



KASASAAD

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

OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2021 * ISSUE 4, VOLUME 4



A joyful harvest

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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- Tongrayan IPs of Kalinga receive agri-inputs
- Farmer Associations receive DA-SAAD's P5.1M livestock support
- Mt. Province fisher folk groups receive SAAD post-production packages

A Blessed Christmas and a Bountiful New Year

Dr. Cameron P. Odsey
OIC Regional Executive Director, DA CAR
SAAD Focal Person



2022 offer abundance for each and every Filipino farmer, enabling us to put food on the tables of everybody in our country.



Challenges marked our Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development Cordillera Administrative Region [DA - SAAD CAR] year 2021.

The pandemic continued to test our mettle and resolve to implement the SAAD Cordillera Administrative Region program, which showed our ingenuity, integrity and patience to service our beneficiaries while complying with health protocols.

Travel restrictions, The African Swine Fever, affecting the supply of pork, border closures and delivery problems were our main challenges, but despite this, our brothers and sisters in farming pushed through and delivered, ensuring that we managed the setbacks brought by these challenges, as best we can.

The better prospects of 2022 beckon for all of us, we recharge, rejuvenate and continue the good marks we started. Let us treat the new year as a token of gratitude from our Almighty.

It has been a challenging year for our farmers, but they have persevered. We thank our farmers for continuing to produce food we eat.

May the entire SAAD program beneficiaries as well as stakeholders experience a joyous season and may



The better prospects of 2022 beckon for all of us, we recharge, rejuvenate and continue the good marks we started. Let us treat the new year as a token of gratitude from our Almighty.



About the cover

Our 2021 Mr. and Ms. Ani at Kita from the Regional Field Office of Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) Arvin Balageo and April Jean Pascua depict a bountiful harvest or a "KAGAGASING AY APIT" meaning A JOYFUL HARVEST for each and every one to enjoy the bounties of agriculture embodied in the revitalized 18-point agenda of the Department of Agriculture.

Danilo P. Daguio, Ph.D CESO IV
Regional Technical Director for Operations



The Department of Agriculture Special Area for Agricultural Development in the Cordillera salutes all farmers for working hard to ensure food on each table, despite the challenges by the Coronavirus pandemic.

The crisis did not stop the farmers their usual farm activities. They endured to produce food for the people, mindful of the marketability of their products because of lock downs, closure of establishments and strict quarantine restrictions along the way. Indeed, they have proven once again that they are our unsung heroes.

As we celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, we express our thanks to our farmers for their humility,

simplicity and dedication to feed humanity. This year has been difficult for all of us but we cling to the hope for survival because the farmers are out there to produce our food.

Pray the Baby Jesus continue to have room in our hearts, in every farmer's heart, so that we continue to have faith, hope and love to get through this together.

It is my fervent hope that all our farmers, farm workers and their families have a joyous Christmas, with a renewed trust for more abundance in the coming year, I pray all have an improved yield for better profits signaling the opening of markets as a testament we will overcome the pandemic in 2022!

“

As we celebrate the birth of our savior Jesus Christ, we express our thanks to our farmers for their humility, simplicity and dedication to feed humanity. This year has been difficult for all of us but we cling to the hope for survival because the farmers are out there to produce our food.

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APRIL-JUNE 2021 * ISSUE 2, VOLUME 2

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Tongrayan IPs of Kalinga receive agri-inputs to establish local enterprises

KALINGA - The Tongrayan Indigenous Peoples (IPs) of Tinglayan, Kalinga were awarded Php 10,800,100 worth of agricultural projects as livelihood assistance aimed at establishing community-based enterprises from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) of the Department of Agriculture – Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR).

SAAD Operations Officer Balag-ey Claver said without special projects such as the SAAD Program, remote areas not benefiting from the government's programs for the past years would still not be reached. The project benefitted a total of 268 members of the community.

"We are not just here to turn over these projects but it is also your responsibility to receive it. Take them into your hearts *ta kayat mi nga tumulong nga tulungan yu ti bagbagi yu. Sapay kuma ta isaad mi, mangamung kayun* [...Take them into your hearts because we want to help you help yourselves. I hope that we bring you these (interventions), now it is your responsibility]," Claver said.

Mr. Claver led the awarding of agricultural livelihood interventions, together with SAAD assistant Operations Officer Daisy Yogyog, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Bentres Goyo, Albert Gayyaman from the Office of the Congressman, Jhun Puday from the Office of the Governor, Municipal Council Rommel Abuli, OIC-Municipal Agriculturist Hubert Patang-I, and SAAD Focal Person Johnny Chang-it, to Four Farmers Cooperative and Associations in Tinglayan on September 7.

Eleven (11) carabaos, two power tillers, 10 knapsack sprayers, grinder, 70 rolls of HDPE pipe, 70 bags of complete fertilizer, and 1,750 kilogram (kg) peanut seeds were delivered in partial support to the Carabao and Peanut Production Project. They were turned over to Barangay Ambato Liglig Irrigators Association (BALIGI-IA) with 70 members.

Meanwhile, another 70 farmers from Mallango UFI Farmer's Organization (MUFO) received 813 ducks, two power tillers, 70 bags of complete fertilizer, 50 knapsack sprayers, grinder, 140 bags of both layer and grower feeds, and 1,750kg peanut seeds were distributed also in partial support to the Fruit Trees and Duck Production Project.

BALIGI-IA and MUFO members come from the FY 2021 expansion areas. Two more farmers' cooperatives and associations namely the Magic 78 Lower Bangad Farmers Organization (M78LBFO) and Churawon Farmers Association (CFA) who became part of the program in 2020 were also awarded Integrated Banana, Pineapple, and Poultry Production as well as Fruit Trees and Duck Production, respectively.

Mr. Goyo challenged the beneficiaries to look after their interventions as these will serve to start up their respective ventures which will hopefully help in their daily living finances.

The projects are being implemented by the DA-SAAD Program in partnership with the provincial, municipal, and barangay local government units.



The projects seek to increase the income of farmers, secure food in their community, and encourage farmers to establish community-based enterprises.

Aside from the agricultural inputs, training relative to their projects and organizational needs was also provided for good project management and strengthened organizations.

Writer: Sheena Phine B. Pisco-Dayagon, SAAD Kalinga Information Officer

Mountain Province elder earns from DA-SAAD chicken production project

Mountain Province- There is no retirement age in farming. The wide spectrum of activities in agriculture enables experienced elderly workers to remain socially integrated especially in economic activities.

