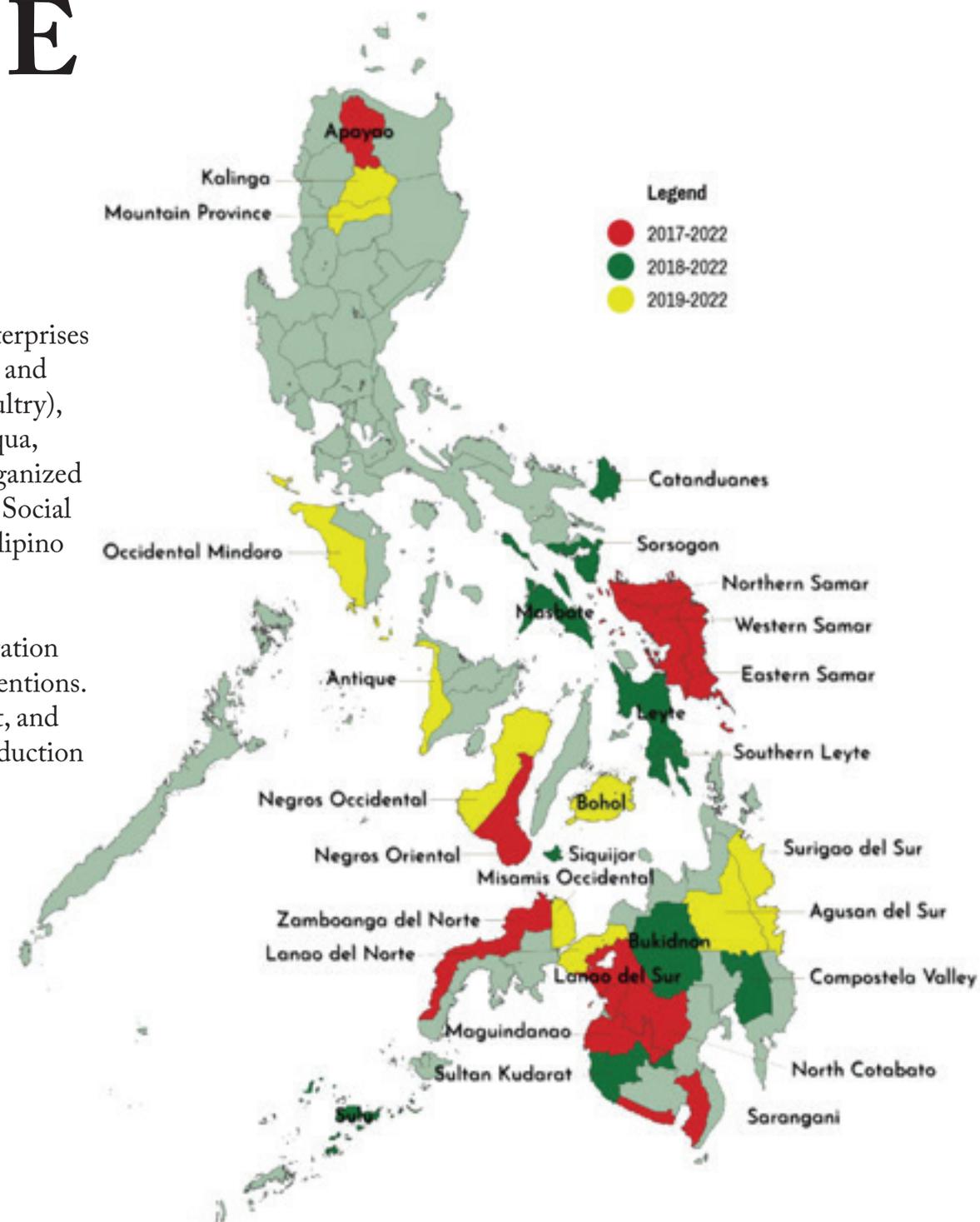
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ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The strategy of the program is to increase food production and the establishment of community enterprises by providing the appropriate technology, marketing, and other support services for animals (livestock and poultry), crops (food and industrial), and fisheries (capture, aqua, and pond culture) to individuals, households and organized farmers and fisherfolk including the Department of Social and Welfare Development's Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

Beneficiaries were assessed through social preparation to provide the needed training and livelihood interventions. Post-production inputs, tools, machinery, equipment, and facilities are also given to improve farm and fish production practices to prepare them to become agripreneurs.



INTRODUCTION

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) is a locally-funded program of the Department of Agriculture (DA), intended to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors – agriculture and fishery.

Coined after the Visayan word “SAAD” which means promise, the SAAD Program is a breakthrough of former DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol as part of the thrust of President Rodrigo Duterte to increase food production and reduce poverty in the Philippines.

Through the SAAD program, a total of 30 priority provinces with high poverty incidence rate among families have been given assistance in both agriculture and fisheries since year 2017.

In the midst of 2019, Piñol’s former administration was turned over to now DA Secretary William D. Dar.

Secretary Dar brought with him his New Thinking for Agriculture geared towards a food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.

His eight paradigms of “New Thinking” for Agriculture paved the way to continue and strengthen the SAAD Program implementation in his leadership to realize his twin goals of increasing productivity and making farmers and fishers prosperous or his term’s battlecry, “Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita”.

The SAAD Program, headed by Director Myer G. Mula, aims to give agricultural interventions on animals, crops, and fisheries (capture fishery and aquaculture) to identified beneficiaries with the help of corresponding offices in the regional and provincial levels.

The SAAD Program is composed of four major components – 1) Program Management, 2) Social Preparation, 3) Production and Livelihood Interventions, and 4) Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development.

The SAAD 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.

The SAAD 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 CAR

In the Cordillera, the SAAD Program operates in three Provinces; Kalinga, Mountain Province and Apayao which identifies the poorest of the poor and aids them out from poverty hoping the call for entrepreneurship is met, with the guidance of the SAAD team, targeting those who need assistance and technical support to jumpstart enterprise and ultimately, bring food on each table.

As of 2021, the Program has 153 active and registered Farmer Cooperative Associations which cut across 13,627 group members divided into 358 Livelihood Projects with a total budget allotment of Php 248,850,415.

2021 SAAD Cordillera data for Apayao shows there are 48 Farmer Cooperative Associations which collectively have 6,202 Farmer Beneficiaries and is highlighted by 133 thriving livelihood projects covering 133 poorest of the poor barangays in the province.

For Kalinga, there are 55 Farmer Cooperative Associations servicing 3,379 group members with 90 livelihood programs spanning 43 barangays with a budget of Php 131,845,180.

For the Mountain Province there are now 50 Farmer Cooperative Associations which has touched base with 4,046 group members working on 116 livelihood projects in the 50 identified barangays of the province working on a budget of Php 136,871,181.

From simple farmers, the Program aims to aid in the shift to become agricultural entrepreneurs, equipped with capacities honed by the SAAD.

Capacity building through DA- CAR –SAAD led programs like; Organizational Development and Management [ODM], Bookkeeping, Financial Management, Package of Technology for Vegetables, Poultry, and Livestock, Agro Farmer Field School for Fruit Trees, and Farmer Livestock School for Swine has been given to all beneficiaries.

As the DA SAAD Program journeys into 2022, goals are being realized, with the guiding principles of the Eight Paradigms of Agriculture of Secretary William Dollente Dar, the exodus from poverty is becoming a reality.

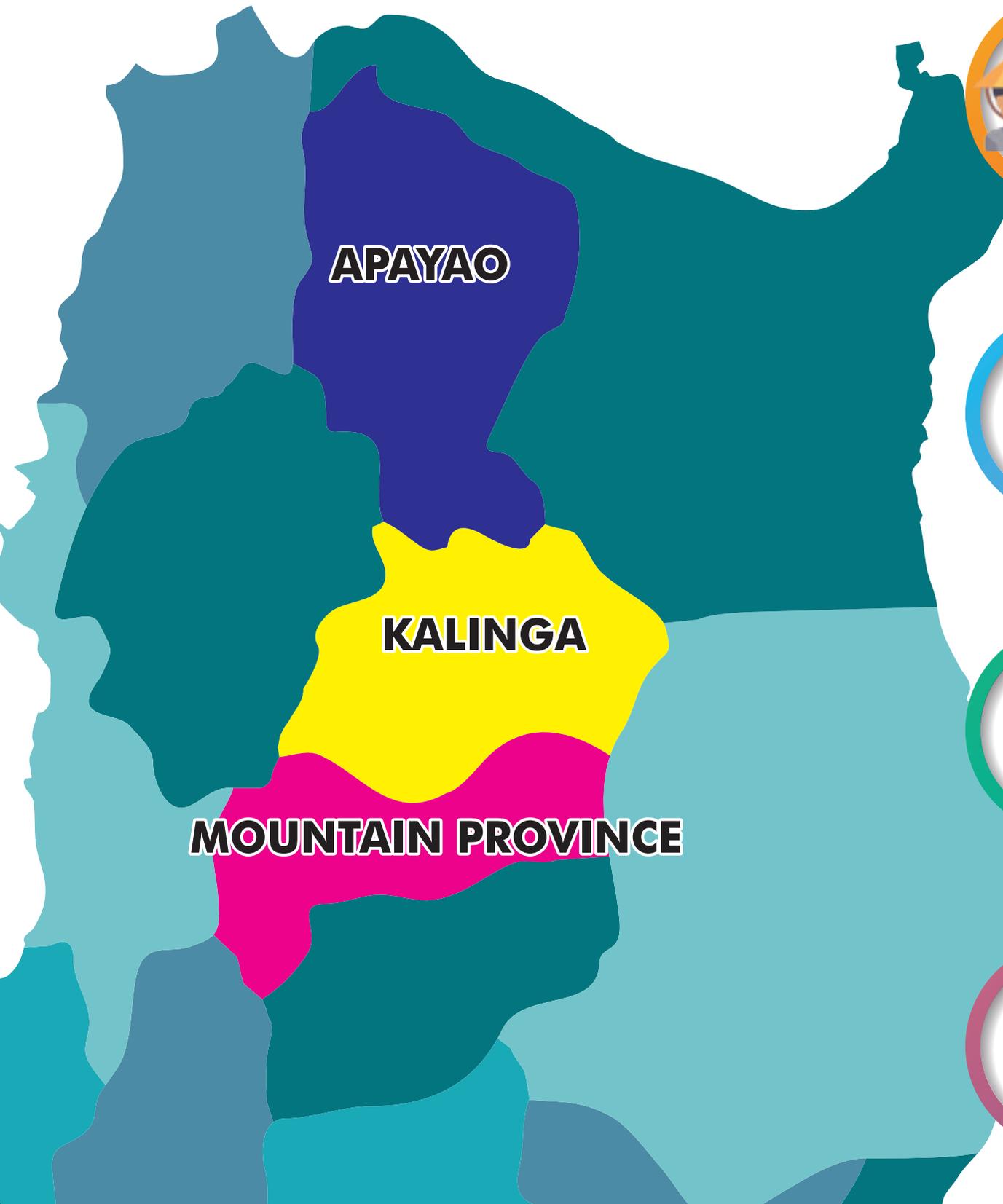




DA-SAAD CAR

Department of Agriculture
Special Area for Agricultural Development
Cordillera Administrative Region

REGIONAL STORIES



APAYAO

KALINGA

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE



Groups

153



Group Members

13,627



Number of projects

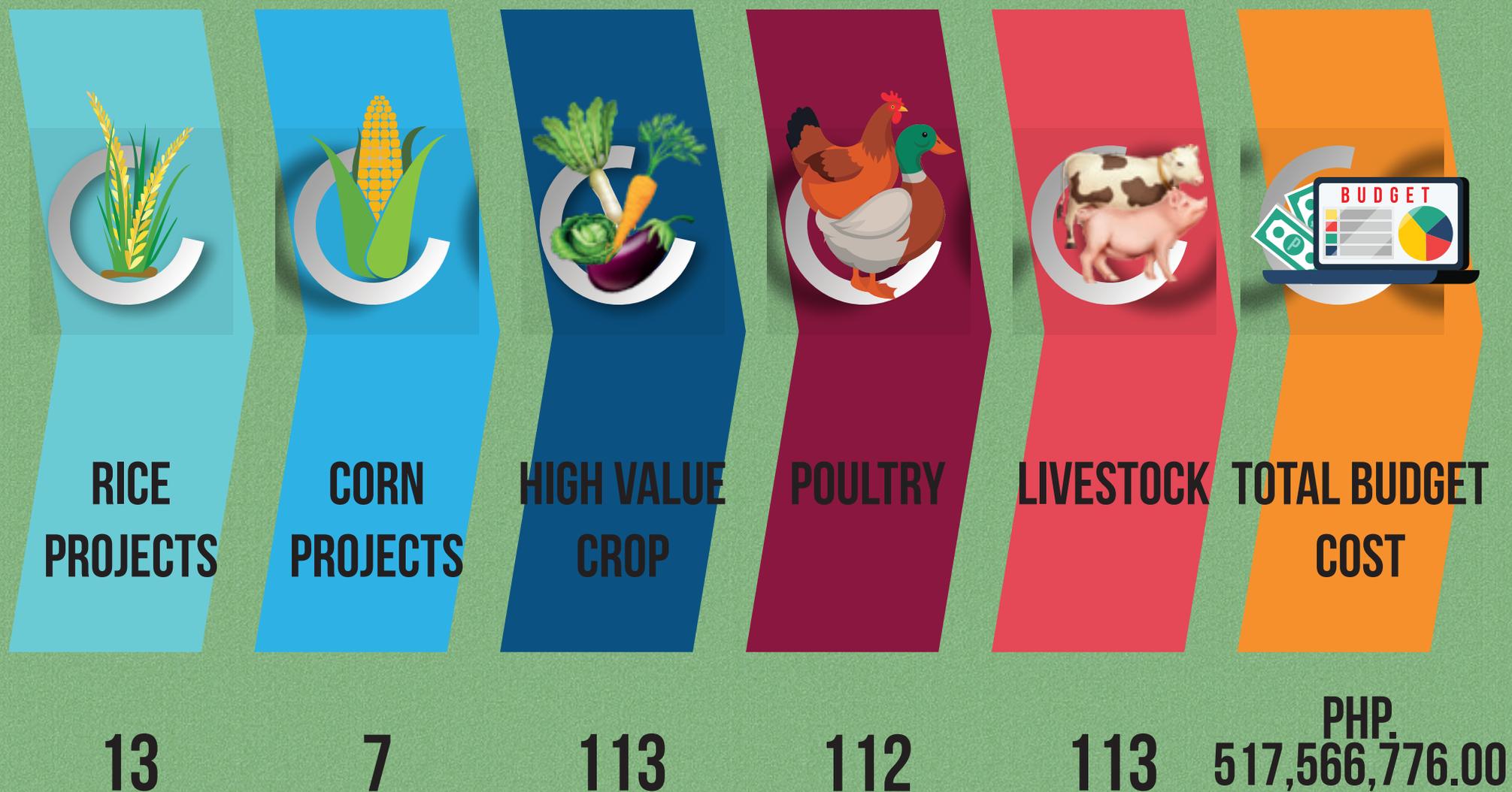
358



Covered Barangays

286

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Total numbers reflect data since 2017 until 2021



Feeding Communities, Engaging Farmers into Agricultural Enterprise

The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) ups its quest to not only provide food on the table but also equip beneficiaries to become agripreneurs.

As the pandemic hit Cordillera communities with lockdowns and movement control restrictions, the DA-SAAD CAR found a way to tide communities over months of isolation and slowly build a future for farmer groups willing to learn the business trade.

DA-CAR Regional Executive Director and SAAD Focal Person Cameron Odsey said the program is targeted for the communities not reached by regular programs by the DA and other state agencies.

“Sa SAAD we are operating in the poorer communities, yung mga area na ito, sila ang hindi nararating ng regular programs, kung meron man, patak-patak lang or paminsan-minsan lang, not only in the DA but the other agencies. In these communities where we have implemented special projects, sometimes, the primary concern is food sufficiency. Sapat ba ‘yung inaani natin para lang kainin ng bawat household sa barangay? So in these areas, it is really prioritizing that they are able to produce enough for their own needs, secondary na lang if meron silang excess at meron sila ibebenta. Sa livelihood projects natin, it will meet their needs, siyempre unahin pangangailangan nila sa household then kung may sobra sila, ay ibebenta para may additional income.” Odsey explained.

(We are operating with poorer communities, these areas are the ones not reached by the regular programs of the government

and if they are, it is only a small intervention and far and in between, not only with the DA but other agencies. In these communities where we have implemented special projects, the primary concern is food sufficiency. Is their harvest enough for their households? The SAAD Program prioritizes that they can produce enough for their own needs; it is only secondary that they are able to sell. Do our livelihood projects meet their needs, of course, their daily needs should come first and if there is a surplus that is when they can sell for additional income.)

As of July 2021, the program has so far helped organize a total of 147 farmers’ cooperative and associations (FCA) in the region covering Apayao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province. The FCAs have registration and documents, enabling them to avail more programs and opportunities in the future.

The beneficiaries, which are now at 7,150, received 148 livelihood projects covering 138 barangays with 35 identified as End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas.

For 2020 there were only 73 FCAs for the three SAAD areas with 4,796 farmers benefited with 84 livelihood projects from 84 barangays with 14 identified as ELCAC areas.

Capacity-building activities were also conducted to equip beneficiaries with skills to maintain and sustain their SAAD livelihood projects.

Capacity Building Efforts

The program aims to shift farmers to become agricultural entrepreneurs, thus equipping various capacity building activities.

Some of the activities are Organizational Development and



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Management [ODM], Bookkeeping, Financial Management, Package of Technology for Vegetables, Poultry and Livestock, Agro Farmer Field School for Fruit Trees, and Farmer Livestock School for Swine.

Dir. Odsey said setting up an enterprise is not that simple “It’s a whole process that you also have to learn, we are doing these through their FCA, we have to train them on how to do business especially that we have a value chain approach – meaning we look at the whole process, planning what to plant, taking care of crops, then how to sell, it all starts with planning, knowing what you will plant for home consumption and what is for business.”

He also said the SAAD Program often gives more than enough resources which can accommodate both needs. “We are trying to upgrade the capacities and capabilities to also allow them to do business. If we need our farmers to survive in the present environment, they have to learn. We should also be teaching them that before you even think of selling to the market, you should do an assessment”.

Tiding Them Over the Early Days of the Pandemic

In the early months of the pandemic in 2020, the SAAD faced challenges in movement restrictions which hampered deliveries and program goals.

The program however was successful in providing essential commodities of food for beneficiaries during the months of lockdown, allowing communities to consume production yield for daily sustenance, thwarting the problem of scarcity in food supply.

In Kalinga, Maling Agriculture and Fishery Organization (MAFO) member Virginia Rufino said the program helped her family and constituents especially during the pandemic.

The swine and poultry intervention in 2019 aided daily living from which her family earned Php 28,000. They also used the income to purchase feeds to sustain their livelihood.

However, some members of the group with no means of transporting feeds from the market due to restrictions by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) were forced to sell and butcher their hogs. For the chicken interventions, their eggs also greatly helped provide food on their table.

In Apayao, PIAS (Poblacion, Imelda, Alem, San Luis) Farmers’ Association (FA) member Rosalyn Vea said “*Malagip*

ko iti rigat mi idi mangrugi lockdown, uray igatang iti bagas arig na arwan. Ngem idi nakaawat kamin iti livelihood nga agapo SAAD idi July, nabang-aran nak bilang maysa nga ina kin bilang maysa nga farmer ta adda meten iti paguyudan nu kasjay nga agkur-kurang pagsapulan mi kin makatulungak aglawlaw nu tay agkasapulan da iti quail egg nga agserbi a kanen da.”

(I remember the struggle during the start of the COVID-19 lockdown; we can’t even afford to buy rice. But when we received the interventions from the SAAD program, I felt lighter as a mother and a farmer because I have an additional source of income. I am also happy to produce food for our consumers by selling quail eggs, a valuable contribution to our community as well.)

In Mountain Province, Doccos Farmers Organization, Inc. member Palonga Mangusan said, “*Mayat kami tay maid na-CoVid ken dakami tay talaga nga sha nan sustansiya mi tay insibsibo mi san inyala yu tay dumakkel da ket limitado nan kuti gapu is lockdown ket naibatog isnan pinag-aani sunga sha et nan abasto mi.”*

(We remained free from the CoVid-19 virus because we were sustained by the chicken intervention from the program at the height of lockdown. Also, the stocks obtained market weight in time with our local rice harvest season, thus, became our supply.)”



Kalinga



Kalinga

DA-SAAD in Apayao, Mountain Province, and Kalinga provinces

DA-SAAD CAR Operations Officer Balag-ey Claver said, “We experienced setbacks from both the pandemic and the ASF from last year, deliveries were delayed because of restricted movement control measures in the local government units, while our swine program was also hit with the ASF, now we are focused on capacity building of our FCAs, so they are better equipped to overcome these challenges.”

Today, the setbacks are being addressed to keep the program on track with its goal to create better opportunities for SAAD organized FCAs in CAR.

Since the SAAD project started in 2016, the three areas of concern for the region have grown to become what the program aims to achieve.

As farmers learn to delve into enterprise, the SAAD program continues to empower, assist and enjoin communities to become part of the new breed of farmers, ready for the world of development and entrepreneurship.

*Writer: Maria Elena Catajan
Information Officer 1 - Cordillera*

Sources: SAAD Information Officers for Mountain Province, Kalinga, and Apayao



Mountain Province





DA-SAAD Pass on Scheme and Swine Repopulation Program Seen to Boost Cordilleras Local Swine Industry

The Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) implemented a swine repopulation program aimed at revitalizing the swine population in its covered barangays affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF).

This initiative complements the objective of the DA's regular programs specifically the Integrated National swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Project, Bantay ASF sa Barangay (BaBay ASF), and the Rehabilitation and Repopulation Assistance Program which aims to accelerate the recovery of the Philippine Swine Industry by enhancing hog production to ensure availability, accessibility, and affordability of pork and pork products.

Covering the provinces of Apayao, Kalinga and Mt. Province, the SAAD program assisted 36 barangays with the same number of farmer organizations. Of the 36 organizations, 363 individuals benefited. In Apayao, there are beneficiaries with two sows assisted thereby, making the total number of sows supported to 382.

"The swine repopulation activities of the SAAD is its swine feeding program and this is done by providing feeds and biologics such as multivitamins to 10 beneficiaries per organization who have existing sows," shared JR Balag-ey A. Claver, SAAD Operations Officer.

Swine plays a big part in the cultural practices and traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of the Cordillera Administrative

Region. When the ASF hit the region, the hog industry of the region was greatly affected thus, some provinces were put under the red zone. Despite the seemingly high price of hogs, pork is still in demand and farmers still continued with their swine production activities amidst the threat of the ASF.

With swine production still at full swing and with the persistence of members of the SAAD assisted farmers organizations, the swine repopulation or swine feeding program pushed through.

Swine feeding program implementation

Three hundred sixty-three (363) partner beneficiaries received the swine repopulation program assistance from the SAAD in August this year. The repopulation program includes a package of interventions and each individual beneficiary received assistance amounting to PhP 31,308-31,605. The package consist of swine feeds from breeder to pre-starter feeds and other biologics. To sum it up, the swine repopulation or swine feeding program initiative of the SAAD cost Php 12,524,303.

Apayao beneficiaries received around PhP 2.4 million, Kalinga at PhP 5.4 million and Mt. Province around Php 4.6 million.

"Dakkel met ti naitulong na daytoy nga programa ta diyay panggatang mi kuma ti feeds ket nai-gatang mi ti kanen mi," (This program is very helpful because the amount we are supposed to spend in buying feeds, we use it to buy our food instead) says

WELCOME



Peregrina Dapitan, member of the Napua Timpuyog Farmers Association in Napua, Sabangan, Mountain Province.

Dapitan, just like other SAAD beneficiaries, was awarded 6 bags (50kg/bag) of hog gestating feeds (as feeding support from mating to farrowing), 6 bags hog lactating feeds (until weaning at 45 days), hog booster feeds (for an average of 12 heads of piglets for their first 14 days), hog pre-starter feeds good for 31 days, iron supplement (to be administered on the 2nd and 10th day of piglets from birth), and multi-vitamins and dewormer (at the 21st and 28th day after birth).

Moreover, to ensure continuity of the campaign and for more farmers to benefit from the program, the pass on dispersal scheme was put in place where beneficiaries (of the swine repopulation) have to pass on to two (2) female piglets to next in line members (one piglet per member). The next in line beneficiary, aside from the passed on piglet, is also entitled to a starter kit feed consisting of one bag starter feed from the program.

The dispersal scheme as per the implementing guidelines for the SAAD Program also requires beneficiaries to reserve two female piglets for possible procurement by the Office to further support its swine repopulation activities.

Provision of trainings and seminars to ensure hog quality production

The swine repopulation activities of the Program also includes trainings and seminars aside from the feed and biologics assistance. The Farmer Livestock School (FLS) is a season-long training with 24-26 learning sessions implemented to equip partner beneficiaries with the skill and knowledge on the proper production and management of swine. Included in the FLS topics are the proper feed formulation and application, weanling, castration, basic medical knowledge on the treatment of swine related diseases, among others. Technical staff from the Provincial/Municipal Local Government Unit (P/MLGU) agriculture or veterinary offices serves as the resource speaker

during the FLS sessions.

With the threat of the African swine fever and prior to the implementation of the FLS, biosecurity trainings were also conducted to provide beneficiaries with knowledge on how to take precautions to stop the spread of the ASF.

Learning from the various trainings provided, beneficiaries took drastic measures in implementing biosecurity measures. In Sadanga, Mt. Province, the SAAD organized Bekigan Farmers Association asked the help of the Barangay LGU in passing a resolution stopping their constituents from bringing in pork and pork products in the community. With these measures in place, Bekigan, despite its remote location, is now one of the major sources of hogs and piglets in the municipality.

In a different municipality, Henry and Wilma Bodisen of the Napua Farmers Timpuyog Organization (NFTO) in Sabangan observe strict sanitation practices before entering their pig pens. Aside from changing their shoes before entering, cleaning the pens every day or as needed, they also do not allow strangers to enter the area here there pigpens are located. Some members of the NFTO like Mrs. Peregrina Dapitan also installed notices informing other members of their barangay not to enter their pigpens.



Signs such as these were put up to discourage people from entering pigpen for biosecurity reasons.

Initial outcomes of swine repopulation activities

Presently, beneficiaries in the provinces started to pass on piglets on September 2021. Fifty three beneficiaries were able to pass on 53 piglets to deserving beneficiaries ready to engage in swine production activities making the pass on rate for SAAD Cordillera at 7%.

Of the 53 piglets passed, four are from Apayao, 25 from Kalinga, and 24 are from Mt. Province.

Seven hundred eleven (711) more piglets are expected to be passed on by SAAD beneficiaries soon. With this, beneficiaries are expected to properly manage their swine production business for the objective and goal of the swine repopulation or swine feeding program to be achieved.

*Writer: Mary Joy M. Metwa
Administrative Assistant V*



Peregrina Dapitan at her pigpen during monitoring activities done in Napua, Sabangan, Mt. Province



Piglets from SAAD assisted sows.



SAAD Cordillera Backed by Local Government Units

Local Government Units pledged support for the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) in the Cordillera in a bid to help realize its goals.

In the region, the SAAD identified three provinces of concern; Kalinga, Apayao, and the Mountain Province forming part of the 30 priority provinces under the nationwide program.

These areas were chosen due to a high poverty incidence rate among families that were given assistance both in agriculture and fisheries since 2017.

SAAD in Apayao started in 2017 while the program started in Kalinga and Mountain Province in 2019.

The project components of SAAD include program management, social preparation, production and livelihood interventions, and marketing assistance and enterprise development.

The SAAD Program aims to give agriculture interventions on animals, crops, and fisheries to identified beneficiaries with the help of corresponding offices in the regional and provincial levels.

Under the One DA Reform Agenda's 18 key strategies, the department continues to encourage active participation and partnership with different sectors in establishing more agri-based industries in the countryside, developing markets for agriculture products, and continuously nurturing partnerships with local government units and individual provinces.

Apayao – DA SAAD renew support systems

The Office of Governor Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang pledged its continued support for the success of the poverty alleviating

program.

The governor stressed willingness of the province to collaborate and supplement the DA SAAD programs with the support of the Provincial Administrator Atty. Maria Elena Theresa Ravelo, Provincial Agriculturist Prudencio Bossing, and Provincial Veterinarian Ralph Verson.

In Luna, Apayao, the sheep or “karnero” project has been effective to tide beneficiaries over the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic as relayed by the 158-member strong Upstream Livelihood Farmers’ Association (UPFA) which is now gearing to elevate the project into a multiplier farm enabling the organization to produce more sheep and supply adjoining areas of the commodity.

In Conner town, the Calaoan Livelihood and Farmers Cooperative Association (FCA) have been DA SAAD beneficiaries since 2016, composed of women who have found an enterprise in backyard farming are reaping the benefits of agriculture in the sale of talong, pechay, kamatis, upo, squash, sili, and patola.

SAAD Program in Kalinga backed by LGU

Kalinga Representative Allen Jesse Mangaoang and Governor Ferdinand Tubban backed the SAAD Program and guaranteed continued support as they encouraged the involvement of local government units (LGUs) to supplement the program's needs in a bid for a successful implementation geared to alleviate poverty.

“I hope that our mayors and councilors are present during assessments for them to also consider the help their offices may impart. It will also make them motivated resulting in a



HEIRLOOM RICE CONSOLIDATION,
PROCESSING
AND MARKETING ENTERPRISE





Apayao Governor Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang with Provincial Administrator Maria Elena Ravelo, provincial Agriculturist Prudencio Bosing and Provincial Veterinarian, Ralph Verson in a meeting with SAAD –Apayao Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer, Nicasio Baucas.

more competitive disbursement of SAAD funds in Kalinga and Cordillera as a whole,” Mangaoang said.

In the province of Kalinga, the success of the Bawac, Darulog, Allubaggan and Pagugo Farmers Association in their table eggs production project is seen in the sales and harvest from their chicken multiplier farm in Tanudan town.

The SAAD projects include production of corn, rice, fruit trees, livestock, and poultry aimed to empower communities to achieve sustainable enterprises in order to overcome poverty.

