

SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

BANDILYO

(announcement)



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BANDILYO

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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.

SAAD PPMISO-SAMAR'S 1ST Provincial Assessment for FY 2021

Ceilara A. Uruga, Area Coordinator II, PPMISO-Samar

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) with the Provincial Program Management Services Office (PPMISO) of Samar conducted its 1st Provincial Assessment on April 12, 2021 at the Seed Farm, San Jorge Experiment Station, San Jorge, Samar.

The Municipal Agriculturists and representatives from the 1st District of Samar (LGU San Jorge–Anita Cabral; LGU Matuguinao–Loribeth Morales; LGU Sta. Margarita–Daisy Coningco; LGU Gandara–Lorna Tan; LGU Tarangnan–Trinidad Olaje), representatives of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (Gloria Borja) and City Veterinary Office of Calbayog City (Jason Nunez) graced the activity, together with other stakeholders, farmer –beneficiaries for SAAD projects FYs 2020–2021, consisting of:

Name of Associations	Location
Nagkaurusa nga Kababayan–an San Danao I	Calbayog City
Dagum Hog Developers Association	Calbayog City
Hinugacan Rice Farmers Association	Gandara
Hampton–San Jose Farmers Association	Gandara
Balud Farmers Producers Association	Sta. Margarita
Monbon Farmers Association	Sta. Margarita
Mahanud Farmers Association	Matuguinao
Nagpapacao Integrated Farmers Association	Matuguinao
Bangon Gote Water Sustainability Association	Tarangnan
Vecrofruce Association	San Jorge
San Isidro Farmers Association	San Jorge

PPMISO–Samar Provincial Coordinator Kristine Dorothea T. Danago welcomed the participants.

This assessment served as an opportunity to harness strategies for the effective implementation of various agricultural projects in the province of Samar as it focused on FY 2021 project implementation in the localities, and the progress of previous livelihood projects that have been implemented. The status and milestone accomplishments of the associations were also discussed, including issues/concerns encountered and actions taken.

The activity sparked the interest of the participants, particularly the MAs/MAOs, who vowed to give their LGUs’ total support for the initiatives as it would also redound to the wellbeing of their respective constituents. PC Danago hoped that the cooperation and coordination with LGUs would be sustained throughout the duration of implementation of SAAD projects even beyond FY 2021.



Banana PRODUCTION PROJECT IN JARO, LEYTE

Floriel A. Royo, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Leyte



Banana is one of the leading and most economically important fruit crops in the country today, and the only locally-grown fruit available year-round. It is a consistent top dollar earner with promising prospects in the domestic and foreign markets. The Philippines is among the top 3 banana-producing countries in the world, following India and China (FAOSTAT, 2012). The most popularly planted varieties are Cavendish, Saba, *Lakatan*, *Latundan*, and *Bungulan*. They are grown for different uses/purposes, such as for table dessert, snack foods, banana chips/crackers, etc.

On April 11, 2021, a total of four hundred twenty (420) suckers banana (*Lakatan* variety) was planted on about 0.5-hectare area in Brgy. Daro, Jaro, Leyte. The Daro Integrated Farmers Association (DIFA), the association chosen as beneficiary of the FY 2021 Banana Production Project, received the planting materials delivered on April 8, 2021. DIFA conducted a *pintakasi* (community shared effort) to get the job done. It targets to complete the planting of suckers within a 3-hectare contiguous area.

The association chose to engage in the project because of its easy marketability, bright prospects for local export in the future, and a very high Return on Investment (ROI), according to a three-year cost and return analysis done by the Bureau of Plant Industry in 2016. Besides, the locality is known for its pleasant weather, highly desirable flat terrain, and well-drained, loamy, soil rich in organic matter, which is suitable for banana cultivation. The farmer-beneficiaries are hopeful that in 12-15 months, which is the harvesting period for *Lakatan*, they will reap a bounteous harvest and benefit from the project.

Reference: Definite and Favorable Income in Banana Production, Department of Agriculture High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), 2/F BPI, Malate, Manila.



Series of **CAPABILITY BUILDING TRAININGS FOR FAs IN LEYTE**

Michael F. Dabuet, Information Officer I, PPMSO- Samar



Community Needs Assessment and Capability Building Training for Abango Small Coconut Farmers Association

Chapel, Brgy. Abango, Barugo, Leyte
April 16, 2021

Community Needs Assessment for Jackfruit United of Matag-ob Planters

Brgy. Hall, Brgy. Mansaha-on, Matag-ob, Leyte
April 16, 2021

Community Needs Assessment Training for San Roque Women's Welfare Association

San Roque Covered Court, Brgy. San Roque, Tunga, Leyte
April 15, 2021

Community Needs Assessment and Capacity Building Training for Tunga Leyte High Value Crops Farmers Association

Brgy. San Roque, Covered Court and TLHVFA Office, Tunga, Leyte
April 13-15, 2021

On the first day of training which was on Community Needs Assessment, association members were able to grasp relevant information on how important the project will aid their family, community, and eventually within/outside of their locality in order to achieve food security.

