

# SAAD *vocacy*

The official newsletter of the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program

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## Eggs-ploring women’s potential: PaCLayFA’s booming egg production in Paluan

by Dianne Francis A. Sy

The Paluenos Chicken Laying Farmers Association (PaCLayFA) continues to strengthen families through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Ready-to-Lay (RTL) chicken egg production project in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro.

*Featured, p. 5*

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



## 6 Siquijor FAs receive layer chicken under the DA-SAAD program

by Jolina T. Daño

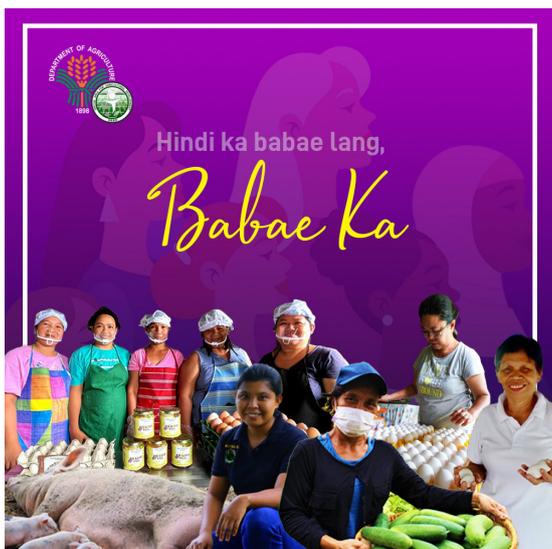
**SQUIJOR, March 1, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development Program (DA-SAAD) Region VII thru the Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO) distributed Php 1.67 million worth of livestock interventions to six associations in Siquijor. *continue to p. 2*



## DA-SAAD 9 assists CLSU evaluation on CBEs in ZDN

by Aimee Lou Madjus

**ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, March 3, 2022** – Social Preparation and Enterprise Development Assessment, an evaluation study on the implementation of community-based enterprises (CBEs) of the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, in collaboration with the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) began in Zamboanga del Norte. *continue to p. 3*



Ang pagbabago, dapat lamang na mapagbago, makabuluhan, at inklusibo.

Kaisa ang SAAD Program sa pagkilala ng 'di matatawarang kontribusyon ng kababaihan sa kasaysayan kasama na ang sektor ng agrikultura.

Ang temang "WE Make Change Work for Women" ngayong taon ay nananawagan para sa **gender-balanced na panumuno**, bilang kabahagi ng pagdedesisyon; inklusyon ng **tunay na isyu ng kababaihan** sa diskursong pangkaunlaran sa estado bilang agenda, at pagsulong ng mga hakbang para **palakasin ang hanay ng kababaihan** upang maabot ang kanilang **potensyal at pangarap**.

Patuloy ang panawagan upang **kilalanin ang kahalagahan ng kababaihan**, at ibang vulnerableng sektor, bigyang puwang sa nation-building at isulong ang kanilang mga karapatan sa mundo ng paggawa at pangkabuhayan.

#SAADProgram  
#DASAAD  
#BFARSAAD



## Director's note

Starting from the previous issue, the SAADvocacy will be subdivided into themes. These themes are picked to highlight important activities and initiatives of the program towards realizing its promise. This is important as we appreciate inclusive development that values the voice of our stakeholders, and partners. Every issue is dedicated to acknowledge progress and

development in the field, partnerships, as well as how we reflect collaboration through hands-on implementation of the officials, the LGUs and our farming and fishing communities.

In celebration of the women's month, our featured story is about the women in Paluan, Occidental Mindoro who are wives of onion farmers in the province. These women, while performing their reproductive roles in the family are targeted to explore income-generating potential through the SAAD RTL Chicken Egg Production Project.

In our continued pursuit to relevant agricultural assistance to the marginalized, the Empowering Communities section tells about the continued assistance of the program to the poultry project of FAs in Siquijor, capacity enhancement through management and financial training in Region 8, rehabilitation efforts from Typhoon Odette battered Bohol, and partnership between SUCs and the DA for the CBE assessment in Zamboanga Del Norte.

Pushing for sustainability, the Towards CBEs section acknowledges the consistency of the Latawan, Ag-agama, and Mallongan Farmers Association (LAMFA) in Kalinga for being considered as a major supplier of table egg in their municipality. In Apayao, 53 Kankanaey IPs continue to thrive in their Rice Production Project as service providers.

Discover the landscape and importance of establishing community-based enterprises that address sustainability of the projects in the editorial section.

Meanwhile Partnership and Director in Action sections features executive officials going out their way to associate and establish connection with the communities and beneficiaries in the Bicol Region and Misamis Occidental.

Finally, in the Development section, know more about how community and institutions contribute to the sustainability of SAAD projects with CAR and Region 8's stories.

To the readers, may these stories resound the voices of our fishing and farming communities as they call you to participate in the nation's fight for social, environmental, and agricultural justice.

### 6 Siquijor FAs receive layer chicken...from p. 1

The FY 2021 Chicken Egg Production project aims to generate employment, increase farmer income, and augment egg production in Siquijor.

On February 17 and 18, 2022, DA-SAAD distributed 21 modules of layer chicken to 6 FAs with 25 members each. Each module, worth Php 60,500, contains 48 head of ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken complete with cage.

"Nalipay kaayo ko nga napili ang among asosasyon nga makadawat ani nga project. Nalipay mi nga nakita gyud nila ang among kakugi ug nisalig sila namo," said Pedro Maghanoy, President of

Paliton Vegetable Growers Association.

(I am very happy that our association was chosen to be one of the recipients of this project. They have seen our hard work, and even trust us.)

