

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT (SAAD) PROGRAM REGION 11

# LUNGTAD

JANUARY-JUNE 2022

## SAAD National Director lauds Dabawenyo FAs

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# SAAD in action

the last  
**6 MONTHS**  
in review

**First Semester**  
JANUARY - JUNE 2022

In its last year of implementation in Davao de Oro, the Special Area for Agricultural Development Region Regional Program Management Support Office 11, with a mandate to provide income and increase food production among farmers in Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) as well as End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas, geared final production projects to prepare farmers associations (FAs) benefitted by the program to becoming community-based enterprises (CBEs).

Meanwhile, emerging CBEs are supported through distribution of technical and physical implements to ensure sustainability and liquidity. This year, 46 (forty) farmers associations across all eleven municipalities of Davao de Oro were identified to receive integrated crop- and animal-based production projects.

**1ST QUARTER (January, February, March)**

The first three months of the year was dedicated to profiling and validating identified farmers associations. Area coordinators on the ground validated FAs in preparation for capacity enhancements. Each FA should at least have 20 members and is capable of receiving production projects.

Farmer profiling and validation are inherent, imperative, and indispensable parts of the program's implementation. Profiling evaluates the beneficiaries'



basic information for qualification of the program's livelihood projects. Validation justifies the intended projects' suitability in the area of implementation.

Crop-based production projects for 2022 include open-pollinated variety (OPV corn), banana (lakatan), and various vegetables. Animal-based livelihood programs are composed of chicken, mallard ducks, and upgraded goats.

Implement distribution of abaca plantlets pushed through from last year's production projects. Abaca stripping machines were also distributed to each identified FAs. The crop-based production project is a long-term livelihood project that's expected to increase the province's total production input in the next year or so.

Meanwhile, inspected upgraded goats were distributed to beneficiaries. SAAD 11's upgraded goats production project has been a mainstay livelihood intervention for years now, and the latest batch from 2021's budget increases the number of small ruminants in Davao de Oro.

**2ND QUARTER (April, May, June)**

SAAD 11 targeted the second quarter of the year to building and enhancing the identified FAs' capacities to handle identified interventions. Forty-six (46) FAs were trained by the end of May, with 2022 interventions distribution in full force by June. Both the Regional and Provincial Management and Support Offices worked incessantly to fast track delivery and distribution of various implements.

The month of April saw the start of training for crop and animal-based interventions, specifically corn, mallard ducks, and chicken production projects. Other production projects followed, and by May,



all training to capacitate identified beneficiaries were finished. In entirety, forty-six (46) farmers associations (FAs) were trained by the program.

By June, distribution of production projects commenced with the delivery of upgraded goats in Maco. All beneficiaries will receive a combination of a crop- and an animal-based livelihood program, integrated to encourage the organizations to be sustainable in the long-run. | **via James Brian R. Flaga**

**PHOTOS IN THIS PAGE**

**TOP LEFT:** A farmer-beneficiary receives abaca plantlets.

**TOPMOST RIGHT:** Beneficiaries from Monkayo trained to receive 2022 implementation with local R-PSB representatives.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** SAAD Region 11 Focal Person Naomi Lamata briefs farmers for upgraded goats raising.



**THE COVER**

SAAD Program National Director Myer Mula visits San Isidro Farmers Association in Monkayo and talks shop with farmers regarding animal raising and fertilizer management. In August, Mula becomes the outgoing SAAD Program head to lead the FPA, leaving behind a legacy in institutionalizing the program that resulted in its renewal for Phase II of implementation.



# SAAD distributes abaca plantlets in Manurigao and Pagsabangan, farthest GIDA, ELCAC areas in Davao de Oro

**DAVAO DE ORO, February 17, 2022** - Forty (40) beneficiaries from two farmers associations (FAs) in New Bataan, Davao de Oro received 5,000 abaca plantlets as part of SAAD Region 11's livelihood interventions in GIDA and ELCAC areas.

