

**SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**BANDILYO**

*(announcement)*



**VOL. 8 (AUGUST 2021)**



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SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
**BANDILYO**

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The SAAD *Bandilyo* is the official monthly publication of the **Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program 8**, Department of Agriculture–Regional Field Office (DA–RFO) 8, Kanhuraw Hill, Tacloban City.

Formerly published as the quarterly newsletter, *Peryodikit*, the one–page maiden issue came out in March 2017. In January 2018, it morphed into a monthly newsletter. Then again, in May 2018 until December 2019, it became a two–page spread with an occasional feature story about farmer–beneficiaries.

In January 2020, *Bandilyo* (*Waray* for Announcement) has been reformatted into a twelve–page monthly magazine–type publication intended for the reading pleasure of SAAD Program management and decision makers, personnel and staff of DA–RFO 8, stakeholders, partner agencies, and the farmers themselves.

This periodical is a work of nonfiction. All of the people, events, and details described in its pages are real; there are no composite characters, fake names, invented quotes, or imagined conversations. Articles may be reproduced, in full or in part, provided appropriate acknowledgment is given.

*From the Regional Focal Person's Desk..*



I have always emphasized that SAAD Program's twin goals are: helping the 'poorest of the poor' farmers and attaining food security and sufficiency. Towards this end, we empower them through conduct of capability enhancement activities, provision of livelihood opportunities, and assistance in marketing their products, and to become entrepreneurs. This way, they are able to improve their productivity and increase their income, thereby uplifting them from the morass of poverty.

## DELIVERY of Animals and Feeds intensifies

Michael F. Dabuet, Information Officer I, RPMSO

**TACLOBAN CITY, August 13, 2021** – During the last two (2) weeks, delivery of 960 heads Ready-To-Lay (RTL) Chicken and 115 sacks feeds each was done to the following five (5) farmers' associations:

- August 2, 2021 – Abango Small Coconut Farmers Association  
Barugo, Leyte  
Bulod Agriculture Cooperative  
Barugo, Leyte
- August 4, 2021 – St. Isidore Greenfield Community Association  
Brgy. San Isidore, Sta. Fe, Leyte
- August 11, 2021 – San Antonio Rural Improvement Club Association  
Dulag, Leyte
- August 12, 2021 – Matin-ao Farmers Association  
Burauen, Leyte

These interventions are part of the FY2021 Poultry Production Project in Leyte. ###



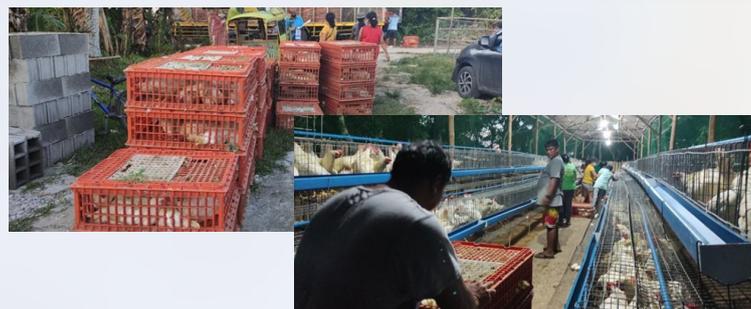
Abango Small Coconut Farmers Association, Barugo, Leyte



Bulod Agriculture Cooperative, Barugo, Leyte



St. Isidore Greenfield Community Association, Brgy. San Isidore, Sta. Fe, Leyte



San Antonio Rural Improvement Club Association, Dulag, Leyte



Matin-ao Farmers Association, Burauen, Leyte

## SAAD Program participates IN KADIWA NI ANI AT KITA for the 7th time

Michael F. Dabuet, Information Officer I, RPMSO



The Department of Agriculture-RFO 8 once again held a series of *Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita* at 2/L Robinson's North, Brgy. Abucay, Tacloban City on July 22-25 and July 29-August 1, 2021.

Featured at these test markets were fresh farm harvests, including poultry products and vegetables from five (5) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program beneficiaries. These participating groups were Bulod Farmer's Association (FA), Patong Integrated FA, Hilaba FA, Maragundong FA, and Ormocanay Small Water Impounding FA.

These are the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> instances, respectively, that the program joined the monthly DA event, which promotes a variety of products cultivated by local farmer-beneficiaries who have benefited from SAAD projects.

