

# SAAD *vocacy*

The official newsletter of the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program

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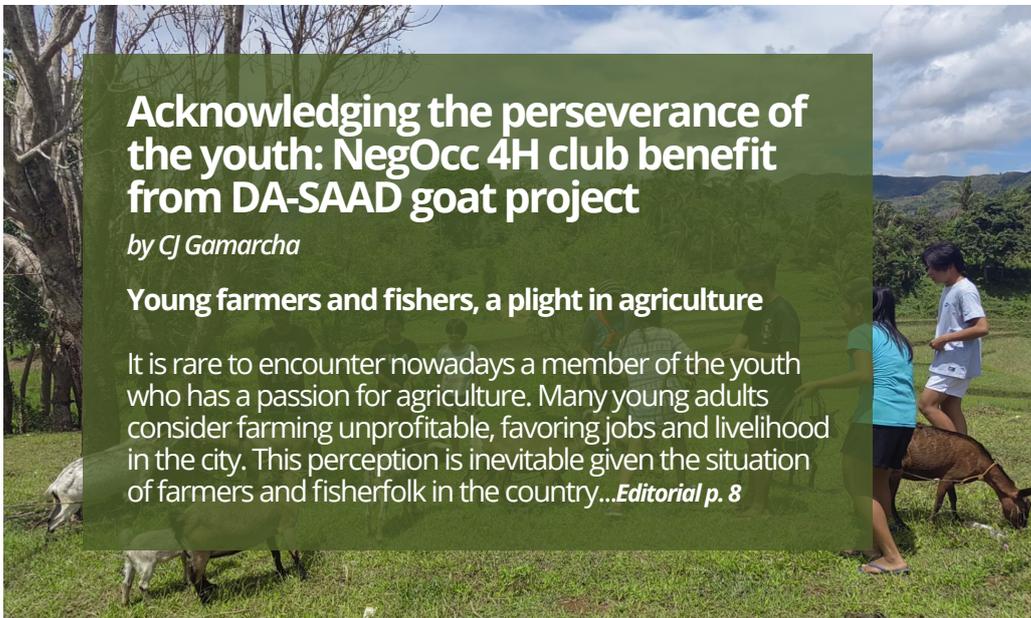
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## Acknowledging the perseverance of the youth: NegOcc 4H club benefit from DA-SAAD goat project

*by CJ Gamarcha*

### Young farmers and fishers, a plight in agriculture

It is rare to encounter nowadays a member of the youth who has a passion for agriculture. Many young adults consider farming unprofitable, favoring jobs and livelihood in the city. This perception is inevitable given the situation of farmers and fisherfolk in the country...*Editorial p. 8*



**EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES**



## Negros' backyard hog industry enhanced thru Php 2M livestock projects

*by Christ John Gamarcha*

**NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, May 31, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in its aim to boost the backyard swine industry in Toboso, Negros Occidental granted livestock support projects worth over Php 2 million, benefiting four (4) farmers' associations (FAs).

SAAD Area Coordinator for Toboso Amy Parillo said these associations will undergo training on swine raising this June. Topics include management of swine farms, stock selection, housing, feeds and feeding, disease prevention, and economics of swine production...*continue to p. 2*



## IP farmers received upland rice seeds from DA-SAAD

*by Dianne Francis A. Sy*

**OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, May 31, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program awarded Php 477,522.00 worth of upland rice seeds under Upland Rice Production Project FY 2020 to Buhid-Mangyan farmers to assist them in preparing for the main cropping season.

The recipients hail from four farmers' associations: the Ilya, Taganop, Mantay, Sangay Farmers Association (ITaMaSa FA) with 29 members; Samahan ng Magsasakang Katutubo ng Monteclaro (SMKM) with 85 members; Sitio Dulis Abong Salafay Hubkob Farmers Association (S. DASH FA) with 46 members; and Uyugan mga Ama sa Bato Ili as Fangabuyagan (UABP FA) with 36 members. In total, the projects will benefit a total of 196 beneficiaries.

ITaMaSa FA received 39 bags of rice seeds, while 100 bags were awarded to SMKM. On the other hand, S. DASH FA UABP FA both received 50 bags of rice seeds.

IP farmers are dependent on rain for plantation irrigation. If farmers are not able to secure rice seeds before the wet season starts, they would have to wait for the next planting season as irrigation is not available to the majority of the IP farmers' lands. It will greatly affect their food supply if farmers are not able to plant on time...*continue to p. 3*



## DA-SAAD Kalinga ensures healthy chickens for consumers

by Sheena Phine P. Dayagon

**KALINGA, May 19, 2022** – With the Department of Agriculture's call for stricter measures to control and contain bird flu in the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, in cooperation with the Tabuk City – Office for City Agricultural Services (OCAS), steered activities to ensure that incoming poultry interventions and project sites are clear of Avian Influenza (AI) H5N1 or bird flu.

Members of the Makilo Farmers Association (MakiFA) in Sitio Makilo, Calaccad, Tabuk City are set to receive chicken stocks free of bird flu worth Php 550,000 from the program for their Communal Chicken Table Egg Production sub-project.

MakiFA is composed of 50 indigenous Ga'dang subtribe members of Kalinga who are engaged in corn and rice farming as a source of food and income, aside from backyard duck and chicken raising to help sustain their living.

### Before the delivery of layer chicken

To ensure a ready and bio-secure poultry farm before the delivery of their layer stocks, SAAD Kalinga, headed by Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Mr. Balagay Claver, conducted a pre-inspection of the poultry housing facility which MakiFA started to build this year at a 400 square meter (sqm) – poultry housing facility of the project.

Mr. Claver reiterated the earlier instruction of DA- Cordillera Administrative Region Field Office (DA-CAR-FO) Regional Executive Director Cameron Odsey for all poultry farm beneficiaries to strictly practice biosecurity measures in their poultry farms to prevent a possible infection from future chicken stocks.

### Towards bird flu-free poultry production

Bird flu outbreaks were confirmed in Bulacan, Pampanga, Laguna, and Camarines Sur while new reported

suspected cases were also present in Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Tarlac, Sultan Kudarat, and Benguet, prompting caution in bringing in poultry products and by-products that can affect the poultry industry.

Through the Executive Order No. 22 Series of 2022 by Governor Ferdinand Tubban, a temporary ban of live poultry, poultry products, and its by-products and requiring a stricter set of requirements for entry of poultry animals coming from other areas is implemented as a measure to prevent the possible spread of the virus.

Biosecurity, hygiene, and sanitation were also called to be strengthened which the program and the LGUs had implemented to further safeguard the poultry stocks in the province.

In Sitio Makilo, a poultry disease incidence investigation was conducted by the OCAS headed by Tabuk City Veterinarian Dr. Carmen Wanas following reports of some backyard ducks and chickens that were reportedly dying.

Samples were collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis that was eventually found to be negative, allowing the delivery of the vaccinated ready-to-lay chicken intervention in the coming weeks.

### About the project

The group received 20 bags of grower feeds, 40 bags of layer chicken, 20 units of poultry layer cages, 10 pcs egg crates, 20 pcs preformatted plastic egg trays, 20 bundles of cartoon egg trays, 4 units of egg grader, 2 pcs antibiotic-vitamins, 2 laminated sacks, 4 plastic drums, 2 rolls HDPE pipes, 10 mats PVC coated tarpaulins, 10 rolls polynet, 10 gallons disinfectant, 10 packs electrolyte, 10 bottles multivitamins, 500 rambutan seedlings, 500 lanzones seedlings, and 105 packs each of pechay, patola, squash, and eggplant seeds with the 1000 RTL Dekalb Brown chicken stocks left to be delivered. Stocks are set to come from Itogon, Benguet where there are no reported cases.