Farming can be done by almost everyone, be it as simple as putting up a garden in a small green space of a stone building to produce staple kitchen needs. In short, agriculture is age-inclusive.

It is important for the health of the old age sector, especially those who worked their whole lives to still be considered and enabled to pursue their passions, activities, and still be involved in networks that can create or sustain relationships, to feel a sense of still being needed, able, and in touch.

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program has been empowering not just the marginalized sector but the sub-sectors comprising it. The program offers an equal opportunity to community members by means of distributing agricultural capital, education, and technical support, made possible by the cooperation of the regional, provincial, and local government units. The program helps in capturing the productive potential of a community, including the elders.

There is no retirement age in agriculture

Enrique Billet, 69, finds comfort in tending to his free-range chickens acquired through the DA-SAAD Program in Mountain Province.

“Agyamanak iti dytoy nga opportunity ta imbag la nga isu nalag-an nga trabaho-en iti padak nga lumakayen [I am grateful for this opportunity since the labor it requires suits my ability as an elderly],” he happily shared. Tatang Enrique, attaining primary education at most during his youthful days, makes a living selling his produce from alternately tending to his camote fields and vegetable gardens.

He belongs to the Kankanaey tribe of elders, whose opinions are highly solicited during consultations during conflict management in the community.

Tatang Enrique is a father to five children with 23 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren who call him Lolo or Tatang.

His whole family concentrated on gardening, producing highland vegetables such as beans, potatoes, green peas, Chinese cabbage, and cabbage, leaving most of his production area under their care.

Currently living with his youngest son, Tatang manages to personally cultivate his crop, as an advantage of being fit. He said his secret to maintaining his health is nutritious food and mountain tea or *gipas*.

With his garden, Tatang usually earns around Php 5,000 from selling cultivated beans and other lightweight vegetables to nearby barangays with help from his wife.

Tatang Enrique’s SAAD Project

In September 2020, Tatang Enrique was chosen as a beneficiary to the SAAD’s Free-range Chicken Production Project in Napua, Sabangan.

He received 47 four-week-old brown chickens, a sack of poultry starter feed, two bags of 19 kilograms (kg) poultry grower feeds, four sacks of 11kg poultry finisher feeds, a roll of fishnet, Amazon wires, and a plastic drum as materials for the chicken fence.

Maintaining his farm, Tatang starts his day attending to his SAAD-

granted chicken inputs before going to his vegetable garden.

In three months, the chickens reached the marketable size and were sold at Php 450 per head giving him an income of Php 21,150 in December 2020.

Part of his earnings was used to acquire 20 additional brown chickens and feeds for his second production cycle, where he earned Php 10,000 in March 2021.

This time, Tatang Enrique invested all his sales for another cycle where he bought 65 day-old chicks at Php 95 per head for a total of Php 6,175 and two sacks of starter feed at Php 3,000 (1,500/sack).

As an elder implementing livelihood under the program, Tatang Enrique is assisted by able representatives among his household members or is receiving re-echoed information and monitoring progress.

Capitalizing on experience

Tatang Enrique is no stranger to the downside of raising chickens, encountering eight mortalities since he started rearing free-range chickens from the project. He addressed the problem through the practice of isolation or separating sick and weak stocks from the healthy group as well as provision of multivitamins.

When his third cycle stocks reached the marketable size, his stocks intended for selling were turned down due to lower-priced broiler-culls in the market.

“Awan maaramidak ta panawen met piman ti kalaban ket sakto pay nagsi-ngato ti gagatangen ket syempre mas pilien da ti praktikal mas nabababa presyo nan ga broiler cull. Nu pay man kasta ket kasapulan nga agtuloy ti biyag,” Billet said in an interview.

[I cannot do anything because sometimes we are all caught by the circumstances that we all must face. I cannot blame them if they have to be practical in buying broiler culls which are much cheaper compared to brown chicken. I have no choice but to accept and move forward in life.]

Considering the consumption and expenses for his stocks if they stay for another month, he decided to sell the stocks around his area, and to his relatives to cut down expenses. Determined to continue his farming journey, Tatang Enrique looks forward to receiving



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Farmers Associations receive 5.1M livestock support

APAYAO - Four farmers' associations (FAs) from Apayao received 124 goats from the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program.

Thirty-four (34) members from the Calaoan Farmers Association; 30 members from the Baren Farmers Association; 20 members from the Midstream Livelihood Farmers Association; and 29 members from the Swan, Lydia, Dona Loreta (SLD) Farmers Association received the inputs comprising of 110 does and 14 bucks on September 25.

The intervention, under DA-SAAD's FY 2021 Goat Production Project, costs Php 5,113,000. Each farmer received at least two does, while the bucks were distributed with Luna receiving 4 heads, Pudtol with 4, and Conner with 6.

FA members come from the municipalities of Conner, Luna, and Pudtol. The awarding of inputs was mounted by the SAAD Apayao in partnership with the local government units (LGUs).

SAAD Apayao's Backyard Goat Production

Apayao Agricultural Center Chief Daisy Aman explained goats have been an important source of livelihood for many families in the province.

With the development of livestock in production and meat processing, Ms. Aman shared raising goats require low-cost production and yields a high-income return.

"Backyard goat production ket talaga nga sikat idtuy Apayao ta idi contribution na ket dakel nu panggep iti kinabi-biyag iti small farmers idtuy bar-bario mi. Makaited iti tulong panggep iti pagalan iti income isu metten nga iti provincial government ket mangteted iti suporta tapno agituy babassit nga farmers tayu keta da iti pagalan da iti pagbiyag da," Ms. Aman said.

[Backyard goat production is popular in Apayao, its contribution to the status of rural livestock raisers is commonly considered vital since it only requires low maintenance. This production is pushed by the provincial government since it allows our farmer-beneficiaries to achieve income stability.]

The goats are sold in live weight and are very popular meat in the province. The remaining supplementary inputs such as concentrated feed, biologics, vitamins, dewormer, and housing materials will be delivered as soon as the quarantine in Apayao against CoViD-19 has been lifted.

Writer: Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy, Information Officer 1, SAAD Apayao



DA-SAAD Kalinga expands area for swine repopulation program

KALINGA – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Kalinga identified eight additional barangays for the 2021 swine repopulation program aimed at stabilizing hog population and supply in the province.