#### Plans

To better manage the aid received from SAAD, members of the FAs will undergo specialized training for Chicken Egg Production in March 2022 and plan to save 40% of sales from the current intervention to buy another set of RTL. ###



scan to see Interventions received by FAs

**DA-SAAD 9 assists CLSU evaluation ...from p. 1**

Simultaneous conduct of impact assessment is ongoing in six SAAD-covered provinces to gauge the present status of the program vis-a-vis its targets, with an emphasis on social preparation and enterprise-building activities. In its 5th year of implementation in Zamboanga del Norte, the province was tapped to be a source of respondents for the said study.

According to Dr. Aria Excelsis M. Orden, Project Leader and Director for Research of CLSU, the study is very timely to assess project impact on the beneficiaries and their communities.

"In Zamboanga del Norte, we particularly tapped the Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU) as a collaborator starting February 7 to 11, 2022." Dir. Orden added that CLSU has also partnered with other state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the different regions to conduct the study.

The JRMSU team headed by team leader Dr. Maria Rio Naguit conducted a series of activities that include 23 CBEs established in FY 2017-2021, covering 43 farmers associations (FAs) in 14 municipalities of the province. This involves roughly around 215 farmer-participants.

Aside from the SAAD farmers, other non-SAAD beneficiaries having a similar project or enterprise were also identified as respondents using various research methods such as Key Informants Interview (KII), Focused Group Discussion (FGD), and Survey Questionnaire to compare the income and yield of harvest of the commodity between the SAAD beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries and assess how the SAAD Program facilitated in transforming the farmer-partners' lives.

The SAAD Local Area Coordinators facilitated the gathering of all the respondents from the same municipality in one venue. DA-



SAAD Region 9 through the leadership of Regional Executive Director Rad Donn L. Cedeño is grateful and hopeful to contribute to the study that will benefit both the farmers and implementers of the project in determining the impact of SAAD if extended with a Phase 2. ####

## DA, LGU team up to provide SAAD poultry raisers financial management training

by Marlyn D. Gordora



**EASTERN SAMAR, March 11, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA- SAAD) Program in partnership with the Gen. MacArthur Local Government Unit conducted a capability enhancement training to enhance the financial management skills of the Roxas Farmers Association (RFA), a Farmers' Cooperative and Association (FCA) in Sitio Inuulanghan, Barangay Roxas.

As part of the strengthened localized training initiatives for the farmer-beneficiaries, all 16 active members of the RFA underwent the training on February 3. Municipal Agriculturist Mrs. Emalyn O. Somono and DA- SAAD Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Marlyn D. Gordora served as resource speakers, while the Municipal Agricultural Services (OMAS) Gen. MacArthur sponsored the snacks for the participants.

The RFA received a Layer Chicken Egg Production and Marketing Enterprise in December 2021 from the savings fund of the same year. The project worth Php 861,000 consists of 480 ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken and 150 bags of layer feeds.

*"Damo nga salamat nga nakanhe kami niyo. kay han una an amon pag record in dire itemize labi na an expenses. Tapos an benta naka total na waray itemize han sizes. Pati an amon production data dire gihap itemize an sizes. Yana ma aram na kami han simple nga recording han amon cash flow. Yana klarado na kun iton amon record kun makain an amon kwarta kay nakikita na ha amon record kay klaru,"* shared Ireneo Arias, RFA President.

(Thank you very much for coming here. Because at first, our production data and records had not been detailed, even our sales and expenses were only totaled and not itemized. Now, we know how to simply record our cash flow. It is now clear where our money goes since the record is now clear.)

Through the training, the FCA members were able to set directions to further develop and expand their project using the net income derived from the enterprise while having their monthly dividends.

The resource speakers emphasized the importance of financial management and record-keeping as fundamentals of effective enterprise management, and are useful practices that should be carried out for the planned expansion of the project.

With the continued support of the stakeholders, as well as the openness, unity, and perseverance of the farmers to learn more, surely the goal of being an established community-based enterprise (CBE) is a step closer every day. ####

TOWARDS CBE's

# Lubuagan FCA: A table egg supplier

by Sheen Dayagon



**KALINGA, March 07, 2022**

- Ninety (90) members of the Latawan, Ag-agama, and Mallongan Farmers Association (LAMFA) in Barangay Western Uma are now considered as a major supplier of table egg in their municipality following their successful production starting in November 2021 to January 2022.

The egg production project provided by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) worth Php 2,495,190 to the association include 1,254 ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken, 600 bags of layer feeds, 20 vials fowl pox vaccine, 30 units fabricated cages, 12 rolls HDPE pipe, 10 rolls laminated sack, 10 rolls poultry net, 50 egg trays, 2 units egg scaler, and

1 unit generator.

This project was funded by the DA-SAAD Program under FY 2021 in partnership with the Local Government Unit (LGU) who donated a lot area and housing facility materials for the communal egg production, while the FCA beneficiary constructed the facility and managed the project. The area measures 750 square meters and currently houses 1,224 chickens.

The FCA, composed of the Lubuagan indigenous people has been a SAAD beneficiary since 2021 who underwent the Organizational Development and Management (ODM) training during its social preparation and poultry production management training before receiving their chicken stocks. They started to sell fresh eggs harvest from November 2021 up to the 2nd week of February 2022, earning Php 180,682 total sales (Table 1).

The layer stocks are producing about 750 pieces (pcs) or 25 trays of eggs per day with sizes ranging from small to large.

From 41,203 eggs, 39,954 pcs were marketable while 1,249 pcs were used for table consumption among the LAMFA members.

LAMFA expects an increase in their daily harvest as their projected figure is currently at 70%, bound to increase to 90% when laying chicken production

peaks. The FA looks forward in the coming months for the opportunity to supply eggs to more barangays, being a community-based enterprise, as they share a common border with other 14 barangays in the region.

*“Dakel ti tulong na daytuy nga proyekto naggapu ti DA-SAAD ta han min nga kailangan nga apan Tabuk City tapnu gumatang ti itlog. Daytuy asosasyonen ti agilaku ittuy ken ti karruba nga barangays. Makasigurado pay ti umili nga fresh ti gatangen da,”* shared Mr. Marlon Segundo, son of a beneficiary.

