

SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

BANDILYO
(announcement)

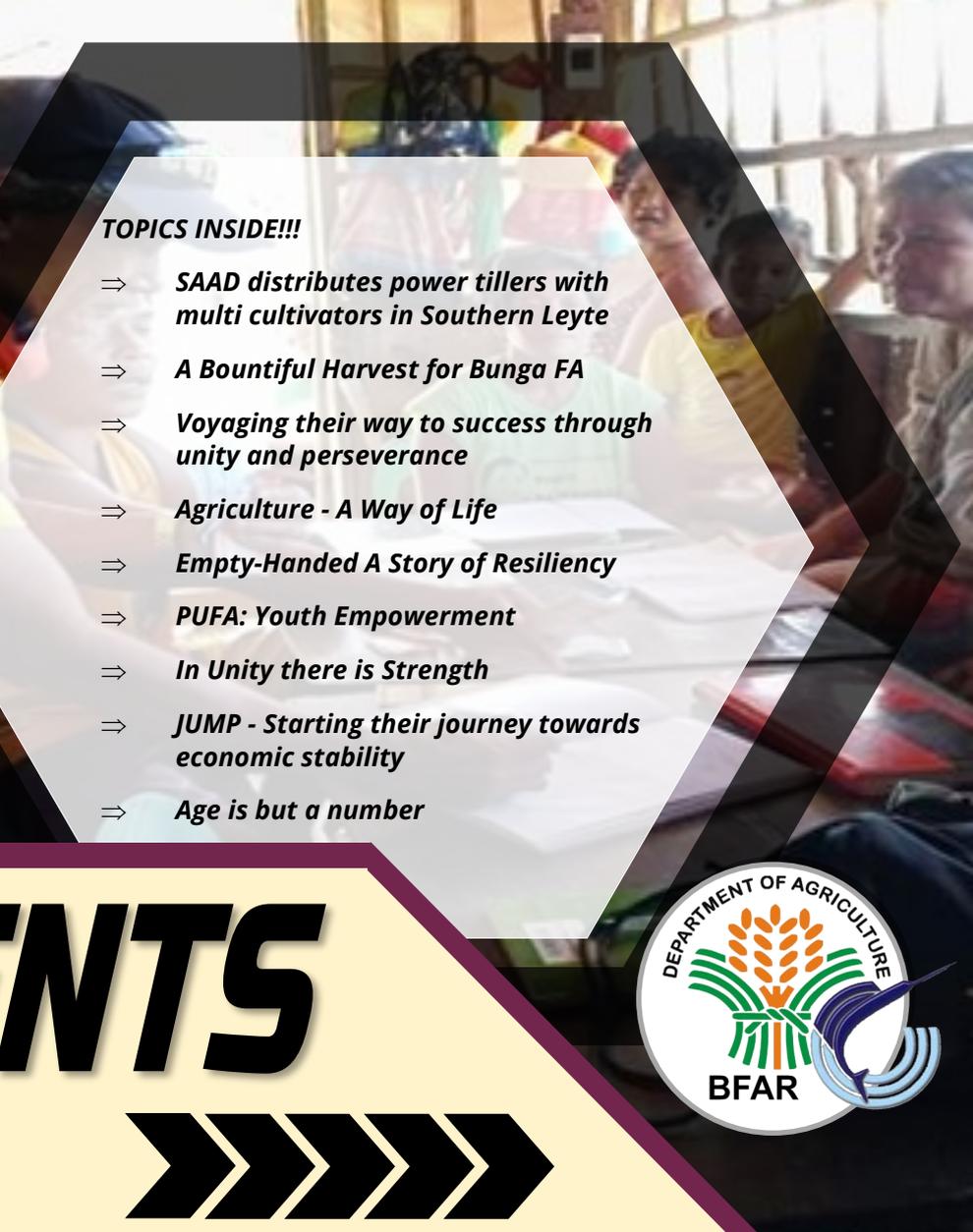


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The SAAD *Bandilyo* is the official monthly publication of the **Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program 8**, Department of Agriculture–Regional Field Office (DA–RFO) 8, Kanhuraw Hill, Tacloban City.

