

SAAD *vocacy*

The official newsletter of the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program

DA-SAAD chief shares expertise during the inauguration of DA-10's strawberry prod'n facility

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MCTGA: Making Tilapia Farming More Sustainable

by Jennifer Valcobero

How it started

Tilapia (*Oreochromis niloticus*) is a species growing in freshwater across the Philippines, that contains niacin, vitamin B12, phosphorus, selenium, and potassium and is, therefore, a staple commodity at the dinner table among Filipino families.

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

SAAD Region 8 kicks-off Leadership Training for 15 FAs

by Lourdes O. Abueva



SOUTHERN LEYTE, March 24, 2022 – The Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Region 8 jumpstarts 2022 programs by facilitating Leadership Training for fifteen (15) Farmers Associations (FAs) in Southern Leyte.

The FAs were identified to participate in the DA-SAAD simultaneous Leadership Training across Southern Leyte. As of March 10, 2022, there are already six (6) FAs with 120 members from Malitbog, Sogod, Liloan, and Tomas Oppus, who participated in the training. *continue to p. 2*



4 FCAs in ZDN granted Php 800K worth of inputs for banana production

by Aimee Lou Madjus

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, April 6, 2022 – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program turned over Php 800,000 worth of livelihood project to four farmer cooperatives and associations (FCAs) in Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte on April 5, 2022. The activity led by National Director Myer G. Mula aims to establish additional banana (lakanan) plantation in the municipality.

General classification of Siayan's land is agricultural with 69.43% of its area being hilly and mountainous. Despite the topography, farmers persist to plant crops requiring cultivation every cropping which makes the area vulnerable to erosion. Less than 5% of the area can be considered plain in slope, categorized as infilled and inland valleys which are devoted to lowland rice, vegetable, and perennial crops such as trees (i.e., coconut) and shrubs. *continue to p. 3*

SAAD Region 8 kicks-off Leadership...from p. 1

Nine more FAs from the municipalities of San Francisco, Pintuyan, Bontoc, and Saint Bernard will undergo the same training this month to enhance their leadership capabilities and management skills. Further, once all the FAs completed the leadership training, a social preparation on financial and entrepreneurial management will also be conducted to fully equip the members on their agricultural endeavors.

Since receiving interventions from SAAD, the FAs were monitored and mentored to transform into sustainable agri-enterprises. Unfortunately, when Typhoon Odette hit Eastern Visayas in December 2021, major crops, as well as livestock were heavily damaged. SAAD Region 8 Program Management then has re-aligned the enterprise interventions such as minimart, meat shop, and balut/salted egg enterprises into food production interventions to help the farmers get back on their feet and recover from the recent calamity.

Among the fifteen FAs, San Isidro Farmers Association in Liloan and Maslog Farmers Integrated Livestock Poultry Breeders Association in Tomas Oppus decided to pursue the minimart and meatshop enterprises, respectively. The FAs decided to pursue the enterprises as they have saved enough funds to sustain the projects and since their production sites were marginally damaged compared to other FAs.

The leadership training is SAAD's timely response to equip FAs in disaster preparedness for natural calamities and typhoon devastation among other things. One of the resource speakers, Mrs. Cristita Clava, a Provincial Agricultural Services Office (PAgSO) Agricultural Technician, Southern Leyte shared:

"Typhoon Odette has significantly changed the role of leadership in farmers' organizations. During the crisis, the leader's role shifts, and those true leaders prioritize and respond to the needs of the people that follow them. This training is not only intended for officers, everyone is taught to develop self-leadership where all members need to set an example by leading themselves beyond the boundaries of their own concerns and uncertainties."

Hermogenes M. Bautista Jr., President of Anilao Farmers Association, who also attended the training expressed his gratitude:

"Abi naman a gipasagdan na mi sa gobyerno, sa dakung perwisyo na gihimo ni (Typhoon) Odette, wa na mi magdahum nan aa pa gihapon ang SAAD nagpalujo la amo. Daku ang tabang sa Leadership Training na gihatag nila sa among mga kauban kay nabalik among kompiyansa sa among kaugalingan ug makabangon mi'g dali bisan gipang sa bagyo among mga balay ug panginabuhian."

(We thought that the government would no longer help us because of the huge damage brought by [Typhoon] Odette. We even forgot that SAAD is just behind our back. This Leadership Training that they had given to us helped us a lot to regain our self-confidence and stand up quickly even though our houses and livelihood got destroyed.)

Indeed, farmers are one of the most resilient workers among all professions. No matter the devastation, they are ready to stand up and move forward, for in their hands rely upon the food of our countrymen. SAAD will continue the interventions to beneficiaries and fulfill its mission to empower marginalized farmers. ###



Entrepreneurship and Organizational Management Training of DA-SAAD for IP associations in OccMin

by Dianne Francis A. Sy

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, April 6, 2022 – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program hosted a Technical Training on agripreneurship, as well as an Organizational Management Training for 15 indigenous people (IP) farmers' associations (FA) aimed at fostering management and marketing skills through a series of assessments and discussions.

The training was attended by 75 participants from the municipalities of Rizal, Magsaysay, and San Jose. Furthermore, it was conducted in partnership with the DA Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2) and eAgribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (AMAS) team. Three sets of two-day training covered discussions and workshops on agripreneurship and organizational management. Each association sent five representatives to participate in each set of training.

Rizal

The first batch of participants are members of Pangkalikasang Samahan ng Buhid sa Bato Singit, Samahan ng Katutubong Buhid sa Sitio Panlabayan 1, Kalipunan ng Tribung Buhid Lanaban, Kasuyan, at Langog, Mamamayang Kabalik at Pangangalaga ng Kagubatan, and Samahan ng Katutubong Buhid sa Sitio Albulan 1. The participants were introduced to value chain development as basis for analysis presented by Ms. Faith Paulmanal, Administrative Assistant from F2C2.

The value chain development teaches farmers to engage in good agricultural practices such as identification of the best way to harvest and transport their products to prevent damage. When quality is preserved, their products will be more appealing to buyers and their sales will be secured.