The province currently serves 9 barangays for the SAAD Swine Repopulation Program (Balbalan Proper, Dao-angan, Maling, and Mabaca in Balbalan, Mabaca in Tanudan, and Pugong, Cagaluan, Guina-ang and Malucsad in Pasil). The additional barangays are, namely: Lower Uma in Lubuagan; Balenciagao Norte in Pasil; Balbalasang, in Balbalan; San Quintin, in Rizal; and Ambato, Mallang, Belong, and Ngibat, in

Tinglayan. In total, the repopulation project is now serving 17 barangays in Kalinga.

The community orientation commenced on October 20 in Brgy. Lower Uma and Balenciagao Norte followed by Balbalasang and Ngibat. The other four areas' orientation will follow a week after.

In Lubuagan, Municipal Agriculturist Charlie Osdeg briefed the participants on the background of the program in the municipality.

SAAD staff Charity Sibayan oriented the participants about the Program and its guidelines on beneficiary selection. Guidelines emphasized that the project – swine repopulation – is for the existing

reared swine and only consists of feeds, biologics inputs, and training, not swine stocks.

The swine repopulation seeks to prevent the spread of the African Swine Fever (ASF) virus and increase the number of hogs in areas by providing feed supply good for one cycle to 10 existing sows in the barangay. In return, the selected 10 beneficiaries are to roll over two piglets each to the 20 next-in-line beneficiaries.

“Mapaadu nga sigurado ti babuy ditoy barangay mi ta gasem jay 20 nga ma-pass-onan aggapu ti 10 nga umuna nga beneficiaries. Mabalin kamin tun agsupply iti sabali nga barangay ditoy Lubuagan nu mapadpaadu mintu pay (The hogs will surely be repopulated here in our barangay with the 20 households to receive piglets from the first 10 beneficiaries. We can then supply other barangays here in Lubuagan after we further increase their number),” Catalina Gumilam, a participant, shared her sentiments about the project brought to their area.

In Balbalan, an End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) area, representatives from the Armed Forces of the Philippines also attended the orientation in Brgy. Balbalasang to show support.

The SAAD team also started long listing prospect beneficiaries in the four areas which are for validation with the help of respective barangay local government unit staff.

Writer: Sheena Phine B. Pisco-Dayagon, Information Officer – Kalinga



SAAD Kalinga Provincial Coordinator orients the swine raisers in Lower Uma, Lubuagan regarding the swine repopulation project of the SAAD program

ABOUT THE PROGRAM
This is a 4-year (2017-2021) locally-funded program of Department of Agriculture (DA) which aims to help poor farmers and fisherfolk in the 17 poorest provinces identified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) based on 2015 data and as well as is covered by Executive Order No. 70, series of 2016.

STRATEGY
To increase food production and the establishment of continuously enterprises by providing the appropriate technological, marketing, and other support services to animals, crops, food and industrial, and fisheries aquaculture and other related activities, thereby to improve farmers and fisherfolk including

Project Development Officer Joan Dawigoy facilitates the conduct of Swine Repopulation Orientation held at San Quintin, Rizal

Profiling of prospect beneficiaries of SAAD swine repopulation program at Lower Uma, Lubuagan on October 20, 2021

The Armed Forces of the Philippines joins the SAAD staff and BLGU staff during the conduct of Swine Repopulation Orientation held at Balbalasang, Pasil

Community Development Officer Semion Beligan facilitates the conduct of Swine Repopulation Orientation held at Lower Uma, Lubuagan

16 Mt. Province fisherfolk groups receive SAAD post-production packages

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) distributed Php 402,080 worth of postharvest inputs to 16 farmers and fisherfolk's associations (FFAs) in the BFAR Provincial Fisheries Office in Mountain Province through the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program.

The Fisheries Postharvest and Marketing Livelihood distribution completes the program's Php 10 million worth of assistance for farmer and fisherfolk beneficiaries in FY 2021.

The 16 FFAs are residents of Besao, Sadanga, Sabangan, Sagada, Paracelis, Tadian, Barlig, Bauko, Bontoc, listing a total of 685 members.

Each set of the livelihood projects consist of an upright freezer, two insulated cooler ice boxes, a digital weighing scale, and 10 plastic crates which amount to Php 25,130. The inputs will support the fishers' post-production and marketing activities for tilapia production in ponds and rice-tilapia culture.

Fisheries Postharvest and Marketing Livelihood Project Beneficiaries

In its third year of implementation in Mountain Province, BFAR-SAAD projects are already 100% implemented.

The Program covers 10 municipalities in the province, extending service to a total of 1,112 fisherfolk and 16 organizations engaged in aquaculture and post-production projects.

While SAAD's projects are fully implemented, beneficiaries can still access tilapia and hito fingerlings as well as other technical support from the bureau.

The interventions are aimed at assisting local fishers in marketing fish and other fishery aquatic products to increase income.

As of this year, BFAR-SAAD already established two village-level fish hatcheries as community-based enterprises in Mountain Province.

BFAR-CAR Regional Director Lilibeth L. Signey, Provincial Fisheries Officer Martha B. Estima, and SAAD Focal Person Michelle A. Peralta led the distribution of projects at the Mountain Province Provincial Fisheries Office in cooperation with the Mountain Province LGUs.

Writer: Rodelyn Q. Fornda, CDO I

Sources:
BFAR-SAAD CAR
Michelle Peralta, BFAR-SAAD Focal Person



Feeding communities, engaging farmers into agricultural enterprise

BAGUIO CITY - The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) ups its quest to not only provide food on the table but also equip beneficiaries to become agripreneurs.

As the pandemic hit Cordillera communities with lockdowns and movement control restrictions, the DA-SAAD CAR found a way to tide communities over months of isolation and slowly build a future for farmer groups willing to learn the business trade.

DA-CAR Regional Executive Director and SAAD Focal Person Cameron Odsey said the program is targeted for the communities not reached by regular programs by the DA and other state agencies.

“Sa SAAD we are operating in the poorer communities, yung mga area na ito, sila ang hindi narating ng regular programs, kung meron man, patak-patak lang or paminsan-minsan lang, not only in the DA but the other agencies. In these communities where we have implemented special projects, sometimes, the primary concern is food sufficiency. Sapat ba ‘yung inaani natin para lang kainin ng bawat household sa barangay? So in these areas, it is really prioritizing that they are able to produce enough for their own needs, secondary na lang if meron silang excess at meron sila ibebenta. Sa livelihood projects natin, it will meet their needs, siyempre unahin pangangalingan nila sa household then kung may sobra sila, ay ibebenta para may additional income.” Odsey explained.