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

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

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

From the Regional Focal Person's Desk..



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

SAAD distributes power tillers with multi-cultivator in Southern Leyte

Cristy A. Bitos, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Southern Leyte

Mechanization is a multidimensional concept, which is gaining wide utilization and traction in agriculture nowadays. Providing agricultural machineries to farmers in a locality corresponds to or contributes significantly to the development of food production and ecosystems through more efficient, effective, and environment-friendly algorithms.

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program provided farmers in the province of Southern Leyte with ten (10) power tillers with multi-cultivator under the FY 2021 Vegetable Production Project. The project valued at PhP5,274,540.00 benefited ten farmers' associations located in six (6) municipalities as follows:

Municipality	Quantity
Bontoc	2
Malitbog	2
Liloan	2
St. Bernard	1
San Francisco	2
Pintuyan	1
Total	10

On July 21, 2021, the distribution of the machineries was followed by actual onsite demo and inspection of machinery conducted by the DA-RFO 8 Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) staff led by Engr. Jonas Buhay. Assisting in the distribution held at Brgy. Tinaan, San Francisco, were PPMSO-Southern Leyte Provincial Coordinator Jocelyn A. Cabañas, Area Coordinator Cristy A. Bitos, San Francisco Municipal Agriculturist Bienvenido Saturinas, and his staff.

During the event, two (2) women's associations, namely: Sta. Paz Norte Women's Association and Pasanon Women's Association, attended the field demo in the area. The farmers' associations also received vegetable seeds, and farm tools and equipment.

SAAD activities and services are underway. It continues to provide livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities to less-privileged farmers for a more sustainable and inclusive development in the countryside.



A Bountiful Harvest for BUNGA FARMERS ASSOCIATION

Rovelyn V. Timkang, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Southern Leyte



The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program allocated a total amount of P1,707,480.00 for vegetable production in four municipalities in the province of Southern Leyte. The projects cover 12 proactive farmers' associations willing to participate and follow SAAD Program guidelines.

In the municipality of Bontoc, Southern Leyte, two associations were chosen as recipients of the Vegetable Production Project. One of them is the Bunga Farmers Association (BuFA). It was registered with DOLE on March 7, 2019, with registration number RO800-SLFO-19-02-WA-0428, and has 27 active members. Most of its members are small-scale farmers with monthly incomes ranging from P5,000.00-P7,000.00. They mostly rely on coconut or copra farming as their major source of income. They also produce other commodities, such as corn, peanut, cassava, and upland rice.

During the 3rd quarter of 2020, BuFA received agri-inputs valued at P284,580.00, consisting of seeds, small farm tools and equipment for vegetable production. The onslaught of COVID19 pandemic caused the delay in the implementation of said project. Although Southern Leyte during that time was not hard hit by the coronavirus disease, some minimum health protocols had been enforced; hence, farmers had limited mobility. Local barangay lockdowns also contributed to the extension of their planned activities.

Land preparation commenced in November 2020. By the 2nd week of December, the group had started planting vegetable seeds in a 1-ha. production area, despite bad weather and minimal pest infestation.

Amidst the pandemic, BuFA never lost hope. They kept on protecting and taking care of the cultivated area. Their hard work started paying off in the 2nd week of March 2021 when they harvested various vegetables, like lady finger, sweet pepper, eggplant, string beans, bitter gourd, pechay, and squash until June 2021. Production of eggplant & sweet pepper are still ongoing as of press time.

For the 1st cycle, the group had total gross sales of P415,075.70. To ensure that the project would be sustained, it allocated some funds to be used for the 2nd cycle. Since fetching water is one of the major challenges in the area, the members bought a water pump from the initial gains made. Presently, BuFA is preparing for its 2nd cycle engagement. It plans to continue its vegetable production project, integrating it with native or egg layer production. The association looks forward to an optimistic future.

