

# SAAD *vocacy*

The official newsletter of the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

**33 NegOr farmers from ELCAC area receive cattle from SAAD**

*by Jolina T. Daño*

**NEGROS ORIENTAL, June 21, 2022** – Thirty-three (33) farmers from an identified End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) area received Php 1.26 million assistance from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA- SAAD) livestock project.

The inputs are the components of FY 2022 Cattle Fattening, Breeding and Dispersal Project in Barangay Talalak, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental.

Tamlang United Farmers Association (TUFA) is a farmer's association (FA) composed of 115 active members (33 SAAD beneficiaries) located in Sitio Tamlang, Barangay Talalak, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental, a far-flung area which takes a 4-5 hour walk from Sitio Avocado in Sta. Catalina.

Most of the TUFA members are corn and banana farmers who grow white-corn for consumption, and bananas for selling. Sitio Tamlang is approximately 36 kilometers away from the town proper of Sta. Catalina, with a rocky unpaved road serviced only by a single motorcycle (habal-habal), which makes it difficult for the farmers to market the produce outside the sitio. The FA members who do not have motorcycles sell their corn and banana products by loading them into carabaos or horses...*continue to p. 2*



**SAAD NegOcc kickstarts training FAs for 2022 livelihood projects**

*by Christ John Gamarcha, Cedie Bataga*

**NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, June 9, 2022** – To improve farmers' capacity for continuous management and sustainability of their livelihood projects, 120 beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program were trained on banana production, native chicken production, and greenhouse management in Moises Padilla, Negros Occidental from May 31 to June 3, 2022.

The training was facilitated by the SAAD Provincial Project Management Support Office (PPMSO) with the assistance of the local government unit.

According to Mr. Jezer John Chispa, the SAAD Area Coordinator of Moises Padilla, the four-day activity gathered 10 members each from Sitio Lemoncito Integrated Farmers' Association (SILIFA), and Barangay Odiong Purisima Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries' Association (BOPARBA); 30 members each from Binhi sang Kauswagan sang Sto. Domingo Integrated Farmers' Association (BISAKASDOIIFA) and Barangay Crossing Magallon Small Farmers' Association (BCMSFA); and 40 members from Tiguisan Haruy Farmers' Association (TIHARFA)...*continue to p. 3*



## Php 1.9M worth of livestock awarded to 7 DA-SAAD IP FAs in Sablayan

by Dianne Francis A. Sy

**OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, June 24, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program awarded livestock (carabeifer and goat) inputs worth Php 1,936,000.00 to Tao-Buhid and Alangan-Mangyan IP farmers.

The three cassava-producing associations were benefitted from the interventions, namely: Bagong Pag-asa ng Katutubong Alangan (BPKA), Malno Luwalhati Farmers Association (MLFA), and Lagutay Cassava Farmers Association (LCFA), while the other two associations under Upland Rice Production are: Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Tao-Buhid sa Malatongtong at Lagutay (SNTBML), and Paysarigan Mangyan Alangan Pandurucan (PMAP). In total, 225 members will benefit from these interventions.

According to Mr. Oliver B. Cosme, SAAD Area Coordinator of Sablayan, draft animals are ideal to use for land preparation as the farmers are situated in geographically disadvantaged areas, making it difficult for machinery to till the land.

*“Ang hiling lang namin ay alagaan ninyong maigi, paramihin at wag ibebenta, para may magamit kayo sa inyong mga bukid. Kami sa Office of the Municipal Agriculturist (OMA) ay magiging katuwang ng SAAD sa pag-monitor ng mga proyektong iyan,”* said Mr. Reynaldo Factor, Municipal Agriculture Officer of Sablayan.

(Our wish to the beneficiaries is for them to take good care of the animals so they can use them for their farm activities and not put them on sale. We, from the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist (OMA), will work with SAAD in monitoring the projects).

On the other hand, SAAD awarded Php 400,000.00 goat production package to 50 indigenous people from two FAs namely: Fakasadian Funan Malatongtong Tagtanuman (FAFUMATA) and Samahang Magsasakang Katutubo ng Pandurucan (SAMA KAPA). The said small ruminant is a preliminary livelihood assistance while waiting for their cacao and coffee seedlings that are currently under procurement process and are expected to be delivered in July 2022.

To ensure fair chances among members, the goats were distributed among the beneficiaries by draw lots. A roll-over scheme was also established following this system of selection to guarantee that all members will receive goats when the first batch reproduces.

Mr. Factor expressed their gratitude on behalf of the beneficiaries, *“Nagpapasalamat kami sa SAAD kasi napili ang mga samahan na ito na mabigyan*

*ng mga ganitong uri ng proyekto dahil angkop na angkop ito para sa [kanila].”*

(We are grateful to SAAD because these associations were chosen to receive interventions that complement their needs).

Sablayan is one of the new SAAD-covered municipalities in Occidental Mindoro in 2022 along with Calintaan as part of the program’s expansion in the province. ###



33 NegOr farmers from ELCAC area...from p. 1



The DA-SAAD Program distributed the interventions to provide cattle for breeding and fattening among beneficiaries in the province. The recipients received the interventions (Table 1) along with drugs and biologics which will be administered by the livestock coordinator after three months to assure the health of the cattle. The FA was provided with cattle for production to enhance the native cattle in Sitio Tamlang into upgraded cattle, which will increase genetic

capability, resulting in larger and heavier cattle.

The distribution was spearheaded by Negros Oriental- Agricultural Program Coordination Officer (APCO) Bernard Limbaga and SAAD Region 7 staff together with the local government unit (LGU) of Sta. Catalina, with the assistance of Army Executive Officer of Bravo Company 11 Infantry Battalion Lieutenant Jonathan Bangibang.

*“Ingon sila ang saad gigama para pakyson, apan kini karon, mao kini ang*

*SAAD nga natuman gayud. Dako namong pasalamat aning mga baka nga among nadawat karon,”* Rufino Canete, TUFA vice president, expressed his gratitude for the program.

(They say that promises are made to be broken, but this SAAD promise is meant to be fulfilled. We are really thankful for the interventions we received today).

SAAD Negros Oriental envisions the farmers in Tamlang to be agripreneurs. In his message to the farmers during the turnover of interventions, APCO Limbaga shares that SAAD provided inputs to address food insecurity. *“Puhon kamo among gi saligan mo supply ug baka sa Negros or diri sa Sta. Catalina. Nindot ang programa sa SAAD, tungod kay dili lamang ang naa sa highway ang mahatagan sa maong programa, apan ang programa sa gobyerno, naabot diri sa inyong lugar. Hopefully, magpadayon ang SAAD ug palanggaon ninyo inyong nadawat,”* he added.

