

SAAD *vocacy*

The official newsletter of the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program

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DA-SAAD caps 2022 midyear assessment, gears up for Phase 2

by Jennifer Valcobero

QUEZON CITY, August 5, 2022 – The 11 Regional offices of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program gathered for a midyear assessment and unified directions for the remaining months. Joining them are DA staff from new SAAD-covered Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4-A in preparation for the SAAD Phase 2 implementation. **Featured p. 8**



EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

Agripreneurship training provided to 60 NegOcc and Antique farmers

by Christ John Gamarcha, Cedic Bataga

ILOILO CITY, August 3, 2022 – To support long-term financial security of its beneficiaries, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program trained 60 members of three farmers' associations (FAs) in Negros Occidental and Antique for value-addition of pork and poultry products.

Thirty (30) raisers of native chicken from Purok Locsin Farmers and Farmworkers' Association (PLOFFA) in Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental joined the training on homemade tocino and longganisa-making on July 20.

Fifteen (15) hog raisers each of Pangalcagan Farmers' Association (PFA) and Talisay Rice Farmers Association (RFA) trained on pork-based food production such as siomai and embutido in Bugasong, Antique on July 29.



Poultry processing, value-addition

Ms. Angela Jane Labrador from the DA-Negros Occidental Research Outreach Station led the onsite training for PLOFFA with the assistance of Area Coordinator Ivy Italia.

PLOFFA has 54 registered members, 30 of whom are active members coming from 30 households in Barangay Igmaya-an...*continue to p. 3*



5 FAs ensure healthy pork supply thru repopulation program

by Kathleen Faye B. Agonoy

APAYAO, August 1, 2022 – In the continuous fight against the African Swine Fever (ASF), sixty-five swine raisers from 5 farmers' associations participated in the Swine Repopulation Program of the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Apayao...*continue to p. 4*

TOWARDS CBES

ZDN farmers earn 400k through SAAD Program's broiler chicken project

by Aimee Lou D. Madjus



ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, August 3, 2022 - The Department of Agriculture- Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's Broiler Chicken Raising Project in Zamboanga del Norte provided more than Php 400k earnings to an identified fully established community-based enterprise in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

Background

In 2015, the 25-member Pangian Farmers Association from the municipality of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte was officially registered

in the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). They rely mainly on planting crops like rice and corn for consumption, while also raising livestock such as goats and carabaos.

After a needs assessment conducted by the SAAD staff with the coordination of local government unit (LGU) of Siocon, the findings show that the municipality has limited supply of broiler chickens, thus, the said project is seen having a big potential in terms of income opportunities to the farmers while increasing the supply of broilers in the area.

The SAAD program provided the FA

with Php 899,040 worth of livelihood intervention consisting of a broiler house, 4,000 broiler chicken stocks, feed supplements, biologics, and post-harvest processing equipment under the Broiler Chicken Raising Project FY 2017 and 2018.

The SAAD budget allocated for the 450-square meter communal broiler house was downloaded to the LGU, and due to the delay of transferring the funds, it was only constructed in 2019 while the interventions were then provided.

The group then started operations in December 2019 to which they managed to replenish the chickens through a staggered harvest and orders from customers across adjacent municipalities.

12th Cycle of Production (3 years operation)

The association, in full swing for their enterprise operations, started selling their 12th cycle of harvest from June 13 to 22, 2022. The FA employed two members to manage and raise the chickens until they reached maturity for marketing. The caretakers then received Php 4.00 per chicken harvested. Other members are tasked with the post-harvest processing.

"For the 12th rollover cycle of the project, we loaded 2,000 stocks last May 18, 2022, and we are very pleased that we are able to sustain this poultry

project. Every harvest, the members help in defeathering the chickens and removing its organs. We pay the workers Php 10 per chicken, and at the end of the day, they go home bringing some chicken innards which serve as their viands for dinner," shared Clarito Ramboa, member of Pangian Farmers Association.

"We sold 2,019 kilograms (kg) dressed chickens at Php 190.00/kg, and around 187 kg of internal organs such as intestine, liver, gizzard, and other parts like chicken head and chicken feet," added Clarito Ramboa.

