

SAAADventures

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Volume 3 Issue 11

Infographics and stories of
empowered **farmers** and **fishers**



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Editor's Note

Jessamae Gabon | Editor-in-Chief

Looking back, it has been an honor to be exposed to the creation of the SAADventures since it was reactivated and made dynamic by our Director, Dr. Myer G. Mula, encouraging us to truly draw out the essence of the success stories of our farmers in the province. His direction toward intensifying enterprise development efforts that reflect the communication brand of the program is what the whole team has been bustling about.

With all the stories that we shared throughout the years, we are happy to report that we have made great leaps in terms of advancing the quality of life of our farmers and fishers, from providing food on the table to contributing to their investments whether material such as house renovation, phones for the education of the children, tuition for their schooling, expansion of their cultivation areas, to transforming them as agripreneurs.

We have seen farmers and fishers' associations already providing a supply of agricultural and fisheries commodities to their community, creating consistent patronage in the neighboring areas, some of them conducting *kawanggawa*, such as assisting locals during the COVID-19, or conducting feeding programs and other assistance.

We also made advancements in terms of engaging the minorities deprived of basic social services and job opportunities, displaced, and geographically isolated individuals, giving them a chance to steer their livelihood, and fostering creativity and collaboration between community members.

In terms of livelihood and entrepreneurship, you may find in other SAADventures issues the featured stories of indigenous people continuing the legacy of their culture by creating traditional food and by-products, some associations offering manual labor to mechanized services because of the machines provided by the program, and some making marks on industrial crops production, activating local linkages.

All of these led to the establishment of the community-based enterprise, another main objective of the program, where aside from self-sufficiency, farmers and fishers are encouraged, equipped, and trained through the opening of access to extension programs, to organize into groups and foster leadership, tap into local geographic and cultural potentials and networks.

If there is one thing that this program continues to amaze me, is its capacity to mobilize not only the available resources but instill values and attitudes focused on the development of rural marginalized communities.

Dear readers, we are down to the last issue for this volume. Please find these inspiring stories from the Eastern Visayas, featuring crop, poultry, and livestock farmers, across sectors, including the youth to attain food and economic security in their communities.

Padayon.

Director's Message

In this issue, we will get to know more of the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA- SAAD) Program in Eastern Visayas where the implementation of agri-livelihood projects started in 2017.

Eastern Visayas has the most number of provinces covered by the program. Project execution for the farmers and fishers in 5 provinces is not an easy feat. We faced major hurdles, such as the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, economic crisis brought by local and national disputes, rising fuel cost and fertilizers, crops and animal diseases, and natural calamities that affected especially the farming and fishing communities.

All these factors have a direct impact in the agriculture and fishery sectors, however we remain steadfast in our goal by providing marginalized farmers and fishers the required livelihood projects and community-based enterprise interventions.

For this issue, five farmers' associations (FAs) shared their successful journey ranging from swine production and fattening, ginger production, and layer chicken.

One exemplary association is the Cantongtong United Youth Association (CUYA) from Northern Samar, mostly sports-minded teenagers leaned into farming to support their parents via mixed-crop farming activities. Wanting to earn to back-up their family needs, these teenagers formed the CUYA. The program granted the association with Egg Layer Project package, and a series of capability and technical management training to intensify management skills.

Their persistence was not disappointing but further sustained the project by expansion and marketing its produce in their community. These achievements paved the way to be recognized, even claiming cash prizes from government and non-government organizations which was used to intensify their project.

This only shows that agriculture is this country's FUTURE. With proper opportunities, assistance, and guidance from both national, provincial and municipal implementers, we can definitely uplift lives and strengthen associations.

For this, I want to extend my gratitude to the regional, provincial and municipal facilitators who work hard to make sure that the projects executed are apt and just for the needs of the communities.

Profoundly, I would like to thank our farmers and fishers who day to day provide food to our table.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Myer G. Mula'.

MYER G. MULA, PhD
Director,
SAAD Program

RED's Message

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program has consistently performed exemplarily well since it commenced operations in Region 8 in 2017. It has grown leaps and bounds in project coverage – service area and beneficiaries-wise, and endeared itself to the hearts and minds of farmers and fisherfolk it has touched. As to accomplishments, SAAD Region 8 has likewise fared beyond expectations in national rankings alongside other top achieving regions.

Admittedly, it also had its share of challenges, particularly at the onset of program implementation, but as it coasted along, directions became strategic and well-defined until gradually field officers became accustomed to them, resulting in smooth project execution in all priority SAAD-covered provinces.

At the penultimate year of the program, the drive to excel and achieve the twin goals of poverty alleviation and provision of livelihood opportunities in the agricultural and fisheries sector remain paramount. It is critical that the footprints which left imprints in SAAD-covered areas through the interventions conducted are sustained and multiplied with the active support of local governments and cooperating agencies, so the legacy will cascade to future generations.

I congratulate those responsible for formulating this magazine, SAADventures 2021, for painstakingly incorporating detailed information about milestones that were accomplished by the regional program implementation this year. I hope this document serves as inspiration to all key stakeholders, specifically the project staff, agricultural extension workers, and others who are in similar endeavors.

Have a good read!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angel C. Enriquez'.

ANGEL C. ENRIQUEZ, CESO III
Regional Executive Director,
Eastern Visayas



The Department of Agriculture- Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program implementation in Region 8 started in 2017 in Samar, Northern Samar, and Eastern Samar and 2018 in Leyte, and Southern Leyte.

A total of 120 livelihood projects focused on rice, corn, high value crops, along with livestock and poultry were implemented benefitting 17,185 individuals and 759 farmer associations throughout the region. The total project cost for the past five years is Php 687,313,200.

To capacitate the farmers to manage the interventions, SAAD Region 8 also conducted 562 specialized training and 470 social preparation activities from 2017 to 2021.

SAAD *Eastern Visayas*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Php 687,313,200
total budget allocated



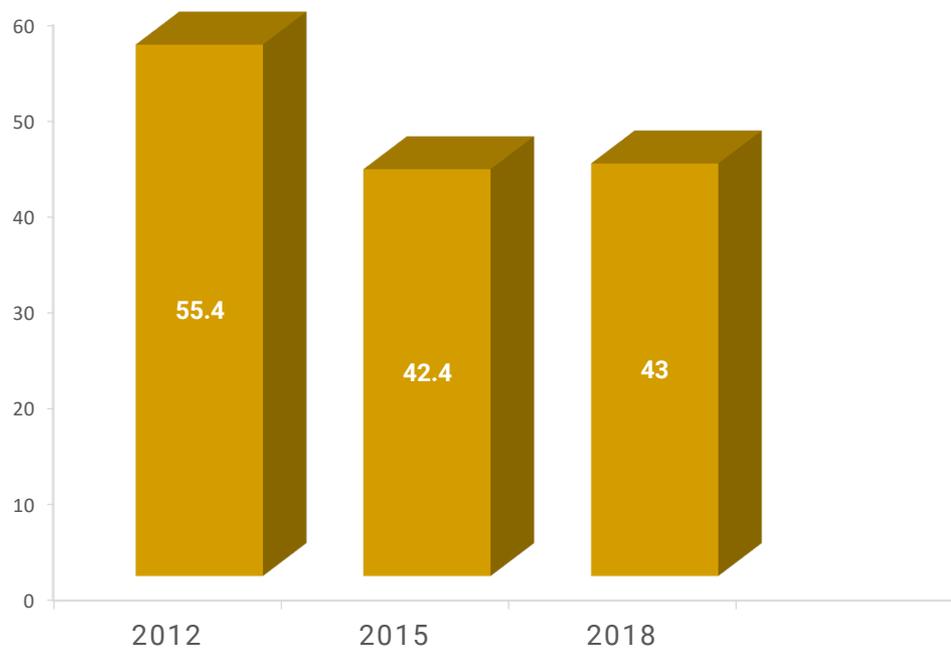
eastern samar

PROVINCIAL PROFILE

Located in the Eastern Visayas region, Eastern Samar has a total land area of 461,720 hectares (ha) and a population of 477,168 based on the 2020 Census of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). The province comprises 22 municipalities and 1 city.

POVERTY SITUATION

Poverty Incidence among Families (%)



AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

A total of 237,785ha or 51.5 percent total land area in Eastern Samar is dedicated to agriculture. Ninety-five (95) percent of this or 225,896ha are croplands composed of commercial crops such as coconut, abaca, banana, and pineapple while the rest are for root crops, and *palay* (unhusked rice).

For the poultry sector, the province has the highest production of native or improved chicken, while swine has the highest production for livestock. In 2019, PSA recorded that the province produced 111,668 chicken and 19,210 swine.

SNIPPETS FROM THE

We are all aware that when a province becomes part of the SAAD program, it means a lot of families are considered poor. Can you describe or tell us more about the poverty situation in the province?

Poverty in Eastern Samar has been evident over the past decades. It is highly observed among the most vulnerable sectors in the community where most of our dear farmers and fisherfolks belong. Based on the PSA, poverty incidence among families in Eastern Samar was recorded at 43% in 2018, slightly higher than the 42.4% in 2015 but significantly lower than the 55.4% in 2012. This means that 43 out of 100 families are poor.

The decline in the poverty incidence could be credited to the continuous implementation of sustainable livelihood programs which served a large number of households in the province. One of these is the implementation of agricultural intervention through social preparations and packages of livelihood interventions of the Department of Agriculture- Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

What can you say about the SAAD implementation in your province?

Since 2017, the program has already implemented 27 livelihood projects which benefitted 7,971 farmers from 182 farmers associations from 101 Barangays all over the province. These projects have given the beneficiaries the opportunity to generate additional income which eventually improves their lives. According to the farmer beneficiaries, the projects they received not only gave them additional income but also enlightened them that farming can turn into a business where they can generate bigger profits. The program became the farmers' stepping stone towards dreams that initially seemed impossible.

What were the problems you encountered during the program implementation? What were the solutions you've made?

Though the program was able to support thousands of individual farmers in the province, the implementation still needs to continue to reach more remote areas where the majority of farmers need assistance.

Moreover, most FAs with big ticket projects are now in the phase of expanding the projects and developing it into a bigger enterprise, especially the FA beneficiaries of egg layer production and swine production. Swine production project beneficiaries such as the Aginaldo Livestock Producers Raisers Association (ALPRA) not only produce piglets but also engage in swine fattening to increase their income. In the near future, the FA also plans to engage in meat processing. Also, the Tabi Rice Planters Association not only sell their produce from the Vegetable Production Project, but engage in consolidating agri-products in their locality where they trade it in their "bagsakan" center located in the municipal public market. This 2022, there are at least five (5) established agri- enterprises in the province through the support of the program as well as linking them to other agencies.

In the new thinking for agriculture and fisheries, DA envisions farmers and fishers to become agripreneurs. That has been the mission of the SAAD Program since 2018. Tell us about the SAAD enterprises that were developed in your region.

SAAD Eastern Samar takes the challenge as they continuously ensure that the implementation of the project is at its best even with the threat of the COVID 19. The team believes that constant monitoring prevents problems from arising as issues and concerns are addressed as early as possible so that they may not create bigger dilemmas. In terms of resolving issues and concerns, the team firmly coordinated with the local government unit (LGU) through the office of the municipal agricultural services.

E FIELD

Moreover, during the second quarter of 2021, when the implementation of the project for FY 2021 started, conducting trainings had been a real challenge. There were community quarantines enforced as cases of COVID-19 continuously increased. But these did not stop the team, proper and rigid coordination with involved stakeholders made the implementation seamless.