[We are operating with poorer communities, these areas are the ones not reached by the regular programs of the government and if they are, it is only a small intervention and far and in between, not only with the DA but other agencies. In these communities where we have implemented special projects, the primary concern is food sufficiency. Is their harvest enough for their households? The SAAD Program prioritizes that they can produce enough for their own needs; it is only secondary that they are able to sell. Do our livelihood projects meet their needs, of course,

their daily needs should come first and if there is a surplus that is when they can sell for additional income.]

As of July 2021, the program has so far helped organize a total of 147 farmers’ cooperative and associations (FCA) in the region covering Apayao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province. The FCAs have registration and documents, enabling them to avail more programs and opportunities in the future.

The beneficiaries, which are now at 7,150, received 148 livelihood projects covering 138 barangays with 35 identified as End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas.

For 2020 there were only 73 FCAs for the three SAAD areas with 4,796 farmers benefited with 84 livelihood projects from 84 barangays with 14 identified as ELCAC areas.

Capacity-building activities were also conducted to equip beneficiaries with skills to maintain and sustain their SAAD livelihood projects.

Capacity Building Efforts

The program aims to shift farmers to become agricultural entrepreneurs, thus equipping various capacity building activities.

Some of the activities are 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.

Dir. Odsey said setting up an enterprise is not that simple “It’s a whole process that you also have to learn, we are doing these through their FCA, we have to train them on how to do business especially that we have a value chain approach – meaning we look at the whole process, planning what to plant, taking care of crops, then how to sell, it all starts with planning, knowing what you will plant for home consumption and what is for business.”

He also said the SAAD Program often gives more than enough resources which can accommodate both needs.

“We are trying to upgrade the capacities and capabilities to also allow them to do business. If we need our farmers to survive in the present environment, they have to learn. We should also be teaching them that before you even think of selling to the market, you should do an assessment”.

Tiding Them Over the Early Days of the Pandemic

In the early months of the pandemic in 2020, the SAAD faced challenges in movement restrictions which hampered deliveries and program goals.

The program however was successful in providing essential commodities of food for beneficiaries during the months of lockdown, allowing communities to consume production yield for daily sustenance, thwarting the problem of scarcity in food supply.

In Kalinga, Maling Agriculture and Fishery Organization (MAFO) member Virginia Rufino said the program helped her family and constituents especially during the pandemic.

The swine and poultry intervention in 2019 aided daily living from which her family earned Php 28,000. They also used the income to purchase feeds to sustain their livelihood.

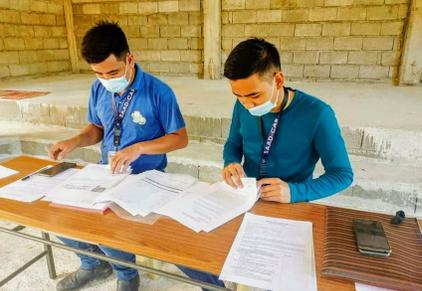
However, some members of the group with no means of transporting feeds from the market due to restrictions by the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) were forced to sell and butcher their hogs. For the chicken interventions, their eggs also greatly helped provide food on their table.

In Apayao, PIAS (Poblacion, Imelda, Alem, San Luis) Farmers’ Association (FA) member Rosalyn Veja said “Malagip ko iti rigat mi idi mangrugi lockdown, uray igatang iti bagas arig na awan. Ngem idi nakaawat kamin iti livelihood nga agapo SAAD idi July, nabang-aran nak bilang maysa nga ina kin bilang maysa nga farmer ta adda meten iti paguyudan nu kasjay nga agkur-kurang pagsapulan mi kin makatulungak aglawlaw nu tay agkasapulan da iti quail egg nga agserbi a kanen da.”

[I remember the struggle during the start
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DA-SAAI CAR at work

The work for the DA SAAD CAR is unending, in the provinces of Kalinga, Apayao and the Mountain Province, service to beneficiaries have continued despite the pandemic, in an effort to fulfill the vision and mission of the Program.



Mountain Province





Apayao

Kalinga



Inang Piling's dream of establishing an agritourism site

Apayao - At the onset of the global pandemic where industries are immobilized, the state turned into independent cultivation and food production to secure food supplies as physical movement is identified as the top means of virus transmission.



In this context, the old age sector experiences a whole new layer of imposed limits by being quarantined in their own homes, to the point of losing access even to recreational activities.

However, in a larger view, this limitation is nothing compared to

when opportunities begin to become elusive as one starts to get past the conventional workforce age, and to the anxiety of the decrease of functional capacities which science-wise shall persist.

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, though mainly focused on the marginalized members of rural communities, also encourages differently-abled and old age stakeholders to take part in the state's combat against poverty.

The program believes that distributing capital inputs, capacity building, and training initiatives, partnered with modernization on both food production and post-production aspects shall create a new wave of diverse agricultural workforce. This is, especially among the marginalized, hopefully contingent on accessing the program's services to provide themselves food on the table, and have a competitive surplus for local enterprise establishment.

The Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA)

The Upstream Livelihood Farmers' Association in Luna, composed of 158 members, is one of the province's SAAD-established farmers' cooperatives and associations.

The group, which was registered at the Department of Labor and Employment on July 17, 2017, is composed of members from five barangays – Dagupan, Shalom, Bacsay, San Gregorio, and Salvacion.

In 2019, the association received 29 sheeps (25 ewes and 4 rams), supplemented with dairy feeds, forage seeds, biologics, and housing assistance worth Php 590,318.16. The project was proposed by the association after a community consultation.

Additional stocks were provided on August 26, 2020, comprising 50 ewes and one ram, with a package of sheep concentrates, mineral blocks, vitamins, wound spray, drencher, and galvanized wire. In total, the project cost was Php 1,044,850.

Through granting sheep as capital stocks, the group engaged in sheep production, where 54 members were initially chosen to be the first-in-line beneficiaries of the said project.

SAAD's livestock project in Apayao

Felicidad Dela Cruz, or Inang Piling as she is fondly called, is a seventy-two-year-old farmer and a member of the Upstream Livelihood Farmer's Association (ULFA).

Inang Piling, a mother of three, grandmother of six, and wife to Tatay Jose Dela Cruz, attests farming has been their family's lifeline.

In her 30s, Inang Piling was a farm laborer. "Gapo ta high school graduate nak lang ket, awan unay iti oportunidad ko nga agubra iti sabali idi tawen nga 1990s [Since I am only a high school graduate I can only work as farm laborer back in 1990s]," she shared.