(We trust you to supply cattle in Negros or here in Sta. Catalina in the near future. The SAAD program is great because it not only reached the easy-to-reach areas, but also areas with armed conflict. Hopefully, SAAD will continue and you will take good care of what you have received).

Due to the high cost of mixed bred cattle, TUFA aims to be a supplier of cattle in Sta. Catalina.

Prior to receiving the cattle inputs and support, Sta. Catalina Municipal Agriculturist Renato Cadayday encouraged the farmers to expand their forage farms from 1000 square meters (sqm) to 2,000sqm each to provide food for their cattle.

TUFA committed to strengthen cooperation within its members to maintain and monitor the project’s sustainability.

TUFA will jumpstart training on agro-enterprise, and cattle management, raising, and production in July and September 2022. ###



SAAD NegOcc kickstarts training FAs...from p. 1



All of these associations are situated in the central part of the town regarded as the “livestock capital” of the province. Most, if not all of the members of the said groups are engaging in small-scale backyard raising of animals such as native chicken, goat, and swine. They also grow vegetables in their backyard gardens and their crops include tomato, eggplant, and pole sitaw but their yield is often intended for home consumption.

### Banana Production Training

Provincial Agriculture Office (OPA)-Negros Occidental Coordinator for Banana Commodity, Mr. Joemarie Bitamor, shared his expertise with 10 banana growers from SILIFA and another 10 from BOPARBA on May 31. This is in preparation for the livelihood grants that they will receive by the third quarter of this year.

Both groups from barangays Quintin Remo and Odiong were identified as beneficiaries of this year's banana production project with a proposed amount of Php 207,480. The inputs which are targeted to be delivered by July include 250 banana suckers of saba variety, EM-concentrate microbial inoculant, 100 bags of organic fertilizer, plastic crates, spade, spading fork, hoe, and wheelbarrow.

### Greenhouse Management Training

Greenhouse Technology is the method of growing crops by providing a favorable environment around the year. This mode of cultivation will protect the crop from adverse climatic conditions like wind, cold, precipitation, excessive radiation, extreme temperature, insects, and diseases. Creating an ideal microclimate around the plants is a vital role in this technology.

Thirty (30) farmers from BISAKASDOIFA attended the Greenhouse Management Training on June 1 and another 30 farmers from BCMSFA the next day.

Ms. Flora May Billena, farm manager of Negros First Organic Technology Center and Agriculturist II from OPA-Negros Occidental imparted knowledge on managing greenhouse technology by using enclosed structures to control the environment and its effects on crop growth and production.

Ms. Billena explained that the traditional way to grow plants is under natural environmental conditions, thus, in the case of temperate areas such as in Moises Padilla, it is necessary to utilize greenhouse technology to grow high-value crops year-round in a protected environment.

Through building a greenhouse, Ms. Billena said the environmental conditions are controllable and modified to grow any plant in any place at any time by providing suitable environmental conditions with minimum labor. She also taught farmers to consider the type of crop, time, and sunlight access as essential factors in greenhouse management.

But most of all, Ms. Billena pointed out that it is important to manage the humidity and temperature levels within the greenhouse to keep plants healthy. Having high levels of humidity causes the environment to be too wet, resulting in stressed plants (vulnerable to pests and diseases). Too low humidity will allow the plants to wilt. Certain nutrients like calcium may not be absorbed by the plants

well either if the humidity is too high, while plants cannot grow well if the humidity is too low (Matt W, 2018).

To bolster farming activities, the Program is set to distribute Php 1,929,623 worth of inputs for vegetable production which includes certified seeds of okra, eggplant, hot pepper, bell pepper, pole sitaw, squash; vermi worm; organic fertilizer; plastic crates; digital weighing scale; granular applicator; pump and engine set; greenhouse; and labeling and packaging materials. The two groups with a consolidated land area of 4 hectares for vegetable production will receive these interventions by June and July this year.

### Native Chicken Training

TIHARFA has 40 members who attended the on-site training in Sitio Haroy, Barangay Montilla on July 3.

Ms. Angela Jane Labrador of Negros Occidental Research Outreach Station of the Department of Agriculture Western Visayas led the training on poultry keeping for egg and meat production. Ms. Labrador discussed the establishment of animal housing, different systems of poultry feeding and management, health and hygiene, and raising native chickens as a business.

She also tackled good record keeping as part of project management to keep farmers informed on the costs of production such as feed, medication, and other consumables used in a batch, as well as take corrective actions when the laying hens are not growing or performing accordingly.

Last August 2020, TIHARFA received the Native Chicken Production from SAAD which includes 60 native chickens, 13 bags of poultry feed, and 7 sets of drugs and biologics worth Php 42,000.

From 60, TIHARFA was able to increase the native chicken stocks to 200. The group also earned Php 7,600 from selling eggs at Php 7-8/piece and live native chickens at 6 months old are sold at Php 250-400/head. They bring these chickens to the town's stockyard with buyers from nearby and distant towns. Some of the revenue is used to fund the chicken feed.

### Trainings Lined Up

In Negros Occidental, more specialized training sessions will be scheduled this June and July to promote the sustainability of the project among its members.

Among the technical training sessions lined up are ginger processing, caracow raising, vermiculture, value-adding on banana-based food products, coffee processing, cassava value-adding, and swine production.

Since the start of its implementation in 2019, the SAAD Program in Western Visayas has already expanded its area of coverage from three municipalities to eight. For the past three years, the program was able to initiate 77 social preparation activities such as community needs assessment and capability building training, benefitting 698 individual beneficiaries, and 383 group beneficiaries with 13,419 group members. There were also 184 specialized training conducted across various commodities, capacitating 5,809 individual beneficiaries. ###



## 44 additional ZaNorte FAs receive CapDev training for agri-projects

by Aimee Lou D. Madjus

**ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, June 30, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program conducted a series of Capability Building on Organizational Management and Policy Formulation Training for its new beneficiaries, as part of the Program's Social Preparation component, to ensure readiness and empowerment of the farmers in accepting and managing the project.

A total of 840 new beneficiaries from 44 Farmers Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) in 18 different municipalities of Zamboanga del Norte Province attended the said activity held from May 17 to May 24 held in their respective municipalities.