Notwithstanding the pandemic and other challenges that the group is facing, it still continues cultivating and nurturing the veggies with tender loving care. According to the association members, they are grateful for the vegetable project entrusted to

them by SAAD Program. Through good camaraderie and hard work, BuFA aspires to uplift the lives of every member-family and share its bountiful harvest to others in the community.

Commodity (1 st Cycle-2021)	Total Kg. Harvested	Price/Kg. (Php)	Gross Sales (Php)
Eggplant	11,240.36	45.00-50.00	284,923.70
Lady finger (Okra)	465.82	40.00-45.00	18,133.45
Bitter gourd (Ampalaya)	1,537.25	45.00-65.00	53,377.40
Sweet pepper	502.66	80.00-120.00	22,751.70
String beans	512.76	35.00-50.00	16,421.70
Squash	1,696.70	10.00-15.00	17,087.75
Pechay	87.00	20.00-25.00	2,158.50
Baguio beans	9.00	25.00-30.00	221.50
Total			415,075.70



SUCCESS STORY

Voyaging their way to success THROUGH UNITY AND PERSEVERANCE

Marlyn D. Gordora, Area Coordinator II, PPMO-Eastern Samar

It has been decades since our assiduous farmers who work hard from dawn till dusk to provide sufficient food for their community have suffered from destitution. Bearing this in mind, the government has crafted programs and services that aim to improve the lives of these unsung heroes.

One of the many programs implemented by the Department of Agriculture is the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) that specifically aims to lift marginalized farmers from debilitating poverty they are in. Since 2016, SAAD Program has assisted thousands of eligible farmer-beneficiaries and farmers' associations in the poorest areas of the region.

In 2018, SAAD Program implemented the Mallard Duck Production and Swine Production Projects. Forty-one (41) individual farmers from Brgy. Cagbonga, Borongan City were validated and selected as project recipients. Twenty-one (21) farmers became recipients of the Swine Production Project, while the remaining twenty (20) received a package of the Mallard Duck Production Project.

The swine production package includes 19 gilts, 2 boars, 63 bags grower feeds, 63 bags gestating feeds, and drugs and biologics valued at PhP1,062,404.65. Each of the nineteen (19) beneficiaries received 1 gilt, 3 bags grower feeds, 3 bags gestating feeds, and drugs and biologics; while two (2) beneficiaries received 1 boar, grower and gestating feeds, and drugs and biologics.

The mallard duck production package includes 120 heads ready-to-lay mallard ducks, 60 bags duck layex, 20 rolls polynet amounting to PhP230,000.00. In turn, the 20 beneficiaries each received 6 RTL mallard ducks, 3 bags duck layex, and 1 roll polynet.

Upon implementation of said projects, SAAD PPMO-Eastern Samar encouraged the beneficiaries to form a registered association for them to obtain their specific goals, which is to generate additional income, improve their living conditions, and become entrepreneurs. After all, many heads are better than one.

After its first organizational meeting in February 2019, the group was officially registered with the Department of Labor and Employment as Cagbonga Backyard Swine and Duck Breeders Association (CBSDBA). With the supervision of SAAD PPMO, a rollover scheme was then crafted to further increase the number of individuals who will benefit from the program. The scheme works this way: Every beneficiary of the Swine Production Project grants 2 heads piglet to the association and a next-in-line beneficiary. Then, all individual farmers who received piglets from the rollover scheme either have to give a piglet back to the association or repay the equivalent amount in cash.

This group of united farmers is keen on improving its farming system and developing it into a business to generate more income, while continuously providing adequate food for the community. Because of its good track record, it was again recommended for the FY 2019 Layer Egg Production Project amounting to PhP438,000.00. This time, the project was given to the association as a whole where the members have equal individual obligations in terms of maintenance, monitoring, and development. This was another milestone for the association to get closer to its goals. In 2021, the group received a package of 480 heads ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken, 10 units egg laying machine, layer feeds good for 6 months, and drugs and biologics.