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis was introduced and conducted to assess the current situation of each association and to give direction to the workshop. Unity and diligence are the common strengths identified, while lack of resources such as farm inputs and machinery weaken the group.

Damage to products and difficulty securing buyers were identified as a challenge as some associations are situated in far-flung areas where there is a lack of farm-to-market roads (FMR). Natural calamities such as storms and pest infestations are listed as threats that farmers have to be prepared for.

Establishing a Bagsakan center near the farmers' area, or a common trading center where farmers can deliver their products is seen as a possible solution to cut the distance between producers and the market and avoid damage to goods. *continue to next page*

The beneficiaries are engaged in traditional rice, cassava, and ginger production.

Magsaysay

Mr. Rustom Gonzaga, a Marketing Specialist from DA-AMAS, spearheaded the workshop for the second batch. This batch of training sessions focused mainly on value-adding strategies and processes since the 26 IP farmers from Magsaysay are engaged in food production focusing on cassava, upland or traditional rice, and corn.

During the discussion, cassava producers from Calachuchi Indigenous Farmers Association (CIFA) and Samahan ng Katutubong Ratagnon Lupaing Ninuno (SAKARALUNI) shared that they are having difficulty in earning from cassava production due to its low prices and their lack of connection with cassava assemblers and buyers, which is why there are farmers who stopped planting the crop.

To address this, the beneficiaries asked for support as they want to have a direct connection with San Miguel Corporation – a well-known cassava buyer – and create a buying station in the province to cut travel expenses for their goods and omit the need for middlemen which will result in higher income.

Mr. Gonzaga encouraged the associations to improve the quality of their products to maintain the high value and quantity of their products as this will give them wider market options and give them bargaining power.

Mr. Vilmar Robes, SAAD Area Coordinator, is making arrangements on establishing

connections with San Miguel Corporation. The Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) also offers support on the marketing side, giving farmers options on where to sell their goods.

San Jose

A brief review of the SAAD Project's objectives served as a primer for the last batch of beneficiaries from five (5) IP associations in San Jose who are involved in cassava and rice production and in providing farm services.

The analysis showed that there are instances where products such as bananas and cassava are produced only for food consumption as the farmers do not know how to set the right price. The F2C2 specialist taught the IP farmers to compute their farm expenses to help them set the right price to avoid losses, ensuring their income.

Marketing strategies such as branding and promoting their goods appealed to IP farmers, *"Natutunan ko na dapat pinagpaplanuhan pala ang pagnenegosyo. Kagaya ng tinuro ni Sir (Gonzaga), hindi lang kami magsasaka, pero negosyante rin. Maganda pala kapag may pangalan ang aming produkto dahil nakakadagdag ng halaga ng produkto,"* shared Mr. Daboy Bercacio, Treasurer of Samahang Buhid at Hanunuo Mangyan ng Brgy. Naibuan.

(I learned that business should be planned carefully. Just like what Sir [Gonzaga] said, we are not just farmers, but also entrepreneurs, and having a name for our products is a good marketing strategy because it adds value to our

products.)

Towards Agripreneurship

Mr. Rod Dagay Lopez, Secretary of Sitio Dulis Abong Salafay Hubkob Farmers Association (S. DASH FA), shared that the workshop broadened his knowledge, specifically on agribusiness.

"Unang beses ko lang maka-attend sa ganitong klaseng pagsasanay. Medyo kinakabahan pa ako. Pero marami akong natutunan tungkol sa pagnenegosyo na hindi ko alam noon. Gusto kong gawin 'yong mga natutunan ko para umunlad ang aming samahan."

(This is my first-time attending training like this. I am a little bit nervous. But I learned a lot about business that I did not know before. I want to apply the things that I have learned for the improvement of our association.)

At the end of each of the training, Mr. Gonzaga invited the participants to share their learnings with their fellow farmers and encouraged them to put their newly-gained knowledge into practice as a team. Each municipality's MAO, with SAAD Area Coordinators, gives continuous support to farmers in all aspects including the marketing side.

The Organizational Management training is under the Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development component which corresponds to the program's initiative to help communities create enterprises by establishing market linkages and providing technical assistance, such as training, and logistic support, while the agripreneurship training is under the Social Preparation Component which aims to ensure the preparedness of the program beneficiaries in managing SAAD's interventions. ###

4 FCAs in ZDN granted Php 800K worth of inputs for banana...from p. 1

Since 2017, the DA-SAAD in coordination with the local government unit (LGU) of Siayan had implemented various livelihood projects for the farmers of the municipality. Identified farmers in three barangays of the municipality received the Upland Rice and Banana Production inputs as well as stocks of large ruminants.

For 2022, the program in its last year of implementation continues to expand and cover other barangays.

The four newly identified cooperatives namely Balok Consumers Cooperative, Dumpilas Consumers Cooperative, Domogok Consumers Cooperative, and Sayaw Consumers Cooperative comprising 20 members each, received the FY2022 Banana Production Project with 16,000 banana plantlets and 400 bags of vermicast. FCA members will receive 200 plantlets each to cover approximately 16 hectares (ha) of land area. The intervention will serve approximately 16ha of land area in 80 sites at 200 plantlets per site (2,000 square meters per site).

The FCAs are expected to start planting by May this year. Processing and packaging of the fruit will eventually take place after harvest to add value to the product and give a bargaining advantage. Due to the high demand of bananas from other nearby municipalities, the LGU commits to assist them in their marketing.

Present to show support to the activity were DA Region 9 staff – Field Operations Division Chief Reynaldo Campomanes, Agricultural Provincial Coordinator George Vallente, SAAD Provincial Coordinator Roger Dave Gramatica, SAAD Area Coordinator Nurhainar Salim, FPA officers, and other staff from the LGU. ###



Scan to see list of FAs who received the assistance



14 FAs in Cotabato receive livelihood projects from DA-SAAD

by Jennifer Valcobero, Aisa Tina

COTABATO, March 25, 2022 – Fourteen farmers' associations (FA) in Cotabato received Php 1.4 million worth of various livelihood projects from the Department of Agriculture Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program during the simultaneous distribution from March 10 to 23.