Nine out of ten barangays that started in 2019 were identified to graduate from the program this year, the barangays include the following: Ableg, Cagaluan, and Malucsad of Pasil; Dupligan, Mabaca, and Pangol of Tanudan; and Balbalan Proper, Maling, and Dao-angan of Balbalan with SAAD still providing technical assistance for farmers in the areas to reach their full potential.

SAAD in the Mountain Province

In the Mountain Province, Representative Maximo Dalog Jr. foresees an extension of the SAAD not only in his Congressional district but in other areas in the country needing government support to improve the production and livelihood of farmers and fisherfolks.

Dalog said a resolution was filed in the lower house by members of Congress seeking an extension of SAAD after seeing the positive contribution of the said program to their selected constituents.

“There was a house resolution filed by Representative Elisa T. Kho of Masbate because of the success of SAAD, they wanted this to be emulated in other areas in the country which are not SAAD identified areas since they saw the success stories of those beneficiaries of DA-CAR SAAD to which the resolution is centered on extending the program.

“A house resolution is keen to seek an extension of the

SAAD CORDILLERA BACKED
BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

program which will depend on our economic managers if they can fund this, even if a province may be identified as a first-class province having economic or financial capabilities, but what about those municipalities within that province that are identified as fourth or fifth class municipalities that would have the opportunity to undergo the program of SAAD. For us who are personal witnesses of this DA-CAR SAAD program, we are praying that this would be extended,” Dalog said.

For the Mountain Province, in Dalican town, the Channeg Farmers Association (CFA) composed of women elders and mothers attest to a sustainable livelihood in the DA SAAD quail egg production project with a production of 250 eggs achieved daily and sold to ready markets in the province.

*Writer: Maria Elena Catajan
Information Officer - Cordillera
Sources: Sheena Phine B. Pisco-Dayagon
Jonathan Llanes, Information Officers 1*



Mountain Province Congressman Maximo Dalog Jr. and SAAD Cordillera Operations Officer Balag-ey Claver lead the distribution of various interventions to identified farmer beneficiaries in Sadanga. Dalog called on farmer beneficiaries to take care of interventions received that will help improve on their production.



APCO Bontres Goyo presenting the overview of the activity during the conduct of the SAAD Provincial Midyear Assessment attended by LECs, PLGU and MLGU representatives, and SAAD staff held on July 1-2, 2021



Kalinga LGU's Kalinga House Representative Allen Jesse Mangaoang delivering his message during the conduct of the SAAD Provincial Mid-year Assessment held on July 1-2, 2021.

CAR Tops Obligation of Goods and Services Nationwide

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Cordillera Administrative Region tops obligation requirements to serve beneficiaries.

The CAR has been placed in the top three out of 11 regional DA-SAAD operating units for obligation rate which include Region 8 (97%), Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) [93%], and Region 5 (90%).

Obligation means commitment of funds for the purchase of goods and services to fulfill activities for DA-SAAD’s major components such as program management, social preparation, production and livelihood interventions, and marketing assistance and enterprise development.

Meanwhile, the program disbursed 53% or Php 599 million of the obligated funds. The top three regional operating units for the disbursement rate are Region 9 (88%), Region 12 (79%), and CAR (70%). Disbursement means funds are paid to the suppliers.

Overall, the Program reported an obligation of 84% of its FY 2021 General Appropriations Act (GAA) allotted fund amounting to Php 1.49 billion (Table 1) during the FY 2021 Year-End Assessment conducted from November 29 to December 3 in Puerto Princesa, Palawan.

The SAAD Program is implemented by two operating units – the DA for the agriculture sector and the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for the fishery sector.

Table 1. Overall SAAD Financial Accomplishment in 2021 as of November 30, 2021

SAAD OU*	Allotment	Obligation	% Obligation	Disbursement	% Disbursement
Total	1,492,782,000	1,249,236,961	84	668,490,492	54
Agriculture	1,365,147,000	1,131,640,280	83	599,876,930	53
Fishery	127,635,000	117,596,681	92	68,613,562	58

*Operating Unit

With the utilized funds for the agriculture sector, the program accomplished the following:

- 682 social preparation activities for 9,688 farmers and 297 groups with 3,610 members;
- 903 specialized training for 27,769 farmers;
- 500 livelihood projects for 3,516 farmers and 1,271 groups with 43,718 members; and
- 126 community-based enterprises for 128 groups with 3,940 members.

With limitations, changes, and challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, all regional implementers realigned some funds to adjust their operations.

SAAD Director Myer Mula reminded them that fund realignment is acceptable as long as it will be used for the provision of livelihood projects or any substantial activity for the benefit of the beneficiaries.

Table 2. FY 2021 Annual Agriculture Sector Fund Utilization

SAAD OU*	Allotment	Obligation	% Obligation	Disbursement	% Disbursement
Total	1,365,147,000	1,131,640,280	83	599,876,930	53
NPMO**	37,186,000	16,533,000	44	12,860.00	44
CAR	203,100,000	188,945,000	93	131,853.00	93
MIMAROPA Region	81,100,000	51,900,000	64	27,143.00	64
Region 5	178,317,000	160,059,000	90	95,933.00	90
Region 6	108,545,000	88,422,000	81	57,591.00	81
Region 7	102,672,000	76,977,000	75	21,692.00	75
Region 8	192,348,000	186,337,000	97	52,844.00	97
Region 9	113,111,000	100,898,000	89	89,143.00	89
Region 10	89,373,000	76,702,000	86	8,318.00	86
Region 11	56,298,000	42,231,000	75	5,731.00	75
Region 12	144,800,000	100,227,000	69	78,883.00	69
Caraga Region	58,297,000	42,409,000	73	17,886.00	73

*Operating Unit
**National Program Management Office

Fishery Sector

The implementation of the SAAD Program for the fishery sector is managed by the BFAR, an attached bureau of the DA.

BFAR-SAAD Alternate Focal Person Arnel Villanueva reported 92.14% obligation out of Php 127 million budget in 2021.

CAR TOPS OBLIGATION OF GOODS
AND SERVICES NATIONWIDE

From the Php 117 million obligated funds, 58.35% were already disbursed (Table 4).

With the utilized funds for the fishery sector, the program accomplished the following:

- 45 social preparation activities for 139 fishers and 92 groups with 1,934 members;
- 66 specialized training for 2,370 fishers;
- 69 livelihood projects for 4,626 fishers and 146 groups with 4,017 members; and
- 11 community-based enterprises for 11 groups with 792 members.

Table 3. FY 2021 Annual Agriculture Sector Physical Accomplishment

SAAD OU*	Social Preparation Activities	Specialized Training	Livelihood Projects	Community-based Enterprises
Total	682	903	500	126
CAR	34	219	151	18
MIMAROPA Region	8	5	18	9
Region 5	0	88	42	12
Region 6	38	161	70	3
Region 7	45	70	13	0
Region 8	350	62	30	14
Region 9	15	23	79	36
Region 10	0	6	41	0
Region 11	2	148	8	0
Region 12	186	86	15	29
Caraga Region	4	35	33	5

*Operating Unit

Table 4. FY 2021 Annual Fishery Sector Fund Utilization

SAAD OU*	Allotment	Obligation	% Obligation	Disbursement	% Disbursement
Total	127,635,000	117,596,681	92.14	68,613,562	58.35
CO**	1,840,000	982,764	53.41	877,317	89.27
CAR	21,633,000	20,691,810	95.65	16,790,681	81.15
MIMAROPA Region	11,200,000	9,368,294	83.65	5,779,442	61.69
Region 5	2,180,000	2,024,950	92.89	1,580,972	78.07
Region 6	21,500,000	20,114,689	93.56	6,388,833	31.76
Region 7	15,855,000	15,600,102	98.39	9,410,435	60.32
Region 8	2,300,000	1,750,392	76.10	1,538,246	87.88
Region 9	260,000	0	0	0	0
Region 10	23,260,000	21,132,805	90.85	16,924,611	80.09
Region 11	3,560,000	3,272,692	91.93	1,665,224	50.88
Region 12	947,000	725,746	76.64	414,700	57.14
Caraga Region	23,100,000	21,932,438	94.95	7,243,101	33.02

*Operating Unit
**Central Office

Since BFAR's implementation is limited to three years per covered province, the program will no longer receive a budget in 2022 if its proposed funds will be disapproved.

In the Cordillera, from 2017 to 2021, SAAD's operations in

Apayao covers 45 Farmers Cooperative Associations or FCA's in 123 Barangays with 125 projects, Kalinga covers 50 FCA's in 43 Barangays with 58 projects, while Mountain Province covers 50 FCA's in 44 Barangays with 64 projects, all-in-all having a total of 145 FCA's covered in 210 Barangays in the region with 237 projects.

Table 5. FY 2021 Annual Fishery Sector Physical Accomplishment

SAAD OU*	Social Preparation Activities	Specialized Training	Livelihood Projects	Community-based Enterprises
Total	45	66	69	11
CAR	0	32	6	0
MIMAROPA Region	11	0	16	0
Region 5	0	0	0	0
Region 6	0	0	15	2
Region 7	10	2	8	0
Region 8	0	0	0	0
Region 9	0	0	0	0
Region 10	0	0	9	6
Region 11	7	12	7	0
Region 12	0	0	0	0
Caraga Region	17	20	8	3

*Operating Unit

What to expect in 2022

FYs 2023-2028 Strategic Planning Workshop

With a possibility to be extended for another 6 years of implementation, which was backed up by two House Resolutions through the Committee on Rural Development led by Representative Elisa Kho, the DA-SAAD will conduct a workshop to improvise plans and projections for FYs 2023 to 2028.

*Writer: Maria Elena Catajan
Information Officer - Cordillera*



The DA SAAD CAR Team



DA-SAAD CAR

Department of Agriculture
Special Area for Agricultural Development
Cordillera Administrative Region

SUCCESS STORIES

APAYAO





HISTORY

Poverty reduction remains the overarching goal of the Philippine government. It has been a recurring challenge in the country and has come to the fore in the current global financial crisis.

With the level of poverty, agricultural and fishing sectors have been considered as the backbone of the society, which directly contributes to public needs and food security. Yet despite their crucial role, agricultural workers remain impoverished and most disadvantaged groups in society.

To be considered non-poor, a family with 5 members must earn at least P8, 778 a month. An individual also needs to earn at least P10, 534 for six months so he or she won't be considered poor.

Poverty Situation

Following the trend of poverty rate in the country, it was year 2010 when the Province of Apayao of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in Northern Luzon landed 3rd among the poorest provinces with 54% poverty incidence.

The province was a densely populated with an area of 4,413.35 square kilometres and a population of only 112,636 has recorded 3rd among the poorest provinces of the country with 54.7% poverty incidence, said National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

While Philippine Statistics Authority's (PSA) report said, it was 2018 when the province made a 22.1% significant decrease of its poverty incidence rate among families which is now 16%.

The data can be interpreted that in a family of five, an annual per capita income of P23, 135 is required to meet the basic food and non-food requirements.

In the 2019 record of the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP), it shows that the area occupies the largest part in the whole region of CAR with 5, 113 square kilometres. Through this, about 76% of the total households were dependent on agricultural production.

But just like many farmers, despite the vast agricultural land suitable for farming, sustainability remains as the major development concern.

In hopes to lessen the poverty rate, the Philippine Government through Department of Agriculture on 2017 - has signed the special program called Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD), which aims to ease the in despair living condition of the less fortunate members by providing livelihood projects to target farmers.

Physical and Agricultural Background of Apayao

Apayao is composed by 7 municipalities namely Pudtol, Luna, Sta. Marcela, Flora, Calanasan, Conner, and Kabugao. The province has 133 barangays, of which SAAD covered all barangays from 2017 to 2021.

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.

Palay shares the biggest production area with 23, 682.13 hectares (ha) from the total commodities in the province, followed by high value commercial crops with 9, 694.91 ha, and corn with 8,690 ha.

About SAAD Program

From SAAD program's inception, there were already beneficiaries from 133 different barangays that had taken steps to improve their capabilities into efficient food producers. From 2017 to 2021, the province implemented 163 livelihood projects and was given to 48 farmer's associations with 6,189 members.

In Upper Apayao, comprising the municipalities of Conner, Kabugao, and Calanasan, 78 projects were granted to 33 farmers' associations.

The projects are Integrated Fruit Trees, Cash Crops Production and Vermi Composting Facility, Duck Production, Sheep Production, Pekin Duck Production, Upgraded Goat Production, Integrated Fruit Trees and Cash Crops Adapting Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), Integrated Duck and Coffee Production, Goat Production, Fruit Trees and Cash Crops, Upgraded Carabao Production, Upgraded Goat Production, Poultry Production, Swine Production, and Quail Production.

Similarly, there were 85 projects granted to 15 groups to Lower Apayao composed of the municipalities of Luna, Sta. Marcela, Flora, and Pudtol. The projects are the Vegetable Production, Poultry and Egg Production, Chicken Production, Quail Production, Free-range Egg and Layer Egg Production, Sheep Production, Duck Production and Processing, and Chicken Production.

The birth if SAAD program in the province is undeniably provided better livelihood opportunities to its target beneficiaries, the low-income groups or the poorer sectors in particular.

In mid-2020 during the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, there were disruptions in the project implementations. Moreover, measures were strategically done to pursue what the program intends to deliver.

To showcase the transparency of the program and possible convergence towards the achievement of its goals, SAAD Apayao remained united in partnering with Provincial Project Management Team (PPMT) and Local Government Units (LGUs).

As of December 2021, Apayao had already implemented 142 social preparation activities, which covered 3,895 participants, 48 Package of Technology (POT) training provided to 1,153 farmers, and 64 specialized training provided to 2,484 farmers



Groups

48



Group Members

6,202



Number of projects

152



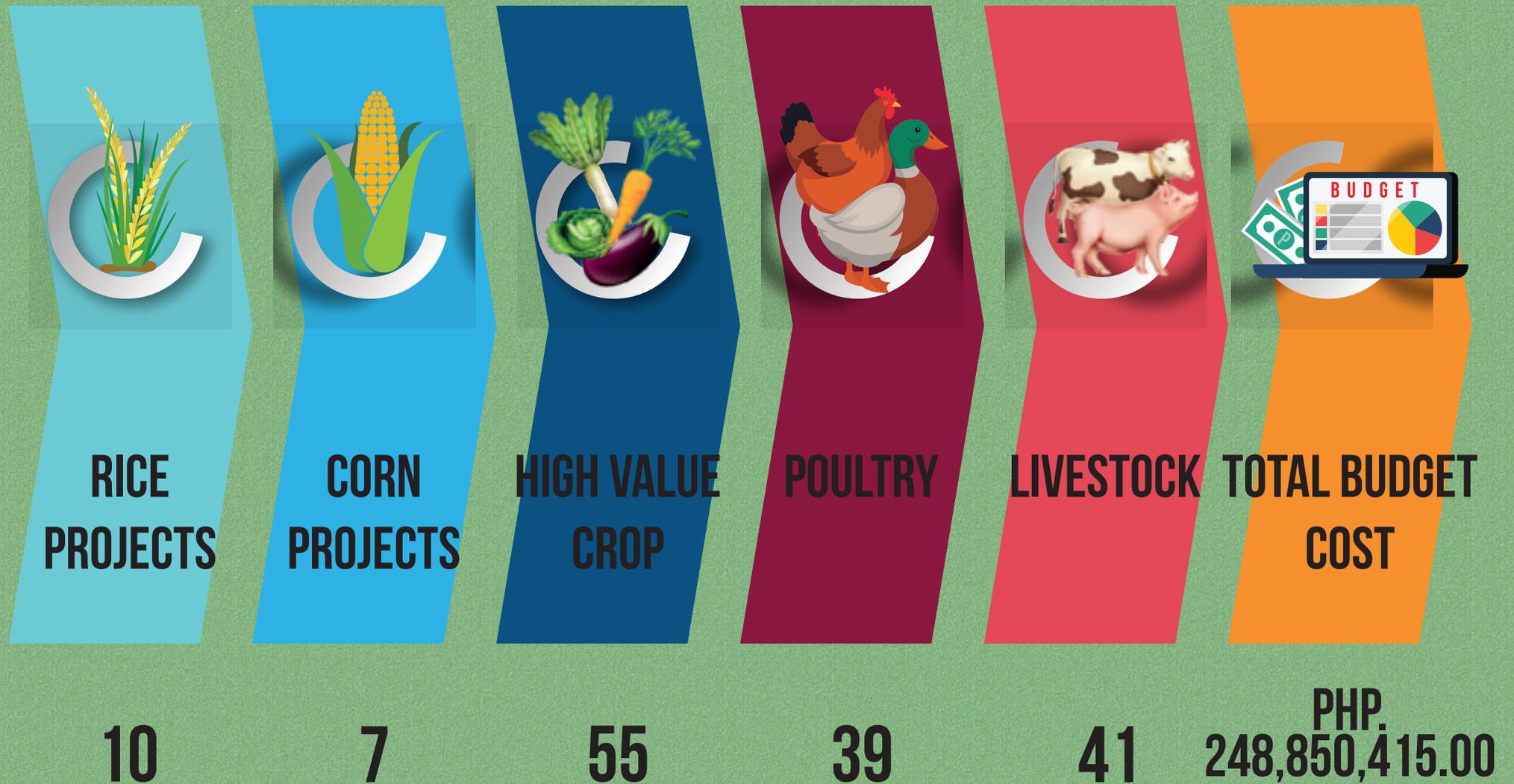
Covered Barangays

133



APAYAO

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Total numbers reflect data since 2017 until 2021

Farmer Converts Adversity into Opportunity

SAAD beneficiary, Anne Sacro, who built her own house through farming has inspired Iyapayao farmers to persevere while cultivating state-sponsored agricultural projects.

Anne, a mother of four, is married to 56-year-old farmer Rolando Sacro. She works multiple jobs to support and feed her family. She earns Php 300 doing laundry twice a week and gets paid Php 350 as an on-call tailor.

She also works as a farm laborer and gets paid Php 250 every week, which allows her to earn at least Php 1,000 per cropping season with farm work lasting for a month. Anne shared that in circumstances where her income is reduced, her family only eats twice a day.

“Dimakel nak nga narigat iti biyag mi ngem iti han pulos kaya iti riknak ket tay makitak nga haan nga makapangan iti usti iti annak ko nga uppat (I grew up not knowing what life is beyond poverty. Witnessing my four children being deprived of their basic needs motivates me to further persevere for a better life.),” said Anne.

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

“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 (Previously, our house was a nipa hut. We used to experience flooding inside our house due to natural hazards caused by typhoons.),” shared Anne.

In 2015, Anne and her husband engaged in rice cultivation in a 3-hectare (ha) farm as a tenant. She shared that they are getting paid at least Php 20,000 as net income twice a year – from dry season to wet season.

Anne shared that she learned about SAAD program when

field implementers went to their Barangay for community consultation.

Later in 2019, SAAD Program was launched in the municipality and tapped the Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association (ULFA) where Anne is an active member.

The association received livelihood production projects on rice, corn, buffalo, sheep, poultry, and fruit trees.

The Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association (ULFA) is a clustered group composed of five barangays – Dagupan, Shalom, Bacsay, San Gregorio, and Salvacion that principally rely on agriculture as their source of income. They earn Php 1,050 a day as farm laborers during cropping seasons.

The group which was registered at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on July 10, 2017 was composed of 158 members, who are identified as vegetable growers.

When the program implementers of SAAD learned about the problem, the cluster was granted with 5 units of rain shelter and farm tools in support of their Vegetable Production Project, which costed Php 613,700.00.

Rain shelter was provided to them to protect their crops from rainfall and regulate humidity and temperature through its open sides.

Project Implementation

Since the association is composed of clustered Barangays, the units of rain shelter were provided to every Barangay to cater to beneficiaries from their residential areas; 2 units of rain shelter in Brgy. Shalom, 1 unit of rain shelter in Brgy. San Gregorio, 1 unit of rain shelter in Brgy. Salvacion, and 1 shared unit of rain shelter





Anne added with the benefits of a rain shelter, she boosted vegetable crops which allowed her to accumulate income.

in Brgy. Bacsay.

The members noticed a significant improvement in vegetable farming utilizing the rain shelter for their seedlings during the growing stage.

Intervention	Price per unit/ piece (Php)	Project Cost
4 Rain shelter	120,000	480,000
2 Knapsack sprayer	3,000	6,000
11 Shovel	500	5,500
22 Seedling tray	100	2,200
Total project cost		493,700.00

As a supplementary project, the group was also provided with Poultry Production inputs amounting to Php 135,000, comprising 270 free range chickens in December 2019. Each member received five chickens worth Php 2,500.

Sales acquired from selling vegetable harvests

After the project implementation, Anne initiated propagating vegetable seedlings in the rain shelter.

She used her 5,000 square meters area for vegetable production, where she cultivated tomato, eggplant, bitter gourd, chili, cabbage, pechay, nalta jute, sponge gourd, pole sitao, and bottle gourd.

She produced and sustained her vegetable production from dry season of August 2019 until wet season of November 2021. With this, she was able to earn Php 63,930.00 from a total of six cropping seasons.

From her earnings, she was able to set aside their budget for the construction of their house.

Sales Acquired from Poultry Production

Meanwhile, Anne also became a recipient of poultry production in 2019. With this she attests that she earned Php 12,290.00.

Through this, she bought five cavans of rice at Php 2,500/ cavan (50 kilograms) and even saved up for the next month's food supply to support her family during the height of COVID-19 pandemic.

Anne reared the chicken for 7 months and gathered 40 chicks in August 2020. Five of these were immediately turned over to the next grantee.

She started a small poultry farm business from the remaining 40 chicken, which includes the original stock. She sold both chicken and eggs.

From December 2020 to January 2021, Anne sold 15 chickens at Php 750 each giving her an income of Php 11,250.

She also earned from selling eggs at Php 130/tray. So far, she sold 8 trays (24 pieces each) and gained Php 1,040.

As of February, Anne has 25 remaining chickens which she plans to reproduce to share with her co-members whose chicken died from pest infestations.

Anne added that she is willing to guide and help the other 53 members to produce more stocks. She is planning to buy an egg incubator that would help in her poultry production.

Following Anne Sacro's Journey

As a wife, she also shared that with her husband, they made good teamwork when it came to handling their finances.

Anne reiterated that while working as a farm laborer, laundry helper, and vegetable grower, her husband works as a tenant of a 3 ha rice farm.

From her multiple jobs, she attested that she would always save at least 10% from her total income while her husband would also allocate 20% from their earnings in rice farming for the construction of their dream house.

Through perseverance, Anne shared that whatever job is available as long as it contributes to her personal growth, she would always indulge herself just to earn and save money for their dream house.

"Kanayun ko nga panunuten idi nga uray kasano karigat iti ubra, nu ammom nga gudwaen iti prayoridad mo, ado iti mabalin nga kabaalam. Isu nga han lang nga pagsusumikap iti naadal ko nu kidi nu kasano nga ikkan iti importansya iti oras nga agtar-taray (It's not about how much time you have. It's about how



Anne also became a recipient of poultry production in 2019. With this she attests that she earned Php 12,290.00 from selling eggs produced in their community.



Anne Sacro's nipa house where they used to experience flooding.



Anne Sacro on showing her new house located in Brgy. Bacsay, Luna, Apayao.



Anne proudly shared that her journey in rearing the poultry stocks was not easy but was happy that her labor paid off.



Vegetable harvest.



During the SAAD field visit, Anne showed the old family house and explained how devastating it could be to live in a dilapidated nipa house.



As a vegetable grower, anne was proud to show her growing crops during the field visit in Brgy. Bacsay, Luna, Apayao.

effectively you manage your time. For me, who belongs to the marginalized sector, I've learned the good impact of proper time management to uphill the battle against poverty. If you're not managing your time well, there's no way you're going to reach your goals.)," shared Anne.

Anne also added that with the benefit of the rain shelter provided to the association, she boosted her vegetable crops which allowed her to accumulate more income from selling in their locality.

"Maraming Salamat SAAD, dakel iti naitulong na kanyak etuy nga proyekto (Big thanks to SAAD for helping me and my family towards greater progress)," added Anne.

Inspired by the success of Anne, the FA members plan to organize a communal garden, so they can work together to achieve a significant pay-off to improve labor productivity and to supply their community with fresh vegetables.

For many farmers, the dream to provide a better life for themselves and their families is inherent and with the help of the SAAD Program, coupled with self-determination and perseverance this can be achieved.

Since Anne is still waiting for her livestock to produce a supply of eggs, she managed to maximize her resources in vegetable gardening. As a result, she invested her Php 5,000.00 in egg retailing.

Later on, she was able to earn Php 13,000.00. To further boost her business as egg seller, she used her earnings to purchase a sidecar to transport their products around their community.

Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy

Information Officer I, Province of Apayao

Sources: Self-Determination Theory (SDT) of motivation, Deci & Ryan, 1985, 2000

Retrieved from: <https://positivepsychology.com/self-determination-theory/>

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Sustaining Tradition and Enterprise

Basi-Making in Apayao, Now a Family Enterprise

The sacred art of winemaking of the Isneg indigenous cultural community in the Province of Apayao is a skill passed on from generation to generation and through the Department of Agriculture (DA), the balance between tradition and enterprise has been met.

“Etuy nga pinagaramid iti wine ket namana mi pay kin agitay ninuno mi, iti pagikab-kabilan mi nga talaga ket jar... Agita a jar ket inpasa pasa iti ninuno mi metlang, daduma dita a jar ket ada iti gold na. Idi sinauna-nu ada gatherings, haan nga mabalin nga agceleberate kami nu mapukaw iti basi/ wine. Bilang etuyen ket parte iti tradisyon mi. Itan ket, etuy a tradition mi ket am-amo iti kaadwan nga Say-am Festival dituy Apayao (We inherited this winemaking from our ancestors; we put our finished product in an earthen jar. These jars are also rooted in our ancestors; some of those are made of gold. In ancient times, whenever there were gatherings, it was not possible to celebrate without basi/wine. This has been part of our tradition. Nowadays, our tradition is popular as the Say-am Festival here in Apayao.)” Reine C. Dullit of the Isneg Tribe said.

Dan M. Sagli, Municipal Agricultural Technician, said wine in the highland town is called basi, derived from sugarcane and fermented using a local herb samak, as a yeast agent.

Sagli added that wine plays a vital role in traditional rituals, giving meaning to their unity. For example, using basi to wash

the hands of two people who have had a peace agreement, binding them to the pact.

Isneg rites are often for elaborate occasions with everyone in the community preparing and looking forward to the gatherings for marriage, illness, death, harvest, farewells, political negotiations, or honoring family members for achievements.

The Say-am Festival, celebrating Apayao’s founding day, is also the grandest celebration in thanksgiving among the Isneg community.

From tradition to a family business

Dullit said the process of winemaking involves harvesting sugarcane which includes washing and cleaning of the stalk to remove excessive dirt. The dapil or pressing to extract the juice is then done followed by the panag-alna which involves cooking and boiling of extracted juice and adding the samak. Incubation of the wine takes a month, allowing it to ferment. The wine will be ready after 12 months or a year.

It was in 2000 that Dullit decided to market their homemade basi as an enterprise but was faced with difficulties in the tedious production process.

“Idi nu tay ag processing kami, pasaray nu haan nga bayanihan, man-mano kam lang ag labor. Nu bassit kami ag labor, bassit met iti maproduce mi a wine, kayat na saw-en basit met iti kita mi (Back



then when we were making wine, we just speed up the process if there is a bayanihan. When the number of laborers is small, then we can only produce a small quantity of wines, which also means that the income is low),” Dullit said.

Project Implementation

In 2017, 39 Isneg sugarcane farmers agreed to form the Kabugawan Farmers Association (KFA) and registered at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as a cooperative of rural workers. It was in the same year that the group was chosen as the beneficiary of the DA - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program. Through the SAAD program, the group was awarded with one unit of sugarcane presser worth Php 350,000.00 in 2018 under the Wine Production Project.

With the sugarcane presser, the group was able to produce 4,830 liters of wine in three years (2019-2021) with a net income of Php 93,900 as they worked on a 2.5-hectare sugarcane land at Barangays Kabugawan and Poblacion.

Table 1. Kabugawan Farmers’ Association Production Income

Year Prepared	Year harvested	Sold Basi (No. of liters)	Basi Production Gross Income (Php 1,500/20 liters)	Total Expenses (Php)	Basi Net Income (Php) (Php 1,500/20 liters)
2018	2019	1,475	29,500.00	0	29,500.00
2019	2020	2,850	57,000.00	2,700.00	54,300.00
2020	2021	505	10,100.00	0	10,100.00
Total		4,830	96,600.00	2,700.00	93,900.00

Association president Elpidio Ubbec said, “*Gapo kadetuy nga naited iti SAAD program, imalisto iti pinag dapil mi kumpara iti traditional nga pinagarami. Gapo ta imalisto, limag-an meten iti pinagubra mi kinad-adon iti maaramid mi a wine. Nu idi ket urayen mi iti duwa a aldaw sabbay mapuno tay jar, iten ket halos 30minutes*



Association president Elpidio Ubbec, demonstrating how to properly harvest sugarcane in farm area in Kabugawan, Calanasan, Apayao.

SUSTAINING TRADITION AND ENTERPRISE:

Basi-making in Apayao, now a family enterprise



Members of KFA on showing how to extract sugarcane juice using the presser provided by the SAAD program.



Rene C. Dullit, IP member on showing a local herb called "samak".

lang ket kaya mi punwenen tay maysa lang nga jar. Nanayunan pay iti pagalan mi income (Because of the intervention provided by the program, our wine processing became faster compared to the traditional way. Because of this machinery, the load became lighter and our production increased. Previously, we had to wait for two days before the jar was full, but now we can fill one jar in just 30 minutes. Also, as a result, we were able to accumulate additional income).”

Problems Encountered

According to Ubbec, one of the group’s problems was the decline of their sales during the height of COVID-19. He said due to restrictions in gatherings, their potential clients significantly decreased.

Despite the decline of potential clients, the group managed to practice bayanihan.

According to Ubbec, since the whole community was affected by the crisis due to the pandemic, they decided to focus on the brighter side. The group then distributed 990 liters of basi to their community.

“Practice min iti agpadawat iti basi dituy community mi. Idi kapijsa krisis gapo pandemic, nagipadawat kamin bilang simpatya iti kapwa Isneg (Bayanihan has been our practice. Due to COVID-19, many of us experienced crisis, as a form of sympathy, we distributed basi to our community),” expressed Ubbec.