Magsandig Uduan SLP Association in Manurigao and Pagsabangan Corn Farmer Association in Pagsabangan enjoyed 2,500 abaca plantlets each, alongside fertilizers (15 sacks of complete and urea for both FAs), digging bars, and bolos to support their abaca production.

A month ago, SAAD Region 11 also distributed abaca stripping machines to both FAs to assist their existing abaca harvests.

Barangays Manurigao and Pagsabangan, two of the farthest, most inaccessible GIDA- and ELCAC-identified areas in SAAD Region 11's list of beneficiaries, have a long history of insurgency.

Manurigao is a 4-hour (back-and-forth) uphill journey from downtown New Bataan, with steep inclines in some parts, exacerbated by slippery terrain. To reach the area, the team from SAAD 11, Provincial Agriculturist's and Veterinarian's Offices, and New

Bataan MAGRO needed to ride 6W 6X6 military truck, locally known as sadam.

Pagsabangan, on the other hand, requires crossing rivers and unpaved roads, infested by leeches, and only accessible by skylab, a local motorcycle outfitted with planks of wood to accommodate passengers.

"Dako kaayo mi ug pasalamat kay wala jud mapakyas ang mga gipangsaad gikan sa pag-training pa lang. Kay layo jud kaayo ning amoa, lisod jud ang dalan, pero niabot jud ang mga kaayohan. Kaning mga projects nga amoang nadawat, amoa jung palamboon," Chairperson Jaymar Lino of Magsandig Uduan SLP Association, said.

"We are grateful because the interventions promised did arrive. Our area is remote, the road is difficult, but still, it arrived. These projects that we received, we'll sustain and develop."

He added, "Amoang plano ani, amoang amomahon ang mga gipanghatag. Kaning abaca, itanom sa amoang area, ug kung naa nay abot, makaincome pud ang asosasyon."

"Our plans for this is that we'll take good care of

everything that was given. Those abaca plantlets, we'll plant in our respective areas, then when the time comes for harvest, the association will gain income as well."

"Ang SAAD, kay special man jud ni siya nga programa, muadto jud sa atong mga beneficiary bisan layo. Mao atoang mandato, ug kinahanglan ni mahitabo para makatabang ta sa atoang isig katawo, ug mubaba ang insurhensiya," Naomi Lamata, SAAD Region 11 Focal, reiterated.

"SAAD is a special program. We'll go to our beneficiaries even when (their area is) remote. That's our mandate, and we need it to happen to help our fellow Filipinos and lessen insurgency."

For both FAs, SAAD's abaca production project cost a little more than half a million pesos. The plantlets, Tangongon and Bolonganon varieties, were previously hardened and acclimatized, with coco coir as soil media, at least two months from pricking, and six inches in height.

Tangongon, specifically, has a potential to yield 800kg/hectare in dried fiber. In Davao de Oro, fully-stripped abaca fibers sell at a Php60-70 range per kilo.

**MAIN:** SAAD Region 11 Focal Person Naomi Lamata (black jacket), together with SAAD 11 staff, Davao de Oro PAGRO representatives, and New Bataan MAGRO staff present abaca plantlets to Manurigao farmers.  
**THIS PAGE:** Implements of the abaca production project: fertilizers, digging bar, plantlets.

Both FAs have also previously received 135 mallard ducks, feeds, and biologics to boost the associations' enterprising potentials. | **via James Brian R. Flaga**





# SAAD National Director lauds Dabawenyo FAs for enterprising efforts; reiterates CBE importance

PHOTOS ON PAGE 6

**CENTER:** SAAD National Director Myer Mula (center, stairs, dark blue polo shirt) together with SAAD Region 11 team headed by Regional Focal Naomi Lamata (brown cap), Laak's Municipal Agriculturist's Office representative Region 11, visit Kiokmay Farmers' Association's goat house.

**TOP PHOTOS:** Mula with DA and BFAR Region 11 representatives after checking fish pens. Looking on as a staff feeds milk to a kid.