Carabao and Cattle Dispersal Projects (Php 1,321,080) were accepted by 12 FAs (196 members) from Alamada, Aleosan, Kidapawan City, President Roxas, Libungan, Midsayap, Pikit, Antipas, Kabacan, Makilala, and M'lang.

The issued large ruminants (18 carabaos, 24 cattle) were

inspected and tested with Brucella and Surra, dewormed, and vaccinated against Hemorrhagic Septicemia. The animals will help in their farming activities like land preparation and hauling of crops.

For Vegetable Production Project (Php 8,863.08), the Sitio New Alimodian Peace and Development FA was provided with 60 packs of pinakbet seeds for their 2,000

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14 FAs in Cotabato receive livelihood projects...from p. 3

square meters communal garden. The 20 members are from Tulunan.

The Masagana FA with 25 members received 40 bags of hybrid corn seeds to cover 20 hectares.

Tatay Delrio Beltran of the Pisan Organic Vegetable FA shared how grateful they are for the carabao provided to them.

"Daghang salamat sa SAAD sa ilahang hinabang sa amua. Tungod niini, hinay-hinay nga naga-lambo ang amuang panginabuhin. Kining mga karabaw dako gyud nga tabang sa amuang mga trabaho sa bukid."

(Thank you, SAAD, for your assistance. This will help us improve our livelihood activities. The carabao will really help us on the farm.)

Tatay Peter Herville, Cattle beneficiary from Herville Memorial Communal Irrigation System, Inc., also expressed his appreciation for the program.

"Taos-puso po kaming nagpapasalamat sa SAAD, sa inyong tulong na naipa-abot po dito sa aming barangay, sa aming asosasyon. Napakalaking tulong po nito para sa aming mga magsasaka. Mahirap lamang po kami, kaya naman 'di po namin kayang bumili ng mga baka, at dahil po sa tulong ninyo, ito na po, nagkaroon na po kami ng baka sa aming asosasyon. Sobrang gamit na gamit po itong mga baka sa aming pagsasaka. Maraming-maraming salamat po."

(Our heartfelt gratitude to SAAD for providing assistance to our barangay and our association. This is a big advantage to us farmers. We don't have enough money to buy cattle but because of SAAD, our association now has some which are very useful in our farming activities. Thank you very much.)

The distribution was facilitated by SAAD 12 Deputy Focal Person Elma Delante and provincial staff, in coordination with the 12 local government units (LGUs).

SAAD will continue its support to the beneficiaries through constant field visits and monitoring. ###

Swine repopulation program in Kalinga, a success

by Sheena Phine P. Dayagon

KALINGA, April 12, 2022 – One-hundred-fourteen (14) swine raisers in Kalinga were granted piglets from the first-in-line beneficiaries under the SAAD Swine Repopulation Program through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD), expanding efforts to revitalize the swine population in covered barangays.

In 2021, DA-SAAD Kalinga launched the Swine Repopulation Program for 170 swine raisers (first-in-line beneficiaries). The program provided support to the rearing of existing sows of the raisers by providing feeds good for one cycle



Capacitating the farmers

Farm Coaching on Biosecurity for Swine Production was conducted in Balbalan, Tanudan, and Pasil even before launching the SAAD Swine Repopulation in the province. This is to reiterate the importance of safeguarding farm areas and helping them avoid the infestation of African Swine Fever (ASF) incidents in their localities.

In November 2021, the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Coordinator (PAFC) and the Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Coordinator (MAFC) conducted a monitoring visit in Balbalan where bio-secured farms of beneficiaries were acknowledged.

Moreover, Farmer Livestock School (FLS) on swine production for SAAD implementers, and later on, for beneficiaries were conducted still under the SAAD swine repopulation project. This is to ensure that the SAAD staff are equipped with sufficient knowledge in implementing the project while encouraging the farmers to adopt technologies that are favorable to their swine production.

The FLS on swine production was conducted in Balbalan, Tanudan, and Pasil. Swine raisers in the said areas are the first to be identified for swine repopulation by the SAAD Kalinga, while Tinglayan, Lubuagan, and Rizal are expected to receive said schooling in 2022.

In Balbalan, the resource persons for the conduct

and biologics such as multivitamins. Further, the farmers underwent a Farmers' Livestock Schooling (FLS) for swine production. The beneficiaries came from the 17 different SAAD-covered barangays of five identified municipalities in Kalinga.

To ensure sustainability and to accommodate more farmers, a roll-over scheme for the next-in-line beneficiaries was devised. For every sow supported by the program, two of its offspring will be passed on to two next-in-line beneficiaries either from within the previous beneficiary's organization or their non-SAAD barangay constituents who have an interest in swine raising. A bag of starter feeds will likewise be provided to every piglet dispersed. Hence, the initial 170 raisers will have the opportunity to share the benefits of the program with more farmers.

To date, 101 sows have so far farrowed, producing a total of 681 litters while 60 are under gestation. Several sows are expected to farrow this April-May 2022. Meanwhile, 114 of the produced litters have been rolled over putting the municipality of Balbalan ahead of the production and dispersal with 326 litters produced and 69 rolled-over piglets. Martha Panod, one of the beneficiaries in Balbalan, appreciates the program for devising its 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 to increase the number of swine raisers. Those who have not yet experienced swine raising are being encouraged since they can see that it helped other farmers financially and there is a readily available source of funds for occasions,)" said Ms. Panod.



of the FLS training are Dr. Leonardo Damian, and Dr. Florencio Wanason, both from the Office of the Provincial Veterinary Services, and Dr. Carmen Wanas from Tabuk City Veterinary Services. The proper housing, feed, care and management, and best practices on swine raising topics are discussed in the said training.