The program aims to augment the beneficiaries' income from their egg and vegetable produce in the coming months and provide locally available egg supply in Makilo and nearby areas. ###

*Negros' backyard hog industry enhanced...from p. 1*

### About the Hog Industry in Negros Occidental

In Negros Occidental, hog raising is a common and profitable business for locals through decades, especially the families living in the rural areas.

Philippine Statistics Authority's livestock inventory showed the province as the leading producer of swine raised in backyard farms in 2021 with 410,090 hogs and accounting for 38.24% of the total production in Western Visayas.

Negros has a total local daily requirement of up to 1,000 to 1,500 head while monthly ship-out is 350 head for Iloilo and 150 head for Cebu, according to the Provincial Veterinary Office.

DA RFO – 6 tagged Negros Occidental as a "green zone" or an African Swine Fever (ASF)-free province, making it one of the most trusted and major suppliers of pigs for slaughter in Luzon and other parts of the country.

Since ASF was first detected in the country in 2019, the provincial government of Negros Occidental has been implementing strict biosecurity measures to keep diseases and pathogens that carry them — viruses, bacteria, fungi, parasites, and other micro-organisms — away from livestock, property, and people.

As part of its response, the ASF task force installed an animal quarantine checkpoint in southern Negros, particularly in Barangay Hilamonan, Kabankalan City.

Together with the City of Kabankalan, it has operated the checkpoint to strengthen the veterinary inspection of all meat and meat-related products entering the province.

The task force station was also established at the New Bacolod-Silay Airport with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines. With the increasing demand for pork not just in Toboso but in the entire Negros, SAAD farmers, thus, pursued the livestock venture.

### The Toboso Paravet Hog Raisers and Farmers' Association

On May 26, the Toboso Paravet Hog Raisers and Farmers' Association with 36 members initially received 30 piglets as part of SAAD's FY 2022 Swine Production Project worth Php 791,200.

The remaining project inputs such as 10 upgraded gilts, a boar, 60 bags of hog feeds, four water drums, two water hoses, five sets of drugs and biologics, one weighing scale, one chest freezer, meat shop materials and equipment by June or July this year.

Mr. Joemarie Bersales, the vice-chairperson of the association, said that most of their members are reliant on small-scale backyard hog raising, corn production, and backyard vegetable gardening. Thus, SAAD's swine production project will provide them with an alternative source of livelihood by raising these animals which are known to contain high-quality protein. Hogs are also easy to raise and have the ability to grow and reproduce 8 to 12 piglets per farrowing even under adverse conditions. As a counterpart, the group is providing the animal enclosures already built by their members.



According to Mr. Bersales, they agreed to rear the pigs in three vacant pigpens owned by members in three sitios to give the animals sufficient space, shelter, and access to food and water. Although the beneficiaries will be sharing pigpens, they would still raise the animal individually.

Mr. Bersales shared their initial plans about their policies and profit-sharing scheme which may require their 30 first-in-line beneficiaries to give back (roll-over) three piglets to the association should the mother stock be able to reproduce.

Through hard work and labor, his group is optimistic that they can increase the population of their stocks and will eventually utilize the meat shop materials and equipment for their planned enterprise.

Bersales also thanked the SAAD Program seeing that the project provides his FA members an additional income. *"Madamo guid nga salamat sa SAAD nga ginhatagan kami sang proyekto sa pagsagud sang baboy. Kamo makasalig nga amon gid ini tinguha-an nga mapalambo para makabulig sa sa amon pangabuhi diri sa Toboso pina-agi sa pagtukod sang isa ka negosyo sa karne nga makahatag sa amon sang income."*

(I am very thankful to SAAD because we were granted a project on swine production. You can trust that we will strive to make this project thrive to help improve our lives here in Toboso by establishing a meat business that could give us income).

### The Odiong Ilaya Farmers' Association

Meanwhile, the Odiong Ilaya Farmers' Association with 40 members, Seraje Pinag-upacan Integrated Farmers' Association with 30 members, and Sinugmawan Integrated Farmers' Association with 44 members will receive 10 piglets each per FA as supplementary support to their corn production worth Php 1,270,000. In addition, the groups are in line to receive two units of corn sheller and corn mill.

To note, said associations received the Corn Production Project in March 2021. Eighty (80) farmers from the said groups were able to plant corn seeds on their respective fields with a consolidated land area of 60 hectares, wherein 75% of them were able to utilize their harvest either for home consumption or market trade.

Ms. Wilmera Sajot, the chairperson of Sinugmawan Integrated Farmers' Association, vowed to work hard to make sure that the piglets given to them will double or triple their population so they could earn income.

Ms. Sajot shared that they will be having first-in-line beneficiaries for their hog fattening venture. Based on their initial policies, each participating member is required to give back to the association the capital of the piglet, this time in monetary form of Php 3,500. By doing so, they would be able to buy another stock for the next project grantees.

*"Nagapasalamat gid ako sang dako sa SAAD nga kami inyo na lab-ot kag nahatagan pareho sang proyekto sa baboy nga sigurado makabulig sa amon pangabuhi diri,"* said Ms. Sajot.

(I am very grateful that SAAD was able to reach us and gave us a project just like the swine production that will surely help us in uplifting our lives here).  
###

*IP farmers received upland rice seeds from DA-SAAD...from p. 1*

*"Nagapasalamat po kami kasi nakatanggap kami ng binhi Makakapagtanim kami ngayong taniman,"* shared Mr. Rod Lopez, secretary of S. DASH FA.

(We are grateful because we received rice seeds. We will be able to plan this planting season.)

The Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of San Jose assisted with the activity and took the opportunity to profile SAAD beneficiaries that are not yet listed in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA).

Ms. Joy dela Cruz, Agricultural Technician, encouraged the IP beneficiaries to enlist in RSBSA to make sure that the farmers will receive interventions from the Local Government Unit (LGU) and banner programs of DA when the SAAD Program ends.

The four (4) associations received machinery and draft animals from SAAD in 2021 to complement their farming activities in the field and make their production more efficient. Brgy. Montedaro is one of the End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas in Occidental Mindoro. ###



## Poultry inputs granted to Anlag-Ani Tapukanan Coop

by Jo Ann Sablad

**MISAMIS ORIENTAL, May 26, 2022** – As part of its Integrated Agriculture Livelihood Project, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture-Northern Mindanao (DA-10) provided 50 manok pinoy or native chicken with feeds to Anlag-Ani Tapukanan Cooperative in the 1st CAFGU Active Auxiliary Company-II headquarters in Mandangao, Balingasag in Misamis Oriental on Tuesday, May 24, 2022.

Anlag-Ani Tapukanan Cooperative is an initiative of the national agencies, Misamis Oriental Provincial Government, and the 58th Infantry "Dimalulupig" Battalion (58th IB) to assist individuals involved in insurgencies with livelihood opportunities and equipping them with the resources to sustain them. The name of the cooperative was derived from the words Anlag and Ani, both of which are Higaonon words translated as sunrise (anlag), and harvest (ani).

On behalf of the Anlag-Ani Tapukanan Cooperative, its member Julio Romania Compas, received the poultry inputs worth Php 35,122.72, comprising 10 male and 40 female native chickens with five bags of grower feeds. Mr. Compas said he will be assisted by two members of the cooperative in raising the chicken.

Mr. Compas surrendered to the 58th Infantry "Dimalulupig" Battalion (58th IB) in 2019 and has been the primary chicken and goat raiser in the headquarters. According to Compas, he's planning to sell some of the livestock after they have multiplied for meat production.

