



KASASAAD

The official quarterly publication of the Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region - Special Area for Agricultural Development Program

APRIL - JUNE 2022 ISSUE II VOLUME 2



The Success of One is the Success of All

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CAMERON P. ODSEY

Regional Executive Director
Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region



The second quarter is usually the period when the start of projects for the year physically commence. This is after inputs and other requirements are procured. We are glad that many of our SAAD Projects for 2022 has indeed started ranging from swine and poultry production to crop production such as coffee and others. Our projects have also supplemented the inadequate budgets of our banner programs. The support to the swine repopulation program from SAAD has been significant in ensuring the continued supply of pork in our beneficiary communities and even supply nearby communities from their excess production.

Our poultry production projects in

many communities have provided additional food supply and income to many of our beneficiaries. Similarly, our crop production projects have started to do the same.

The present phase of the program will end in December this year. The completion of targets in the next two quarters are therefore critical in ensuring that this first phase will be able to accomplish its objectives for the year. Nonetheless, since its start in early 2016 up to the present, the SAAD program has contributed immensely to improving the livelihoods and incomes of the poor farmers in the target communities.

Let us continue to exert more effort in facilitating the procurement of the supplies and materials required

by the new project for the farmers groups to start their livelihood activities immediately and allow the PSO/PCOs to provide technical support for at least a few months before program termination in December 2022.

While the next phase has been proposed, we still await the formal actions under the new administration. We are however, hopeful that because of the impact of our projects to the improvement of the livelihoods and incomes of past beneficiaries, the continuation of the program will surely be a priority.

In the meantime, let us continue our effort to complete our targets this year and end the program on a successful note.



About the Cover

The home of Jean Pumecda from Angkileng, Sagada, Mt. Province, proud member of the Angkileng Rumang-ayan Organization [ARO] who strived to achieve her dream home with the help of the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development – Cordillera (DA-SAAD -CAR)

DANILO P. DAGUIO, Ph.D., CESO IV

Regional Technical Director for Operations, DA-CAR
SAAD Deputy Program Director



Times have been difficult for the Department of Agriculture, the years 2020 and 2021 has been one of the most challenging for the entire agriculture sector and has greatly affected our farmers in terms of production of basic commodities.

The challenges faced by the sector included a volcanic eruption in Bicol which affected farmers coupled with Transboundary diseases of animals and crops like the Avian flu, Fall Armyworms and African Swine Fever.

The falling prices of rice as an effect of the rice tariffication law was also felt by our farmers as well as our consumers.

Over and above all these, typhoons have affected most of our crops including infrastructure.

The effect of the pandemic was felt when there were so many restrictions hurdled nationwide and all over the world, these resulted to affect agricultural outputs with the increase in prices in fertilizers and fuel added to the complications of the Russia – Ukraine war

However, these challenges were tuned into opportunities.

The Department was given a higher budget which enabled us to implement more projects and reach more people.

Our farmers were able to feel the

benefits of the Rice Tariffication Law with free seeds, expanded credit with non- interest and payable for several years, farmers were also given farm machineries which lessened production cost.

Another initiative is the “Plant, Plant, Plant” Program Part 1 where the Cordillera received almost 4 billion pesos in terms of projects and activities, with the higher budget, we were able to implement several programs, one of these is the Swine Repopulation Program aimed to revive the industry.

The SAAD Program is a testament to a continuity of projects and the triumphs of the Department is the success of all, let this be a guide for us to hurdle 2022.

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Kalinga farmers eggsploring opportunities as an enterprise



In 2021, fifteen (15) members of the Eastern Sucbot Irrigated Farmers Association (ESIFA) located in Barangay Sucbot, Pinukupuk with the help of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) received inputs worth Php 562,750 for their FY 2021 Egg Enterprise Project, which included 250-layer chicken stocks packaged with 150 poultry feeds and production support to jumpstart their community enterprise.

Members of the ESIFA came from different sub-tribes of Kalinga such as Tobog, Gamonang, Bago, Banao, Magaogao, and some are Ilocano.

“Dakkel nga katulungan mi daytuy project ti bumaranggay ken dagituy myembro ta haan nga nangina. Dagiti stores dituy, matulungan mi ta ited mi ti nalaklaka nga presyo, pangpuunan” (This project is a big help to the community and to the members since these [eggs] are inexpensive. The stores here also benefit by getting the eggs at a lower price, a lesser capital need), shared ESIFA Vice-Chairperson Dennis Lagrio.

Production and marketing

The ESIFA has a 50 square meter (sqm) – communal poultry production site with members taking turns in feeding the stocks twice a day and maintaining the project to maximize profits during the first two months. Their daily produce is sold on an advance order basis by the barangay populace and from nearby areas such as Barangay Magaogao and Cabaruan. Walk-in customers are also accommodated based on the availability of supply.

A month after the delivery of stocks, ESIFA started to sell fresh eggs, and later, from January-May 2022, the group gained Php 44,849 net income from the gross sales of Php 90,821 of their 18,975 pcs of eggs hatched.

To date, their layer stocks can produce 170 eggs/day. The eggs were sold at Php 5.00 each from January- February and with the provision of an egg grader early last month, the prices of the different sizes now range from Php 130-180/tray, at 30 eggs/tray. Inventory of their sales is done every 15th of the month.

ESIFA is enhancing its marketing strategies by grading egg

produce allowing them to price the eggs at a higher cost for a possible increase in profit. For now, they are focused on the production and marketing of their fresh egg produce while later on, they plan to engage in value-adding when the market becomes saturated.

Improving housing, practices, and management

With their initial success, the group had recently relocated their egg production area into a hectare-wide site. This expansion will help maintain their increasing stocks and isolate the production from residential areas. The poultry facility will be integrated with their other interventions such as the fruit tree seedlings and vegetable seeds.

Moreover, with the rising cases of bird flu in other provinces, the group has taken precautions by limiting the exposure to caretakers since February. Said member-caretaker is receiving a monthly salary of Php 1,500 as an additional source of income.

Another measure observed is the continuous provision of multivitamins and the installation of a foot bath at the entrance of

20 swine raisers graduate from FLS training



Twenty (20) swine raisers from the Municipalities of Luna, Pudtol, and Sta. Marcela in Apayao has completed its two-month training for Farmer Livestock School (FLS) provided by the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

The training aspires to standardize the implementation of swine production by SAAD beneficiaries from the Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (5 members), CASS Farmers Association (8 members), and PaCoMarNusan Farmers Association (7 members).