Inang Piling added that through farming, she and her husband were able to support their children's education. Her two children are college graduates, while the youngest was a college undergraduate.

Now, living with her 77-year-old husband, the couple's income comes from the yield of their backyard vegetable garden, and from raising chickens and ducks in their 7,500 square meters farm.

In 2017, she became one of the beneficiaries of the SAAD Program and is thankful for the opportunity that she strives to remain an active member.

As the saying goes, Inang believes that “age is just a number”, adding senior citizens like her find purpose in indulging in productive activities, such as farming.

“Etuy nga sheep farm nga adda kanyak ket sapayla kuma ta mapadakel pay ta agbalin to kuma met nga mabalin pagpasyaran iti tat-tao,” Inang Piling, expressed.

[This sheep farm that I have, I hope that one day this could turn into an agri-tourism site.]

According to the ULFA chairperson, Maxima Camayang, Inang Piling is truly an inspiration to their association.

“Ni Inang Piling, maysa isuna nga kagagagetan nga miyembro. Isu maibagak nga pagtuladan isuna iti daduma nga miyembro. Ta uray kasano kinabaket nan, ay ket aramiden na amin iti makaya na tapno maipakita na nga deserving isuna nga maysa nga napili nga beneficiary ti program,” said Maxima.

[Inang Piling is one of the most hardworking members of our association. I can bluntly attest that she is a good example to other members. Despite her age, she would pour her effort just to prove that she deserves to become one of the beneficiaries of the program.]

Inang Piling's sheep production from DA-SAAD

In 2019, Inang Piling became a SAAD Sheep Production Project recipient, receiving five sheep (four ewes and a ram) where 7 offspring were produced in September 2020.

“Ti pinagited yu iti tulong kadakami nga nakukurapay nga farmer ket makaited iti inspirasyon. Ita nga madama iti krisis iti COVID-19 pandemic, nagdakel nga tulong etuy nga pagbirukan nga naited kadakami. Gapun iti naaramid nga agreement iti miyembro iti association mi, kada beneficiary babaen na etuy nga proyekto ket agited to iti offspring kin iti sumaranu nga beneficiary. Iti partek, agishare nak to iti lima nga offsprings. Tapnun nu kasta dumakel iti pakadanunan na etuy nga livelihood,” shared Inang Piling.

[Helping poor farmers like us is very inspiring. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great help for us. As an agreement between the members of the association, each recipient will be passing the offspring of the sheep

to the next-in-line beneficiaries. For me, I will be sharing five offspring with the next grantee for this livelihood project to expand.]

Inang Piling sold three rams in her neighborhood at Barangay Dagupan, Luna, Apayao earning Php 13,000 on October 1, 2020. With this, they were able to cope amid community lockdowns. Aiming to organize her farm, Inang purchased five rolls of wire for her animal fencing worth Php 6,500.

Today, Inang Piling is rearing her five original sheep and four offspring to produce more.

Continuous pursuit despite old-age

As sheep production booms in Barangay Dagupan, Luna, Apayao, Maxima extends her gratefulness to Inang Piling.

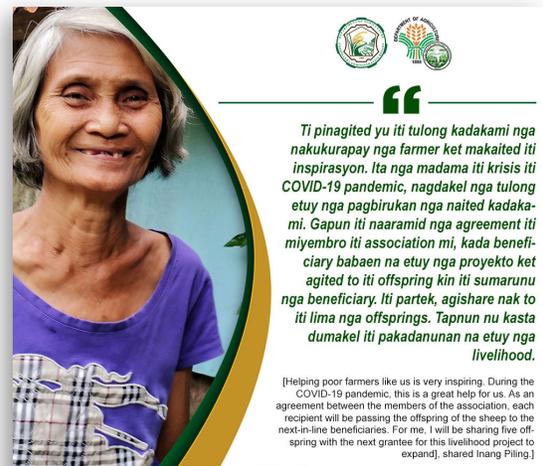
“Iti naaramid ni Inang Piling ket pakaidayawan iti association mi ta nu han na kuma tinaraken nga nasyaat ay ket para kanyak ket awan kuma iti pakakitan kin pagsarmingan nga mapintas a ipadamag. Naragsak kami nga kakadwa ni Inang Piling ta makita mi nga dumak dakel kanyana tay proyekto,” added Maxima.

[Inang Piling's success made an impact on our association, if she didn't take care of the animal stocks, I think, there's no good story to be told that can be shared. As an association, we are happy for Inang Piling that despite her age, the project on her part became bigger.]

During the interview, Inang Piling shared that a new day is a new opportunity for self-growth. Her passion for farming and gardening keeps her active to continue developing her land to provide a comfortable and safe space for her animals. This might be one of the reasons why Inang remains healthy and strong through the years.

Inang Piling also shares how she rears her animal stocks, demonstrating compassion and very specific goals for the welfare of her animals. “Dal-dalusan mi tay paginuman da once-a-week tapno haan nga narugit metlang,” [We usually scrub their drinker once a week to keep it disinfected] she shared.

The primary goal is to reduce stress through good management by regularly providing fresh and clean water for the sheep all day. She also added that a barn is essential to provide animal stocks with a shaded area, so when the weather changes, the animals will be safe.



““
Ti pinagited yu iti tulong kadakami nga nakukurapay nga farmer ket makaited iti inspirasyon. Ita nga madama iti krisis iti COVID-19 pandemic, nagdakel nga tulong etuy nga pagbirukan nga naited kadakami. Gapun iti naaramid nga agreement iti miyembro iti association mi, kada beneficiary babaen na etuy nga proyekto ket agited to iti offspring kin iti sumaranu nga beneficiary. Iti partek, agishare nak to iti lima nga offsprings. Tapnun nu kasta dumakel iti pakadanunan na etuy nga livelihood.

[Helping poor farmers like us is very inspiring. During the COVID-19 pandemic, this is a great help for us. As an agreement between the members of the association, each recipient will be passing the offspring of the sheep to the next-in-line beneficiaries. For me, I will be sharing five offspring with the next grantee for this livelihood project to expand], shared Inang Piling.]

Felicidad Dela Cruz

Member of Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA)
Bigy, Dagupan, Luna, Apayao | October 13, 2021

fb.com/saad.apayao.1 saad.da.gov.ph



“Tapno metlang haan da unay aglamin nu tay kapigsa tudu, ik-ikkan mi isuda iti ruot nga mabalin da pagidaan,” [For colder climates, we make sure that these animal stocks are clean and warm by giving them thick bedding of hay],” Inang Piling added.