Aside from the livelihood support project the group received from the program, it also received a Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (PhP300,000.00)-worth of Agrivet supplies as prize for winning 2nd place in the SAAD FY 2019 SAGA contest. Upon receiving the reward in 2020, CBSDBA started its Agrivet store operations where local poultry and swine raisers bought supplies. It gave the members an opportunity not only to gain additional income, but also to provide services to the



community where poultry and swine raisers didn't have to spend fare money anymore to purchase supplies in Borongan City.

Currently, the association has generated a total earning of PhP1,167,745.00 from diversified livelihood enterprise, such as swine production, swine fattening, mallard duck production, and layer egg production projects, and selling of Agrivet supplies. The money that flows in is kept in a savings account at a local bank.

The 41 individual members are already earning from the FY 2018 Mallard Duck and Swine Production Projects. Moreover, the association has an existing 2 heads sow, 35 heads mallard duck, and 315 heads layer chicken, which continuously earn for CBSDBA additional income.

The emergence of African Swine Fever (ASF) challenged swine raisers in Eastern Samar. In response to this, PPMO-Eastern Samar headed by Provincial Coordinator Antonio B. Luceres Jr. coordinated with the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) to conduct ASF Information Dissemination Seminar for farmers. Its aim was to educate them on the disease to avoid loss of their animals. The team also reminded the raisers to heighten their biosecurity measures.

Cagbonga Backyard Swine and Duck Breeders Association utilizes its sales for its planned enterprise expansion, while engaging in other Income Generating Projects (IGPs). In fact, it is already constructing a shed house for the newly-procured 400 heads RTL as expansion for its Layer Production Project. Soon, it will engage in value-adding schemes, such as sales of meat products, to benefit both the members and community by involving them in project implementation through generation of services and other activities that would provide additional income to the constituents of Brgy. Cagbonga.



AGRICULTURE - A Way of Life

Jacquenette P. Tondo, Area Coordinator II, PPMSO-Samar



Cantontong United Youth Association based in Brgy. Cantontong, Jiabong, Samar is a perfect example of millennials that energized the significance of farming in society. CUYA has become an inspiration for other youths, not only in Jiabong, but it has also gained remarkable impact to other groups in Samar. CUYA was established in February 2018. It started off as a basketball team that joined *ligas* (sports competition) in different barangays every summer and engaged in extracurricular activities while school classes have yet to start.

Because most of the members are sons and daughters of farmers, they were exposed to farming in their childhood. They decided to form the association following the steps of their mother people's organization, the Cantontong Agriarian Rice Farmers Association. Initially, it got 32 members aged 13-35, and it was registered with DOLE in February 2020. At that time, the members were engaged in vegetable farming.

Hearing about the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture, they invited staff from PPMSO Samar to assess their association, then submitted a Letter of Intent to request for a project. Through their persistence and sincere commitment shown during the validation, they qualified and became recipients of the FY 202 Egg Layer Production Project.

In the same year the association received the interventions, a capability building training was also conducted.

Managing an egg layer farm was a novel idea to the association. COVID19 also became an additional challenge to the association.

Inputs	Quantity
Ready-to-Lay Chicken	384 heads
Layer Feeds	170 bags
Egg Tray	800 pc.
Antibiotics	1 kg.
Multivitamins	1 kg.
Egg Weighing Scale	1 unit

On September 7, 2020, the association received 384 heads RTL chicken layer and other inputs shown above. It amounted to Php942,600.00.

As its counterpart, the association shouldered the cost for the housing and other structures of layers through contributions of members until it was finally completed. Even at their young age, they became persistent to reach their goal. Their dedication became their strength in managing the layer project.

CUYA became known in Jiabong as a reliable egg supplier. The production reaches 10-11 trays per day. It gives a new image of the youth as responsible residents serving the community. CUYA earned a gross income of Php160,762.67 from September-December 2020. It supplied fresh eggs to adjacent barangays and nearby towns. It also

helped the members, because for every duty served, they receive a commission as reward for their hard work. It empowers the youth to build confidence, manage their time, become responsible and business minded in their young age.