In 2021, SAAD-Apayao launched the Swine Repopulation Program for 20 raisers in one of the three municipalities of the province. This is DA's response to managing the African Swine Fever (ASF) effects in 2019 aside from identifying critical zones of the disease. The program encourages beneficiaries to venture into swine breeding by distributing feed subsidies to support areas where there are no reported cases (green zone) of the ASF.

The training has two phases: the Support Program for Swine Repopulation through sow feed and biologics subsidy project, and the establishment of swine multiplier project.

Serapio Ulabu, Provincial Coordinator, said the program is optimistic that the hog industry will gain momentum this year and recover its losses.

The FLS was facilitated by Ms. Meliza Feliciano, SAAD Apayao's Community Development Officer, and Mr. Roniel Dugay, SAAD Apayao's Project Development Officer.

During the two-month training conducted in February-March, modules were shared with topics covering Sow Management, Sustainable Farming, Swine Industry, Swine Feeding, Swine Health Management, Swine Diseases, Herbal Medicine Preparation, Waste Management, Marketing, and Climate Change and its Effect on Livestock Production.

This training course also imparted knowledge on the adoption of science-based technology on swine that empowers the farmer-participants in raising pigs economically and effectively.

To date, 101 sows have so far farrowed, producing a total of 83 piglets. While other sows are expected to farrow in the third quarter of 2022. Meanwhile, 11 produced piglets have been rolled over to the municipalities of Pudtol and Sta. Marcela, ahead of the production and dispersal, benefitting 9 next-in-line raisers (Table 1).

Table 1. Swine Repopulation Update in the province

Municipality	No. of beneficiaries	No. of Sow supported	No. of the gestating sow	No. of sow farrowed	No. of piglets produced	No. of piglets rolled-over	No. of 2nd inline beneficiaries
Luna	5	5	0	2	11	3	3
Pudtol	8	8	0	3	36	6	4
Sta. Marcela	7	7	0	3	36	2	2
Total	20	20	0	8	83	11	9

Backyard swine raising

Raising pigs can be a short-term, low investment project for any family looking to save money through meat selling and get started in raising livestock, said Mr. Ulabu. He further explained that swine raising is a reliable source of income and food for households.

Ms. Maxima Camayang, Chairperson of ULFA said that swine raising is common among households in the province since it maximizes local resources as inputs.

"Kadagiti mannalon nga babassit nga pada mi, incon-consider mi iti babuy bilang napintas nga pag-income'an ta ado ita iti agbiruk iti meat dituy iti aglawlaw" (For small farmers like us, we consider swine raising as profitable because locally produced meat is now in demand), shared Ms. Camayang.

Swine repopulation program in Kalinga a success



One-hundred-fourteen (114) swine raisers in Kalinga were granted piglets from the first-in-line beneficiaries under the SAAD Swine Repopulation Program through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD), expanding efforts to revitalize the swine population in covered barangays.

In 2021, DA-SAAD Kalinga launched the Swine Repopulation Program for 170 swine raisers (first-in-line beneficiaries). The program provided support to swine raisers with existing sows by providing feeds good for one cycle and biologics such as multivitamins. Further, the farmers underwent a Farmers' Livestock Schooling (FLS) for swine production. The beneficiaries came from the 17 different SAAD-covered barangays of five identified municipalities in Kalinga.

To ensure sustainability and to accommodate more farmers, a roll-over scheme for the next-in-line beneficiaries was devised. For every sow supported by the program, two of its offspring will be passed on to two next-in-line beneficiaries either from within the previous beneficiary's organization or their non-SAAD barangay constituents who have an interest in swine raising. A bag of starter feeds will likewise be provided to every piglet dispersed. Hence, the initial 170 raisers will have the opportunity to share the benefits of the program with more farmers.

To date, 101 sows have so far farrowed, producing a total of 681 litters while 60 are under gestation. Several sows are expected to farrow this April-May 2022. Meanwhile, 114 of the produced litters have been rolled over putting the municipality of Balbalan ahead of the production and dispersal with 326 litters produced and 69 rolled-over piglets (Table 1).

Martha Panod, one of the beneficiaries in Balbalan, appreciates the program for devising its swine repopulation project.

"Mayat ta adda ti kastuy nga proyekto tapnu umad-adu pay ti agtaraken ti babuy. Dagiti han pay nakapadas nga agtaraken, maenganyo da ta dakket ti tulong na ti pinansyal ken adda mausar nu ok-okasyon, (It's good to have such projects to increase the number of swine raisers. Those who have not yet experienced swine raising are being encouraged since they can see that it helped other farmers financially and there is a readily available source of funds for occasions,)" said Ms. Panod.

Capacitating the farmers

Farm Coaching on Biosecurity for Swine Production was conducted in Balbalan, Tanudan, and Pasil even before launching the SAAD Swine Repopulation

Table 1. SAAD swine repopulation updates in Kalinga

Municipality	No. of Sow Supported	No. of Gestating Sow	No. of Sow Farrowed	No. of Litters Produced	No. of Piglets Rolled-over
Tanudan	10	5	2	9	0
Balbalan	50	11	39	326	69
Pasil	50	6	43	258	31
Tinglayan	40	27	13	63	14
Lubuagan	10	5	0	n/a	n/a
Rizal	10	6	4	25	0
TOTAL	170	60	101	681	114

in the province]This is to reiterate the importance of safeguarding farm areas and helping them avoid the infestation of African Swine Fever (ASF) incidents in their localities. In November 2021, the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Coordinator (PAFC) and the Municipal Agriculture and Fisheries Coordinator (MAFC) conducted

Start-up backyard poultry farming improves Apayao farmers' income



Fifteen (15) farmers from Malubibit Sur, Malubibit Norte, Anninipan, San Jose, Tamalunog (MAST) Farmers Association in Flora, Apayao earn from the Chicken Egg Production Project of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, augmenting income and ensuring local production and regular supply of eggs in the community.

The project, amounting to Php 306,250, was initially distributed on August 18, 2021, consisting of 230 head of chicken, 75 bags of grower feeds, and a Package of Technology (POT) on Chicken Production.

Ms. Lita Tugade, a member, shared that through the project she felt like she is a part of and can contribute to the betterment of their community by helping their neighbors sell eggs to local buyers and sari-sari stores in the town proper.