(This project from the DA-SAAD is a big help since we don't have to go to Tabuk City to purchase eggs. This association can now supply our barangay and neighboring areas. The locals can also assure that the eggs they are purchasing are fresh.)

The FCA is currently looking at the possibility to engage in food processing of pastries and delicacies from their produce, aside from being a supplier of fresh eggs.

The project in Western Uma will soon be a realization of the Lubuagan LGU's vision for the barangay – to be the “egg basket” of the city. ###

# Kabugao FCA's Thresher from DA-SAAD earned Php 109k

by Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy

**APAYAO, March 11, 2022** – Fifty-three (53) indigenous Kankanaey farmers from the Narangay Farmers Association (NFA) in Barangay EKB, Kabugao, Apayao generated Php 145,473 worth of revenue from the Rice Production Project of the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program from 2018-2021.

NFA, a group of farmers who are engaged in rice farming and labor service activities, is registered as a farmers' cooperative and association (FCA) for the marginalized rural locals in 2017 at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

The members of the group earn an average monthly income of Php 4,666 for every hectare of upland rice production area. However, according to Maribel Baguista, NFA's Vice President, this income decreased because of a lack of postharvest facilities that are useful in fast-tracking the operations of the group.

*“Iti rigat gamin iti upland rice, mano-mano kami, iti problema iti manual labor ket nabayag iti pinag-harvest mi, ingga mapardin tut ay pagay min,”* (The difficulty in upland rice production is that we do it manually which causes a longer harvesting process until our crops are ruined) said Ms. Baguista.

## SAAD helps modernize conventional ways of farming

In 2017, SAAD field implementers conducted community consultation to identify possible support that can be provided to increase the income of the members. Further, in 2018, the program has provided the group with one (1) unit of multi-purpose thresher, farm equipment that mechanizes the removal of seeds from stalks and husks, worth Php 170,000 (FY 2017) to aid in expediting the operations of the group.

According to Shermyn Pecban, SAAD Project Development Officer, the group's main income



comes from clients that are involved in rice production, but most of them experienced rice quality deterioration because of the impact of the group's slow postharvest production. That is why the provided machinery helps ease the operations and the services provided by the group.

Ms. Baguista further attests that the thresher was a blessing for the association since the group's livelihood is heavily dependent on their clients' harvest.

*"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, construction work, wenu saan agtagi-balay ka,"* said Ms. Baguista.

(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 either as a farm laborer, construction worker, or simply domestic helper.)

### Becoming a service provider

Through the SAAD project, the group was able to provide support to clients in producing a sufficient supply of food for their households and their communities. Furthermore, the capacity of the group in engaging farming into business was also enhanced, enabling them to generate Php 28 per sack. With the provision of machinery, the group was able to provide better service to their clients.

From 2018 to 2021, the group's total earning was Php 145,473. During the dry season of the said period, the group was able to earn Php 70,584. After deducting costs for labor and maintenance which amounts to

Php 16,170.00, the net income of the group was Php 54,414.

Meanwhile, during the wet season, the group was able to earn Php 74,889 from 2018 to 2020 but after deducting the labor and maintenance worth Php 19,304.00, which includes the purchase of oil, fuel, and machinery parts, the groups' net income became Php 55,585.

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

### Association Policy

As an association, NFA was able to form a policy in monitoring their total gross income, expenses, and net income.

The members of the group agreed that 20% of their gross income will be allocated for operation and maintenance costs, while 30% is for labor costs; and the remaining 50% is their association's savings.

### Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

According to Ms. Baguista, the group experienced a decline in clients during the past operations because of the absence of trucks that can be used for hauling. This results in clients declining the group's services because they have no vehicle for transferring the machine to the clients' farm sites.

*"Pasaray mas kayat met ti taon iti complete package nu agpa-service da ijay production site da. Haan mi kabaalan nga iguyud tay thresher 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 thresher nga apan mangi-ubra. Gapo kadetuy nga arrangement mi ket mas kayat iti tao nga agbiruk latan iti sabali nga service provider,"* said Ms. Baguista.

(Clients usually prefer complete services and we can't take the machinery up to the production area since we don't have a truck for hauling. What we do is negotiate if the client is willing to provide truck services while we only offer thresher services. Because of the absence of trucks, the clients prefer to look for another service provider.)

### Plans

Aside from purchasing trucks for hauling purposes, NFA also intends to have at least 60 hectares of rice area to gain more profit from their operations and services.

*"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,"* shared Ms. Baguista.

(It was a good opportunity that we were given the machinery. Before, we only worked on the farms for other landowners, but now, even though we are unable to buy seeds to plant, we can work on the farm using the machine as service providers, this gives us a chance to earn additional income.) ###



*Eggs-ploring women's potential...from page 1*

Formed through an existing cooperative, PaCLayFA became part of SAAD in February 2020. Members of the cooperative mostly farm onions while their wives usually stay at home to focus on rearing their children, limiting their income-generating activities.

To empower the farmers' wives, DA-SAAD conducted social preparation and identified RTL chicken egg production project as an ideal livelihood for the beneficiaries. The municipality has a steady demand for eggs and it fetches a good price in the local market that ranges from Php 6 to Php 8 apiece, depending on size and quality.

The project aims to provide livelihood for housewives in the area while still being able to focus on their families.

To kickstart the group's egg production, SAAD awarded 288 head of RTL chicken (Lohmann breed), 150 sacks of layer chicken feeds, 78 liters of multivitamins, and 6 sets of cages in October 2020. The group built an RTL housing as their counterpart to the project. *continue to p. 6*

*Eggs-ploring women's potential...from page 5*

**2020-2021 Egg Production (1st Cycle)**

The chicken started to lay eggs in December 2020. In their first month of production, the group was able to harvest 2,616 eggs that were sold in the local market for Php 15,244.00.