Month	No. of eggs produced	Income (Php)
September	1,425	8,025.64
October	10,010	58,478.25
November	10,547	64,671.15
December	10,848	29,587.63
Total Gross Sales		60,762.67

The income helped the association buy additional 150 head of its egg layer chicken. It also enabled the association to construct cages and expand the housing for additional layers. Likewise, it learned to invest in an agrivet business in the village.

Through this, CUYA has been known as a progressive youth organization in Samar. It motivated the members to participate in many activities and had won various commendations and awards.

The following were the awards CUYA received:

Awards	Prize Received
DA Director's Award – Department of Agriculture RFO 8	Certificate
Next Best Youth Organization – YES Samar	Php10,000 Cash Prize and Php100,000 worth of project.
Productivity Olympics – DOLE	Php10,000 Cash Prize

Through these well-deserved recognitions, CUYA has levelled up and was funded by the Foundation to the Philippine Environment (FPE) to venture into an Organic Vegetable and Native Production Project worth Php100,000.00.

CUYA has indeed come a long way as it builds a strong foundation. While still focused on its egg layer production, it continues to explore ways to invest in other businesses. CUYA is very grateful to the Department of Agriculture SAAD Program for providing such life-changing opportunity. As this is not the only organization that SAAD aims to empower, the association shares its blessings by way of conducting training for the youth in different barangays and municipalities to inspire them and believe that **"Agriculture is not just a**



EMPTY-HANDED

A Story of Resiliency

Jesserel A. Tiu, Area Coordinator II, FPMSO-Eastern Samar



Filipinos are known to be resilient, and it has been proven many times. We embrace chaos to alleviate the burden and carry on with our day-to-day life. The Tabi Rice Planters Association (TRPA) demonstrated this trait when its members were struck by Typhoon Yolanda in 2013. Many of them had farming as their only source of income. Nearly all were badly affected, and for some farmers, everything they had was wiped out instantly.

Super typhoon Yolanda, known internationally as Haiyan, was one of the strongest storms in history to ever make landfall in Eastern Visayas. It brought vast devastation to numerous provinces including Eastern Samar. The impact on agricultural livelihood sector – the major economic activity in the province – was extremely high.

The municipality of Balangkayan is situated in the southern part of Eastern Samar, and it is where members of the association reside. Balangkayan is considered a 5th class municipality and was unfortunately among the worst affected areas. Most of the residents still depend on agriculture and fishing for their livelihood.

In 2013, organization members, like other victims of the catastrophe, also faced an uncertain future. Though they had next to nothing, they were determined to survive. Their situation caught the attention of the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction Network, which assured them of help if they could organize into an association. Starting with only ten individuals, they persevered and eventually increased in number. Today, the association has thirty (30) members.

Thanks to government efforts, interventions continued to flow into the municipality. To further boost economic activity, many projects were implemented that targeted the marginalized sector in society, which included farmer-members of the association.

As promised, they received farm machinery, such as rice thresher and tractor. In addition, they also received a rice reaper and grass cutter from a non-profit organization. Many other organizations extended assistance to them in later years, one of those being the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture. Through SAAD, farmers who yearn for a better life are provided with interventions that will promote food security and alleviate poverty among the poorest and deprived individuals in society.

It was in 2019 that the Tabi Rice Planters Association was identified, verified, and granted a Vegetable Production Project in 2020. Having suitable area and with knowledge in planting and management, the members implemented the project smoothly. From April 2021 until the succeeding months, they started harvesting nine hundred fifteen (915) kg. bitter gourd (*ampalaya*), four hundred sixty-three (463) kg. eggplant, two hundred five (205) kg. pole sitao, twenty-two (22) kg. bell pepper, and one hundred eighty-five (185) kg. water melon, which altogether garnered total sales of PHP78,740.00.

The Vegetable Production Project has brought positive impact on the lives of the association members. Their primary needs were met, and as it continues production, more income are generated, subsequently bringing bigger results.

Eager to succeed and with much willingness to expand the project, association members decided to invest on bigger enterprise. By renting a space at the food terminal in Balangkayan, they sold their produce at conventional prices, along with products of other small-scale farmers. Through their cooperation, TRPA was also able to purchase on installment a rice mill, letting them earn additional income.