Aside from the small incentives, the members are also given their respective income shares. Since the start of the project, the members have received an estimated share of Php 3,000 each per cycle. The FA currently has Php 156,000 cash in bank and a Php 122,560 cash on hand, while preparing some Php 226,000 for operation expenses.

During the three-year operation, the Pangian FA faced numerous challenges. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, food-dependent businesses such as hotels, restaurants and catering services were temporarily halted, affecting the FA's business. For a month or so, there were no clients purchasing broilers and broiler meat, leading to prolonged feeding and operations expenses.

But the association...*continue to next page*

Director's note

The services that SAAD tries to provide and uphold have achieved the expected heights, but we have always persevered to continue to extend the project, deliver more, and increase beneficiaries reached. Our grip is very tight on the mission of contributing to poverty alleviation efforts with the hope to transform the marginalized communities in the rural areas by means of food production, and other agripreneurial activities.

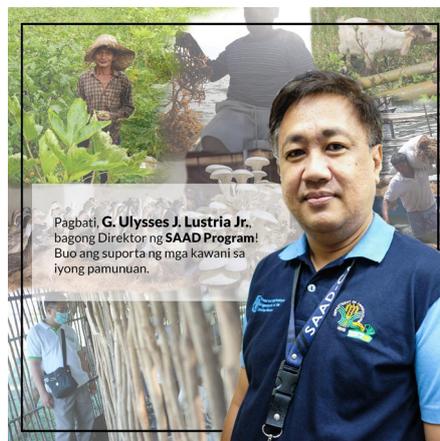
I would like to extend my gratitude to SAAD's former Director, Dr. Myer G. Mula for his leadership, and for strengthening the program's policies and core units, which led to a solid organization, resulting in more efficient implementation on the ground. His efforts and support boosted our faith in the work of SAAD throughout the process of proposal for Phase 2, that it shall get through, and it did.

Now that the SAAD is proposed under the National Expenditure Program to have a budget of Php 1.175 billion (for

the agricultural sector) and Php 586.750 million (for the fisheries sector), we move forward with a stronger sense of duty to continue working towards achieving our vision - an empowered, rural farming and fishing communities, whose members are food secure, and active participants in economy building.

In gaining this opportunity, the program shall expand its reach to not leave any marginalized communities behind. From covering 11 regions with 457 municipalities and cities, the Phase 2 implementation will now be incorporating 612 municipalities from all regions in the 5th and 6th income classes and top third poorest municipalities (excluding BARM).

With this, we are more motivated to continue to work for the developmental progress that SAAD was able to initiate in terms of contributing to poverty alleviation, food security and agricultural empowerment.



Pagbati, **G. Ulysses J. Lustria Jr.**, bagong Direktor ng SAAD Program! Buo ang suporta ng mga kawani sa iyong pamunuan.

Congratulations!
Mr. Ulysses J. Lustria Jr.
SAAD National Program Director

Table 1. Pangian FA's sales in 12th cycle of Broiler Chickens

	Dressed Chicken (kg)			Liver		Gizzard		Intestine		Chicken feet		Chicken head	
	No. of head	kg	Sales (Php) 190/kg	kg	Sales (Php) 190/kg	kg	Sales (Php) 190/kg	kg	Sales (Php) 100/kg	kg	Sales (Php) 100/kg	kg	Sales (Php) 60/kg
June 13, 2022	404	427.1	70,669	13.5	2,695	3	570	2	200	14	1,400	2	120
June 16, 2022	332	345.7	65,683	15.75	2,993	4.5	855	9	900	19	19,000	14.5	940
June 18, 2022	209	260.75	49,552	6.9	1,317	2.2	418	4.2	420	12.2	1,220	7	420
June 20, 2022	363	467.6	88,844	13	2,470	6	1,140	9	900	21	2,100	12	720
June 22, 2022	411	517.95	97,960.95	20	3,800	5	950	7.5	750	22	2,200	18	1,080
TOTAL	1,719	2,018.1	372,709	69.15	13,275	20.7	3,933	31.7	3,170	88.2	25,920	53.5	3,280
TOTAL SALES	Php 422,287.00												

managed to rise from the obstacles. They decided to sell the produce at a lower price to do away with continuous feeding that resulted in high operating costs. The income generated from the sales were used to replenish the stocks for another cycle.