**BOTTOM PHOTOS:** Mula checks out local farmers fishing in BFAR-SAAD Region 11 fish pens. Discussing egg production with DA-SAAD Region 11's local FA in Monkayo.



**DAVAO DE ORO, March 22, 2022** - SAAD Program National Director Myer Mula visited several Dabawenyo farmers associations (FAs) in his series of field visits throughout the country reiterating the need to create community-based enterprises (CBEs) for the sustainability of SAAD's production projects.

"Ang importante rito, meron na tayong enterprise development. Kailangan ito ng ating mga asosasyon, (What's important is that we have enterprise development. This is what's needed among our associations,)" Mula said.

CBEs focus on the improvement of a community rather than the individual. Locally organized FAs usually take on this role after turning into a self-sustaining organization. Production and value-adding play a crucial part in making these FAs able to stand on their own.

"Ipakita natin sa next generation na ganito ang agriculture. I-sustain po natin. Hindi po ito humihinto sa atin lang. Meron tayong tinutumbok, tinatahak," Mula added.

(Let's show the next generation that this is agriculture. Let's sustain it. These [pertaining to the projects] will not stop with us. We are aiming for something, on a journey to be sustainable).

As SAAD's Phase 1 of implementation comes to a close this year, strengthening existing beneficiaries' production projects is paramount.

In Davao de Oro, among 60 FA-beneficiaries for 2021, 10% have transitioned to CBEs. Most FAs are

in production stages, especially in crops, where the turnout for banana and abaca are in 1-1.5 years.

This year, SAAD 11 allocated Php 47 million for production projects in Davao de Oro. Through supplementing production in both crop and livestock such as plantlets, animals, and agri tools, the program is hopeful for more FAs to transition to CBEs before the year ends.

## Emerging CBEs in Davao de Oro

While waiting for formal CBE establishment, many beneficiaries in the province sustain and earn from the projects as micro and small enterprises. This effort is geared at strengthening the enterprise capabilities of the project to cater to the demands of the community. CBE establishment will usher the farmers association into marketing and linkages which are essential for project sustainability.

## BASIFA in Monkayo

Barangay San Isidro Farmers Association (BASIFA) in Monkayo, one of Dir. Mula's stops, is a beneficiary of SAAD 11's upgraded native chicken worth Php 205,510. They received 240 upgraded native chickens alongside feeds and biologics (antibiotics, dewormer, multivitamins), which purpose is for egg, chick, and meat production.

Not a month after, the chickens have started to lay eggs. They sold it by tray, at Php 8.00-10.00 each, depending on size.



# SAAD 11 trains 46 Dabawenyo FAs for 2022 livelihood projects



**DAVAO DE ORO, May 30, 2022** - The Department of Agriculture Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) 11 trained 46 Dabawenyo farmers associations' (FAs) belonging to the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantage Area (GIDA) and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas across 11 municipalities of Davao de Oro.

These FAs are set to receive the program's 2022 projects. With 20 members each FA, SAAD 11 capacitated 920 mixed-crop farmers, with farming backgrounds ranging from few years of experience to life-long ones. Training include banana, OPV corn, and assorted vegetable best planting and management practices and upgraded goats, native chicken, and mallard duck production and management.

For the capacity enhancement activities, the Regional Program and Management Office obligated more than Php 1.1 million. This year, SAAD 11 intends to dole out six animal- and crop-based interventions:

banana, Open-Pollinated Variety (OPV) corn, assorted vegetables, upgraded goats, native chicken, and mallard ducks.

"Kani atoang gihimo nanghinaot jud mi nga ma-capacitate mo tanan. Kinahanglan ni atoang training para prepared mo nga mudawat sa atoang mga interventions," Ms. Naomi Lamata, Regional Focal Person for SAAD 11, said to Rizal Tribal Farmers Association, both a GIDA and ELCAC FA in Monkayo.

(We did this [pertaining to training] because we wanted to capacitate all of you. We need these training to prepare you for our interventions.)