In their second month, the association tripled its production, harvesting 6,773 pieces of eggs in January 2021. The group's chicken had started to reach their peak, hence the increase in egg production.

The group maintained the egg production in their third month, recording 6,748 harvested eggs. In March and April 2021, the group recorded another increase in their egg production with 7,549 harvested eggs in March and 7,042 eggs in April which were sold for Php 98,881. The group's egg production steadied by then, producing an average of 6,500 eggs per month.

After ten months of production, the group has already earned Php 378,170. The group uses this to fund monetary loans for members at 2% interest, a lower rate compared to other lending groups in the area, which helps members with their farm inputs.

In June, the group noticed a subtle decrease in egg production which is attributed to mortality and age of the RTL chicken. This signaled the association for the need for RTL repopulation.

**RTL 2nd Cycle**

In response, SAAD awarded another set of 288 head of RTL chicken (Hisex breed) in September 2021 to the group to boost their production and to give them a head start for when the next repopulation calls.

The group purchased a portable welding machine which they use for repairs of RTL housing. The group is also looking for possibilities to offer welding services in their area to

increase the association's income.

The interest collected from the group's loan is allocated for the poultry's expansion and sustainability efforts.

Members earn by becoming resellers, buying eggs from their association for a discounted price, and supplying eggs to *sari-sari* stores and other small businesses.

In addition, a Php 300 daily salary is given to the member assigned to tend to the group's egg production – another avenue for job creation among members.

*"Malaking tulong sa amin lalo na sa mga nanay na walang trabaho itong egg production. May mapagkukunan ng panggastos at makakatulong sa sakahan namin,"* shared Lilibeth Gonzales, chairperson of PaCLayFA.

(The egg production is a great help to us, especially to those women who are unemployed. It helps us with our expenses and farm inputs.)

**Hisex vs Lohmann Breed**

The first batch of RTL chicken, the Lohmann batch, produced 2,616 eggs during their initial production in December 2020, two months after the batch was delivered in October 2020. At 140 to 145 days (20-21 weeks of age), Lohmann breed's productivity is usually at 50%, but it is expected to reach 95-97% at peak production.

The second batch of RTL chicken arrived in September 2021 but it did not yield eggs until October. In its onset, Hisex produced 342 eggs in its 24th week. In contrast, The Lohmann batch was in its 20th week, and the production is almost seven (7) times higher compared to Hisex batch's first production.

While the Lohmann batch took almost two months before being able to produce eggs, it produced 346 eggs more compared to Hisex's production in two months prior to its initial production.

The association noted their Lohmann batch's peak production in March 2021, producing 7,549 eggs in its 32nd week – multiplying the batch's initial egg production threefold while the Hisex

batch in its 32nd week produced 3,689 eggs.

Comparing the sizes of eggs, Lohmann batch produces large, extra-large, to jumbo eggs which sell at Php 205, 220, and 235 per tray (30 pieces per tray) respectively. In addition, the members reported to have collected a number of double-yolk eggs.

On the other hand, Hisex batch produces medium to large eggs. Medium-sized eggs sell for Php 190, and members noticed that the batch does not produce double yolks.

In terms of the number of feeds and other inputs, the association maintains the same amount for the two batches, consuming one (1) sack of feeds per day for 508 heads of RTL chicken.

**Mortality levels and causes**

As of February 2022, the association has recorded 52 mortalities from Lohmann batch while Hisex had 16 deaths.

According to Ms. Gonzales, both Hisex and Lohmann are susceptible to vent prolapse. They have observed that even though the former produce smaller eggs, there are instances where eggs have blood on them which indicates prolapse.

There are also instances where chicken fight against each other, as members described, causing injuries and chicken getting stuck between gaps of cages resulting in death. This seldom happens but still caused several deaths.

The number one cause of mortality for both batches is a digestive disease caused by eating weevil-infested feeds. The infestation resulted from storing feeds beyond ideal storage duration.

150 bags of feeds were initially delivered to the association, and the group was not able to consume all in three (3) months (maximum storage duration) since the stock is supposed to last for ten (10) months. This caused the remaining bags of feeds to be infested with weevil. The group immediately pulled out the infested feeds and bought new ones which caused extra expense for the association. The chickens were treated with antibiotics to prevent mortality,

but there were a handful who still succumbed to death.

To avoid or decrease mortality from vent prolapse, the association followed the feeding recommendation and preventive medication advised by DA regional veterinarian, Dr. Vida Z. Francisco. The program specifically instructs to be more watchful with the chicken's food consumption, light exposure, and vitamin intake.

**Plans**

The association has a secure market for their eggs, supplying the local market. The association is trying to engage in value-adding activities such as leche flan and salted eggs to boost their enterprise. Some members have already started in value-adding activities for individual earnings, but the group is working out ideas on how they can bring their experiences together to increase the association's earnings.

A third batch of RTL chicken is seen to be a part of the association's future. As SAAD National Director Myer G. Mula suggested during his visit, a third batch of RTL will ensure continuous production of eggs, steadying the group's income.

The group will continue to observe the two batches and the findings will determine which breed will be chosen for the additional batch, though the association is leaning toward Lohmann breed.

*"Pipilitin namin na mag-tuloy-tuloy ang project na ito dahil nakita namin ang opportunity [na kumita]. Dati, ang level lang ng pamumuhay namin ay mababala lang, pero ngayon, kahit paunti-unti, umaangat (We will do our best to continue the project because we saw an opportunity [to earn]. Before, we were living a meager life, but now our lives are gradually improving),"* shared Lilibeth Gonzales, chairperson of PaCLayFA. ###

scan to see PaCLayFA records in the article



EDITORIAL

## “That shift!”: beyond food on the table to agripreneurship through CBEs

by Jessamae Gabon



**QUEZON CITY, March 03, 2022** – In the five-year run of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA), it offered significant actions towards the fulfillment of its ultimate goal – to reduce poverty in the most marginalized provinces of the country.