“Gapo iti pinaglak-lako mi iti egg, naamiris ko kasanu ka-importante iti adda’a iti supply iti egg dituy barangay mi. Ta idi, madi mi pay ma-afford iti gumatang

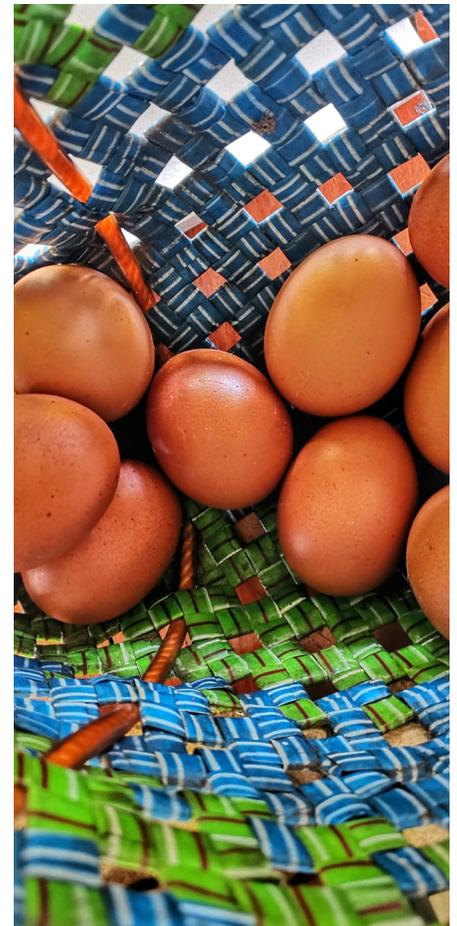
egg supply mi ta adayo met iti centro, iti kinaadayo na nangina unay para dakami iti pamahase mapan centro nu aggapo kami barangay,” expressed Ms. Tugade.

(By selling eggs, I was able to realize how important it is to have a direct supply in our barangay. Because back then, we couldn't even afford to purchase egg supplies because the town proper is far from here and it's expensive for us to travel from our barangay to town proper.)

Farm operation to poultry egg business

Ms. Ronalyn Rosario, another member, said they experienced slow production during the first two months of taking care of the animal stocks. This is due to the stress of stocks brought by the travel period from the source to the province. But since the group has a long experience in terms of backyard farming, they were able to manage through proper feeding to meet the animals' energy and production requirements.

According to Ms. Rosario, the way the chickens are fed is as



Provincial facilitators undergo outcomes monitoring training



Twenty (20) field implementers from the Provincial Project Management Office (PPMSO) of Apayao underwent Provincial Outcomes Monitoring Training from April 20 to 22 in Claveria, Cagayan to enhance their technical knowledge and skills in terms of management and project operations.

As the SAAD program Phase-1 ends in December, the program remains committed to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the project implementation benefitting 46 associations in the province.

To achieve these impacts, the program has conducted training with the aim to enhance the

Management, Social Preparation, Production and Livelihood, and lastly Marketing Assistance and Enterprise Development).

Ms. Isabel Tejo, Project Evaluation Officer, who served as one of the resource persons explained the importance of data gathering from the field monitoring.

“Yung mga data na nakukuha natin sa field ay napaka-importante dahil dito natin makikita kung nasang stage na ang FAs, either kung nasa production stage pa sila o ready for marketing na sila. Kapag handa na sila into enterprising doon tayo papasok bilang implementers, trabaho natin ang tulungan sila magkaron ng sustainability at i-boost ang kabuhayan nila using the

(The data we get from the field is very important because we can use them to check the status of the FAs, if they are still in the production stage or if they are now ready for marketing. If we see them ready for an enterprise, that’s when we enter as implementers, we must help them towards sustainability and boost their livelihood using the interventions provided. If they are not yet ready, we – the implementers must generate recommendations.) The participants conducted pilot testing and applied the learnings from the training in monitoring Sta. Filomena Elen 4Ps Farmers Association in Brgy. Sta. Filomena, Calanasan, Apayao.

Pilot testing on Outcome monitoring

During the pilot testing, 10 members of Sta. Filomena Elen 4Ps Farmers Association were invited to participate in the data gathering of the project status of the Goat Production Project implemented in 2021.

Part of the monitoring output is to identify and collect negative and positive outcomes of the project along with their plan as a group.

Meanwhile, Mr. Stepher Banhan, a Marketing Specialist, reminded the PPMSO team of the goal of the SAAD program.

“Remember, ang goal ng SAAD is to alleviate poverty, secure sustainability, promote livelihood and establishment of the enterprise. Theory of change is an effective tool that helps the organizations to articulate the outcome of the results,” expressed Mr. Banhan.

Apayao is composed of 7 municipalities namely Pudtol, Luna, and Sta. Marcela, Flora, Calanasan, Conner, and Kabugao, which covers a total of 133 barangays. A series of outcome monitoring will be conducted in May to evaluate other SAAD areas that include 123 barangays and 46 farmer’s associations with a total of 6,189 members.

Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy, Information Officer I, SAAD Apayao



knowledge of PPMSO staff on how to produce and utilize data findings that correspond to four (4) major components of the program (Program

interventions provided. Kapag hindi pa, we – the implementers must generate recommendations,” expressed Ms. Tejo.

DA-SAAD Kalinga ensures healthy chickens for consumers



With the Department of Agriculture's call for stricter measures to control and contain bird flu in the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, in cooperation with the Tabuk City – Office for City Agricultural Services (OCAS), steered activities to ensure that incoming poultry interventions and project sites are clear of Avian Influenza (AI) H5N1 or bird flu.

Members of the Makilo Farmers Association (MakiFA) in Sitio Makilo, Calaccad, Tabuk City are set to receive chicken stocks free of bird flu worth Php 550,000 from the program for their Communal Chicken Table Egg Production sub-project.

MakiFA is composed of 50 indigenous Ga'dang subtribe members of Kalinga who are engaged in corn and rice farming as a source of food and income, aside from backyard duck and chicken raising to sustain their livelihood.

Before the delivery of layer chicken

To ensure a ready and bio-secure poultry farm before the delivery of their layer stocks, SAAD Kalinga, headed by Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Mr. Balag-ey Claver, conducted a pre-inspection of the poultry housing facility which MakiFA started to build this year at a 400 square meter (sqm) – poultry housing facility of the project.

Mr. Claver reiterated the earlier instruction of DA- Cordillera Administrative Region Field Office (DA-CAR-FO) Regional Executive

Director Cameron Odsey for all poultry farm beneficiaries to strictly practice biosecurity measures in their poultry farms to prevent a possible infection from future chicken stocks.