Ways forward

As part of their plan, Ubbec said they are looking forward to packaging products to distribute basi to a wider market. He attested that they need more assistance in terms of product packaging because for him this serves as protection during shipment and to prevent damage while the stock sits on the shelf.

“The Municipality of Calanasan is looking forward to supporting the group in terms of marketing needs,” according to Municipal Agriculturist said Luisa Magna.

The Isneg community is only one of the tribes in the country,

each of which has its own distinct culture, language, history, and unique way of life but share common values.

Ubbec believes that in order to see the future, one must look at the past and cultural traditions - emphasizing basi as a sacred drink and a medium to reach the blessing of the “Allawagan” or “Skyworld.”

“Etuy nga wine production mi ket sapayla kuma ta dumanon iti kaadwan, haan lang nga tay aglako iti kayat mi nu di kitdi ikkan importansya iti legacy mi nga grupo. Agyaman kami iti SAAD program (We hope that this wine production will reach more people, we don’t just think about income but most importantly- is our legacy as a group. Big thanks to SAAD program,)” shared Ubbet.

*Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy
Information Officer I, Province of Apayao
Source: Dan Sagli, Municipal Agricultural Technician
Reine C. Dullit, IP member/Elder of the tribe*



The finished product, Basi.



From their earnings, the group was able to purchase a motorcycle.

SUSTAINING TRADITION AND ENTERPRISE:
Basi-making in Apayao, now a family enterprise



Members of KFA showing the ancient jar filled with basi wine in Brgy. Kabugawan, Calanasan Apayao.

To Greater Heights

Inang Piling's Dream of Establishing an Agritourism Site

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, though mainly focused on the marginalized members of rural communities, also encourages elder stakeholders to take part in the state's combat against poverty.

Felicidad Dela Cruz, or Inang Piling as she is fondly called, is a 72 year-old farmer and a member of the Upstream Livelihood Farmer's Association (ULFA).

Inang Piling, a mother of three, grandmother of six, and wife to Tatay Jose Dela Cruz, attests that farming has been their family's lifeline.

In her 30s, Inang Piling was a farm laborer. "*Gapo ta high school graduate nak lang ket, awan unay iti oportunidad ko nga agubra iti sabali idi tawen nga 1990s* (Since I am only a high school graduate I can only work as farm laborer back in 1990s)," she shared.

Inang Piling added that through farming, she and her husband were able to support their children's education. Her two children are college graduates, while the youngest is a college undergraduate.

Now, living with her 77-year-old husband, the couple's income comes from the yield of their backyard vegetable garden, and from raising chickens and ducks in their 7,500 square meters farm.

In 2017, she became one of the beneficiaries of the SAAD Program and is thankful for the opportunity that she strives to remain an active member.

As the saying goes, Inang believes that "age is just a number", adding senior citizens like her find purpose in indulging in productive activities, such as farming.

"Etuy nga sheep farm nga adda kanyak ket sapayla kuma ta

mapadakel pay ta agbalin to kuma met nga mabalin pagpasyaran iti tat-tao (This sheep farm that I have, I hope that one day this could turn into an agritourism site)," Inang Piling expressed.

The program believes that distributing capital inputs, capacity building, and training initiatives, partnered with modernization on both food production and post-production aspects shall create a new wave of diverse agricultural workforce. This is, especially among the marginalized, hopefully contingent on accessing the program's services to provide themselves food on the table, and have a competitive surplus for local enterprise establishment.

The Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA)

The Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association in Luna, composed of 158 members, is one of the province's SAAD-established farmers' cooperatives and associations.

The group, which was registered at the Department of Labor and Employment on July 17, 2017, is composed of members from five barangays – Dagupan, Shalom, Bacsay, San Gregorio, and Salvacion.

In 2019, the association received 29 sheep (25 ewes and 4 rams), supplemented with dairy feeds, forage seeds, biologics, and housing assistance worth Php 590,318.16. The project was proposed by the association after a community consultation.

Additional stocks were provided on August 26, 2020, comprising 52 ewes and one ram, with a package of sheep concentrates, mineral blocks, vitamins, wound spray, drencher, and galvanized wire. In total, the project cost was Php 1,044,850.

Through granting sheep as capital stocks, the group engaged in sheep production, where 54 members were initially chosen to be the first-in-line beneficiaries of the said project.

According to the ULFA chairperson, Maxima Camayang,



Inang Piling is truly an inspiration to their association.

“Ni Inang Piling, maysa isuna nga kagagagetan nga miyembro. Isu maibagak nga pagtuladan isuna iti daduma nga miyembro. Ta uray kasano kinabaket nan, ay ket aramiden na amin iti makaya na tapno maipakita na nga deserving isuna nga maysa nga napili nga beneficiary ti program (Inang Piling is one of the most hardworking members of our association. I can bluntly attest that she is a good example to other members. Despite her age, she would pour her effort just to prove that she deserves to become one of the beneficiaries of the program.),” said Maxima.

Inang Piling’s sheep production from DA-SAAD

In 2019, Inang Piling became a SAAD Sheep Production Project recipient, receiving five sheep (four ewes and a ram) where 7 offspring were produced in September 2020.

“Ti pinagited yu iti tulong kadakami nga nakukurapay nga farmer ket makaited iti inspirasyon. Ita nga madama iti krisis iti COVID-19 pandemic, nagdakel nga tulong etuy nga pagbirukan nga naited kadakami. Gapun iti naaramid nga agreement iti miyembro

iti association mi, kada beneficiary babaen na etuy nga proyekto ket agited to iti offspring kin iti sumarunu nga beneficiary. Iti partek, agishare nak to iti lima nga offsprings. Tapnun nu kasta dumakel iti pakadanunan na etuy nga livelihood (Helping poor farmers like us is very inspiring. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great help for us. As an agreement between the members of the association, each recipient will be passing the offspring of the sheep to the next-in-line beneficiaries. For me, I will be sharing five offspring with the next grantee for this livelihood project to expand.),” shared Inang Piling.

Inang Piling sold three rams in her neighborhood at Barangay Dagupan, Luna, Apayao earning Php 13,000 on October 1, 2020. With this, they were able to cope amid community lockdowns. Aiming to organize her farm, Inang purchased five rolls of wire for her animal fencing worth Php 6,500.

Today, Inang Piling is rearing her five original sheep and four offspring to produce more.



Inang Piling said through farming, she and her husband were able to support their children’s education.



Inang Piling and her husband showing the 7,500 square meter farm. She is determined to develop the farm into an agritourism site to inspire other farmers.

Continuous pursuit despite old-age

As sheep production booms in Barangay Dagupan, Luna, Apayao, Maxima extends her gratefulness to Inang Piling.

“Iti naaramid ni Inang Piling ket pakaidayawan iti association mi ta nu han na kuma tinaraken nga nasyaat ay ket para kanyak ket awan kuma iti pakakitan kin pagsarmingan nga mapintas a ipadamag. Naragsak kami nga kakadwa ni Inang Piling ta makita mi nga dumak dakel kanyana tay proyekto (Inang Piling’s success made an impact on our association, if she didn’t take care of the animal stocks, I think, there’s no good story to be told that can be shared. As an association, we are happy for Inang Piling that despite her age, her project became bigger.)” added Maxima.

During the interview, Inang Piling shared that a new day is a new opportunity for self-growth. Her passion for farming and gardening keeps her active to continue developing her land to provide a comfortable and safe space for her animals. This might be one of the reasons why Inang remains healthy and strong through the years.

Inang Piling also shares how she rears her animal stocks, demonstrating compassion and very specific goals for the welfare of her animals. *“Dal-dalusan mi tay paginuman da once-a-week tapno haan nga narugit metlang (We usually scrub their drinker once a week to keep it disinfected),”* she shared.

The primary goal is to reduce stress through good management by regularly providing fresh and clean water for the sheep all day. She also added that a barn is essential to provide animal stocks with a shaded area, so when the weather changes, the animals will be safe.

“Tapno metlang haan da unay aglamin nu tay kapigsa tudu, ik-ikkan mi isuda iti ruut nga mabalin da pagidaan (For colder climates, we make sure that these animal stocks are clean and warm by giving them a thick bedding of hay),” Inang Piling added.

Be it for passion, or fulfilling suspended life-long dreams, or maybe just for an extra source of income, agriculture is a reliable road to take, a career choice that can address a wide variety of needs.

Inang Piling’s passion for farming is the main reason she and her husband want to establish additional animal housing to protect their animal stocks from harsh environmental climatic conditions, which may have adverse effects on the sheep’s performance and productivity; while her determination on establishing an agritourism site is to inspire other farmers to provide a healthy environment for their animals.

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Apayao Farmers to Foster Innovation in Agricultural Sector

Tractor service providers in Apayao, who are beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, earned an accumulated gross profit of Php 145,820 from 2018 to present operations.

The Malubibit Norte, Malubibit Sur, Anninipan, San Jose, Tamlunog (MAST) Farmer Cooperative Association (FCA) in Flora provides farm services through a four-wheel-drive tractor granted by the SAAD Program in 2018.

The FCA earned from rendering services to local farm owners from seven cropping seasons from 2018 to 2021.

MAST FCA with 44 members is a cooperative for rural workers, specifically for the underemployed and home-based workers with identified capabilities to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The group was registered at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on June 13, 2017, and received SAAD's Rice Production Project in 2016 worth Php 1.2 million.

"Iti nakay gawpanan nu apay ada narugranan mi ket immay kami nga kaykayasa nga beneficiaries iti SAAD program. Iti pinagtul-tuluy mi akas maysa nga sibibukel, ket isu iti makuna mi nga panakel (Coming together as beneficiaries of SAAD Program is our beginning. Moving forward as a group is our utmost success)," said Ferdinand Bagabay, chairperson of the MAST FCA.

As a service provider

According to Bagabay, the tractor supports major farm operations such as ploughing, harrowing, sowing, harvesting, transporting, and making land preparation easier both for corn and rice production areas.

Bagabay said the adaptation of the technology gives ease and improves farming activities compared to the manual methods.

Modernizing farming methods saves farm laborers' time and effort, which hopefully should translate to a more competitive means of production.

The tractor is rented at Php 2,000 per hectare (ha) which allowed the group to earn Php 145,820 for the combined total of 72.8ha of rice area serviced in 2018 until 2020 during the dry and wet seasons (Table 1).

Table 1. Gross Income from four-wheel drive tractor

YEAR	DRY SEASON AREA SERVICED (ha)	INCOME (DRY SEASON) (Php 2,000.00/ha)	WET SEASON AREA SERVICED (ha)	INCOME (WET SEASON) (Php 2,000.00/ha)	GROSS INCOME (b+c)
	a	b	c	d	e
2018	22.57	45,145.00	6.25	12,500.00	57,645.00
2019	8.43	16,875.00	6.19	12,380.00	29,255.00
2020	22.6	45,200.00	3.28	6,565.00	51,765.00
2021	3.57	7,135.00			7,135.00
Total	57.17	114,375.00	15.72	31,445.00	145,820.00

Table 2. Operation and Maintenance Cost of the four-wheel-drive tractor

RICE CROPPING SEASON	MAINTENANCE COST (Php)	LABOR COST (Php)	TOTAL EXPENSES (Php)
	a	b	(a+b)
DRY SEASON			
2018	22,509.00	6,214.00	28,723.00
2019	1,550.00	3,714.00	5,264.00
2020	17,804.00	5,240.00	23,044.00
2021	1,000.00	2,146.5	3,146.5
WET SEASON			
2018	8,075.00	1,250.00	9,325.00
2019	1,550.00	3,714.00	5,264.00
2020	1,485.00	656.5	2,141.5
TOTAL EXPENSES	53,973.00	22,935.00	76,908.00

From 2018 to 2021, the total expense for the maintenance



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of the machinery reached Php 53,973 (Table 2). It includes fuel, oil filter, oil change, and replacement of destroyed machine parts. The group also paid Php 22,935 for the labor cost.

Regular inspection and maintenance are done every cropping season to prevent further damages.

In total, the group earned a net income of Php 68,912 (Table 3).

Table 3. MAST FAs Net Income

RICE CROPPING SEASON	TOTAL GROSS INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET INCOME
DRY SEASON			
2018	45,145.00	28,723.00	16,422.00
2019	16,875.00	5,264.00	11,611.00
2020	45,200.00	23,044.00	22,156.00
2021	7,155.00	3,146.5	4,008.5
SUBTOTAL			54,197.5
WET SEASON			
2018	12,500.00	9,325.00	3,175.00
2019	12,380.00	5,264.00	7,116.00
2020	6,565.00	2,141.5	4,423.5
SUBTOTAL			14,714.5
TOTAL NET INCOME			68,912.00

The accumulated income per cropping season was apportioned into three: 50% for machine maintenance and labor costs, 30% for members' incentives, and 20% for the association's savings.

Problems Encountered and Plans

According to beneficiaries, the current modernization of farming groups resulted in losing potential clients and areas they can provide service for.

As part of their management plans, the group agreed to scout possible clients for the next harvest period, enabling them to secure next season's service operations.

"Imadon idi ada equipment na dituy ayan mi, isu nga talaga nga marigatan kami nga agala iti mabalin serbisyuan. Ngem iti nagtutulagan mi ket tapno ado kami idi maala nga kliyente ket sabbayan mi iti agkita nu sino iti mayat nga contrataen (Due to the increasing number of machinery in our area, we experienced difficulty in getting clients. To mitigate our problem, we agreed that before the cropping season, members will be looking for possible clients in advance.)" Bagabay shared.

The group now looks at the possibility of opening a cooperative bank account to secure the transparency of funds.

Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy, SAAD – Apayao Information Officer



Bernardo Sablot, member of MAST FA while working as service provider in the nearby communities of the Municipality of Flora, Apayao.



Nelmark Rasay, SAAD Project Development Officer together with Vivian Eda, treasurer of MAST FA.

APAYAO FARMERS TO FOSTER INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR



Ferdinand Bagabay, president of the FA and Sablot



Ferdinand Bagabay, President of MAST FA showing the awarded 4-wheel drive from the SAAD program during their farm operation.



Vivian Eda, assistant treasurer, showing earnings during dry season of 2021.



Bagabay showing how the tractor supports major farm operations such as ploughing, harrowing, sowing, harvesting, transporting.

SAAD Farmer Establishes Wider Livelihood Perspectives

Fifty-one-year-old Maxima Camayang - president Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association in Brgy. Dagupan, Luna, Apayao has established her fishery and piggery business after earning from the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program's vegetable production project.

“Para kinyak nga maysa nga naikkan iti benepisyo iti programa iti SAAD, dakkal iti naitulong na etuy nga rain shelter ta kasla abijay kakadwak, adan iti pag mulaak iti seedlings uray ana nga panawen. Gapo ta etuy nga rain shelter ket nagbalin nga katulungak, imado iti production ko ta idi arwan pay umanay lang nga pang pamilyak iti harvest ko bilang maysa nga agmul-mula iti nateng (Through the rain shelter vested by the SAAD program, I was able to boost my vegetable production. Before the SAAD Program grants us rain shelter, I can only yield vegetables for our family's consumption. But now that we have a greenhouse that can help us to produce more vegetable seedlings, I can now earn profit through selling around our locality.)” shared Maxima.

According to Maxima, she started to use FCA's rain shelter during the dry season of June 2019. Driven by a determination to further prosper, she managed to establish her own production area spanning 2,446 square meters (sqm).

Every harvest period, Maxima sold her produce to the community and saved an accumulated amount of Php 55,820 from five cropping seasons from June 2019 to May 2021 (Table 1). Using this, a fishery and piggery business was slowly established.

“Jay earnings ko kin agitay nalakwak ket insave ko tapno makapaaramidak iti fishpond. Gapo ta nakaawatak met iti 1,500

nga fingerlings agapo iti BFAR ninayunak met akas nga counterpart ko nga gimatang iti 1,000 nga fingerlings bilang pag rugyan (I initiated to take the opportunity to manage my earnings from vegetable production. I was lucky to invest my earnings into fishery. I was able to establish a fishpond, and with the help of BFAR, I was granted at least 1,500 fingerlings. In addition, on my part I purchased 1,000 fingerlings as an additional stock.)” shared Maxima.

As a regular program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Maxima was granted free fingerlings for her pond and purchased from her own pocket an additional 1,000 for her venture. She said she could not have established her 416 sqm tilapia farm if she did not improve her vegetable production through the SAAD rain shelter project.

“Nu amom iti rigat, talaga nga masur-surum iti ada determinasyon na (The struggle brought by poverty is my utmost determination),” she added.

Like all forms of agriculture, Maxima believes home gardening involves perseverance.

“Agyamanak iti SAAD program ta nu haan nga gapo kin etuy nga intervention, gana it kuma pelang ket haan nga kasta kangato iti namnamak iti vegetable gardening ta talaga nu idi ket pang family consumption lang nu apay nga ada iti home gardening ko (Big thanks to the SAAD program because of the vegetable production project, I was able to boost my home gardening which allows me to improve my harvests, resulting in more opportunities not only as a vegetable grower at home but also as a vegetable vendor that has community participation.)” said Maxima.



Table 1. Sales from five cropping seasons

CROPPING SEASON	VEGETABLE	NO. OF SEEDS (PER SACHET)	TOTAL HARVEST (kgs)	PRICE (Php/kg)	NET INCOME (Php)
Dry Season: July - August 2019	Pechay	1	25	40	1,000
	Eggplant	1	50	40	2,000
	Okra	1	50	40	2,000
	Tomato	1	3	15	45
	Pole Sitao	3	80	40	3,200
	Chili	1	4	60	240
	Bottle gourd	2	20	40	800
	Bitter gourd	2	30	50	1,500
	Ginger	1	30	100	300
Wet Season: September - December 2019	Pechay	1	25	40	1,000
	Eggplant	1	50	40	2,000
	Okra	1	50	40	2,000
	Tomato	1	3	15	45
	Pole Sitao	3	80	40	3,200
	Chili	1	4	60	240
	Bottle gourd	2	20	40	800
	Bitter gourd	2	30	50	1,500
	Ginger	1	30	120	3,600
Dry Season: July - August 2020	Pechay	1	25	40	1,000
	Eggplant	1	50	40	2,000
	Okra	1	50	40	2,000
	Tomato	1	3	15	45
	Pole Sitao	3	80	40	3,200
	Chili	1	4	60	240
	Bottle gourd	2	20	40	800
	Bitter gourd	2	30	50	1,500
	Ginger	1	30	150	4,500
Wet Season: September - December 2020	Pechay	1	25	40	1,000
	Eggplant	1	50	40	2,000
	Okra	1	50	40	2,000
	Tomato	1	3	15	45
	Pole Sitao	3	60	40	2,400
	Chili	1	4	60	240
	Bottle gourd	2	20	40	800
	Bitter gourd	2	30	50	1,500
	Ginger	1	30	150	4,500
Dry Season: May - June 2021	Pechay	1	10	40	400
	Baguio Bears	1	10	18	180
TOTAL					55,820.00

Plans of the FCA

The SAAD-led vegetable production project worth Php 493,700 was turned over to the Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association in 2019 which included four units of rain shelters, two knapsack sprayers, 11 shovels, and 22 seedling trays.

Composed of 158 members, the group was registered as a Farmer Cooperative and Association (FCA) of the SAAD and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

The members come from five barangays in Luna which include Dagupan, Shalom, Bacsay, San Gregorio, and Salvacion.

With the individual success of Maxima, the members of the Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association now plan to organize a communal gardening project to earn bigger profits and eventually establish a talipapa in their locality in a bid to sell varied local products and promote healthy eating habits in the community.

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Sources: Philippine Rural Development Plan Provincial
Commodity Investment Plan 2016-2019, 2020*



Through Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, the ULFA was provided with four units of rain shelters, two knapsack sprayers, 11 shovels, and 22 seedling trays in 2019.

SAAD FARMER ESTABLISHES WIDER LIVELIHOOD PERSPECTIVES



Maxima Camayang, president of ULFA on showing her piggery business after earning from the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program’s vegetable production project.



Maxima was able to invest in fishery after earning a substantial amount from the vegetable production project of the SAAD program.

Rice Harvester Rakes in Profit

The Malekkeg, Emiliana, San Carlos, San Antonio (MESS) Farmers Association (FA) in Sta. Marcela, Apayao registered a gross income of more than Php 2.1 million as a service provider of rice combine harvester for eight cropping seasons.

The province is composed of 7 municipalities with 133 barangays. 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.

Palay shares the biggest production area with 23,682.13 hectares (ha) from the total commodities in the province, followed by high value commercial crops with 9,694.91 ha, and corn with 8,690 ha.

Despite the province's vast agricultural land suitable for agriculture, poverty remains as the major development concern in the province.

Upon its selection, the province recorded a 38.1% poverty incidence rate among families in 2015.

"Naiyanakak nga marig-rigat dituy ili Sta. Marcela. Tattan, mamati ak iti hardwork a makun-kuna (I was born in a poor family in the Municipality of Sta. Marcela. Today, I strongly believe in hard work.)," shared Andres.

MESS with 72 members was registered in 2017 under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as a cooperative of rural workers, specifically for the underemployed and home-based workers in the community with identified capability to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The members of the group earned at a minimum monthly income of Php 5,000.00 from their one-hectare rice production area. But each of them could not afford the maintenance cost of their area which prompted them to borrow money for financing in every cropping season – from land preparation until harvest.

Andres expressed, most of the members are seasonal farm laborers, earning Php 1,250/week each. This income is not sufficient for a decent living as they could only afford 2-3 kilograms of weekly rice supply for their families.

He also shared that they can only provide the most basic needs of their family like enough food on the table. If they have 5 kgs of rice supply in a week, they would be contented.

Later in 2017, the MESS FA was chosen as beneficiary of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program when

the management staff had visited the area and identified them to be the recipient of the program livelihood projects.

Project Implementation

In 2017, the group received one unit of rice combine harvester worth Php 2.4 million.

The rice combine harvester enabled the association to provide farm labor services within and to the nearby communities. Froilan also explained that the group offers services on reaping and cutting the mature panicle and straw above the ground; threshing or separating paddy grain from cut crop; cleaning or removing the immature unfiller, non-grain material; bagging or putting the threshed grain in bags for transport and storage; and hauling or moving the cut crop to the threshing location.

Andres said that the machinery makes the harvesting process easier and faster. He said the adaptation of technology in agriculture gives comfort and efficiency from being a service provider until the hauling process.

Income as service providers

Through SAAD's rice combine harvester, machine operators during the cropping season get an additional estimated income of Php 1000 for each of the 12 weeks of the cropping season.

Andres also said that the adaptation of the technology gives ease and improves farming activities compared to the manual methods. Modernizing farming methods saves farm laborers' time and effort, which hopefully should translate to a more competitive means of production.

In four years from 2018 up to July 2021, the group already earned Php 1,972,697 (Table 1). Andres also told that their income in 2020 declined because of the restrictions due to the CoVID-19 pandemic.

"Idi tarwen nga 2020, bimaba iti kita mi ta marigatan kami mapan makitalon ta halos madi met mabalin rumwar dituy barangay mi gapo iti epekto iti COVID-19 lockdown, pasaray nu makarwar kami ket limited pay iti oras mi nga agyan iti ruwar gapo iti curfew hours (In the year 2020, we didn't earn that much because of the effect of CoVID-19 lockdown and travel restrictions imposed on our barangay. During those periods, we are lucky if we get a chance to render service in farm areas but since there are restrictions, our time is limited due to curfew hours.)," shared Andres.





Using the rice combine harvester, members of MESS FA during dry season of 2021 showed how the harvesting process makes their farm operation easier and faster.



The adaptation of technology in agriculture gives comfort and efficiency from being a service provider until the hauling process, said members of MESS FA during the field visit of SAAD monitoring activity.

Table 1. Gross income generated from harvester

Year	Total Rice area served during dry (ha)	Total Income during dry season (Php 5, 200/ha)	Total rice area served during wet season (ha)	Total income during wet season (Php 5, 200/ha)	Gross total income
	a	b	c	d	b+d
2018	72.05	374,660.00	58.75	305,500.00	680,160.00
2019	70.18	364,936.00	63.72	331,344.00	696,280.00
2020	49.65	258,180.00	24.19	125,812.00	383,992.00
2021	40.82	212,256.00	38	149,435.00	361,691.00
Total	232.7	1,210,032.00	184.66	912,091.00	2,122,123.00

Andres attests that their clients are private landowners. In each machine operation, the labor cost is subdivided into 6 people: the combine harvester operator, jeepney driver, and four palay baggers.

In exchange for their service, they are earning a minimum of Php 5,200 per hectare served, which allows the group to earn Php 1,210,041 for the 232.7 hectares (ha) of rice area served during the dry seasons from 2018 until 2021.

The same amount is charged per hectare during the wet seasons. The group earned Php 912,091 for 184.66 ha of rice area harvested in 2018 and 2021.

Table 2. MESS FAs Net Income

Rice cropping season	Total gross income	Total expenses	Net income
Dry Season			
2018	374,660.00	369,090.00	5,570.00
2019	364,936.00	257,050.00	107,886.00
2020	258,180.00	199,962.00	58,218.00
2021	212,265.00	212,265.00	-
Subtotal			171,674.00
Wet Season			
2018	305,500.00	399,307.00	33,807.00
2019	331,344.00	294,058.00	37,286.00
2020	125,812.00	119,836.00	5,976.00
2021	149,435.00	147,200.00	2,235.00
Subtotal			45,497.00
TOTAL NET INCOME	2,122,123.00	1,998,768.00	217,171.00

From their savings, the group was able to purchase a garage

shed worth Php 44,305 in 2018, a water pump worth Php 5,700 as means of moving water to maintain cleanliness of the machine, and a pre-owned jeepney worth Php 80,000 for logistic purposes in 2019.

Part of their expenses is members' incentives and maintenance of the machinery. From 2018 to 2021, maintenance reached up to Php 1.9 million, including incentives of members, fuel, oil filter, oil change, and replacement of destroyed machine parts. In total, the group had a net income of Php 217,171 (Table 2).

Association Policy

Following the agreed policy of the association, the accumulated income per cropping season will be divided into three: 35% will be allotted for the maintenance of the machinery, 30% for labor costs, and the remaining 35% will be deposited to the association's savings.

In each machine operation, the labor cost is subdivided into six people: the combine harvester operator, jeepney driver, and 4 palay baggers.

Meanwhile, other members of the association are getting incentives worth Php 1.00 per sack for every cropping season. Andres also shared that the members of the association also benefit from the 1% discount for every 10 sacks of rice for reaping.

Problems Encountered and Plan

In May 2018, the association constructed a garage shed for the machinery but was later destroyed by typhoon Ompong in September 2018. However, the said unpredictable calamity encouraged the association members to work harder. It's just a typhoon and they will do even better to construct another station.

"Tay bagyong Ompong ket dakel iti impact na. Malagip ko pelang tay layos, kinapigsa tudu na kin tay kinaado nga pinsala iti pagbyag. Ngem para kadami nga farmer, pagsyaatan lata iti adda panunut mi. Nu adda panakabalin na, agpatakder kami tu metlang sukat na etay napardi nga garahe tuy machinery (Typhoon Ompong had a great impact. I can still remember the typhoon strong rains and its damage to the livelihood of the community. For us farmers, we are always thinking of the betterment of the group. As we move forward, we are planning to construct another garage shed for the machinery)," Andres uttered.

With their total earnings, Andres shared that they are planning to purchase an additional truck for hauling to replace their old jeepney.

SAAD program on its part is providing continuous monitoring

to further guide the farmers in terms of their financial reports. Furthermore, the program also conducted Organizational Development and Management (ODM) and Book Keeping Training last June to equip their technical know-how, thereby increasing their awareness, proper communication, feedback, and interaction within the organization.

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Three members of the group on showing their farm operation in Brgy. Emiliana, Sta. Marcela, Apayao. They said that modernizing farming methods saves farm laborers' time and effort, a more competitive means of production.



The Malekkeg, Emiliana, San Carlos, San Antonio (MESS) Farmers Association (FA) in Sta. Marcela, Apayao registered a gross income of more than Php 2.1 million as a service provider of rice combine harvester for 7 cropping seasons.

IP Group Led Community Development

Radiating Malasakit sa Kapwa

The Bayanihan spirit or “collective effort” never left the hearts of the Ibanags, an indigenous peoples cultural community. The Ibanags are one of the early inhabitants in the villages of the Cagayan Valley engaged in agriculture, fishing and hunting as a means of subsistence.

Patricia Dumugo of the Nabuangan Region Farmers Association (NRFA) said the value of Bayanihan, and cooperation is alive in their culture, adding that working together has been a practiced belief that through collective effort, the community will reap a bountiful harvest.

Patricia said their tribe is committed to help a friends in need rooted in the spiritual practices saying it is what binds them as a group that believes that in order to reap abundance each must work equitably and embody mutual assistance regardless of social ranking, social structures, leadership roles, and authority relationships.

In Conner, eight Indigenous Peoples (IP) beneficiaries under the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program (SAAD) of barangay Paddoan pitched in to provide cash assistance to community members in need embodying the Program’s ultimate objective to empower marginalized rural communities.

Confronting the systemic rural margin setting

The Nabuangan Region Farmers Association (NRFA) in Conner, Apayao – one of the municipalities from the three SAAD priority provinces in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)

– has been receiving capacity building and livelihood support for two years.

While poverty is a collective impact of unequal access to opportunities, SAAD’s ultimate objective is to equip the target groups in or beyond the poverty threshold with opportunities, simultaneously providing livelihood resources in agriculture and in the process, promoting community morale, for a stronger sense of social capacity and influence.

This is SAAD’s approach to organize marginalized rural communities. To impart malasakit, the cultural practice of helping each other, as fundamental value to the context-sensitive social structures while trying to scale down the poverty gap.

Medical fund sourced from SAAD livelihood project

In 2019, Joseph Dumugo, husband of SAAD beneficiary Patricia, was diagnosed with dementia – a mental condition symptom usually associated with memory, communication, and thinking impairment.

Joseph was in dire need of psychological evaluation and medication to manage his symptoms.