The program puts forward, especially during the latter implementation when it activated approaches to achieve said goal, the building of local or community-based enterprises (CBEs).

This is inspired by the motivation to go beyond providing opportunities for the marginalized through agricultural grants. From household sustenance to being a source of an extra livelihood, SAAD realizes the capacity of each beneficiary and takes it a step further by organizing them into farmer groups.

Farmer groups are supposed to function as a link for the community members to create a common understanding and achieve local economic goals, through activities such as community entrepreneurial ventures. According to Peredo and Chrisman (2006), the local knowledge and cultures of the community serve as a great advantage to the groups. Understanding of local ecology, economy, needs of the community, and banking on their indigenous knowledge are significant aspects to be explored in community enterprise building.

Such activity can foster a spirit of collectivity to act and respond to the community's needs, considering that it is manned by the community members themselves. This approach is abreast with the Department's core reform agenda to encourage localized agricultural initiatives to work side by side with the local stakeholders to a more competitive and modernized mode of farming.

**What is a CBE and why do development initiatives such as the SAAD Program integrate this as a component of growth?**

In their review about CBEs, Peredo and Chrisman defined community enterprise as owned, manned, and operated by organized community members who collaborate to create market opportunities. This is aligned to the purpose of SAAD of establishing CBEs in its covered areas – to contribute to the community's social capital (as part of a network) and incremental learning (access to extension programs).

One core concept that CBEs address is sustainability – of the project, of participation, and resources. International non-government and state-sponsored programs have a common goal of contributing to building a better economic situation for communities, led by its members.

Peredo and Chrisman however noted that some programs for the marginalized poor are usually being reduced to charity primarily because of the failure to recognize strengths of the communities, stemming from insufficient community environmental, cultural, political, and economic studies. Another factor of failure is whether consciously or unconsciously, programs are led by implementing agencies, leading to a lack of ownership from the members of the community. This then results in limited collaboration, reinforced by rewards, and subtly preserving individualism.

It is imperative for the implementing agencies to be reminded that materially disadvantaged communities are facing a higher level of uncertainty when it comes to willingness to engage in entrepreneurship and other economic ventures because of the long-term sociological effects of poverty from the individual to the community level. These uncertainties however are not innate, rather, are resulting from the unfavorable economic and political climates, and historical/cultural qualities of different communities.

In the community's realization of their group potential, there is hope that they will also be organized not just in enterprising activity but also in realizing and taking action to collectively demand rights and access to other social services among the community members, and their needs as a group, such as environmental welfare and cultural preservation.

As of the 2021 record, SAAD Program activated 245 community-based enterprises in its 30 covered provinces. These CBEs are manned and owned by 245 farmer-groups, translating to 9,223 members in total. Most enterprises were established in 2021 despite the pandemic, a development attributed to years of social preparation (intersperse with capacity building) and policy strengthening by the program among the groups aimed at increasing production and productivity, leadership development, and enterprise management.

The conceptualization of marketing in the SAAD Program began in 2018, which was a huge leap from the program's initial focus on providing food on the table. In 2019, policy strengthening and dissemination through promotion in all channels regarding enterprise building were made under the leadership of the current SAAD chief, Dr. Myer G. Mula. Capacity building through extension services is geared towards institutional convergence, farmers' consolidation, enterprise establishment, marketing, value-adding, sustainability initiatives, and leadership. Likewise, information campaign shifted in the same context. *continue to p. 8*

**Table 1. SAAD Established Community-Based Enterprise (CBE) from 2017-2022**

Particulars	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
<b>Established CBEs</b>	1	13	34	64	133	245
<b>Groups</b>	1	13	34	64	133	245
<b>Members</b>	40	600	1,233	2,614	4,736	9,223
<b>Agriculture</b>						
Established CBEs	1	11	23	43	132	210
Groups	1	11	23	43	132	210
Members	40	354	501	1,383	4,723	7,001
<b>Fisheries</b>						
Established CBEs	-	2	11	21	1	35
Groups	-	2	11	21	1	35
Members	-	246	732	1,231	13	2,222

*"That shift!"...from page 7*

### SAAD CBE Guideline

SAAD's approach to CBE establishment calls for a program-wide effort from the field to the national implementing body. We have to come from the context that SAAD provides agricultural inputs to the identified areas for free under the basis of community assessments and preparations done with the actual beneficiaries.

Projects range from crops (food and industrial); livestock (sheep, goat, cow, carabao, horse, swine); poultry (chicken, duck, quail); machineries (farm and post-harvest equipment); irrigation facilities (i.e. solar irrigation); and fishery (aquaculture and hatchery). It also provides training and extension programs for capacity building and technical support to the beneficiaries through national and local attached agencies. To do this, the program has appointed regional and provincial staff to physically oversee the implementation. This seems to be the logical approach, but we emphasize capitalizing on the sociological and geographical edge of strengthening the networks of the community. Who else can initiate dialogues and identify or understand entrepreneurial activities of the grassroots but the people who live with or near them?

SAAD CBEs are built based on the projects granted to the organized groups. These projects are then supported to mature or develop until they can be considered profitable at least at the association level. Included in the development is its engagement with other agencies such as the labor department for legitimization and labor protection of the group. Members also receive extension services to augment skills in enterprise management, marketing and leadership (organizational and entrepreneurial), and conflict management. The groups are also keeping financial records, and by this time have open up a savings account.

The SAAD partially established CBEs may still receive physical support (agricultural inputs), technical and extension training in terms of association development, and market linkages. Also, at this point, the partially established CBEs can be considered relatively independent in operations. While transitioning, enterprise monitoring, evaluation, market conditions, and preferences are continuously being observed by the field implementers.

A SAAD-established CBE on the other hand, aside from its independent operations, have to be consistent with the financial flow, gaining profit, and probability of expansion. It no longer receives physical support and is on the level of expansion and branding activities.