Towards bird flu-free poultry production

Bird flu outbreaks were confirmed in Bulacan, Pampanga,



Laguna, and Camarines Sur while new reported suspected cases were also present in Nueva Ecija, Bataan, Tarlac, Sultan Kudarat, and Benguet, prompting caution in bringing in poultry products and by-products that can affect the poultry industry.

Through the Executive Order No. 22 Series of 2022 by Governor Ferdinand Tubban, a temporary ban of live poultry, poultry products, and its by-products and requiring a stricter set of requirements for entry of poultry animals coming from other areas is implemented as a measure to prevent the possible spread of the virus.

Biosecurity, hygiene, and sanitation were also called to be strengthened which the program and the LGUs had implemented to further safeguard the poultry stocks

in the province.

In Sitio Makilo, a poultry disease incidence investigation was conducted by the OCAS headed by Tabuk City Veterinarian Dr. Carmen Wanas following reports of some backyard ducks and chickens that were reportedly dying.

Samples were collected and sent to a laboratory for analysis that was eventually found to be negative, allowing the delivery of the vaccinated ready-to-lay chicken intervention in the coming weeks.

About the project

The group received 20 bags of grower feeds, 40 bags of layer chicken, 20 units of poultry layer cages, 10 pcs egg crates, 2 pcs preformatted plastic egg trays, 20 bundles of cartoon egg trays, 4 units of egg grader, 2 pcs antibiotic-

vitamins, 2 laminated sacks, 4 plastic drums, 2 rolls HDPE pipes, 10 mats PVC coated tarpaulins, 10 rolls polynet, 10 gallons disinfectant, 10 packs electrolyte, 10 bottles multivitamins, 500 rambutan seedlings, 500 lanzones seedlings, and 105 packs each of pechay, patola, squash, and eggplant seeds with the 1000 RTL Dekalb Brown chicken stocks left to be delivered. Stocks are set to come from Itogon, Benguet where there are no reported cases.

The program aims to augment the beneficiaries' income from their egg and vegetable produce in the coming months and provide locally available egg supply in Makilo and nearby areas.

Writer: Sheena Phine P. Dayagon, Information Officer I – Kalinga

Beneficiaries in DA-SAAD CAR continue to campaign against ASF



In the bid to fight African Swine Fever (ASF), beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Development (DA-SAAD) Program from the Angkileng in Sagada, Mountain Province practice good governance and indigenous knowledge to maintain the virus-free status of the area.

Ms. Jean Pumecda, SAAD beneficiary and Angkileng Barangay Secretary relays that measures to keep the area free from ASF are extensive, and owing to community support and vigilance, the barangay remains ASF Free.

In Sagada, there are four barangays infected with ASF, namely, Patay, Dagdag, Demang and Ambasing. Ms. Pumecda said that the entry points to the village have been secured with signs and patrols preventing those who may come in between 6 am to 6 pm, as well as confiscation of meat products residents bring.

Furthermore, Ms. Pumecda shared that all these initiatives were done in coordination with the community driver's association (an informal group of drivers in the community) and community members who are vigilant in inspections, confiscation, and disposal of pork and its by-products brought into the barangay.

In line with the goal to keep the virus out of their area, the elders in the community tapped on their Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP). On April 17, village elders performed a ritual called *Sedey* wherein traditional prayers are recited with the simultaneous butchering of chickens by the elders in the village. Afterward, the entire community adhered to the *Ubaya*, a mandatory rest day after the ritual, banning exit or entry to the area.

ARO members were in charge of guarding the checkpoints to ensure *Ubaya* was followed.

In an Executive Order issued

on April 29, 2022, by Mr. Domingo Salicub, Anikleng's Barangay Captain, the entry of live pigs, fresh pork, and any processed goods out of swine to the barangay was prohibited. Mr. Salicub said the barangay is an agricultural community and almost 95% of households are engaged in backyard hog raising which serves as one of their main sources of income thus, once infected would greatly affect the economic status of the community.

Biosecurity measures were also set in place like only one family member is allowed entry to pigpens with proper boots to be used only in the area. Proper covering of pigpens to prevent flies, dogs, and chickens to roam and the installation of disinfecting stations (*pigadan*) are also observed. The bringing in of an *arasaw* or swill has also been prohibited for added safety.

If found guilty, the barangay will sanction each violator with payment for all damages incurred once the swine has tested positive for ASF.

Pork prices in Angkileng range from Php 280-290 per kilo with supply ample for the community to partake in. Ms. Pumecda said there are 70 fatteners and 150 piglets with 80 sow population to assure there will be enough supply to meet the community demand.

Writer: Maria Elena Catajan, SAAD Regional Information Officer 1



Keeping the coffee industry alive in Kalinga

Kalinga coffee growers from Pasil, Pinukpuk, and Tabuk City underwent training on coffee rejuvenation in the hope of revitalizing the coffee industry in the province through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program’s Coffee Rejuvenation Training in tandem with the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU).



Coffee rejuvenation is among the universally-known best practices to enhance coffee production. This involves the cutting of vertical branches and stems of old trees to stimulate the sprouting of new branches. The technique allows coffee trees to bear berries in a year compared to planting a new seedling taking about 3-4 years to mature and start flowering. Also, rejuvenated coffee trees yield higher since more branches and robust growth is attained by having well-developed and established root systems.

With continuous monitoring and technical assistance, the program helps the farmers through rejuvenation technology adaptation to revitalize at least 80% or approximately 27 hectares planted with about 10,800 century-old coffee trees in the SAAD-covered areas in the province.

Municipal Agriculturist (MA) of Pinukpuk, Eunice Belloza encouraged farmers by sharing her vision of a promising enterprise in the coffee industry citing that a sure

income follows when farmers treat agriculture as a business, citing need to rejuvenate old coffee trees due to the decline in production.

Ms. Belloza said in the upper barangays of the province, where most coffee plantations are located, farmers purchase coffee powder for household consumption from the province’s central market in Tabuk instead of marketing their coffee products in the city.

“This only shows that the production of coffee plantations in the mountainous areas declines even with the suitability of the crop with the province’s climate,” she added, expressing hopes that coffee beans will be marketed from the upper communities of the province to Tabuk City instead of the other way around.

Coffee is an important part of Kalingas’ culture and Cordillerans as a whole. Aside from being a staple beverage in Kalinga homes. It is a symbol of hospitality when visiting a household or a place. It is served on slow lazy afternoons and any occasion.