In response, the beneficiaries of NRFA saved Php 8,500 from their Vegetable Production Project harvest earnings from June to July 2019. The cash donation was acquired from the FA’s profit after selling their vegetable harvests consisting of 10 kilograms (kg) of bitter melon worth Php 500, 8 kgs of pole sitao worth Php 3,000, and 100 kgs of beans worth Php 5,000 within the



community.

“Gapo ta kayat mi lang nga matulungan tuy kadwa mi a myembro metlang iti association, tay pag puunan mi kuma nga pang mentenar iti production mi, inted mi kanyana tay buo nga nalakwan mi tapno maipakita iti doctor tay asawa na nga ada iti disorder na. Gapu kin etuy nga program, natulungan na piman tay asawa ni Patricia Dumugo nga makapachek-up iti kasapulan na (Because we really wanted to help our co-member from the association, we gave the money intended for our maintenance to Patricia Dumugo so she can bring her husband to the hospital and be checked-up by a doctor. Because of this program, we were able to help Patricia’s husband),” shared Benita Bayu, FA member, saying they sourced the cash assistance from the SAAD provided-project.

Interventions provided to the 8 members

In 2019, a unit of rain shelter, two pieces knapsack sprayers, 4 shovels, and 16 pieces of seedling trays were provided to the group under the Vegetable Production Project.

Conventionally, the capital for the next cycle of production will come from the previous cycle’s earnings. Although their donation costed them their wet season production in 2019 due to lack of capital, the group insisted on awarding the harvest earnings to Joseph’s medical needs.

Table 1. Nabuangan Region Farmers Association intervention for Vegetable Production Project 2019-2020

Project:Vegetable Production	Project Cost per unit (Php)	Total Project Cost (Php)
1 unit of rain shelter	120,000.00	120,000.00
2 units of knapsack sprayer	3,000.00	6,000.00
16 pieces of seedling tray	100.00	1,600.00
4 pieces of shovel	500.00	2,000.00
18 sachets of assorted vegetable seeds	247.70	4,458.60
Total Project Cost		134,058.60

Back on track in 2019’s wet season cycle (December 2019 – January 2020), the farmers pitched in to purchase planting materials such as pechay seeds and tomato seeds amounting to



Patricia Dumugo, member of NFA, was able to show book keeping methods during SAAD monitoring in Brgy. Paddoan, Conner, Apayao.

IP GROUP LED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
radiating malasakit sa kapwa



Jelma Sagalay, helping his co-members during the harvest in Brgy. Paddoan.



Due to their abundant vegetable produced, the NFA members were awarded assorted vegetable seedlings.



Joseph Dumugo, husband of SAAD beneficiary Patricia, attested his mental situation improved enabling him to get back on his feet and to work on the farm.

Php 120 after the group gathered funds from offering individual farm labor to big landowners in their area.

The produce this time was only limited for their families' consumption. From this production cycle, the group gathered 8 kgs of pechay and 4 kgs tomato. Each farmer shared their harvested vegetables with their co-members.

Joseph Damugo's Condition

Joseph's symptoms were managed for the period of 2019 because of the medicines provided by the psychiatrist. Unfortunately, there was no improvement in the manifestations of dementia because his family could not afford to maintain his medications.

Patricia said that she was thankful for the financial assistance provided by her co-members from the FA which was sourced from the interventions provided by the SAAD Program.

Key results

After a year, the group initiated to start cultivating the land under the rain shelter in order to produce more crops and to earn higher profit.

Because of their determination to revive their livelihood, the group volunteered to contribute Php 300.00 each for them to purchase vegetable seeds for production. From this, they were able to acquire seeds like bitter melon, pole sitao, Baguio beans, pechay, mongo, and bush sitao through contributions.

After a month the group accumulated Php 27, 500.00.

"After tay awan kita mi gapo ta pinili mi ipaagas ni lakay ko, agyaman kam diyos ta ad-ado pay blessings nga immay kalpasan (After we chose to donate the money the medical assistance of my husband, we thank God because more blessings came)," shared Patricia.

From their initial earnings, the group was able to purchase another set of seeds for the 2020 wet season. This allowed the group to earn an additional Php 25,400.0.

Ways Forward

In 2021, Patricia also offered her land area for the expansion of their vegetable production.

"Gapu ta natulungan iti padak a beneficiaries ni lakay ko nga agpa check-up, kayat ko met nga isubli kanyada tay tulong da. Isu nga in share ko etuy arubayan mi nga mabalin pagmulaan (My co-beneficiaries helped me to raise funds for the medication of my husband. I am so grateful for the kindness that was given to my family. As part of my gratitude, I initiated to offer my land area for the expansion of our vegetable production)," said Patricia.

With the group's expansion in terms of cultivation area, they were able to maintain their production until the dry season of 2021, which allowed them to earn an amount of Php 27,000.00.

As of November (wet season), the group accumulated Php 3,000.00.

In total they were able to earn 82,900.00 from four cropping seasons (Dry season 2020- Wet Season 2021).

Policy

Since the group has been practicing *"Bayanihan,"* Patricia shared that the group agreed to provide the equal opportunity to each member with a decent amount of benefit from the vegetable



Harvested eggplant during wet season of 2021, adding to the NFA harvest.

production project.

For every five cropping season, the accumulated amount of income will be allotted only for one member.

Patricia said that this has been an effective scheme since they are all participating while receiving equal amount of assistance.

An alternative channel to escape the system

SAAD Program's approach to development happens at the grassroots level, constantly locating the balance between tangible and intangible interventions, between the physical and abstract augmentation of the "quality" of life that every Filipino deserves.

The program continues to provide capacity training, and carefully crafts livelihood projects that will complement the potential of priority areas while being culturally considerate and ethical.

Adhering to the core value of "*malasakit*" through meaningful people empowerment, the program takes pride in how it contributes to the betterment of a community and its members.

The program becomes a medium to pass down and live up to other forms of "*malasakit*" within the grassroots communities.

As of now, since Patricia has been chosen as first member to receive the accumulated amount from five cropping seasons of vegetable harvest, she was able to provide enough amount for Joseph's regular check-ups.

Meanwhile, the group said that they are helping each other because "*bayanihan*," cooperation, brotherhood, respect and love are still very much alive in the Ibanag culture.

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Sources: DA-SAAD CAR, Nabuangan Farmer's Association



Members of NFA with vegetable seedlings provided by the program in 2020.

Kabugao SAAD FA to Foster Innovation in the Agricultural Sector

The Narang-ay Farmers Association in Kabugao, Kalinga is a Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) registered farmers' cooperative for the marginalized rural locals in 2017, is composed of 53 members engaged in rice farming and labor service activities.

The members of the group usually earn a minimum monthly income of Php 4,666 from their one-hectare rice production area. But each of them could not afford the maintenance cost of their area which prompts them to borrow money for financing in every cropping season – from land preparation until harvest activities.

Maribel Bautista, member of NFA, shared that most of the beneficiaries of the project are only high school graduates. They experience a lack of opportunity when it comes to job opportunities.

“Etuy agriculture talaga iti pagal alan mi income ta haan kami met nga college graduate. Pasaray ket nu haan ka nakalpas met ket talaga nga iti opurtunidad mo lang dituy probinsya ket ada iti farm wenu saan agtagi-balay ka, (We are highly dependent on agriculture because most of us were not able to finish our college education. Here in our province, if you're not a college graduate, you can only work as a farm laborer or simply domestic helper),” said Bautista.

Bautista also added that they can only provide the most basic needs of their family such as food on the table. If they have at most five kilograms of rice supply in a week, they would be in so much content.

Later in 2017, the NFA was chosen as a beneficiary of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program when the management staff visited the area for identification of recipients for its livelihood projects.

In June 2018, the group received one unit of standard multi-

crop threshers worth Php 170,000.00 from the SAAD program's Rice Production Project (FY 2016).

Bautista attests that it was a blessing to receive the machinery since the group's bread and butter depend solely on their harvest. They feel relieved to be part of the modernization initiatives of the Department of Agriculture even when they are most of the time untouched by the major agricultural programs, and other private development initiatives.

She added that the machinery made the harvesting process much easier than the manual operation because the machine separates the grains from the rice straw. According to her, the thresher is being rented at Php 1,000/hectare serviced.

Income as Service Provider

The group earned Php 109,999 from 2018 to 2021.

During the dry seasons in 2018 and 2021, the group accumulated Php 42,774.00 while for the wet seasons from 2018 to 2020, the group earned Php 28, 016.00.

The net income for the dry season (2018-2021) was Php 54, 414. 00 after deducting labor and maintenance cost Php 16,170.00. While for the wet season (2018-2020), the total net income was Php 55, 585.00 after deducting the labor and maintenance worth Php 19, 304.00.

Their maintenance costs include the purchase of oil, fuel, and machinery parts.

In four cropping seasons, the group spent Php 35,474.00 for labor and maintenance costs which allows them to have a net income of Php 109,999.00.

Association Policy

As a group, they also shared that they formed a policy in



order to monitor their total gross income, expenses, and net income.

It was agreed by the members that 20% of their gross income will be for operation and maintenance cost; 30% for labor cost; and the remaining 50% is their association's savings.

Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

According to Bautista, the group experienced a decline of possible clients during the past operations. This is due to the absence of trucks intended for hauling. She expressed that since the group has no vehicle for transferring the machine to the clients' farm sites; other private owners are declining their

services.

"Pasaray mas kayat met ti taon iti complete package nu agpa – service da ijay production site da. Dakami a grupo gamin ket arwan iti truck wenu pag-guyud mi iti tresher nga mapan ijay bantay. Isu nga iti remedyo mi lang ket makisarita nga nu kayat tay client ket isuda ag provide iti truck habang dakami lang iti ag provide iti tresher nga apan mangi-ubra. Gapo kadetuy nga arrangement mi ket mas kayat iti tao nga agbiruk latan iti sabali nga service provider (Usually, landowners are looking for a reaper rather than a thresher. But when it comes to sloping areas, we are glad that we are the ones who can provide the service)," said Bautista.

Despite the setback, the Narang-ay FA found a way to work



The group attests the machinery made harvesting process easier than manual operations because the machine separates grains from the rice straw.

with their problem. Before the cropping season, the members will prepare and contact possible clients for the next harvest period, this is to secure them to identify and prepare in advance.

Plans

According to Bautista, the group is planning to purchase a truck for hauling purposes.

“Napintas nga opurtunidad kada kami nga naikkan iti machinery ta nu idi mapan kami lang makisikka ngem tattan wenu awan igatang mi ti mula mi, agubra kami meten nga akas service provider. Nanayunan iti mabalin mi pagalan iti income (It was

a good opportunity that we were given the machinery. Before, we only worked in the farms for other land owners, but now,, even though we are unable to buy seeds to plant, we can work in the farm using the machine as service providers, this gives us a chance to earn additional income.),” shared Bautista.

As of now the group is planning to target at least 60 hectares of rice area to gain more profit from their operation.

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Beneficiaries showcase upland rice produced in Brgy. EKB, Kabugao, Apayao.

Empowered Women Help Combat Health and Economic Crisis in the Community

“Vegetable farming is expanding my world, we are grateful for the opportunity given by the SAAD program. This allows us to have community participation,” shared Leonora Lujero, member of PIAS FA.

The PIAS Farmers Association is composed of 189 members who rely on agriculture as their major source of income. The members of the group earned a minimum monthly income of Php 1,050 a week as farm laborer during cropping seasons.

On July 7, 2017, the group was registered at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) as cooperative of rural workers, specifically for the underemployed and home-based workers in the community with identified capability to engage in entrepreneurial activities.

The group was clustered into four barangays which includes Poblacion, Imelda, Alem, San Luis.

Lujero from the said cluster shared that they are also seasoned vegetable growers and regular farm laborers. However, one of their major problems is low vegetable production as some plants like pechay and tomato cannot thrive during wet season.

When the program implementers of SAAD learned about the problem, the cluster was granted with Php 636,600.00 worth of Vegetable Production in 2019.

Rain shelter was provided to them to protect their crops

from rainfall and regulate humidity and temperature through its open sides. Ruby Anne Vicerra, Community Development Officer said the rain shelter is designed to strengthen the concept of vegetable growing.

Project Implementation

Through the SAAD Program, the association received four shared units of rain shelter in June 2019 in support of their Vegetable Production Project, which costed Php 636,600.00.

There were 5 units of rain shelter given to Brgy. Imelda and Brgy. Alem.

In Brgy. Imelda, they received 3 shared units of rain shelter, 1 shared unit of net shelter, with a package of 9 units of knapsack sprayer, 39 cans of assorted vegetable, 8 pieces of shovel, and 18 pieces of seedling tray, amounting to Php 522,460.00.

While in Brgy. Alem, they received 1 shared units of rain shelter, 1 shared unit of net shelter with a package of 26 cans of assorted vegetable seeds, 4 units of knapsack sprayer, 5 pieces of shovel, and 13 pieces of seedling tray, amounting to Php 262,240.00.

Lujero attested that using rain shelters makes vegetable farming faster and easier by providing the seedlings a convenient and healthier environment during the growing stage.

“Idi awan pay tuy rain shelter, sakam lang makamula nu tay





Nora Lujero, treasurer of PIAS FA was also able to harvest vegetable crops like bitter melon, okra, tomato and eggplant during the dry season of 2021. She added that the harvested crops were donated to children experiencing stunted growth in Brgy. Imelda, Pudtol, Apayao.



Mercedes Pechon, president of PIAS FA in Brgy. Alem, Pudtol, Apayao, showing quail eggs collected by the group.

dry season ta nu pinatagtutudu meten ket agnanayun nga maperdi tuy mula mi ta malungsot da gapo iti tudu (Before we received the project, we could only propagate our vegetable seedlings during the dry season because during the off-season, too much rain damaged the crops due to unexpected decay.),” shared Lujero.

As a supplementary project, the group was also provided with Quail Production inputs amounting to Php 62,500, comprising 140 head of quails and 1,300 kgs of quail feeds, in 2020.

Paying it forward

From the months of June to December, 2019, the group started to use the rain shelter.

Lujero shared, pest attacks and heavy rainfall were the main problems before the SAAD program granted them with rain shelters. Because of the project, the group produced more vegetable harvests even off-season.

Lujero explained that their production became manageable because a controlled environment like the rain shelter allowed the easier germination of plants than the open areas.

The group experienced faster production, leading them to harvest more often. She attested that they were able to have regular food supply for their families’ consumption.

Aside from food security, Lujero said that group were able to develop their communication skills since they initiated to join several trainings like Organic Education.

“Iti pinag mula mi iti nateng ket isu gapo na nu apay kasla limawa iti lubong mi, agyaman kami iti opurtunidad nga inpaay iti programa SAAD. Etuy gapo nu apay ada community participation mi (Vegetable farming is expanding my world, we are grateful for the opportunity given by the SAAD program. This allows us to have community participation),” Lujero attests.

Communal Vegetable Gardening during Women's Month

After two years, the group initiated to expand their production area in Brgy. Imelda and Alem, with a total cultivation area of 400 square meters (sqm).

Mercedes Pechon, PIAS president added that the initiative of the group was also in celebration of Women's Month last March since their association is a women lead.

"Etuy nga initiative ket nabuo tapnon mangrugi kami nga ag expand iti production area tapnon nu kasta ket mangrugi kamin nga ag market supply kin tapnon matulungan mi agituy durwa a case iti malnutrition dituy community mi. Kayat mi nga matulungan etuy a pamilya isun ton makapaadu kami plano mi nga supplyan isuda iti vegetable nga libre (This initiative was organized to further prepare our association in the market. We aim to earn as a group and to further help the 2 cases of malnutrition in our community through providing them with free vegetable supply.)," said Pechon.

The communal gardening done by the group allows them to access fresh and healthier food, which is expected to be beneficial since they decided to advocate helping undernourished children by reinforcing vegetable supply.

It is a remarkable deed of the SAAD Program since its ultimate objective is to empower marginalized rural communities.

Lujero, shares that the program was a mentoring ground for women who want to take lead in shaping the future of agriculture.

Through the program, they developed their community participation, which positively affected their lives.

"Idi naikkan kami di opurtunidad bilang maysa nga beneficiaries iti SAAD program, narikna mi nga iti tulong ket maited kadagiti tao nga kayat na metlang nga tulongan iti bagi na (When we were given the opportunity as a group under the SAAD program, we realized that blessings can only be given to those who also make every effort for themselves.)," said Lujero.



Barangay Health Workers in Brgy. Imelda, Pudtol, Apayao during periodic height and weight monitoring.

Cases of undernourishment in the community

The group focused on 0-5-year-old children experiencing undernourishment in Brgy. Alem and Brgy. Imelda.

Six children who are under close monitoring of the Barangay Health Workers (BHW) to secure health and access to holistic nutrition have been selected to receive the donations.

“Undernutrition refers more specifically to a deficiency of nutrients. Feeding children twice a day and giving them multivitamins will bring them to normal weight,” said the Barangay Nutrition Scholar (BNS).

Arising solidarity, a core value of SAAD beneficiaries

As part of SAAD’s ultimate goal, this farmers’ group was organized to improve their farm production and to capacitate their community participation as an association.

Being a part of the vulnerable sector, the current situation of children experiencing health issues brought by poverty is their utmost motivation to unite as one group.

Not only that the association provided assistance to famished children, the group also opened their expansion area as a “pantry”.

“Gapo COVID-19, in-open mi etuy iti publiko tapno anyone ket ada access na iti gulay ta amo mi met marikna rigat (Due to COVID-19, we decided to open our production area to public. This is to help our community in terms of food security, because we are all experiencing crisis.)”, shared Pechon.

Also, since majority of the members are women, Pechon said that they were able to encourage their husbands to participate during the last cropping season.

Bringing green prosperity to undernourished children

A total of 6.4kgs of mixed vegetables such as bitter melon, tomato, eggplant, and okra were donated to the identified children.



Ines Calumpit, member of PIAS FA showing assorted vegetable crops in their expansion area in Brgy. Alem, Pudtol, Apayao.

EMPOWERED WOMEN HELPS COMBAT HEALTH AND ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE COMMUNITY



To improve agricultural labor productivity and aid child malnutrition within the community, rural women farmers from Poblacion, Imelda, Alem, San Luis (PIAS) Farmer Association (FA), a SAAD-established FA conducted communal gardening in celebration of the Women's Month.



A total of 6.4kgs of mixed vegetables such as bitter gourd, tomato, eggplant, and okra were donated to the identified children.

In addition, the group also provided 100 quail eggs from their Quail Production Project to meet the nutrition and dietary needs of the children.

SAAD program supports the leadership and participation of women in PIAS FA. To further enhance and develop their skills, the program provided Package of Training in Vegetable Production. The said training furnishes them with skills to pursue new livelihoods and adapt technology to their needs.

Way forward

As a way forward in entrepreneurship, the group plans to propagate more vegetable seedlings in the coming harvest cycle in order to increase vegetable variety harvests to establish a talipapa. The group also agreed that they will give vegetable supply to children quarterly.

*Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy
Information Officer I, Province of Apayao*

The Good “Sheep-Herds” of Apayao

The tremendous potential of sheep raising in Apayao allows 54 farmers to promote “bayanihan” and farming ethics.

Apayao is known because of its vast agricultural area. Majority of the population remains dependent on farming as their primary source of income. Wilfredo Rimando, 57 years-old, a resident of Barangay Dagupan, Luna, Apayao, said that despite the province’s land suitable for agriculture, poverty remains as the major concern.

Rimando says he is only one of many farmers who earns from vegetable farming, as a family man, he said no matter how efficient he is in tending his 1.5 hectares of land, it was impossible for him to earn income adequate to support the needs of his family.

In the early 2000s, he started to expand his venture to livestock raising.

“Tapno manayunan iti pagalan mi pagbyag, nagrugi nak bilang goat raiser. Nakitak iti kapintasan livestock production ta haan unay nga dakel iti maintenance na (For me to increase my source of income, I started my journey as goat raiser. I was able to witness the potential of livestock production because it only requires low maintenance.)” added Rimando.

Barangay Dagupan, Luna is only one of the 133 barangays in the province.

Later in 2017, Rimando became a member of Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA), a farmers’ cooperative and association, established by the Department of Agriculture-

Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) program.

The group was composed of 158 members and was registered at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on July 17, 2017. The said FCA was clustered into five barangays – Dagupan, Shalom, Bacsay, San Gregorio, and Salvacion.

It was 2017 when the program knew that majority of the members are livestock growers, wherein each of them has a pasture area of at least 100 square meters suitable enough for sheep.

As a result, in 2019, the program implemented the sheep production project, where 54 members were initially chosen to be the first-in-line beneficiaries of the said project.

Project Implementation

Rimando, treasurer of the ULFA, shared that animal husbandry has become the fastest-growing sector in terms of agriculture in Luna.

In 2019, the association received 29 sheep (25 ewes and four rams), supplemented with dairy feeds, forage seeds, biologics, and housing assistance worth Php 590,318.16. The project was proposed by the association after a community consultation.

Additional stocks were provided on August 26, 2020, comprising 50 ewes and one ram, with a package of sheep concentrates, mineral blocks, vitamins, wound spray, drencher, and galvanized wire. In total, the project cost was Php 1,044,850.

Each of the 54 first-in-line beneficiaries is a caretaker and was given at least one sheep.





Teresita Bumanglag, member of UFLA seen tending livestock.

Economics of Sheep Raising: Farming for Profit

Sheep production is a less-risky business that requires low initial capital. It requires small areas for housing because of their small body size compared to other livestock like carabao and cows.

After two years of breeding period, the 54 first-in-line beneficiaries increased their sheep production, resulting in 32 offspring (21 ewes and 11 rams).

With this, the association started to extend stocks to five other members, making them the second-in-line beneficiaries.

In summary, the group already raised a total of 100 sheep in the 2-year project operation. The group also follows the roll-over scheme where each of the first-in-line beneficiaries will disperse at least a head of sheep to the second-in-line beneficiaries until



Members of ULFA in Brgy. Dagupan, Luna, Apayao during the field monitoring.

158 members receive a stock.

Among the 54 members who are set as first-in-line beneficiaries, five raisers were cleared for the roll-over obligation, and made profits during the height of COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. (Table 1).

Table 1. Sheep sales from 4 members of the ULFA

Beneficiary	No. of offspring sold (quantity)	Total cost per head (Php)	Total earnings (Php)
	a	b	a*b
Beneficiary 1	1 head of ram	7,000.00	7,000.00
Beneficiary 2	3 heads of rams	4,333.34	12,000.00
Beneficiary 3	2 heads of rams	5,500.00	11,000.00
Beneficiary 4	4 heads of rams	6,875.00	27,500.00
Beneficiary 5	3 heads of rams	7,000.00	21,000.00

As part of the FCA’s policy, each member is obligated to pay at least Php 300 to the association for every sheep they traded.



From the said sales, Php 3,900.00 went to the association.

Derived from the financial statement of the group, the total net income from January 2020 to November 2021 reached Php 6,667 with Php 8,263 as total expenditures.

Rimando also shared, SAAD program helped the members to have an additional source of income.

“Kaadwan kadami nga naikkan iti sheep ket vegetable growers. Gapo SAAD program, nanayunan iti income mi. Atuy nga blessing ket apan mi ay-aywanan. Bilang maysa nga grupo, kayat mi met nga ishare iti blessings mi iti kakaruba mi. Nu idi agkurkurang kami iti income panggep iti vegetable produce, tattan nga nanayunan pagkakitaan mi ket naway-way kami meten nga agipadawat iti vegetable seeds nga mabalin nga pagbyagan iti kakaruba, lalo idi kapigsa krisis iti pandemya (Most of us, who received sheep, are also vegetable growers. Because of SAAD program, we were able to have additional source of income. We appreciate this blessing. As a group, we want to share this blessing to our community. Now that we are sustainable and self-sufficient, we initiated to share vegetable seeds to our community for free, especially when COVID-19 pandemic came.)”, shared Rimando.

Rimando said the group adheres to kindness and compassion, especially during the height of COVID-19 pandemic, when everyone from their community was affected by food shortage.

Rimando also shares that the group has been practicing good farm management to further provide a healthy environment of the livestock.

“Importante nga adda balay metlang iti sheep tapno nu kasta nga ada bagyo wenu permi pudut, adda iti paglinungan da. Maysa pay nga kayat mi ket dapat nadalus lata iti pagyanan da tapno haan da nga makaala sakit. Etuy nga way ket maysa nga practice mi bilang grupo tapno maalagaan agituy a livestock (This is important to provide housing for the sheep to give them a shaded area that serves as protection. One of our goals is to

provide clean facilities to prevent them from possible illness. This has been one of our practices to provide health care to our livestock.),” Rimando shared.

Plans

ULFA chairperson Maxima Camayang looks forward to becoming a livestock multiplier hub and supplier in Apayao.

With the program’s goal of organizing the beneficiaries into market-driven entrepreneurs, ULFA members seek to promote their area as the “Sheep Capital of the North.”

This July, the set of remaining 49 2nd-in-line beneficiaries will be validated in terms of housing and pasturing area by the Community Development Officer and Project Development Officer in partnership with the Municipal Agriculturist Office to check readiness and feasibility of sheep raising.

As of May 12, 2021, the FCA was awarded Good Standing from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), certifying that their group is a legitimate labor union and workers’ association with 158 members who have completed the annual financial report of the fiscal year (FY) of 2020.

“Bilang maysa acting Livestock Coordinator iti babaen iti association mi kin representative iti livestock production, agyam yaman kami iti SAAD program ta naikkan kam oportunidad akas bilang nga sheep raisers. Isu tay kuna min nga arapaap mi nga grupo nga agbalin nga Sheep Capital of the North (As a Livestock Coordinator and treasurer of the association, I would like to extend our gratitude to the SAAD program for giving us the opportunity to enhance our capability as Sheep Raisers. Our group is hoping that one day, through our collective efforts as one association, our municipality will be known as the Sheep Capital of the North.)” said Rimando.

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Reference: Republic of the Philippines Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Manila, Department Order No. 40-F-03 Series of 2008. Retrieved from: https://blr.dole.gov.ph/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/do_40-f-03_s2008.pdf



THE GOOD “SHEEP-HERDS” OF APAYAO



After two years in breeding, the 54 first-in-line beneficiaries increased sheep production, resulting in 32 offspring (21 ewes and 11 rams).



PHOTOS



KALINGA





HISTORY

In 2019, the province of Kalinga was included in the DA-SAAD Program with an initial budget allotment of Php39,481,000, the following year, the province received a Php 42,083,285 budget and for 2021, it was increased to Php 62,728,755.

The province now have a total of 90 livelihood projects from 44 covered barangays. This comprises 55 Farmers Cooperative and Associations with a total of 3,474 individual beneficiaries.

The SAAD Program had been an instrument in bridging the gap between our marginalized farmers and the government. With the livelihood assistance brought by the program to areas, the farmers are now starting to realize the potentials of engaging in entrepreneurship as additional income is provided to beneficiaries and food becomes readily available to localities.

The program had also been a good supplemental to other government services. Tanudan Administrative Officer Alex Ladwigan shared that the SAAD fills the lacking of municipalities in providing such assistance to farmers as 4th class municipalities like them doesn't have that much budget.

The program covers crop diversification projects implemented in the province such as: Ginger, Turmeric, Gabi, Peanut, Banana, Citrus, Pineapple, Lanzones, Rambutan, Durian, Coffee, Sugarcane, Coconut, Upland and Lowland Vegetables, Swine, Native Pig, Carabao, Goat, Chicken, and Duck Production where 3,410 individual beneficiaries saw the benefits of agriculture.

Physical Profile

The Province of Kalinga is at the central section of the Cordillera region which borders Apayao to the north, Mountain Province to the south, Cagayan and Isabela to the east, and Abra to the west.

The province is constituted by seven municipalities namely; Balbalan, Pasil, Lubuagan, Pinukpuk, Rizal, Tanudan, and Tinglayan; and one component city namely Tabuk City, the capital town.

The province has a total area of 3,231.5 square kilometers with its topography described to be rugged and mountainous with peaks ranging from 1,500 to 2,500 meters above sea level.

The province's western side is characterized by sharp, crested, interlinking peaks of steep slopes, isolate flatlands, plateaus, and

valleys. The eastern lands are mainly of rolling and gradually sloping foothills.

Agricultural Profile

Kalinga produced a total of 30,986.2 MT of crops during the first semester of 2018. Production increased by 21.0 percent or 5,371.2 MT compared with the 25,615.0 MT crop production of the province in same period in 2017 based from the Philippine Statistics Authority, 2018.

The top three crops produced by the province were sugarcane with 28,107.0 MT or 90.7 percent contribution to the total production of the province, followed by banana with 2.9 percent or 888.5 MT and coffee with 2.6 percent or 801.2 MT.

Kalinga was the top producer of the region in sugarcane with 97.6 percent of the total regional sugarcane production.

Kalinga people belongs to the Indigenous Groups from the 31 different subtribes of Kalinga Ethnolinguistic Group as stated by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Local products in the province include coffee, fruit and rice wine, chili products, indigenous rice, vegetable chips, and handwoven clothes, garments, among others.

