

# LUNGTAO

*Upgraded  
Goats  
Upgraded  
FUTURE*



Naomi Lamata presenting SAAD's rationale to Laak goat farmers.

# SAAD allots 43M for 2021 projects

Amid a new normal, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Region 11 appropriates 43M, its biggest allocation since its pilot year, for intervention projects for the province of Davao de Oro.

This represents an upward trend year-on-year, with a 4.65 percent increase from the allocation last year (Php 41M), a noteworthy 59.5 percent growth from 2019 (Php 25.6M), and a staggering 164 percent built-up compared to 2018 (Php 15.5M), the program's pilot year.

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Of the 43M, 60 farmers' associations from 57 barangays covering the entire 11 municipalities of the



province will benefit from the program's identified interventions. These intervention projects include banana (lakatan), abaca, lettuce, native chicken, itik pinas kayumanggi, and upgraded goat.

"This (budget) will increase the scope of our projects, and I'm personally pleased about this development," Naomi Lamata, SAAD Region 11 Focal Person, said.

"We are confident that with the increase in budget, our interventions are making difference," Jake Colina, SAAD Region 11 Provincial Coordinator, added.

In its three years of operations, the SAAD program served more than 11,000 beneficiaries.

SAAD Region 11 maintains a positive disposition that despite the ongoing pandemic, the interventions will continue to improve the lives of its recipients, especially those in the geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas (GIDA) and Ending Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas. Among the groups of Indigenous People served by the program include Mansaka, Ata, Dibabawon, Mandaya, etc.

In 2018, SAAD Region 11 piloted in five municipalities in the province, increasing the scope twofold in 2019 to 10, then covering all 11 municipalities in 2020.

## QUARTER In review

**SAAD Region 11 streamlined its annual activities to make the most out of the new normal.**



LEFT: SAAD Report Officer Bernalyn Briones orients beneficiaries in Compostela.

BOTTOM: SAAD 11 Provincial Coordinator Jake Colina (L) discuss the program's projects with Davao de Oro District II Representative Ruwel Peter Gonzaga.

### JANUARY

The first month of the year was dedicated to courtesy calls to LCE's, namely congressmen, the governor and municipal mayors of Davao de Oro. Schedules were set for meeting, both online and face-to-face channels.

Validation of 2021 beneficiaries also commenced, with the team traversing



far-flung areas of Davao de Oro to substantiate potential beneficiaries.

### FEBRUARY

Courtesy calls from last month overarched, with the team granted audience with Congressmen Ruwel Peter Gonzaga, Congressmen for the 2nd District of Davao de Oro. Additionally, the team met with different infantry battalions assigned in Davao de Oro to ask assistance in upcoming deliveries and distribution.

Beneficiaries in Prosperidad, Montevista received an incubator with hatcher.



## THE COVER

At its core, SAAD is all about affecting change at the familial level.

As the first feature story of LUNGTAD, Mr. Allan Mangandam reshaped his life with hard work, dedication, and making the most of what life has given him.



Allan Mangandam sat in a nipa purok outside his house, eyes clear as day. The cool January breeze in Monkayo, a remnant of the December chill that blanketed Davao region, rustled some fruit trees nearby. It was every bit rural, save for the bleating of a kid a few meters away.

“Ako nang gilahi kay musungag ug lain. Pala-away kaayo (I’ve separated it from the rest because it’s rowdy. Very troublesome),” Allan said, watching the young goat.

The kid, tethered away from the herd, looked lonesome, head constantly observing, complaining every chance it got.

Allan said it was a doeling, two months at best. His makeshift, rudimentary goat house stood close by, skirting a river: bamboo fence, bamboo columns, galvanized iron, and coco lumber rejects serving as floors directly put on the ground. There were 12 goats in it: one buck, the remaining, does and doelings.

“Within six months gikan pag-anak, dako na jud na siya. Pwede na ibaligya ug ihawon (Within six months since its reared, it’s big enough. It can then be sold and butchered),” he added. “Inig tulo ka bulan, pwede na na lutason. Naa gani, kung dili na gusto sa inahan magpatotoy, mudiretso nag kaon ang bata ug sagbot (In three months, it can be weaned off. There are cases when the gestating nanny doesn’t want to breastfeed—the kid will directly eat grass).”