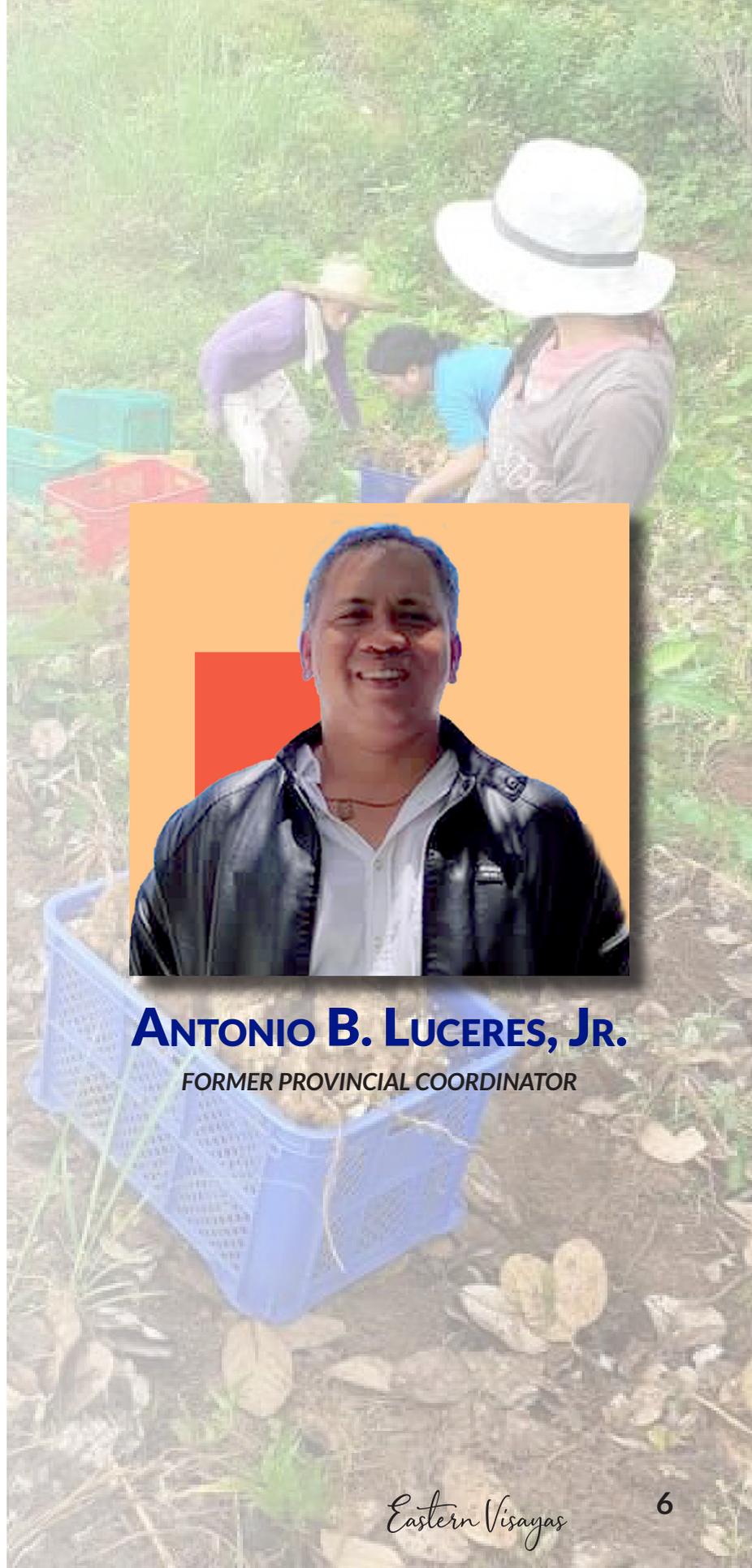
From April 2021 to July 2021, trainings such as capability-building training and technical trainings related to the livelihood project granted to beneficiaries have been conducted in 41 associations in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Agricultural Services, Provincial Veterinarian Office, Department of Agrarian Reform, Technical Education And Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Balangkayan Agricultural Cooperative.

How do you think SAAD helped the province's citizens, especially the poor farmers? What difference has it brought to your province?

Early in 2021, the first case of African Swine Fever (ASF) was recorded in the province. The predicament has affected two of the FY 2020 Swine Production Project in Dolores, Eastern Samar namely Brgy. Japitan SAAD Farmers Association and Brgy.14 SAAD Crops and Livestock Producers Association. Aside from assisting the associations in terms of the insurance, the program through the Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) Eastern Samar also endorsed the two associations to the provincial local government unit (LGU) for possible swine rehabilitation projects.

With the visible passion of farmers and their firm stand to attain their goal, and with continuous support in monitoring and cooperation of all the involved stakeholders, the success of every project will surely manifest. The poverty alleviation which the program wishes to achieve is attainable.

THE FIELD



ANTONIO B. LUCERES, JR.

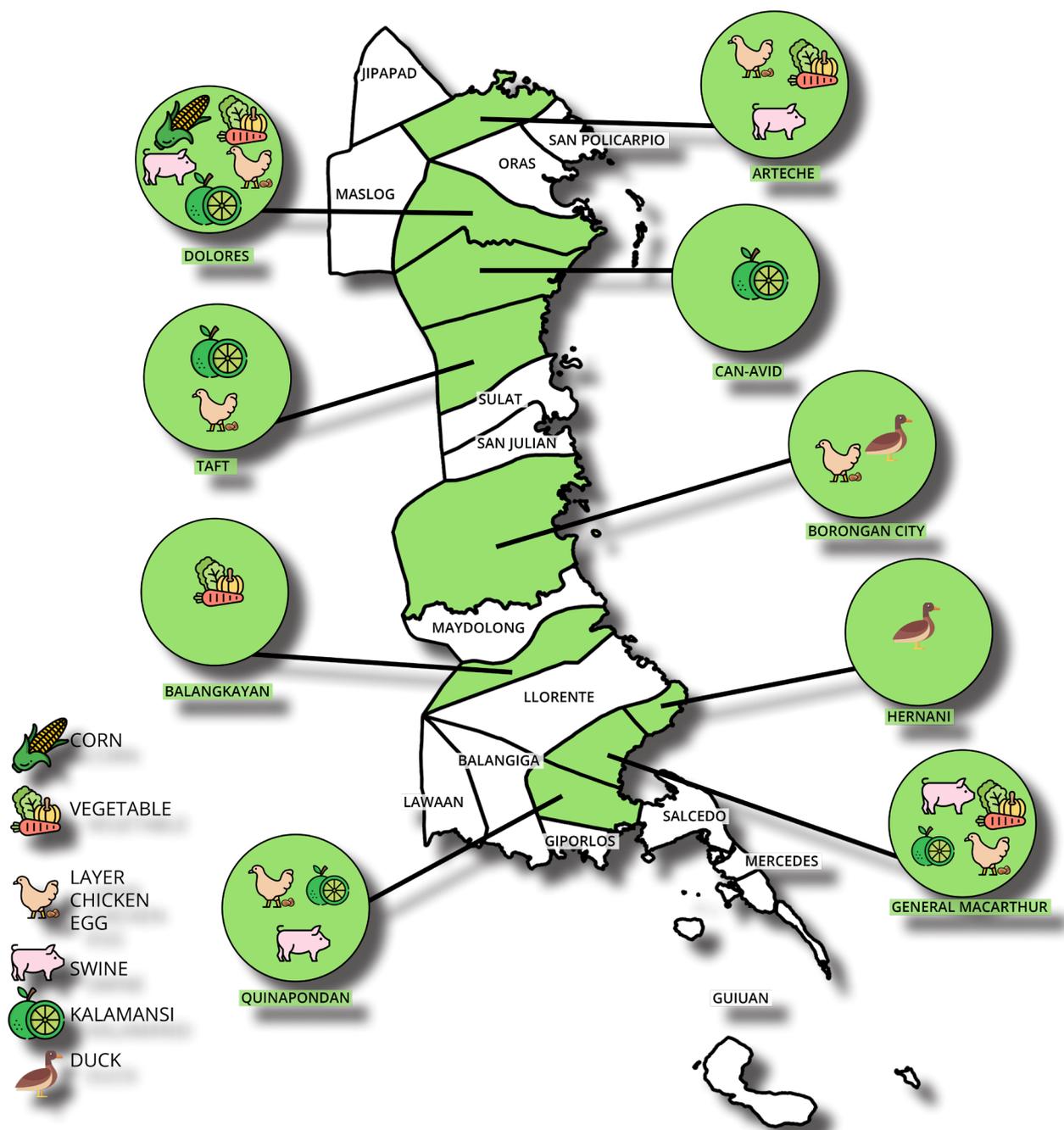
FORMER PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

Eastern Samar

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With a total budget of **Php 142,000,677**, SAAD Eastern Samar implemented 27 livelihood projects in the province from 2017 to 2021. With this, the program served 4,563 farmers and 189 farmers associations (FAs) in the province. Along with the livelihood projects, 112 social preparation and 120 specialized training were conducted to advance the skills of 4,693 individuals in the province.





map of interventions

Eastern Samar FA, *rising from the margins*

by

EVAN JESS M. VILLANUEVA

Eastern Samar Provincial Coordinator



Organized and registered under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Borongan City in 2019, the 20-member Aguinaldo Livestock Production Raisers Association (ALPRA) became a beneficiary of the SAAD FY 2020 Swine Production Project.

In March 2020, the association established an assembly place, permanent housing for swine, and a warehouse financed by monetary and material contributions from the members. Later on, the FA also expanded the site for the swine fattening, and constructed a storage for ready-

to-sell piglets and for ginger and vegetable production projects. The land where the association's properties are situated is covered by a usufruct agreement.

By November 2020, SAAD delivered interventions for the Swine Production project (Table 1). The boar was rented by the association using the members' monthly contributions and the livestock was insured under the the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) for mortality.

Table 1. Interventions received by ALPRA from SAAD in 2020

Association	Inputs	Date of Delivery	Project Cost (Php)
Aguinaldo Livestock Production Raisers Association	20 sacks of grower feeds	November 19, 2020	32,780.00
	10 gilts	November 25, 2020	371,850.00
	80 gestating for gilts		131,120.00
	30 lactating for gilts		56,670.00
	300 booster per kilo		25,200.00
	5 antibiotics		2,150.00
	5 multivitamins (injectable)		1,745.00
	5 multivitamins (oral soluble)		2,950.00
	10 wound spray		2,850.00
	5 iron		2,690.00
	1 10gm dewormer (water soluble) for boar & gilts		35.00
	5 5gm dewormer (water soluble) for piglets		45.00
	2 fiber glass syringes		1,150.00
	2 hypodermic needle		396.00
	10 Oxytocin 5ml/vial		1,500.00
	TOTAL		

In April 2021, members of the association participated in a Community Needs Assessment and underwent training on Values Rebuilding and Leadership Transformation to improve the management of interventions as they strictly adhere to the policies laid out by the SAAD Program.

Table 2. Interventions received by ALPRA from SAAD in 2021

Association	Inputs	Date of Delivery	Project Cost (Php)
Aguinaldo Livestock Production Raisers Association	200 kg Ginger rhizomes	May 9, 2021	36,400.00
	100 bags Organic fertilizers		45,000.00
	20 rolls Plastic mulch		69,800.00
	10 pcs Plastic drums		24,900.00
	10 pcs Plastic jugs		1,990.00
	200 pcs Empty sacks		6,990.00
	100 pcs Plastic crates		59,000.00
	10 pcs Rake		3,500.00
	10 pcs Bolo		1,500.00
	10 pcs Pick mattock		5,900.00
	10 pcs Shovel		4,000.00
	2 units Weighing scale		6,980.00
	1 unit Pump & engine sets		69,990.00
	1 unit Power tiller with multi-cultivator		215,550.00
	TOTAL		





Continued Support

Because of the association's good track record, the program granted an additional FY 2021 Ginger Production Project. Ginger rhizomes were then delivered and planted to the communal site in May 2021 (Table 2). To hone the FA members' skills, a specialized Training on Ginger Production was held in July 2021.