Out of 44 FCAs, 14 are Indigenous Peoples (IPs) belonging to the Subanen tribe, 11 groups are tagged as End Local Communist-Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas, 16 groups are Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs), while the remaining three are groups of local farmers. All the beneficiaries are farmers, mostly cultivating corn and rice and some high-value crops such as cassava and sweet potato for their food consumption. Some farmers live as tenants who farm coconut, and rubber, among others. After the harvest, the land owner and the farmers will share the income from the harvested produce.

As part of the intensified and localized assistance, the SAAD Area Coordinators (ACs), equipped with sound knowledge on the interventions, led the training and served as resource speakers in their assigned areas. The ACs followed a management framework tackling planning, organizing, staffing, directing, and controlling.

After the lecture, the farmers participated in a workshop where they were tasked to formulate policies for their associations as part of the group's credibility-building on operating as a group. "At the end of this training, our beneficiaries are expected to adopt the basic organizational management system, increase confidence in handling association-based operations management, and establish organizational policies based on the guiding principles of the program," said SAAD Provincial Coordinator, Mr. Roger Dave Gramatica.

Some FCAs already received the livelihood projects under the SAAD Program FY 2022 such as the Banana Production in Siayan municipality; Swine Dispersal, and Swine Raising in municipalities of Sergio Osmeña and Kalawit, and Ginger Production in PMA Roxas and Godod, among others.

Meanwhile, the Native Chicken Raising Projects that will benefit 18 FAs are scheduled to be delivered in the second quarter of 2022.

As SAAD Phase 1 implementation concludes this year, it remains committed in maximizing the resources of the program to serve and tap more farmers-in-need and other vulnerable sectors in the rural areas to encourage food sufficiency and expand income sources. ###

TOWARDS CBE's

## 120 Antique farmers trained on peanut and vegetable value addition

by Cedic Bataga

**ANTIQUE, June 27, 2022** – More than a hundred growers of peanuts and vegetables underwent a four-day training facilitated by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program implementers, aimed at educating farmers on proper food handling, processing, and a quick touch on branding for agribusiness.

Thirty members each from Pangalcagan Farmers Association (PFA) and Talisay Rice Farmers Association (TRFA) for vegetable processing, and 20 members each from Lactudan Farmers Association (LFA), Tibacan Laua-an Farmers Association (TLFA) and Canituan Farmers Association (CFA) in Laua-an, were upskilled on making peanut butter and flavor-coated peanuts. The training was made possible by the SAAD Western Visayas with the assistance of the Local Government Unit



(LGU) through the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) of Bugasong and Laua-an, Antique.

### Vegetable processing

Two separate batches for PFA and TRFA received actual demonstrations on ampalaya and squash pickles-making, and squash noodle production from June 21 to 22. The activity is under the FY 2022 Hog Fattening Enterprise with Vegetable Production Project distributed on May 17.

Enterprise components under this project include meat shop materials and equipment, chest freezer, and weighing scale. Read at <https://saad.da.gov.ph/2022/05/bugasong-fas-benefit-from-da-saads-hog-fattening-project>.

Ms. Maria Leticia Troncoso, Retired Department of Trade and Industry and Department of Science and Technology consultant, served as the training resource person who provided basic knowledge on good

manufacturing practices focusing on food safety and hygiene which are essential to keeping food safety for consumption, secured from foreign elements.

She also demonstrated food cooking techniques – cleaning equipment, separating ingredients, ensuring that food is cooked to the correct temperature, and properly storing cooked food. Practicing these techniques and observing proper packaging and storage helps control respiration rate and ripening.

The participants were also reminded of the etiquettes in food processing, which included but not limited to, washing their hands before and in between sessions, organizing the ingredients before cooking known in french as mise en place, proper use and handling of kitchen materials, as well as the importance of measurements in the process.

PFA Board of Director (BOD) Gregorio Moreno shared how grateful his group is with the enhancement training,



# San Agustin Farmers' promising future through Egg Layer Production

by Kenneth Lowie Jay Biago

## Background

Mondragon is a 3rd class municipality in Northern Samar with 24 barangays and a population of 41,415, based on the 2020 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) census. Due to the high poverty incidence in the municipality, pegged at 51.79% as of 2015, the local government unit (LGU) through the Municipal Agriculturist's Office (MAO) boosts agricultural projects that would significantly help farmers in the long term, particularly those who are facing financial hardships. The LGU partnered with the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA- SAAD) to create income-generating projects that would help ease hunger, especially at the time of the pandemic.

The San Agustin Farmers Association (SAFA) is a farmers' association (FA) located in Brgy. San Agustin, Mondragon organized by the Municipal



Agriculturist's Office (MAO) in 2014 and registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in 2017. The FA is composed of 22 marginalized farmers, aged 20-75 years old, with an average income of Php 3,000 to Php 4,000 monthly, headed by Adelia P. Vicario. Members of the association are rice and vegetable farmers, while some raise livestock such as goat, mallard duck, and swine.

SAFA received various types of assistance

from the LGU, such as the Farmers' Field School (FFS) on organic vegetables (July to December 2014), rice production (November 2016), and corn production (April 2016), as well as rice and vegetable seeds from MAO, Mondragon.

Following these, SAAD Region 8 conducted a needs assessment where SAFA qualified as one of the recipients of the Program's FY 2021 Egg Layer Production and Marketing Project in Northern Samar worth Php 1,860,750.

In November 2021, the FA was also granted a solar panel project by People In Need (PIN) a non-government organization (NGO), which proved beneficial to the group's egg layer production project as there is no electricity yet in their production site. In December 2021, SAAD completed and delivered its agri-interventions to the association.

In preparation for the SAAD project, farmer-members went through social preparation training in April 2021 and technical training in August 2021 facilitated by SAAD Region 8 and supported by Mondragon LGU. The training activities were provided to capacitate the association and enhance their skills and knowledge in handling the Egg Layer Production project's sustainability.

The FA built a 150-square meter poultry house worth Php 155,371 from individual contributions and funds borrowed from the association which served as SAFA's counterpart for the project.

During the first month of production in January 2022, SAFA earned Php 54,045 gross income through selling of the produced eggs in community sari-sari stores (general merchandise), and nearby barangays

As a marketing strategy, SAFA also established a store along the national highway to display and introduce the egg harvests to passers-by and the general public, to easily avail of the product.

SAFA members believe that producing quality eggs makes their product...continue to next page

*"Kang nagligad nga training, nag focus kami sa production kang laswa. Nami kay may follow-up gid na training para sa processing. Kung magduro ang amon laswa sa ulihi, ang sobra ma process na namon,"* Mr. Moreno remarked.