At 48 years old, Allan looked every bit a farmer on the hinterlands working for years—in fact, he has more than 30 years of farming experience under his belt. After finishing a vocational course, he took over his family’s patch of land. In it, he planted coconut and banana.

Alongside these main income generators, Allan profits from selling does as livestock.

As per the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), the average farmgate price of goat for slaughter (4th quarter, 2020) was at Php 168.98 per kilogram. Allan said the market price for goats in Monkayo was at Php 200.00 per kilo, based on the ruminant’s liveweight.

In his case, Allan seldomly sells on the market. Customers seek him to buy goats wholesale. That meant a fixed price per goat at the 18- to 20-kilo range of Php 3,500.00.

“Katong December, daghan kaayo ug ni-ari diri. Perti dyung daghana (Last December, a lot of people went here (looking for goats). Really, a lot,” Allan related. “Tungod sa kadaghan, wa jud nako na-cater tanan (There were so many, I couldn’t cater them all)!”

UPGRADED GOATS  
upgraded future

**SAAD Region 11’s Upgraded Goat Production Program**

In 2018, Allan was a recipient of the upgraded goat program by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Region 11. SAAD is a locally funded program by the Department of Agriculture aimed to alleviate poverty in Geographically Isolated And Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA). Under Executive Order No. 70 by the current administration, End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas were also added to the program. This was done in conjunction with the presence of armed personnel in areas with leftist activities.

That same year, the program distributed 846 upgraded goats to 422 beneficiaries in five municipalities in Davao de Oro, among other interventions. Since then, upgraded goat production has been a recurring livelihood project by the program.

“Amo nang gi-propose kay since ang gusto jud nato kay mag-enterprise sila. Mas mahal kong ibaligya na nato ang kanding (We’ve proposed that (referring to the upgraded goat program) since we want the beneficiaries to go into enterprising. Upgraded goats are more expensive when sold),” Mariane Pearl Pabillaran, a Registered Agriculturist (RA) working as an Area Coordinator for SAAD Region 11, said.

Upgraded goat is a blanket term used for any goat with two different breeds combined. In the case of SAAD Region 11’s upgraded goats, the livestock were offspring of either an Anglo-Nubian or Boer buck and a Native doe.

Cecilio Jose Sangines, RA, affirmed Ms. Pabillaran’s statement. “Ang Anglo-Nubian ug Boer, sila na nga mga breed ang superior in terms of meat type. Makuha sa anak ang paspas nga pagdako gikan sa Anglo ug Boer, unya mas dali mag-acclimatize kay naay Native nga dugo (Anglo-Nubian and Boer are superior breeds in terms of meat type. The offspring will get rapid growth from Anglo and Boer, and it will easily acclimatize because of its Native blood).”

The municipality of Monkayo in Davao de Oro was one of the eleven municipalities in the province identified to receive interventions since the program’s pilot year of implementation. The PSA identified Davao de Oro, then Compostela Valley, as one of the poorest in 2015. With at least a 20% poverty incidence rate among families, the difference between the living quality of the rich and the poor, much like the majority of the country, was staggering.

**Implementation**

SAAD Region 11 designed its upgraded goat intervention in a way where insemination was optimized. As a standard, a six-month buck can service no more than 10 does in heat. Give it a year or two and it can service 25.

A buck was rationed to 9 does. In one municipality, several bucks were

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One man’s success story in goat-raising

# Dabawenyo beneficiaries receive incubators



Eggs from SAAD's upgraded native chicken ready to go in the incubator.

## DAVAO DE ORO, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

- In a program first for the Special Area for Agricultural Development Region 11, three farmers associations - Katipunan Multipurpose Cooperative in Nabunturan, Honor Maligaya Maraco Mahogany Paradise Farmers Association, and Araibo Women's Livelihood Organization in Pantukan received one incubator each to streamline egg hatching for the groups' enterprising efforts.

The three farmer's associations were the first ones to receive the implements, with 6 other deliveries in Davao de Oro scheduled this week.

At Php 42,500 each, the incubators came at an opportune time, as the poultry awarded by the program last year have started to lay eggs. Made of aluminum and steel casing, the incubators consist of a setter and a hatcher, temperature and humidity displays, and a water tray. The units also feature automated egg turning, air circulation, and ventilation.