ALPRA sold 47 piglets worth Php 3,500 each from the first cycle production of their 7 sows, while the 3 remaining sows were pregnant during the initial monitoring visit (Table 3). The latter subsequently farrowed 18 healthy piglets in November 2021 for the second cycle production (Table 4). Recently, the association displayed and sold pork meat from the fatteners they produced to the locals of Gen. MacArthur.

Table 3. ALPRA's First Cycle Swine Production

Sow #	# of Piglets Produced	# of mortalities	# of Piglets Sold	Price per Piglet (Php)	# of Piglets for Fatteners	Boar Rental	# of kilos sold (liveweight)	Price per Kilo (Php)	Gross Income (Php)	Remarks
1	11	4	6	3,500.00		1			21,000.00	Most of the mortalities of the piglets are due to sow mastitis, piglet scouring/diarrhea, and stillbirth
2	15	8	6	3,500.00		1			21,000.00	
3	13		12	3,500.00		1			42,000.00	
4	15	8	6	3,500.00		1			21,000.00	
5	11	1	9	3,500.00		1			31,500.00	
6	20	10	8	3,500.00	1	1			28,000.00	
7	17	14			2	1	170	140.00	23,800.00	
8										
9	18	18								
10										
TOTAL	120	63	47	21,000.00	3	7			188,300.00	

The association credits its success to the perseverance of its members, as well as the wholehearted support of the local government unit (LGU) and other stakeholders.

From its humble beginnings, ALPRA has steadily grown to its present status through sheer hard work and determination, always grateful to the SAAD Program for its consistent coaching, mentoring, and support.



Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the African Swine Fever (ASF), along with climate variabilities, ALPRA has stood out as a resilient group worthy of emulation.

Table 4. ALPRA's Second Cycle Swine Production

Sow #	# of Piglets Produced	# of Mortalities	# of Healthy Piglets	Remarks
1	28	14	14	Piglets are for disposal
2	19	6	13	
3	18		18	
4	12		12	
5	9		9	
6	12		12	
7				Pregnant for 2nd cycle
8				
9				
10				
TOTAL	98	20	78	



samar



CANTONTONG UNITED YOUTH ASSOCIATION

SAAD
Special Area for Agricultural Development

LIVELIHOOD PROJECTS
FUNDING YEAR: 202_

ACTIVITY: TRAINING ON PRODUCTION AND LIVELIHOOD
CANTONTONG UNITED YOUTH ASSOCIATION

LOCATION: SAMAR, SAMAR

DATE: _____

ESTIMATED AMOUNT: _____

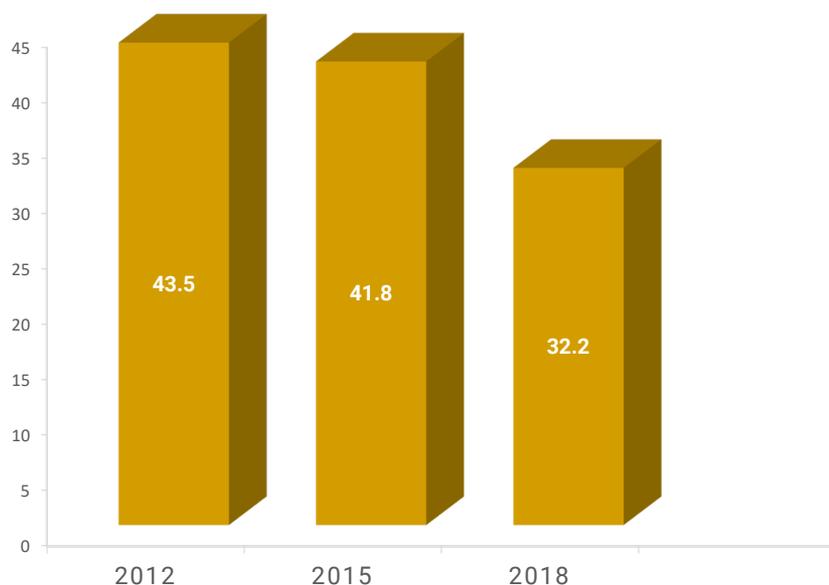
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ONEDA

PROVINCIAL PROFILE

Samar occupies the southwestern part of the Samar Island with a total land area of 559,100ha which constitutes 42 percent of the island's total land area. Based on the 2020 data of PSA, Samar has the 2nd highest population in the region with 793,183 individuals. The province has 24 municipalities and 2 cities.

POVERTY SITUATION

Poverty Incidence among Families (%)



AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

A total of 101,954ha or 18 percent of the land area in Samar is devoted to agriculture. Based on the DA - Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative on Agriculture's (AMIA) Farmers' Guide map, aside from coconut and rice, suitable crops in the province are abaca, banana, cacao, cassava, coconut, corn, legumes, among others. From January to March 2021, the output of palay rose to 269,853 metric tons (MT) from 252,869MT in the first quarter of 2020, attributed to a 10.5 percent expansion in the total area harvested for rice from 75,600ha in late 2020 to 85,522 ha in early 2021, according to the PSA.

For poultry and livestock in 2021, the PSA recorded 451,566 broiler, 12,000 layer, and 251,056 native/improved chicken. For swine, the province registered at 25,883 head as of April 2021.

SNIPPETS FROM THE FIELD



KRISTINE DOROTHEA T. DANAGO

PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

We are all aware that when a province becomes part of the SAAD program, it means a lot of families are considered poor. Can you describe or tell us more about the poverty situation in the province?

According to PSA data in 2018, poverty incidence among families in Samar was estimated at 32.2% which dropped from 41.8% in 2015.

What can you say about the SAAD implementation in your province?

Implementing the SAAD program in the province was quite tough. Considerations on the culture and beliefs of each municipality, the values of the target recipients towards its future plans were not that easy.

Food security and poverty alleviation have been the goals of the team. These goals are our indicators of success. From 2017 to 2019 implementation, I cannot hundred percent guarantee that these goals have reached sustainability. Yes, temporarily, our poor farmers were lifted out of poverty but not consistently. We are aiming for continuity not just for today but for future generations.

Tell us about the projects implemented.

Majority of the projects implemented from 2017-2019 were single approach. To wit: rice, corn, high value crop, *ube*, peanut, ginger, cassava, goat, swine, native chicken and egg layer production projects. These inputs were given to individual marginalized farmers in Samar while farm machineries of each intervention were provided to the associations.

The swine project in 2018 has changed the lives of the beneficiaries. Ninety percent among the 86 recipients who have either rented a farm lot were able to purchase their own and built a house, others have bought motorcycles, built *sari-sari* stores, while others used their income on the education of their children.

In 2020 to 2021, integrated projects such as Egg Layer Production were implemented. Ten groups in Samar are already considered agripreneurs, one of which is the Cantongtong United Youth Association (CUYA).

CUYA is composed of youth ages 11 to 26 years old. They were given an Egg Layer Project under FY 2020 funds and accomplished a lot as they were considered the best youth organization in the YES Samar awarding in May 2021 and was given Php 100,000 cash prize. The FA is recognized also in the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Regional office as one of the inspiring youths of Eastern Visayas and was awarded an amount of Php 10,000.

These prizes were used by the group together with their accumulated savings on the Egg Layer project to purchase a communal area, another set of 144 ready-to-lay (RTL)

chicken, and expanding their projects by engaging in organic vegetable, native chicken, rice production, popped-rice processing, agrivet supply, and even catering services. They have been one of our best examples to other associations to strive harder because the youth can.

What were the problems you encountered during the program implementation? What were the solutions you've made?

Being a Provincial Coordinator in the Samar province for nearly four years, there were unique situations encountered by the team during the implementation of the projects in its respective localities. Some of which were the negative perception of farmers towards the project, and how SAAD personnel would reach out and slowly turn it into a positive outlook. Best approach on-field is to interact with the farmers, let them feel that you understand, and let them know that you are there to help. With the tight coordination with the provincial, municipal and city government, district offices and the majority of it was resolved.

In the new thinking for agriculture and fisheries, DA envisions farmers and fishers to become agripreneurs. That has been the mission of the SAAD Program since 2018. Tell us about the SAAD enterprises that were developed in your region.

SAAD started its implementation in Samar in 2017. The target beneficiaries were individual farmers for the inputs and group recipients for farm machineries and equipment from 2017 to 2019. During those times, it was challenging to think how you will mold the mindset of the recipients towards being agripreneurs. But all along, it is not just about the beneficiaries' mindset, but also the implementers' delivering the program to the localities.

Egg Layer Production in Samar is a booming enterprise. In 2020, we had 10 associations engaged in enterprising in their respective localities. These groups were guided by Area Coordinators in utilizing their funds wisely by expanding the projects and attaining the demand of the market. Though coming from the farthest and poorest municipalities, the associations of SAAD are aiming to become fresh egg producers in their respective areas.

At this point, do you consider the farmers' project management as successful?

In a general, I can say that the farmers' project management is not yet a success, considering the goals and directions that we instill on them, vis-a-vis the year they have been under the program's care. But each day we see progress, we see hope in our recipients, our social preparation outcomes speak a lot about how farmers here in Samar are open-minded people. They accept the best advice given to them by technical experts in the field. They adopt new technologies that could help them attain sustainability, which they have been aiming for the longest time.

In what state would you like to see the beneficiaries from the province once the implementation of the SAAD Program ends in 2022?

The main objectives of SAAD were to attain food security and alleviate poverty. These two reasons have been a great help during the planning and implementation of the program. With SAAD ending in 2022, the team pushes for sustainability, uplift quality of life of the farmers, and help the entire community. Agri-enterprises will be established and the associations will be consolidators of the products of farmers in their locality.

How do you think SAAD helped the province's citizens, especially the poor farmers? What difference has it brought to your province?