(Last training, we learned how to produce vegetables. It is nice to know that we are provided a follow-up training on processing. If there is abundance in our production, we now know how to process the excess).

## Preparation of peanut by-products

Meanwhile, 20 participants each from LFA, TLFA, and CFA were provided with hands-on training for peanut butter and coated-peanut making under FY 2022 Peanut Production Project, on June 23 to 24.

Ms. Troncoso likewise emphasized the importance of food packaging enumerating three salient points why proper packaging is crucial: to protect the product and prolong its shelf life, to ensure ease of product hauling or transport, and to maximize the use of product labels which serve as a marketing tool.

"This activity is essential to help our farmers earn extra income. What they absorb and apply could help them to strategically minimize overhead costs. Betty Damayon, whom I had conversed with, shared that the techniques will help her cut the expenses in production," said Ms. Troncoso.

Focused on peanut value-added products, Ms. Troncoso presented the various processing stages the peanut had to go through during grinding – from crumbs, to fine ground, to paste and lastly, to smooth and creamy puree. Alternatives to lacking materials and equipment were also introduced and incorporated in the training. Under the project, the recipients will be provided with postharvest equipment such as collapsible dryer, and

enterprise components like peanut grinder, cooking materials, and equipment (bowls, measuring cups, wooden spoon, spatula, working table, sealer, LPG tank, weighing scale, packaging and labeling materials) in July.

Mr. Reynaldo Samsona, President of LFA, commented that the learnings he had gained from the training will be of great help to his association. He shared, "Makita ko gid na pwede namon makwartahan kag ma aplikar ang mga nabuol namon sa training. Dako gid ang amon pasalamat sa SAAD sa paghiwat sang sini nga aktibidad."

(I can see that we can generate income and apply the takeaways we gained from the training. Big thanks to SAAD for conducting this kind of activity).

## Antique Cluster

Antique with four focused areas – San Remigio, Luau-an, Valderrama and Bugasong – has a total budget allocation of Php 91,711,946 from 2019 to 2021 aiding 8,061 members of 202 farmer associations. They received interventions from rice, corn, vegetable, livestock, and poultry projects. For this year, the province has a budget allocation of Php 30,046,540 to be granted to existing SAAD-assisted associations in the form of food production and livelihood interventions, and a series of capability building training. ###



## SUCCESS STORIES

*Tilapia production and value addition...from p. 1*



Their farm sites have a structure to control water flow in and out. Ponds are constructed on land with a gentle slope, with a loamy soil type that can hold onto large amounts of water, adequate water supply, proximity to markets and roads, and availability of fingerlings. Further, the community should be safe and any fish farming activity is acceptable.

To provide an ideal environment for their fish, after each cycle, the group first sun-dried the bottom of their ponds to get rid of unwanted organisms and stabilize the soil. The water potential hydrogen (acidity level) is maintained at 6.5-8.5 pH. Outside of this range, the fish can stress out and weaken their immune system.

Before they release the fingerlings, they make sure that the stocking density is correct for the pond. Overpopulation will promote a higher chance that the fish will compete for food and living space, which can hinder their growth.

These procedures have been the practice of 30 mixed-crop farmers in barangay Colonia, Valencia City, Bukidnon who grouped themselves as Valencia City SAAD Fisherfolks Association (VCSFA) in 2018 chaired by Mr. Hernando Panis.

Each beneficiary's particular pond area at 300 to 500 square meters provided them Php 1,000 to 50,000 gross income per cropping which helped in their daily expenses.

### Group's inclusion in SAAD Program

It was in 2018 when the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program was introduced to the locals in Valencia City through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Northern Mindanao (Region 10). To aid the group and address insufficient capital and production maintenance such as fingerlings

and feeds threaten the livelihood's sustainability, they were picked to receive inputs for Tilapia in Pond Culture Project worth Php 1,500,771.50.

Aside from fishery inputs, they were also provided with a series of training in pond grow-out technology, tilapia satellite hatchery fingerlings production, tilanggit processing, values formation, feed formulation, leadership skill, entrepreneurship, packaging and labeling, and business plan preparation.

The whole project consists of packages from fingerlings to postharvest processing.

### SAAD Project Implementation and Management

Through SAAD and BFAR 10's Technological Outreach Station (TOS), members of VCSFA were given 60,000 fingerlings to be cultivated in two methods: Aquaculture Community-Based Participatory Action Research (AquaCPAR) Technology and Tilapia Culture in Pond (TCiP).

In AquaCPAR, 20 individuals are assigned to each grow 2,500 fingerlings at a pond area of 300-500sqm. After three months of the culture period, female fishes are harvested for tilanggit processing while the remaining male tilapia are grown until five months for commercial purposes.

For TCiP, 10 individuals each with a 300sqm pond area grow 1,000 fingerlings until they reach marketable size in five months.

To determine the growth rate of the fish, the group conducts monthly sampling, checks if there are symptoms of underfeeding and diseases, removes weeds or floating aquatic plants, and monitors the gate occasionally to prevent the entry of other fish species and avoid loss of stock. They also maintained the proper diet of fish, feeding them twice a day (morning and afternoon) to produce fast-growing tilapia with high nutritional value.

While pond culture is a wonderful spawning

*San Agustin Farmers' promising future...from p. 5*

popular in the community. The FA ensures freshly hatched eggs are delivered on time from the production area.

Thus, the association gained regular patrons, some reaching out to them in advance to reserve egg orders.

SAFA considers the SAAD Egg Layer as the biggest livelihood project they received from the Department of Agriculture. The first month of operation was challenging for the FA as they were still learning the production process. But as time went by, with the continuous help of SAAD staff and the LGU, the FA had become adept at the ins and outs of the process.

*"Salamat sa tanan na iyu sakripisyo sa amon, bisan damu an naatubang nga problema sa pagtaga layer, tatalinguhaon ko na maging maupay pa kami sa mga susunod na panahon para diri masayang an iyu inhatag ngan makabulig pa san*

*daku sa amun na mga parag oma,"* SAFA President Adelia Vicario shared during a conversation with SAAD Area Coordinator.

(Thank you for all your sacrifices to us, even though we have encountered problems in this egg layer project, I will do extra effort for us to become good in what we do to not waste what you have given which is a great help to us).

### Plans

SAFA looks forward to the possibility of expanding the project if the demand for eggs in the area exceeds the supply and for other markets yet to be explored in adjacent communities.