"Datin nga ammu yu ti agtaraken ti babuy ngem nabuo daytuy FLS gapu ti pandemya ti babuy nga isu ti makunkuna nga ASF. Daytuy nga ASF ket awan pay solusyon na sipud idi. Garud, naisayangkat ti Farmers Livestock School tapnu pumintas ti produksyon, maimprove ti panagaywan, ken kasanu agtaraken nga haan matamaan ti ASF virus," said Balag-ey Claver, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) during the graduation ceremony of two Farmers Associations (FA) in Barangay Dao-angan, Balbalan on April 4, 2022.

(You already know how to raise pigs, but this FLS was devised in response to ASF. There are no solutions yet for ASF, thus, FLS is conducted to enhance production, improve the care and maintenance, and guide on how to raise swine while preventing the infestation of ASF virus.)

Sustaining the project

The SAAD Program works hand-in-hand with partner implementers such as local government units (LGUs) and the agriculture and fisheries coordinators in monitoring the production and management of the program's beneficiaries.

With the objective of the project being progressively achieved, additional areas for swine repopulation were identified and included in the roster for assistance in FY 2022. The cooperation and diligence of every implementing body are thus expected to continue the good start of the project. ###

FEATURED STORY

MCTGA: Making Tilapia Farming More Sustainable...from p. 1

From a mere backyard hobby, complemented by the green atmosphere on the lowland valley across the roaring Pallan River, tilapia culture has gradually become an economically viable aquaculture activity in the area.

Considering its benefits, tilapia farming has spread out among farmers converting non-productive rice and swampy areas into usable ponds. The hardy fish is easy to grow, after five to six months of culture, the grower can either sell it in the market or apportion it for family consumption for a more self-reliant and healthier lifestyle.



In September 2019, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) introduced the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program to the fisherfolk in Misamis Occidental.

Mixed-crop farmers in the municipality of Jimenez who are practicing pond tilapia culture were chosen as one of the program's beneficiaries for aquaculture assistance.

Twenty-four (24) fisherfolk in Barangay Miallem and six (6) in Barangay Carmen formed the fishers group called Miallem-Carmen Tilapia Growers Association in Jimenez and received assistance for the program's Tilapia Culture in Pond and Satellite Hatchery Operation project.

Members of the group are corn and banana growers whose monthly income ranged from Php 7,000 to Php 8,000.

Tilapia Culture and Hatchery Operation Project Implementation

After the successful assessment and evaluation of project sites based on the program guidelines, the 30 members of the group each have at least 300 square meters (sqm) of pond area viable for tilapia farming.

To ensure effective project management, BFAR conducted various training for the beneficiaries. This includes Tilapia Culture in Pond which discussed technical procedures for proper stocking, proper feeding management, monitoring, and harvesting.

Further, the farmers also received Training in Marketing, Trading, and Other Related Business Activities which aims to capacitate and enhance their knowledge in marketing and value-addition of products.

Fishery inputs include supplies and materials for pond preparation, tilapia fingerlings, feeds (good for two croppings), tilapia hatchery facility and inputs (breeders and feeds), mini-processing shed, and processing utensils and equipment, fish dryers, feed formulation shed and equipment, amounting to Php 1,102,131.50.

Raising Tilapia

According to Mr. Infiesto, the group vice-chairman, tilapia requires ample attention to details and processes of raising such as clean water, oxygen, food, light, and room to swim, stay healthy and grow fast.

When they received the project in 2020, they immediately cultured the fingerlings in each pond area. A total of 60,000 fingerlings were stocked in March. By maintaining favorable environmental conditions and proper feeding, the fish are ready for harvesting after 5-6 months.

The first tilapia farming operation which provided the group with a consolidated income of Php 553,150 helped with their daily needs, especially during the lockdown (brought by the COVID-19 pandemic). The group had patrons in the nearby towns where fish supplies are limited (Table 1).

Harvesting of fish is done on a staggered basis, selecting the bigger sizes for the market. Tilapia were easily sold in the neighborhood and middlemen set bookings prior to the harvest. They sold it fresh at Php 130/kg. Fingerlings were sold at Php 0.25/pc.

"Makaingon ko nga na-improve ang panginabuhi sa miyembro kay gawas nga maka-income me, makasud-an pa gyud among matag pamilya ug presko nga tilapia. So, ang among budget para sa sud-an, amo ng matigom," shared Mr. Infiesto.

(I can say that each members' life has improved, not just due to the additional income but also each of our families has enjoyed eating fresh tilapia. So, we can now save our budget for buying viand.)

He added that the free livelihood inputs from SAAD are a big advantage for them – just like the commercial feeds which they could not afford to buy, as well as the fish processing materials.

Consumers also attest that the taste difference of tilapia produced by MCTGA has no muddy smell and is palatable.

For this years' culture operation, they already stocked fingerlings in each pond area last January to February. Harvest is expected after 6 months. To date, the group has already earned Php 1,288,690 from selling fresh tilapia.

Tilapia processing

In 2022, the group tried tilanggit production using the knowledge acquired by some members from the training provided by BFAR-SAAD last year.

In two to three months, each member harvests at least 2-3kg of fish weighing 20-30 grams which are then processed to produce boneless dried tilapia sold at Php 400/pack.

Group treasurer, Liwayway Puliran said that they market their product through personal social media accounts.

"Gipaningkamotan namo nga madeliver namo og sakto especially sa mga naa sa lagyo, kay dili naman sila muanhi diri kay layoan na. Isa sa among nasabotan nga mag create mig facebook page sa among grupo para direct sila makamessage sa amoa, ideliver nalang pud namo sa ilaha, mas easy ni nga way para sa mga customers," said Ms. Puliran.

(We did our best to deliver it right to buyers living from afar. One of our agreements is to create a Facebook page for our group so that they can message us directly, and deliver the product to them, to make it more convenient for our buyers.)

Two months after engaging in tilapia processing, MCTGA recorded an income of Php 20,000.00. As tilapia grows rapidly and abundantly, MCTGA members attested that this has become their additional source of income, which helped them pay for school fees of their children and other family needs.