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The chickens raised by Mr. Compas were corralled in an area in the 1st CAFGU Active Auxiliary Company-II headquarters using the chicken net, while his goats were left to roam around the grassy area of the place. The headquarters is near a flowing river, giving the goats plenty of water to drink.

He also has a makeshift incubator for the chicken eggs.

*"Pasalamat lang po ako sa DA sa ibinigay nila sa akin, 'yung chicken, aalagaan ko 'yan nang mabuti para magawa kong hanapbuhay sa sarili ko. 'Yun ang pinakamalaking salamat ko sa DA"* (I just want to thank DA for what they have given me. I will take good care of the chicken so I could make a living for myself. That's what I am most thankful for the DA), said Mr. Compas.

He recalled his life while being chased by the military troops. *"Kini karon makatulog, makakaon, naa pay kaugalingon nga trabaho, naa pa kay kaugalingong negosyo pero didto wala"* (I can now sleep and eat well and still have my own job. I also have my own business. But before, there was none), said Mr. Compas.

After the turnover of the poultry inputs, Mr. Compas and other soldiers under the 58th Infantry Battalion also underwent chicken raising orientation conducted by SAAD's Veterinarian Dr. Dianara Celeste Ua-o.

The native chickens, sourced from the SAAD Chicken Multiplier Farm in the DA's Research Center for Upland Development station of Dangcagan, Bukidnon, are expected to lay eggs by late July or early August this year. The stocks produced from the chicken will be dispersed to other members of the Anlag-Ani Tapukanan Cooperative.



For his part, First Lieutenant Vincent Mark Maddul, the Civil-Military Operation officer of the 58th IB, expressed his gratitude to the DA 10 and SAAD for the livelihood projects that have been a big help to these individuals for them to sustain a living and help their families.

*"Itong mga livelihood projects na binibigay ng ating mga agencies, especially Department of Agriculture, is a big help for them (beneficiaries) to have a sustainable livelihood in support sa kanila na bago sila makabalik sa mainstream society, meron silang livelihood to sustain their living and also to help their families,"* 1LT Maddul said.

(These livelihood projects provided by our agencies, especially the Department of Agriculture, are a big help for them to have a sustainable livelihood as support before they return to the mainstream society. Now they have a livelihood to sustain themselves and help their families.)

Ms. Lana May Racines, the SAAD focal person, also expressed her appreciation for the continuous support of the Philippine Army. *"When you are in government, service is expected. For DA, we serve the farmers. When EO 70 was passed by President Duterte, we appreciate gyud ang (the) partnership sa (with the) AFP and Philippine National Police and line agencies who are in support of the EO 70,"* Ms. Racines said.

President Rodrigo Duterte's Executive Order No. 70 addresses the root causes of insurgency to end local armed conflict in the countryside.

*"Ang SAAD is Special Area for Agricultural Development Program. It is a program of the Department of Agriculture na mag implement og livelihood projects sa mga poorest of the poor farmers. We appreciate gyud kaayo sa Philippine Army."*

(SAAD is a Special Area for Agricultural Development Program. It is a program of the Department of Agriculture to implement livelihood projects for the poorest of the poor farmers. We truly appreciate the efforts of the Philippine Army.)

*"When there is peace, there is development. When there's development, there's poverty alleviation. When there's poverty alleviation, makunhod nato ang kapobrehon, wala na'y mosaka sa bukid. Kon musaka man sya sa bukid, mosaka sya tungod kay mag-uma sya,"* Racines said.

(When there is peace, there is development. When there's development, there's poverty alleviation. When there's poverty alleviation, we can rise from this poverty and no one goes up the mountains. And if someone does climb the mountains, it is because he is a farmer.)

SAAD, according to Ms. Racines, also plans to give another batch of 50 native chickens to the members of the Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) Active Auxiliary Company-II.

The DA-10 is continuously giving free agricultural assistance to uplift the lives of the beneficiaries in partnership with the National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). ###

### TOWARDS CBE'S

## Bugasong FAs benefit from DA-SAAD's hog fattening project

by *Cedie Bataga*

**ANTIQUE, May 20, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture (DA) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program granted 30 piglets worth Php 174,000 to Pangalagaan Farmers Association (PFA) and Talisay Rice Farmers Association (TRFA) in Bugasong, Antique on May 17, 2022.

Bugasong, as the 8th most populous municipality in the province of Antique, is the newly-identified priority area in 2022.

With the rising demand for pork due to the growing population and market expansion outside the region, the recipients proposed a hog fattening project to boost the production of meat in the locality. To note, the entire Visayas Region is classified as a green zone considering that it remains free from the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus.

Of the 280 members of PFA, 15 farmers practicing the integrated farming system received 15 piglets under the FY 2022 Hog Fattening Enterprise with Vegetable Production Project worth Php 1,605,900. Under the same project, the association will also be receiving hybrid gilts and boars, feeds, drugs and biologics, meat shop materials and equipment, pinakbet seeds, farm tools and materials, and organic fertilizers.

The farmer-members have a combined 30 square meter (sqm) land area, each with 2sqm, to utilize for backyard hog fattening. Further, the housing materials were shouldered by the individual beneficiaries, and the housing was built through *dagyaw* or *bayanihan* system, as their counterpart.

The association agreed that the FA officers will be the first-in-line beneficiaries, requiring each to give back

to the association the capital of the piglet in monetary form. Piglets were bought at Php 5,800 per head; thus, recipients will provide the same amount to buy another stock for the next project grantees.

Ms. Merlinda Legaspi, President of PFA, considered the stocks as starting capital and echoed the gratitude she felt from her members, *"Nagapasalamat ako sa SAAD kay isa kami sa napilianang programa kag nahatagan kami 15 ka piglets kag may palaabuton kami nga lima ka nasyon kag isa ka takal para ma breeding"* (We are grateful because we were chosen as recipients of the SAAD Program. We received 15 piglets and are bound to receive 5 gilts and 1 boar for breeding under the same project).

Meanwhile, 15 out of 87 members of TRFA, accepted 15 piglets for fattening. These members were selected based on their capacity to raise hogs, buy feeds once the supply runs out, and put up pig pens out of their own pockets.

To ensure the quality of the stocks, Dr. Pacifico Lumawag, Chairperson of the Inspection Committee for Livestock inspected the piglets prior to their delivery. The member-beneficiaries were also provided training

on swine production and vegetable production as preparation.

The beneficiaries will market their stocks once they weigh more than 80 kilograms, anticipated this month of August and September, within their community and neighboring barangays.

The distribution was facilitated by SAAD Regional Technical Staff Reah Garduce and Area Coordinator Jessa Mae Gono, in coordination with the Bugasong local government unit. ###



## Capital formation and savings mobilization provided to BASFICO for microfinancing and project expansion

by Jennifer A. Valcobero



scan to see income from milkfish in cage and pen production

### Milkfish sea cage farming

Bangus or milkfish is the most popularly cultured fish in the Philippines. It is adaptable, tough, and sturdy, and can survive both seawater and freshwater. It is consumed either fresh or processed because of its distinctive and mild flavor. Filipinos usually cook bangus in soups, fried, grilled, or processed.

Situated in a coastal area, fishers in Baroy mostly engage in bangus culture in ponds and cages.

In cage farming, they use the existing water source which is the open ocean, and confine the fish inside a net. This way, feeding, monitoring, and harvesting will be easier for the fisherfolk.

However, sustaining this kind of livelihood requires big capital – from materials, commercial feeds, and other fishery inputs

to guarantee a high production yield.