During the July 22-25, 2021 event, gross sales was PhP25,380.00; while the July 29-August 1, 2021 happening, gross sales totaled PhP 26,160.00. Cumulative sales for the 2-week endeavor reached PhP51,540.00. There was an evident drop in sales (halved) when compared with previous engagements. The decrease in sales is

understandable, as there were relatively less shoppers during the last two weeks of July owing to the surge of new COVID19 cases in Tacloban City, and the awareness of residents that there was already presence of the COVID19 Delta variant among the local population.

Nevertheless, the health scare has not dampened the enthusiasm of the farmers to showcase their commodities. Every time SAAD Program participated in these events, different associations enthusiastically cooperated and willingly sent their products to the *Kadiwa* fair. It is not only because of the opportunity to earn sure income, but the farmers have manifestly found meaning and purpose in their farming endeavor and have become proud to tell the world of this through their produce.



# Persistence in the face of COVID-19 and ASF

Perlis C. Ramos, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Northern Samar



Since one (1) group/association is not allowed to have two livestock projects per SAAD guidelines, the supposed Swine Production Project intended for the Flormina Agricultural Farmers Association in Mondragon, Northern Samar was realigned. The Municipal Agriculture Office of Mondragon then recommended a relatively new association, the Chitongco Farmers Association.

Chitongco Farmers Association is a group of fifty-two (52) rice and vegetable farmers who decided to organize themselves to improve their standard of living.

When SAAD Program was introduced during the orientation, only eighteen (18) members initially grabbed the opportunity. Because of it, an agreement was made that members who were not in favor of the project would not take part in the SAAD Swine Production Project.

On October 22, 2020, the association received ten (10) heads gilt, twenty (20) bags grower feeds, eighty (80) bags gestating feeds, thirty (30) bags lactating feeds, three hundred (300) kg. booster feeds, and various drugs & biologics. The total project cost was PHP492,835.00.

The technical training did not materialize due to the pandemic. However, despite the absence of said training, the association was still able to nurture the delivered gilts.

Today, six (6) out of the ten (10) sows already farrowed produced a total of sixty-three (63) heads piglet. Three (3) heads are currently pregnant, and 2 heads sow had been mated for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.

In a matter of two months, the association sold 43 heads piglet from May 18-July 17, 2021 at an average price of PHP3,000.00 for every 8-10 kg. weight piglet. Meanwhile, for almost a year of unsuccessful mating of the remaining impregnated gilt, the association agreed

to dispose of it and sold it for PHP24,000.00.

At present, the association has total cash assets of PHP154,100.00 as gross income from sales.

In a related development, the province of Northern Samar detected a case of African Swine Fever (ASF) in 2021. Considering that the animal disease has already brought damage to some swine farms, the association took precautionary steps to prevent it from entering its premises by strengthening biosecurity measures at the site.

Persistence paid off for the Chitongco Farmers Association. It may not have been the first nor second choice for this project and may have encountered a lot of problems along the way, such as COVID19 and ASF, but the members continue to do their best in every way possible to make it to the top and make the project sustainable and successful.



# Agro-Enterprise Training for ASF affected FBs in Leyte

*Divine Publico-Corsiga, Area Coordinator II, PPMO-Leyte*



**T**he Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, PPMO-Leyte, in partnership with the Municipal Local Government Unit of Tabontabon kick-started the first-ever Agro-Enterprise Training held for farmer-beneficiaries in Leyte province. Held at the Municipal Gymnasium of Tabontabon on August 18-20, 2021, PPMO-Leyte Provincial Coordinator Allan M. Brit; Area Coordinators, Divine Publico-Corsiga and Deo Abel A. Cebrenos; and Zolita Besa of LGU-Tabontabon and staff, acted as facilitators of the 3-day training.

Thirty (30) farmers from the Cambuciao Farmers Association and Balingasag Farmers Association participated in the training, being the 2020 Swine Production Project beneficiaries affected by the African Swine Fever (ASF) disease that ravaged swine populations in Leyte and other provinces in Region 8. Each FA will receive 480 heads layer chicken, feeds, drugs and biologics for the FY 2021 Layer Production Project.

The training aims to equip farmer-beneficiaries with new knowledge or updates in managing an agro-enterprise via market consolidation and clustering to strengthen the value chain systems for sustainable production of identified commodities.