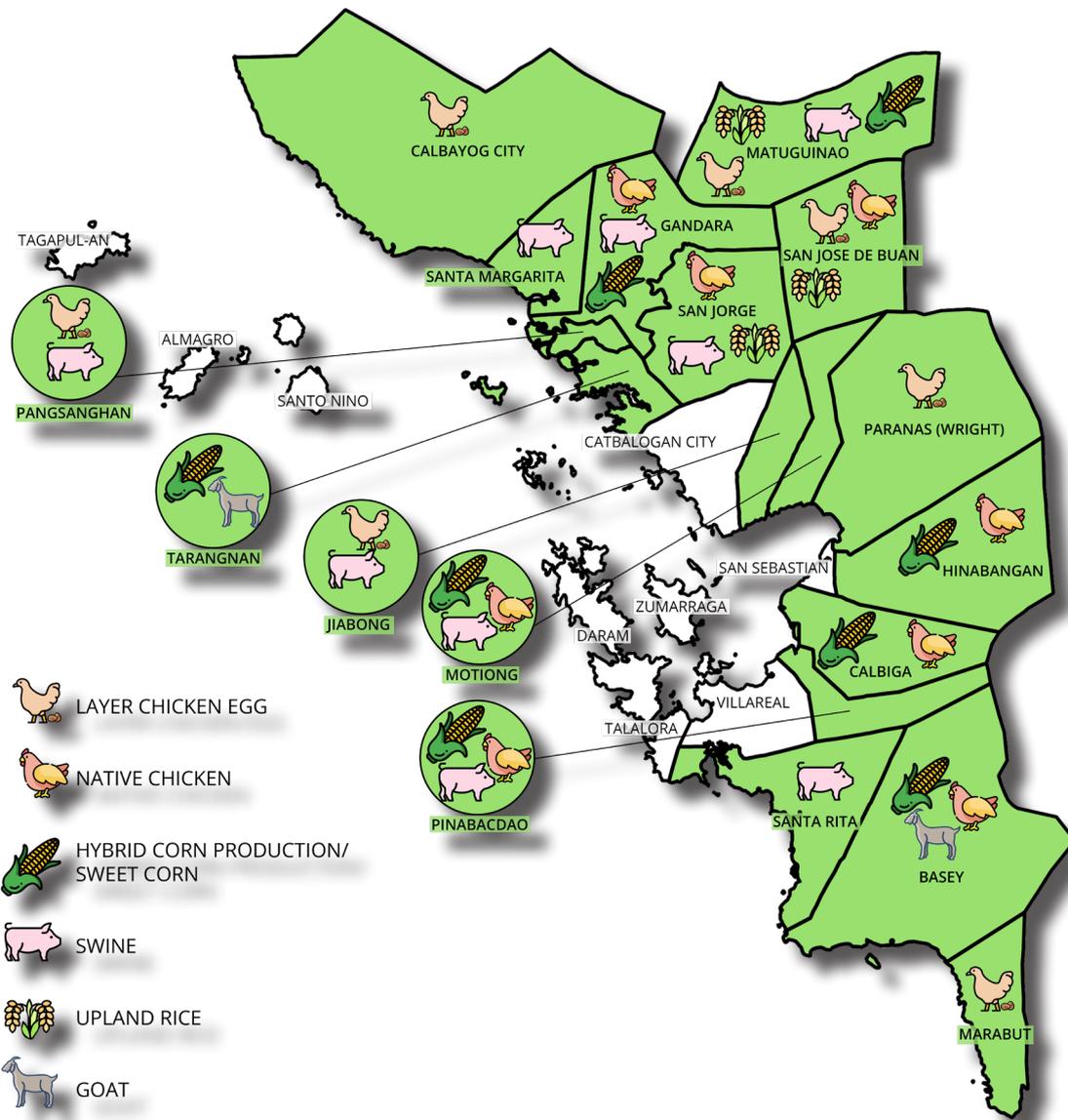
SAAD reaches out to the farthest barangays not reached by banner programs. This is the one thing that made the program unique that even the provincial government tried to follow the steps of the program. Unlike the banner programs, there are Area Coordinators that consistently monitor the projects, status of associations and well-being of the project being implemented.

Samar

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Samar has a total budget of **Php 146,670,815** for the implementation of 29 livelihood projects from 2017 to 2021. The projects in the provinces benefitted 5,287 farmers from 240 FAs. SAAD Samar also conducted 105 social preparation activities for 725 individuals and 193 specialized training that aided 6,406 farmers in the province.



map of interventions

CUYA: Youth athletes turn *poultry raisers* in Samar

by
JACQUENETTE P. TONDO
Samar Area Coordinator



About CUYA

Cantongtong United Youth Association (CUYA) from Barangay Cantongtong Jiabong, Samar was once a team of 30 basketball players established in February 2018. They first joined with the *liga-liga ng mga barangay* (league of barangays) during summer while on semester break. But later on they realized that it would be best to help their parents who are mixed-crop farmers in farming.

Following the steps of their mother people's organization, Cantongtong Agrarian Rice Farmers Association (CARFA), this group of youth decided to form an association under the name CUYA and registered their group at the Department at the Labor of Employment (DOLE) in February 2020. The members are between 13-35 years old youth.

During this time, they are already tending to a backyard vegetable garden with a total communal production area of 10 square meters (sqm), owned by one of the member's parents. They have planted various vegetables such as ampalaya, okra, eggplant, and others, providing them a usual net income of Php 8,274.

Hearing about the DA- SAAD in 2020, the group showed their interest to avail of its project. With that, they submitted an intent letter to the DA- SAAD Provincial Project Management Support Office staff and invited them to assess their association. Through persistent and sincere commitment shown during the validation, the group has qualified and was granted with the Egg Layer Production Project.

Prior to the implementation, they are provided with Training on Leadership, Strengthening the Organization, and Financial Literacy and Management.



Project Implementation

On September 7, 2020, the youth group received the 384 Ready-to-lay (RTL) chickens including layer feeds, egg trays, antibiotics, multivitamins, and egg weighing scale amounting to Php 942,600.

As a counterpart to the project, the association shouldered the poultry house. They pay 1 tray of eggs per week as a rent for the 35,000sqm within the barangay for their communal poultry house. Each member contributed for the expense of the construction and they also solicited the remaining amount from private and public institutions to cover the housing cost.

The COVID-19 has become a challenge during the project implementation because physical distancing was

imposed, which resulted in the delay of the program's Training for Chicken Layer Technical Management. Persistent on their goal and to attain success of the project, CUYA asks assistance from the technicians of Feeds Company and even did online research with the assistance of SAAD staff.

With the initiatives, they are able to learn the basic management for chicken layers. They created a daily schedule for each member according to their availability. Each member has to monitor and feed the chickens twice a day, clean the poultry house, and ensure better poultry performance potential to provide them additional income.



Key Results

Few weeks after they received the RTLs, they started to gather eggs. In September, they already earned Php 8,232 from selling eggs in trays. Pewee size eggs are sold at Php 130/tray; small at Php 150/tray; medium at Php 180/tray; large at Php 200/tray; extra-large at Php 220/tray; and jumbo at Php 230/tray.

From September to December 2020, the group earned

Php 89,708, while in 2021, they reported Php 563,894 from January to December. With these, an accumulated gross income of Php 653,602 was recorded (Table 5).

The group then was recognized in their municipality as a supplier of fresh eggs. Per day, egg production reaches at 10-11 trays (30 pieces/tray) sold in their barangays and nearby towns.

Table 5. CUYA's egg production income from 2020 to 2021

Month	Total Eggs Collected (pcs)	Total Trays Sold (30 eggs/tray)	Gross Income (Php 130-230/tray)
2020			
September	1,420	47	8,025.64
October	6,166	206	32,786.00
November	9,823	327	44,726.00
December	8,810	294	33,964.00
Subtotal	26,219	874	89,708.00
2021			
January	10,682	356	50,580.00
February	8,607	287	53,630.00
March	10,443	348	51,890.00
April	10,074	336	50,260.00
May	10,583	353	54,720.00
June	9,079	303	32,532.00
July	9,110	304	75,112.00
August	8,607	287	48,773.00
September	9,132	304	43,962.00
October	8,650	288	32,234.00
November	9,025	301	36,330.00
December	9,281	309	33,871.00
Subtotal	113,273	3,776	563,894.00
GRAND TOTAL	139,492	4,650	653,602.00



The group members shared the 10% of their profit while the remaining income enables them to buy the land for Php 80,000 where their poultry house is built, cages constructed, poultry house expanded, and bought additional 150 RTL chickens.

With the help of the profit shares they have received they become less dependent to their parents on providing their everyday necessities. One of the youth members shared that, *"Han umapi ako han CUYA dire na ako na aro hin paralit sugad hin sabon, shampoo ngan panload. Nakakabulig pa ako panalagudti ha balay. Ngan tikanga ak umapi, dire na karag ngan meada na gamit akon oras kay aadi ako naduty ha manokan, meada pa ako nababaroan parti pag ataman han layer chicken. Dire parehas han una na bugoy bugoy la, yana responsible na."*



(When I joined CUYA, I was able to provide my needs like shampoo, soap, and load for my mobile phone. I can also share a little amount of cash to my parents. Joining this group helped me manage my time wisely and even gain knowledge on egg layer management during my schedule on our poultry farm. I changed from being a happy-go-lucky person to a responsible poultry raiser now).

Awards and recognition received

With this, the group was known as an uprising youth organization in Samar – which motivated them to participate in many agricultural activities and win different awards.

During the search for Next Best Youth Organization – Youth Empowered Samar (YES), the group won a Php 10,000 cash prize and Php 100,000 worth of a project. Another Php 10,000 cash prize was granted to them during the Productivity Olympics conducted by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). They were chosen among other youth organizations for the empowerment they provide to the youths. Their good financial records were also a basis and the sustainability and impact of the projects they received.

Through these recognitions, CUYA was trusted by the Foundation to the Philippine Environment (FPE) and funded them Php 100,000 worth of Organic Vegetable and Native Production Projects.



Plans

Through the prizes received, the group invested in a feeds store by renting a small vacant room along the highway of Cantongtong. They saw this potential beforehand because there are no accessible feeds stores within their barangay, thus minimizing their fares to and from the market just to buy chicken feeds.

CUYA is planning to sustain the chicken layer project through gradual replacement of old stocks after its peak of egg production.

As they envision to serve their community and help the out of school youth, the group applied to the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) for an accreditation of their Agricultural learning site under RCEF. While waiting for the approval, they are encouraging the youth in different barangays and municipalities in Samar through training activities such as youth organizing, capability building, and basic farming.

The group is overwhelmed with the opportunity and life-changing project provided by the program. While continuing their chicken layer project, they will use the income to also venture in Hydroponics and Mushroom Culture because the Province of Samar has a minimal production of both commodities and currently, there are few individuals and groups who are engaged in the said industry.

northern samar

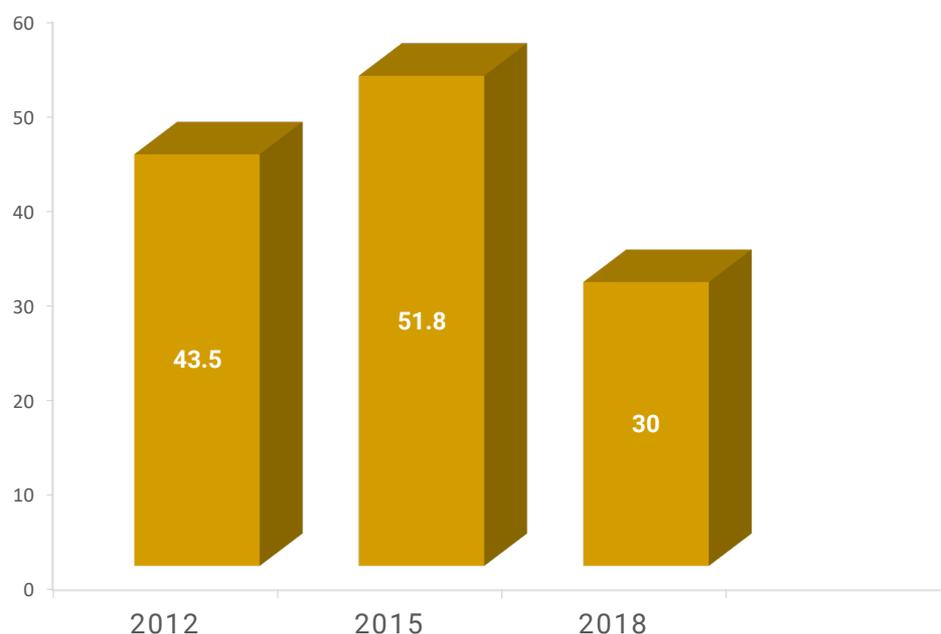


PROVINCIAL PROFILE

Northern Samar is a province located in the northern portion of the Samar Island and with a land area of 349,800ha. The province has 24 municipalities composed of 569 barangays. Based on 2020 data from PSA, Northern Samar has a total of 639,186 individuals.

POVERTY SITUATION

Poverty Incidence among Families (%)



AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

About 69 percent or 243,084ha of the total land area of the province is devoted to agriculture. Coconut is the major crop produced by the province with a total volume of production at 269,848MT for a harvested area of 84,250ha as of 2018. Other major crops in the province are palay, sweet potato, and banana.