### Baroy Stakeholders and Fishermen Cooperative (BASFICO)

BASFICO started as an association composed of two subgroups from barangays Raw-an Point and Baroy Dako, with 62 total members.

Sources of income for most members are fishing in the open sea and farm laboring. Different fish species captured in Panguil Bay are sold in the market, enabling fishers to meet their most basic needs.

In 2019, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) identified the group as one of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program's Milkfish in Pen and Cage Project beneficiaries.

With the value of Php 3,387,424, the said project includes fishery inputs such as pen and cage materials (good for two units), fingerlings, feeds, and training on milkfish production.

### Milkfish in pen and cage operation

The members put up a 600sqm fish pen at an area having 0.8 to 1-meter depth, good quality of water with optimal salinity of 10 to 30 parts per thousand (ppt), temperature of 20 to 30° Celsius, and water pH value of 7.5 to 8.5.

The operators stock fingerlings at 16 pieces (pcs) per sqm (10,000/pen) twice a year. They maintain proper feeding to meet the nutritional requirements of the fish and facilitate the harvesting after a four to five-month culture period.

In 2019, the group generated Php 731,175 gross income from 5,071kg of fresh bangus sold in the local market at Php 140-150/kg.

To support their bangus project, BFAR-SAAD provided another set of fingerlings and feeds for 2020 production. Aside from that, they also received FRP boat and accessories, freezer, vacuum packer, processing utensils, and training on record-keeping, project management, and postharvest production. All inputs amounted to Php 1,731,240.21.

In 2020, a gross income of Php 996,450 was earned from selling 7,117.5kg of bangus harvest valued at Php 140/kg. A Php 853,404 project support was still provided to the group in 2021. This includes feeds, fingerlings, mini processing shed, and another round for value-adding products training.

Fish operation in 2021 gathered a Php 1,985,088 revenue from the 14,179.2kg harvest sold at Php 140/kg. In total, the milkfish growers earned Php 3,712,713 from 2019 to 2021.

Association president, Mr. Judy Mendez shared that from their 2021 income, they already set aside for the next cropping expenses since SAAD's assistance already concluded.

*"Sa karon na nga mga cropping namo, pagkawala na sa SAAD nga program, namalit nami og mga private nga fingerlings gikan sa mga savings kay gi-budget man namo ang kinatibuk-an namong kita sa tindahan sa sa kining mga fishpen. So amo nang gina-budget siya, kini nga parte para sa as per guidelines sa kooperatiba, atu nang gilahi. Gi-budget pod nato ang unsa gastuon sa mga fishpen sulod sa isa ka-cropping. Unya gi-budgetan pod nato ang tindahan para dili maputol ang operation. Ang sobra mao pod to atung giset-aside as per guidelines sa mga cooperatives. Unya ang sobra ato mao na dayn to atung gipang share sa atung mga miyembro,"* said Mr.

Mendez.

(This cropping [2022], the SAAD program no longer assisted us, so we already bought fingerlings from private suppliers using our savings from the previous cropping. We took this budget from fish pens and store so that our operations will continue. The remaining amount was set aside per cooperative guidelines and shared with members).

### Sharing Policy

Annual net income from the two cropping has a 70:30 allocation ratio. Seventy percent (70%) is equally split among the members and the remaining 30% is for the cooperative's reserve fund, educational/training, optional fund, and community development fund.

### Community-led project management

Each official plays an essential role in the daily operations of the production. Since the organization is community-led, they oversee the management of resources be it material, labor, or social to maintain members' participation. The group also takes financial and inventory records seriously so efficient resource distribution is practiced. They also practice transparency among the members, especially on the financial aspect which helps build confidence and mutual trust.

According to Mr. Melendez, they have not encountered problems during their project implementation. In fact, fresh bangus allowed them to eat nutritious dishes without spending money, especially during the CoVID-19 pandemic.

He added that, *"Ang program nga SAAD maayo siya nga program, pero kung makita nato, pipila lang ka-barangays ang recipient sa SAAD nga program. Kung diri lang tan-awn nimo sa Baroy, half lang ang recipient sa program. So katung naa sa ubang barangay nga nagkinahanglan pod sila'g assistance, dapat pod unta to sila mahatagan og assistance. Ang program sad kay pila lang ka-years. Okay man sa amo kay after mawala ang program kay gi-kooperatiba namo para dili mamatay, dili masayang ang effort sa government." ...continue to next page*



(SAAD is a good program but its area of coverage is limited, few barangays are recipients. Here in Baroy, only half are recipients, other barangays need assistance too. And the program coverage is only for a few years. It's okay for us [cooperative] because without the program, we can still continue and sustain the project left to us by the government).

He is hopeful that with the anticipated phase 2 of the program, there will be expansion barangays especially those in coastal areas which need interventions from BFAR-SAAD too.

*"Sa SAAD program nagpasalamat gyud mi'g dako kay natagaan mi aning fishpen kay isa pod nga makatabang sa mga tawo nga miyembro, additional income kaayo. Dako gyud kaayo mi'g pasalamat sa BFAR, kay tungod nila dili me mag function nga cooperative karun. Katong geignan gyud mi sa SAAD nga sa pagka-karon within three years ilaha sa gyud ming buy-an pero bisag ilaha ming gibuy-an mangutana gyud ang natay kahibalo. Ug unsa ang mga problema,"* shared Mrs. Roxas.

(We are thankful for the SAAD program because we were provided with the fish pen project which also helped the members to have an additional income. We are also thankful to BFAR because, without them, we cannot function as a cooperative now. When SAAD told us that the assistance will stop in three years, we still consult them whenever we have problems).

#### **Project's substantial outcome and plans for sustainability**

From their first two years' income, they were able to rent out a space for their fishing supplies and paraphernalia store. In fact, Php 700,000 was the calculated profit in 2021. They also received their approved Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) registration on January 18, 2021.

*"Nag-start ang atung tindahan 2021 na, after na nga kooperatiba na ta. Kay na kooperatiba ang BASFICO January 18, 2021. So mga May, nag-start name og tindahan, wa*

*pa nag one year ang operations nato. Okay ra man siya (ang dagan sa fishing supplies), kay ang target market nato kay kato raman pong mga producers og bangus. Katung mga nagkuhag fishpen, so didto rapod sila nagakuha og mga gamit pareha anang mga pukot, didto ra sa atung tindahan,"* said Mr. Mendez.

(Our store opened in 2021 after we became a cooperative on January 18, 2021. By May, we began operating. Almost a year since our operation, our fishing supplies have had a good return because our target market are local bangus producers. Those who have fish pens buy nets and other materials in our store).

Earlier in 2022, they acquired a land area worth Php 80,000, which will be the site for the mini-processing shed provided by the program. The structure will be used for storage and bangus product preparation. Further, they plan to build their own store beside the shed to cut off their rental expenses.

The cooperative has also started to roll out its savings by microfinancing. Priority borrowers will be its members at a low-interest rate.

Among the various processed bangus, the most popular deboning process, caught their interest since they already know the tedious process involving the removal by hand of more than 170 inter-muscular bones. From this, the fish can be further processed into various smoked and frozen products to prolong its shelf-life covering a wider market.

Members have also planned to add another fish pen unit to sustain the project while SAAD comes to its end of implementation.

Finally, they are pushing to expand their fishing supplies and paraphernalia store for the benefit of the fishers in the area who used to buy these farming materials from afar like Ozamis, Tangub, and Pagadian at a higher price.