The Egg Layer Production project helped SAFA improve the standard of living of its members. So far, they were able to invest in a motorcycle used for the delivery of egg produce to customers, install a new source of water, bought a generator in case their solar panel malfunctions, and paid their balance for the egg layer facility. ###

environment for tilapia resulting in uncontrolled breeding, the members made sure that for the next cropping, they will let the bottom of the pond dry out before the new stocks arrive, in order to kill off any fry and fingerlings that might otherwise interfere with the new production cycle.

### Income from tilapia culture

After five months of proper care and maintenance, the members reported their individual harvests after the fish reached their marketable size (350-500 grams) and were marketed within Valencia City.

They accumulated a gross income of Php 1,385,200 from selling tilapia at Php 100/kg for both AquaCPAR and TCiP culture.

In both methods, the prolific breeding characteristic of tilapia results in size variation at harvest, which is not ideal for the market. So, aside from selling their fresh fish harvest, the group also engaged in tilanggit production to help reduce loss and wastage. Small size tilapia with an average body weight of 50g/pc are dried and packed, commanding a high market price of Php 1,000/kg.

The association has recorded Php 309,625 gross income from tilanggit.

Mr. Ely Lagos shared that for every cropping, each member is required to give 50kg of tilapia (2-3 months old) for processing. The product is sold within the community but the group is hoping to supply it to the whole province of Bukidnon.

With this, tilapia farming in upland areas becomes more practical and profitable.

*"Gwapo kaayo ang impact sa project sa BFAR, ayos kaayo! Nakapalit ko'g mga gamit, naka-tukod ko'g payag. Ang average gyud namo nga ma-income kada harvest kay naa sa Php 30,000. Pasalamat gyud kaayu mi kay naa ning BFAR, sa management wala gyud ko'y maisturya kundi salamat kaayu sa panalangin na inyong gidala diri sa amo,"* said Mr. Lagos.

(The impact of the BFAR project is good. I was able to buy materials for my nipa hut. The average income that we get every harvest is Php 30,000. We are thankful for BFAR and the management, we don't have anything to say but thank you for the blessings you brought to us).

Ever since he received the project from SAAD, Mr. Lagos became an advocate of tilapia farming in their community. He encouraged the farmers to grow it even in their backyard as it will increase family income because it is a good quality food suitable for processing into dried, smoked, or salted dried, and most of all, it grows very fast and reaches the marketable size in less than 6 months.

*"Ang purpose biya gyud sa pagpangisda kay panud-an, dili pangwarta. Pero kini karon naa nata'y panud-an, makapangwarta pa ta. Mao na ang mga miyembro nako sa asosasyon, malipay kay katung mga naay fish pond ako man tung gina-suray sila, akong tan-awn og maayo bah pagka-gama sa ilang fishpond. Limpyuhi og saktu, kugih, ang tubig nindot kai ang tubig usa na siya sa maka-apekto sapangunod sa isda,"* said Mr. Lagos, sharing how he motivates the farmers and fisher in their areas to culture tilapia.

(The main purpose for fishing is for us to have our viand, not income. But the project provided us both. That is why the members of the association are happy. I visited their ponds and see if it was properly constructed. I would advise them to clean it regularly and maintain good water quality because a pond with good water will produce more and healthier fish).

### Group policy

Each member is obliged to pay the Php 50 membership fee and another Php 50 for monthly dues. Also, from the gross income per cropping, they also have to give Php 500 per cropping to the association serving as the group's available fund, saved for the subsequent cropping expense.

*"Parte sa tilanggit, paliton namu ang ilahang produkto (sa individual member) for 100 ang kilo, ibaligya namo sa association dayun ang profit kay mahimong pondo namo sa association,"* shared Mr. Hernando Panis, the association president, referring to the group's tilanggit production.

(For the tilanggit, the association will buy the individual members' product for Php 100/kg of fresh tilapia, then we consolidate it, and the profit will be deposited to our savings account).

### Enterprise development

With the feed formulation equipment and shed provided by the program, the group is planning to produce their own feeds for tilapia to minimize the cost of buying commercial feeds. Feed processing involves grinding of raw materials, sieving, weighing, mixing, pelleting, drying, and storage. They will also allow other fisherfolk to buy from their feed composition from raw materials like fish meal, rice bran, copra meal, and cassava.

With that cost reduction, they can expand their areas from 300 to 500sqm and 600 to 1,000sqm.

They will also increase their tilanggit production to ensure project sustainability, with the hope to meet all the requirements for Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) application for them to be recognized as a cooperative. ###



## For and by the community: blooming SAAD poultry enterprise

by Jovinel M. Gianan

**CATANDUANES, June 29, 2022** – Despite the distance from the town proper, 15 members of the Cagraray Duck Raisers Association (CDRA) from Barangay Cagraray, Bato continue to sustain their egg production business through the assistance of the Department of Agriculture- Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's Duck Production Package.

The association received Php 672,000 worth of agricultural interventions last August 2021, which included 400 ducks, laminated sacks (40 pieces), duck feeds-layer (180 bags), duck feeds-grower (120 bags), linear feeder-1 ft (80pcs), duck drinker (80pcs), and plastic screen (8 rolls).

### On poultry enterprise

CDRA sustains its project in a

400 square meter (sqm) lot owned by the association's president, Mr. Jesus Torzar in Barangay Cagraray, a remote area located in the northern part of Bato, Catanduanes. The barangay only consists of 176 households according to Barangay Cagraray's records. Reaching this community requires a 25 to 30-minute land travel. Further, to go to their poultry area, one must endure a 15-20-minute mountain trek.

In September 2021 the association started to harvest and sell fresh duck eggs from their poultry area. As of April 2022, they have accumulated an initial income of Php 34,866.00

Despite being in a far-flung barangay, the association finds no difficulties in selling the eggs as the product is easily advertised through word of mouth within the small area. Further, fresh eggs are sold to walk-in clients by displaying them inside the mini store of Mr. Torzar.

Their accumulated revenue will proceed to the association's circulating fund and some portion will be allotted for their plan of procuring their own incubator.



This would aid them in hatching eggs and replacing the old ducks with new ones.

Apart from managing their poultry project, some members venture into fishing and rice, abaca, and copra farming, while the rest of the members toil as tenant farmers.

In October 2021, members of the association underwent training on poultry production and enterprise development where they were able to learn to process egg products such as "balut" and salted eggs – products which they intend to sell in the future to expand their business.