On a 2020 report by PSA, Northern Samar ranked second in swine production in the region with 46,076 head where the majority (95.3 percent) of swine population were raised in backyard farms while the remaining 4.7 percent were reared in commercial farms.

As of April 2021, layer chicken in Northern Samar registered at 149.7 thousand, while the native/ improved chicken inventory recorded at 88.4 thousand during the same period.

SNIPPETS FROM THE FIELD



FRANCISCO T. LUTAO, JR.

PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

We are all aware that when a province becomes part of the SAAD program, it means a lot of families are considered poor. Can you describe or tell us more about the poverty situation in the province?

Poverty incidence among families in the province has declined from 51.8% in 2015 to 30% in 2018 which means that one out of four families had improved their status. As cited in the 2018 Full-Year Poverty Statistics of Eastern Visayas report by the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), poverty reduction could be partly attributed to the implementation of labor-enhancing and income-enriching agricultural interventions through social preparation and livelihood interventions such as SAAD and could be credited to the sustained implementation, improved labor market conditions and other institutional reforms.

What can you say about the SAAD implementation in your province?

The projects implemented in the province have provided a significant impact to the lives of the beneficiaries. Though, not all of the projects were a hundred percent successful yet,

somehow there are beneficiaries that had notable changes and resulted in uplifting their socio-economic status after being in the program.

In partnership with the LGU, provincial government, and other stakeholders, the implementation of SAAD projects was less bumpy. These partnerships play a vital role in logistic coordination and monitoring throughout the project implementation process.

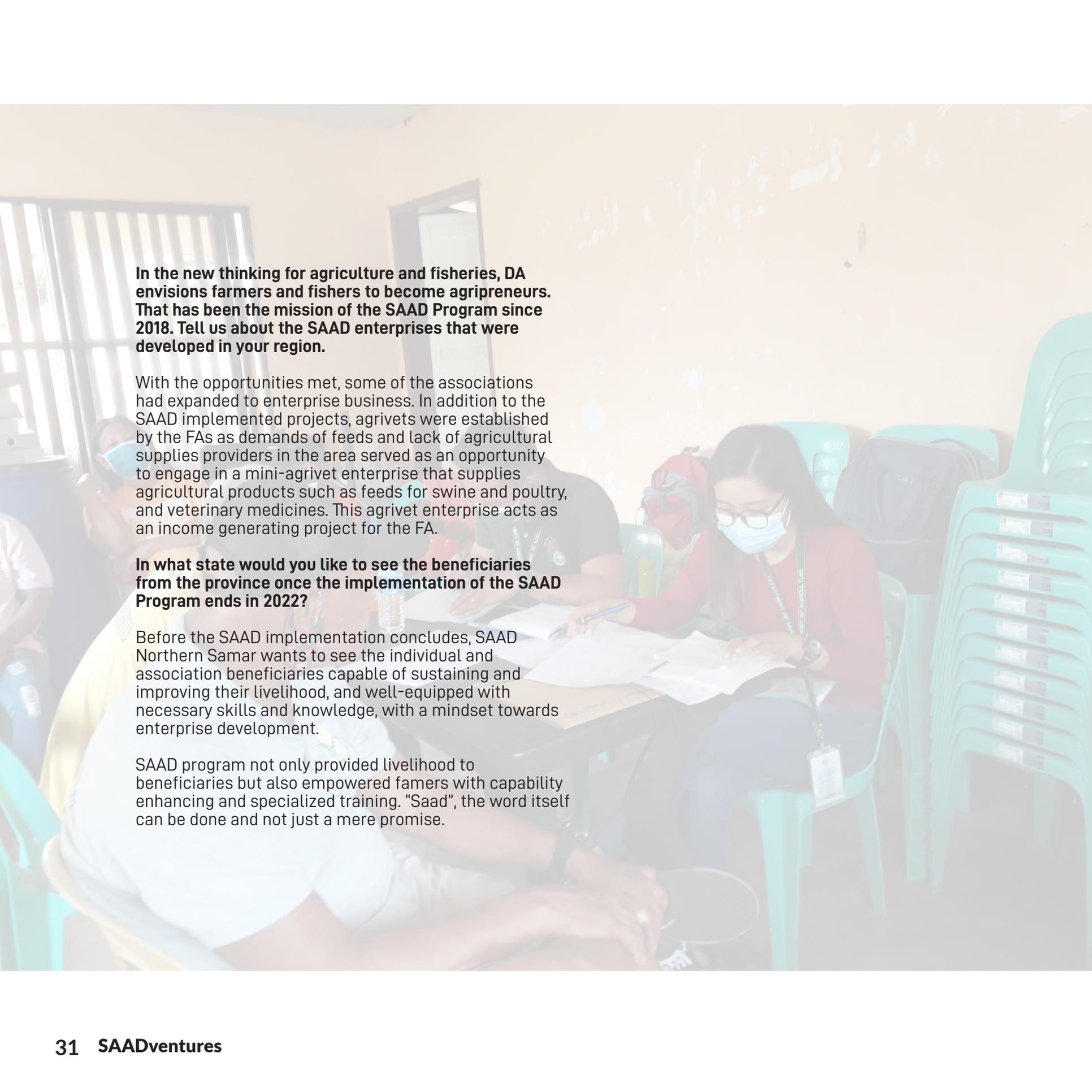
Tell us about the projects implemented.

SAAD implemented various projects in the province since it started in 2017 which provided livelihood that focused on production of crops and livestock. The said projects were rice, corn, vegetable, poultry, goat, and swine production composed of packages of interventions including farm inputs, social preparation, and technical training to ensure sustainability, and empower farmers by providing technical knowledge to sharpen their skills and learn new practices about different crop and livestock production.

What were the problems you encountered during the program implementation? What were the solutions you've made?

Few of the challenging undertakings our staff encountered during the implementation were the mindset of prospective beneficiaries and their commitment to the project, accessibility of the associations due to lack of farm-to-market roads, and the most critical is the communications aspect as most of the areas and beneficiaries covered under still have no communications network.

Means of communication is very essential in coordination and monitoring throughout the implementation, since it will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the service provided to the recipients. However, these challenges were conquered by proper management and planning of activities.

A group of people are seated around a table in a meeting room. They are looking at documents and talking. The room has a window with a metal grille on the left and a door in the background. The people are wearing masks and lanyards. The image is slightly faded to allow text to be overlaid.

In the new thinking for agriculture and fisheries, DA envisions farmers and fishers to become agripreneurs. That has been the mission of the SAAD Program since 2018. Tell us about the SAAD enterprises that were developed in your region.

With the opportunities met, some of the associations had expanded to enterprise business. In addition to the SAAD implemented projects, agrivets were established by the FAs as demands of feeds and lack of agricultural supplies providers in the area served as an opportunity to engage in a mini-agrivet enterprise that supplies agricultural products such as feeds for swine and poultry, and veterinary medicines. This agrivet enterprise acts as an income generating project for the FA.

In what state would you like to see the beneficiaries from the province once the implementation of the SAAD Program ends in 2022?

Before the SAAD implementation concludes, SAAD Northern Samar wants to see the individual and association beneficiaries capable of sustaining and improving their livelihood, and well-equipped with necessary skills and knowledge, with a mindset towards enterprise development.

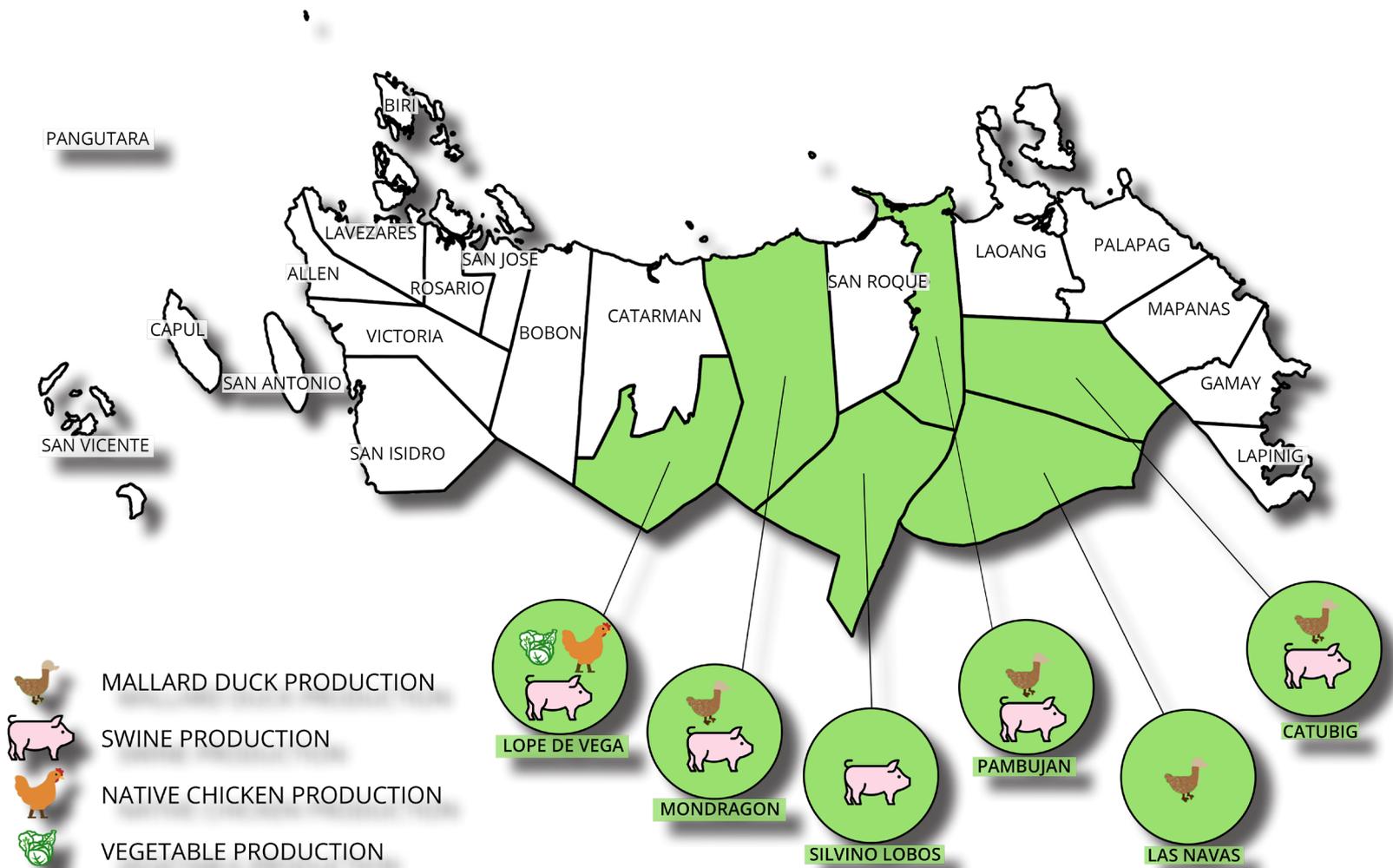
SAAD program not only provided livelihood to beneficiaries but also empowered famers with capability enhancing and specialized training. "Saad", the word itself can be done and not just a mere promise.

Northern Samar

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



With a total budget of **Php 126,659,877**, SAAD program implemented 24 livelihood projects that benefited 2,474 farmers from 144 associations in Northern Samar. The program also steered 113 specialized training for 2,863 individuals and 90 social preparation activities for 515 beneficiaries.



map of interventions



It's going to be 'oinka'y: SAAD swine production *thrives despite hurdles*

by

PERLIS RAMOS

Northern Samar Area Coordinator



About Chitongco Farmer's Association

Chitongco Farmers Association (CFA) is a group of 52 rice and vegetable producers registered at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on May 15, 2014. They organized as a group with the hope to avail livelihood projects from various government agencies and augment their income.