In the long run, they want to be recognized and operate as a multipurpose cooperative. ###

#### SUCCESS STORIES

## Intensifying KSFA pig raisers into an industry

by Jennifer A. Valcobero

### Backyard Hog Raising

In Kanao-Kanao, Bonifacio, Misamis Occidental, most of the residents get their livelihood by growing corn, banana, and other crops.

Engaged in agricultural activities, most families raise a small number of pigs in their backyards. While the husbands are tending the farm, wives rear piglets until they reach their marketable age. Others prefer to sell it at two to three months old (no longer dependent on the mother's feeding) to minimize the cost of buying feed.

In most rural areas, swine raising is a more traditional activity for livelihood since it requires small investment in building and equipment, proper feeding, and disease prevention knowledge. From two to three pounds at birth, this animal can be nurtured for market in between 6 and 7 months. Under best management conditions, it is capable of producing 2 liters per year because of its polyestrous cycle.

In 2019, the CoVID-19 pandemic brought a range of new challenges to the agricultural sector because of the global restrictions that prevented market access and impeded usual economic activities. The farmers are unable to harvest their fields or load produce for transport. Not being able to quickly market their perishable products such as fruits and vegetables resulted in food loss and wastage.

Called to lead in the government's economic recovery efforts, the Department of Agriculture implemented agriculture response programs such as the Plant, Plant, Plant Program which was launched in 2020 to strengthen the local food systems. In support of this, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of DA-10 distributed farm inputs for crops, livestock, and poultry, urging farmer-beneficiaries in the covered areas to continue farming and increase production.

#### SAAD Project Operation

The Kanao-Kanao Small Farmer's Association (KSFA) with 42 members organized on July 18, 2004, was chosen as the beneficiary of the program's Swine Production Project.

Farmers were trained with new knowledge on proper feeding and disease control prior to receiving the inputs.

The Swine Production project intended for a backyard setting has impelled the members to prepare housing for the animals from the materials provided by the program as part of the package. Each farmer received 2 gilts, 400 bags of gestating feeds, 344.75 bags of lactating feeds, 6 bottles of drugs and biologics, and piggery housing materials, amounting to Php 104,885.

Three months later, the gilts were artificially inseminated for reproduction. This process introduces superior genes to the sow herds, with minimal risk of disease transmission, especially during the African Swine Fever (ASF) threat.

Most members had their sows pregnant. They market the piglets after weaning, while some engage in hog fattening and sell them in live weight.

#### Tangible outcome

Sufficient knowledge and good management resulted in successful project implementation. The group already earned a combined Php 1,273,210 from selling piglets and fattened hogs.

*"Akong halin sa pagbaligya sa baktin kay akong gigamit pagpalit ug*



*feeds kay wala hurot man ang free nga gihatag sa SAAD,” shared Mr. Crisencio Sumalinog, the president of KSFA referring to where he used his income.*

(I used my income from selling piglets to buy feed because the free feed provided by the program was consumed.)

He added that patience is needed in pig farming.

*“Katong mga halin, dako gyud kaayo to ug katabang sa akoo kay pandemic tapos akong bana nakauli 6 months wala gyud siyay trabaho, may gani kay naa me baboyan, nakahatag gyud siyag dako kaayong tabang sa amoa. Ang baboy among gibuhì, ang uban among gibaligya, pag mahutdan na me ug feeds, kato among gipadako, amo napud tong ibaligya para makapalit me ug feeds, arun makasurvive among mga anay arun naa me ipakaon.”* Shared Mrs. Daryl Tubal, member of KSFA.

(Our income helped us because my husband was jobless for 6 months during the height of the pandemic. Thankfully, we have this small piggery that allows us to buy our basic needs. We reared the piglets, some we sold after weaning, to support the feeds for the sows and the grow-out.)

Another member, Mr. Japet Romo shared that he went on fattening the hogs and sold them in live weight to the local market. This way, his income was augmented.

*“Makatabang gyud sa amo nga naa me lain panginabuhian. Pasalamat me sa mga nagdumala sa SAAD kay nakatabang siya ug solbad sa problema namo sa financial,”* averred Mr. Romo.

(This helped us with additional income. We are very thankful to the SAAD implementers because they aided in solving our financial problems.)

From his two-production cycle income, he built a house with a small store for his newly-wed son.

As of December 2021, some of the sows are already on their third cycle and expected to give birth in the first quarter of 2022.

As part of the association policy, the members were required to turnover four piglets for each gilt received. In fact, 109 piglets were already transferred to 55 new grantees of the SAAD project in barangays Buenavista, Upper Usogan Tusik, Poblacion, Tabugon, and Bag-ong Anonang.

### Group's unanimity rule

To maintain cooperation between the group members, each is encouraged to actively participate in monthly meetings. If not, they have to pay a penalty. Through these community meetings, the group addresses the individual struggles in pig raising by discussing them and providing solutions.

*“Maningkamot me ug magdasigay para magkahiusa me kay kung dili me magkahiusa, katag katag me ani ug atiman sa project. Kung naay problema ang mataag-sa, magtinabanga me para mapangitaan ug solusyon,”* shared Mr. Romo.

(We persevere and encourage each other to stay in the group. Because if we won't, we will work alone on the project. Whereas if we are together, we can raise our problems and help each other to look for solutions.)

### Project sustainability

Sows will stop giving birth until its 6th to 7th cycle. For them to sustain the project without assistance from the program, they plan on using their income to buy new piglets, restock their swine production project. From here, they will be selling pork meat, fattened hogs, and further venture into roasting pigs (lechon). To minimize their expenses in buying commercial feeds, they hope to acquire training on feed formulation and avail of free feed mill equipment. ###

## Dad champions swine raising, earns steadily through DA-SAAD program

by Perlis C. Ramos

### Background

Northern Samar is considered a second-class province where communities in the rural and marginalized areas are usually engaged in farming. About 69% or 243,084 hectares (ha) of the province land are agricultural areas where coconut ranks first as the main produce, followed by palay, sweet potato, and banana.

Deodito Turga, 46 years old, married, and a father of five (5) from Brgy. Buenavista, Rosario, Northern Samar, has been a rice farmer for almost 22 years now. He started farming at 22 when his parents, who were also farmers, introduced him to farming. He ultimately learns the beauty of it by following the footsteps of his parents. Since then, it became his source of income, even until he started his own family though his income is only at Php 2,000 to Php 2,500 monthly.

Due to limited yield, Deodito tried to venture into hook and line fishing in order to have an additional source of income for his growing family, but he simply did not have enough resources.

Hog raising has always been his dream. In a conversation with SAAD field officers, he mentioned that *“Maiha na kami gusto mag-ataman hin baboy, pero waray gud la kami saktong kwarta para makapalit hin baboy. Maupay nala nga napili kami han Department of Agriculture ngan han SAAD.”*

(It has been our wish to raise hogs, but we didn't have enough funds to purchase the animals. It's a good thing that we were among those chosen by the Department of Agriculture and SAAD Program.)

Though Deodito lacks financial means and does not have prior experience in hog raising, it did not stop him to pursue his dream. He attended social preparation activities and every meeting and seminars conducted by the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) and gained enough knowledge on livestock, especially hog raising.

In 2017, he was recommended by MAO to the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program. After validation and assessments conducted by SAAD Northern Samar, he was then chosen as a beneficiary for the FY 2021 Swine Fattening Project.

### Interventions and Results

In December 2017, inputs for the project were provided to Deodito. The package consists of three (3) swine fatteners and various feeds, along with drugs, and biologics through the Provincial Veterinarian's Office (PVO) since the budget for supplies was downloaded to the provincial government. As a preparation, he also attended a separate Swine Fattening Training (Basic Management on Swine Fattening) that was provided by PVO in November 2017.