*This is a way to educate our farmers to save the eggs they intend to set aside for production, aside from those they would sell."*

SAAD 11 Focal Person Ms. Naomi Lamata said, "Ang tuyo nato ani is para ma-schedule nato ang pagpadaghan sa mga manok sa atoang mga beneficiaries, ug para mapadali nato—ug para dungan, sabay-sabay ang paghatch sa itlog (Our purpose for this is to schedule the multiplication of our beneficiaries' chicken, and so that we can simplify it, so the egg hatching is synchronized and simultaneous)."

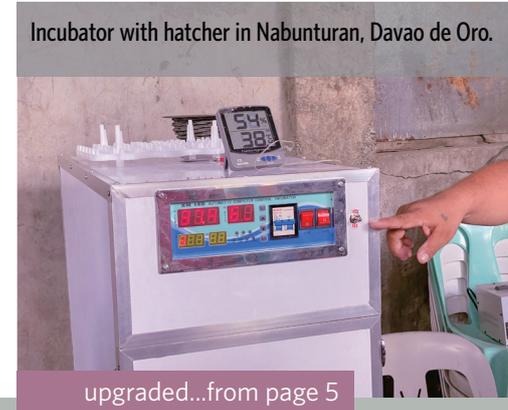
Araibo Women's Livelihood Organization chairperson Ms. Gemma Amodia commented, "Kini nga incubator, magamit jud ni namo kay naa miy mga itlog, ug naa pay muabotay nga manok (This incubator, this is useful for us because we already have eggs, and there is still chicken to come)." Founded in 2018, the women's association boasts of 20 hard working mothers and ladies, most with day jobs at a local banana plantation.

"Dako amoang pasalamat labi na sa DA, kay nahatod na jud siya (We're thankful to DA, finally it's delivered)," Mr. Billy Canales, chairperson of Katipunan Multipurpose Cooperative added.

Identified as both GIDA and ELCAC areas, barangays Araibo and Tagugpo in Pantukan have a history of leftist activity. "Dili nato ikalilong nga kaning mga barangaya, pugadan sa mga NPA before. For now...dili na jud sila kaduol, kay ang atong katawhan

naa na jud sa gobyerno. Ug isa ang SAAD sa mga proyekto nga nag-empower sa mga tao. (We can't deny that these barangays are NPA nests before. For now, they can't go near, as our people have leaned towards the government. SAAD is one of those projects that empowered the people here)," Sgt. Wilmar Completo of the 66th Infantry Battalion Community Development Team assigned to Araibo noted.

A component for the upgraded native chicken production identified by SAAD 11, the incubators are intended to kickstart chick production and increase egg-laying among the poultry distributed since 2018. The ongoing pandemic made it difficult to deliver the incubators last year. SAAD 11 hopes that this will push farmers to go into enterprising.



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distributed, with at least one buck for a barangay, two or more when the sitios and puroks of that barangay happen to be in considerable distance from each other. In GIDA and ELCAC areas, a far-flung barangay can easily have more than 10 puroks/sitios, situated kilometers away from each other, and could only be traveled by foot.

Allan, for his part, opted for a buck and a doe.

He had experience with goat-rearing previously, and prior to being awarded two upgraded goats, he had a herd of Native ones intended for sale. He said that since he could remember, his family had always goat-reared.

"Wa ko mukuha ug duha ka bae kay ni-ilis ko ug linyada. Mikuha jud ko ug laki, katong hinatag sa

SAAD. Mao na amoang ginagamit ron panghabal sa mga bae kay taas iyahang lahi (I didn't get two does because I wanted to upgrade my herd. I opted for a buck, given by SAAD. That buck is what we use as a breeder because it's upgraded)."

The buck Allan got was truly, a sight to see: all white, glorious long coat with a luminous sheen, bigger than all the livestock in the herd. It was docile when approached. Gentle, even.

"Dili jud nako na siya ibaligya. Kay wa jud ko ana niya sungagi. Buotan kaayo. Katong isa, kapila ko gisungag (I won't ever sell that buck. He never butted me. Very kind. The other one, I was butted a couple of times)," Allan relayed.