"Gamay ra gyud kayo mig income sa among farming kay gumikan niining sa tempo nato, dayon mag maisan mi, initon og sambolan, edi masangag ang among mga mais. Didto nalang mi magfocus sa among fishpond, atimanan namog maayo ang fishpond. Pareha nako karon naa koy anak nga college, nakatabang gyud nig bayad sa eskwelahan, dako gyud kaayo ni siyog ikatabang kay nahalanan mi, nalipay unta mi kay nahilam mig kwarta, napadulong hinuon sa eskwelahan, pero sige lang kay nakasulbad man ni sa among problema," said Ms. Jennifer Balagot, the group secretary.

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(We only have a little income from our farm because of the weather. We planted corn but too much heat dried it. So, we focused on our fishpond and took care of it religiously. Because, like me, I have a college student and my earnings from selling tilapia allowed me to pay for my child's fees.)

Ms. Balagot is also hopeful to avail of another round of training on tilanggit-processing for the group because not all members were able to participate due to minimal physical contact restrictions in the previous session.

Sharing Policy

"Sa individual income namo sa tilapia, maghatag ug Php 200 kada harvest sa members. Kaduha me sa isa ka tuig mu-harvest so Php 400 na. Dayon, e deposit namo sa among bangko," said Mr. Infiesto referring to the group sharing policy.

(From our individual income, members are obliged to give Php 200 every harvest. We harvest two cropping seasons a year, so that's Php 400, and we deposit it in the group's bank account.)

Group members also pay for the Php 20 membership fee and another Php 20 for the monthly dues. Penalties are also imposed for those absent during meetings.

"Nindot gyud siya nga program nga gihatag sa amo gikan sa DA-BFAR og through LGU. Dako siyag natabang sa amoa isip farmer, kay sa amoa man gud diri, abunda kaayo mig tubig so gamit kaayo para mag himog fish pond. So, dako siyag natabang sa amo, especially sa among daily needs gyud. Kay sauna muadto pa mig lungsod, unya mahal baya kaayo ang isda, whereas karon mapasayon kay naa name among kaugalingon. Dayon sa among income dako pud siyag natabang," averred Ms. Puliran.

(This is a good program provided to us from DA-BFAR through LGU. It's a big help to us farmers because here, we have an abundant source of water, which is very useful for excavation to create a fish pond in our areas. So, it's a big help for us, especially for our daily needs. Before, we used to go to the market in town, but the fish is expensive. Compared now, we have it cultivated in our area, and we get income from this.)

Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

Considering that the fingerlings were sourced out from Bukidnon (5 to 7 hours' travel), delay in the barge across to Ozamis City resulted in high mortalities of tilapia due to stress during the transport.

To resolve the said problem, MCTGA's proposed tilapia satellite hatchery project will operate this year that can readily supply the seed stock needed for their pond areas.

Plans

The pandemic hampered the series of training that the group needed to pursue. This 2022, they are hoping for hands-on activities and experiences in feed formulation so that they can produce alternative food for their fish, and to expand their market to other tilapia growers within and outside the municipality.

The initiative will help the group sustain the project by totally eliminating their commercial feeds expenses. With that, they may expand their pond areas too.

With the mini-processing shed provided, the group is now continuously making tilanggit that will carry the group's branding for packaging to attract more customers. ###



TOWARDS CBE's

Magallanes farmers start peanut butter enterprise through income from vegetables

by Pauline Trixia D. Borja



scan to see
Tula Tula Norte
Gulayan Association
vegetable and peanut
production

SORSOGON, March 29, 2022 – The Tula-Tula Norte Gulayan Association reported their initial income of Php 5,478 from their homemade peanut butter products, an enterprise expansion through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's vegetable production project.

The association is located in Brgy Tula-Tula Norte, Magallanes, Sorsogon. The group has 30 members and is registered under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in September 2020.

In January 2021, the group received High-Value Crops (HVC) package amounting to Php 748,108. This included vegetable/fruit seeds (30kgs), budded calamansi (100pcs), mung bean seeds (7kg), root crop tubers (196 pcs), ginger seed (11kgs), muriate of potash (2 bags), complete fertilizer (60 bags), urea (15 bags), african night crawler (90 bags), laminated sacks (2pcs), yellow and gray laminated sacks (20pcs), brush cutter (1 unit), knapsack sprayer (10 units), drums (20pcs), garden tools (20 sets), hand trowel (30pcs), hand rake (30pcs), hand sprayer (30pcs), plastic tray (150pcs), bolo with scabbard (30pcs), plastic mulch (5 rolls), vegetable twine (30 rolls), garden hose (5 rolls), weighing scale (4pcs), crates (30pcs), (1 set), storage containers and packaging materials (1 set), PPE and hygiene kit (1 set), ingredients for processing (1 set), impulse sealer (2 units), and refractometer (1 unit).

In March 2021, the group started to earn income from their vegetable and watermelon harvest. After 6 months, the group was able to earn a total income of Php4,975.00 from their vegetable crops.

Moreover, in June 2021, the group received an additional 40kgs of peanut seeds, various stainless kitchenware (1 set), and various kitchen utensils (1 set) amounting to Php 200,000 which is included in the HVC Package for 2021.

Afterward, in July 2021, the peanut seeds were equally distributed among the group's members and were planted in each one's 0.5 square meters (sqm) production area. In October 2021, the group harvested a total of seven kilograms from their planted peanuts. The low volume of the harvest was due to the occurrence of several typhoons in the area, which damaged most of the group's crops. Despite the low harvest, the group was able to create ways to earn money from what they have produced.

"Dai po kami naka-income ki dakula sa pag benta ki mga gulay dahil sa sunod-sunod na pag-uran. Pero ginibuhan mi po ki paraan para may dagdag income

an samuyang grupo. Sa tabang nin SAAD, nakagibo asin nakabenta kami nin peanut butter na hali sa income kan samuyang gulayan," member of the association, Efren Hisarsa, shared.