The association's good performance made a positive impression on other concerned agencies as well. This resulted in another intervention granted by SAAD Program, namely, Layer Egg Production Project. The inputs used in the production are now fifty per cent (50%) delivered. It is currently in the preparation phase, constructing the layer house and conducting clearing operations.

Like other organizations, the association has set plans to further upscale its agri-enterprise. It aims to level up by adopting DA's Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation with other farmers' associations, not only in Balangkayan but throughout Eastern Samar. It also plans to expand its Vegetable Production and Layer Egg Production, as well as engage in other agricultural economic activities.

Truly, SAAD Program of the Department of Agriculture continues to bring hope to farmers, and makes their humble dreams become bigger, clearer, and within reach.



PUFA: Youth Empowerment

Floriel A, Royo, Area Coordinator II, PPMO-Leyte



The Palayunan Unlad Farmers Association (PUFA), is based in Brgy. Cabatianuhan, San Miguel, Leyte. It is a farmers' association duly registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) on May 5, 2020. From its 22 members, 6 of whom are male and 16, female, majority belong to the youth sector, with 15 of them currently enrolled as college students and four (4) are academic scholars.

A beneficiary of the 2021 Mallard Duck Production Project, PUFA was provided with 660 heads (600 ducks and 60 drakes), feeds, and farm tools. Presently, the association already purchased 15 heads mallard duck as replacement for mortalities due to sickness.

The production area of the association is located at the barangay outskirts, easily accessible to the members in their egg collection, and cleansing of the area is far more convenient. The members, grouped into seven for each group, are tasked to maintain good animal health practices and management in order to have high production of eggs.

In the first two (2) months of operation, the association produced a total of 12,513 pc. eggs from June 22–August 10, 2021, which were sold for Php75,078.00. Presently, the association has a savings account with OCCCI, having a balance of Php40,643.00. Cash on hand is Php10,435.00, and various expenses amounted to Php24,000.00.

With the increasing number of eggs produced per day, SAAD team provided one (1) unit incubator in preparation for PUFA's plan to increase the population of its mallard ducks and also for its balut production. As of press time, the association initially started to incubate a total of 214 pc. of eggs and it is already on its 11th day.

Moreover, the association is busy with land preparation on a parcel of land adjacent to the production area for its vegetable production as additional source of income.

The association is grateful to have been a beneficiary of SAAD Program because it is its first-ever project received from the government. *"Nagpapasalamat gud kami hine nga project nga ginhatag han DA-SAAD Program. Kun dati nakatambay la kami*

ha balay ngan an mga estudyante nag-iinukoy la ngan sige la it cellphone pag-Facebook ngan mulay hin ML (Mobile Legends), ha pagkayana it amon adlaw nagiging productive na ngan nakakawara pa hin problema kun na-duty kami kay nakakatawa-tawa. Baga la kami hin magbabarkada nganhi ha asosasyon," a youth member quipped. (We thank SAAD Program for giving us this project. Where it used to be that we merely stayed at home and students were idle, browsing through their cellphones @Facebook and playing ML, now our day has become productive. Our problems are somehow banished because when we render duty, there is time to laugh and we are like buddies here.)

8-3-21 Lorena C. Altamero
Teodoro Bernala Jr.
Marilyn Cayado

LORENA C. ALTAMERO &		009-30-006729-0	
01	05Aug2021	CCD	Withdrawal
02	05Aug2021	CD	

CASH DEPOSIT		CHECK DEPOSIT	
Account No.	009-30-006729-0	Bank Instn.	Bank of Cebu
Date	8-5-21	Branch	San Miguel
Total Deposit P	38,643.00	Check No.	
In receiving items for deposit, this Coop binds itself only as depositor's collection agent. It assumes no responsibility beyond care in selecting correspondents and until such time as payment shall have come into possession of the Coop.		POSTED AUG 5 2021	
Total Cash Deposit P	38,643	Total Check Deposit P	



IN UNITY THERE IS STRENGTH

Allan Brit, Provincial Coordinator, PPMO-Leyte



Daro Integrated Farmers Association has 23 active members who are planting high value crops as their source of income which is located in Brgy. Daro, Jaro, Leyte. These farmers are working together raising free-range chickens, protecting them from diseases and other calamities. DIFA is one of the SAAD assisted project FY 2021 who received 220 heads of free-range chickens and 1200 suckers of banana lakatan.