Most coffee growers in Kalinga produce their seedlings by selecting good seeds from their production for transplanting, while some growers transplant seedlings from fallen ripe beans.

The value chain analysis of coffee in the Cordillera by the DA’s Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) acknowledges coffee to be the world’s second most valuable market commodity after petroleum and is the adopted regional commodity in the highlands. CAR has four major varieties of coffee cultivated in different provinces; Arabica coffee which grows well in the highland areas of Benguet, Mountain Province, and Ifugao, Robusta, Excelsa, and Liberica coffee which grows in the hotter or lowland areas in the region, like some parts of Kalinga and Mountain Province.

The harvest season is January to April for Robusta coffee, November to June for Arabica, and February for Excelsa. Kalinga coffee farmers mainly cultivate Robusta

and Arabica varieties.

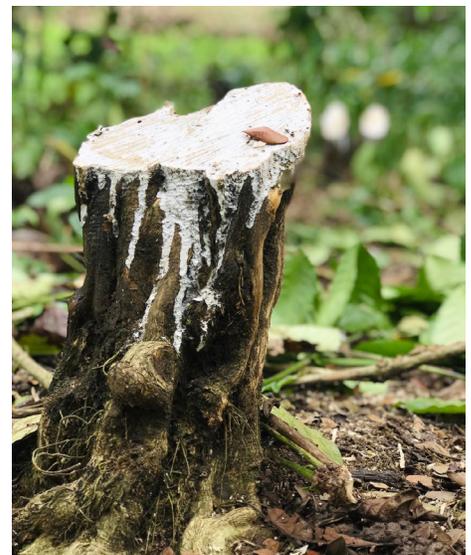
Coffee berries production in the Philippines decreased by 25.08% from 96,433MT in 2009 to 72,341MT in 2015 due to conversion of agro-forest plantations to cash crops like rice and corn that provide farmers faster and better income.

This decline fueled the desire of coffee farmers to adapt farm technologies and consider rejuvenating projects to revive coffee production in the province and the DA-PRDP allotted funds for the construction of Farm to Market Roads to help revitalize the coffee industry.

Project Implementation

In an effort by the DA-SAAD CAR and the MLGUs, 450 farmers were trained in Coffee Rejuvenation, Harvesting, and Post-handling Technique from October to November 2021 to increase the yield of century-old trees.

The Program allotted a Php 730,000 budget for the coffee rejuvenation training which was participated by eight Farmers’ Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) namely Guina-and Pasil Farmers Association of Pasil; Nambucayan Matagoan FA, Banat Banagan Pakao Credit Cooperative, and SAAD Farmers Development Organization of Tabuk City; Asibanglang Farmers Development Organization, Ba-ay Farmers SAAD Organization, and Limos SAAD FA of Pinukpuk with 450



The home that SAAD built



Jean Pumecda from Angkileng, Sagada, Mt. Province is a proud member of the Angkileng Rumang-ayan Organization [ARO] who strived to achieve her dream home with the help of the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development - Cordillera (DA-SAAD -CAR).

Pumecda said "Proud ako na hindi na ako poor, kasi may sarili na akong bahay, may mga alaga pa ako, malaking bagay nay yun, malaking blessings na yun salamat sa SAAD program at sa lahat ng staff ng SAAD na nag guide sa amin maraming salamat sa bumuo ng program na ito at sana mag tuloy tuloy pa ang program na ito."

[I am proud to say that I am not included in the poor sector anymore, I have my own house, I have my livestock to tend, that is a big thing, that is a huge blessing. I Thank the SAAD program and all the staff who guide us, I thank all of the people who comprise the SAAD program and hope that this program continues.]

Pumecda is a recipient of the first DA-SAAD Program on swine raising in 2019. She was given 9 piglets and feeds to sustain the pigs, and biologics totaling P94,000 under the Ankileng Rumang-ayan Organization [ARO], which received 300 heads of piglets, granting each of the 34 initial members piglets.

Pumecda shared "Naka 8 cycles na ako since, ibig sabihin meron na akong 8 times na sales at ngayon, meron pa akong 5 na

sow na buntis lahat at hinihintay ko ng manganganak ngayong May at meron akong 13 piglets na pinapalaki." [I have since had 8 cycles, it means that I have had eight sales transactions and now I have 5 sows which are all about to give birth and I'm taking care of 13 piglets.]

Pumecda's 8-cycle to success

A total sale of P806,715 was enjoyed by Pumecda for the entire 8 cycles and in turn used her earnings to invest in the Sagada Multi-Purpose Cooperative was able to roll her income for better gains. Loans amounting to 390,000 were given to Pumecda, who was able to pay back and invest further.

"Yung bahay ko na ito dahil sa aking sales nilagay ko sa COOP bilang share capital, yun ang nireloan lo bale hinihiram ko ulit, kaya nakapag pagawa ako ng 2nd floor at expansion ng akin pig pen."

[This house was built through my sales and my investments in our cooperatives as my share capital, which I loan, I was able to have the 2nd floor of our house and the expansion of my pig pen]

Starting with a mother pig-the 1st 9 piglets was purchased by the SAAD in 2019, Pumecda quickly invested to buying one sow to sustain production.

On her 1st cycle on December 19, 2019, the 9 piglets were sold at P101,660 [884 kilos @ P115 per kilo], on the 2nd cycle on February 16, 2020, a sale of P67,430 was made from 6 fatteners weighing 613 sold at P110per kilo.

For the 3rd cycle on June 20,

2020, 5 piglets were sold for P15,000 and on her 4th cycle on June 23, 2020 sales from 7 pigs weighing 770 sold at P220 per kilo was made totaling to P169,400.

The 5th cycle on August 1, 2021 proved to be beneficial P144,000 sales from seven pigs weighing 720 kilos sold at 200 per kilo.

For the 6th cycle on December 20, 2021 P113, 560 of sales came in for 8 pigs weighing 668 kilos sold at 170 per kilo. On the 7th cycle on January 20, sales from 20 piglets gave P100,000 sales.

On the 8th cycle on Feb 18, a sale of P75,665 was gained coupled with the P20,000 sale of her sow.

The Success of ARO Is the Success of All

In 2019, members of the SAAD-established ARO found a way to share blessings in the time of the pandemic as they practiced the "ob-obbo," in the Kankana-ey language meaning bayanihan, the Filipino spirit of communal unity, work and cooperation to achieve a particular goal when they unanimously agreed to accommodate more community members for of the Swine and Rambutan Production project.