Originally, the hogs delivered were supposed to be sold once marketable. Deodito, however, saw an opportunity to earn more since the price of piglets was at Php 2,500 per head in 2017 and 2018. Two (2) of the three (3) head fatteners he received were sold, while the remaining was kept as a breeder...*continue to page 10*

### *Acknowledging the perseverance of the youth...from p. 1*

The 2017 Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) data reported a consistent poverty incidence among the 14 basic sectors in the Philippines.

Republic Act 8425, or the Social Reform and Poverty Alleviation Act, defines the basic sectors as the disadvantaged sectors of Philippine society, namely farmer-peasant, artisanal fisherfolk, workers in the formal sector and migrant workers, workers in the informal sector, indigenous peoples and cultural communities, women, differently-abled persons, senior citizens, victims of calamities and disasters, youth and students, children, urban poor, cooperatives, and non-government organizations.

Among the fourteen basic sectors, farmers, fishermen, and children belonging to families with income below the official poverty threshold or poor families posted the highest poverty incidences in 2015 at 34.3%, 34.0%, and 31.4%, respectively.

These three sectors were record-consistent in 2006, 2009, and 2012. Also, 5 of the 14 basic sectors consisting of farmers, fishermen, children, self-employed and unpaid family workers, and women, belonging to poor families, had higher poverty incidence than the general population estimated at 21.6% in 2015.

This prevalent condition leads to a lack of interest among the next-in-line practitioners that would want to be involved in the field, especially since economic opportunities that expand outside agriculture are considered one of the factors in the decline of the overall poverty rate in the Philippines as reported by the World Bank (2018).

This reality discourages engagement in the agriculture workforce. The continued trend of the aging rural population that threatens food security is not a unique circumstance in the Philippines, as this is also a trend in many farming countries where agricultural holders, meaning those who control and manage agricultural holdings are over the age of 55, recording a 27.5% average globally (Ottosen, 2014).

While many others choose urban life, some emerging practitioners give hope to the aging workforce in the Philippine agricultural scene.

### **Aging farmers and fishers**

Barely a senior citizen, 53 is the average age of the country's 11 million farmers and fishermen according to a 2021 study conducted by Florencia Palis of the University of the Philippines (UP) in Los Baños.

The findings in the study "Aging Filipino Rice Farmers and Their Aspirations for Their Children," showed that Filipino farmers are aging fast and more than 65% of interviewed farmers do not wish for their children to follow in their footsteps. This implies that there might come a time when the country will not have enough farmers and fishermen to produce food, which poses a threat to the country's food security (Palis, 2020).



Encouraging the younger generation to view agriculture and fisheries as viable business ventures requires information dissemination, training, and empowerment.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) in Western Visayas has a program called Kapital Access for Young Agripreneurs or KAYA. Under the program, through the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), DA will provide up to Php 500,000 capital access to fresh agriculture graduates (Tayona, 2021).

The DA is also offering scholarship programs, especially to the children of farmers and fisherfolk, through its Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Under these scholarship programs, the beneficiaries have to take up Agriculture as a college course or any agriculture-related courses.

The ATI, an attached agency of the DA, has qualified three children of farmers from Western Visayas, particularly from Barangay Agusipan, Badiangan, Iloilo; Oton, Iloilo; and Negros Occidental as scholars to be sent to Taiwan to undergo technical training on farming.

Meanwhile, another new program of the DA which also aims to develop competent, highly skilled, and employment-ready agribusiness professionals and entrepreneurs is the Mentoring and Attracting Youth in Agribusiness (MAYA) internship program.

Recently, out of 198 applicants in Western Visayas, 16 have qualified. The MAYA program, conceptualized by the DA in 2020, will provide experiential learning and mentoring to agriculture graduates aged 20 to 30 years old.



"After the one-week basic orientation and expectation setting, they will have the leeway to choose between employment track or entrepreneurship track as their internship pathways," as stipulated in Memorandum Circular No. 14 series of 2020 by Agriculture Secretary William Dar.

The DA, through the Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), listed 808 qualified MAYA interns nationwide who applied online. Of these, 4 were from Aklan, 1 from Capiz, 5 from Iloilo, and 6 from Negros Occidental.

### **Attracting youth to modern agriculture**

Capturing the interest of the youth in farming remains a major challenge to the agriculture sector. Their contribution could serve as an imperative foundation to sustain the food demand-and-supply cycle and ensure responsible resource management in the future.

Among the major impediments to engagement is the lack of resources or access to land, capital, skills, and technology. Youth perceive farming as a "not financially rewarding" occupation and they are not involved in making decisions for the farming activities of their families. These stereotypes need to be changed (Pedrosa, 2014).

In the educational system, according to the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), outdated curricula, outmoded research, and inadequate academic facilities are among the significant issues hindering the involvement of the youth in agriculture that affects the agricultural human resources in Asia.

However, there are a number of ways to attract the youth to the agricultural sector, which remains one of the most vulnerable segments in the country.

Modernized training and practical skills must be provided including access to information through the internet, as well as repackaging agriculture course curriculum attuned to the current challenges in the sector. Support services such as the provision of incentives to engage in agriculture, and more specifically, agribusiness – for example, through an internship, apprenticeship, and training programs to prepare the youth to lead and manage agribusinesses – are also crucial in this regard and it is where the government can help.

Originally founded in the United States in 1901, the 4H (Health-Heart-Head-Hand) Club is an organization of rural youth, primarily out of school youth, involved in agricultural and other income-generating projects.

Since its establishment, the 4H Club has been adopted by many countries, including the Philippines, further expanding its network of rural-based organizations (RBOs). Republic Act 680 created the Bureau of Agricultural Extension which marked the start of 4H Club

work in the entire country.

### The Beginning: DA-SAAD experience

In Negros Occidental, a group of youth in the far-flung village of Lalong in Calatrava, Negros Occidental is making a buzz in the agricultural labor landscape in the province. Lalong has 2,615 residents with the highest population from the age group of 15 to 19 years old. Most youths in the area opt not to pursue tertiary education as they are more inclined to till the lands owned by their parents.

Due to its remote location, the community also seldom receives agricultural assistance programs from the government.

These challenges prompted the young populace in the community to form an organization aimed to provide a space that fosters collaboration as well as empowerment to young people through agriculture ensuring their recognition and visibility.

They have 35 active members mostly aged 13 to 18 years old who are all into rural farming. Based on the policies of the group, membership is open and voluntary and is available to anyone 13 to 30 years old.

The said group is a youth development component of its provincial forerunner, 4H Club Negros Occidental Chapter.

To encourage active participation of RBOs, the DA Regional Field Office (RFO) Western Visayas is actively implementing the DA Central Office's mandate under Administrative Order No. 17, Series of 2019 which is aimed at the attainment of a participatory and sustainable agriculture sector through the provision of extension-related activities on work-oriented values, leadership skills development, and entrepreneurship.

With that, in 2021, the group received three bucks, 19 does, and a set of drugs and biologics from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's Goat Production Project.

Twenty-year-old James Manayon, president of the group, said they pursued goat raising because of its simplicity, requiring a low production cost that a young adult can get involved in. In their community, goats are multi-purpose animals and are used in meat and milk production. They are easy to breed and manage and may be raised together with other livestock.

According to Mr. Manayon, goats are smaller-sized animals, and they require lesser space as compared to other domestic livestock. Aside from having lesser housing demands, he cited that goats multiply faster in a short period as they are capable of giving birth to as many as five kids, which is in line with the group's goal to establish a multiplier farm and eventually sell the ruminants for breeding and meat consumption.