(We did not earn that much because of the continuous heavy rainfall. But we made other ways so that we can have additional income. Through SAAD's assistance, we were able to make and sell peanut butter from our vegetable products' earnings.)

According to Mr. Hisarsa, through the value-added training of the DA-SAAD Program, last November to December 2021, they decided to use half of the Php 4,975 which were earned from their vegetable crops to buy ingredients for peanut butter making which they learned through the program's Vegetable Processing and Enterprise Development Training last September 2021.

A small jar of peanut butter is sold at Php 50.00, the medium-size jar at Php 100, and the largest jar is valued at Php 150. In two months, they generated Php 5,478.00 net income.

Plans

According to the group's president, Ms. Muriel Gabuyo, the association's income will be deposited into their association's Gubat St. Anthony Cooperative (GASC) savings account to maintain the safety of their hard-earned money.

Ms. Gabuyo shared her gratitude to the SAAD Program. She said that, *"Dakulaon na pasalamat po sa programa kan SAAD. Maski bako kadakula ang samuyang kinita sa gulay dahil sa pag-uran-uran, nakatabang man ang pagbenta mi nin peanut butter para sa dagdag kita sa tabang kan SAAD. Sa taon na ini, mas sisipagan mi pa po an pag tatanom para makagibo kami nin iba pang produkto na hali sa gulay."*

(A big thanks to the SAAD Program, although we did not earn that much because of the heavy rainfall, our peanut butter enterprise, through the assistance of SAAD, helped us with our additional earnings. This year, we will be more diligent in farming so that we can make other processed foods from vegetables.)

To boost their enterprise development this year, the association plans to make processed vegetable products such as kalabasa molido, kalabasa chips, veggie empanada, peanut brittle, and pechay kimchi which they also learned from the training on Vegetable Processing and Enterprise Development. ###

Community vegetable hub, San Pascual FA earns Php 1.3M

by Jay A. Ogaya

MASBATE, March 15, 2022 – The San Pedro Vegetable Growers Association (SPVGA) in San Pascual, Masbate earned a combined income of Php 1,317,167.50 from their harvest through the Vegetable Production Project of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

Provided to the association in 2018 were farm inputs such as vegetable seeds, organic fertilizers, plastic drums, sets of garden tools, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes, wheelbarrow, and ultraviolet (UV) treated plastic, amounting to Php 538,827.

The 45 members, consisting of 37 women and 8 men, cultivated a total combined area of 14.0 hectares (ha), each with 0.5-1 ha. They planted assorted vegetables such as okra, bitter melon, chili, eggplant, upo, sitao, squash, pechay, mungbean and kangkong.

Vegetable farmers started to gather their harvest in 2019 and consolidate their earnings.

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

Mr. Jonathan B. Gemino, President of SPVGA expressed his gratitude to the program.

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



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

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

The remaining income was saved for the group's available fund.

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

Meanwhile, the occurrence of typhoons is one of the problems encountered by the members of the association.

To prevent further losses, each member insured their crops to the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) where they also received financial assistance in 2020, after the severe damages brought by the typhoon.

Jonathan also shared that there are instances they have excess vegetable harvests which they planned to process into value-adding products.

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

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

DA-SAAD Caraga introduces low-cost feed production to Carmen poultry farmers

by Mark Angelo Pineda

SURIGAO DEL SUR, April 5, 2022 – Seventeen (17) poultry farmers trained in low-cost feed formulation and production from March 22 to 23 through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Carmen, Surigao del Sur.

The training imparted the value of producing low-cost feeds as a practical initiative of the Cancavan Corn Growers Association (CCGA), recipient of the SAAD-funded poultry

production project (FY 2019-2022). *(Read Crop and poultry production: A practical and sustainable livelihood to view CCGA's profile.)*

Since 2019, the DA-SAAD Program has provided the association with 744 bags of feeds worth Php 1,121,971.22. By making their own feeds, the association will be able to sustain the project as expenses will lessen, and, in turn, maximize their income even without the program's additional feed assistance.

Euniel G. Atalo of the DA Regulatory Division served as the training resource person. Atalo elaborated on the

appropriate poultry nutrition, feed formulation, and processing, including types, standard mixing ratio, nutrient composition, and proper handling and storage.

The training also highlighted the importance of feed formulation as an alternative in sustaining the livelihood in the years ahead.

CCGA will use corn and soybeans as the main inputs for their feeds. Under FY 2022, the association will receive hammer mill, pelletizer, feed mixer, and feed formulation materials to support the said initiative. ###



DIRECTOR IN ACTION

DA-SAAD chief shares expertise during the inauguration of DA-10's strawberry prod'n facility

by Azbie Talib

BUKIDNON, March 14, 2022 – Director Myer Mula, SAAD Program head, is among the Department of Agriculture (DA) Region 10's esteemed guests during the inauguration of the agency's Korean Government-funded Php 70.2 million Smart Greenhouse Strawberry Production Facility, at the Northern Mindanao Agricultural Crops and Livestock Research Center (NMACLRC) in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

Dir. Mula graced the activity on March 10 along with DA Undersecretary William Medrano and DA 10 executives – Regional Executive Director Carlene Collado, Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations Carmelita T. Bajarla, Regional Technical Director for Operations Carlota Madriaga, and other officials of the agency.

As an experienced strawberry practitioner during his involvement with the private sector operated by Israeli consultants, Dir. Mula exchanged farming ideas and technologies with Professor Park Jongdae, an expert sent by the South Korean Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, to help the region establish its first-ever research facility for strawberry production.

The said facility is planted with San Andreas and Sweet Charlie strawberry varieties. The SMART greenhouse will also be utilized as a research facility for the production of other high-value crops such as tomato, potato, and pepper. ###



DA-BFAR-SAAD FCAs in LDN show progress during National Director's visit

by Azbie Talib, Jennifer Valcobero

LANAO DEL NORTE, March 14, 2022 – To ensure spot-on implementation of the Department of Agriculture – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-BFAR-SAAD) projects, Director Myer Mula visited three fisherfolk cooperatives in Lanao del Norte on March 8.