## ANILAO FARMERS Association's Success Story

Lourdes O. Abueva, Area Coordinator II, PPMO-Southern Leyte

The Anilao Farmers Association (AFA) was registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on December 19, 2014. It has a registration certificate #: RO800-SLFO-14-12-WA-0175. Located in Brgy. Anilao, Liloan, Southern Leyte, AFA originally consisted of 49 members who are mostly Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and non-ARB farmers cultivating crops.

The association was one of four group-beneficiaries for the FY 2020 Swine Production Enterprise in the municipality of Liloan. AFA received 10 head breeder gilts on August 27, 2020, 20 bags grower feeds, 80 bags gestating feeds, 30 bags lactating feeds, 300 kg. booster feeds, and drugs and biologics. Total project cost is P852,485.00. Association members participated in capability building activities and swine production training prior to receiving the commodities.

AFA borrowed P40,000.00 from a private individual and P26,540.00 worth of construction materials from a hardware store in Poblacion, Liloan, which were used in building a concrete hogstiel. As their counterpart, labor services were rendered by the members through *bayanihan* (community shared effort).

During the first cycle, AFA sold 69 piglets, garnering gross sales of P187,800.00. Additional sales amounted to P31,000; hence, the overall gross sales totaled P218,800.00. Additional income came from the sales of gestating feeds due to overstocking. If unused, they would have expired anyway. AFA settled all their debts after the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle.

Multipurpose Cooperative (SILOMCO) in Poblacion, Liloan, and placed an initial deposit of P24,500.00.

For the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle, 5 sows were impregnated, 1 farrowed in July 2021, 1 died due to prolapse prior to the day of farrowing, and 2 breeders are still not in estrus.

One best management practice that the association has been doing since it commenced operations is the maintenance of cleanliness and other biosecurity measures to prevent possible formation of diseases that could lead to mortality of the breeders. It schedules daily duties to feed, clean, monitor the animals, and other necessary activities in the breeding farm. Members maintain sound financial status by keeping records of their regular activities.

As of press time, AFA is focused on selling piglets. However, they plan to expand their business, from being purely swine producer to establishing a meat shop. They have seen the demand for pork meat in the local market; hence, they don't want to lose such an opportunity. The association likewise proposed additional pigpens that will be used for fattening.

With the continuing threat of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the province of Southern Leyte, AFA adheres to strict biosecurity measures in their farm to avoid possible entry of virus into their area. Though ASF is considered a major animal health problem, AFA members are not discouraged with current conditions. They would rather look at the brighter side of the situation because for them, "there is opportunity in every calamity." While most hog raisers stopped their swine production endeavors, AFA is engrossed in filling the market demand for pork.

Year	Month	# of Piglets Sold	Sales-Piglets (Php)	Additional Sales (Php)
2020	August	-	-	-
	September	-	-	-
	October	-	-	3,000.00
	November	-	-	11,000.00
	December	-	-	9,000.00
2021	January	-	-	-
	February	-	-	3,000.00
	March	18	46,700.00	5,000.00
	April	34	94,600.00	-
	May	17	46,500.00	-
	June	-	-	-
	July	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>		<b>69</b>	<b>187,800.00</b>	<b>31,000.00</b>
<b>Total Sales</b>			<b>218,800.00</b>	

On the 1<sup>st</sup> cycle, 8 sows had farrowed; 1 gilt was sold due to abnormal heat cycle, not approving a natural mate; while another gilt was unable to conceive. AFA planned to replace the unproductive gilt, while the sold gilt will be replaced with 6 month-old gilt produced locally.

On May 9, 2021, AFA opened a savings account at St. Loyola



# Its time to *make a difference* IN THE FUTURE

Marifel Duran-Gayoso, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Leyte



The Hinabuyan Integrated Farmers Association (HIFA) is based at Brgy. Hinabuyan, Dagami, Leyte, and is composed of 19 active members. The main livelihood of the association members is vegetable gardening, which has helped them provide for their daily necessities.