When the SAAD Program conducted an orientation activity on August 20, 2020, 18 of the group members showed interest in the Swine Production Project. Hog is not new to them since they have experience raising pigs in their backyard. Although their municipality was tagged as a red zone for the African Swine Fever (ASF), they still pursued the project with the help of "*Bantay ASF sa Barangay*", a community - based approach to prevent, control, and manage ASF, the group is still hopeful to accept the said project.

The supposed training to improve farmers' capacity for continuous project management was not conducted prior to the distribution of livestock due to social distancing measures intended to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, through the efforts of the Local Government Unit's livestock technician and the assigned SAAD Area Coordinator in Mondragon, Northern Samar, constant monitoring either through on-site visits or via messenger/calls was initiated to ensure proper project implementation.

CFA's swine project implementation

On October 22, 2020, the member-beneficiaries received 10 gilts, 20 bags of grower feeds, 80 bags of gestating feeds, 30 bags of lactating feeds, 300 kilograms of booster feeds, and various drugs & biologics, with all inputs amounting to Php 705,335 (Table 6).

Table 6. Swine Production Project inputs received

Inputs	Quantity	Unit of Measure	Cost (Php)
Hogs	10	head	400,000.00
Grower Feeds	20	bag	38,000.00
Gestating Feeds	80	bag	152,000.00
Lactating Feeds	30	bag	57,000.00
Booster Feeds	300	kg	30,000.00
Antibiotic	5	bottle	6,000.00
Multivitamins (injectable)	5	bottle	6,000.00
Multivitamins (oral soluble)	5	bottle	6,000.00
Wound Spray	10	bottle	3,500.00
Iron	5	bottle	3,500.00
Dewormer for Gilts (Water Soluble)	1	pack	40.00
Dewormer for piglets (Water Soluble)	5	pack	45.00
Fiber Glass Syringe	1	pc	650.00
Hypodermic Needles	2	set	600.00
Oxytocin	10	vial	2,000.00
TOTAL			705,335.00

As a counterpart, one of the members allowed a portion of his lot to be utilized for the construction of their pigpen. The expenses for the housing materials are shouldered by the members. They borrowed money from the associations' fund with no interest and pay back by contributing Php 3,300 each after earning from the project.

Since each member have other sources of income, they decided to develop alternate task groupings to tend to their swine. Two members will feed the hogs and clean the pigpen each day. They usually feed them at around seven in the morning and four in the afternoon.

Outcomes

Seven months after they received the livestock, the gilts reached their reproductive maturity.

By natural mating, 7 out of 10 sows have farrowed 82 piglets- which they sold after weaning at Php 3,000/head. Impregnated gilt was sold at Php 24,000. These provided the group a gross income of Php 166,100 (Table 7).

Table 7. CFA's income from sold piglets and gilt

Month	Gilt Sold (head)	Piglets Sold (head)	Sales (Php)
May		5	15,100.00
June		22	66,000.00
July	1	17	76,000.00
August		3	9,000.00
TOTAL	1	44	166,100.00

With the help of Mrs. Leah Atencio, the assigned Agricultural Technician and Area Coordinator Ms. Perlis C. Ramos, CFA is now on track of their records – sales and expenses are reflected for transparency.

To date, 3 sows are currently pregnant for their second production cycle.

Managing livestock project challenges

In the course of the project implementation, one of the gilts had hormonal problems disabling it from bearing offspring. To resolve this, the group agreed to sell the gilt for Php 24,000 and add the money earned to their association's savings.

In 2021, the province of Northern Samar was hit by the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus. Considering this, CFA immediately took steps to prevent ASF from entering their area by strengthening biosecurity measures on-site.

They also paused the operations for a while since they have members who reside in the barangays infected with ASF. With this, the president and his wife took full responsibility for the management of their hogs during the said time since they are living near the pen.

After a month, they are back to their original schedule, after the ASF threat was abated in the province.

Gradual impacts, and sustainability measures

This SAAD project helped the group in various aspects. They were able to pay off the borrowed money for the pigpen construction expense and are planning to expand the facility. Moreover, they are now able to buy feeds from their profit without using any personal money.

Once the sow reaches her productive maximum in the 6th to 7th cycle, the members agreed to replace them with new ones coming from their stocks.

They are also planning to expand their piggery by acquiring a land area where they could build a bigger establishment and continue their venture (if they have enough savings). They are now also selecting piglets to be raised for breeding which will allow them to repopulate their pigs, to counter the hog and pork shortage in the province due to the ASF threat.

"Kay amon inen gin sasa isip, gin tatanom saam kasing-kasing na mapa uswag nam inen na



baboyan para magin sayo kami na susbaran sa bug-os na Northern Samar," shared Mr. Ricardo Sabedoria, CFA President.

(We instill in our minds and in our hearts that we may be able to enrich this pigpen and ultimately become an exemplar in the entire Northern Samar).





leyte

Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD)

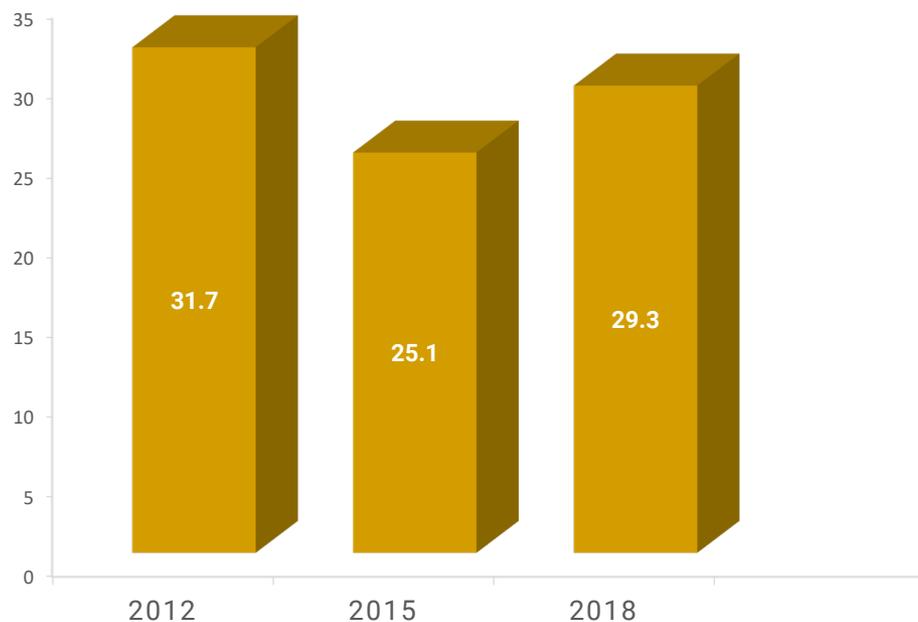
Masaganap
Malaas na

PROVINCIAL PROFILE

Leyte is the eight largest and sixth most populous island in the Philippines with a total land area of 571,276ha, with a total population of 1,776,847 persons based on the 2020 figure of PSA. The province is composed of 40 municipalities and two cities.

POVERTY SITUATION

Poverty Incidence among Families (%)



AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Leyte has 332,018ha of land devoted to agricultural activities where 97 percent or 322,252ha are planted with major crops such as coconut and corn. The province also has the most extensive ricelands in the region at 84,277ha.

Among the provinces in the region, Leyte comprised the bulk or 40.5 percent of chicken population in the region recorded at 1,178.2 thousand chickens composed of broiler (144,000), layer chicken (154,000), and native/improved (880,000) as of April 2021. Leyte also recorded the highest swine population at 155,071 head or 51.3 percent of the total swine population in the region as of October 2019, based on PSA data.

SNIPPETS FROM THE FIELD



ALLAN M. BRIT
PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

We are all aware that when a province becomes part of the SAAD program, it means a lot of families are considered poor. Can you describe or tell us more about the poverty situation in the province?

The SAAD Program which started in Leyte in 2018 spawned multiple assistance projects aimed towards the marginalized population of farmers in the province. Prior to implementation, the poverty situation in the province was 25.1% in 2015 and increased to 29.3% in 2018.

The implementation of the program in Leyte has been proven effective due to efficient selection of target beneficiaries among the marginalized and difficult to reach areas that do not usually receive assistance by other government programs and agencies.

What can you say about the SAAD implementation in your province?

The variety of projects implemented are area-specific. SAAD goes to the municipalities and validates associations that submitted letters of intent which are the basis for the endorsements to the SAAD-PPMSO. Given this, the team assessed the FAs' situation and was able to promptly follow up with a suitable project to be implemented, if approved.

What were the problems you encountered during the program implementation? What were the solutions you've made?

The most common problem we encountered during implementation was the delay in the delivery of inputs to our farmer-beneficiaries. This causes delay in production, off-season production and sometimes even the refusal of associations in receiving these delayed deliveries due to fear that late production might end up in mediocre quality and quantity of products. The solution for this is to advise the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) in-charge of procurement for an earlier processing of posting, bidding, and canvassing of livelihood inputs.

In the new thinking for agriculture and fisheries, DA envisions farmers and fishers to become agripreneurs. That has been the mission of the SAAD Program since 2018. Tell us about the SAAD enterprises that were developed in your region.

SAAD Leyte is currently in the process of selecting prospect associations for enterprising. Currently the team is conducting agro-enterprise training and marketing for those associations who already started selling their produce. Farmers' project management in Leyte is successful in the sense that every association under the SAAD program was given management training that they apply into their regular routine as an association to be effective and efficient to organize personnel, schedule timeframes, and optimize production. In which, all of these are already present in most, if not all, of the SAAD projects' association beneficiaries.

At this point, do you consider the farmers' project management as successful?

The SAAD Program strives to achieve that every association under its care is fully self-sufficient, has sustainable production, and has income-generating and established community-based enterprises even after the SAAD program's implementation.

How do you think SAAD helped the province's citizens, especially the poor farmers? What difference has it brought to your province?

The impact that the SAAD team has observed in most of the beneficiaries is the will and the drive to expand the projects. Leyte SAAD staff have embedded in farmer-beneficiaries to always strive for more, produce more and eventually, gain more. Thus, we have associations receiving multiple inputs because they showed excellent progress in handling and managing the projects provided by the program.