The SAAD program, seeking renewal for its second phase of implementation, plans for continuity by ensuring existing community-based enterprises (CBEs) are fully supported and emerging ones capacitated.

"Di na ni bag-o sa atoa. Ang SAAD, before manghatag sa mga animal- ug crop-based nato nga interventions, mag-training jud ta. Ang tumong ani, para mahanay ang mga beneficiary ug matudluan sila ug tarong nga mga pamaagi sa pagpalambo sa ilahang mga proyekto," Lamata added.

(This is not new to us. Here in SAAD, before we distribute our animal- and crop-based interventions, we'll train. The purpose of which is that we'll streamline our beneficiaries and for them to be able to learn the ways to sustain and develop their projects.)

Local experts from Davao de Oro were tapped to train the FAs with some areas needing the presence of armed forces and Revitalized Pulis sa Barangay (RPSB) to streamline the event.

"Kami mapasalamaton sa SAAD kay kani nga People's Organization (POs) naka-avail ani nga mga projects, dako ni nga tabang para sa improvement sa komunidad," Bert Kenneth Ibuyan, an RVSP assigned in Rizal, Monkayo, said. In ELCAC areas, most FAs endorsed for SAAD projects are locally-organized POs organized by RVSP.

(We are thankful for SAAD that our People's Organization have availed their projects as these are a great help for the improvement of the community.)

### Animal-Based Interventions

Since its pilot year, SAAD 11 had focused on animal-based interventions for its beneficiaries, doling out poultry and small ruminants to provide food sustainability and to increase income.

For 2022, all 46 FAs will receive animal-based interventions from SAAD Region 11 with three options: upgraded goats, native chicken, and mallard ducks. Eighteen (18) FAs are set to receive 320 native chickens while another 18 will get 50 upgraded goats. The remaining 10 opted for the mallard ducks package consisting of 300 birds.

Alongside the animals, each package will include feed and assorted biologics.

"Kani inyohang gihimo, makatabang jud sa amoa sa mga projects nga ipanghatag. Ang inyohang ihatag, amoa jung ampingan ug palamboon," Simeon Buñag, Libudon United Farmers Association (LUFA) chair in Mabini, enthused. The association will receive upgraded goats before the third quarter ends.

(What you've done will help us on the projects which will be given. We will take care of it, and sustain it.)"

### Crop-based interventions

For crops, SAAD11 identified three surefire projects that previously answered immediate need consumption and has the potential for greater income generation: banana, corn, and assorted vegetables. Eight (8) FAs were previously chosen to receive banana (8,300 plantlets each) while 33 opted for OPV corn (32 sacks each).

The remaining five FAs, all in Maragusan, the province's vegetable-producing municipality, lobbied for assorted vegetable production. The package includes 16 packs of hybrid sweet pepper and 5 cans each of hybrid eggplant, cabbage, and squash.

Aside from seeds, the FAs will receive assorted agri-tools including but not limited to knapsack sprayers, digging bars, waterers, etc.

### Regional Budget

SAAD Region 11 allotted a little more than Php 33 million for both its animal- and crop-based interventions including these training, a whopping 70% of its 2022 budget allocation of Php47M. The RPMSO trusts that these intensified social preparation activities will close out its first phase of implementation in Davao region with a bang. | via James Brian R. Flaga



### PHOTOS ON PAGE 8

**TOP LEFT:** SAAD Region 11 Focal Person Naomi Lamata briefs farmers for upgraded goats raising.

**TOPMOST RIGHT:** Beneficiaries from Monkayo trained to receive 2022 implementation with local R-PSB representatives.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** Monkayo area coordinator Gina Amihan briefs farmer-beneficiaries.

...SAAD National Director from page 7

After almost 8 months, the group with 20 members gathered a total of 10,809 eggs, providing them Php 97,281.

“Diha jud mi nakarecover sa amoang mga gasto, kanang sa itlog. Namaligya mi ug piso pud,” (That’s where we recovered by selling eggs. We also sold chicks) Doresa Leopoldo, BASIFA chairperson, related.