On the second and third day of training, the association was able to even more appreciate the essence of leadership, teamwork, and the right values necessary to reach the target of being successful businessmen/women through SAAD Program. Moreover, the association was even more eager and excited to start the livelihood project.

Updates on conduct of **CNA AND OTHER** CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAININGS IN NORTHERN SAMAR

Francis Lutao, Jr., Provincial Coordinator, PPMSO– Northern Samar

On April 6–8, 2021, SAAD PPMSO–Northern Samar has started the two month-long training on Community Needs Assessment and capacity-building of the twenty-nine (29) beneficiary associations in sixteen (16) municipalities of Northern Samar. The training conducted in April to May 2021 aims to empower and introduce SAAD Program to the farmer-beneficiaries; capacitate and equip them on necessary skills before the implementation of the projects; and ensure the readiness of farmers in accepting the project through social preparation activities, which include values formation, financial management through simple bookkeeping, recording and accounting, community organizing, and basic computer training.

During the first week, simultaneous trainings were conducted to farmer-beneficiaries of the Egg Layer Production Projects of Lipata Farmers and Fisherfolk Association of Brgy. Lipata, Allen and San Juan Farmers and Fisherfolk Association of Brgy. San Juan, Lavezares; Native Chicken-cum-Calamansi Production Project of San Agustin Farmers and Fisherfolk Association; and Vegetable Production Project of San Agustin RIC of Brgy. San Agustin, Lavezares.

Simultaneous trainings were also conducted on April 12–14, 2021 to farmer-beneficiaries of Native Chicken-Calamansi Production Project of Acedillo Farmers Association of Brgy. Acedillo, Victoria and Vegetable Production Project of the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) Libas, of Brgy. Libas, Lavezares. Finally, on April 14–16, 2021, farmer-beneficiaries of Calamansi Production Project of Quezon Integrated Diversified Organic Farming System Farmers Association (QUIDOFSFA) of Brgy. Quezon, Catarman and Rice-Duck Production Project of Tubigdanao Farmers Association of Brgy. Tubigdanao, San Jose, were also conducted with the aforesaid training.



Lipata Farmers and Fisherfolk Association, Brgy. Lipata, Allen, April 6–8, 2021



San Juan FFA, San Agustin FFA, and San Agustin RIC, Brgy. San Agustin, Lavezares, April 6–8, 2021



Acedillo Farmers Association, Brgy. Acedillo, Victoria, April 12–14, 2021



Tubigdanao Farmers Association (QUIDOFSFA), Brgy. Tubigdanao, San Jose, April 14–16, 2021



Rural Improvement Club (RIC) Libas, Brgy. Libas, Lavezares, April 12–14, 2021

SAAD Technical Staff UNDERGO TRAINING ON SOIL SAMPLING

Michael F. Dabuet, Information Officer I, RPMSO



As part of the continuing capability enhancement of SAAD Program personnel involved in field implementation, the FY 2021 Training on Soil Sampling and Soil Fundamental Analysis Protocol was conducted expressly for this purpose. The activity was held in two (2) batches following health protocol regulations at Nanay Delia's Farm, San Miguel, Leyte, on March 25–26; 30–31, 2021.

ARD Larry U. Sultan, SAAD Program Regional Focal Person, delivered his Welcome–cum–Motivational Message at the Opening Program. In it, he instilled in the participants, some of whom are newbies, the essence of the program, which is to arrest hunger by serving the “poorest of the poor,” while addressing food security.

Having set the tone, Ms. Ferlynn V. Basañez, SAAD Program Action Officer, proceeded with the Rationale of conducting such training. It was followed by an expectation–setting and pre–test.

Ms. Kris M. Villarin, OIC Chief, Integrated Laboratory Division, DA–Regional Soils Laboratory, served as Resource Speaker. She discussed the theories of soil sampling and analysis through a video presentation interspersed with short lectures and practical tips on the subject matter. In the afternoon, an actual demonstration/practicum was done onsite.

An added bonus for the participants were lectures on two significant topics

during the 2nd day of each training. For the 1st batch, Area Coordinator Roel Anthony U. Moreno, assigned with PPMSO–Leyte, talked about the project, Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture (AMIA), where he was formerly involved in. On the 2nd batch, Provincial Coordinator Allan M. Brit, PPMSO–Leyte, drawing from his rich experience with the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), lectured on Agro–Enterprise Development–Clustering Approach.