Be it for passion, or fulfilling suspended life-long dreams, or maybe just for an extra source of income, agriculture is a reliable road to take, a career choice that can address a wide variety of needs.

Inang Piling's passion for farming is the main reason she and her husband want to establish additional animal housing to protect their animal stocks from harsh environmental climatic conditions, which may have adverse effects on the sheeps' performance and productivity; while her determination on establishing an agritourism site is to inspire other farmers to provide a healthy environment for their animals.

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

76-year-old woman-farmer contributes through community food and seed system

KALINGA - A 76-year-old Yfangad vegetable farmer of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program inspires locals to engage in sustainable agriculture, giving out seeds and planting materials to the community.



Widowed for 40 years, Apong Ana Saggob shared she raised her seven children through vegetable farming with locals recognizing her strength and perseverance, treating her like a local superstar in the community.

She said, “Daytuyen ti nagdakkalak ket nakasanayak metten. Nu saan ta agmula awan ti maidasar ta iti lamisaan [This had been what I grew up to and been used to. If we are not going to plant, we have nothing to put on our tables.]”

Locals often call Apong Ana “Afufukor” derived from Apo or elderly and fukor or seeds. She takes the name as the community depends on her as a source of free vegetable seeds.

SAAD’s contribution to the elderly community

In Kalinga, there are over 4,000 indigent senior citizens listed by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) and the Office of Senior Citizens Affairs (OSCA).

Recognizing the invaluable contributions of the elderly especially in the workforce of the agriculture sector, the SAAD Program provides livelihood opportunities to seniors in the rural areas who are able and willing to continue to be economically productive and active.

Rural elder and farmer

Before SAAD’s entry in 2020, Apong Ana cultivated bananas, pappait, beans, camote, and cassava on her 450 square meter patch of land her family owns.

Apong Anna’s children moved to the city, with only her youngest child and two grandchildren living with her, keeping her company and helping her tend the family farm.

She personally transports her produce to the city to sell during the day, often returning with earnings that she uses for her

family’s needs. At her age, signs of aging particularly on eyes and backbone have manifested but don’t hinder her from her farming livelihood activities.

Her secret to being healthy includes going to her farm and gardening as her daily exercise and eating fresh and nutritious food that she and her family had produced.

Although healthy and upbeat, Apong Ana’s movements were restricted as she belongs to the vulnerable sector per the Department of Health’s recommendation to prevent the possible spread of CoViD-19.

An active member of a Farmers’ Cooperative and Association [FCA], the Magic 78 Lower Bangad Farmers Organization (M78LBFO), Apong Ana often volunteers her farm for field demonstrations, making her colleagues proud of both her feat and generosity.

It was also at Apong Anna’s farm where planting for distributed seedling interventions was demonstrated in 2020, and again to be used for the upcoming Farmers Field School (FFS).

Apong Ana as a SAAD beneficiary

Because of her unwavering love for her farm, the SAAD approved interventions like free-range chicken stocks, fruit tree seedlings, pineapple slips, and vegetable seeds to give Apong Ana additional sources of food and income. The SAAD-awarded pineapple plants are Apong Ana’s favorite. Now on their fruiting stage, she is excited to gather the yield to be sold in the community and supply her family kitchen.

To further help Apong Ana on farming, SAAD Kalinga plans to introduce a more efficient planting design and methods to improve her production area and hopefully increase the yield of her crops.

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

SAAD delivers inputs for 110 Apayao farmers' chicken, egg venture

Apayao - Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program initially delivered 4,950 female free-range chickens to 110 farmers of the Sta. Maria, Allig, Malayugan, Mallig, Balluyan (SAMMBA) Farmers Association (FA) in Flora, Apayao on August 23.

The inputs provided are part of SAAD's Free-range Chicken Egg Production Project funded in FY 2021 amounting to Php 4,346,500. The project is composed of 5,500 free-range chickens and supplementary poultry inputs.

Each SAMMBA FA member received at least 45 stocks with four bags of layer mash.

After consultations with the community done by the Municipal Planning Management Team (MPMT), poultry production for beginning chicken raisers was pushed forward due to low maintenance requirements compared to swine production.

The group will still receive 550 male free-range chickens, 110 sachets of anti-infectives with vitamins, 220 waterers, 1,100 egg trays, four weighing scales, 110 poultry nets, and 6 egg scales as soon as the quarantine measures against CoViD-19 have been lifted.

One of the members, Elvira D. Acebedo, shared her gratitude and their plans as a group.

Elvira shared, "Agyaman kami iti SAAD Program. Iti plano mi kadetuy nga proyekto ket agpaado iti itlog kin agpapisa, ta kayat min to nga tun madanun ket agbalin kami nga

supplier dituy entero a barangay mi dituy Flora."

[Thank you SAAD Program. Our plan as an association is to produce more eggs and poultry stocks so that in the near future, we can become a supplier in our community.]

SAAD Community Development Officer Darwin Ordonia believes the project is important for the livelihood of many families as beneficiaries may soon help in the local production of eggs and chicken in their area.

"Detuy nga production ket nasyaat nga pagkakitaan iti farmers tayu dituy Flora ta instead nga agimport pelang, why not nga dagituy local farmers nalang ito agbalin nga provider. Maikkan da chance nga makatulong iti demand iti kaka-ili'an da habang isuda met ket adda iti opurtunidad nga adda pang-kabuhayan da," said Darwin.

[This chicken and egg production is a good start for farmers in the Municipality of Flora. Because instead of patronizing supplied staple products such as eggs and chicken meat, why not give chance to our local farmers to become providers? Through this, I must say that our local farmers will have the opportunity to help meet the demand of their markets, alongside the opportunity to earn.]

Ordonia also added raising poultry stock requires low-cost production and yields a high-income return.

"Backyard poultry production ket talaga nga sikat idtuy Apayao ta idi contribution na ket dakel nu panggep iti kinabi-biyag iti small



continued on page 17

SAAD Book committee activated

Baguio City - The Department of Agriculture – Cordillera Administrative Region will embark on the first Special Area for Agricultural Development [SAAD] compilation of success stories for the Department of Agriculture program envisioned

2016 is being endeavored through a documentation workshop resulting to the publication of the SAAD Cordillera coffee table book.

Last week, the SAAD Book committee convened to finalize

officer's and information technology personnel.