This year, SAAD allocated an incubator for the FA to boost chick production. Chicks fetch a higher price in the local market, ranging from Php 75 to Php 250. In BASIFA’s case, they price theirs at Php 75 to attract more customers.

To date, the FA hatched 269 out of 359 eggs incubated, providing them more than Php 20,175 income.

“Nituon jud ko ug mga pamaagi paraaning mga manok, nag-Youtube ko, nangutana sa mga kaila sa munisipyo. Kanang pagpa-vaccine, kabalo na ko,” Leopoldo added.

I’ve learned ways of chicken raising, I watch Youtube, and ask from acquaintances in the municipality. I already know how to vaccinate.”

BASIFA has 167 chickens in the brood, 140 of which are hens, the remaining 27, cocks.

The group printed out tarpaulins to advertise their products. They set up one in the barangay and another in the municipal proper of Monkayo.

### SIFA in Nabunturan

Meanwhile, 20 members of San Isidro Farmers Association (SIFA) in Nabunturan, has kickstarted its enterprising efforts by selling eggs, chicks, and chicken. SIFA, a recipient of the 2021 upgraded native chicken production project (Php 3.3 million) alongside BASIFA, chose to go the route of strengthening the brood before disposal and dispersal. This meant that most of the eggs harvested were hatched, then groomed for live weight selling or positioned for the brood’s next cycle.

As of March 2022, the association already earned Php 37,150.

Half of the income stemmed from selling chicken by live weight, at Php 200-250 per kilogram (kg).

Majority of this stock came from hatched incubated eggs. At two months old, the FA will start disposing of the brood. To date, the FA has sold 49 head at Php 250.00/kg, 13 head at Php 200/kg.

When Dir. Mula visited the area, he commended the FA for its ingenuity in making sure the project becomes sustainable. The association took the initiative to buy an incubator to produce chicks.

This year, SAAD 11 will grant an incubator to the FA in addition to their existing one.

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# SAAD starts distribution of 2022 livelihood projects

**DAVAO DE ORO, June 22, 2022** - Twenty (20) Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Area (GIDA) farmers from Maco received 50 upgraded goats, biologics, and assorted vegetable seeds worth Php 470,000 from the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Region 11. This package is under the Php 7.7 million Upgraded Goat Production Project of FY 2022 for new beneficiaries from the program’s existing covered municipalities in Davao de Oro.

The Manipongol Integrated Farmers Association, a locally organized group of farmers in Manipongol, Maco, was confirmed to receive livelihood interventions from the program in 2022. Maco, is an isolated, upland barangay 12 kilometers away from the municipality’s center, Manipongol boasts of an overlooking view of Davao Gulf, popular to bikers for terrain training.

“Salamat kaayo sa pagdawat ninyo aning atoang proyekto. Kami nanghinaot nga inyo ning palamboon para sa inyoha pong paglambo” (We are thankful that



you received this project. We hope that you’ll sustain this for your [community’s] development), said Ms. Naomi C. Lamata, SAAD Focal Person for Region 11.

“Ug dili lang kani inyohang madawat, kay naa pay mais nga muabotay” (This is not the only intervention you’ll receive, corn seeds are on the way too), she added, pertaining to SAAD Region 11’s corn production project which the FA was identified to receive as well.

### Upgraded Goats

The FA, given 50 upgraded goats (45 does, 5 bucks) with biologics consisting of dewormer, antibiotics, and multivitamins, placed the ruminants in a temporary, makeshift pen before distribution to members for caretaking.

At 8-10 months old and at least 17 kilograms (kg), SAAD 11’s upgraded goats were offspring from a Native and either an Anglo-Nubian or Boer pairing. The goats were eartagged for identification and inventory, dewormed, and laboratory tested for Caprine Arthritis



Encephalitis (CAE) as well as Brucella.