The expansion of beneficiaries meant each member was to receive less heads of swine from the approved allocation, which each one consented to if only to include more from the community. When the DA-SAAD program was introduced proper identification of first beneficiaries was created

Apayao FAs persevere in egg enterprise



Two Farmers Associations (FAs) in the Municipality of Luna, Apayao have earned a total of Php 43,165 from the Chicken and Egg Production Project of the Department of Agriculture- Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program.



The inputs provided are part of SAAD's Free-range Chicken Egg Production Project funded in FY 2021 amounting to Php 2,778,780. The package is composed of 2,850 free-range chickens and supplementary poultry inputs such as grower mash, layer mash, multi-vitamins, egg trays, drinker, and poultry net.

In August 2021, the

program implemented the project where the recipients are farmers from the Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA) with 25 members and Midstream Livelihood Farmers Association (MLFA) with 45 members. The beneficiaries, whose source of income is by growing varied crops like vegetables, corn, and rice, hope that the poultry project will help them earn and save money for the education of their children.

Results

According to Ms. Verna Capan, Project Development Officer of SAAD Provincial Program Monitoring Support Office (PPMSO) in Apayao, the groups were able to accumulate additional sources of



income three months after project implementation.

"Kalpasan iti mano nga bulan nga naited detuy nga livelihood project, nakita mi iti impact na iti effort mi nga maysa nga grupo. Han lang nga nakatulong kami iti members nu di kitdi nakatulong kami pay iti community nga adda'an iti food supply para consumption" (After months of providing us with livelihood project, we were able to witness the impact of our efforts as a group. It didn't just help the members but also helped the community when it comes to food supply for consumption), expressed Ms. Maxima Camayang, President of ULFA.

She also added that the FAs are selling their farm produce to nearby barangays and towns proper.

According to Ms. Camayang, because of SAAD, a sense of unity sparked among farmers, in achieving a common goal which is to alleviate their living status from poverty. The beneficiaries hope that the poultry project will help them earn and save money for the education of their children.

Last March, ULFA and MLFA were rated among the highest and outstanding 45 FAs in the province by the PPMSO in partnership with the Municipal Local Government Unit that conducts its Organizational Development and Management. With this, the program hopes that the associations will continue to prosper in agripreneurship if SAAD Phase-2 shall be granted.

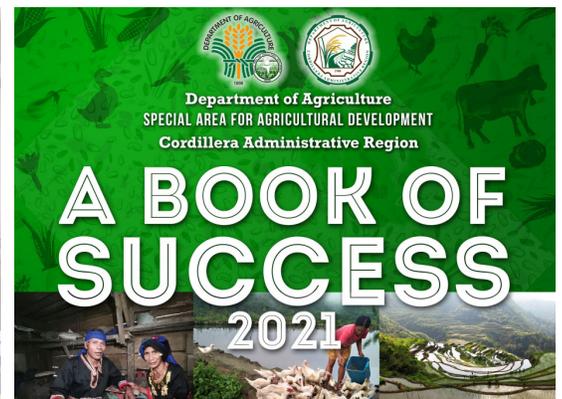
Policy and Plans

As agreed, each member is required to contribute at least 1 tray of eggs per month to generate additional income as a group.

SAAD Apayao will be endorsing these associations to LGU for additional partnership among government agencies such as the Technical Education and Skill Development Authority (TESDA) and Department of Science and Technology (DOST) for additional training in marketing.

Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy, SAAD Apayao Information Officer

SAAD Success launched in Book



A book of success chronicles best practices of the Department of Agriculture – Cordillera Administrative Region Special Area for Agricultural Development [SAAD] in a compilation of success stories for the Program.

Launched in simple rites during the DA 34th Anniversary celebration, June 30, 2022, the full and curated documentation of events and highlights since the SAAD inception in 2016 and is seen in the coffee table book dubbed as “A Book of Success 2021,” with the SAAD program coming to a close, is a fitting tribute to the 6-year Program.

There are three areas of focus in the SAAD Cordillera, namely Apayao, Mountain Province and Kalinga here over 50 stories of success have been carefully compiled for publication.

The various intervention projects and trainings provided by SAAD Cordillera to its identified beneficiaries reflect the effective implementation of the project through its four components starting with social preparation, which shows how we relate to our beneficiaries and partners.

The creation of this book shows what is happening with SAAD proactively and transparently. And even with the pandemic,

the information that we provide based on documented facts justifies how this special project of the Department of Agriculture is being initiated in the Cordillera Administrative Region which have recently been praised by members of the legislative department for its positive impact to their marginalized farmer constituents

In 2021, the SAAD region convened a “Book Committee” to finalize contents of the first book for the program with the provincial information officers, community development officer’s, project development officers and information technology personnel.



the poultry house as advised by Pinukpuk Municipal Agriculturist Dr. Eunice Belloza.

Ways forward

With the high demand for eggs in their area, the program allotted a budget for the group for FY

2022 to increase their layer stocks. On April 20, 300 additional stocks worth Php 165,000 were given to the group and are expected to lay eggs anytime this month of May.

Moreover, to ensure the sustainability and success of the

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project, training such as the Skills Training on the Establishment and Maintenance of Poultry Egg Production Enterprise and technical assistance in partnership with the local government units will be provided.

“This is just the beginning. We, from SAAD, will later connect you to the banner program of livestock, and with your experience and good record, we can show that you have a good standing of production with other programs. More opportunities will come to you. That is why you need to strengthen your group,” said Balag-ey Claver, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer of Kalinga, during his visit to Sucbot, Pinukpuk to encourage them to not limit their network to the SAAD Program but to also seek from other agencies, especially that they are still at the early stage of their enterprise.

Writer: Sheena Phine P. Dayagon, Information Officer I – Kalinga

20 SWINE RAISERS GRADUATE FROM....



Sustaining the project

To help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors engaged in agriculture and fishery, the conduct of the FLS was funded under the SAAD as part of the swine project, aiming to capacitate and enhance the technical know-how of

beneficiaries with swine raising.

It also aims to bring livelihood to the covered SAAD beneficiaries and help the province in its swine production, aside from teaching the backyard growers the importance of proper observance of biosecurity measures.

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The graduates, who are backyard pig raisers, are expected to improve their productivity and profitability, including making sound decisions in their swine project, said Meliza Feliciano, Community Development Officer.

Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy, Information Officer I, SAAD Apayao

Swine repopulation program...