These SAAD enterprises are unique for each group, which means that it comprises 245 farmers' and fishers' associations with a total of 9,223 members. From the said record, we are referring to 7,001 farmers and 2,222 fishers involved in the operations of the CBEs (Table 1).

The DA beneficiaries are involved in selling live and by-products of chicken, mushroom, processed meat, live weight pigs, peanut, corn, and fresh vegetables. Meanwhile, the BFAR beneficiaries sell live aquatic products and by-products such as finfish, bangus, kitang, seaweed, tilapia, and processed tilapia goods including longganisa and embotido tilapia, lamayo, tilanggit, and even tilapia ice cream, fingerlings, street food (fish, squid balls, and quekiam), and vannahmei.

Why does SAAD promote CBEs among beneficiaries?

Value creation and innovation through local business development are essential means to alleviate poverty and preserve the natural environment. But the employment of business development as a means to overcome poverty requires an understanding of the specific socioeconomic environment in which that development is to take place," (Peterson, 1988, as cited in Peredo and Chrisman, 2006).

Some beneficiaries are landed farmers who remain poor, and because of intersecting community positioning, layers of disadvantage lead to a lack of access to basic rights and necessities to be capable.

Director Myer G. Mula in an interview emphasized the importance of providing well-rounded projects for the marginalized beneficiaries as well as capacitating them towards more competitive production and enterprise activities.

"More than food, SAAD values nutrition and sustainability of projects of the communities. Even our fisherfolks are encouraged to expand their production, from aquaculture to vegetable, and poultry production. We also introduced abaca production which is an industrial crop. Continuous specialized training is provided such as food safety and handling, as well as continued provision of inputs, value-adding activities, and introduction to machinery, aiming to improve production and quality of produce.

SAAD's framework aims for two desired impacts; food security, and economic relief to stability. The program operates through its regional arms who physically monitor the projects on the field, and lead the study of potential and feasible activities of the farmers and fishers. We would like to foster the native potentials and traditions and are actually helping to rejuvenate lands, and other traditional practices, only that we are trying to improve the practices that can be improved for faster and safer production," he said.

Looking forward to the program extension, SAAD plans to execute close monitoring and evaluation dedicated to the established enterprises as part of the continued study on the stability of the CBEs under the program's set criteria. An essential aspect of this action plan is the collaboration of the SAAD national and regional support units, other state agencies concerned, provincial and regional government units, state universities and colleges (SUCs), and most of all, the farming and fishing communities.

The continued partnerships (including international organizations) are seen to be essential to the local economic development through (but not limited to) value creation in local business establishments, alternatively as Chrisman and Peredo introduced as essential means towards poverty alleviation and natural resources protection. The SAAD Program agrees and takes actions to achieve economic development, however, sees other aspects of development (not just economic) as essential to the impactful progress of the communities.

The CBEs are also expected to establish social networks, fostering involvement and confidence among the community members to confront community issues that lead to a better understanding of the socio-economic conditions, cultural orientation, and needs of the disadvantaged population.

With these as guiding concepts, SAAD wishes to strengthen and explore community networks and potentials through continuous agripreneurial activities and gain a better understanding of the unique processes of each community towards economic development and sustainability.



PARTNERSHIPS



## TIKA Country Director Aydogdu visits DA-SAAD beneficiaries in Sorsogon

by Lovella P. Guarin

**SORSOGON, February 28, 2022** – Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Philippines Country Director Fahri Burak Aydogdu visited the beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) in Sorsogon on February 21-22, 2022. This is to evaluate SAAD project proposals for possible support from the Turkish agency, following SAAD Director Myer G. Mula’s meeting with the TIKA Director.

Joined by Dr. Mary Grace DP. Rodriguez, SAAD Bicol Action Officer, she said that the SAAD Bicol office has submitted to Dir. Mula proposals for the construction of a Community-based Vegetable Processing Facility and the procurement of hauling trucks to be stationed at the Regional Dairy Production and Technology Center (RDPTC) in Sorsogon. The said projects will benefit 31 organized groups in Sorsogon whose total vegetable grower members ranged from 930 to 1050.

In Donsol, Sorsogon, Dir. Aydogdu met with one of the prospective beneficiaries – the Tres Marias Drive Association (TMD) composed of 28 vegetable growers. The TMD has a total of 4.6-hectare land planted to vegetables which they sell either fresh or processed. Among the processed products of the TMD are turmeric or “salabat”, polvoron, pickled vegetable and sweetened vegetable candies (molido). In Pilar, Sorsogon, the Director also visited the Agta Tabangnon communities, prospective beneficiaries of the proposed fishpen and fish pond projects submitted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to SAAD.

Dir. Aydogdu said that TIKA Philippines has collaborated with SAAD in the past and has already provided interventions to selected beneficiaries of the program in other regions of the Philippines in 2019 and 2020 but has temporarily stopped by the pandemic due to travel restrictions.

“Through SAAD we can easily reach people and we are glad to be able to help them,” Dir. Aydogdu added. He was particularly impressed with the significant number of beneficiaries who will benefit from the projects if realized.

Dir. Aydogdu has seen the vegetable production areas of the SAAD beneficiaries which are very far from the market area, and having a large winged truck for the main roads, as well as a smaller hauling truck for the inner or far-flung areas could be a great boost to their enterprises.

The SAAD implementers in Sorsogon also lament the lack of hauling trucks that they can use in the delivery of inputs to the beneficiaries particularly in the very remote areas. At present, they are being assisted by the Local Government Units and oftentimes have to wait for days for the availability of the hauling trucks.

Dr. Rodriguez thanked Dir. Aydogdu for visiting Bicol to personally evaluate the SAAD project proposals.

“We are really thankful to the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency for giving time to study and consider our proposal,” Dr. Rodriguez added. ###



DIRECTOR IN ACTION



## DA-SAAD National Director visits MisOcc strawberry farmers

by Azbie Talib

**MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, March 14, 2022** – Adept in strawberry farming, Director Myer Mula of the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program met with Northern Mindanao’s breakthrough strawberry growers on March 7, 2022.