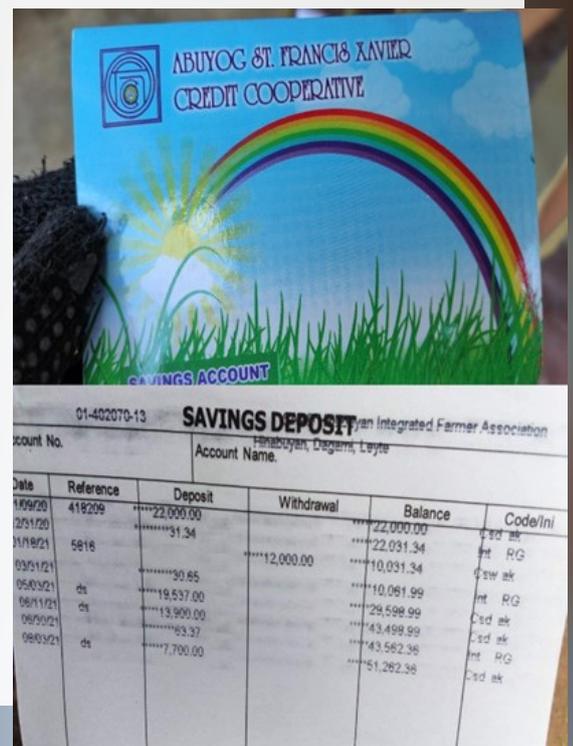
Fortunately, the association qualified as one of the recipients of FY 2020 Mallard Duck Production Project, after validation and verification by program management. In August 2020, it was given 330 heads mallard duck, 180 bags layer feeds, 4 rolls green polynet, and multivitamins as part of the package of assistance for the project.

Since receiving the livelihood intervention, the association has seen a bright ray of hope to put an end to the members' impoverished lives. They said, "This is an opportune time to change our destiny for the better and for the sake of our children."

Recently, the organization procured 200 additional ducklings to replace the older ones that are no longer at the peak of their egg laying capacity. Its assets include cash deposited in the bank in the amount of PhP51,262.00.

The association has not started sharing dividends to the members yet as it was the majority's consensus to reinvest their earnings for the expansion of their business/livelihood project.

As of press time, business operations are running smoothly and organizational management is steadily efficient.



# SAMUMACA's Vegetable Production

Divine Publico-Corsiga, Area Coordinator II, PPMO-Leyte



The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program started in year 2018 for the province of Leyte. The Samahan ng Munting Magsasaka sa Cagnocot (SaMuMaCa) based in Brgy. Cagnocot, Villaba, Leyte, and with DOLE Registration #RO8-WLFO-2017-08-WA-1217, was then selected as one of the recipients of the Vegetable Production Project. Said association is composed of 31 farmers whose main livelihood is either of the following: upland farming, vegetable production, or coconut production.

In year 2018, SAAD provided SaMuMaCa with various farm tools and equipment, such as UV film, garden hose, plastic crates, fine net, shovel, rake, pick mattock, sharp bolo, and wheel barrow. Twenty (20) bags organic fertilizer amounting to PhP141,462.00 were also given to the association. The following year, additional provisions were given, like plastic mulch and UV film, and a power tiller multi-cultivator valued at PhP255,864.00.

From 2018–2020, the association had a bumper crop as shown in the table below, proceeds of which were used to purchase agri-inputs for subsequent cropping.

Type of Vegetable Harvested	2018		2019		2020	
	# of kg.	Income (PhP)	# of kg.	Income (PhP)	# of kg.	Income (PhP)
Eggplant	180	4,500.00	1,770	35,400.00	180	4,500.00
Tomato	127	3,810.00	140	7,000.00	127	3,810.00
Bitter Gourd	338	20,280.00	-	-	40	3,600.00
Bell Pepper	-	-	1,000	80,000.00	-	-
Sweet Pepper	-	-	327	26,160.00	12	1,080.00
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>28,590.00</b>	-	<b>148,560.00</b>	-	<b>12,990.00</b>

During the 1<sup>st</sup> cropping of 2021, the association allocated a farm lot to be planted with 300 hills bitter gourd and 110 hills cucumber. This resulted in a harvest of 180 kg. for the former and 213 kg. for the latter, grossing an income of PhP15,795.00 for that cropping. As to the 2<sup>nd</sup> cropping cycle, it had already finished land preparation and is currently preparing the bitter gourd seedlings, targeted at

1,000 hills, for transplanting. Meanwhile, the members are preparing to plant other vegetable crops, such as eggplant and sweet pepper.

The program provided SaMuMaCa with an additional livelihood support, Swine Production Project, costing PhP558,536.00. It is composed of 10 heads gilt; 1 head boar; 20 bags grower feeds, 20 bags gestating feeds; and 10 bags lactating feeds. As the association's counterpart, the income of its vegetable production was utilized for the housing of the newly-received swine production project. The farmers' association is very appreciative of the assistance provided to them, saying that it boosted their income-generating capacity, given the promising potential of swine production and the lucrative demand for pork meat in Villaba.