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a monitoring visit in Balbalan where bio-secured farms of beneficiaries were acknowledged.

Moreover, Farmer Livestock School (FLS) on swine production for SAAD implementers, and later on, for beneficiaries were conducted still under the SAAD swine repopulation project. This is to ensure that the SAAD staff are equipped with sufficient knowledge in implementing the project while encouraging the farmers to adopt technologies that are favorable to their swine production.

The FLS on swine production was conducted in Balbalan, Tanudan, and Pasil. Swine raisers in the said areas are the first to be identified for swine repopulation by the SAAD

Kalinga, while Tinglayan, Lubuagan, and Rizal are expected to receive said schooling in 2022.

In Balbalan, the resource persons for the conduct of the FLS training are Dr. Leonardo Damian, and Dr. Florencio Wanason, both from the Office of the Provincial Veterinary Services, and Dr. Carmen Wanas from Tabuk City Veterinary Services. The proper housing, feed, care and management, and best practices on swine raising topics are discussed in the said training.

"Datin nga ammu yu ti agtaraken ti babuy ngem nabuo daytuy FLS gapu ti pandemya ti babuy nga isu ti makunkuna nga ASF. Daytuy nga ASF ket awan pay solusyon na sipud idi. Garud,

naisayangkat ti Farmers Livestock School tapnu pumintas ti produksyon, maimprove ti panagaywan, ken kasanu agtaraken nga haan matamaan ti ASF virus," said Balag-ey Claver, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) during the graduation ceremony of two Farmers Associations (FA) in Barangay Dao-angan, Balbalan on April 4, 2022. (You already know how to raise pigs, but this FLS was devised in response to ASF. There are no solutions yet for ASF, thus, FLS is conducted to enhance production, improve the care and maintenance, and guide on how to raise swine while preventing the infestation of ASF virus.)

Sustaining the project

The SAAD Program works hand-in-hand with partner implementers such as local government units (LGUs) and the agriculture and fisheries coordinators in monitoring the production and management of the program's beneficiaries.

With the objective of the project being progressively achieved, additional areas for swine repopulation were identified and included in the roster for assistance in FY 2022. The cooperation and diligence of every implementing body are thus expected to continue the good start of the project.

Writer: Sheena Phine P. Dayagon, Information Officer I – Kalinga



Start-up backyard poultry...

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important as the feed itself. Ensuring enough feeder space for all the chickens to eat further maintains their diet while preparing them in laying eggs.

In November, the group

started collecting eggs for marketing. From November to May, the group collected 14,894 pieces of egg, filling up 360 trays, and earning Php 61,200 at Php 170 per tray.

Members are required to



provide 10 pieces of egg per month, which will be collected by officers for consolidation and transparency.

“Nakita mi nga detuy impact na detuy nga narugyan mi nga negosyo. Maibaga mi nga dakkell iti advantage na detuy para kadagiti pagbayigan mi, ta aglalo ita ket kasapulan annak mi iti load allowance tapno maitul-tuloy da latta iti apan da pinagbasa ita nga pandemic,” expressed Ms. Rosario.

(We were able to witness the impact of this business that we started. We can attest that this is a great advantage for us to generate additional income, especially now that our children need load allowance to pursue their education amid the pandemic.)

Plan towards sustainability

The group plans to expand their farm operations by purchasing an incubator for chicken production and for producing chicks for additional income.

For the sustainability initiative, the group will be producing more stock as replenishment to continue with their business.

Mr. Nelmark Rasay, Project Development Officer, in a statement lauds the group for taking initiative. *“Nagpintas iti turung yu ta ammo yu nga addan to idi patingga dagituy naiteted kanyayu nga proyekto. Mayat unay nga dengdengen ta saksakbayan yun tapno nu kasta agtul-tuloy detuy nga pagbiayagan yu,”* mentioned Mr. Rasay.

(It’s good to hear that you are aware of the life span of this project. It’s great that you are already taking initiative to secure the sustainability of your established livelihood.)

Before the SAAD program ends its Phase 1 in December, the field implementers in partnership with the Municipal Local Government Unit (LGU) ensure that the group will be endorsed by other agencies like Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to encourage and equip them with marketing and enterprise building skills.

Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy, Information Officer I, SAAD Apayao

THE HOME THAT SAAD BUILT

From Page 12



for deserving to be able to avail of the program. A set of criteria was formed in the selection process with the guidelines dictating; one must not be working in a government or private institution, must not be an elected barangay official, must not be a recipient of any government interventions like the 4Ps program and must not own a house.

Pumecda's family then (husband and two children) were renting a small house, enabling her to pass all the needed criteria to be included in the SAAD program.

Pumecda said from the sales of each cycle coupled with loans from the local cooperative, materials for the house were bought, along with the expansion of her pigpen to allow her to increase swine production and empower her to slowly build the family house which only had beams on the onset.

Pumecda said "Dahil din sa SAAD Na enhance ang knowledge ko bilang IT kasi ako ang taga encode, taga online sa reporting, marami akong natutunan, natutunan ko ren kung paano mag alaga ng baboy kung paano mai secure ang mga babay natin lalo na ngayon na may ASF, maraming naitulong sa akin at sa kabuhayan, umangat na ang aking status, di na ako kasama sa poor."

[It is because of the SAAD that my knowledge was enhanced, being the Information Technologist assigned by the group, I am the one

in charge of reporting and I have learned a lot, I learned how to care for the pigs and I learned how to secure them, especially now that there is ASF, it has helped me a lot, it has helped our livelihood a lot, my level of poverty has been improved, I am now out of the poor sector, thanks to the program.]

At the SAAD provinces in the Cordillera, 34 social preparation activities were conducted, 219 specialized training, 151 livelihood projects with 18 community-based enterprises

The DA through the SAAD program strives to improve farm and fishery production and productivity through capacity building participatory planning and monitoring, strengthening organizations and provision of the much needed inputs for livelihood projects with programs like Organizational Development and Management [ODM], Bookkeeping, Financial Management, Package of Technology for Vegetables Poultry and Livestock, Agro Farmer Field School for Fruit Trees and Farmer Livestock School for Swine will be done this year, after being stalled due to restrictions on gathering, travel and movement.

ARO is now slowly becoming an enterprising organization focused in processing smoked meat of etag while individually sustaining their production through a roll-over

scheme since the delivery of their interventions, after receiving etag chamber on January 28, 2020, worth P100,000, they are venturing into etag processing aside from selling fresh meat and meat products such as longganisa, embutido, lumpia, shanghai, and meatballs.