Dir. Mula personally imparted his expertise in strawberry production to Nueva Vista Strawberry Growers Association (NVSGA) in Don Victoriano Chiongbian, Misamis Occidental.

The group with 50 members started to grow strawberries in their 1.25 hectares (ha) consolidated farm area, which provided them an average of Php 3,000 individual weekly income. Along with berries, they planted cabbage to a 3.75ha production area, providing them Php 100,000 income per cropping (annual).

This 2022, they were selected as recipients of SAAD’s Strawberry Production which includes strawberry seedlings, knapsack sprayer, plastic mulch, shovel, seedling tray, garden net, plastic drum, sprinkler, and polyethylene (PE) bags, and strawberry production training. All interventions amounted to Php 771,000. *continue to p. 10*

### DA-SAAD National Director visits MisOcc...from page 9

With this, the group decided to add 2ha of production area for strawberry farming.

Prior to their selection as beneficiaries, the group was trained on Strawberry Production and Management Training to back the project with relevant knowledge and skills of the farmers.

During the activity, Dir. Mula emphasized the need to employ appropriate strawberry farming technologies for optimal production rates.

He particularly underscored the importance of the proper selection of strawberry varieties, planting stock preparation, soil management, planting season, and runner production.

He also handed the strawberry farmers a Manual on Strawberry Production and Management Practices he authored and published by SAAD as a basic guide for the farmers to top up their production.

"When I heard of your project, I decided that I have to come here to personally meet you and discuss with you how to further improve your project," Dir. Mula said.

With its unspoiled land, the town situated in the highlands with conducive climatic conditions suited to strawberry farming, Dir. Mula urged the strawberry farmers to sustain and improve the projects granted to them and also pass on their knowledge to their children as their future livelihood.

With the anticipated Phase 2 implementation of the program, Dir. Mula vowed to continuously provide assistance to the region's strawberry farmers.

"SAAD is different from other regular programs of the Department of Agriculture. With SAAD, we can and we will provide you the assistance you need until such time your association will be an independent enterprising association," Mula stressed.

Mr. Marcelo Samson, president of (NVSGA) expressed his optimism with the assistance provided by the program.

He said that with the SAAD projects, members of their association found added means of livelihood aside from planting upland vegetables, which proves very helpful, especially amid the CoVID-19 pandemic.

Ms. Ma. Sonia Calleja, the Regional Officer of the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority 10 (FPA-10), joined the meeting to discuss relevant updates on fertilizers' price hikes, and the supply and demand situation.

She also discussed the Balanced Fertilizer Strategy (BFS) Program of the FPA which came about as an instruction from DA Secretary William Dar to mitigate the rising cost of fertilizer, land degradation, and decline in soil fertility through adjustments in the cropping and management systems.

The FPA-10 agreed to help the strawberry farmers by conducting future training on balanced soil fertilization to further develop their farming practices. ###

### DEVELOPMENT



## Pakusgon it ekonomiya pinaagi ha DA-SAAD Program

by Edson G. Penasbo

**NORTHERN SAMAR, March 17, 2022** – Interventions received by three (3) farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCAs) from the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) aid farmers towards the goal of food sustainability in the province.

Mapanas is a 5th class, coastal municipality in Northern Samar with a 42.5 percent poverty incidence based on Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data in 2018. In 2021, DA-SAAD implemented three (3) projects with the aim of boosting agricultural production and livestock in the municipality.

The livelihood projects composed of rice, calamansi, and poultry inputs provided by the SAAD Program to the three registered FCAs are worth Php 2,369,737. The 20-member Manaybanay Farmers Association (MAFA), 21-member Siljagon Upland Farmers Association (SUFA), and 20-member Naparasan Little Farmers Association (NALFA) came from barangays Manaybanay, Siljagon, and Naparasan, all in Mapanas.

The interventions distributed were the most suitable for the associations as most of the members were already engaged in farming. The projects are targeted as they are seen to have the most potential to transition into community-based enterprises with a sure market because of the absence of competition among the community food producers.

The FCAs have also undergone several capability-building, technical, and specialized training sessions for specific projects they handled. The training conducted prepared the associations in managing their respective projects leading to a sustainable livelihood that will later provide them with additional income.

The projects implemented are currently in operation and starting to transform into community enterprises. Salted eggs from MAFA and fresh eggs from NALFA are sold in their respective localities, while the 0.5-hectare calamansi farm of SUFA is now bearing fruits.

Monitoring is regularly done by SAAD Northern Samar,

with the help of the Municipal Agriculturist's Office of Mapanas. The staff continues to assist the associations in their production and marketing activities.

The SAAD projects were realized amidst the pandemic, with the active support of the local government unit of Mapanas, the Municipal Agriculturist's Office, and officials of each respective barangays.

Though this is the first time that the FCAs received livelihood interventions, they look forward to developing the projects to help each beneficiary and their families earn additional income, and become self-sufficient. ###

scan to see  
interventions  
received  
per farmers'  
cooperative and  
associations



## DA-SAAD Apayao FCA steers toward food and livelihood sustainability

by Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy

**APAYAO, March 11, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Apayao conducted its pilot testing on sustainability and business planning for the Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA), a beneficiary Farmer Cooperative and Association (FCA) in Barangay Dagupan, Luna, Apayao to prepare it for agripreneurship before the closing of SAAD's Phase 1 this year.

Sustainability has become a buzzword for the SAAD Program. The preliminary testing was steered through focus group discussions (FGD) involving some of the beneficiaries from the ULFA and representatives from the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO), Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO), and Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) of Luna.

A Project Assessment Tool was used to evaluate the group's overall organizational capability. This toolkit provides some specialized attributes for data collection and measurement. It discusses the efficiency and effectiveness of livelihood projects and sets out a framework of concepts and principles that can help address the weaknesses of the association.