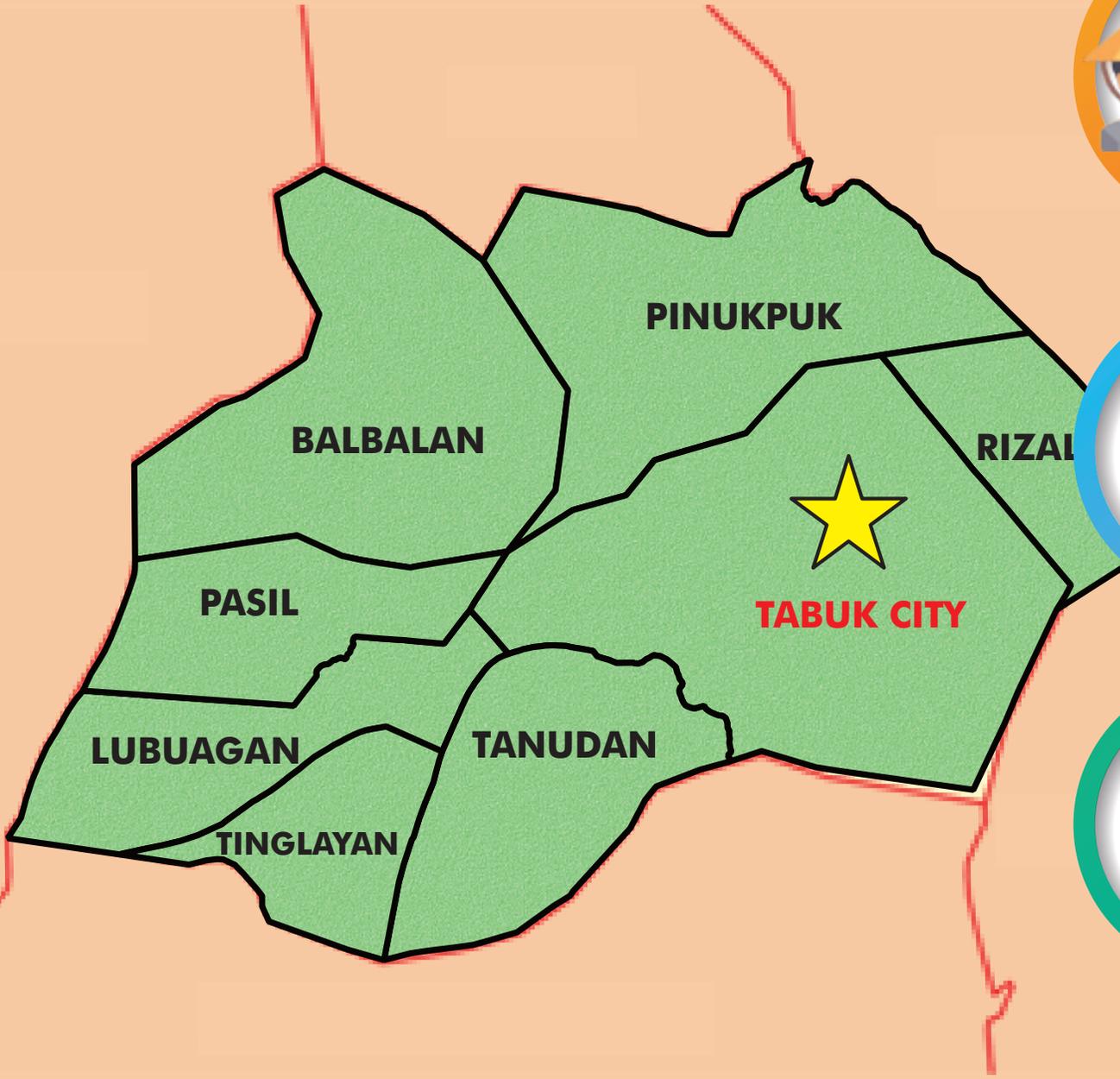
Poverty Situation

Philippine Statistics Authority for 2018 reported that the province of Kalinga has decreased its poverty incidence among families from 34.5 in 2015 to 9.3%.

In the Cordillera, Kalinga incurred the biggest reduction on poverty incidence among families with 25.2% followed by Ifugao and Apayao with 25.1% and 22.1%, respectively.

The poverty threshold of the province in 2018 was Php 24,193 per capita annum. This translates to a minimum of Php 10,080 monthly take-home income for a family of five to meet both food and non-food needs and be considered not poor.

Kalinga recorded the highest increase in poverty threshold among provinces of CAR with 13.3% increase from Php 21,348 in 2015. The annual per capita food threshold of Kalinga is Php 16,862.



Groups

55



Group Members

3,379



Number of projects

90

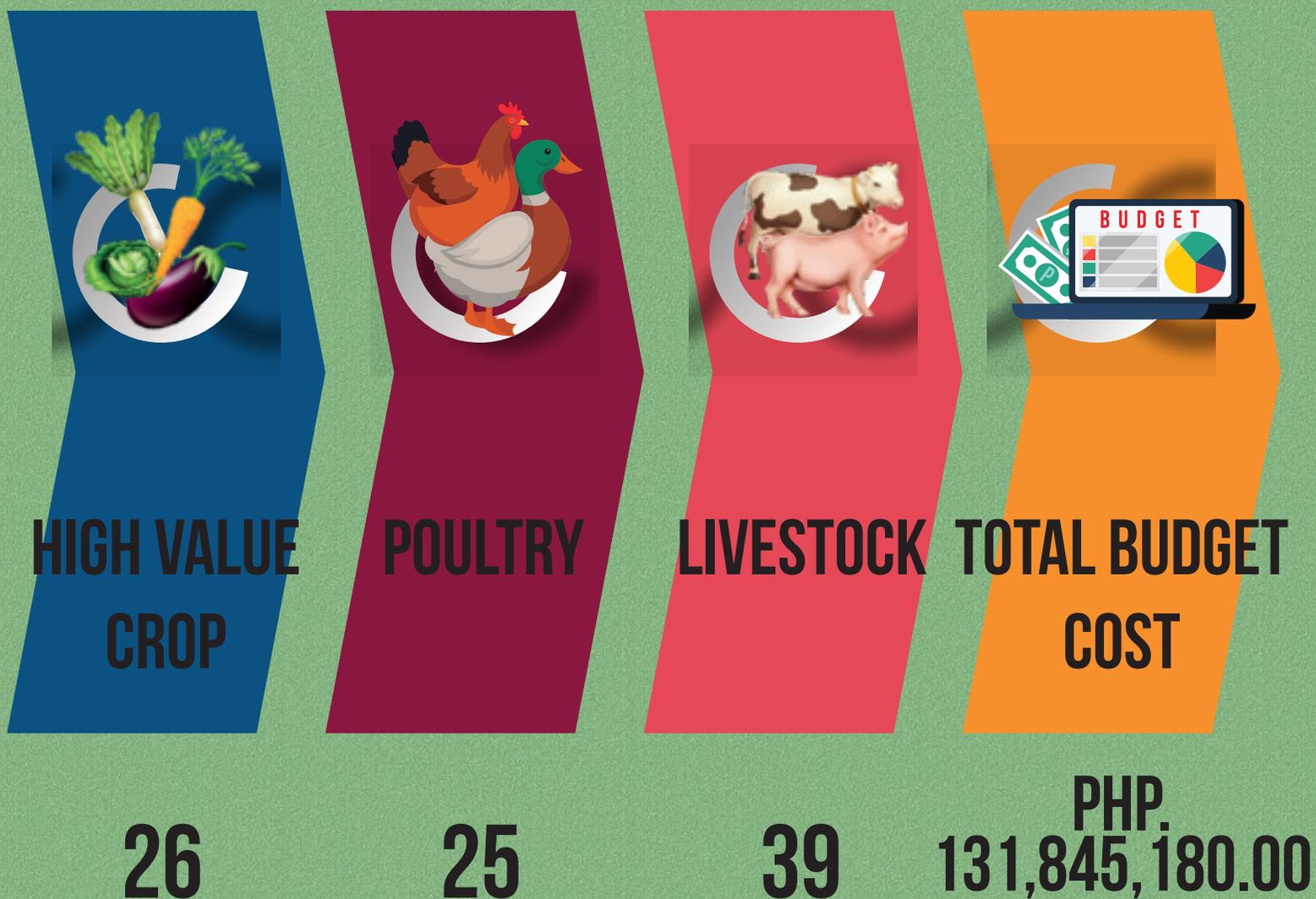


Covered Barangays

43

KALINGGA

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Total numbers reflect data since 2019 until 2021

Multiplier for Native Pigs and Meat Processing Facility Soon to Rise in Barangay Pugong

On its 3rd year of implementation, the Pugong SAAD Organization (PuSAADO) plans to establish a multiplier farm for native pigs and meat processing facility.

The members have started to plan out the collection of funds for breeder stocks. They are also open for further collaboration with the Department of Agriculture especially on value-adding of their produce such as meat processing training.

PuSAADO has 96 members who belong to families earning below the poverty threshold in the barangay. The group members' primary source of income is rice and vegetable farming, which is hardly enough to sustain their family's needs.

Background

Barangay Pugong is composed of 135 households which constitutes the 7.04% population of Pasil. It has a poverty incidence of 34% according to the Municipal Social Welfare Development (2020). Seventy percent of the households is recorded as living below the poverty threshold. Food shortage, nonetheless, is not experienced by the populace since their primary source of food is farming. Only, regular employees are given more privilege than the farmers in terms of lending or loan opportunities in the barangay.

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program brought new hope for the farmers in the barangays

through its project interventions provided to address indigence.

Imelda Bergancia is a 53 year old smalltime rice farmer, who has experience being away from her three children and her husband, took her father under her care after suffering from a stroke in 2019. Bergancia has never tried to farm animals due to lack of capital but eyeing the potential of poultry and swine production she willingly jumped on the livelihood assistance by the SAAD Program and was fortunately chosen to be one of the beneficiaries.

Like Bergancia, the other group members showed interest in native pig production and were not recipients of any livelihood program in the recent years. That is why they became a beneficiary of the program's Php 11,684,250.00 worth of Integrated Banana, Calamansi, Pineapple, Ginger, Free-range Chicken, and Native Pig Production Project in Pasil.

Project Implementation

On July 11, 2019, the group received the native pigs with the project "Native Pig Production Sub-Project" amounting to Php 1,640,750.00 (Table 1).

After 25 months, 34 PuSAADO members earned from the project.

In 2019, Bergancia was the only one to sell her 1st cycle litters. She sold 5 piglets at Php 2,500/head returning her a total income of Php 12,500. Among the beneficiaries, she was also





Proper housing as part of good management practices leading to success

the only one to practice mixed feeding, mixing commercial feeds with raw materials such as vegetable scraps. Thus, the group's profit in 2019 was Php 10,963.

For 2020, the beneficiaries profit amounted to Php 212,450 while the 9 months of 2021 gave them Php 299,940. In total, the accumulated income of the group from swine production already had a total of Php 523,353.

Most of the hogs were sold at about 2 to 4 months old for Php 3,500/head (Table 2).

The average profit of the 34 beneficiaries from native pig production is Php 15,000 each. The said amount helped the members provide for their household needs.

Bergancia used her income for home consumption, children's education and as an additional source for funding for her father's medication. The money was also spent to construct a simple pig

pen.

From the 33 profiting PuSAADO members, 155 head hogs and piglets were sold for a total of Php 692,100.00 sales from 2019-September 2021.

Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

- **Housing facility** - Some of the litters died after the sow accidentally put weight on them. In solution, an additional pen was built to prematurely separate litters from sows.
- **ASF outbreak** – The beneficiaries limited the feeding of food waste to the pigs and opted to give them cooked vegetable scraps. They also provided vitamins such as vetracin.

MULTIPLIER FOR NATIVE PIGS AND MEAT PROCESSING
FACILITY SOON TO RISE IN BARANGAY PUGONG

- **Insufficient knowledge on swine production** – some practices lead to miscarriage of sows. The program, in collaboration with the Office for Provincial Veterinary Services, provided technical management assistance to the group.

Best Practices

The native pigs are being fed with raw materials such as vegetable scraps, trichantera, and banana stem. The farmers are also applying biosafety measures such as feeding of leftover household food, especially those with pork residues, to the pigs were avoided to prevent possible intake of contaminated food. Forages and safe food waste were the primary source of nutrition for the pigs. This ensures the safety of pigs from possible virus infection and less input cost of production.

Table 2. PuSAADO’s Native Pig Production Income

Year	Total Hogs Sold (head)	Total Sales (Php) a	Feed Cost (Php) b	Profit (Php) a-b
2019	5	12,500.00	1,537.00	10,963.00
2020	50	220,300.00	7,850.00	212,450.00
2021	101	459,300.00	169,360.00	299,940.00
Total	155	692,100.00	178,747.00	523,353.00

The DA-SAAD-CAR also launched the Farmers Livestock School (FLS) for swine production to selected farmers from PuSAADO, together with beneficiaries from selected 8 FCAs in the province. The said beneficiaries were encouraged to re-echo to co-members new knowledge and technology from their schooling. This seeks to help farmers in managing their productions for more successful and biosecured farms.

Plans

Native pig growers in Pasil earn from selling hogs individually but PuSAADO plans to engage in meat processing as well. This will increase the value of their produce and at the same time promote the Kalinga native pig as processed food. It is then the group’s aspiration to enhance their skills in marketing and boost the entrepreneurship of their produce through additional trainings and seminars.

To proceed with their plan, the group will undergo trainings and seminars to be familiarized and acquire skills on meat processing. The DA-SAAD Kalinga will be facilitating the necessary trainings needed by PuSAADO and help them acquire primary machineries for the processing of meat.

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Swine production in Pasil is perceived as a source of additional income to households in need.

Duck Raising

Adding Profitable Income, Empowering Women

Leonie Bassong, 42 years old, a mother of 5 children and wife of Nelio Bassong, is one of the beneficiaries of the Duck Production sub-project of the Special Area for Agricultural Development of Department of Agriculture (DA-SAAD-CAR). She is among the 34 members benefitting from the said sub-project of the Tanglag Fisherfolks and Farmers Irrigators Association (TFFIA) of Tanglag, Lubuagan, Kalinga.

“Agyamanak ta maysaak nga napagasatan nga napili a benepisyario ti DA-SAAD Program. Kas maysa a benepisyario aramidek ti kabaelak tapnu maparang-ay dagitoy inted yu nga pagsayaatan me (I am thankful because I’m one of the beneficiaries of the DA-SAAD Program. As a beneficiary I will do my best to develop these interventions that you gave me),” Bassong said.

Bassong, hails from a family engaged in farming. Together with her family, she spends her time doing farm works such as planting rice, monggo, eggplant, tomato, and other vegetables, and raising ducks and chicken at their family-owned one-hectare farm area for the family’s table food supply.

The municipality of Lubuagan is a 4th class municipality in the Province of Kalinga. Lubuagan was once the capital of Kalinga sub-province before Tabuk rose to its present status as the center of learning and government activities.

Tanglag is one of the 9 barangays of Lubuagan Municipality in the Northern Philippines Province of Kalinga, inhabited by a distinct ethnolinguistic tribe itself, with its territory and peace pacts. It is composed of 4 sitios or clustered settlements namely Liglig, Bannong, Gaang, and Sukiap.

It is second among the 9 barangays with a high poverty

incidence according to the 2015 community-based monitoring survey and one of the identified End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) barangays in the Municipality according to DILG.

In 2020, DA-SAAD-CAR expanded their program in Tanglag, Lubuagan in which TFFIA was selected to implement the Integrated Root Crop, Vegetable, Fruit Trees, and Poultry Production Project.

Project Implementation

In August 2020, 19 beneficiaries out of 34 of TFFIA received duck production inputs while the other 15 beneficiaries received chicken production ones. Fruit trees and vegetable production interventions were also given to the group as a capital for their integrated farming. The interventions received by the 34 beneficiaries has a total cost of Php 1,923,280.00.

Bassong, being among the recipients of crop and duck production interventions, implemented integrated farming near her home. Her poultry house is built beside her fishpond for her ducks to swim in. Her fruit trees and vegetable plants, on the other hand, are situated at the slope next to the pond.

Having experience in duck raising, she makes sure to give care and proper management by providing them with good housing facilities and sufficient nutrition. In addition to commercial feeds, she also uses locally available raw materials such as kangkong plant and freshwater snails to feed her ducks - helping her to save on cost input in duck production. Meanwhile, she gathers the duck manure for decomposition and later uses this to fertilize her crops.



“Mayat ti agtaraken ti patu basta adda nasayaat ken nalarwa nga pangikabilan tapnu masigurado ti panag-adu da (Duck raising is good as long as you have enough space to ensure better production),” Bassong shared.



A successful duck production in Lubuagan managed by women.

Results

In November 2020, her ducks started to lay eggs. The ducks produced 147 eggs in the first 5 months, wherein 37 eggs were apportioned for food consumption, 90 were hatched, while 20 eggs were unhatched. The following months, a better production rate was observed due to good management practices as Bassong provided the ducks sufficient food and water. The poultry house was also improved to avoid exposure of eggs to rain water.

In March 2021, she started to sell her duck produce, the price range from Php 250-500 per head depending on the size. A total of 46 ducks were sold as of September 2021 amounting to Php 16,420.00 with a net income of Php 10,410.00 (Table 2).

With the popularity of online selling or e-marketing, Bassong used this platform to promote and market her duck produce. As a result of, visitors and friends find time to visit her farm to buy duck stocks which increased her sales.

From her sales, Bassong was able to sustain feeds for her stocks and provide food for her family and a 5% contribution went to the organization for additional funds.

“Kas maysa nga agtataraken ti patu dati, haan mi napanunot nga agilaku. Agtareken kami lang tapnu adda pagal-an ti sida ken ipasida nu adda ti bisita. Agyaman kami ta adda kau nga nangited kadakami ti kapanunutan tapnu agilako kami ti tarake (As a duck raiser before, we did not mind selling the duck we raised. We just raise ducks for our food consumption and the visitors. We are thankful for capacitating us to become entrepreneurs),” Bassong stated.

Problems Encountered

During the rainy season in the month of June 2021, the



DUCK RAISING:

Adding profitable income, empowering women

duckling's mortality rate increased. A total of 157 duckling mortality was reported. It so happened that the family needed to go to the city and no one was left to feed and attend to the stocks. The neglect on their part is a lesson learned which Bassong would not allow to happen in the future. An improved housing from roofing to flooring was installed to avoid chilling of stocks and also to damage on egg produce.

“Idi umad adu ti natay nga piyyek ti patu ket naawanan nak ti ganas ngem gapu ta adda kayo nga mangtultuloy nga agmonmonitor ken agiguide ket maengganyo ak nga ipapati nga alagaan dagitoy taraken mi. Akas kunada garud, Habang may bubay, may pag-asa (When I experienced the decreasing number of my ducklings, I was losing hope but due to your constant monitoring and

guidance I was urged to continue raising them. And as they say, there is always hope in life),” she shared.

The monitoring team suggested improving the stocks' housing as this was the hindrance to producing more eggs and, eventually, stocks.

Additional skills and knowledge in Proper Management of ducks were acquired by Bassong when she attended training on Duck Production & Salted Egg Processing provided by the program on September 14-15, 2021. Value-adding processes were provided to help them market their produce at a higher price in the future.

“Agyaman kami ta adda daytoy naited nga training ket nadagdagan ti ammu mi nu kasanu dagiti ustu nga panagtaraken



Reaping the fruits of labor in vegetable farming

ti patu (We are thankful for the trainings because we were given additional technical knowledge in raising ducks),” Bassong said.

Table 2. Bassong’s Duck Production Income from March-September 2021

Month	Total No. of Sold Ducks	Total sales (Php)	Feed Cost (Php)	Shares to Assoc. (5%)	Profit (Php)
		a	b	c	a-b-c
March	8	3,350.00	1200	167.5	1,982.50
April	9	2,920.00	940	146	1,834.00

May	2	1,000.00	470	50	480.00
June	6	2,000.00	770	100	1,130.00
August	13	3,900.00	940	195	2,765.00
September	8	3,250.00	869	162.5	2,218.50
Total	46	16,420.00	5189.00	821.00	10,410.00

Plans

TFFIA members engaged in duck production has a majority membership composed of women with 13 out of the 19. Being a



Duck production booms with good management practices

DUCK RAISING:

Adding profitable income, empowering women

member with the most produce, Bassong encouraged her co-beneficiaries to improve their duck production management for better productivity.

The organization plans to build a duck enterprise to supply the community and nearby areas with a high demand for duck meat and eggs in line with the duck multiplier farm project in 2022.

“Dakkel nga iyaman mi ti DA-SAAD-CAR ken kadakayu nga implementor ti programa ta adda kau nga nakatulong ti organisasyon

ken ti umili (Our deep gratitude to the DA-SAAD-CAR and implementers of the program in helping our organization as well as the community),” Leonard Wacdag, TFFIA President shared.

“Nu dati ket agtaraken kami lang para kanyami. Tadt na engganyo ken na challenge kami nga agilaku (We just raised ducks for food consumption before, but now we are motivated and challenged to engage in duck enterprise),” Wacdag added.

TFFIA has a policy of giving 5% of its sales to the organization for additional funds for management.

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Community Development Officer I-Kalinga*



Bassong as an example of the established role of women in the agriculture sector

76-year-old Woman-Farmer Contributes Through Community Food and Seed System

A 76-year-old Yfangad vegetable farmer of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program inspires locals to engage in sustainable agriculture, giving out seeds, and planting materials to the community.

Widowed for 40 years, Apong Ana Saggob said that she raised her seven children through vegetable farming with locals recognizing her strength and perseverance, treating her like a local superstar in the community.

She said, “*Daytuyen ti nagdakkalak ket nakasanayak metten. Nu saan ta agmula awan ti maidasar ta iti lamisaan* (This had been what I grew up to and been used to. If we are not going to plant, we have nothing to put on our tables).”

Locals often call Apong Ana “*Afufukor*” derived from Apo or elderly and fukor or seeds. She takes the name as the community depends on her as a source of free vegetable seeds.

“*Nagaget ni Apong nga agmula ken managtulong ti pada nga farmer. Mayat nga modelo dagiti barbaro nga henerasyon* (She has initiative in planting and helping her fellow farmers. She is the best model for the younger generation),” Johnny Chang-it, an Agricultural Technologist in Tinglayan stated.

SAAD’s contribution to the elderly community

In Kalinga, there are over 4,000 indigent senior citizens listed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA).

Recognizing the invaluable contributions of the elderly especially in the workforce of the agriculture sector, the SAAD Program provides livelihood opportunities to seniors in the rural areas who are able and willing to continue to be economically productive and active.

Rural elder and farmer

Before SAAD’s entry in 2020, Apong Ana cultivated bananas, pappait, beans, camote, and cassava on her 450 square meter patch of land that her family owns.

Apong Anna’s children moved to the city, with only her youngest child and two grandchildren living with her, keeping her company and helping her tend the family farm.

She personally transports her produce to the city to sell during the day, often returning with earnings that she uses for her family’s needs. At her age, signs of aging have manifested particularly on eyes and backbone but don’t hinder her from her farming livelihood activities.

Her secret to being healthy includes going to her farm and gardening as her daily exercise and eating fresh and nutritious food that she and her family produce.

Although healthy and upbeat, Apong Ana’s movements were restricted as she belongs to the vulnerable sector per the Department of Health’s recommendation to prevent the possible spread of CoViD-19.

An active member of a Farmers’ Cooperative and Association





Apong Saggod receives chicken stocks from the SAAD aside from vegetable seeds

(FCA), the Magic 78 Lower Bangad Farmers Organization (M78LBFO), Apong Ana often volunteers her farm for field demonstrations, making her colleagues proud of both her feat and generosity.

It was also at Apong Anna's farm where planting the distributed seedling interventions was demonstrated in 2020, and

again to be used for the upcoming Farmers Field School (FFS).

Apong Ana as a SAAD beneficiary

Because of her unwavering love for her farm, the SAAD approved interventions like free-range chicken stocks, fruit tree seedlings, pineapple slips, and vegetable seeds to give Apong Ana

76-YEAR-OLD WOMAN-FARMER CONTRIBUTES
THROUGH COMMUNITY FOOD AND SEED SYSTEM

additional sources of food and income.

The SAAD-awarded pineapple plants are Apong Ana's favorite. Now on their fruiting stage, she is excited to gather the yield to be sold in the community and supply her family kitchen.

To further help Apong Ana on farming, SAAD Kalinga plans to introduce a more efficient planting design and methods to improve her production area and hopefully increase the yield of her crops.

*Writer: Sheena Phine Pisco-Dayagon
Information Officer I – Kalinga*



Aside from germinated vegetable seeds, apong Saggob also shares a genuine smile



With old-age, apong Saggob personally tends to her integrated garden



Successful production comes from regular farm visits and monitoring

Sustainable Duck Production Jump-starts Family and Duck House Renovations

The DA-SAAD Program in Pinukpuk piloted its first project in barangay Asibanglan short-listing 70 beneficiaries selected based on the program's guidelines.

The identified beneficiaries organized a Farmers Cooperative Association dubbed as "Asibanglan Farm Development Organization" (AFDO) where Ricardo Daligdig is among its members.

Daligdig is a 53-year-old farmer from Pinukpuk, married with 4 children and has spent more than half of his life in agriculture working as a farm laborer to provide for his family's basic needs, sending his children to school with his monthly income of Php 4,000-6,000 a month.

Daligdig also raises chickens for personal consumption and pigs are for sale in his backyard.

As a beneficiary of the Duck Production sub-project of the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development - Cordillera Program Daligdig, through the collaborative effort with the local government, a member of the AFDO now showcases the benefits of the technical and management assistance.

Daligdig received 20 heads of duck and 5 heads of drake in August 2020 and his stocks started to lay eggs in January 2021.

From the monitoring data as of September 2021, there was a total of 395 eggs produced where 220 were consumed by the family and 185 were hatched. The production was primarily for sale according to Daligdig who already sold a hundred heads for the price of

Php 300-350 for adult and Php 105 for ducklings from the hatched ducks. *"Agyamanak ti SAAD program ta inikkanak ti pagpuunak ket makitak metten ti resulta ti panagtaripatum ken dagituy nga naited* (I thank the SAAD program for giving me an investment for my livelihood as I have already gathered the fruit of my labor)," said Daligdig.

The family may earn an additional amount up to Php 4,000 monthly from their duck production whenever produce is available and there is a ready market. The additional income was used mainly for the acquisition of additional feeds supply for the stocks, for the basic family needs and for the children's school allowances. The production also augments food sufficiency for the family as some of the laid eggs and adult stocks from the hatched eggs were consumed by the family.

It was also used to purchase galvanized corrugated iron sheets and a power planer tool. The iron sheets were used to improve the duck production housing roofs while the power planer tool was utilized for the improvement of the house's walls as the houses in



the barangay are mainly made of wood or lumber.

As an example from Daligidig's income, the organization practices a sharing scheme of 5% from the earnings of Farmer Cooperative Association (FCA) members.

Hoping for a continuous success, Daligidig makes it a point to prioritize the purchase of feeds aside from those given by the SAAD program quoting that "counterparts are inevitable and important parts of success."

Results

The produce of Daligidig is marketed mainly within the locality and from orders gathered by the FCA thru social media as a means of marketing outside the barangay.

Daligidig's production was the first one to boom among the 14 beneficiaries of the duck production sub-project in the area. With his basic knowledge and experiences from his past duck raising activities, the farmer was able to survive the 25 heads originally provided by the program making him the only recipient among the 14 without any mortality.

In one monitoring visit to Daligidig's production area, he requested a technical training for the FCA to gain more knowledge and be equipped with skills and knowledge to develop their individual poultry production.

Daligidig's Duck Production Income as of September 2021

Year	Total No. of Sold Ducks (adult and ducklings)	Total sales (Php) a	Share to the Organization b	Expenses (renovation and feeds) c	Profit (Php) a-(b+c)
April to September 2021	105	31,750	1,580	10,500	19,670



Hatchlings put on elevated cages to avoid mortality from ant attacks.



Warning! Ducks ahead



Ricardo Daligid of Asibanglan, Pinukup produce market ready ducks with regular feeding activities

Background

The Municipality of Pinukup in Kalinga recorded the highest proportion of income-poor households with 73.7 percent (CBMS International Network Coordinating Team, 2015). One of the Municipality's barangays is Asibanglan with a total land area of 36.21 km² and an elevation of 616.6 meters above sea level (Google Earth).

The barangay has a total of 1,095 population in 204 households as of June 2019 according to the data of the local Rural Health Unit. The barangay Asibanglan recorded an income poverty rate of 95.5 percent, which is the highest among all barangays in the province (CBMS International Network Coordinating Team, 2015). Agriculture and forest areas are two of the major land uses of the barangay. Farming and agriculture are the topmost occupations of the population wherein the community people's income come from being farm laborers, tenants or farm owners who produce for subsistence.

Barangay Asibanglan is an identified SAAD expansion area for FY 2020. Aiming to alleviate the poverty in the community, the program identified its beneficiaries from the those belonging to the poor households, registered in the DA's RSBSA and who are willing to perform required counterparts.

The members of AFDO were provided individually with poultry stocks of Muscovy duck and free-range chicken with support services that had a minimal quantity of feeds, fencing and housing materials, fruit trees seedlings of lanzones and rambutan supported with fertilizer, garden tools and equipment of knapsack sprayer which amounts to Php 50,000 for each member, approximately. The FCA also received 8 units brush cutter that are managed by the group. Among the 70 members,

14 ventured in Muscovy duck raising while the other 56 received free-range chickens to be raised in the beneficiaries' backyards, respectively. Delivery and distribution of interventions started in July 2020. The AFDO group, as a whole, received agricultural equipment and machinery such as brush cutter units.

Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

Trainings were cancelled during the first year of the project's implementation due to restrictions from the current pandemic but with the fervent support of the government represented by the municipal agriculturist and SAAD focal person who were both veterinary doctors, technical assistance were regularly provided to ensure a smooth project implementation.

From monitoring, the rainy season affected the hatching rate

of laid duck eggs. Eggs that were wet by the rain spoiled and made them infertile even with the duck's incubation. As a result, production was low. Recommendations to improve and provide proper housing for the stocks were provided by the program.

Being a far-flung barangay, marketing and transportation are two of the difficulties for the members of the FCA in gaining a higher income. Promotion and advertisement through social media are then strategized by the group to link markets outside the community for bulk orders.

Plans

Food sufficiency and income increase are of the main goals of the program implemented in rural communities. The duck production in the barangay is aimed not just to provide additional



Duck siblings, newly hatched and on-incubation eggs



Firstborn out from natural incubation

SUSTAINABLE DUCK PRODUCTION JUMP-STARTS
FAMILY AND DUCK HOUSE RENOVATIONS



Feeding time, an important part of duck production and management

sources of income for the identified beneficiaries but also to secure food production for the poor families.

The organization's sustainability plan is to build a poultry multiplier farm that will serve as a local source of poultry and egg stocks. A bigger plan of becoming duck suppliers is envisioned by the group.

The Municipal Agriculturist of Pinukpuk, Eunice Belloza, challenged the organization to exert more effort in their production and make it a goal to be an authorized poultry supplier in the near future.

*Writer: Mowanah Marie C. Jovellanos
Community Development Officer I-Kalinga*

Street Vendor to AgriPreneur

From Small Scale Business to Poultry Supplier

Marjorie P. Ang-ang is an inspiration to many in her town.

Ang-ang is 35 years old, mother of three and a wife to Bonifacio. She is a member of Bawak, Darulog, Allubaggan, and Pagugo Farmers Organization (BDAP FO) who has received projects from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development Program since 2019.