Claver asked Book Committee members to highlight impact and importance of the projects to the target beneficiaries as he emphasized the goals and objectives and directions of SAAD implementation to come up with success stories and fully documentation in every project implemented.

The DA –SAAD central team pitched support for the project with Jhomai Canlas and Jessa Mae Gabon imparting set guidelines for the production and publication of success stories.

Gabon and Canlas gave the guidelines for the writing of success stories as well as re-echoed the importance of public relations defined saying "Public relations make our image better, to maintain our relationship with our stakeholder, the public. We would like to be transparent with our activities. Strategic communications likewise raise awareness of the activities in the program. Public Relations is important in a government office because it gives information and awareness on our programs and work."

There are three areas of focus in the SAAD Cordillera, namely Apayao, Mountain Province and Kalinga.

Writer: Maria Elena G. Catajan, Information Officer 1

release by the end of the year.

With the SAAD program coming to a close, a full and curated documentation of events and highlights since its inception in

contents of the first book for the program led by SAAD operations officer Balag – ey Claver with the provincial information officers, community development officer's, project development



Practice of SAAD strategic communications urged

Dumaguete City - The leadership of the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) has emphasize the importance of strategic communications in informing the public on the various programs, projects and objectives of SAAD, which focuses on alleviating poverty particularly to marginalized farmers identified as program and project beneficiaries.

In the three day Public Relations and Communications Assembly held at Dumaguete City from October 18 to 20 this year, SAAD National Director Dr. Myer Mula said despite the challenges brought about by the health pandemic in terms of communications, public relations remain to be a priority for SAAD to show its transparency in implementing the programs and projects of the Special Area for Agricultural Development in the SAAD identified areas in the country.

“Communications is very important together with transparency because these are what gives strength to the program. Through public relations, SAAD’s four components specifically on social preparation is a way for

us on how we should relate to our beneficiaries, local government units, and our partners for us to be in one objective with them.” Mula explained.

The National Director pointed out that as a result of the transparent reportage by the different regional and provincial information officers of SAAD, members of the House of Representatives have expressed their intentions not only for the possible extension of SAAD, but for its possible expansion as well after seeing the positive impact it provided to its identified marginalized beneficiaries through SAAD’s Public Relations.

“One important thing that is happening now with SAAD is the praises that we receive from Congress. They are the ones asking for us to be extended and not from the Department of Agriculture for another six years which they have approved after passing through three committees in the House of Representatives.” the SAAD National Director added.

SAAD Deputy National Director Ulysses Lustria Jr. also reiterated the need for all Information Officers to be on the same frequency in terms of press releases, for SAAD to continue to deliver its message clearly to its target audiences.

A similar training is expected to be done in SAAD areas of the country to ensure that the uniformity of SAAD’S information system and writing techniques are practiced.

In August this year, SAAD Cordillera in cooperation with the Philippine Information Agency Cordillera (PIA-CAR) implemented its Information-Education Campaign (IEC)

from page 5 Mountain Province ...

inputs for the swine repopulation program scheduled in their area as part of the SAAD’s 2021 interventions. His savings from the chicken production is allotted for establishing a pen for his upcoming venture. The project is in support of the national efforts for the revitalization of the swine industry in the country.

Tatay Enrique is so used to farming that he regards his farm work as his daily exercise. At his age, he is thankful to be considered as SAAD beneficiary, while performing his duty as one of the elders in their tribe. Tatay is still far from considering stopping and is still up to discovering other agricultural ventures.

Writer: DINAH D. AY-YANGO, Information Officer I

from page 15 SAAD delivers ...

farmers idtuy bar-bario mi,” he said. [Backyard poultry production is popular in Apayao because of its significant contribution to the livelihood of smallholder rural raisers.]

Flora local government unit (LGU) through SAAD Municipal Focal Person Gladys Lamug assisted during the distribution of interventions.

Since the members are new to chicken raising, SAAD field implementers in cooperation with the LGU will conduct project monitoring and render assistance to ensure that the poultry stocks are provided with supplements, vitamins, wound spray, and dewormer to keep the animals healthy and guarded against any diseases.

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

workshop for its Provincial Information Officers that focused on Basic Mobile Phone Photography Videography, and Scriptwriting to be used as a tool for posting on social media, and is set to schedule another IEC for news and feature writing in 2022.

Writer: Jonathan Llanes, Information Officer 1



Planning A-head Guiding beneficiaries and projects



Planning is a roadmap which guides all to complete a task. For FY 2021, the Cordillera has logged 186 projects with 8596 beneficiaries spanning the three Special Area for

Agricultural Development (SAAD) program provinces of concern.

The Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region-Regional Field Office (DA-CAR-RFO) SAAD program is led by Operations Officer, Balag-ey A. Claver with the Planning Monitoring & Evaluation Unit (PMEU), headed by Leah E. Mon, Planning Officer Johanna Presca O. Golucan, Financial Analyst Deborah L. Dacdaco, Project Evaluation Officers Virginia P. Agoan and Abigail C. Tudlong with Joan C. Kito as the Information Systems Analyst, tasked to build the roadmap for the SAAD success.

Planning for an organization is likened to the human body, which is divided into different parts with specific functions. No matter how intricate the function of each body part possess, they are all in harmony in order to achieve one goal-which is to live. As a unit, PMEU is pushed to use skills which allows the management of co-workers and resources to reach the SAAD goals embodied in poverty alleviation and provision of food to each beneficiaries'

table.

The province of Apayao has 37 projects composed of 861 beneficiaries followed by the province of Kalinga with 46 projects touching base with 2,746 beneficiaries while the Mountain Province is tagged to have 49 projects effectively empowering 2,431 beneficiaries, all these are summed up in the FY 2022 Work and Financial Plan [WFP] as per the 2022 National Expenditure Program (NEP).

The National Planning Workshop was held August 24-27, 2021 at Hacienda Gracia Pampanga, gathering the SAAD regions all over the country for a session aimed to create the Regional 2022 WFP with operational expenditures of each operating unit.

The PMEU unit is behind effective planning, assuring all is in-line with the goal and objectives to visualize not only a desired end result but also the steps necessary to achieve it armed with a contingency plan.

Writer: Pj Golucan, Planning Officer I



from page 9 Feeding communities, ...

of the COVID-19 lockdown; we can't even afford to buy rice. But when we received the interventions from the SAAD program, I felt lighter as a mother and a farmer because I have an additional source of income. I am also happy to produce food for our consumers by selling quail eggs, a valuable contribution to our community as well.]