As the demand for their product grows, they are planning to add more ducks



which will be available also for sale. Likewise, they will venture into value-added products as mentioned above.

To add, Mr. Torzar, on behalf of the association, expressed their gratitude to the DA-SAAD Program. *"Gapasalamat po ako sa SAAD ta dai sinda gapabaya. Padagos kaming tiga tuwangan nangin mapadagos ining project na tinaw samuya. Mabalos na sobra. Dakulang tuwang ini saamo"* (I am thankful to DA-SAAD for never leaving us behind. They continuously help us in sustaining this project entrusted to us. Thank you so much. This is a big help to us), said Mr. Torzar. ###

DIRECTOR IN ACTION

## Program Director visits Buenavista Bohol fishing community, leads turnover

by Jolina Daño



scan to see projects implemented in Buenavista, Bohol

**BOHOL, June 17, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's official visit continued in an oyster farm in Bohol, monitoring the project status of 45 fisherfolk who are being provided technical assistance despite budget support conclusion in 2021.

The Cambuhat Enterprise Development and Fisheries Association (CEDFA) with 35 members (35 SAAD, 66 all members), and Bato Aquamarine and Mangroves Development Association with 10 SAAD members, both Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)-SAAD beneficiaries in Cambuhat, Buenavista, Bohol, were visited and granted with Php 131,800.00 worth of post-harvest.

### BFAR-SAAD fisherfolks support in Buenavista Bohol

From 2019 to 2021, BFAR-SAAD has given a total of Php 2,879,239.70

projects to Buenavista.

Read for BFAR-SAAD Background in Bohol: <https://saad.da.gov.ph/2021/07/bfar-saad-allots-php-11m-for-fishery-projects-on-its-final-year-of-implementation-in-bohol> Cambuhat Featured story: [https://saad.da.gov.ph/2021/02/the\\_world\\_is\\_my\\_oyster](https://saad.da.gov.ph/2021/02/the_world_is_my_oyster)

In 2021, 35 out of 45 members of the CEDFA harvested a combined 9.786 metric tons of oysters through the SAAD project.

In December 2021, during the Typhoon Odette, one (1) unit of 40 square meter balsa (bamboo raft) submerged in the mangrove areas. While the typhoon brought massive destruction to vast agriculture and fisheries structures and lands in the province, the flash flood may have helped the fishers eradicate the hila-hila disease or infestation parasite that eats the oysters.

In the attempt to continue with their livelihood, the FA led the resumption of their oyster culture by doing minor repairs to the two rafts poles that survived the typhoon. In March 2022, the activity

is up and running with the FA starting to put mollusk shells in the balsa, which will be harvested from September to October 2022 (seven to eight-month culture).

According to CEDFA President, Felipe Estorgio, oysters are harvested on an order basis where each bucket weighs 10 kilograms (kg), valued at Php 200.00, and are sold to locals. Fisherfolks can sell an average of 2-3 pails per transaction while also offering viand from their harvests.

### BFAR-SAAD post-harvest support turn-over

SAAD National Program Director Myer G. Mula spearheaded the turn-over ceremony of the FY 2021 Post Harvest and Value Added Oyster Processing Materials to the CEDFA in support of the value-adding activities and oyster processing of said association, the program's last installment of support.

CEDFA forms an internal agreement with the Bato Aquamarine and Mangrove Development Association (with 10 SAAD member-beneficiaries) to share the post-harvest and oyster processing equipment.

Dir. Mula lauded the fisherfolk for their continued efforts despite adversities from the pandemic and the typhoon. "Sustainability depends on the way you market the harvests and manage the interventions you receive; your association has the potential for expansion. If this is managed, your income is assured," he shared.

The director also visualizes fisherfolk's integration into gardening and other agricultural engagements, to address food insufficiency in the community.

In response, Buenavista Municipal Mayor expressed gratitude to the program for providing support to the CEDFA and Bato Aquamarine and Mangrove

Development Association. "I thank SAAD for extending their help to our fisherfolks here. *Sana hindi matapos ang SAAD, ug unta pangaon ninyo ang mga nadawat nga gamit ug intervention para mo lambo ug isipon nga matag maharvest, bunga kini sa paningkamat nato,*" Mayor Duallo shared during the turn-over.

(I thank SAAD for extending their help to our fisherfolks here. I am hoping for the continuity of the program, and that you will take good care of the interventions and materials you received. May you prosper and acknowledge them as the fruit of your hardships).

As of writing, they are in the 3rd cycle in oyster farming and are striving to push for sustainability and expansion as an association.

The post-harvest and value-added materials for the oyster project have a total budget worth Php 121,400.00 to aid CEDFA in managing and encouraging value-adding activities. The livelihood provision includes the following interventions below.

APCO-Bohol, Aurea Madrio, encourages CEDFA's steady production to be considered for linkage and partnership with the Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division of the Department of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, the DA regional arm will connect with the Municipal Agriculturist, Lino Divinagracia, and the local government unit to support fisherfolk who cultivate crops in their area and introduce them to other support programs.

Looking forward, CEDFA members are set for training on oyster processing and value-adding in July 2022. ###

## SAAD National Director interacts with NegOcc FAs

by Christ John Gamarcha

**NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, June 22, 2022** – To personally assess project implementation as well as provide recommendations to the continuous development of projects in the province, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program National Director Myer G. Mula, visited six farmers' associations (FAs) in Negros Occidental from June 20 to 22, 2022.



Dir. Mula briefly met with the SAAD regional and provincial implementers in Talisay City on June 20 before proceeding to monitor and evaluate projects.

As the concurrent National Deputy Director of Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), Dir. Mula also emphasized the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS) in decreasing reliance on inorganic inputs while addressing the effects of rising cost of fertilizers worldwide.

BFS is a holistic term in strategizing the application of specific-site nutrients to the soil in optimum quantities and in the right proportion through appropriate methods, in a time most suited for specific crops. It is the usage of foliar fertilizer and combined organic and inorganic inputs to the soil to help enhance its health and prevent the decline of fertility.

Joining the director in this three-day activity were SAAD Alternate Focal Person Jenny Babe Torrenueva, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Esther Ruth Torreverde, Regional Program Management Support Office staff, Area Coordinators, Regional Agriculture Fishery Information Section staff Joan Capaciete, and FPA Focal Person for Negros Occidental Francis Felimon Villamon.

### Vegetable Production

**June 20.** The team visited the 1-hectare communal farm of the Pandanon Integrated Upland Small Farmers' Association (PIUSFA) with 29 registered members in Barangay Pandanon, Salvador Benedicto.