SAAD Program has created a lasting impact in the association as evidenced in the members' current improved standard of living, abundant and affordable food resource in the community, and sufficient financial support for individual farmer's families.

2018 Vegetable Production inputs received by Samahan ng Munting Magsasaka sa Cagnocot	Indicator	Physical LEYTE	Unit Cost	Financial LEYTE
Plastic Mulch	roll	7	1500	10,500
UV Film (110" x 0.006" x 200m)	roll	4	18,000	72,000
Water hose	roll	1	4,000	4,000
Plastic crates	pc.	10	600	6,000
Fine Net	roll	5	3,500	17,500
<b>Farm Tools:</b>				
Rake	pc.	3	620.00	1,862
Shovel	pc.	3	700.00	2,100
Pickmattock	pc.	3	1,500.00	4,500
Sharp bolo	pc.	3	1,000.00	3,000
Wheel barrow	pc.	3	5,000.00	15,000
Organic Fertilizer	bag	10	500.00	5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>141,462</b>

2019 Vegetable Production inputs received by Samahan ng Munting Magsasaka sa Cagnocot (SAMUMACA)	Indicator	Physical LEYTE	Unit Cost	Financial LEYTE
Power Tiller with Multicultivator	unit	1	220,530.00	220,530
Plastic Mulch	roll	1	3,900.00	3,900
UV Film	roll	1	19,500.00	19,500
Organic	bag	9	500.00	4,500
Complete urea	bag	3	1,214.00	3,642
	bag	3	1,264.00	3,792
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>255,864</b>

# Milestones of SUCCESS

Roy A. Tabontabon, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Samar



**B**ased in Brgy. Poblacion 4, San Jose de Buan, Samar, the San Jose de Buan Integrated Farmers Association (SJDBIFA) was organized in 2019. The group members were previous beneficiaries of individual FY 2017 Egg Layer Production Project. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) registered the association on November 14, 2019, bearing certificate registration #RO8-SFO-2019-11-WA-1574. It had 26 active members at the time of registration.

The association then became a beneficiary of the FY 2020 Egg Layer Production Project. It was recommended by the Municipal Agriculturist and validated by the Area Coordinator assigned in the area. It received 384 head Ready-to-Lay chicken, 170 bags feeds, 800 egg trays, 8 kg. antibiotics, 16 kg. multivitamins, and 1 pc. egg weighing scale, for a total project cost of PhP942,600.00. Before they received the inputs, the members underwent a series of organizational and capability-building trainings.

On June 13, 2021, after 11 months' operation, SJDBIFA reached its 1<sup>st</sup> milestone - the expansion of its animal population by 300 head new Ready-to-Lay chicken costing One Hundred Twenty-Nine Thousand Pesos (PhP129,000.00). It also constructed the housing of the layers amounting to Forty-Five Thousand Pesos (PhP45,000.00).

In almost a year of operation, the previous RTL chicken inputs had only incurred 50 heads mortality. Among the best practices of the association are effective and efficient management operation through sustained observance of biosecurity measures to prevent the development of diseases that result in animal mortality. Members of the association religiously follow the schedule of daily duties to feed, clean, sanitize, and monitor the animals, as well as other related activities in the farm. They keep the records on sales of produce in the farm.



The association reaches out to other stakeholder to request for assistance in improving its livelihood project and the members' living conditions. In April 2021, due to the active participation of members in socio-civic and economic activities, they reached another milestone. SJDBIFA was



selected as member of the *Greenlihood* Program of the Provincial Agriculturist, for which it received a power tiller with multi-cultivator. The association then allotted a certain amount for the purchase of seeds and other materials necessary for vegetable production, and expenses for land preparation. The produce of its vegetable farm upon harvest was not even enough to supply the demand of the community.

It also joined *Tabo* in the City held in Catbalogan City, an itinerant market event sponsored by the Samar Provincial Government. It allotted Eighteen Thousand Four Hundred Pesos (PhP18,400.00) for the purchase of agricultural produce from its members and other farmers in San Jose de Buan that were displayed and sold in the *tabo*. After two months' participation in the bi-weekly event, the association earned a net income of Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty-Two Pesos (PhP7,822.00).

Nowadays, the association continuously sells the eggs produced by its egg layer production project, and the income is proposed to expand the project with another 300 heads RTL chicken.

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