BDAP FO is composed of 112 households in Barangay Dupligan, Tanudan with income below the poverty threshold.

Barangay Dupligan is the largest barangay in the municipality and has a population of 2,019 individuals and the only barangay with more than 1000 population in 2020 (PSA, 2020). Tanudan has a poverty incidence of 38.55, the highest in the province.

Rice, corn, banana, and coffee are the major commodities in Dupligan with additional commodities of banana, calamansi, swine, and free-range chicken for the integrated production inputs were provided by the beneficiaries.

The chicken multiplier farm

Ang-ang is a role model to other SAAD beneficiaries in the province as she is receptive to ideas in improving her farming management. Seen as a good implementer of projects, she was awarded by the program a chicken multiplier farm on April 2021. She received 300 head stocks composed of 247 hens and 53 roosters packaged with 40 bags of feeds.

Meanwhile, another 10 beneficiaries from BDAP FO received 20 head stocks of 15 hens and 5 roosters in each package including one bag of feeds. In the course of the project, the beneficiaries are to provide poultry housing and ensure proper care and maintenance.

As the Program continues to groom local farmers in thinking long term and acting as an organization, beneficiaries will share the 5% of their net sales/month to the BDAP FO for 5 years and

the 5% of their hatchlings will be distributed or passed on/month to the other members for two years. In terms of bio-security, this system and local out-sourcing of stocks is seen to lower or prevent mortality of poultry interventions due to hauling stress and entry of possible diseases in the province.

During the awarding of the multiplier farm project, Ang-ang shared her gratitude to everyone behind the provision of the project. *“Finally! Andito na. Nagpapasalamat ako sa Diyos sa blessing na ito, sa SAAD Program sa oportunidad na ito, sa BDAP officers sa inyong cooperation, at lalong-lalo na sa asawa ko na tumutulong sa akin. Napakalaking obligasyon nito at hindi ko inexpect na makakareceive ako nito, na pagkakatiwalaan ako ng DA. Masaya ako sa oportunidad na ‘to dahil wala kaming stable na source of income dati at ngayon nakakapagbenta na ako ng mga itlog at manok. Maraming salamat sa inyo (It is here and I am grateful to God for the blessings, the SAAD program for the opportunity, the BADAP officers for their cooperation, and most of all to my husband who is helping me. It is a huge obligation and I never expected to receive this and be trusted by the DA. I am happy for the opportunity like this because I had no stable source of income but now can sell eggs and chicken),”* said Ang-ang.

Project implementation

In 2019, interventions for the integrated banana, calamansi, swine and free-range chicken production inputs were provided to BDAP as livelihood assistance. On 2020, additional inputs were also provided to further help the Farmers Cooperative and Association (FCA) in their production. For 2021, equipment and machineries were provided to support them in establishing a community-based enterprise. A chicken multiplier farm is now operating in Dupligan and the banana and calamansi enterprise establishment is starting as the SAAD Program conducted trainings on processing said raw materials.

On January 2019, Ang-ang started to gather eggs from her





Sorting out eggs for better marketing.

initial stocks of 4 free-range chicken and was able to produce 88 new stocks on May 2020. Some of her produce were also used for food consumption, adding nutrition to her family's meals.

Results

Ang-ang was a vendor of kakanin, lumpia, banana chips, and snacks in her community. With her produce from her farm, she also started selling eggs, chicks, chicken, and ducks in Dupligan. Retail stores in the barangay were her first market of eggs and with the increasing number of produce, she started to market them in Tabuk City, to the office employees and retail stores. Her total egg sales as of September 2021 is Php 41,208 equivalent to



Free range chicken stock from SAAD as an investment for FCA's member beneficiaries

STREET VENDOR TO AGRIPRENEUR:
From small scale business to poultry supplier

6,868 pieces of eggs.

Table 2. Ms. Marjorie P. Ang-ang's sales since 2019-September 2021.			
Produce	Quantity sold	Inventory	Sales
eggs	6,868 pcs	n/a	41,208.00
chicks	44 heads	18 heads	16,545.00
chicken	10 heads	160 heads	4,100.00
duck	8 heads	104 heads	3,600.00
			Php 65,453.00

She also sells chicks to aspiring poultry raisers across the province earning a total of Php 16,545. Chicken and duck meat, being a good food source, were also sold in the community adding Php 7,700 to the earnings of Ang-ang. In total she has a sales of Php 65,453.

The sales were used to purchase vitamins for her stocks, transportation, repair of incubator, egg trays and scaler, and for her family's savings.

The multiplier farm was aimed to produce new stocks but due to the damage of the incubator, her production was halted. She is expected to resume her incubation of eggs on December 2021 and finally start the passing on of chicken and ducks to other beneficiaries.

Recommendations for Project Sustainability

Ang-ang shared that unlike native chicken, free-range chickens are more susceptible and prone to diseases. So, she advised other SAAD beneficiaries to have proper management on their poultry to sustain the project.

Aside from the poultry production, their banana and calamansi are now at their fruiting stage. Having been provided with trainings on value-adding processes, the group is ready to process their upcoming produce once they saturate the marketing of raw harvests in their community.



The multiplier farm provided to the FCA in Tanudan from the free range chicken endeavor



Marjorie beside the incubator of her group, she's the first to use the machine among SAAD beneficiaries

*Writer: Sheena Phine Pisco-Dayagon
Information Officer I – Kalinga*

SAAD Program Sustains Food Security Amid the Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic threatened health and food security across the globe.

In the Philippines, different quarantine measures were defined through the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) to mitigate the impact of the pandemic. Depending on the virus infection condition in an area, the corresponding quarantine measure is to be imposed by the local government units which started in March 2020.

In most provinces, community quarantine or prohibition of senior citizens, children, and pregnant women in going out of their houses; prohibition of non-essential establishments and agencies were implemented, hence, limiting the movement of people.

Implementation

On April 2020, the Department of Agriculture –Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) released guidelines prioritizing the provision of interventions following the call to sustain food security amid the pandemic. Vegetable seeds were distributed to SAAD areas as these commodities can be gathered in a short time, providing food sources to the program’s beneficiaries and their community. Basic production inputs for crops and livestock were also provided to the SAAD beneficiaries.

This action by the program was also in compliance to the instruction of Secretary William Dar with regards to sustaining food across the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a response to availability of food during the pandemic, budget realignment by the DA –SAAD was steered.

Food productivity and availability

Josefina Gayudan, a beneficiary from the Romualdez Farmers Association of Rizal, Kalinga shared her experience of producing her vegetables during the lockdowns of the pandemic.

“Agyamanak iti daytuy nga inted ti SAAD ta adda nagliw-liw-ak nga imula kasta met dagiti gamit nga pangmula. Idi nagbunga tay inmulak, addan libre nga pagalan ti isida mi nga agasawa ken dagiti naadaan pamilyan nga annak ko. Nagaddayu pay met ti paggatangan ken malimit pay ti rumwar (I am thankful of the revisions of SAAD which gave me something to spend my time on, and so with the equipment for planting. When my plants started to grow, we now have a free source of food, the same is true with my children with their respective families. The local market is also far from us and going out of our houses is limited),” Gayudan said.

Other beneficiaries were also able to sell their poultry and crop produce in the neighborhood providing financial income to families.

In Tanudan, Delia Gannisi, also shared that her duck egg produce had been used for her family’s consumption and sales from some was for the purchase of other needs.

Also, in Balbalan, some swine interventions were butchered due to unavailability of feed supply in the area. The barangay of Maling was strict on the implementation of lockdowns, hence the locals could not go to the nearest agricultural store to buy feeds. During that time in 2020, African Swine Fever (ASF) virus was rampant and to avoid possible infection to stocks, the beneficiaries opted to butcher their pigs. The meat was sold



in the community to at least have money to purchase another stock, when the outbreak ceases.

Ways forward

With the waning lockdowns in the country, people's mobility is now allowed provided that one is vaccinated or tested COVID-19 negative. Also, now that the DA-SAAD-CAR and other agencies can conduct trainings in places,

the program started to capacitate beneficiaries in improving their farm management practices and in processing crop and livestock produce. This is to prepare FCAs in establishing community-based enterprises.

The implementation of projects in covered barangays will hopefully increase the farmers' income and sustain food security in their communities.

*Writer: Sheena Phine Pisco-Dayagon
Information Officer I – Kalinga*



With the current pandemic, a farmer develops vegetable production for subsistence

SAAD PROGRAM SUSTAINS
FOOD SECURITY AMID THE PANDEMIC



Backyard piggery production sustains income and food security for household beneficiaries

Sugarcane Production Seen as Booming Enterprise

In an effort to preserve and expand the potentials of sugarcane production, the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program assisted members of the YMabaca Farmers Association (yMFA) in Balbalan to help establish a community-based sugarcane enterprise.

The people of Barangay Mabaca had long been tilling sugarcane but through time, less farmers are getting involved with its production and processing.

It was on October 2021 when the YMFA received the sugarcane cutting intervention worth Php 400,000 which the farmers had planted instantaneously and are for harvest from May to November 2022.

DA-SAAD Cordillera conducted a sugarcane production and processing training to the yMFA since sugarcane processing is an inherent skill that could provide a source of living to locals with limited land to till and the elders of the barangay are among the best basi or sugarcane wine makers in Balbalan.

Capacitating the farmers

A training on production and processing was provided to equip farmers in sugarcane production practices and processing into basi and muscovado sugar.

For the training, existing sugarcane plants in Mabaca were harvested to be processed having farmer practitioners Eduardo Tongdo and Fidel Apaling as Resource Speakers for basi and

muscovado making, respectively.

In his message, Apaling stated the importance of the said training to the farmers giving importance to marketing their sugarcane produce.

“Dayta panagmula ti unas ti tunggal maysa nga beneficiary ket dakkal nga accomplishment, gumaget dagiti farmers. Ken mayat ta at least matulungan dagiti farmers nga mangimarket iti basi da ta they are one of the best basi makers in Balbalan. (That sugarcane planting of every beneficiary is a big accomplishment, the farmers will become hardworking. Also, it is good that the farmers will have a hand in marketing the basi as these farmers are among the best basi makers in Balbalan),” said Apaling.

The beneficiaries were also thankful for the undertaking as it was the first time that sugarcane processing training was conducted in the barangay. The importance of sugarcane products were realized especially the basi as the patronage of this local products, instead of the costly commercial ones, can be revived benefitting both their organization and the community and the preservation of their culture and tradition.

Their willingness to learn and be upskilled will sustain the production of the best basi and muscovado in town and will be part of their everyday life.

About the organization

YMabaca Farmers Association is composed of 104 households from Barangay Mabaca of the municipality of Balbalan earning below the poverty threshold who are involved





Cooking of the sugarcane extract

and are interested in farming.

Barangay Mabaca is a far-flung and mountainous area blessed with large agricultural land of about 2,453 has. as it has the largest land area among the other barangays of the municipality. Being the remotest and mountainous barangay, it can be reached by foot through 3-4 hours hike from the last

accessible road for vehicles.

Aside from the sugarcane sub-project, YmFA is a beneficiary of free-range chicken, vegetable, and swine production inputs that has been provided by DA-SAAD-CAR to the group capital for other potential ventures.

Writer: Sheena Phine Pisco-Dayagon, Information Officer I – Kalinga

SUGARCANE PRODUCTION SEEN
AS BOOMING ENTERPRISE



Manual and traditional way of processing sugarcane raw materials using a carabao



Cutting of planting material for the new farmers of sugarcane



Over a Thousand Additional SAAD Beneficiaries Complete 2021 Social Preparation Activities

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Kalinga completed its social preparation activities for 14 expansion barangays for 2021 covering a total of 1,189 additional beneficiaries. SAAD Kalinga will implement projects on fruit trees and high-value crops, poultry, and livestock projects for the new beneficiaries.

Social preparation is among the components of the SAAD Program which aims to empower key persons involved like farmers, fisher folk, and local government units (LGUs) through a series of meetings and trainings.

After establishing partnerships and coordinating with the LGUs for the long list of prospective beneficiaries for the program's 2021 projects in the last quarter of 2020, the second phase of social preparation which is profiling eligible beneficiaries was completed.

Profiling, according to Community Development Officer Mowanah Marie Jovellanos, is the most time-consuming and challenging phase of social preparation. It took 6 months for SAAD Kalinga staff to complete data collection and geotagging for eligible beneficiaries.

In this phase, each beneficiary is recorded for validation to come up with additional 1,189 target beneficiaries.

"I am currently handling three expansion barangays, aside

from one 2020 barangay-beneficiary, and the simultaneous distribution of 2020 interventions, profiling, and training added to the challenge of completing our tasks. Nevertheless, accomplishing these tasks that can help our farmers is the most fulfilling feeling," Jovellanos said.

In the social preparation phase, the need and risk assessment where a selection of suitable livelihood interventions for the beneficiaries comprises the third phase of the social preparation process and was done in coordination with partner-LGUs and beneficiaries.

The fourth phase of the process is the formation of a farmers' association where SAAD staff assigned in the area assisted beneficiaries in establishing their group and securing accreditation as an organization.

The Provincial Program Management Office (PPMO) conducted Organizational Development and Management (ODM) Training for people's organizations to establish leadership and organization by-laws. Fourteen (14) groups out of 1,189 new beneficiaries were established where two groups already gained the Department of Labor and Employment and DA accreditations.

Farmers also receive fundamentals on project management, basic accounting, and bookkeeping to provide them with initial knowledge in managing their funds.



Mary Jane Bacodong of Nambucayan, Tabuk City thanked the program for providing free training for farmers like her.

“Agyaman kami iti panang-conduct yu iti daytuy nga training ken iti panang-imbitaryu kanyami. Nu kuma iti sabali ket adda bayad na dagituy nga pa-training ta makatulong nga talaga daytuy ti maysa nga organisasyon tapnu agtuluy-tuloy latta iti operasyon na (We are thankful for having us on this training. Such training isn’t free from other groups since these are really essential in keeping an organization running),” said Bacodong, SAAD 2021 new beneficiary.

As the program waits for the approval of operation extension from the lower house, SAAD-CAR continues to expand and implement agricultural projects as planned until its conclusion.

According to SAAD-CAR Planning Officer Leah E. Mon, the region anticipates the beneficiaries’ independence in case the program’s proposed extension is disapproved after strengthening and equipping the farmers’ cooperatives and associations (FCAs) with the necessary skills for their projected enterprise.

For FCAs that may not be able to come up with an enterprise at the end of 2022, a sustainable plan will be prepared by SAAD staff with the respective municipal local government units for them to continue with their project.

*Writer: Sheena Phine Pisco-Dayagon
Information Officer I – Kalinga*



Local Government representatives and SAAD join in organizing an FCA and profiling of individual prospect beneficiaries



SAAD conducts community consultations to introduce the program to localities

OVER A THOUSAND ADDITIONAL SAAD BENEFICIARIES
COMPLETE 2021 SOCIAL PREPARATION ACTIVITIES



SAAD staff conduct geotagging and validation of beneficiaries' household residences.



Capacitating beneficiaries with bookkeeping and accounting skills.



Profiling activity of personnel.



Ayra Mangatam, Community Development Officer of Tanudan conducts house to house profiling of beneficiaries.

Keeping the barangay ASF-Free, Balbalan Proper Attracts More Swine Buyers Across the Province

Balbalan Proper is one of the barangays in Balbalan of which the municipality ranked 3rd with high poverty incidence (26.38%) in Kalinga. Farming has been the primary source of income from either being self-employed or farm laborer. But the residents hardly felt the assistance from the government programs due to their location.

Gubang Tribe Farmers Association (GTFA) organized on August 19, 2020 is composed of 116 legitimate worker members who were among the marginalized farmers in the barangay.

Laureano S. Lingbawan, 46 years old, a father of two boys and married to Caroline Lingbawan, also a member of the GTFA shared that life in the area was very difficult, you shed blood and sweat yet all you get is just enough for your family's basic needs.

Lingbawan is a criminology graduate but he engaged into farming since 2007. By cultivating his one-hectare rice field, he was able to feed his family daily. He also raises ducks and chickens in his backyard. With this, he would likely have an annual income of Php 45,000.

In 2019, the group was chosen as beneficiary of the Integrated Root Crops, Cross Breed and Poultry of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Project Implementation

On August 2019, the GTFA members received one gilt each packaged with starter, grower, finisher, breeder, and lactating hog feeds good for one cycle for their swine production sub-project. Poultry inputs and housing needs such as chicken, feeds, poultry feeders and drinkers, net, and GI sheets; and vegetable and root crop inputs such as planting materials, fertilizers, and garden tools were individually received by the members.

The GTFA group, at the same time, received agricultural equipment and machinery such as wheelbarrow, brush cutter units, and egg incubator to facilitate the implementation of the group's project.

Male piglets are, likewise, to be provided to GTFA in August 2019 but the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak in Northern Luzon which started in September 2019 halted the distribution of swine interventions. It was in October 2020 when the male piglets were provided to the beneficiaries which the municipal nursery of Balbalan supplied to the program.

For Lingbawan, he already had a boar to breed his gilt since he previously does swine raising.

Results

In February 2020, Lingbawan's sow had farrowed 12 litters. He sold the 8 piglets for Php 3,000 each totaled to Php 24,000 and later sold his four breeders for Php 14,000-16,000 each totaled to Php 61,500.00. Also, in December 2020, his sow farrowed with 11 litters with two dead due to the cold weather condition. From the 9 remaining piglets, two were sold for Php 3,500 each in January 2021 while the 7 were grown as breeders.

Months forward up to September 2021, he sold three fatteners with a total sales of Php 61,320 and 14 piglets for Php 70,000.

His gross income amounted to Php 227,100 with a net income of Php 110,029 since the start of the project (Table 1).

His income from the project provided by the program almost doubled their annual income of Php 45,000 in 2020. This helped his family live a little lighter and expand his swine production as this was only the beginning. The following year, his farm income increased up to 245%. Lingbawan is the frontrunner on swine raising in his group. He then wishes his fellow farmers to grab this opportunity to improve



their economic status and their community as a whole.

Year	Total No. of Sold Hogs	Total sales (Php)	Feed Cost (Php)	Profit (Php)
		a	b	a-b
2020	12	85,500	50,968	34,532
2021	19	141,600	66,103	75,497
Total	31	227,100	117,071	110,029

With his income, Lingbawan was able to sustain the feeds for his stocks, provide food for his family, save money for the purchase of hallow blocks mixer equipment for hallow blocks manufacturing business he is venturing, and build slope protection for their residential and backyard farm.

Another downside of ASF outbreak for GTFA's swine production is the possibility of their pigs in catching the virus. In 2019 and early 2020, some of them sold their gilts and planned to replace them once the outbreak ceases.

Lingbawan, as one of the progressive members, was able to supply 10 gilts to his co-members as replacement to their gilts.

The gilts of Lingbawan's co-members were sold because they are afraid that these will catch the ASF virus and not because it has the virus. Yet, Lingbawan had supplied another gilt for them as replacement and had a return income of Php 31,000.

It was noted that, if the beneficiaries no longer had the gilts provided to them, they will be drawn out from the list of SAAD beneficiaries.

GTFA Swine Production Income

Aside from Lingbawan, 41 other beneficiaries from GTFA profited from the swine production. In total, the 42 beneficiaries sold 93 hogs and piglets for Php 1,021,600 having spent Php 232,820 on nutrition. Their accumulated income amounts to Php 788,780 with most sales for the year 2021 (Table 2).

Lingbawan said that the swine project is really a big help to farmers as long as it is properly handled. Like any other swine production, the housing of the animals are to be kept dry and clean;

and enough nutrition is provided.

Number of Beneficiaries	Total No. of Sold Hogs/Piglets	Total sales (Php)	Feed Cost (Php)	Profit (Php)
		a	b	a-b
42	93 heads	1,021,600.00	232,820.00	788,780.00

Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

The ASF outbreak in Luzon halt the distribution of male piglets for the SAAD projects in 2019.

With the infestation of the virus on nearby municipalities which



Hardwork results to successful swine production

drew panic in Balbalan Proper, some of the beneficiaries sold their gilts and earned from it. But as soon as the ASF ceases, those who sold their gilts had purchased from Mr. Lingbawan as replacement. Because, the association has a policy that when members lose their gilts, they will be removed from the list of SAAD beneficiaries.

Moreover, the provision of male piglets to the GTFA was made on October 2020 by the sourcing out of SAAD program in Balbalan. This ensures the ASF virus-free pig supply for the group and for the other beneficiaries to finally have their gilts bred.

SAAD Swine Repopulation in the barangay

Early 2020, the DA-SAAD-CAR responded to Secretary William Dar's program of helping the department in implementing projects for the repopulation of swine across the country. In Kalinga, GTFA was among the pioneer beneficiaries of the swine repopulation program. To avoid entry of ASF and other pests in the area, existing sows by beneficiaries were used to further increase the population of swine in the area. Ten GTFA members were identified as beneficiaries wherein they will receive feeds for their ready to breed stocks until the offsprings' weaning stage. This amounts to about Php 30,000 swine nutrition inputs per beneficiary. In return, the 10 beneficiaries are to roll over two piglets each to co-members or to the community. The 20 next-in-line beneficiaries are also to receive a bag of starter feeds each. For GTFA, the group chose to include non-SAAD beneficiaries as next-in-line beneficiaries or receiver of the piglets to be rolled over.

Martha Panod, one of the 10 swine repopulation beneficiaries, appreciates the program for devising its own swine repopulation project.

"Mayat ta adda ti kastuy nga proyekto tapnu umad-adu pay ti agtaraken ti babuy. Dagiti han pay nakapadas nga agtaraken, maenganyo da ta dakket ti tulong na ti pinansyal ken adda mausar nu ok-okasyon, (It's good to have such projects as to increase the number of swine raisers. Those who have not yet experienced swine raising are being encouraged since they can see that it's a big help financially and there is readily available source for occasions)," said Panod.

As of September 2021, three beneficiaries were able to roll over 5 piglets from their 33 total of piglets produce to next-in-line beneficiaries.

Ways forward

The demand for meat in the locality and across Luzon remains high and Lingbawan plans to continue raising hogs by retaining a few gilts for production. Due to the on-going ASF cases in Luzon, the pork supply decreased which hardly met the demand especially in affected areas.

Wilhelmina Bonggawen, GTFA Chairperson, shared that people from other barangays and municipalities purposely go to their barangay to buy hogs or piglets as the barangay is now known to be free of ASF virus. It is then a challenge to the group to keep the area ASF-free. Fortunately, the DA-SAAD-CAR conducted seminars and trainings to member on how to bio secure their farm which the swine raisers are thankful for.

The group is planning to establish a swine housing facility and to date, municipal personnel had already validated the lot to be used. Balbalan Proper is an ideal area for the production since the municipality had the least case in ASF (0.64%) across the province and the barangay is ASF-free (Provincial Office for Veterinary Services, 2021). The enterprise aims to supply quality, safe, ASF-free piglets, meats and by-products such as longganisa, tocino, and tapa.

Moreover, the GTFA is on the processes of asking assistance from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the conduct of meat processing training to add value on their produce. With the existing assistance from DA-SAAD Program, the group thought of connecting to other departments to vitalize convergence.

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Standing as a good example of a successful SAAD beneficiary

Keeping the Coffee Industry Alive in Kalinga

Kalinga coffee growers from Pasil, Pinukpuk, and Tabuk City underwent training on coffee rejuvenation in the hope of revitalizing the coffee industry in the province. Provincial coffee growers envision an increase in yield and income of coffee farmers with the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program’s Coffee Rejuvenation Training in tandem with the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU). With 450 farmers trained who were added to the already able, an optimistic future and rekindled hope is up for the coffee industry here.

With continuous monitoring and technical assistance, the program escorts the farmers through technology adaptation to enervate at least 80% or approximately 27 hectares of the old coffee trees in the SAAD-covered areas in the province.

Antuza Refalda, manager of a Kalinga coffee brand, said that there is a need to rejuvenate old coffee trees in Kalinga. Its declining yield is unable to respond to the recognition of the export markets of the province’s top commodity as a ready source of beans.

Municipal Agriculturist (MA) of Pinukpuk, Eunice Belloza encouraged farmers with the vision of a promising enterprise from the coffee industry adding that a sure income follows when farmers treat agriculture as a business.

Belloza said it has been observed in the upper barangays of the province, where most coffee plantations are located, that farmers purchase coffee powder for household consumption from the province’s center market in Tabuk instead of marketing their coffee products in the city. “This only shows that the production from the coffee plantations in the mountainous areas declines even with the suitability of the crop to the province’s climate,” she added, expressing hope that coffee beans will be marketed from the upper communities of the province to Tabuk City instead of the other way around.

Coffee is an important part of the Kalingas’ culture, and Cordillerans as a whole. Aside from being a staple beverage in Kalinga homes, it is a symbol of hospitality when visiting a household or a place. It is served on slow lazy afternoons and on any occasion.

Most coffee growers in Kalinga produce their own seedlings by selecting good seeds from their production for transplanting, while some seedlings grow from fallen ripe beans.

The value chain analysis of coffee in the Cordillera by the DA’s Philippine Rural Development Project acknowledges coffee to be the world’s second most valuable market commodity after petroleum and is the adopted regional commodity in the highlands. With four major varieties of coffee growing in the Cordillera, Arabica coffee grows well in the highland areas of Benguet, Mountain Province, and Ifugao, while Robusta, Excelsa and Liberica coffee grow best in the hotter or lowland areas in the region, like some parts of Kalinga and Mountain Province.

The harvest season is January to April for Robusta coffee, November to June for Arabica, and February for Excelsa. Kalinga coffee farmers mainly cultivate Robusta and Arabica varieties.

Most of the coffee farms in the country are found in Mindanao with 65.99% of the total area planted. Luzon comes second with 23.69% and the Visayas with 10.32% total planted area.

Coffee berries production in the Philippines decreased by 25.08% from 96,433 MT in 2009 to 72,341 MT in 2015. This decline is attributed mostly to aging trees and poor farming practices, as shown in the production of dried coffee berries from the different regions in the Philippines from 2009 and 2015. Fueling the desire of coffee farmers to adapt farm technologies and give the capacity to lead rejuvenating projects as one of the strategies, the program is organized to revive coffee production in the provinces.

Belloza said that the training is a free learning opportunity from



Painting of rejuvenated coffee trees for protection from infections on the fresh cut trunks

the government that targets the increase of harvest and income for farmers, “the farmers’ cooperative and their initiative to learn and apply the knowledge that they have gained is a sure bridge to success in the coffee industry.”

Other reasons for the decline include the conversion of agro-forest plantations to cash crops like rice and corn that provides farmers faster and better income, the lack of accessible roads from the mountains to the market, and the decreased productivity of coffee trees due to old age. The DA-PRDP allotted funds for the construction of Farm to Market Roads in the province for accessible means for transport and opening opportunities for business establishments and traders especially for those living in rural communities.

Project Implementation

In the joint effort by the DA-SAAD-CAR Program and the MLGUs, a total of 460 farmers were trained on Coffee Rejuvenation, Harvesting, and Post-handling Technique from October to November 2021 aiming to increase the yield from century-old trees.

SAAD allotted Php 730,000.00 budget for the coffee rejuvenation training participated in by eight Farmers’ Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) namely: Guina-ang Pasil FA of Pasil; Nambucayan Matagoan FA, Banat Banagan Pakao Credit Cooperative, and SAAD Farmers Development Organization of Tabuk City; and Asibanglang Farmers Development Organization, Ba-ay Farmers SAAD Organization, ILimos SAAD FA of Pinukpuk with a total of 450 farmer participants.

The said areas were also recipients of fruit trees and livestock production projects from the program.

Aiming to help in the revival of coffee production and providing income-generating opportunities to the local coffee farmers, the SAAD program of the Department of Agriculture, in unity with the One DA Reform Agenda, piloted training on Coffee Rejuvenation, Harvesting and Post Handling Technique in collaboration with the Municipal Local Government Unit-Office of the Municipal Agricultural Services in the Municipalities of Pinukpuk (SAAD area since 2020) and Pasil (SAAD area since 2019), and the City of Tabuk (SAAD area since 2020). According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, regular rejuvenation is needed, normally



Cleaned surrounding, rejuvenated and painted coffee trees from training demo



Farm talk, an effective hands-on learning site for farmers



A foot-tall newly rejuvenated coffee tree

at six to seven years depending on the tree vigor and yield pattern, to maintain a source of new fruiting wood.

Another practice to be improved by the training is the proper way of harvesting the berries instead of the stripping method which is customary to the farmers who want to save time but this can result in the damage of coffee trees and the inclusions of unripe, over-ripe, and reject beans that can affect the quality and taste of the final product.

Rejuvenating materials and equipment like mini chainsaws, pruning shears, paints, and paintbrushes were provided to partner FCAs with a total fund of Php 730,000.00.

Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

However, farmers' apprehension in adopting modern technologies in coffee cultivation was a challenge. Technology transfer can be tough so it slows down the assumed improvement of different commodity production in agriculture.

Despite these challenges, regular monitoring and technical assistance through field visits to farms that adopted contemporary coffee rejuvenation methods are being executed to gather reality-based evidence of the effectiveness of the project. This is aimed at encouraging more farmers to participate in the project.

In Asibanglan, Pinukpuk, John B. Gorospa, a youth leader and the chairperson of Asibanglan Farmers Development Organization has a keen endeavor to team up with the DA-SAAD-CAR and other partner agencies in asserting that the rejuvenation of coffee trees is a proven way in revitalizing the yield of coffee beans. Having been exposed that gives a wider understanding of the importance of technology transfer in agriculture, he willingly took initiative in convincing the organization he handles by opening his coffee plantation for demo.

He also encouraged the association members by citing an earning coffee farm he has visited in the province where the trees already yield after a year of engaging in the technology of rejuvenation. With high hopes and close coordination with partner agencies and the organizations who underwent the training, the coffee industry in the province is seen to prosper in the following years.

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PHOTOS



A scenic view of terraced rice fields in a mountainous region. The terraces are filled with water and young rice plants, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The background shows lush, forested mountains under a clear sky. The text 'MOUNTAIN PROVINCE' is overlaid in large, bold, green letters with a slight shadow effect. A white horizontal bar is positioned below the text.

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE



HISTORY

The Mountain Province was chosen as beneficiary for Special Area for Agricultural Development because in 2018, The Philippine Statistics Authority (2018), ranked 13th in the poverty incidence of families and belonged to “Club 20” of poor provinces.