In Mountain Province, Doccos Farmers Organization, Inc. member Palonga Mangusan said, "Mayat kami tay maid na-CoVid ken dakami tay talaga nga sha nan sustansiya mi tay insibsibo mi san inyala yu tay dumakkel da ket limitado nan kuti gapu is lockdown ket naibatog isnan pinag-aani sunga sha et nan abasto mi."

[We remained free from the CoVid-19 virus because we were sustained by the chicken intervention from the program at the height of lockdown. Also, the stocks obtained market weight in time with our local rice harvest season, thus, became our supply.]"

DA-SAAD in Apayao, Mountain Province, and Kalinga provinces

DA-SAAD CAR Operations Officer Balag-ey Claver said, "We experienced setbacks from both the pandemic and the ASF from last year, deliveries were delayed because of restricted movement control

measures in the local government units, while our swine program was also hit with the ASF, now we are focused on capacity building of our FCAs, so they are better equipped to overcome these challenges."

Today, the setbacks are being addressed to keep the program on track with its goal to create better opportunities for SAAD organized FCAs in CAR.

Since the SAAD project started in 2016, the three areas of concern for the region have grown to become what the program aims to achieve.

In Mountain Province, there are 53 FCAs composed of 2,798 beneficiaries with 52 livelihood associations covering 34 barangays, 15 of which are identified as End Local Communist Armed Conflict [ELCAC] areas.

In Apayao, there are 48 FCAs composed of 1,695 beneficiaries with 51 livelihood projects covering 68 barangays, two of which are considered as ELCAC areas.

In Kalinga, there are now 46 FCAs composed of 2,657 beneficiaries provided with 45 livelihood projects covering 35 barangays, of which 18 are identified as ELCAC areas.

As farmers learn to delve into

enterprise, the SAAD program continues to empower, assist and enjoin communities to become part of the new breed of farmers, ready for the world of development and entrepreneurship.

Writer: Maria Elena Catajan, Information Officer 1 – Cordillera

Sources: Information Officers for Mountain Province, Kalinga, and Apayao



Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program



Be a beneficiary of the SAAD Program with the following *eligibility requirements*:

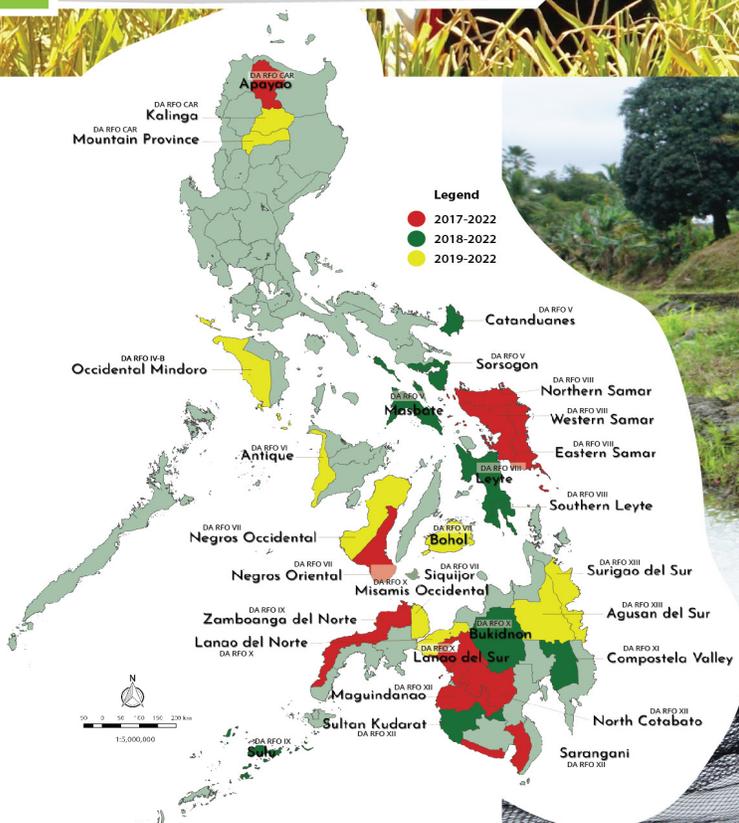
- 1 HOUSEHOLDS OR GROUPS
- 2 BELOW POVERTY THRESHOLD
- 3 INTERESTED IN CROPS, LIVESTOCK, AND FISHERIES
- 4 SHOULD BE A RESIDENT OF THE PROGRAM'S 30 PRIORITY PROVINCES

5 MAY BE LISTED IN THE:

- Registry System of Basic Sector in Agriculture (RSBSA)
- Department of Agriculture's Database
- Municipal Agriculture Office's Farmer Registry
- 4Ps beneficiaries
- Indigenous People's (IP) Group
- Accredited farmer organizations and cooperatives

6

PREFERABLY, MUST NOT BE A RECIPIENT OF SIMILAR DA INTERVENTION/S IN THE LAST TWO YEARS UPON IMPLEMENTATION



SAAD National Program Management Office

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DA-SAAD Program

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FB: Special Area for Agricultural Development – CAR
Cameron Odsey
Regional Executive Director - Regional SAAD Focal Person
Engr. Danilo P. Dagui
Regional Technical Director for Operations-Deputy SAAD Focal Person
Balag-ey Claver
SAAD Operations Officer

For concerns in APAYAO
SAAD Apayao Field Office
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APCO: Nicasio S. Baucas
Assistant APCO: Wilfredo Tabugader

For concerns in KALINGA
SAAD Kalinga Field Office
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Assistant APCO: David I. Sumalag



SAAD

SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
EST. 2017

SAAD PRIORITY PROVINCES



847
SOCIAL
PREPARATION
ACTIVITIES



2,493
LIVELIHOOD
PROJECTS



1,594
SPECIALIZED
TRAINING
PROGRAMS



61
ENTERPRISES



113,618
INDIVIDUALS

2,674
ASSOCIATIONS



Php 4.5B
BUDGET 2017-2020

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program is a locally-funded program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) which aims to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors of agriculture and fishery of the thirty (30) priority provinces identified by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) as well as areas covered by Executive Order No. 70, series of 2018.

The strategy of the program is to increase food production and the establishment of community enterprises by providing the appropriate technology, financing, marketing, and other support services for animals, crops, and fisheries to individuals, families/households and organized farmers and fisherfolks including among others DSWDs 4Ps and Indigenous Peoples (IPs).

Myer G. Mula, Ph.D.
Program Director

daan
sa maunlad
na kabuhayan