Meanwhile in their most recent cycle, price inflation of agri inputs such as feeds again challenged the group. This resulted in a price markup for their product, while they exerted effort in making the customers understand the said increase.

Plans

Despite the instability of the economic situation, the Pangian Farmers Association is now preparing for their 13th cycle of chicken production to be loaded this month.

Committed to assisting the beneficiaries, SAAD Zamboanga del Norte will continue to monitor the projects and offer technical and training assistance for the sustainability of the community enterprise. ###



Agripreneurship training provided to 60 NegOcc...from p. 1

Majority of these locals are small-scale sugarcane, corn, and backyard vegetable producers. Due to inaccessibility or absence of farm-to-market roads, the group seldom receives assistance from government programs. The municipal government also identified the said community as an End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) area.

They became a recipient of SAAD's FY 2019 Native Chicken Production Project worth Php 101,000. This livelihood package included 60 native chicken, 13 bags of chicken feeds, 1 set of drugs and biologics, housing, and fencing materials.

From 60 native chickens, PLOFFA

was able to increase their stocks to 200 on their 180-square meter communal farm. To sustain the project, the association agreed to follow a rotational shift on the schedule of monitoring among its members. Financially, part of their project policy is a 65:35 profit sharing where 65% goes to the association, and the rest is shared by the members.

Yielding positive results from their communal chicken farm, SAAD granted additional support project for the PLOFFA farmers worth Php 451,000 this year to help the group establish a community-based enterprise. Last July, the group received the initial inputs such as 100 native chicken, 6 sets of drugs and biologics, and one



unit of weighing scale. This August, equipment for their enterprise development which include a chest freezer, incubator with hatcher, stainless kitchen table, and charcoal chicken grill shall also be distributed.

Value addition training

During the poultry value-adding training, Ms. Labrador shared ways on how to launch and sustain enterprises through food processing as well as craft specific and comprehensive plans tailored to each group's entrepreneurial needs. She emphasized that processing farmers' raw agricultural produce expands opportunities for earning, maximizing the potential

of farm products.

Among the products made during the training were homemade native chicken longganisa and tocino. Most of the raw materials for the products such as native chicken flesh was freshly sourced out from the poultry project of the SAAD farmers.

Swine production and by-products

With the entire Visayas Region classified as a green zone (PhilStar, 2022), locally-sourced stocks mean safe and ASF-free meat for consumption. Providing farmers with swine production project does not only provide alternative livelihood but also is a strategic biosecurity measure of the region.

In this light, the DA-SAAD Program then granted the Pangalagan Farmers' Association (PFA) and Talisay Farmers' Association, both from the municipality of Bugasong in the province of Antique, 30 piglets each, worth Php 174,000 on May 17, 2022 under the FY 2022 Hog Fattening Enterprise with Vegetable Production Project.

Complementary to the said project, to capacitate local swine raisers toward the establishment of community-based enterprises, 15 members of the PFA and 15 from the TFA underwent meat processing, preservation, sanitation, and marketing training.

Ms. Margrette S. Gerzon, Value-Adding Coordinator of the Provincial Veterinary Office of Negros Occidental, shared her expertise on making pork by-products such as longganisa, tocino, siomai, and embutido.

In her discussion, she emphasized three salient points that could prevent cross-contamination during processing: observing disease control, wearing prescribed attire, and practicing proper sanitation habits.

TFA BOD Liezl Noble shared in an interview, "Ang natun-an ko sa amo ja nga

training [kung] paano magpreserve kang meat kay tungod nagasagud kami kang baboy. Kabahul guid ang bulig ni SAAD tungod sa aid nga ila gintugro, halin sa pagsagud kang baboy, hasta sa marketing kag team-building. Duro-duro guid ang naman-an ka mga pumuluyo paagi sa mga training at the same time grateful man kami sa mga ayuda nga gintugro kanamon."