Dir. Mula personally met with the officers and members of Lala Fishermen's Cooperative (LAFICO) in Lala, Baroy Stakeholders and Fishermen Cooperative (BASFICO) in Baroy, and Simbuco Aquamarine Multipurpose Cooperative (SAMMPC) in Kolambugan, Lanao del Norte.

From 2019 to 2021, the three FCAs received a total Php 18,240,991.63 worth of fishery inputs under Milkfish in Pen and Cage Projects broken down as follows: LAFICO (Php 5,972,068.21), BASFICO (Php 5,972,068.21), and SAMMPC (Php 6,296,855.21)

The 330 members of the fisherfolk cooperatives sold their bangus within the community and outside the province like Iligan and Pagadian City.

In a span of three years, the cooperatives reported combined gross earnings of Php 23.3 million including the income earned from their lending services, food and fishing supplies stores, and other services engaged with the assistance provided by SAAD.

Dir. Mula expressed his gratitude to the fishers for their continued effort in sustaining the SAAD projects granted to them, and their initiative in optimizing the projects to augment the livelihood of the fishers in their area.

"We will continue to provide you with the assistance you need for as long as we can. What we expect is your cooperation and commitment to take care of the projects you deserved from SAAD and take full advantage of the projects to uplift your livelihood," Dir. Mula said.

With the anticipated Phase 2 implementation of the program, Dir. Mula also met with Mayor Angel Yap of Lala, Mayor Rosa Olafsson of Baroy, and Mayor Lorenzo Manigos of Kolambugan, to set out plans for effective management of BFAR-SAAD projects in said towns.

Dir. Mula also discussed dynamics for the upscaling of BFAR-SAAD projects with Director Teodoro Bacolod, Jr., BFAR-10 Regional Director.

Close coordination with the LGUs and strengthened program management are among the focus areas identified to better the SAAD projects implementation.

"What we must ascertain is to implement our projects the best we can at our end," Dir. Mula said, as a way to address bottlenecks in BFAR-SAAD projects in Northern Mindanao.

Lala Fishermen's Cooperative

With 63 members, LAFICO became a beneficiary of BFAR-SAAD's Milkfish in Pen Project from 2019 to 2021, with a substantial gross income of Php 8 million generated from two fish cropping (annual), beach resort operations, and a grocery store.

From their bangus production income, the group leased a beach resort with a seven-year contract for Php 150,000, including a small store within the vicinity on January 23, 2020.

From the training on bangus deboning and food processing provided by the program, the group was able to venture into value-adding products, to also impose zero postharvest loss.

LAFICO now owns a grocery store where they display their bottled bangus, bangus corn oil, and boneless bangus.

From their grocery business income, they engaged in catering services with the local government units (LGUs) in Lanao del Norte and BFAR during their events, meetings, and seminars as their main patrons.

Simbuco Aquamarine Multipurpose Cooperative

SAMMPC has 207 active members who took care of the BFAR-SAAD's Milkfish in Pen and Cage and Seaweed Projects from 2019 to 2021.

Five months after receiving the bangus inputs, the cooperative started to earn from their fish harvest sold within their community and outside the province like in Iligan and Pagadian City.

For seaweed production, the group stopped cultivating in 2021 due to the occurrence of the

continue to p. 11

Hatching results, DA-SAAD continues to support poultry ventures of Bicolano farmers

by Jovinel M. Gianan

BICOL, March 25, 2022 – The Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program supports poultry ventures of farmers aiding to earn more income and stable supply. The Cabuyoan Native Chicken Association (CNCA) from Panganiban, Catanduanes, and 147 farmers from different farmers' associations (FAs) from across Sorsogon are among those who received stocks of different breeds of chicken as livelihood interventions. Catanduanes

Twenty-three (23) members of CNCA earned a total of Php 17,160.00, for the first three months, from the Native Chicken Production and Feeds project of the DA-SAAD Program.

The group manages a total fenced area of 300 square meters (sqm) of a privately-owned lot in Cabuyoan, Panganiban, which is utilized for their poultry production. As an agreement with the landowner, the association provides one tray of eggs per week in return for the owner's generosity.

In August 2021, the group received the stocks worth Php 562,000.00 which include 400 heads of native chicken, 40 pcs of laminated sacks, 120 bags of layer chicken feeds, 80 bags of grower chicken feeds, 80 pcs of chicken feeder, 80 pcs of chicken drinker, and eight rolls of plastic screens.

Further, on December 13, 2021, the group started to harvest 80-100 fresh eggs daily, which they sell at Php 5.00 each for small or medium sizes, Php 7.00 for the large size, and Php 8.00 for extra-large. Likewise, small, medium, large, and extra-large trays are sold for Php 150.00, Php 170.00, and Php 200.00, respectively.

The group sells fresh eggs inside the barangay through walk-in purchases and online orders. They allocate parts of their earnings for necessary expenses and maintenance to sustain the project, such as chicken housing and electrical repairs. Meanwhile, in terms of management, two members each day are tasked to feed the chickens, harvest eggs, and report any incident or development that took place within the area. Further, based on the group's agreements, the incubator and other poultry materials provided by DA-SAAD last March 2021, are kept under the custody of the association's secretary.

In his message, the group's president, Mr. Marcial Olesco Vallespin expressed his gratitude to the DA- SAAD Program.

"Ang SAAD nagtao samo nin paglaom sa samong aro-aldaw na pagkabuhay. Sa sitwasyon ta ngonian lalo na ta may Covid, sinda (SAAD) padagos na nagtatabang nganing kami maka angkat- angkat sa buhay. Kaya dakula na grabe an samong pasasalamat. Mabalos," (SAAD gave us hope in our day-to-day living. Amid the threat of COVID-19, they (SAAD) continue to help us improve our lives. That's why it's right to truly give them thanks. Thank you,)said Mr. Vallespin.

The association has already started incubating eggs and plans to produce more Kabir and sell the chicks in the market. Moreover, the group aims for more value-adding products such as leche flan, cake, and other pastry products or kakanin. To achieve these, the association plans initiate the procurement of cooking tools and other materials needed for production.