SAAD Region 11 identified upgraded goats as a viable intervention for GIDA and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) areas because of the small ruminant’s hardiness and liveweight selling potential. In Davao de Oro, goats are usually sold by liveweight, and upgraded ones fetch higher prices at Php 3,500 for a 15kg doe.

A pivotal factor considered was Davao de Oro’s abundant grazing area in its hilly and mountainous parts. Upgraded goats can reproduce twice a year, and in just a few months after distribution, farmers can start to sell the ruminants.

“Salamat jud sa SAAD kay nituman sila sa ilahang giingon. Maapod na jud ni sa tanang miembro, ug amoang paningkamotan nga palamboon namo ni,” Mr. Joeffer Nueve, chairperson for the FA, declared.

“We’re thankful for SAAD because they didn’t disappoint. All members will have their share (of the goat), and we’ll strive to improve on this.”

Pipelined to secure the intervention in the next few weeks are 17 FAs across all 11 municipalities of the province. | via James Brian R. Flaga

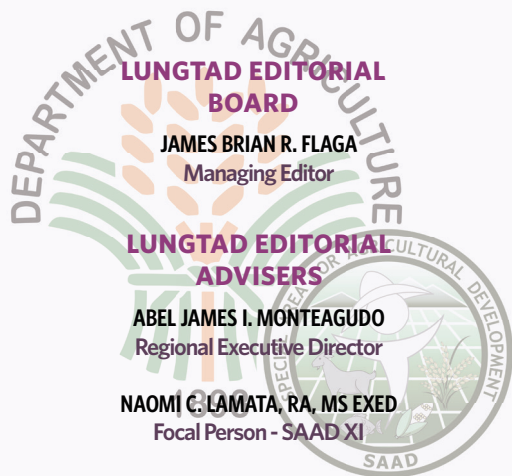
**PHOTOS ON THIS PAGE**

**TOPMOST LEFT:** SAAD Region 11 distributes upgraded goats to farmers in Manipongol.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** SAAD 11’s upgraded goats.

**PHOTO ON THIS PAGE**

**TOPMOST RIGHT:** Veterinary drugs for the distributed upgraded goats.



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### Kiokmay and Aguinaldo FAs in Laak

In Laak, Dir. Mula visited 2 associations, Kiokmay Farmers Association and Aguinaldo Farmers Association, encouraging the FAs to make the most out of SAAD's interventions.

Both FAs with 20 members each were given upgraded goat (Php 380,000 each) and mallard duck (Php 125,336 each) production projects.

Aguinaldo Farmers Association (AGFA) suffered losses out of the two animal-based interventions that SAAD previously distributed. For upgraded goat production, the FA experienced mortalities after a long rainy season affecting the health of the ruminants. The mallard ducks, on the other hand, were individually distributed to members after feed supply ran out.

Dir. Mula encouraged AGFA to start rebuilding its herd, get ample technical assistance with pregnant does, and plant protein-heavy grasses like Napier, trichanthera, etc. for pasture.

For neighboring FA, Kiokmay Farmers Association, it's another story.

The upgraded goats distributed by the program have started flourishing, alongside the mallard ducks. The herd is slowly building up in number, evidenced by a couple of kids and a number of pregnant does. The mallard ducks, on the other hand, have already produced eggs, but were halted by the poultry's natural changing of feathers. The FA is hopeful to start enterprising efforts this year.

### Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA)

Alongside his visits, Mula also highlighted the need for

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a balanced fertilization strategy (BFS) among farmers. The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) in the region, led by Mariz Napalit, held on-site briefers in managing fertilizers and pesticides use in the area.

"Dili jud mawala ang fertilizer ug pesticide to develop kung unsa man nga crops ang naa sa atoa. Kinahanglan nato nga balance siya para mag-work," she encouraged.

(Fertilizers and pesticides are always present for us to develop whatever crops we have. But we need balance [of synthetic and organic] to make this work.)

BFS will commence after the identification of all legitimate fertilizer suppliers in the province. | via James Brian R. Flaga