(I learned in this training [how] to preserve meat, given the fact that we raise hogs. The aid granted by SAAD helped us in big ways, from swine raising to marketing and team-building. People in my community learned a lot through the training, at the same time, grateful for the interventions provided to us.)

To note, Bugasong is a newly-identified priority area in 2022 following Valderrama, Luau-an, and San Remigio in the province of Antique.

SAAD Western Visayas continues to provide agricultural support to aid farmers in their journey towards establishing self-sustained agri-communities – each managing their own enterprises. ###



5 FAs ensure healthy pork supply...from p. 1

These SAAD Swine Repopulation Project beneficiaries are 65 individual farmers and 5 farmers' associations who coordinated with the local government agricultural office professing their interest in the assistance. They underwent validation processes from the provincial office, until full consideration of the program. This repopulation initiative aims to assist the farmers in raising beneficiary-owned swine through free feeds and biologics to produce offspring that will be distributed to other beneficiaries. In general, the program is geared towards strengthening small-scale or backyard swine raisers to function as multiplier farms.

The spread of the ASF led to scarcity of pork products, consequently increasing prices in the market. Through the repopulation program, the farmers were coached on 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. Adoption of science-based technology on swine that empowers the participants in raising pigs economically and effectively was also discussed in the training.

Moreover, SAAD Provincial Coordinator Mr. Serapio Ulabu shared that the adaptation of multiplier farms will also abate the pork supply and transportation problem, as well as lowering the cost of animals. This measure is considered advantageous because farm multiplier projects in the province are currently partially developed enterprises.

The Swine Repopulation Program

In 2021, the Swine Repopulation Program was launched in the province with a Php 4,883,350 budget, covering associations from the municipalities of Conner, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, and Sta. Marcela. The program supported supplements

such as biologics, vitamins, and feeding needs of the initial 65 sows (farmer-owned) good for one cycle.

Mostly engaged in rice farming and labor service activities, farmers who benefitted from the program came from Calaoan Livelihood Farmers Association (CLFA) with 30 members; Narangy-ay EKB Farmers Association (NEFA) with 15 members; Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA) with 5 members; Cabatacan, Amado. San Mariano, San Jose Farmers Association (CASS) with 8 members; and Panay, Consuelo, Marcela, Nueva, San Juan Farmers Association (PaCoMarNuSan) with 7 members.

Said members are registered under the Registry System for the Basic Sectors in Agriculture. They also underwent a Farmers' Livestock Schooling (FLS) for swine production.

The first-in-line beneficiaries were selected based on criteria such as owning at least two (2) ready-to-breed female swine and piggery housing and maintaining biosecurity measures.

To ensure sustainability and to accommodate more farmers, a roll-over scheme for the next-in-line beneficiaries was formulated. For every sow supported by the program, two of its offspring will be passed on to two next-in-line beneficiaries who have interest in swine raising.

Currently, 418 head of litter were produced from the initial 65 head of sow supported, while 92 piglets were rolled over to the 42 next-in-line beneficiaries during the 2nd quarter of the year.

Following the swine repopulation in the area, 235 head of piglets were sold with total earnings of Php 839,000, while the remaining 23 head of piglets were set aside for farm multiplier.

Table 1. Production record of associations under Swine Repopulation Program

NAME OF ASSOCIATION	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES	NO. OF SOW SUPPORTED	NO. OF LITTERS PRODUCED	NO. OF PIGLETS ROLLED-OVER	NO. OF PIGLETS SOLD	FOR MULTIPLIER FARM	TOTAL EARNINGS (Php)
Calaoan Livelihood & Farmers Association (CLFA)	30	35	171	57	83	12	205,000
Narangy-ay EKB Farmers Association (NEFA)	15	18	133	17	108	11	544,000
Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association (ULFA)	5	5	10	3	0	N/A	0
Cabatacan, Amado. San Mariano, San Jose Farmers Association (CASS)	8	8	67	8	30	N/A	90,000
Panay, Consuelo, Marcela, Nueva, San Juan Farmers Association (PaCoMarNuSan)	7	7	37	7	14	N/A	0
TOTAL	65	73	418	92	235	23	839,000

Through this SAAD project, the members were able to produce sufficient pork supply of food for their households and their communities. Community Development Officer Gary Tinguey shared that most of the stocks were sold to nearby barangays and town proper.