In 2019, the SAAD included 10 municipalities that covered the poorest of the poor of its barangays based on the Community Based Monitoring Survey through the Department of Interior and Local Government. There were 10 farmer associations/organizations, the assistance started with 16 projects in 13 barangays helping 1,039 beneficiaries.

In 2020, the Program had 33 projects with 31 barangays covered, totaling 1,942 beneficiaries, the following year number of projects totaled 68, with 44 barangays covered, aiding 2,956 beneficiaries.

Physical Background

Mountain Province is located in the northernmost part of Luzon and is situated within the Central Cordillera. Its total land area is 2,239.0 square kilometers (sq. km.), 23% of which are classified as alienable and disposable, and 77% as forest lands. The province is bordered on the north by Kalinga, south by Ifugao, south west by Benguet, west by Ilocos Sur, and northwest by Abra.

The province has many rivers, waterfalls, mountains, and caves. Towering peaks and sharp ridges describe the central and western parts of the province with 83% of land being mountainous while 17% make up hills and levels, gradually sloping and rolling foothills are the general features of the eastern towns.

Geographically, it lies between north latitude 16 degrees 50 minutes and 17 degrees 10 minutes, and east longitude 120 degrees 50 minutes and 121 degrees 41 minutes. It comprises of 10 municipalities and 144 barangays.

The provincial capital is Bontoc. It is where the various offices of the national, local, and government owned and controlled corporations are based. Major institutions and establishments like the Mountain Province State Polytechnic College (MPSPC), Bontoc General Hospital, and commercial buildings are also found in this municipality. Traveling to this province from Baguio City via the Halsema Highway to the capital town is 5 hours; from Manila through Ifugao is 11 hours; and from Tabuk-Kalinga to Bontoc is 7 hours.

Poverty Situation

The province relies mainly on agriculture for survival and is faced with many challenges such as: small farm sizes; limited arable lands; underutilized farm lands due to water supply constraints; low operational efficiency of existing irrigation systems; deficit in rural infrastructure like irrigation, roads,

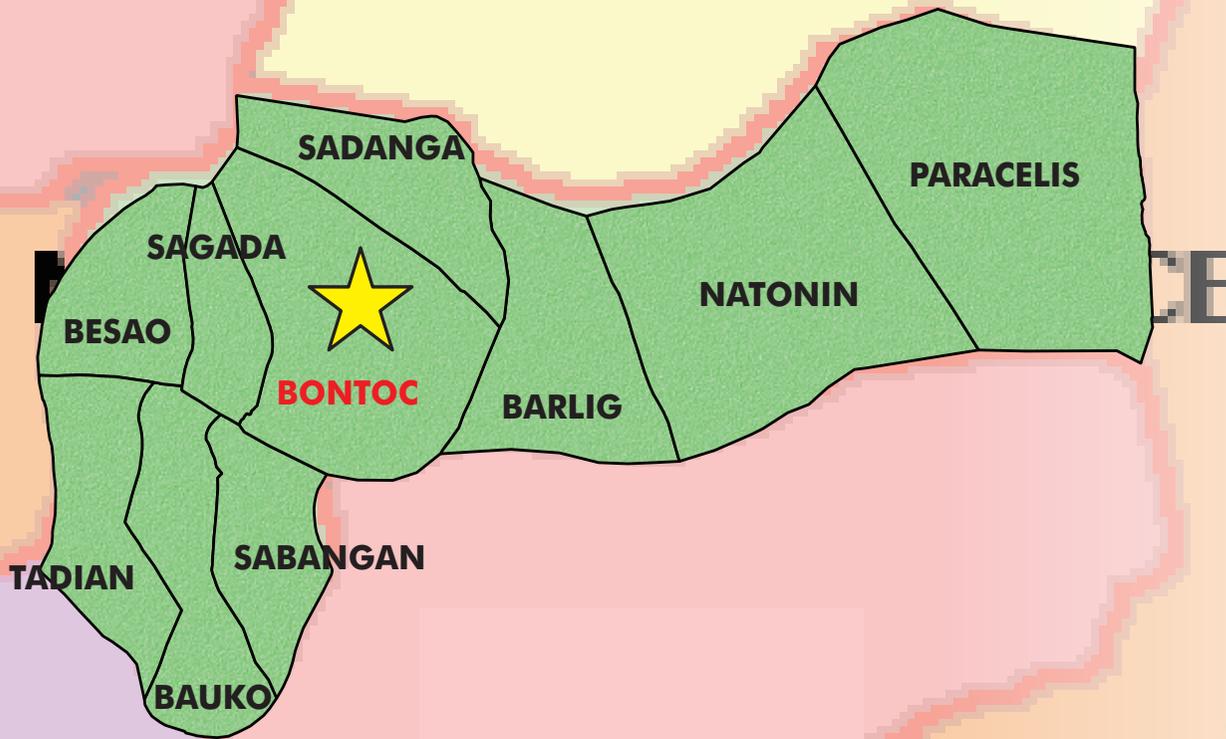
bridges, and post-harvest facilities; high cost of farm inputs and agricultural labor; weak linkages between producers and enterprises; and the competing use of agricultural lands.

Mountain Province had the highest poverty threshold among the provinces in CAR with PhP 27,726 per capita per annum for 2018 followed by Ifugao with PhP 26,424. These poverty thresholds were above the CAR poverty threshold by 11.5% and 6.2% for Mountain Province and Ifugao, respectively.

In 2006, Mountain Province had a 45% poverty incidence. Despite the decreasing trend of poverty incidence in Mountain Province since 2003 to present is 26.06% as of 2015, the province ranked no. 4 among the CAR provinces with the highest poverty incidence and ranked no. 13 as of 2015 nationwide. At the municipal level, the municipality of Sadanga registered the highest poverty incidence followed by Natonin and Tadian. The high poverty incidence in Mountain Province is attributed to limited sources of income and large family size. With the low family income, their expenses for basic services is affected due to higher number of family members to provide for. The extent of poverty is not only gauged on income, but also on access to services on health and nutrition, housing, water and sanitation, basic education, and peace and order.

Agricultural Background

Mountain Province as of the 2002 survey by the PSA shows that there were 11,777 number of farms and 17,696 hectares or 176.96 square kilometers dedicated to agriculture for the province. Even without the prescribed land suitability, forebears were able to manage the mountainous land and prevent soil erosion through riprapping a series of flattened lands. The top most portions were maintained and protected as forest mainly as source of water for irrigation. This indigenous technology has in fact, preserved the forests for hundreds of years to date. The increasing population, however, enabled encroachment into the forest areas. Planting of cash crops for immediate income without adopting soil erosion prevention is now imminent. These are apparent in the vegetable growing areas of Bauko and some parts of the province. Most of these vegetable areas do not have hedges or soil protection structures such as ripraps. Soil fertility depletion is also at risk due to extensive application of commercial fertilizers over a long period of time. There are now efforts being undertaken by government and private stakeholders in the province to promote organic farming but farmers seem less inclined to adopt them. Continuous resistance on the part of farmers to adopt appropriate soil conservation measures and soil rejuvenation measures will further result to top soil loss/depletion that will reduce crop productivity and profitability, apart from environmental disasters in the long run.



Groups

50



Group Members

4,046



Number of projects

116

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

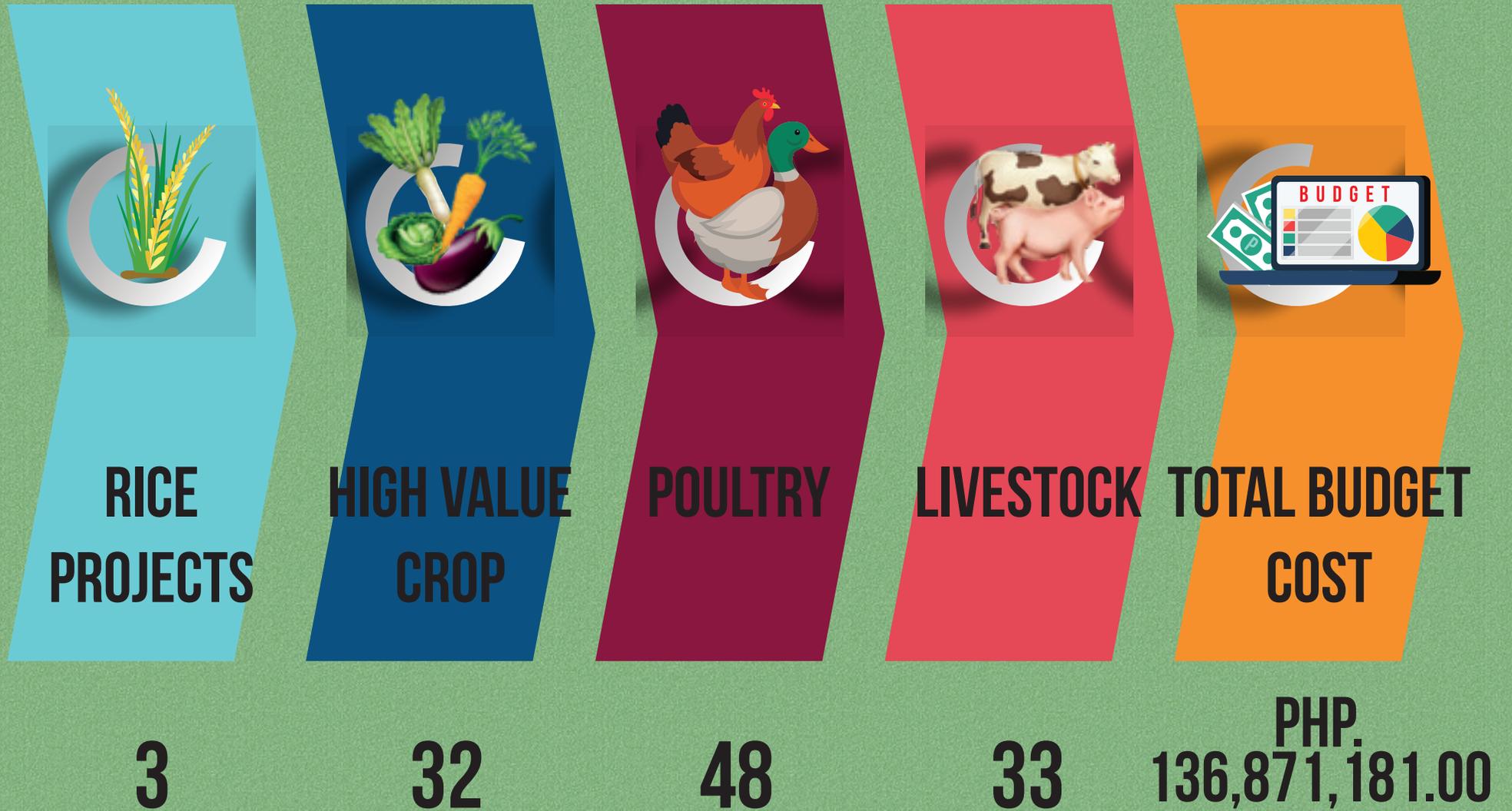


Covered Barangays

50

NUEVA VIZCAYA

PROJECT COMPONENTS



Total numbers reflect data since 2019 until 2021

Empowered Women are Sole Producers of Quail Egg in the Mountain Province

The Channeg Farmers Association (CFA), a women led farmer association, is now the exclusive producer of quail eggs in the Mountain Province.

CFA is composed of 70 members, mostly of young mothers and through the agricultural livelihood program of the Department of Agriculture - CAR - Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program the path towards poverty alleviation has been taken step by step.

“Dakkel nga yaman me iti DA SAAD ta ado ti naitulong daytoy project kenjami. Nasuro me nga ag-alaga ti quail ken tinmibker ti urnos me nga organisasyon. Iti pinansiyal, ada ti income me nga us-usaren me nga gumatang para iti pang-kusina me karkaro idi pandemic nga haan kami makaruar. Sapay koma ta ado pay ti matulungan tapno marikna da met ti ragsak ken nam-ay nga narikna me (We are grateful of the DA-SAAD for the project. It is a great help to us, aside from learning how to care for the birds it has made us stronger as a group. Financially, it has given us additional source of income sustaining some of our kitchen needs especially during the height of the pandemic protocols. We hope it would reach more people to share the joy we have experienced),” said CFA chairperson Divina Dangilan.

Dalican was among the chosen barangays covered by the program in the province because of the high poverty incidence, where most families make ends meet with meager income from farming.

Dangilan said in the past, they could not afford to buy quail eggs and could just taste these when they travel to Baguio City, the assistance coming from SAAD, enabled their children to eat quail eggs anytime.

Before the program, Dalican folk engaged in farming rice, corn, and other grains as well as small backyard gardens of fruits and vegetables, most women leave the town to look for jobs in the cities or commonly become on-call domestic helpers.

The coming of the SAAD gave hope to Dalican households when the program started in 2019, since assistance was channeled through an organization, 20 qualified beneficiaries of the program formed the CFA under the SAAD quail egg production subproject in 2019.

In June 2020, the association received 1,000 quail birds, poultry feeds, multi-vitamins, dewormers, two units of pre-fabricated cages with waterer and feeder, two units of quail housing, and cyclone wire worth Php 285,092.00.

The group agreed with the Local Government Unit (LGU) to venture into something new, something not popular in the province but a sure market for enterprise development.

Though they were not familiar in quail production they banked on the technical assistance of their partners in the implementation backing them in their decision despite strong disagreement from the others.

After two months since the birds were provided, the group



SER 1

- MASH
- CRUMBLE
- PELLET

was able to gather 52,304 quail eggs and sold with the assistance of the Provincial Veterinary Office. They earned a total of Php 104,608.00 from selling quail eggs at Php 2.00 each.

“Arapaap mi nga i-sustain ti feeding ken i-expand ti quail egg production nga business mi manipud iti sales mi ken kayat mi agbalin nga pioneer iti quail egg production haan lang nga iti munisipyo nu di ket iti intiro nga probinsya (We are looking forward to sustaining our quail egg production business while expanding it through buying additional stocks and feeds from our sales while slowly aiming to become the pioneer in quail egg production not only in the municipality but in the whole province),” said CFA bookkeeper Jennifer Foyacao.

Table 1. CFA Project Interventions

Interventions	Quantity	UOM	Cost
Quail birds	1000	pieces	95,000.00
Poultry feeds	50	bags	77,500.00
Multivitamins	4	bottles	4,000.00
Pre-fabricated cages	2	units	95,000.00
Cyclone wire	8	rolls	13,592.00
Total			285,092.00

**For every 50 quail birds consume a kilo of feeds per day*

She added that they wanted to focus on their production until such time that they can explore and get into production expansion by hatching and brooding to replace their original stocks.

From 1,000 quail layers, the group made a profit of Php 67,408.00 in two months. In 2021, they are planning to purchase an additional 200 birds and feeds using their own savings.

Foyacao said that, economically, quail raising is a very promising project because of their surprising advantages over their larger cousins and even other animals, namely: they are cheap, their eggs are smaller (around a quarter the size of a chicken egg) but can be used just like chicken eggs and are good

candidates for canning or pickling, quails are easy to maintain. They require less space than chicken, these birds aren't choosy when it comes to laying their eggs so there's no need to construct a separate nesting box, they're not picky eaters, quails aren't picky homeowners, you can use their waste to fertilize your garden.

Table 2. Profit Computation of 1,000 quail layers from July to August 2020

Month	Total quail eggs gathered (pieces)	Total Sales (Php 2.00/egg) a	Feed Cost (Php 31.00/kg) b	Profit (a-b)
July	30,000	60,000.00	18,600.00	41,400.00
August	22,304	44,608.00	18,600.00	26,008.00
Total	52,304	104,608.00	37,200.00	67,408.00

Plans

The group looks forward to gradually expanding their



Jennifer Foyacao, the Business Manager of the Chaneg Farmers Organization counting the collected eggs ready for delivery.

EMPOWERED WOMEN ARE SOLE PRODUCER OF QUAIL
EGG IN THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE



Channeg Farmers Organization members standing beside the cage of their quail birds taken during a visit with the National Program Management Support Office.

business and supply other private individuals or groups, who are planning to engage in the same business. Part of their long-term goal is becoming the quail egg supplier in the province.

According to Dangilan, a lot of their customers are now interested in joining their quail egg production. She sees that as an advantage as more people become interested in producing quail eggs, it would mean the potential for their dream of expanding into hatching and brooding to supply municipal wide if not province wide.

Table 3. profit computation from January – September 30, 2021

Month	Quail Eggs Produced	Sale	Management Costs	Gain
Jan	8611 sold @ Php2.00each	P17,222	P15,412	P3,881
Feb	7868 sold @ Php2.00each	P15,736		P29,136
March	7914 sold @ Php2.00each	P15,828		P14,800
April	8273 sold @ Php2.00each	P16,546		P40,780
May	7059 sold @ Php2.00each	P14,118		P6,530
June	5087 sold @ Php2.00each	P10,174		P2,470
July	5938 sold @ Php2.00each	P11,876		P1,300
Aug	2941 sold @ Php2.00each	P5,882		P1,035
Sept	6711 sold @ Php2.00each	P13,422		P5,460
Total		P120,804		

Having kept their enterprise rolling and growing aside from being assisted by the program, Divina goes out from the comfort of her barangay and beyond her supervisory responsibilities to represent her group. She won first place in the best business plan presenter Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) Kapatid Mentor Me Program (KAMMP), an online Training and bested nine (9) other under the Small-Medium-Enterprise category.

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Ankileng's Etag

Merging Culture and Enterprise

Etag is Sagada's culinary star, traditional and enduring, rooted in the local diet and popular even outside the municipality. This cured meat is made with choice pork, rubbed with sea salt and smoked in alder and/or pine wood for days, until the flavor intensifies to what is uniquely its own. Etag is so Sagada such that the annual town fiesta slotted every February became Sagada Etag Festival in 2010, in a string of nation-wide branding on One Town, One Product (OTOP) for tourism. Think Sagada, think etag.

When Ankileng Rumang-ayan Organization (ARO), an association of farmers in one of Sagada's barangays, proposed for an intervention in 2019, their request included an "etag" chamber. This would enable the processing of locally-raised pork into the prized "etag", value adding into the raw product and increasing its shelf life, as well as proactively addressing a possible surplus of pork. The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) granted this proposal, formally turning over to the organization an "etag" chamber worth Php 100,000.00 on January 2020.

For that year alone, ARO's five production cycles in etag-making yielded a net income of Php 22,916.00. A sow two years or older is butchered per production cycle. In the members' repeated observations, younger pigs shrink and older pigs dry better and faster. Male pigs are rarely aged beyond their fattening stage. Sows, on the other hand, are kept longer for breeding. Past its optimum reproduction stage, a sow becomes a candidate for "etag"-making. The head, hooves and innards of the pig are sold fresh, including the bony parts, as these are not "etag"-worthy.

Every production cycle yields sales on fresh meat and etag. Half of the profit is ploughed into the organization's capital

buildup and the other half is set aside for their revolving fund. In the latter half of 2021, armed with better entrepreneurial skills and experience, the organization earned Php 30,523.50 just from two production cycles of "etag". As Barangay Ankileng never had a single case of African Swine Fever, their piglets and fresh pork enjoyed the highest demand in the first half of 2021, leaving no surplus for "etag"-making in the chamber.

Together with the etag chamber, ARO received a project package of Integrated Swine Raising and Rambutan Production for its initial 64 members. As early as the 2018, three community consultations from August to December emphasized the SAAD program's goals, deliberated the selection criteria and process, and produced the beneficiary list. The meetings were rife with discussions and disagreements. Each household in the community wanted to be counted in the project. If such, each beneficiary would probably receive not more than one piglet each – a trivial intervention for a program geared towards enterprise development. Program implementers reminded that the interventions should be sizable enough to create an impact: to improve household income and increase food supply.

One community member recalls, "*Wada nan mensungbat. Gawis di tay basta maanap nan solusyon ay mensasabatan di amin* (People would contend with one another. That was good, as long as a solution was eventually arrived at collectively)." The golden list of 30 households was drawn, which was stretched to a final 34 beneficiaries for swine production. The rambutan sub-project was given to another 30 beneficiaries. The farmers would raise pigs in order to sell fresh meat and to process to "etag", while the manure from the pigs would help fertilize the rambutan trees.

After the community consultations, SAAD staff in



partnership with the Office of Municipal Agriculturist (OMAG) and barangay officials of Ankileng facilitated the formation of the beneficiaries into a farmers' association. Ankileng Rumang-ayan Organization (ARO) was officially created on January 18, 2019, with the ratification of their constitution and by-laws and the election of their first set of officers. They registered with Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on February and accredited with the Department of Agriculture (DA) on September of the same year.

The project worth Php 3,876,000.00 provided 34 farmer beneficiaries with a total of 300 piglets, 300 sacks starter feeds, 900 sacks grower feeds, 300 finisher feeds, 30 plastic drums, 120 plastic elbow, 60 plastic pipes, 60 nipple drinkers, Tricantera

cuttings, swine biologics, syringes and metal needles. Another 30 beneficiaries were given 450 rambutan seedlings, 60 sacks chicken manure, 30 knapsack sprayers, and 150 plastic crates. On top of these, the organization received 1 platform weighing scale and 1 vacuum sealer. From July to October 2019, these interventions reached the beneficiaries.

The SAAD program also included trainings for the organization's consolidation and project management capacity. On May 2019, all members trained on organization capability building. In partnership with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), a training on entrepreneurship on July 9, 2019 benefited members. From July to September 2019, they listened to School on Air through



Some of the women behind the successful swine production of the ARO.

ANKILENG'S ETAG:
Merging Culture and Enterprise

interactive learning sessions on swine production aired over the Radyo Sagada community radio station. Prior to their use of the *"etag"* chamber, they had a training on *"etag"* processing on December 2019. In July 2021, representatives from their group trained on Bookkeeping and Financial Management.

Backyard swine raising figure prominently in Sagada communities. In Ankileng, more than half of the households engage in this activity. Age-old community rituals and indigenous celebrations of human milestones call for the butchering of pigs. Traditionally, the pigs also serve an ecological function – turning kitchen wastes and food scraps into valuable manure for enriching backyard gardens. On an economic viewpoint, raising pigs augment household income, too.

Backyard swine raising, no doubt, puts any Sagada household to an advantage. Growing one or two, at most three pigs, was normal. But when the SAAD project arrived, each beneficiary automatically had 9 piglets to take care of. “Most of us never imagined we were capable of upscaling our swine production,” one beneficiary exclaimed.

A few months after the delivery of the interventions, the 300 piglets distributed at the start of the program were now 300 grown pigs, ready to be turned into cash and reinvested. The prevailing price of liveweight at that time was discouraging. The local market was saturated, pushing them to dispose their stocks outside, to as far as Abatan, Benguet. Nonetheless, ARO's first cycle in swine production recorded Php 2.9 million in the sale of



Piglets of the ARO

286 heads fatteners. The other pigs were groomed into breeder sows and kept. Then the African Swine Fever hit the rest of the country, cutting low the supply of pork and jacking up its price. ARO put in place biosecurity measures, enjoining community members not to bring in fresh or frozen pork products from outside. They escalated their vigilance, knowing that the entry of the virus would wipe out their swine production in an instant. They are and have remained ASF-free, even as pigs in neighboring towns got infected. Now in their sixth production cycle, the group has cumulatively logged Php 5,248,399 in gross sales from previous five cycles of rearing pigs.

As earlier agreed in writing, each beneficiary shall deposit from his/her swine production earnings Php 70,000 to personal share capital in any reputable credit cooperative in the municipality. When this was proposed, some contended that putting their earnings in savings accounts should be enough. But Sagada's Municipal Agriculturist at that time, Ms. Maria Apapid, pointed out that saving deposits can be easily withdrawn while the share capital will last one's lifetime, even earning dividends yearly. The group saw the wisdom in this and voted for share capital build up. As per treasurer's report dated May 2021, seven beneficiaries already complied with the Php 70,000 share capital deposit from their earnings. Seventeen (17) beneficiaries have deposited between Php 30,000 to Php 69,000 while 8 beneficiaries placed Php 29,000 and below. One invested his earnings in a truck, which he rents out for hauling feeds as well delivering stocks to buyers; while another used her earnings to partly finance the construction of her house.

For their group fund, the 34 swine project beneficiaries agreed to contributing Php 20,000 each. This amount shall be paid on a staggered basis, at least a fourth given within the first three years of the project. This would fund the construction of their own processing area cum office. The "etag" chamber stood on barangay property which had space next to it for their intended building. In August 2021, all members contributed Php 6,000 each, a little beyond their target. With this, the construction of



The ARO "etag" giving life to the etag chamber and ETAG Enterprise.

ANKILENG'S ETAG:
Merging Culture and Enterprise

their building began. In addition to their monetary contributions, the members pitched in 5 days of labor each, equivalent to a 2,000-peso contribution at Php 400 labor wage per day. To sum up, each member now has contributed Php 8,000 out of the Php 20,000 they committed for their group fund. Their building now stands, albeit unfinished – a 14x16 feet structure adjacent to the "etag" chamber. An outdoor sink and wash area, and a separate toilet also stands next to the office.

Now, ARO is looking forward to producing regularly and more "etag", to maximize the chamber's maximum capacity of

200 kilos of pork. They plan on expanding the market reach, as their sales are mostly retail and still within the barangay. They are challenged to establish their brand and improve their product packaging. They are committed on sustaining and expanding their swine production, also to ensure continuity of their "etag"-making. They hope to reach a status that when one thinks Sagada "etag", one thinks of the "etag" that Ankileng Rumang-ayan Organization produces.

*Writer: Gawani D. Gaongan
Project Development Officer I, Sagada*



A Skeleton of the expanded "etag" chamber that validates the success in swine production despite the threat on ASF.

SAAD Project Provides Income for Farmer in Latang, Barlig

“Daytoy poonan nga inted ti SAAD adda pagbanagan na (The capitalization SAAD gave should have an outcome),” Ophelia Witawit, 62-year-old farmer in Latang, Barlig said about the SAAD Program.

She is a member and the first president of Latang Association for Agricultural Development (LAAD), an organization of sixty farmers awarded in 2019 with a project worth Php 3,718,000 on Integrated Farming on Swine, Lemon and Vegetable Production.

As with all of the beneficiaries, Witawit received start-up interventions valued at Php 34,100 from the SAAD program. This amount translates to five male piglets, hog feeds from starter to finisher, tricantera cuttings, one roll fiber rubber hose, two pieces GI sheet, a plastic drum, and two nipple drinkers. These were delivered and distributed to the beneficiaries from July 30 to August 5, 2020.

“Haan nga maidu-or amin, adda counterpart (Not everything is given, beneficiaries have counterpart),” Witawit added. She provided for the housing and labor. “Haan nagkurang ti gobyerno (The government has not fallen short),” she added. She also believes that since majority of what one needs to establish the venture was given, there should not be any reason why this should fail.

Before the SAAD project, Witawit engaged in piglet production with three breeder sows supported with loans from a local cooperative. She would pay her loan upon disposing the piglets. The amount remaining from her loan payment – her profit – provides for their daily needs. Their income then from piglet production was minimal. In order to make ends meet, they engaged in rice farming for additional source of food and income.

The piglets she received from SAAD on July 2019 were two-

month-old already. Thus, the first cycle of project implementation lasted for four and a half months. She sold her pigs on December that same year and after deducting all her expenses, she clinched a Php 54,000.00 net profit.

As part of capacity building, starting August 2019, a series of trainings and seminars were conducted to equip the association members on the proper management and production of swine. The activity helped them identify common swine diseases and administer appropriate treatment immediately.

“Anyay ngay ammuk? Haan ak agbain agsalu-saludsod. Nu adda seminar, mapan maki dengngeg (What do I know? I don’t feel ashamed asking questions often. When there is a seminar, I attend and listen),” Witawit explained.

Whenever her pigs got sick due to changes in weather, she would immediately separate them from the healthy ones and call the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) and SAAD staff for technical assistance. She is grateful because the concerned personnel are fully committed in assisting them anytime in order to help them sustain their livelihood projects.

Provided with a capital from her first sales, Witawit programmed her profit in buying inputs so she can proceed to the second cycle of her swine business. She was able to buy six sacks of gestating feeds, six lactating, six pre-starter, and ten kilograms of booster feeds to support one of her existing breeders and the offsprings. It later gave birth to ten piglets which were sold for a total of Php 35,000.

Since she discovered that there is potential income in breeding, she opted to buy three more piglets: two females for reproducing and one male to turn into boar. This marked the implementation of her third cycle. She planned to concentrate



on breeding pigs because aside from its economic benefit, she also wanted to help other association members acquire safe and healthy piglets, especially with the threat of the African Swine Fever in sourcing stocks from outside the community.

The two new sows were mated, one delivering seven piglets and the other eight. She traded all of the piglets at Php 4,000 each, providing her with total sales of Php 60,000.

The fourth cycle commenced on July 2021 when the same sows were mated producing 10 piglets which were sold at Php 4,500 each for a total of Php 45,000. The price of piglets increased due to the effect of ASF virus in the country where

swine stocks were completely wiped out in places where the virus struck. Witawit is aware of the threat to pig raising with the African Swine Fever greatly affecting the province. As their community remains ASF-free, the threat of the virus is real and daunting. To make sure that her pigs stay disease-free, she dutifully practices biosecurity measures.

All these experiences led her to testify that becoming a member and a beneficiary of the program has opened up opportunities. Right now, all of her loans and her organizational obligations were paid. With the remaining income she saved from successfully managing and implementing her swine



Ophelia Witawit of the LAAD with her stocks.

SAAD SWINE LIVELIHOOD PROJECT PAVED WAY FOR
ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT IN MT. PROVINCE

business, she was able to buy a chest freezer worth Php 25,000 to help support her swine production.

Witawit is now on her fourth cycle. She now keeps five breeders and a boar, raising a farrowed litter of 31 heads ready for disposal by December. She plans to continue her piglet production and boar servicing while implementing a swine repopulation project this 2021, where together with nine other organization members, she qualified as a beneficiary.

When asked why her swine production has grown sustainably, she draws several factors that contribute to her success. For one, she concentrates on her swine production. *“Uray kuma adda others nga ar-aramiden, ngem priority latta jay swine production. You cannot prioritize many things,”* she explained. She is also patient in caring for her pigs, providing them everything they need to

live comfortably and grow well. As a whole, she attributes her profitable implementation to good management of the project.