The group became a beneficiary of SAAD's Vegetable Production Project from 2019 to 2021. They were provided with vegetable seeds, ginger rhizomes, fertilizers, pesticides, farm tools, draft animals, and machinery worth Php 2,143,046.49. Prior to the distribution of farm inputs, the group was trained on bookkeeping, leadership enhancement as well as farming system covering land preparation, seed propagation to transplanting, fertilization, manual pollination, trellising, irrigation, integrated pest management, and proper harvesting procedures.

Apart from their communal area, each of the PIUSFA farmers cultivate individual farms with a total land area of 5 hectares. Since they already have an established market for their vegetable produce, Dir. Mula challenged farmers to strengthen their farm consolidation system. Now that harvest season for their tomato is set this July, the group vowed to improve consolidation of their vegetable produce which would greatly reduce their cost of operations, attain bountiful harvests and earn bigger incomes.

PIUSFA farmers likewise received recommendations to produce their own organic fertilizers and eventually register their association to be a certified fertilizer distributor in the town.

### Lowland vegetables

From the start of growing pesticide-free vegetables such as tomato, ampalaya, eggplant, bell pepper, and okra up until this year's planting season, the group so far generated a gross income of Php 22,545 from their first and second cropping cycle.

For the third cycle in December 2021, they planted okra, eggplant and bell pepper using the seeds



they saved from their previous cycle in hopes for a productive harvest. However, the group incurred low yield due to crop damages brought by typhoon Odette. Since they weren't able to trade vegetables, most of their harvest was only used for consumption of its members.

The crops are being consolidated and sold to Alter Trade, a local non-government organization that focuses on marginalized farmers, especially the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs). They also trade their produce to the local market.

### Ginger

The selected 10 first-in-line beneficiaries to grow ginger cultivated the 1,000 kilograms (kg) of rhizomes provided in May 2021 on a three-hectare combined farm area. About 8 months after the plant had blossomed, 6 of the first-in-line beneficiaries were able to harvest from January to February 2022, yielding 3,210kg of ginger. They sold their produce to a vegetable supplier based in Bacolod City at Php 30/kg.

The members reported a combined gross income of Php 93,500 after digging up 3.3 tons of ginger.

Read PIUSFA's story featured here <https://saad.da.gov.ph/2022/05/negocc-organic-farmers-spice-up-planting-through-ginger-farming-leading-to-healthy-yield>.

In his message, Dir. Mula encouraged farmers to be role models for their children who are expected to follow their footsteps in bolstering the agriculture sector.

*"Kayong mga farmers ang maging ehemplo sa inyong mga anak, na siyang susunod sa inyong mga yapak (As farmers, you should set as an example to your children, who will follow your footsteps). We are already setting the road for sustainability of your production,"* he said.

Dir. Mula also stressed that whatever interventions the DA-SAAD program has given to farmers' association, may it be poultry, livestock, vegetable, corn, rice, and even aquaculture production, a roll-over scheme for the association is a must to manage the sustainability of their projects.

Mr. Villamon, for his part, explained to farmers the factors leading to the fertilizer price hike and encouraged them to practice the Balanced Fertilization Strategy (BFS). Farmers were advised to utilize organic fertilizers by using their farm wastes such as chicken manure and leguminous

crops to help improve and enhance soil fertility and structure.

He also asked for the farmers' cooperation to report dealers of unregistered fertilizers as FPA prohibits the sale or distribution of adulterated or substandard fertilizer or fertilizer supplements.

### Egg Production

**June 21.** The group monitored two FAs in Calatrava, namely: Barangay Ani-e Small Farmers' Association (BASFA) in Barangay Ani-e and Sagasa Integrated Fisherfolks Association (SASIFA) in Barangay Mahilum.

Both BASFA with 34 members and SASIFA with 56 members manage the Chicken Layer Egg Production Projects which were implemented in September 2021. They also built animal housings for their ready-to-lay pullets through the dagyaw or bayanihan system as part of their counterpart to the SAAD livelihood interventions.

From September 2021 to May 2022, BASFA earned a gross income of Php 100,000 while SASIFA reported a revenue of Php 53,970.

In Toboso, Dir. Mula also inspected the Chicken Layer Egg Production Project managed by the Barangay Bandila Canubgan Farmers' Association (BBCAFA) with 40 registered members. Delivered in September last year, the group's poultry venture generated a net income of Php 44,615.

Read BBCAFA's egg production story here <https://saad.da.gov.ph/2022/03/egg-citing-story-in-toboso-flourishing-saad-egg-production-project>.

Dir. Mula's last stopover was the Binhi sang Kauswagan sang Sto. Domingo Integrated Farmers' Association (BISAKASDOIFA) in Barangay Crossing Magallon, Moises Padilla...*continue to next page*



whose poultry venture was featured here: <https://saad.da.gov.ph/2022/05/bountiful-egg-ri-preneur-from-saad-poultry-project>.

Meanwhile, Mr. Villamon encouraged farmers to use chicken manure as fertilizers either for backyard vegetables or high-value crops because it is very high in nitrogen and also contains a good amount of potassium and phosphorus. To safely use chicken manure, Mr. Villamon said it needs to be properly handled to turn it into a soil enhancer or compost. Composting mellows down the nitrogen content and makes the manure suitable for the garden. It gives the manure time to break down some of the more powerful nutrients so that they are more usable by the plant.

Most of the associations engaging in chicken egg production face challenges on the project's sustainability. Thus, Dir. Mula advised the associations to replenish their RTL stocks six months before reaching their peak of production for a continuous egg supply for the whole year.

Acknowledging to Dir. Mula's recommendation, each group plans to cull their chickens when they reach their peak of production. The income from the culls will be added to their savings so they could restock their poultry project.

For SASIFA, the group is set to receive 15 sets of RTL next week, with fabricated cages and waterers already delivered in their area late May. However, the group has yet to build a housing facility to protect laying hens from extreme weather conditions and wild predators. For their part, they vowed to complete the structure for the RTL by weekend so as to provide a conducive facility for a productive poultry project.

### Corn Production

Dir. Mula's team also visited the Mahilum Owakon Basag Corn Farmers' Association (MOBACFA) in Barangay Mahilum, Calatrava.

In 2020, MOBACFA received 65 bags of certified corn seeds coupled with fertilizers, pesticide, farm tools, draft animals and corn sheller. They planted their corn seeds in their respective farms with a consolidated land area of 55.5 hectares.