Meanwhile, Ramirez Lumiwan, a member of the CLFA, attested that the project was a good source of additional income because he was able to provide load allowance and tuition fee for his children who are currently attending online class from his earnings.

Ways Forward

"Thankful kami iti SAAD kin Municipal Agriculture Office ta idi kapiagsa iti ASF, naikkan kami iti guide panggep biosecurity tapno lang haan mi maala jay"

sakit nga agdama nga mabalin nga makaapektar iti bab-babuy mi" (We are so thankful for the SAAD program and Municipal Agriculture Office because, during the height of ASF, we learned proper biosecurity measures to avoid carrying the virus that may contaminate our animal stock), expressed Ms. Bernadette Balangui, chairperson of CLFA.

In the interest of securing the development of the intervention granted to beneficiaries, the program is creating its sustainability plan before the last quarter of 2022 ends.

Members from CLFA and NEFA are planning to establish swine multipliers for community-based enterprises. While ULFA, PIAS, and BISS are planning to produce more stock to fulfill their obligations to the second-in-line beneficiaries. ###



Great Eggs-pectations: 2 SAAD FAs gross 200K from selling duck eggs

by James Brian R. Flaga

Early mornings in the highlands of Davao de Oro is generally cold, dreary affair. In Maragusan, Davao Region's summer capital—it's especially chilly, but Ms. Evelyn Baltazar is already up collecting duck eggs from last night's lay. From Parasanon Multipurpose Cooperative's (PMPC) flock of mallard ducks, she carefully gathers the freshly laid eggs, ensuring they're near pristine.

Several kilometers away in the neighboring municipality of New Bataan, the same activity takes place: this time, it's Mr. Orlando Balliner, chairperson of Andap Small Coconut Farmers Association, doing the collection.

Last year, PMPC and Andap Small Coconut Farmers Association were beneficiaries of SAAD 11's mallard duck production project. In October 2022...continue to next page



the program granted the FAs 135 mallard ducks, 108 of which were, at the time, pullets. The rest were drakes.

Alongside, the program supplemented the birds with feeds and biologics. Forty bags of layer crumble were delivered in three tranches from October 2021 to January 2022. The biologics consisted of multivitamins, dewormers, and antibiotics.

In January 2022, the pullets started producing eggs. Usually, they lay their eggs between the hours of 1:00 to 4:00 in the morning. Thus, both farmers' associations (FAs) have set a collection schedule that begins at 5am.

"Tag-tulo o upat ka adlaw amoang koleksiyon, mao jud na. Kay kung musobra ana, dili na mudawat amoang ginabaligyaan" (Our [egg] collection is three-four days only. If the eggs are older than that, our buyer won't accept them), Mr. Balliner related. Both FAs sell the eggs as is to balut merchants downtown.

From Andap, New Bataan, he travels 15 kilometers to Compostela delivering 8-12 trays eggs once or twice a week. PMPC does the same, although to a different merchant in another municipality. As of writing, Andap Small Coconut FA has grossed Php 111,531.50 from selling duck eggs, while PMPC at Php 102,658.50.

"Gi-atiman namo ug tarong. Nag-revolving mi ug pakaon hangtod nangitlog sila ug niabot ug ingon ana kadaghan" (We took care of it. There is a revolving pool of people that feed [them] until they start laying eggs, up until it became this many), Ms. Baltazar quipped when asked about their practices. PMPC previously decided to have nine people in circulation to man their stock.

At peak production, PMPC harvested 103 eggs, with the New Bataan FA at 10 eggs less. These days, the former's egg collection ranges from 60-90 pieces while the latter could gather up to 80 on a good day.

"Sugod tung nangitlog ni sila, nakaingon mi nga among hinay-hinayan ug improve hangtod among mga miembro, naa na puy mailaha" (When they started laying, we realized that we needed to pursue sustaining them to increase the number of the flock until every member has their own), Mr. Balliner mused.