Most of the 4H Club Lalong members allowed their goats to graze in the field using a few meters of rope (tethering system). Since goats are prone to pneumonia and other illnesses, each caretaker built a simple shed to provide shelter.

Mr. Manayon emphasized that proper feeding and clean water are important for the goats' health since it affects the growth and breeding performance of the animals. Their goats also get most of the nutrients they need from grazing and browsing six to eight hours a day which also helps clear weeds and encroaching bushes. Meanwhile, each of the caretakers also practices regular provision of supplementary feed and monitoring to prevent diseases.

On top of their tasks for goat production, these youths also maintain backyard gardens planted with vegetable crops such as tomato, okra, and eggplant. Ten members who are full-time high school students are also juggling their studies and farm work. Since schools across the town are still closed indefinitely, the Lalong youth would wake up early in the morning to manage their plants, graze their goats, and feed their chickens before working on their modules.

Even though goats are valuable livestock as a source of meat, the group acknowledged there are major obstacles to its production.

They reported mortality among their goat stock due to an illness in October 2021. The caretaker observed that the milk duct of the parent stock got clogged and infected due to the movement of milk through the mammary glands.

The group sought assistance from the para-veterinary worker in their village as well as the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO). Though the affected doe and its two offspring died, no further mortality was recorded.

According to Manayon, the training provided by SAAD greatly helped to properly manage their stocks. They implement good animal husbandry practices such as regular cleaning and disinfection.

Through their hard work and labor, the 4H Lalong Club was able to increase its stocks to 46 from 22 head. Currently, their livestock project has yet to generate income but they are all hopeful they could earn extra money from trading goats.

*"Sa pagkakaran, naa pa kami sa proseso sa pagpalambo sa among mga kanding aron mas modaghan pa ang among stock. Pag-abot sa panahon nga moabot ug kapin sa 100 ka ulo, ibaligya namo sa mga interested buyers,"* (Right now, we are still in the process of breeding our goats so we could further increase our stock. When the time comes that our stock reaches more than 100 head, we will sell it to interested buyers,) said Manayon.

Mr. Manayon also shared some of the aspirations of the club members. He acknowledged that even though life might be challenging for most of the rural youths in their barangay, they are still aiming to finish their studies until college in a bid to uplift their families from poverty.

*"Kadaghanan sa mga pamatan-on dinhi wala makatapos sa ila nga degree sa kolehiyo ug gusto namong untaton kini nga cycle. Bisag lisod ang among kinabuhi dinhi, wala mi mohunong sa pagpangandoy ug pagkab-ot sa imong mga goals sa kabuhi pinaagi sa edukasyon."*

(Most of the youth here were not able to finish college and we want to stop this cycle. Although our life here is hard, we don't stop dreaming and achieving our goals through education.)

### Profit-sharing policy

To sustain the project, the association formulated a profit-sharing policy where each of the 14 members is required to pay a Php 500 fee every year as well as share 50% of their eventual profit to the association once their goat project becomes an income-generating livelihood. Once the parent stock gives birth, they are also required to give back one offspring to the association. To date, 11 goats have already been returned to the association for the planned communal multiplier farm.

### A Chance to Make a Difference

Despite the decline in interest in agriculture as a career path, there are still young adults engaged in farming and fishing. These sectors offer the young generation a chance to make a difference by growing enough food to feed the growing population. To encourage others to join the agriculture and fishery sectors, it is vital

that they are given a voice, and that government implementers take note of what they have to say.

Digital technology and digital financial services have the potential to bring youth closer to the said sectors. Agencies, such as the DA and its affiliated organizations and other players in the ecosystem focused on promoting agriculture needs to deliberately create an attractive and enabling environment for youth through the following activities or programs (Njeru, 2019):

1. Sustainable market linkages between rural young farmers and urban markets through e-commerce or m-commerce platforms;
2. Adoption of digital platforms that offer an opportunity for embedded social services that could compensate for the lack of financial and non-financial services and provide social protection, such as platforms that offer embedded unemployment insurance or health insurance;
3. Specialization in service provision—information, data, and value chain linkages;
4. Special support to build value addition, capacity-building, and idea incubations;
5. Efficiency in agriculture value chains that will spur growth in the trade margins and returns and thus encourage youth to engage fully in the sector;
6. Working with financial service providers to develop financial tools and products that facilitate access to finance for agriculture-related activities by youth; and
7. Positioning the youth in risk management mechanisms among smallholder farmers and agribusinesses, along with selected agriculture value chains.

Particularly, this impels decision-makers to give the youth a chance to offer their opinion and experiences in the policy creation and discourse for rural development. In this way, they can show other young people that farming and fishing can be a rewarding career as well as highlight the important role of agriculture in nation-building and on a global scale. ###

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DEVELOPMENT

**Dad champions swine raising...from p. 7**

In 2018, the remaining sow started to farrow for the first time and the venture continues to be successful until today.

From 2018 up to October 2021, Deodito was able to sustain the swine fattening project and accumulated a gross income of Php 216,260.

In January 2022, a sow farrowed for the 7th time with 15 weanlings. Unfortunately, there were three (3) mortalities due to stillbirth. Eight (8) pigs were sold in February 2022 for a total of Php 24,000.

One (1) piglet was given to the boar operator as payment for breeding while the remaining three (3) piglets are intended for grow-out or fattening purposes. The proceeds from the sale of the eight (8) stocks were utilized to purchase an aluminum roof for their home amounting to Php 7,000 while the remaining money will be used for the purchasing of feed.

In the previous years, he was also able to purchase the following items with the money he earned from hog raising: machine for the tractor, motorboat, and a carabao. He also had his house fixed and bought a mobile phone for the remote learning of his children.

For years now, he hopes to own a piece of land to expand his farming activities. With perseverance, Deodito believes he could achieve this goal in God's grace. He works towards this goal to build a concrete house so his family will no longer have to fear whenever there is a storm. But, at the top of every parent's dream is to have their children sent to school and finish their education.

*"Bisan la ako parag-uma basta makapagradwar ako tak mga anak, malipayon na ako, kay amo la iton tak mapapamana,"* Deodito Turga shared.

(Even if I'm just a farmer, I'll be happy to see my children graduate from school because that will be my only legacy).

Deodito's story is a message of hope where, hard work and persistence are the keys to achieving dreams... slowly, but surely. ###



The SAAD Program, seeking an extension for its second phase of implementation, plans for continuity by ensuring existing community-based enterprises (CBEs) are fully supported and emerging ones capacitated.

*"Di na ni bag-o sa atoa. Ang SAAD, before manghatag sa mga animal- ug crop-based nato nga interventions, mag-training jud ta. Ang tumong ani, para mahan-ay ang mga beneficiary ug matudluan sila ug tarong nga mga pamaagi sa pagpalambo sa ilahang mga proyekto,"* Lamata added.

(This is not new to us. Here in SAAD, we'll train before we distribute our animal- and crop-based interventions. The purpose of which is that we'll streamline our beneficiaries and for them to be able to learn the ways to sustain and develop their projects.) Local experts from Davao de Oro were tapped to train the FAs with some areas needing the presence of armed forces and Revitalized Pulis sa Barangay (RPSB) to

streamline the event.

*"Kami mapasalamaton sa SAAD kay kani nga People's Organization (POs) naka-avail ani nga mga projects, dako ni nga tabang para sa improvement sa komunidad,"* (We are thankful for SAAD that our People's Organization has availed the projects as these are a great help for the improvement of the community), Bert Kenneth Ibuyan, an RPSB assigned in Rizal, Monkayo, said.