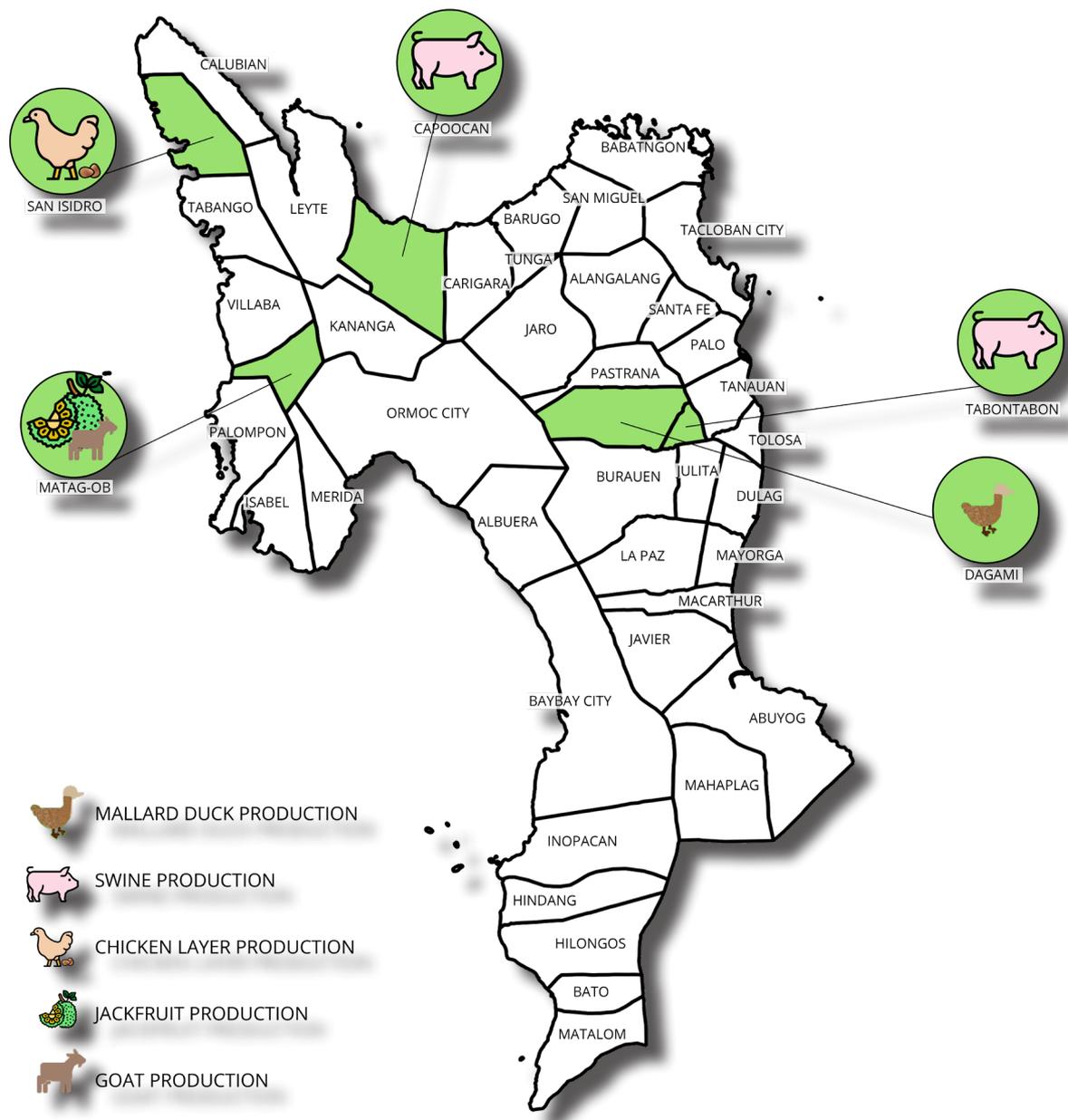


Leyte

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SAAD Program in Leyte culminated in 2018 and continued until 2021 with a total budget allocation of **Php 107,897,549** which aided 1,998 beneficiaries in 21 livelihood projects. The program also conducted 71 specialized training for 2,641 individuals and 84 social preparation activities for 390 beneficiaries aimed at arming the farmers in managing the interventions accordingly.





map of interventions

Matamis coconut farmers' sweet success through Egg Production

by
MILDRED COMPENDIO-BREGILDO
Leyte Area Coordinator



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

SAAD Region 8 conducted an assessment on the FA's policies and organizational management, area of operation, financial capability, social and environmental standards, and sustainability mechanism where MFA qualified to be a recipient of the Egg Layer Production Project of SAAD under the 2021 savings allocation. Prior to providing the interventions, SAAD Region 8 staff also conducted a Social Preparation activity including community organizing, and technical assistance on production and monitoring to equip the association in handling the project.

In December 2021, SAAD delivered 480 ready-to-lay chickens, 155 bags of layer feeds and biologics worth Php 719,500.

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

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



Production

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



Table 8. MFA's Egg Production table

Month	Yield	Gross Sales (Php)
January	8,155	14,216.00
February	11,235	48,740.00
March	11,891	33,519.00
April	11,432	50,024.00
May (as of May 22)	8,446	29,607.00
TOTAL	51,159	176,106.00

Marketing

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

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



Plans and Targets

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

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

southern leyte

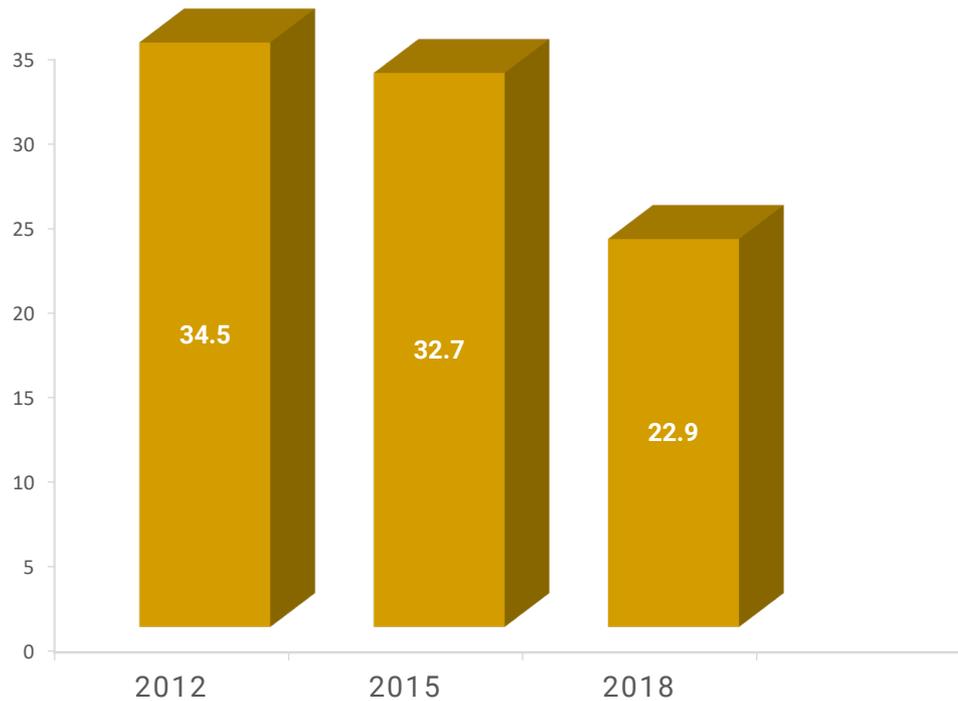


PROVINCIAL PROFILE

With a total land area of 173,480ha or 8.1 percent of the total land area in the region, Southern Leyte has the second smallest population in Eastern Visayas with 429,573 individuals based on PSA 2020 figures. The province is composed of 18 municipalities and 500 barangays.

POVERTY SITUATION

Poverty Incidence among Families (%)



AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

The major sources of income in the province are farming and fishing. The major crops grown are coconut, rice banana, root crops, and vegetables. Southern Leyte's share of *palay* production in the region is at 19,377MT or 7.2 percent of the total production in the region and recorded the highest yield per hectare at 4.36MT/ha as of the first quarter of 2021.

Poultry population is at 616.3 thousand chicken composed of broiler (205,000), layer chicken (124,000), and native/ improved (287,000) as of April 2021 based on PSA data. For livestock, swine inventory in the province is at 27,992 head or 12.5 percent which ranked 3rd of the region's swine population.

SNIPPETS FROM THE FIELD



JOCELYN A. CABAÑAS

PROVINCIAL COORDINATOR

We are all aware that when a province becomes part of the SAAD program, it means a lot of families are considered poor. Can you describe or tell us more about the poverty situation in the province?

Significant improvements in poverty incidences among families between 2015 and 2018 were noted in Southern Leyte, the 22.9% registered poverty incidence among families in 2018 was lower than 32.7% in 2015.

What can you say about the SAAD implementation in your province?

In 2018, SAAD Southern Leyte in partnership with the local government unit (LGU) selected 9 municipalities, among 18 municipalities and one city in the province, with the highest poverty incidence to be beneficiaries of the project. Adhering to SAAD's key objective to increase

production and ensure supply of food, and to provide additional income to the farmer-partners, SAAD Southern Leyte's main plan is to deliver the needed intervention and establish a livelihood led by the group's beneficiaries.

The projects are visualized to be developed into sustainable enterprises through workshops and training, such as capability-building activities which are provided by the program. A series of community needs assessments were also conducted to identify the most suited agricultural and livestock interventions in the selected community.

Tell us about the projects implemented.

For crops, most of the projects implemented in the province were production of rice, corn, cassava and calamansi. And for livestock are swine fattening, swine production, native chicken, mallard duck, goat, and egg layer production.

On the other hand, the SAAD Hogstel (hotel for hogs) project was replicated by the provincial LGU for the COVID-19 recovery program. As the provincial LGU got inspired with the concept of SAAD Hogstel, this was implemented to the 10 different sites as livelihood for farmers and fishermen displaced by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

What were the problems you encountered during the program implementation? What were the solutions you've made?

In 2018, SAAD Southern Leyte implemented the Swine Fattening Project which helped a total of 400 farmer-beneficiaries. Every farmer received three piglets and 15 bags of feeds and biologics which provided an additional source of income for their family. Farmers were grateful since the government, through the DA-SAAD program, provided them with start-up capital in the form of livestock intervention.

Problems started to arise when the piglets reached marketing age. We have to recall that during the 1st cycle, the delivery of piglets to different municipalities was done in a one-time drop from the supplier and after 3 months, an over-supply of pork meat was experienced in the locality.

On the other hand, through the collaboration with Provincial Veterinarian, Dr. Francisco Cabbarubias, who introduced us to meat shop owners in Maasin City, and other meat butchers/resellers, the issue with over supply was solved since they bought all the fattened pigs for meat shop needs. To resolve the problem, SAAD hog raisers decided to raise piglets within an interval of 2 weeks to avoid the problem of over-supply of meat in the locality.

In the new thinking for agriculture and fisheries, DA envisions farmers and fishers to become agripreneurs. That has been the mission of the SAAD Program since 2018. Tell us about the SAAD enterprises that were developed in your region.

One of the established enterprises in Southern Leyte is the United Farmers Association of Pangi (UFAP) in Libagon Southern, Leyte. UFAP was the recipient of Hogstel and swine fattening projects when SAAD started in FY 2018, with 30 piglets, feeds and biologics. Aside from selling fattened pigs for meat, it is also known as a supplier of pigs used in making roasted pig or "*lechon*". With a strategic location, a few meters along the highway, clients from neighboring towns find it easy to get the piglets. Other established enterprises in Southern Leyte are vegetable production, *Balut* and Salted Egg Production.

By 2022, three major SAAD projects will be formed as a culmination to all projects from 2018. SAAD farmer-partners of the nine selected municipalities will consolidate their farm products and showcase the outputs, these are: Agri-minimart, Meat Shop, and *Balut* Enterprise. Farmers Associations representatives will coordinate with the parent association who will spearhead the proposed projects that will be established in the assigned municipality.

At this point, do you consider the farmers' project management as successful?

Through the SAAD Program, Southern Leyte revitalized

the hog industry. An increase in the production of corn, vegetables, cassava, native chicken and mallard ducks resulted in improved income of our farmer-beneficiaries. The conduct of Capability-Building and Livelihood Training aided the farmers with emotional and physical preparedness. Though every farmer has different learning curves, training them to be effective in dealing with other farmers inside their organization, as well as with other stakeholders is beneficial.

In what state would you like to see the beneficiaries from the province once the implementation of the SAAD Program ends in 2022?

With much enthusiasm, we love to see our SAAD farmer-beneficiaries empowered, well-established with their own agri-enterprise through strong collaboration with local and regional clients. From being simple farmers to successful agri-preneurs, we would like to see them as independent entities, with minimal or absolute independence on assistance from the government as they can already sustain their own enterprise. By that time, they will be the one extending help to other farmers associations who are also starting to climb the ladder, it is like paying it forward.

How do you think SAAD helped the province's citizens, especially the poor farmers? What difference has it brought to your province?