The topics are deemed important in light of climate change effects on the farming environment, wherein field personnel could integrate AMIA practices in their mentoring and coaching sessions with farmers; while Agro–Enterprise Development is equally important because SAAD Program is now geared towards marketing and entrepreneurship, and the principles taught by PC Brit could be shared to farmer–recipients in their journey towards self–sufficiency.

The surprise appearance of a special guest caught the group awed during the culmination of the 2nd batch. Regional Executive Director Leo P. Cañeda, now managing six (6) programs at the head office, delivered his Inspirational Message, where he updated those present on current developments of the agriculture department. In a nutshell, he urged everyone to not only double, triple, and quadruple our efforts in project implementation, but to multiple them in order to reach the end–goal of decreasing poverty incidence within the program duration through provision of livelihood projects.

Selected participants were requested to give their Impressions about the training, after which Certificates of Participation were distributed to the attendees. Ms. Basañez closed the activity with the pep talk encouraging the group to apply their learning in their interactions with farmers.



PPMSO-SAMAR participates in "Tabo in the City. Pa Merkado"

Joel D. Pedraza, APCO/SAAD Program Focal Person for Samar and Kristine Dorothea T. Danago, Provincial Coordinator, PPMSO-Samar



As a way to celebrate this year's national Farmers' and Fisherfolk's Month, the Samar Provincial Local Government Unit through the Provincial Tourism Office, Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, in coordination with other PLGU offices, conducted the "Tabo in the City. Pa-Merkado."

The activity coincided with the Samar Province Food Month celebration, which showcased locally-focused, locally-grown, and locally-sourced agricultural products and farm produce. The combined festival was held at the Capitol Grounds, Imelda Park, Catbalogan City on April 28-May 2, 2021.

PPMSO-Samar readily mobilized the farmers' associations affiliated with SAAD Program to display/sell their farm/poultry products during the 5-day celebration. A total of 25 associations participated in the activity. Of this number, twelve are recipients of the program, and from among these groups, five (5) associations answered the call of the organizers and brought their products to the SAAD booth. They were the following:

1. Mahayagnon Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative, Catbalogan City
2. Cantongtong United Youth Association, Jiabong
3. Cantongtong Agrarian Rice Farmers Association, Jiabong
4. San Jose de Buan Integrated Farmers Association, San Jose de Buan
5. Hilaba Farmers Association, Marabut

Other SAAD groups expressed their willingness to join the *tabo*, but due to the limited area allotted to PPMSO-Samar and transport expense considerations, they backed out from participating. Among the products displayed were table eggs, salted eggs, and poprice produced by CARFA, a recipient of farm

machineries/equipment and Swine Production Project.

According to Provincial Agriculturist Anita R. Taran, the activity is planned to become a regular feature to be held every Saturday. The harvest festival will pave the way for an open market-product relationship, showcasing quality farm harvests and produce, such as vegetables, crops, crafts, and techno-demo exhibits. It is a celebration of thanksgiving for farmers and other stake-holders for the blessings of a bountiful harvest.

Moreover, PA Taran and Ass't. Provincial Agriculturist Reynaldo Robin said, "*Ha amon pakig-atubang han mga parag-uma, mahinungdanon an katititrok kay dinhi namon na-istoryahan ug natagan hin tukib nga pagtagad an mga isyu mahiunong han ira pag-uma.*" (In our dialogue with the farmers, it was a significant event because it was there that issues in farming were discussed and given due attention/consideration.) Even the most isolated barangay and coastal areas were visited by the office to physically assist and monitor the farmers' groups/associations to convince them to market their products in the *tabo* (itinerant market set-up).

The festival featured one large consolidated farmers' market, along with live music, crafts, non-profit showcase, educational exhibits, wholesome family activities, and more.



Social Preparation Activities in **PINABACDAO, SAMAR**

Jeric M. Afable, Area Coordinator II, PPMO-Samar

"Learning is a never ending process, what's important is that you apply what you have acquired in the process of learning."

The Department of Agriculture under the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Samar kicked off its Community Needs Assessment and Capability Building Training for recipient associations under FY 2021 in the Municipality of Pinabacdao, Samar on April 12-14 and 16-17, 2021.



Out of seven recipients, two came from said municipality and successfully completed the three-day training conducted by PPMO-Samar staff with the active participation and assistance of LGU Pinabacdao headed by Municipal Agriculturist Dante O. Gabatbat. The two associations were Botoc Credit Cooperative of Brgy. Botoc and Obayan Farmers Association of Brgy. Obayan. Held in their respective barangays, twenty (20) members and officers per association participated in the activity.