The test was facilitated by the SAAD field implementers in partnership with the RPMSO representatives. Readiness for enterprising of the FCA's projects was looked at, as well as management and other notable practices. The set of questions was rated from 0 to 1.

"Take a close-up photo of the strength, weakness, opportunity, and challenge of the Farmers Association, the goal is to determine *kung kaya na ba ng* beneficiaries *ang tumayo at maging* entrepreneur, *at itong purpose ng* assessment *na ito* is to measure the capacity of each FCA *at malaman ang side ng* farmers," said George Estabillo, Community Development Officer (CDO), RPMSO.

(Take a close-up photo of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges of the Farmers Association, the goal is to determine if the beneficiaries can stand up and become entrepreneurs. The purpose of this assessment is to measure the capacity of each FCA and know the side of farmers.)

Maxima Camayang, chairperson of ULFA explained that the association is currently earning from egg, vegetable, and livestock production provided by the program.

The goal of the analysis is to determine if the SAAD Program can further assist

existing FCAs or if they are now ready as independent groups that can engage into enterprising.

### Field implementers on evaluating the ULFA

The preliminary conclusion of the SWOC or strength, weaknesses, opportunities, and challenges revealed that camaraderie is one of the ULFA's strengths in terms of project monitoring and a strong policy on transparency.

Julius Casil, Agricultural Technician of the LGU, reminded the group of the importance of assessment, and awareness of their strong and weak points as he considered this as the utmost pathway from poverty.

ULFA Treasurer Wilfredo Rimando reiterated the need to strengthen their knowledge through technical training, especially for livestock production. "Maysa nga makita mi nga pag-kapuyan mi ketawan unay training agituy members mi panggep iti pinag-taraken iti livestock, (One of the weaknesses that we have is some of our members do not have much training when it comes to livestock production)," said Rimando.

RPMSO Representative Danny Macycon emphasized that the beneficiaries can strengthen their entrepreneurial activities through partnership building with other government agencies like the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) or Banner Programs of the DA for wider grants access to engage in large scale production and enterprise.

Mr. Casil added that with the able participation of the LGU, the FCA was also getting benefits in terms of technical assistance through closed project monitoring.

As of May 12, 2021, the FCA was awarded a Good Standing from DOLE, certifying the group's legitimacy as a worker's association, with 144 members, which has completed the annual financial report for the fiscal year (FY) of 2020.

With their accreditation, Erap Ulabo, SAAD Provincial Coordinator, said the association can be linked to other agencies for community empowerment and development like Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Moreover, ULFA was rated with 80.89% based on seven (7) capability areas which are Organizational Management Capability, Leadership Development Capability, Management Capability, Production, and Marketing, Funds Management Capability, Networking, and Linkages Capability, and lastly Good Governance during the conduct of systematic pilot testing on sustainability.

Apayao is composed of 7 municipalities namely Pudtol, Luna, Sta. Marcela, Flora, Calanasan, Conner, and Kabugao, which covers a total of 133 barangays. A series of sustainability and business plan assessments will be conducted in March to evaluate other SAAD areas that include 123 barangays and 46 farmer's associations with a total of 6,189 members. ###



## about saadvocacy

The SAADvocacy is a monthly newsletter produced by the Public Relations and Communications Cluster of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, located at 3/F SAAD Office, Department of Agriculture New Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

The SAADvocacy aims to inform the program's partners about its important happenings and events towards realizing its goal of contributing the poverty alleviation of the farmers and fisherfolks from 30 provinces and areas covered by the Executive Order No. 70.

The SAADvocacy Editorial Board reserves the right to edit and finalize all stories, prior to publication.

For comments and suggestions, please contact us via telephone number (02) 8929-7349 or via email address at [saad@da.gov.ph](mailto:saad@da.gov.ph).

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# 10 FCAs receive banana plantlets to rehabilitate 6.1ha agri lands due to Typhoon Odette

by *Jolina T. Daño*

**BOHOL, March 4, 2022** – In efforts to rehabilitate agricultural lands after serious damage left by Typhoon Odette, 10 farmers' cooperative and associations (FCAs) in Bohol received banana plantlets from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Central Visayas.

In February 2022, 10 FAs with 155 member-beneficiaries from municipalities of President Carlos P. Garcia, Mabini, and Buenavista received cardava and lakatan plantlets under the FY 2021 Banana- Sweet Potato Production Project worth Php 2.3 million.

Jocelyn Camanse of Putingbato United SAAD Farmers' Association, expressed her gratitude to the DA Region 7, for receiving cardava and lakatan plantlets under the SAAD program.

*"Ako mapasalamaton sa SAAD ug sa ilang mga gipanghatag sama niining saging, kay ang among mga tanom gihurot gyud sa pag-agi sa bagyong Odette niadtong Disyembre. Maang kining gipanghatag sa SAAD amoa gyud kini nga padaghanon ug ampingan kay sa umaabot pohan nga panahon, kini makahatag ug dakong tabang kanamo ug sa among pamilya kung kini magbunga na,"* Ms. Camanse shared.

(I am grateful to the SAAD Program for providing us with these banana plantlets. In December 2021, Typhoon Odette destroyed our crops. We will take care of the interventions and increase production to ensure the project's long-term viability; for this will be beneficial to me and my family when harvest time arrives.)

The distribution was led by SAAD Bohol Provincial Coordinator, Ma. Reigelyn U. Malarjes; and SAAD Area Coordinators: Juge Mhel E. Muring (Mabini), Grace T. Cutanda (Pres. CPG), and Ryan Caesar B. Pamugas (Buenavista).



### Plans

Banana is an apt intervention to meet market demand since most bananas sold in Bohol markets come from Mindanao. The beneficiaries started planting the banana plantlets on February 28th, 2022 and estimated 1st harvest will be from December 2022 until January 2023.

In addition, SAAD Bohol staff continue the assessment of other banana farmers affected by Typhoon Odette to come up with the most favorable time for an intervention. ###