Sometime in early 2020, the said farmers are not formally organized but were planting high value crops in a communal area. Mr. Rene Molabola, an OFW on a vacation, noticed these farmers and offer them to buy all of their produce while interacting the farmers. They also mentioned that they had no particular market to sell their crops.

Initially, Mr. Molabola, only buys lettuce and cucumber to be sold in the municipality of Jaro until he was able to negotiate the Robinsons Mall management, that he will supply certain number of kilos of lettuce and cucumber per week.

Upon coming to an agreement with Robinsons, he formally organized the farmers in Daro so that they can sell their produce collectively. During their series of meetings, he was then selected as their association's president.

At present, the association already delivered 30 to 40 kilos of lettuce per week to Robinsons Tacloban thru the bagsakan area of Mr. Molabola. Moreover, DIFA is certain that the livelihoods given to them by SAAD could exceptionally increase their income specially that the free-range chickens are starting to lay eggs, while the banana lakatan suckers are currently inflorescent stage where it would only take three to four months before harvest.

Before when they were still unorganized, they can only buy a maximum of 10 kilos of rice during market day, but now, they can afford to buy 1 sack of rice for their consumption, the president added.

JUMP - Starting their journey TOWARDS ECONOMIC STABILITY

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



The Jackfruit United of Matag-ob Planters (JUMP) based in Brgy. Mansahaon, Matag-ob, Leyte was selected as one of the earliest recipients of Goat and Jackfruit Production Project when the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program was established in Leyte Province in 2018.

In September 2020, the farmers' association received twenty-two (22) head goat, two (2) of which were bucks and twenty (20) head does; four (4) block Urea Multi-Nutrient Blocks (UMNB); planting materials, such as *Trichanthera* and *Madre de Cacao* cuttings, *Indigofera* seedlings, etc.; and drugs and biologics. It also received 1,133 pc. planting materials grafted jackfruit together with organic fertilizers.

This year, JUMP has already produced a total of 12 kids, and 5 head does are already pregnant. Moreover, SAAD PPMSO-Leyte conducted a Training on Dairy Production on June 21-23, 2021, with technical support from the National Dairy Authority

(NDA). After they learned new/updated knowledge from the training, the members plan to initially produce goat's milk since they already found a ready market in a buyer who also participated in the training. As for the grafted jackfruit they planted in November 2020, the trees are still in their vegetative stage, and are expected to bear fruit after 3-5 years.

The Jackfruit United of Matag-ob Planters farmer-beneficiaries are grateful for the agricultural assistance and support given them by SAAD Program through the inputs and continuous guidance rendered by PPMSO-Leyte field officers. They are hopeful and optimistic that this promising endeavor will help JUMP-start their journey towards stability and improved economic condition for their families and community.

Age is but a number

Rianne B. Gula, Area Coordinator II, PPMO-Samar

The world is full of so-called “late bloomers” who have come into their own as they aged. These people, although considered extraordinary now, were once like you and me. The point is, age is not a limitation to 68 year-old Mr. Vicente Soliga of Brgy. Burabod, Sta. Margarita, Samar, to become one of the active, role model members of Burabod Fish Workers and Farmers Association. According to him, just because one is a senior citizen does not necessarily mean he/she cannot achieve greatness in his/her twilight years.

Tatay Vicente, as he is wont to be called, was grateful to be included as member of the association, which received a Swine Production Project in FY 2020.

The truth is that just like other members of the association, he has had his share of failures, doubts, and disbelief in himself; but one thing he did not do is quit. Against all odds, he together with the association kept going and aimed of achieving the success they dreamed of.