"Swerte kaayo si Sir Allan kay taas jud ang Boer atong iyahang laki (Sir Allan lucked out because his buck has a high percentage of Boer blood)," SAAD Region 11 Area Coordinator for Monkayo, Lester Lucas, commented.

Among goat breeds, Boers are known to be gentle giants.

Asked about his implementation, Allan said, "Three hours ko mag-bakero. Pagkahuman balik na dayon sa ilahang kulungan. Ako ra juy naga-pastol ana (I herd them for 3 hours. Then, it's back to their pen. I'm the only one who shepherds them)."

"Trabahooso ang kanding. Sa isa ka tuig, kaisa ra manganak. Mao nang kinahanglan amomahon (Goats are labor-intensive. In a year, it can only give birth once. That's why it needs constant care)," Allan mused.

Technically, a doe can get pregnant twice annually. But for Allan, he would only expose his does to the buck when they're in heat and willing to be inseminated. "Naa man gud times nga dili jud gusto ang babae bisan in heat siya (There are times where even when a doe is in heat, it refuses to be bred)," he said. "Kana, dili jud nako ipugos kay ma-stress ang bae (I don't force it when that happens because the doe gets stressed)."

## Income Supplementation

Allan's income stems from a hectare of land planted with bananas and coconuts. Every two weeks, he earns Php 2,000 from the banana harvest. The coconuts, on the other hand, are harvested every three months, whole-nut style at Php 8.00 per kilo.

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## MARCH

One hundred eighty-five (185) beneficiaries from far-flung barangays of Maco, Mawab, and Pantukan each received a sack of redskin peanut seeds for planting from SAAD Region 11.

Refresher trainings in cardava production was conducted in New Bataan and Laak in preparation for cardava plantlets delivery. These trainings equipped beneficiaries in land preparation, cardava care, and disease mitigation.

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The income for both is divided between him and his parents.

On the side, Allan participates as Volunteer Barangay Agricultural Technician (VBAT) in San Jose where he is compensated Php 2,000.00 per month. He is also a Barangay Agricultural and Fisheries Council (BAFC) person of interest.

With six mouths to feed including his own, Allan needed every passive income he could get.

Selling goats was an answer. Upon receiving SAAD's upgraded goats, Allan has continually benefitted from it. At one point in time, he had more than 40 upgraded goats in the herd.

At Php 3,500 per goat, Allan augmented his monthly income by more than Php 90,000 since 2019. He said it put food on the table, especially on difficult days. It also afforded him and his family simple luxuries, like prepaid WiFi.

Every month, he strives to sell 2 goats. The months of November, December, and January are when

## WHY LUNGTAD?

**LUNGTAD** is a Bisayan word meaning endure, last, persist. It can be a noun, verb, and adjective.

SAAD Region 11 chose the word for its newsletter name to signify the program's thrust of sustainable livelihood programs to GIDA and ELCAC farmers.

demand surges. Allan remarked he particularly prepares for it. "Dako jud kaayo ko ug kaayohan nga nakuha gikan sa SAAD. Financial pa lang daan (The good that I've gotten from SAAD has been tremendous. Especially financially)," thankful Allan told us.

### Plans

"Akong plano ron, tarungon nako ug buhat ug pasilidad. Balay jud (My plan is, I'll build a facility. A goathouse)," Allan mentioned. "Ako jud ning amomahon, kay maayo kaayo ang abot sa akoo (I'll take good care of this because the results have been great)."

As of writing, Allan primes 2-4 does for selling, with 5 waiting in the wings. The remaining, he plans to be impregnated.

"Tumong ug tinguha sa SAAD program nga matabangan ang atong mag-uuma, ilabi na jud sa mga layo nga dapit (The goal and the purpose of SAAD program is to help our farmers, especially those in far-flung areas)," Naomi Lamata, SAAD Region 11 Focal Person, said.

A year into the pandemic, SAAD Region 11 allocated more than 43M in livelihood programs for Davao de Oro. In Monkayo where Allan resides, 2.2M was allotted this year. These livelihood programs include banana, upgraded native chicken, itik Pinas Kayumanggi, and upgraded goat productions.

In the middle of his provisional goat pen, Allan smiled while tending to his does, "Ok jud kaayo ang SAAD (SAAD is A-OK)."

The tethered kid started bleating again. Allan approached it. It was time for grazing.

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