In ELCAC areas, most FAs endorsed for SAAD projects are locally-organized POs organized by RPSB.

**Animal-Based Interventions**

Since its pilot year, SAAD 11 had focused on animal-based interventions for its beneficiaries, granted poultry and small ruminants to provide food sustainability and increase income.

By 2022, all 46 FAs will receive animal-based interventions from SAAD Region 11 with three options: upgraded goats, native chicken, and mallard ducks. Eighteen (18) FAs are set to receive 320

## 46 Dabawenyo FAs for 2022 livelihood projects trained

by James Brian R. Flaga

**DAVAO DE ORO, May 30, 2022**

- The Department of Agriculture Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) 11 trained 46 Dabawenyo farmers associations' (FAs) belonging to the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA) and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas across 11 municipalities of Davao de Oro.

These FAs are set to receive the program's 2022 projects. With 20 members per association, SAAD 11 capacitated 920 mixed-crop farmers, with farming backgrounds ranging from a few years of experience to life-long ones. Training includes skill enhancement on the cultivation of banana, OPV corn, and assorted vegetable best planting and management practices, as well as upgraded goats, native chicken, and mallard

duck production and management.

For the capacity enhancement activities, the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) obligated more than Php 1.1 million. This year, SAAD 11 intends to dole out six animal- and crop-based interventions: banana, Open-Pollinated Variety (OPV) corn, assorted vegetables, upgraded goats, native chicken, and mallard ducks.

*"Kani atoang gihimo nanghinaot jud mi nga ma-capacitate mo tanan. Kinahanglan ni atoang training para prepared mo nga mudawat sa atoang mga interventions,"* Ms. Naomi Lamata, Regional Focal Person for SAAD 11, said to Rizal Tribal Farmers Association, both a GIDA and ELCAC FA in Monkayo.

(We did this [pertaining to training] because we wanted to capacitate all of you. We need this training to prepare you for our interventions.)



native chickens while another 18 will get 50 upgraded goats. The remaining 10 opted for the mallard ducks package consisting of 300 birds.

Alongside the animals, each package will include feed and assorted biologics.

*"Kani inyohang gihimo, makatabang jud sa amoa sa mga projects nga ipanghatag. Ang inyohang ihatag, amoa jung ampangan ug palamboon,"* (What you've done will help us on the projects which will be distributed. We will take care of it, and sustain it), Simeon Buñag, Libudon United Farmers Association (LUFAs) chair in Mabini, enthused. The association will receive upgraded goats before the third quarter ends.

**Crop-based interventions**

For crops, SAAD 11 identified three surefire projects that previously answered immediate need consumption and have the potential for greater income generation: banana, corn, and assorted vegetables. Eight (8) FAs were previously chosen to receive bananas (8,300 plantlets each) while 33 opted for OPV

corn (32 sacks each).

The remaining five FAs, all in Maragusan, the province's vegetable-producing municipality, lobbied for assorted vegetable production. The package includes 16 packs of hybrid sweet pepper and 5 cans each of hybrid eggplant, cabbage, and squash. Aside from seeds, the FAs will receive assorted agri-tools including but not limited to knapsack sprayers, digging bars, waterers, etc.

**Regional Budget**

SAAD Region 11 allotted a little more than Php 33 million for both its animal- and crop-based interventions including these training, a whopping 70% of its 2022 budget allocation of Php 47M. The RPMSO trusts that these intensified social preparation activities will close out its first phase of implementation in Davao region with farmers equipped with effective farming practices that can render and deliver the most favorable outcome of the projects. ###

## Matam-is coconut farmers' sweet success through Egg Production

by Mildred Compendio-Bregildo



**LEYTE, May 27, 2022** – A farmer's association (FA) in Baybay, Leyte now supplies a leading pastries bakeshop in the locality, thanks to the Egg Layer Production Project of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) in Matam-is, Baybay, Leyte.

Matam-is Farmers Association (MFA) with 16 active members is a Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) registered farmers association (FA) in Baybay, Leyte. Members of the FA are low-income coconut farmers who also engaged in swine fattening and backyard vegetable gardening.

SAAD Region 8 conducted an assessment on the FA's policies and organizational management, area of operation, financial capability, social and environmental standards, and sustainability mechanism where MFA qualified to be a recipient of the Egg Layer Production Project of SAAD under the 2021 savings allocation. Prior to providing the interventions, SAAD Region 8 staff also conducted a Social Preparation activity including community organizing, and technical assistance on production and monitoring to equip the association in handling the project. In December 2021, SAAD delivered 480 ready to lay chickens, and 155 bags of layer feeds and biologics worth Php 719,500.

The MFA has started supplying egg as production input to a leading cake and pastries producer in the locality, Panny's Homebake Products Inc., since April 2022. The association supplies 30 trays of eggs per week which equates to an average of Php 21,000 gross sales per month. The income is directly deposited to the bank account of the association.

This successful linkage was initiated by the FA's business manager, Mr. Gregorio Villaber and supported by production manager, Pedro Morquianos. For the past five months of operation, the association has a total net income of Php 138,840, of which Php 124,000 was deposited in the bank, while Php 14,840 cash is on hand.

### Production

Currently, the flocks are 5 months old with an average of 397 eggs laid per day or 82.7% laying percentage which means that the flocks are about to reach its peak of production in July 2022 and expected to reach production of 85% – 90% laying percentage. This means 460 pieces of eggs can be hatched daily. In terms of yield in production from January to May 2022, the flocks reached up to 51,159 eggs translated to a gross sale of Php 176,106 with farmgate price of Small-Php 160; Medium-Php 170; Large-Php 190; XL-Php 210 and J-Php 230.

### Marketing

A successful egg production is feasible and provides an active income to any association; thus, it is paramount to be mindful in managing finances and marketing and trade policies. MFA marketing journey started on February 16, 2022 during the KADIWA activity initiated by Agribusiness Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) and DA Region 8 that was conducted in Baybay City local market.

MFA participated in the said activity once a week for 3 consecutive weeks when they rocketed their sales to a total of Php 25, 898 with 147 trays sold, at Php 175 per tray average price. By then, luck has hit MFA as they regularly deliver 30 trays of eggs per week to Panny's and maintain its marketing agreement through public relations, quality and commitment. Plans and Targets

MFA has a sharing scheme of 60% to members as dividends, 30% to association as operation fund and 10% as honorarium to officers. This scheme is part of the sustainability mechanism, derived from the net income of the association after satisfying expenses including the depreciation cost, that was preserved to be used for expansion and replacement of livestock and equipment.

By September 2022, MFA plans to purchase additional RTL as preparation for the replacement of the old stocks before culling. Lastly, if the policies being implemented are effective, then the organization will pursue to become a cooperative before 2025. ###

## visit the saad-web @ [saad.da.gov.ph](http://saad.da.gov.ph)

The SAAD website is continually improved by the IT and Communications units, led by the SAAD Program Director, Dr. Myer G. Mula, designed to offer different materials regarding the program and relevant learning materials in the agriculture sector.

The website is a one-stop online page to learn about SAAD's framework, covered provinces, published materials (books and magazines), reports, calendar of events, regional social media links, SAAD and DA's press releases, video testimonials, and relevant readings.



## midterm impact assessment



## 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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## saadventures

SAADventures is a monthly magazine featuring each regional and provincial Special Area for Agricultural Development Program implementation, accomplishments, as well as infographics and stories of empowered farmers and fishers (individual or association).



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## compendium

The Special Area for Agricultural Development Program releases an annual compendium of its press releases and feature articles. 'The Progression: 2021 SAAD News Compendium' is the fifth part of the publication.



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