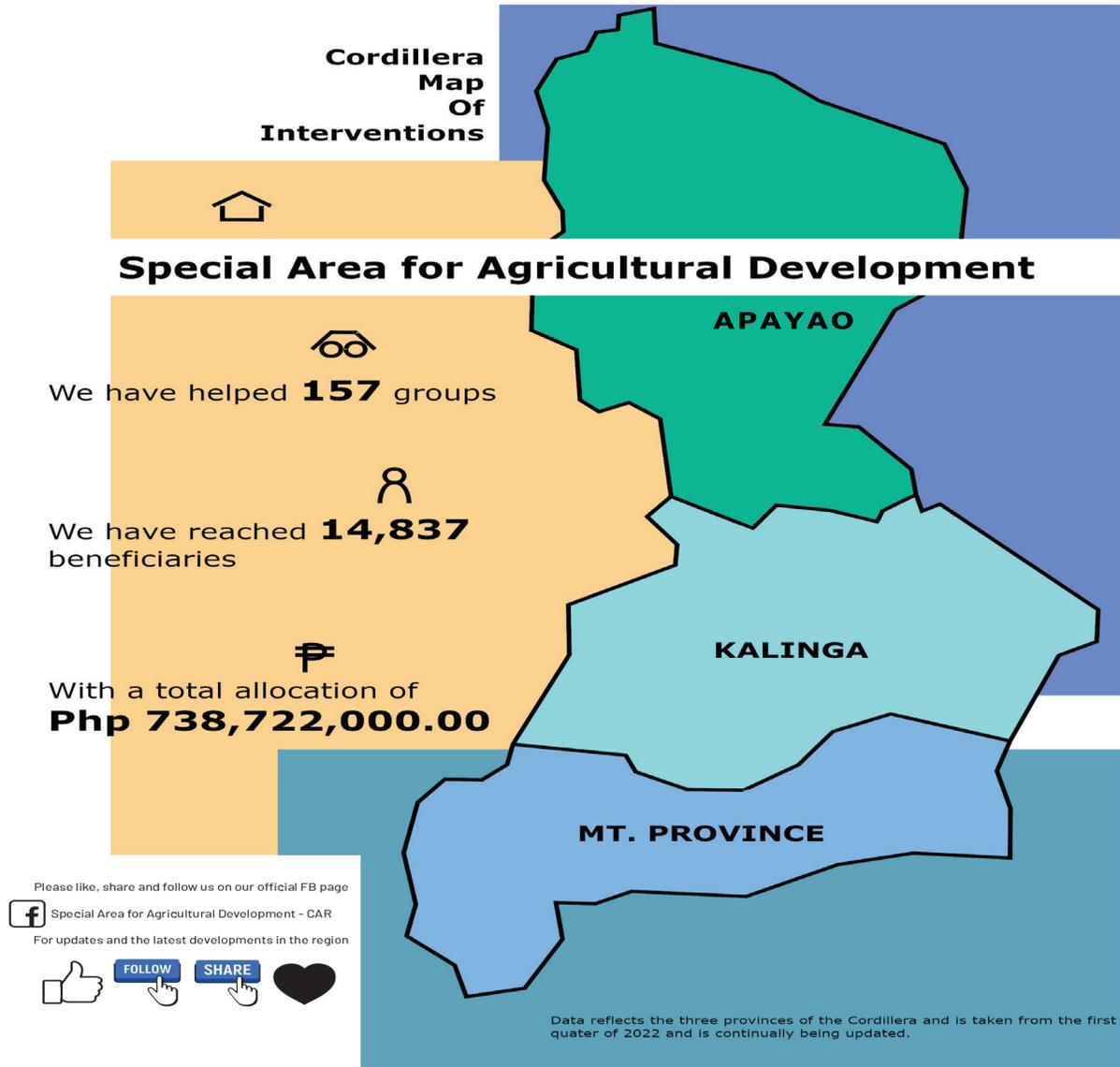
Etag or smoked meat is delicacy in the northern highlands where slabs of pork processed through salt-treating, sun-drying or smoking and is used as flavoring for local dishes or a main course.

Today, ARO members are busy with their cycle of raising swine based and members have received swine repopulation intervention [composed of feeds and biologics] this year to augment breeding activities covering qualified members with existing stocks.

Pumecda is a part of the 2022 SAAD Swine Repopulation Program, among the ten qualified ARO members and has shared her blessings by passing on four piglets required by the program.

A total of 701 swine farmers in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) has benefited from the ongoing swine repopulation project of the Department of Agriculture Cordillera Regional Field Office (DACARFO) as part of its support for African Swine Fever (ASF) affected farmers in the region.

Writer: Maria Elena Catajan, Regional Information Officer I, SAAD



Keeping the coffee industry...

total number of farmer participants. Rejuvenating materials and equipment like mini chainsaws, pruning shears, paints, and paintbrushes were provided to partner FCAs with a total fund of Php 730,000.00.

Problems Encountered and Solutions Made

However, the farmers' apprehension in adopting modern technologies in coffee cultivation was a challenge. Technology adaptation can be tough, that is why the improvement of different commodity production in agriculture has been slowed down.

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Despite these challenges, regular monitoring and technical assistance through field visits to farms that adopt contemporary coffee rejuvenation methods are carried out to gather reality-based evidence of the effectiveness of the project. This is aimed at encouraging more farmers to participate in the project.

In Asibanglan, Pinukupuk, John B. Gorospe, a youth leader and the chairperson of Asibanglan Farmers Development Organization teams up with the DA-SAAD CAR and other partner agencies in asserting that the rejuvenation of coffee trees

is a proven way of revitalizing the yield of coffee beans. Having been exposed to a wider understanding of the importance of technology transfer in agriculture, he willingly took initiative in convincing the organization he handles by opening his coffee plantation for demonstration.

Moving forward, the DA-SAAD Program envisions a more sustainable and improved production of high-quality coffee, not just in Kalinga but in the whole of Cordillera.

Writer: Mowanah Marie C. Jovellanos, Community Development Officer I-Kalinga.



SAAD's role in nation building

The End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) is the whole-of-nation-approach to fight insurgency waged by Communist Terrorist Groups in identified areas where SAAD has been implementing its programs since 2016.

Records show that in 2020 and 2021, some of the identified marginalized SAAD barangays were also identified as ELCAC barangays to which, the beneficiaries were also recipients of various interventions based on the objectives of this special area project of the DA.

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