“Kababain nga naikkan ka langaruden, pareho ti kasasaad mo (It is shameful to be given, and still remain in the same situation),” Witawit concluded.

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Swine Production Fuels the Future for Bekigan Folk

In far-flung communities, folk depend on subsistence farming for food and income through rice and vegetable farming coupled with animal rearing and production, as sources of additional livelihood for many.

Two hours away from Sadanga's town in Mountain Province, atop a mountain, the breathtaking Barangay Bekigan can only be reached by foot, past rice paddies and steep slopes. Though remote, the path leading to the community has become a haven to the occasional travelers because of the breathtaking view along the way.

The Bekigan Farmers Association (BFA) with 30 members was created specifically for the implementation of the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in 2019. The association was then divided into sub-groups receiving agricultural projects on legumes, swine, and free-range chicken production.

Upon the program's entry in 2019, Mr. Caesar Agcarao, a 64-year-old farmer, became one of the beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's Swine, Free Range Chicken and Legume Production project amounting to Php 4,391,570.

Agcarao is among the 30 beneficiaries of the group who embarked on the journey of swine production as a livelihood.

Each beneficiary received a total of Php15,373 of intervention for individual backyard swine production in 2019 composed of three piglets, three Hog Starter Feed, 9 Hog Grower Feed, 3 Hog Finisher Feed, 13 cuttings of Tricantera, and two Nipple Drinkers.

Meanwhile, for the swine repopulation project for 2021, the group was granted Php 324,500 total budget inclusive of Farmer

Livestock School (FLS). Every thirteen beneficiaries received six bags of hog breeder feed, six (bags) hog lactating feed, 3.8 bags of pre-starter hog feed, four kilograms of booster feed, one box of iron dextran, one-liter dewormer, one-kilogram supplement, and 30 grams vetracin for a total of Php 28,826.

Giving recognition for efforts in implementing their project

During the Farmer Livestock Stock (FLS) graduation on November 11, 2021, Agcarao was awarded a special certificate in recognition of being the first to fulfill the obligation of passing on piglets (complying with the roll-over scheme) to other members of the association so they may start their own livelihood. The said scheme requires beneficiaries to distribute initial swine input's offspring to other members for project sustainability.

"Kailangan nga soroten diyay pass on agreement mi tapno agbiyag daytoy organisasyon mi (We have to implement our agreement on the pass on scheme for our organization to thrive)," says Agcarao.

Agcarao treasures the program for its sustainability efforts since its launch in their community. He shared that the development workers from SAAD, and from the provincial and municipal local government continuously visit the community despite the long walks they have to endure to reach the area.

Municipal councilor and member and committee on agriculture Mr. Daniel Dawadeo shares his confidence in the success of the projects in Bekigan because, despite its remote location, the community is very cooperative as they worked and works together towards their objective.



How BFAs swine project corelate to their tradition and culture

Through community consultations and with help from the Office of the Municipal Agriculture, the swine production was chosen to be the group’s livelihood development assistance from the SAAD Program. As to why the proponents have chosen swine as their livelihood, Agcarao said that *“ta ti baboy ket parte ti tradisyon ken kultura tayo. Example na dayta ket nu adda agkarang kadagijay annak tayo ket baboy met ti iapan tayo* (because pigs play a big part of our culture and tradition. For example, when one of our children gets engaged, pigs are sent to be butchered for the occasion).”

The swine production group received the bulk of BFAs assistance amounting to around PhP 3.87 million. The said amount was used to procure 90 heads of piglets, feeds and other biologics. Equally, each of the 30 members received three piglets, bags of feeds, stainless nipple drinker and tricantera cuttings. Over all, the association received PhP 3,236,000.00 worth of assistance from the Program.

1.Total amount of assistance received by Agcarao

Interventions	Quantity	Unit of Measurement (UoM)	Unit Cost (Php)	Amount
Piglets	3	heads	4,500	13,500.00
Hog Starter Feed	3	bags	1,600	4,800.00
Hog Growers Feed	9	bags	1,500	13,500.00
Hog Finisher Feed	2	bags	1,500	3,000.00
Stainless nipple drinker	2	Piece	300	600.00
Tricantera cuttings	13	piece	10	130.00
Total				PhP 35,530.00

Milestones

Agcarao’s swine production livelihood assistance is still making progress as of present. And even though he does not maintain a record book to note down his swine production related activities since he is unschooled, he can perfectly recall how he spent his income from the project.

Accordingly, one of the three piglets died because it got sick three days after he received it but he was able to gain income from the two that remained. Instead of selling the two piglets when they were mature enough to be sold, he only sold one for PhP 25,000 while he turned the other one into a sow or as they call it, mother pig.

“Pinagbalin ko nga mother pig diyay maysa tapno umad-ado da pay ken tapno haan nga mapokaw daytoy nga programa (I turned them into sows so they can multiply and also, for these livelihood programs to not vanish),” shared Agcarao.

From 2019, the sow already gave birth four times and according to Agcarao, when the pig gave birth to 10 piglets during the first cycle, he sold the piglets and opened a bank account for his daughter. He then saved all the money from selling the piglets there so that his daughter, who is now a third year college student,



Cesar Agcarao of the Bekigan Farmers Association at work collecting pig manure and checking stocks

will have something to use in school.

“Diyay naglakoak dadoma nga biik ket esu metlaeng ti ingatang ko ti kanen dyay mother pig ken naggatang mi ti osaren mi ti balay akas ti gasul ken asukar (My income derived from selling piglets from the second and third cycle was used in buying feeds for the following cycle. We also used it in buying daily necessities such as gas and sugar),” Agcarao expressed.

He also shared that during the pandemic, when everyone had limited mobility and income was low some community members came knocking on his doors and asked if they can get pigs to pay later on *“nu adda da ti omay nga mangkasapulan ti tolong tayo, tolongan tayo isuda, uray nu utang (if they come because they need help, we can help even if it is a loan).”*

Further, when the ASF hit the province, their barangay became one of the sources of pigs and piglets since the community is unaffected by the virus and the association members have a ready supply since just like Agcarao, members of the association are

successful in their swine production projects.

Moving forward

As of November this year, the sow owned by Agcarao is pregnant again for the fifth time. Due to give birth soon, he said that he will pass on one of the piglets to next in line beneficiaries.

His desire to pass on and follow the agreements set by their association is fueled by his hopes that the next generation will not tire to continue what they have started, *“dagijay ubbing kuma ket haan da maoma nga agadal kadagiti isorsoro mi met tapno esuda ti mangitoloy ditoy nga proyekto.”*

Agcarao attests development assistance afforded to the association became an additional source of income for most families in Bekigan and him, together with BFA members wish to sustain it for their future and preservation of their culture and traditions.

*Writer: Mary Joy M. Metwa
Administrative Assistant V*



SAAD Interventions Bring Out the Good in People and Make Families Closer

A love for his community and compassion for his neighbors pushed Henry Bodisen to create his own waste management system in his backyard.

“Kababain ti kaaruba (In consideration to the neighbors),” says Henry, partner implementer of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program’s Swine Production from Mountain Province in tandem with his wife Wilma, the original member of the Napua Farmers Timpuyog Organization (NFTO) in Napua, Sabangan, Mountain Province.

With the booming swine business of the Bodisen family, Henry thought of constructing a waste management so that the waste of the pigs will be properly managed. This is also in compliance to the sanitary regulations of the barangay.

“Iti panag-adu met iti taraken ket in-consider mi iti sanitation ken kaaruba sakbay kami masita, sunga napanunot ko iti panaka-aramid iti Biogas (With our successful plans of increasing our stocks, we have to consider sanitation and most especially, consider our neighbors health; thus, I pushed through with the construction of the waste management facility),” says Henry.

Also, it is his way of managing his pig manure towards

a clean and healthy environment for his stocks. The facility was constructed near the family piggery adopting the design from Henry’s former workplace where they use biogas as an alternative source of energy.

The design includes a pipe leading manure and water into the tank.

The by-product of the biogas generation process is an organic fertilizer, which could be a perfect supplement to or substitute for chemical ones.

The organic fertilizer is used for the family’s vegetable garden to accelerate plant growth and provide resilience to diseases.

Lessons learned and gains from subproject implementation

Wilma and Henry are private company employees and farm laborers. Earning just enough for their daily living and their children’s school needs, they get by with combined earnings of around Php 13,500 a month.

When the SAAD project came, Wilma was given 10 piglets with complete feed support and complimentary supplies.

Balancing work while tending to their own garden, the





Wilma Bodisen's production area showing three mother pigs.

couple reared original stocks for almost 6 months before gaining sales. However, sales were not regular due to mobility constraints brought about by the African Swine Fever (ASF) and the CoVid-19 pandemic.

Still, she managed to sell 10 fattened pigs at Php 120 per kilogram of live weight earning a total of Php 95,000 on the first cycle, March 2020.

The income the family gained from selling pigs and piglets from the SAAD interventions was used by Henry in buying materials for the construction of the waste management facility last June 2021.

As of August 2021, they are now tending mother pigs for the 5th production cycle. Offspring are reared as fatteners.

Thirteen (13) swine from the 3rd production cycle

were sold in February 2021. Wilma earned a net income of Php 40,005, which was used to buy a refrigerator.

After finding swine production profitable, Wilma and her husband decided to work hand-in-hand to increase their breeders from one to five. Because of this, Henry had to quit work and focus on the swine production business of the family.

As of August 10, Wilma and her family now have three breeders, with 37 offspring, ranging from nursery pigs to three-month-old fatteners. All in all, they are tending to 40 heads.

The idea of creating a waste management facility came to mind when the piglets granted to the family increased from 10 to 37 in just two years. He said that due to the threat

of the African Swine Fever (ASF), they have taken strict biosecurity measures following the guidelines taught them during their Farmer Field School (FFS) sessions.

“Naadal ko nga dapat i-sanitize dagiti gamit karo ti sapatos sakbay nga omoneg idjay kolongan. Haan mi metlang itolok nga adda ti somrek nga dadoma nga tao idjay kolongan mi (I learned that it is important to sanitize all materials, including our shoes before entering the pig pen. We also do not let other people just enter our pigpens),” Henry shared.

Program interventions to NFTO

The NFTO is composed of 60 members and was organized and registered under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in 2019.

Napua is the pioneer village in Sabangan to receive

SAAD interventions in 2019. Half of the group engaged in SAAD’s swine production while the other half received vegetable production inputs.

The swine production project, worth Php 3,350,500, is composed of hog feeds (from starter, grower, finisher, breeder, lactation), biologic, tricantera cuttings, plastic pipe elbows, plastic pipes, plastic drums, nipple drinker, and corrugated GI sheets.

A supplementary supply worth Php 56,000 was also given to the organization in September 2019.

Each member received a fair share of the interventions worth Php 56,775.

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Henry giving sayote to their stocks as snacks.

Tiger Grass Production in Pudo, Natonin

Broom making in a highland town in the Mountain Province has proven to be both profitable and beneficial in preserving indigenous products. *“Permi ti ragsak ken pasalamat mi idi nakita ken sinuportaran ti SAAD daytoy mula me ta dakkal daytoy nga magapwan ti panagbiyag me* (We were very happy and thankful when SAAD saw and supported our tiger grass because this is the major source of our livelihood),” said Bert Bagtang, a beneficiary of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Pudo, Natonin, Mountain Province.

Bagtang is a contemporary cultivator of tiger grass in the community and one of the 110 members of Pudo Farmers Organization (PFO), implementing a Tiger Grass Production Project beginning in 2019. The project package amounting to Php 1,926,200.00 included 5,000 pieces of Tiger Grass seedlings, 110 pieces of brush cutters, 110 pieces of bolos, 110 pieces of shovels, 110 pieces of grab hoe, 110 pieces of rakes, 220 plastic crates, and a package of training on tiger grass production.

The local government unit (LGU) is in full support and endorsed the project as it aids ecological balance in the area.

Tiger grass in Pudo is advantageous to the hilly slope in controlling erosion, and rehabilitating degraded areas on the foothills. The village elders regard the plant as guardian of the soil because they use these as hedgerows to minimize soil runoff, especially in upland gardens.

In an interview with the barangay officials and the PFO,

soft broom-making started in the mid-1900s while tiger grass is endemic in the municipality. Back then, it grew along the Pap-arong River located north of the barangay, yielding a small production good enough for community supply. As the demand increased, the community had to outsource tiger grass panicles from Sablan, Benguet but due to its distance, supplies arrived late and quality depreciated resulting in poor value and delays to meet customer demands.

Encouraged to address the issue, Bagtang started to plant five seedlings of tiger grass in 2010. Every after two years from 2012, he propagated tiger grass by transplanting suckers from the mother plant until he established a one-hectare plantation with 500 clumps of tiger grass intercropped with 100 betel nut trees in 2018.

The tiger grass is harvested once a year from February to March.

Despite this, harvest was still not enough to meet market demands until the arrival of the SAAD Program.

The SAAD project is the first national government program to support the livelihood and indigenous product of the community and has motivated locals to revive and propagate tiger grass in the area.

Project Implementation

During the plantation establishment in 2019, a 30% mortality equivalent to 1,500 seedlings was experienced. With determination to pursue the project, Bagtang



volunteered to give the affected beneficiaries 300 seedlings as free replacement. *“Inted ko jay seedlings nga libre tapno ada pagrugyan da ken makatulongak ta kasjay ti ikastan ti organisasyon* (I gave the seedlings for free for them to have something to start with, and so that I can help because this is what organizations do),” Bagtang shared.

For the past nine years, Bagtang incurred losses and minimal gain every harvest season. Labor costs ate most of his income, making him desperate and almost hopeless. Optimism glimmered when he received the SAAD interventions of a brush cutter, bolo, a rake, a grub hoe, a shovel, and two crates. These materials are useful for site preparation, planting, and maintenance activities.

Key Results

With the supplemental farming materials delivered from the SAAD Program, the 45 days he spends yearly to weed his plantation was trimmed to 9 days with the brush cutter, rake, and bolo. The 20 days labor in planting 500 seedlings was shortened to 8 days using the shovel and the grub hoe. He also used the crates as containers for the tiger grass spikelets and betel nuts. Before SAAD, he averaged 200 seedlings propagated every two years. With the interventions, he was able to propagate 1,000 tiger grass in 2020 in addition to the 500 clumps he had in 2018 totaling 1,500 clumps of tiger grass at present.

The technique Bagtang learned in the Package of Training on Tiger Grass Production training given by SAAD on



Bagtang expressing how thankful he is as a beneficiary that expenses on labor drastically cut down

TIGER GRASS PRODUCTION
IN PUDO, NATONIN, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE



Bert Bagtang in black and white standing near his tiger grasses.

September 24, 2019, played a crucial role in increasing his tiger grass yield. This included advanced knowledge on stock and soft broom production, appropriate hauling and planting, proper care and maintenance, and innovative marketing strategies. The said training was discussed and presented by Arnold Timmangao, the farm supervisor of the Office of the Municipal Agriculture in the Municipality of Natonin. Likewise, the pest and disease management taught by SAAD staff helped him prevent and minimize the spread of diseases infecting his plantation.

Every after harvest, he promptly cuts down the vegetative parts of the tiger grass to hasten regeneration, allowing the cut portions to decompose as soil nourishments. Every morning, he goes around and checks each clump for any signs of disease and trims them down.

Committed to sustaining the project, Bagtang complies with the PFO policy mandating all members to replace mortalities to increase tiger grass production. Also, the long-cherished customary practice of the place aided in sustaining the project. This is to give some tiger grass seedlings to a community member after every harvest, as a way of sharing their blessings and giving gratitude to God for a bountiful harvest.

Table 1a. Bagtang's Income from 2016-2019

Income Without the SAAD Intervention			
Year	No. of Tiger Grass Clumps	Yield	Sales (Php)
2016	300	70 soft brooms at Php 100/pc	7,000.00
2018	500	80 soft brooms sold at Php 150/pc	12,000.00
2019	500	90 soft brooms sold at Php 200/pc	18,000.00

The Tiger Grass Production resulted in Soft Broom Making as a community-based enterprise. The desired project impact was evident by the progress of Bagtang and most members of the organization. The amplified farm productivity and growth in sales resulted in increased income.

Since most in the community are engaged in the project, market linkage was an anticipated challenge. To avoid competition, he persistently advertised in advance to his relatives and friends until an entrepreneur in Baguio City Public Market purchased a bulk of his soft brooms while the panicles were bought by the armed forces stationed in the locality.

To strengthen the competitiveness of the indigenous product, skillful techniques were applied to the soft brooms. He uses only indigenous raw materials to maintain the quality and preserve the authenticity of their product. The

different parts of the soft broom such as handles, shafts, and the brush cup are knotted and secured with rattan, making it sturdy. Recently, innovative decorations with split rattan were skillfully designed on the soft broom handles indicating the origin of the product. With the improved production and high-end quality, the soft brooms in Pudo grabbed a notable market locally.

Plans

Bagtang is now focused on expanding and enhancing the tiger grass production and soft broom industry. He started by

giving free seedlings to his village-mates and plans to donate seedlings to the Sangguniang Kabataan and barangay officials for their planting activity. He envisions working with his group to establish a linkage to the major players in the handicraft industry and general merchandise to establish a steady market for their product.

For further improvement, Bagtang and the organization plans to undergo training on soft broom design. He aspires to learn about the other uses of tiger grass and desires to acquire mechanized farm facilities to further develop the industry.



Bagtang standing next to one the tiger grass now growing past his height and a portion exposing how maintained his plots now are.

TIGER GRASS PRODUCTION
IN PUDO, NATONIN, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE

Table 1b. Bagtang's Income from 2020-2021

Income With the SAAD Interventions					
Year	No. of Tiger Grass Clumps	Yield	Sales (Php)	Total (Php)	Remarks
2020	1500	200 soft brooms sold at Php 250/piece	Php 50,000	80,000	Php50,000 was saved and Php30,000 was allotted for maintenance costs (labor costs, food)
		120 bundles of panicles sold at Php 250/piece	Php 30,000		
2021	1500	350 soft brooms sold at Php 250/bundle	Php 87,000	157,000	Php50,000 was given to his nephews and nieces in Baguio City for their educational finances; Php25,000 spent to maintenance costs (labor costs, food); Php5,000 was allotted for the brush cutter repair while the remaining Php77,000 was deposited for savings
		280 bundles of panicles sold at Php 250/bundle	Php 70,000		

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Planning Officer, SAAD Mountain Province*



Bert Bagtang pointing at his production plots cleaned with the brush cutter from the program.



Bunot, Paracelis Steps Toward Climate Change Resilience Through the SAAD Project

Paracelis is vast, with a land area of 570.16 km². The largest among 10 municipalities, this town occupies a fourth of Mountain Province's 2,097 square kilometer land area.

Situated at an elevation of 260 meters above sea level, the climate is the perfect blend expected of zones transitioning from highlands to lowlands. The wide expanse and temperate climate create the ideal conditions for growing tropical fruit trees.

But there's more to Paracelis than being great for growing tropical fruit trees. In the estimate of the Office of Agriculture Services (OFAS, 2020), 9,000 hectares (ha) of the total municipal land area is apportioned to corn production. The status of corn production in the municipality is remarkable, a feat that was also only dreamt of years back. But with the vastness and climate of Paracelis, it has potentials for more varieties and productivity.

As the earth struggles to maintain ecological balance, more trees are needed for ground cover. Trees last for generations, while crops like corn engage the land for a short 3-month cycle. The extensive root system of trees helps keep the soil from eroding, also reducing run-off water. With the guidance of the OFAS and with the above-mentioned

intentions, Barangay Bunot became eligible and ideal for a project on fruit trees production under the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

The Bunot Integrated Agricultural Development Farmers Association (BIADFA), with its 190 members, received a Fruit Trees Intercropped with Soybeans Project worth Php 5,719,000 in 2019. A total of 1,900 cacao seedlings, 1,900 lanzones seedlings, 1,900 rambutan seedlings, and 190 kilograms (kg) soybeans were equally distributed to the members. In addition to these, 100 sacks complete fertilizers (14-14-14), 190 sprinklers, 190 knapsack sprayers, 190 shovels, 190 grab hoes, 190 rakes, 190 hand trowels, 190 pruning shears, 19 mini-tillers, and 19 brush cutters.

A sub-project of this, a 30-square meter (sqm) composting shed was turned over to BIADFA on March 11, 2020. Five kilograms of African Night Crawlers (ANC), a heavy-duty wheelbarrow, 1 black plastic sheet, 1 black net, and 1 gasoline-fed shredder were also given. This sub-project aimed to address the expressed need for locally-available fertilizer, a challenge for smallholder farmers to source out in marginalized communities like Bunot.

In 2020, the Bunot Ambarowan Farmers Organization



(BAFO), another farmers' organization with 190 members, received a project on Fruit Trees and Peanut Seeds Production amounting to Php 4,203,750. This includes 1,900 cacao seedlings, 1,900 lanzones seedlings, 1,900 rambutan seedlings, and 380 kilograms peanut seeds. Supplementary agricultural inputs and farm tools such as 95 sacks of complete fertilizer, 190 pruning shears, 190 shovels, 190 grab hoes, 190 rakes, 190 stainless trowels, 190 knapsack sprayers, and 95 backpack brush cutters were also distributed.

For 2021, a project worth Php 1,019,250 on the Production of Seedlings was awarded to BAFO. A rain shelter intended for nursery establishment was finished on October, with fertilizers, nursery tools and supplies set to arrive early next year. Seedlings of 25 lanzones (Paite), 25 lanzones (Longcong), 25 durian (Thailand variety), 25 durian (Davao variety), 25 marang, 25 mangosteen, 25 guyabano, 50 coffee (Robusta), 25 rambutan (Tuklapin), 25 rambutan (Maharlika), and 25 rambutan (Rongrein) were programmed. In addition to these, 10 kilograms each of Lanzones seeds, Durian seeds, Marang seeds, Mangosteen seeds, Guyabano seeds, Rambutan seeds, and 5 kilograms Coffee seeds were also included.

Alongside the interventions, in partnership with the Office of Agricultural Services, a series of technical trainings on fruit tree production were carried out to capacitate the beneficiaries further for project management. Among others, they learned about proper depth and width of plots, proper care and maintenance activities, and basic pest and disease management practices.

As per project monitoring status on October 2021, the soybeans yielded a cumulative harvest of 190 kg in an approximately 19,000sqm production area. Records show that 7% of the total 5,700 seedlings of rambutan, lanzones, and cacao distributed in 2019 are in the fruit-bearing stage while the rest are in the growth stage.



Elizabeth Making proudly shows her soybean harvest being dried and readied for the market.



Phoebe Allig of the BIADFA stands with her cacao trees outgrowing her height.

BUNOT, PARACELIS STEPS TOWARD CLIMATE CHANGE
RESILIENCE THROUGH THE SAAD PROJECT



Olivia Gannisi next to her first rambutan fruits



Empowered women of the BIADFA taking the lead in collecting vermicompost

The number of seedlings provided for the two organizations in Bunot covers significantly the 6,508.9(ha) of this barangay's land area.

In their growth, Barangay Bunot inches closer to becoming the fruit basket of Mountain Province, at the same time contributing to positive environmental impact of the projects.

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A soybean plant with its pods ready for harvest

SAAD Youth Beneficiary Develops Improvised Incubator

A Pandemic Success Story of Hope and Resilience

Jomarie Pacpacong the youth behind the improvised incubator is not investing only for his personal growth but is willing to share his knowledge in building improvised incubator with their fellow beneficiaries. He also looks forward to linking with other government institutions in acquiring a generator to complement the associations needs to venture in chicken breeding.

On March 2021, the Covid-19 pandemic hit the country that resulted to the break of economic and social activities. While everyone was asked to stay inside their homes, many people still persevered and looked for ways to provide food for their families.

Just like any other places, communities here in the Cordillera strictly implemented various health protocols in the hope to stop the spread of the Covid-19 virus. However, as one of the major vegetable-producing regions in the country, our farmers continued their agricultural activities despite the threat of the virus.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) continuously provided support for farmers and fisherfolk all throughout the country. Under the DA, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) aims to provide assistance to small farmers and fisherfolk through the pursuit of its goals to alleviate poverty and ensuring food security. The said program provides interventions and trainings that respond to the needs of farmers and fisherfolk.

Mr. Jomarie Pacpacong, 25 years old, is the son of Nelia Pacpacong and a grandson of Helen Coniyat. Nelia and Helen are among the 125 members of the Leseb Community Farmers Association (LCFA) assisted by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program provided with livelihood projects in August 2019. The association received a Brown

Egg and Vegetable Production package consisting of chickens, poultry feeds from starter to layer, sets of poultry housing, harvest facilities, pechay and lettuce seeds, plastic crates, and knapsack sprayer worth Php 4,972,000. Each beneficiary received 30 free-range chickens, two starter poultry feeds, two grower poultry feeds, four sacks layer poultry feeds, a cyclone wire roll, three pieces of corrugated GI sheet, two pieces of 24 eggs capacity plastic egg trays, two sachets of pechay seeds, two sachets of lettuce seeds, two pieces of plastic crates, and a knapsack sprayer.

In 2020, Pacpacong went to his hometown at Leseb, Bauko, Mountain Province for vacation. However, due to imposed COVID19 protocols, he decided to stay in Leseb and helped his parents with their farming activities. Stranded with nothing to do aside from helping his family in their farm, Jomari thought of ways with which he can help his mother and grandmother with their brown egg production business. He noticed that the chicken granted to his folks by SAAD were laying more eggs.

As electronics graduate from one of the universities in Baguio City and with knowledge through little research, he was able to invent an improvised incubator to help the LCFA members hatch some of the eggs so they can have a source of Ready-to-Lay (RTL) stocks.

“Idi lockdown ket napansin ko nga ginmagnet dagiti pakpakanen nga inted iti program nga ag-itlog sunga napanunot ko kasla mayat padasen iti agpa-adu met iti manok tapnu adda kuma maisukat nu kas-kas-anu. Diyayen nga na-antig ti curiositik nu kas-anu nga usaren agpa-pissa iti incubator ta imbag la nga adda ar-aramiden ken pang-i-apply-an iti kaamuwan iti electronics ken advance nga technology sunga in-youtube ko (It was during the lockdown last year when I noticed that the



chicken, we availed from the program started to lay more eggs. This tickled my curiosity about producing RTL stock replacement. Coupled with knowledge about electronics that I acquired from school and with the advanced technology today, I researched the process of hatching on YouTube.),” shared Jomarie.

He then came across the term “candling” as part of the process of using an incubator. He sought the help of his younger sister in Bontoc for the purchase of materials needed in the construction of the improvised incubator.

With the improvised incubator, a trial-and-error experimentation was done. Of the four batches of incubation trial with 102 eggs, only 19 eggs hatched. This was due to lack of generator for backup power source for the power interruptions.

Table 1. Performance of the Incubator

DATE OF INCUBATION	# OF EGGS INCUBATED	RESULT (HATCHLINGS)	SUCCESS RATE	REMARKS
JULY 18 - AUGUST 9, 2020	12	7	58%	Served as a replacement for the mortalities
SEPTEMBER 17 - OCTOBER 9, 2020	30	12	40%	Pegged at Php 200 per head at 8 weeks old for a total of Php 2,400
NOVEMBER 1 - NOVEMBER 25, 2020	30	0	-	Brown-out
DECEMBER 5 - JANUARY 2, 2021	30	0	-	Brown-out
TOTAL	102	19	19%	

Pegged at a cost of Php 200 per head, they incurred an additional income of Php 2,400 from selling 12 hatchlings of eight weeks old. The other seven hatchlings served as a supplement to address shortage of Ready-To-Lay (RTL) stocks in the locality.

Feeling proud about their business and son

The association is grateful for how a son of theirs was able to come up with a technology that could inspire the association to push with their future dream of breeding their own stock.

“Aye naragsak kami nga adda gayam anak mi nga maka-aramid iti mabalín nga mausar pangpa-adu tapnu dakami en kuma iti maka-pa-pissa iti pang-sukat mi iti inted iti project tapnu nai-ruruwam en iti panawen mi ditoy (We are very happy to know that we have a son who is able to fabricate a technology that enables us to breed our own stocks. Breeding our own stocks is another benefit for the association because it is already acclimatized or used to the temperature in Leseb.)” LCFA business manager Gilda Bangwa said.



Jomarie, a 25 year old with his invented incubator

SAAD YOUTH BENEFICIARY DEVELOPS IMPROVISED INCUBATOR: A PANDEMIC SUCCESS STORY OF HOPE AND RESILIENCE

“Because of the improvised incubator, we replaced our seven heads of mortality weeks after the delivery of our stocks due to extreme weather conditions in our locality,” claimed Mrs. Pacpacong.

Mrs. Pacpacong is the daughter of Mrs. Coniyat. They both became beneficiaries because they reside in different households. Upon knowing that they were qualified as SAAD beneficiaries after a series of meetings and consultation in their barangay, they decided to put together their stocks in a common area.

As a result, combined sales of Nelia and Helen on their egg production from January 2020 to June 2021 reached Php 92,722, with feed expenses of Php 63,400. In total, the net profit is Php 29,322.

The family used part of their egg harvest for daily consumption, while the rest were sold in the community and the town market.

As a long-time vegetable grower, Nelia Pacpacong, 49, and Helen Coniyat, 65, are very grateful to the Department of Agriculture Cordillera’s SAAD Program for the opportunity to raise

chicken for brown egg production.

“Dakkel nga pagyamanan iti dytoy nga chansa nga mainayun nga beneficiary iti SAAD ta tadta nga pandemic ket adda iti isupay nga pag-alalan ti kanen nga sabali ngem iti nateng nga igagarden mi kar-karu idi nag-lockdown (We are grateful for the chance to become beneficiary to the SAAD especially during this time of pandemic because aside from vegetable production, we have other sources of food other than the vegetables we are planting.)” Helen said.

Sharing is caring

Jomarie created an improvised incubator with his vision to help the community with their plans of breeding their own RTL stocks. Banking on their little success, Jomarie is inspired to learn more about breeding chicken through the SAAD intervention and is willing to undergo technical training on vaccine administration and beak trimming to ensure that they produce quality RTL stocks.

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Source: CDO/PDO/FCA*



top view of the incubator



PHOTOS





DA-SAAD CAR

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