Sorsogon

Meanwhile, 147 farmers in Sorsogon received Php 382,500.00 worth of RTL and free-range chickens from the DA-SAAD Program. The project, procured through the SAAD FY 2021 Savings, was distributed to five Sorsogon farmers' associations (FAs) namely, Esperanza Farmers' Association in Pilar with 30 members, Catanagan Farmers' Association in Juban with 37 members, Hidhid Farmers' Association in Matnog with 23 members, San Eugenio and Animal Farmers' Association in Sta Magdalena with 28 members and Tupas Indigenous Farmers' Association in Donsol with 29 members.

The project aims to help the poultry raisers from Sorsogon earn additional income from chicken egg production businesses. Esperanza President Noel Mariñas, 41, shared his gratitude to the program: *"Napakadakulang biyaya po na matawan kami nin siring kaining benepisyo asin tabang dugtong sa samuyang pangangaipo hali sa SAAD Program. Dakulang salamat man kay Director Mula sa pagtao nin pundasyon asin pagpapahalaga sa samuyang asosasyon."*

(It's such an honor for us to be given such blessings as we are given benefits and help with regard to our necessities and needs from the SAAD Program. We are grateful to Director Mula who made this possible by giving us the foundation and appreciation in our association.)

This May, the SAAD Program will be conducting a training on Poultry Production and Product Development to equip farmers with knowledge on how to sustain the given intervention. ###



DA-BFAR-SAAD FCAs in LDN show progress...from page 9

ice-ice disease, brought by the changes in marine water salinity, light intensity, and ocean temperature. Also, it took them a long journey to source-out for seaweed propagules.

BFAR addressed this issue by providing the group with a Seaweed Laboratory and Inland Seaweed Nursery for 2022.

From 2019 to 2021, the cooperative had an accumulated gross income of Php 10.3 million.

Baroy Stakeholders and Fishermen Cooperative

The 60 members of BASFICO started to earn from their bangus, five months after receiving the inputs in 2019.

From their first two years' income, they were able to rent out a space for their fishing supplies and paraphernalia store.

This 2022, the group acquired a land area worth Php 80,000 for the processing shed provided by the program. The structure will be used for storage and bangus product preparation. The cooperative reported a gross income of Php 5 million from bangus and store operations.

Further, they plan to build their own store beside the shed to cut off their rental expenses. ###



SAAD Deputy Director conducts monitoring in Siquijor

by Bart Manoguid

SQUIJOR, April 8, 2022 – The Department of Agriculture- Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program Deputy Director Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr. visits various SAAD beneficiaries in Siquijor to conduct monitoring and documentation of farmers' success stories for the annual SAADventures magazine.

The SAAD Deputy Director accompanied by SAAD Region 7 and Siquijor officers and staff, and SAAD NPMO Comms and PR Officer, Mr. Bart Manoguid, went on a 2-day visit to the municipalities of Maria, and Siquijor in Siquijor from March 30 to April 1, 2022.

His first stop was barangay Logucan in the municipality of Maria where Jocelyn Ates, president of the 44-member Logucan Farmer's Livelihood Association, showcased her products from the FY 2018 Corn- Peanut Production project.

Ms. Ates utilized her 0.5 hectares (ha) of land and shared that the initial 15 kg seeds provided by SAAD in 2018 were affected by drought which made the project unsuccessful. The Farmers' Association (FA) managed to bounce back in a year when SAAD provided a supplemental 32kg of corn and peanut seeds. At the height of the lockdown during the pandemic, Ms. Ates spent her free time watching online tutorials on how to make peanut butter, which now is a staple value-added product and a best-seller among all her offered commodities in the community.

The next stop was the Siquijor Cattle Producers Association in barangay Liloan in Maria where Emma Jimenez, the FA's president shared her experience in

leading a 275-member province-wide FA. Ms. Jimenez shared that the FA has been a beneficiary of the SAAD Cattle Production Program for three (3) years – in 2018, 2019, and 2021. Ms. Jimenez mentioned that the program started with 100 head of cattle in 2018, and SAAD distributed an additional 100 head in 2019, and another 75 head in 2021.

She added that prior to SAAD interventions, she was just a plain housewife busy with her backyard vegetable farm but did not hesitate to step up when she earned about the program. Ms. Jimenez added that to improve the project, a part of the income from sales of cattle goes toward the associations' savings account. She mentioned that their goal is to be a prime producer of cattle in the province and to buy a portion of land to establish a meatshop for local consumers.

After visiting the beneficiaries in Maria, Deputy Director Lustria also went to barangay Caipilan, in the municipality of Siquijor where he met with Mr. Jay Oco, a beneficiary of the FY 2020 Chicken Egg Production Project. Mr. Oco together with his cousin, Roger Oco is among the recipients of the project which is provided to 100 farmers in the province. Mr. Oco managed a 12 square meters (sqm) cage for the ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken and shared how SAAD has helped their family with their daily needs as he transitioned from a daily-wage earner juggling different jobs to a poultry farmer with a steady stream of income.

The team also went to Cang-asa, Siquijor where the Hugpong sa mga Makugihon nga Magbabaol sa Cang-asa's president Glenn Tambahoyot showcased how the Corn-Peanut Production project aided the 50-member FA, especially at the height of the pandemic.

Mr. Tambahoyot also showed the FA's main product which sells out easily, Kapeng Mais (Corn Coffee) that comes in two flavors (roasted corn, and roasted corn with ginger). The association packs Kapeng Mais in tea bags and sells them to local resorts and beach cafes just in time for the anticipated influx of tourists in the province. Dep. Lustria suggested that the FA should be linked to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for product registration and better packaging and marketing.

The Deputy Director's visit to Siquijor along with the SAAD Region 7 implementers is aimed at documenting successful farmers and farmers' associations in the province. These stories of SAAD projects and the faces behind their success will be featured in the SAADventures magazine Volume 4. ###



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.

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