The capability building activity conducted equipped the associations with the necessary skillset, attitude, and drive prior to the delivery and full

implementation of the project.

Among the highlights of the Community Needs Assessment was the essence of organizing a group, association, organization, and cooperative. It became a refresher to the association as it tackled the history, mission, and vision of the group. In this training, leadership roles and responsibilities of both officers and members were fully explained. Good communication as a requisite, especially during conflicts, was likewise set into the mind of participants.

In the capability-building training, the importance of financial management to advance the level of a farmer to an entrepreneur was stressed out. It helped them learn the benefit of having a network of support, how to approach creditors for loans, formulating a strategic business plan, and acquiring the right administrative skills to manage their association.

The training was not only informative and interactive, but it became an avenue for members to express their feelings and address/solve issues in the organization. The participants were very grateful that this activity was conducted. A sentiment from a participant that caught the organizers' hearts said, *"Naiha nala ak nga parag-uma ngan parag-atender hin mga seminar ngan training, pero dinhe pala ak ha SAAD Program naka-attend hin baga tuhay nga training."* (I have been a farmer for a long time now who has been attending seminars/ trainings, but it is only here with SAAD Program that I attended a proper training.)



A NEW Beginning

Allan M. Brit, Provincial Coordinator, PPMSO-Leyte



Sitio Capinhan in Brgy. Damulaan is located in the remote upland areas of Albuera, Leyte. Most residents here are small coconut farmers who rely heavily on planting cassava and sweet potato as their primary source of income. Some of the farmers are also engaged in cutting trees to be made into firewood and charcoal for additional income because their income from farming is simply not enough for the family's basic needs.

For year 2021, SAAD Program granted the Capinhan Farmers Sustainable Livelihood Programs Association the Banana Lakatan and Native Chicken Production projects. Annaly B. Bernales, the association's Vice President who is incidentally eight months pregnant said, *"This is a fresh start for us, smallholder farmers, to have a better income and eventually uplift our living conditions. We are very thankful to the Department of Agriculture through SAAD Program that we were chosen as one of the project recipients."*

During the delivery of the suckers, Barangay Kagawad Leopoldo Castañares Jr., the Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, helped the farmers in transporting the agri-inputs to the planting site by letting them use his own truck. He said that with this, cutting of trees for charcoal and firewood will be put to an end because the farmers will now be busy tending to their new source of income.



Social Prep Training for SAN SEBASTIAN SWINE RAISERS ASS'N

Jasper B. Aguelo, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Samar

A vast area in the municipality of San Sebastian, Samar is devoted mainly to agriculture. In fact, farming is considered as one of the major sources of livelihood for most of the locals. The usual agricultural products they produce are rice, vegetables, and high value crops. Most of the local farmers also raise farm animals in addition to the usual agricultural activities.



There are many farmers' associations organized in said municipality. An example is the San Sebastian Swine Raisers Association (SSSRA), which focuses on breeding and fattening of swine and, at the same time, is also engaged in vegetable cultivation, etc. Thus, because of association's huge involvement in farming, it was chosen as target beneficiary under SAAD Program. As a preliminary activity, a Community Needs Assessment and Capability Building Training were conducted on April 14-16 2021.

The social preparation activity was spearheaded by Area Coordinators Ceira A. Uruga, Roy A. Tabontabon, and Jasper B. Aguelo who served as Resource Speakers. Mrs. Ester Mabao, Municipal Agriculturist of San Sebastian, was also present to give the Inspirational Talk before the CNA started.

The association president together with other officers and more or less 18-20 members participated in the training. This first training conducted by the ACs received good cooperation and interaction of the members who were very participative, especially the president who raised questions regarding SAAD guidelines and the flow of the project. So far, all questions were adequately answered.

Capability building and community needs assessment are helpful tools for the farmers. They serve as starting point to address properly a rural *community's* needs and advocate for improvement; identify the strengths and resources available in the area; and focus on the coordination of association members from organizing, delegation of tasks, up to strategizing in marketing, to facilitate in carrying out project activities. For instance, in Egg Layer Production, the trainers facilitate in conceptualizing what the beneficiaries ought to do from preproduction to marketing of products.

The training enhanced the members' capability to implement the project, encouraged them to be more cooperative, and to always coordinate regarding possible issues/problems that may arise during project implementation and how they may be addressed. Members were encouraged to always abide by agreements between the association and SAAD Program because the project's success depends largely on the cooperation of the members. The training is just a step towards a more facilitative coordination between SSSRA and the program to help them improve their productivity and income.





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