Tatay Vicente is one of the motivations why the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program is optimistic by continuing to support deserving farmers by granting them livelihood interventions. The implementers were confident that the Burabod Fish Workers and Farmers Association as a whole is really dedicated to the project entrusted to it.

Most of the association members like Tatay Vicente were not fully equipped in raising swine, especially in the production aspect, which needed more awareness. In order to fully empower and prepare them, SAAD Program provided them social preparation and trainings. The association was then guided how to manage and fully engage in swine production. Said activities helped them a lot in preparing him and the association for what lay ahead.

The beneficiaries were encouraged to abide at all times by their agreement between the association and SAAD Program, such as the livelihood policy, because the success of the project would ultimately depend on the cooperation of everyone.

Managing a Swine Production Project is not that easy; there are many circumstances that potentially arise in the middle of implementation. For instance, some of the gilts were attacked by diseases, so the association initiated linkage with private agencies, like Pigrolac and BMeg, for the latter to assist the association in terms of animal health care. This is one of the

good practices – training the group to become independent, which would be useful to them in the future.

In addition, Tatay Vicente said, “In order to show our willingness and eagerness to make the project materialize, my co-members and I participated in “bayanihan” (community shared effort) by using available resources to build housing for the gilts and follow protocols in the proper maintenance of the site.”

Table 1. Livelihood interventions received by Burabod Fish Workers and Farmers Association under SAAD FY 2020

Inputs	Unit	Qty
Gilt	head	8
Grower feeds	bag	20
Gestating feeds	bag	80
Lactating feeds	bag	30
Booster feeds	kilogram	300
Antibiotics	bottle	5
Multivitamins (Injectable)	bottle	5
Multivitamins (Oral Soluble)	bottle	5
Wound spray	bottle	10
Iron	bottle	5
Dewormer	pack	6
Fiber glass syringe	piece	2
Hypodermic needle	set	2
Oxytocin	vial	10

Tatay Vicente quipped, “Ha luyo han mga pagsulay nga umabot ha amon, ilabina san pag-ataman han mga baboy, nahatagan kami hin kusog san dida nga nakita na namon an bunga han amon mga pagpagal.” (Behind the challenges that confronted us, especially in the proper care of the pigs, it gave us strength upon seeing the fruits of our labor.) On July 14, 2021, the first gilt farrowed 11 piglets. This scenario boosted the energy of Tatay Vicente and the association. The first cycle

may not have made such a big impact on them, but they are sure that the second cycle will.

The Burabod Fish Workers and Farmers Association produced piglets that are in demand to the community and buyers because of their quality. The project will serve as stepping stone for them to join the burgeoning swine industry in their locality.



Table 2. Production of Gilts

Ear Tag	Date of Insemination	Farrowing Date	No. of Farrowed Pigs	No. of Live Pigs	No. of Mortalities	No. of Pigs Sold	No. of Fattened Pigs	Price per Pig (PhP)	Gross Income (PhP)
16345	Mar. 20, 2021	July 14, 2021	11	11	0	11	0	3,000.00	33,000.00
16346	Dec. 23, 2020	Apr. 17, 2021	17	16	1	16	0	3,000.00	48,000.00
16350	Nov. 28, 2020	Mar. 24, 2021	17	9	8	9	0	3,000.00	27,000.00
16347	Dec. 20, 2020	Apr. 24, 2021	15	13	2	13	0	3,000.00	39,000.00
Total			60	49	11	49	0	3,000.00	147,000.00

Tatay Vicente, together with the Burabod Fish Workers and Farmers Association, aims to have a strong association with cooperative members and to give equal opportunity to individual farmers who are interested to join the association because success will not depend on age at all.

They plan to purchase the lot where the swine fattening project would be situated. For now, however, they will focus on swine production until the time when they can explore other options. Tatay Vicente is very much thankful to the Department of Agriculture and SAAD Program for the opportunity given to the association. As a farmer-member, he looks forward to new engagement opportunities with DA-SAAD Program.

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