The group was able to harvest four times in two years with an average yield of 30 bags per hectare. To date, MOBACFA has accumulated a net income of Php 119,000 from 2020 to 2021.



### Collaborative Efforts for Farmers

**June 22.** Dir. Mula together with Mr. Villamon and the SAAD regional and provincial team had a chance to have a consultative meeting with personnel of the Universal Robina Corporation and Bureau of Plant and Industry (BPI)-La Granja Branch, both in La Carlota City, Negros Occidental.

Both parties agreed to strengthen collaborations and fortify joint initiatives with the agriculture department to further extend assistance to marginalized farmers in Negros Occidental.

Dir. Mula discussed with La Granja National Crop Research and Development Center (LGNCRDC) Center Chief Doris Paz Discaya and Senior Agriculturist Marie Girle Laud, and Region 6 National Crop Research and Development and Production Support Center (NCRDPSC) Chief Richard C. Millanes possible agreements such as the provision of corn seeds as well as conduct of training on seed banking so farmers would be able to produce their own seeds and eventually be the main source of quality seeds of their respective towns.

"Organic production training for SAAD beneficiaries can be conducted in our BPI compound training facility. These specialized training is given to our beneficiaries like seed production technology, organic rice seed production and organic vegetable production," said Ms. Laud.

Other concerns were tackled such as the sourcing of corn seeds for SAAD beneficiaries from Calatrava and Moises Padilla. Acting on this point, Ms. Laud reiterated that a letter of intent must be immediately endorsed to their office since one of their targets are associations for the seed distribution.

Dir. Mula, for his part, emphasized the need to strengthen farmers' associations and give them proper training and create a standard by-law to incorporate in their guidelines, such as the percentage of produced seeds to be sold apart from seeds utilized for production.

*"Hindi lang production ang gusto namin malaman na teknolohiya ng ating mga farmers. Ang enterprise plan din nila para makabenta at ma-sustain ang production area,"* Dir. Mula said.

(We want farmers not only to be informed about the production through technology. But also their plans to market and sustain their production area through enterprising). ###

### DEVELOPMENT

## Staff of SAAD-Region 13 undergoes refresher course on community organizing

by Mark Angelo C. Pineda

**BUTUAN CITY, June 3, 2022** – To improve the competencies of staff in community organizing and needs assessment, 14 regional and provincial staff of the DA Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program underwent a refresher course training on May 30-31 in Dottie's Place Hotel, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.

Community organizing is central to the groundwork of the SAAD Program. It is among the recurring field activities under the Social Preparation component to address the needs of the farmers.

The training organized by the regional office, reintroduced the basic concepts of organizing communities and various tools for assessing their needs. Planning and budgeting for a livelihood project was also tackled as SAAD heads towards community based enterprise establishment.

Resource person Ms. Marisol D. Tuso, a development communication practitioner and an instructional system specialist, emphasized the goal of effective community organizing, which is to assist the farmers in empowerment, to overcome various endeavors, which includes managing the project, and the organization.

"As community organizers, we have to remember that the farmers are our partners for development and not just mere recipients of government interventions. We can do this by helping them realize that we have a shared goal," she added.

Ms. Tuso highlighted that the center of the development are the farmers' as partners of the program. This way, the community members' agency is fostered as well as grassroots-led development is fostered.

In her welcome message, Regional Technical Director Rebecca Atega encouraged the SAAD staff to internalize the fundamentals of community organizing.

"May this refresher course help us, the program, in improving our field



processes. With this, I encourage you all to truly internalize, by heart, the importance of community organizing and assessing the needs of our clientele so that we can better serve them," said Regional Technical Director Atega.

Five area coordinators of the program underwent similar training in 2018. Aligned with the OneDA Reform Agenda, the training is among the continuous efforts of the DA to further hone the technical skills of its personnel. By capacitating them, farmers will effectively contribute to transforming the agriculture sector in their communities. ###

## Farm inputs and machinery benefits 100 FRs thru MATG

by Jo Ann Sablad

**BUKIDNON, June 13, 2022** – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program granted Php 299,650 worth of planting materials and machinery to around 100 former rebels (FR) assisted inside the camp of the Philippine Army in Kalilangan, Bukidnon through the Mindanao Army Training Group (MATG).

According to DA Regional Director Carlene Collado, on May 27, 2022, the provision of farm inputs and machinery was delivered to the camp as part of the agricultural department's support to Executive Order No. 70, adhering to the ELCAC initiatives of the government.

Among the interventions provided by SAAD were 100 durian seedlings, 50 rambutan seedlings, 20 packs of vegetable seeds, 60 bags of organic fertilizers, two knapsack sprayers, two wheelbarrows, four shovels, and a mechanical corn sheller.

The MATG will distribute the seedlings to selected line battalions, who will facilitate the turnover to the former rebels to encourage them to propagate crops and fruits in their areas. MATG Commander Colonel Ciriaco A. Lomas-e Jr. extended his gratitude to DA 10 for the livelihood intervention. The corn, fruit, vegetable, and livestock inputs shall help the beneficiaries in their transition to mainstream society, and will be distributed to other SAAD-covered and identified ELCAC areas.

### MATG Livelihood Enhancement Program

The MATG is the sole military training camp of the Philippine Army in Mindanao, located at Camp Kibaran



Military Reservation, Malinao in Kalilangan, Bukidnon.

The vast area of the MATG, the second largest military reservation after Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, covers the municipalities of Talakag, Pangantucan, Kallilangan, Bukidnon and Wao, Lanao del Sur. The army line battalions in these areas will greatly benefit from the MATG as one of DA's multiplier farms for their community livelihood program.

*"Sa Philippine Army, meron tayong tinatawag na Military Livelihood Enhancement Program. Ang layunin non is para matuto – mabigyan ng kaukulang kakayahan at kaalaman ang mga tao sa subordinate units' ng army sa mga ibat ibang livelihood endeavors,"* Col. Lomas-e Jr. said.

(In the Philippine Army, we have what we call the Military Livelihood Enhancement Program. It aims not only to learn but also to equip the people in the subordinate units of the army with the relevant skills and knowledge in various livelihood endeavors).

Under the Military Livelihood Enhancement Program, various crops are cultivated, including corn, vegetables, and fruit trees. Livestock and poultry animals such as goats, native pigs, cattle, and free-range chickens are also raised which were provided by the DA regular programs that are then used for the community service projects of the army. ###

## visit the saad-web @ 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).



## check our latest issues:



# 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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