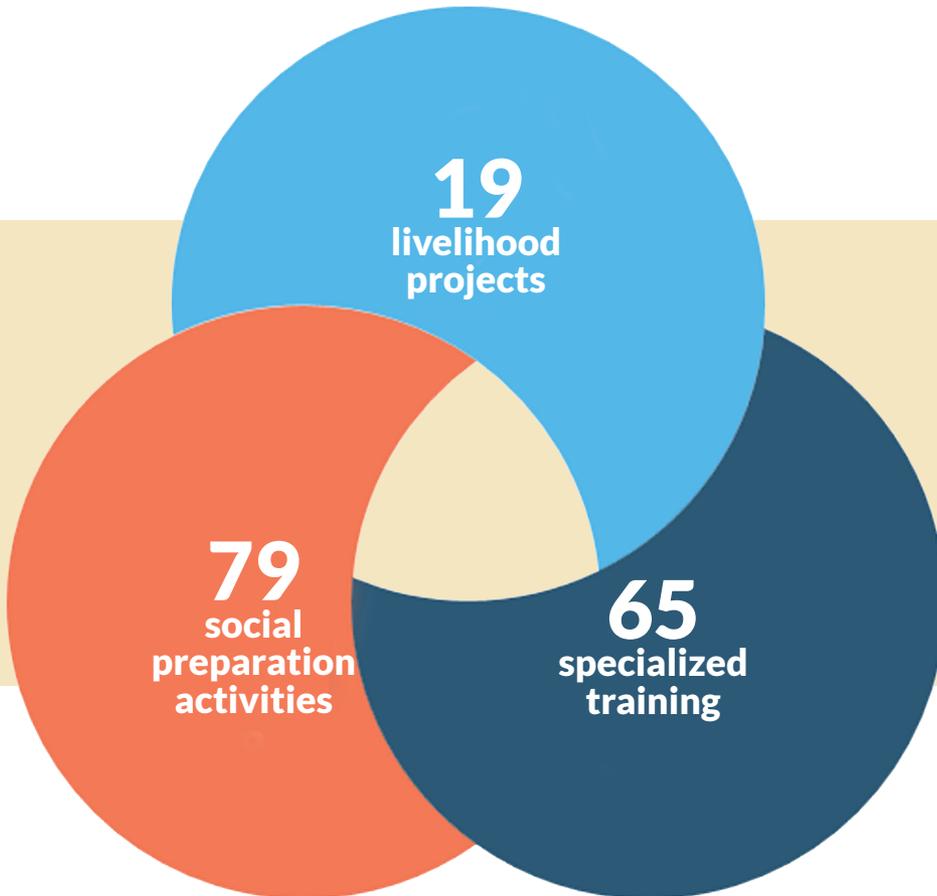
By providing the full package of livelihood interventions to SAAD beneficiaries, poor farmer-recipients were able to sustain projects entrusted to them. SAAD aided the marginalized eligible farmer-partners of the province.

Not only by providing the agricultural inputs, our SAAD coordinators were considered friends and mentors of the farmers. Timid farmers became outspoken and gained their confidence through the help of our team who are well-equipped in sharing their knowledge and expertise. Farmers were not only taught to produce food but we converted them to become agri-businessmen.

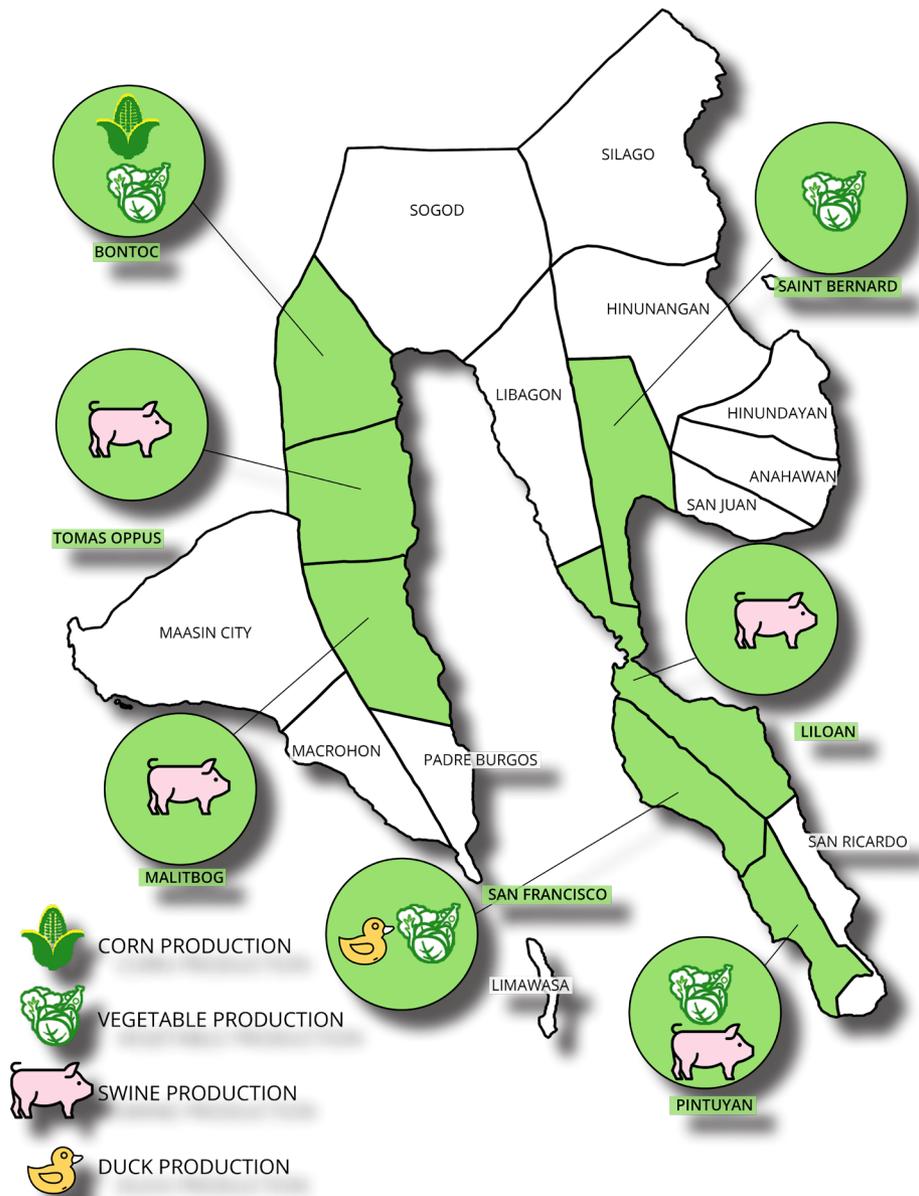
SAAD becomes the benchmark of the province, where the provincial LGU through Ms. Ida S. Monson, the Provincial Planning Development Officer, suggested that Provincial Agricultural Services Office (PAgSO) to replicate the structure of SAAD. According to her, the program is commendable when it comes to monitoring and implementation.

Southern Leyte

PHYSICAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS



From 2018 to 2021, the program allocated a total budget of **Php 102,595,206** in Southern Leyte for 19 livelihood projects that benefitted 2,863 beneficiaries from 85 FAs. SAAD also steered 79 social preparation activities for 480 individuals and equipped 2,310 farmers with 65 specialized training throughout the province.



map of interventions

Egg Layer project - an additional *source of income* for Tomas Oppus farmers

by
ROVELYN TIMKANG
Southern Leyte Area Coordinator



Maggap Farmers Association (MAFA) is a Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) registered farmers association (FA) and an active rural-based group in the municipality of Tomas Oppus. Currently, the FA has 25 active members composed of small-scale vegetable, root-crop, and copra farmers with monthly income ranging from Php 4,500 to Php 5,000.

Through active participation in local government units (LGU)-based programs implemented by the office of Municipal Agriculturist Services, the FA was recommended by the Municipal Agriculturist, Melona P. Caritan to the SAAD Program.

In 2021, SAAD Southern Leyte conducted a needs assessment, validation, and profiling where the FA qualified as one of the four (4) group beneficiaries in the province for the Egg Layer Production and Marketing project worth Php 7,443,000.

MAFA then received the package of intervention for the Egg Layer Project worth Php 1,860,750 on August 17, 2021 (Table 9).



Table 9. Interventions received by MAFA

Association	Inputs	Quantity	Cost (Php)	Total Cost (Php)
Maggap Farmers Association (MAFA)	Ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken	960 head	1,200.00	1,152,000.00
	Layer feeds	345 bags	1,900.00	655,500.00
	Weighing scale	2 units	4,500.00	9,000.00
	Multivitamins + ADE	2.5 kg	1,500.00	3,750.00
	Egg trays	200 pcs	25.00	5,000.00
	Training on layer chicken production	1 unit	35,500.00	35,500.00
TOTAL				1,860,750.00



Though the FA was initially uncertain since it was their first time managing an Egg Layer Project, they were able to apply the skills learned from various training provided by the staff of the Provincial Veterinary Office and SAAD on effective management of the interventions.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

During MAFA's first quarter of production in 2021, before the catastrophic super Typhoon Odette, the group had higher egg production and collected 28-31 trays daily at 30 eggs/tray. The prices per tray of eggs vary depending on sizes (Small-Php 150, Medium-Php 170, Large-Php 190, X-Large -Php 200, Jumbo-Php 220, Cracks -Php 120). The association gained a total gross income of Php 854,168.99 for eight (8) months of operation.

After the devastation brought by super Typhoon Odette in Southern Leyte, the group can only collect 22-24 trays per day as 40 head of layer chicken died when the poultry house collapsed during the typhoon.

As of April 2022, the FA spent Php 48,900 from their gross income for re-construction of the facility of the RTLs. MAFA also plans on expanding the project by adding 400 head of RTL before September 2022, as demand for eggs increases in preparation for the Christmas season.

According to MAFA's member Mrs. Milagrosa Francisco, *"Daku mi ug pasamat sa Ginoo tungod sa iyang ka maayo nga bisan pa sa tanan nga amoa nasugatan nga problema ug kalisud ang iyang panalangin naa permi. Ug ang SAAD nahimo nga usa sa mga panalangin nga iyaha gihatg namu. Ug sa baylo, amoa paningkamotan nga masustenar ang maong programa."*

(We are grateful to our almighty God for He is so good to us. Though we were scourged by different dilemmas, still he blessed us continually and SAAD is one of the blessings that he has given us. With this, we will do our best to sustain the said program).

Table 10. MAFA's Egg Production monitoring table (2021 – 2022)

Month	Pewee	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Jumbo	Cracked	Damaged	Total no. of eggs (excluding damages)	Gross Income (Php)
August	245	3,200	3,586	508	12	23	14	20	7,538	40,702.67
September	780	5,283	14,816	4,640	240	96	159	12	26,014	146,079.00
October	32	3,394	16,632	6,473	484	127	191	0	27,333	152,274.33
November	429	8,107	13,363	3,536	218	70	237	0	25,960	143,427.00
December	8	5,009	12,880	4,497	505	69	407	48	23,375	128,881.66
January	0	3,131	9,412	7,419	1,483	78	495	0	22,018	128,415.33
February	0	4,022	8,604	4,977	985	85	453	0	19,126	109,389.00
March	0	3,438	8,854	5,700	1,151	82	534	0	19,759	113,973.33
TOTAL										963,142.32



MAFA members are dedicated in working together and sustaining the project for succeeding cycles to provide additional income to members. Currently, the FA saves 10% of their net income for capital build-up that they can use in the future.

MAFA aims to be self-sufficient in their operations to have minimal to full independence from government aid, especially for rehabilitation of areas hit by calamities. With the help of the SAAD Program, the needs of every household are sure to be filled up.

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EASTERN VISAYAS

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