SAAD 11 transitioned from granting livelihood projects to individual farmers to identified farmer-groups in 2021. Mallard duck raising was selected as a feasible project for Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDAs) and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) farmers because of the poultry's hardiness and quick turnover. This year, the program granted the same project to 10 FAs across the province.

Parasanon Multipurpose Cooperative (PMPC)

Last year, PMPC received mallard ducks and abaca inputs. The abaca harvest is expected in the first quarter of 2022. The mallard ducks, in the meantime, provide additional income for the FA.

"Amoang plano karon, magpapiso mi kay pananglit dili na mangitlog ang mga itik, naa mi ikapul" (Our plan is to hatch ducklings so that when the hens are culled, we'll have a new batch to sustain egg production), PMPC Chairperson Marcela Capin said. Ms. Capin is one of nine caretakers the cooperative chose for the ducks.

As a standard, ducks are culled once it molts excessively or has prolapsed (when a portion of a hen's oviduct/uterine tube ends up outside her body and doesn't retract back inside). It takes one to two years from when the hen started laying eggs to become unproductive.

Fortunately for PMPC, the project includes an incubator, which the cooperative is actively using. Previously, they've hatched 32 ducklings. Twenty-eight out of those were bought by members at Php 22 each.

"Nagpasalamat jud mi sa DA ug SAAD kay daghan mi ug nadawat project gikan sa ilaha" (We're thankful to DA and SAAD because we were blessed with projects), Ms. Capin added.

The cooperative has collected 9,777 eggs in seven months from the remaining flock of 133. The eggs were sold at Php 10.50

per piece. Ms. Baltazar, the cooperative's bookkeeper, reported Php 52,642 net income.

"Kalipay nato sa SAAD nga makita atoang mga FA nga nagdasig ug atiman sa atoang mga proyekto. Unta ma-sustain ni nila, kay ang tumong na sa SAAD karon, towards CBE formation na ta" (It's our joy in SAAD to see that our FAs are enthusiastic about maintaining our projects. We hope they do sustain it because SAAD is now gearing towards CBE formation), Ms. Naomi Lamata, SAAD Focal for Region 11, commented.

Andap Small Coconut Farmers Association

While PMPC had a fixed price when selling their eggs, Andap Small Coconut Farmers Association had a different story. When the FA started to sell their harvest, the eggs were priced at Php 8.50. For smaller eggs not up to the buyer's standard, the purchasing price was lower.

This didn't stop the FA from supplying again to the same buyer, and in this case, persistence was key as after a few weeks of delivering eggs consistently, the buyer raised the price to Php 10.50.

"Kugi ra jud amoang kapital. Ug gisunod namo ang gi-lecture sa amoa. Wa na mi nibalhin ug lain buyer kay siya, perme mupalit way sipyat. Sigurado mi sa iyaha" (Our capital is diligence. And we followed what we learned from the lecture. We didn't change buyers because we were sure that our buyer won't fail us), Mr. Balliner said.

Since January, the FA has harvested 12,387 eggs bought at varying prices ranging from Php 6.50-10.50.

Mr. Balliner credits the income to proper feeding. In fact, he spent most on it in hopes to get the money rolling. Similar to fuel, commercial animal feed has seen exponential price hikes due to supply constraints brought about by the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

According to a Bloomberg report, prices for soybean meal, a key component to most poultry feed, rose to its highest in seven years because of protectionism. With decreasing harvests across continents, governments worldwide are tightening local crop supplies exportation to prepare for an impending food shortage. The war exacerbated the situation.



Last July, SAAD delivered 25 sacks of layer crumble to support the FA. The additional implements should last at most three months, its sole purpose to increase the FAs earning potential.

"Salamat jud kaayo sa SAAD kay makabawi-bawi na jud mi. Padaghanon namo ni kay klaro kaayo nga naay mabalik" (Very thankful to SAAD because with this [pertaining to feeds], we can increase our net income. Surely, we'll increase [the number of the brood] because it's clear that there's money in this), he said.

"Tumong ug tinguha sa SAAD tung una pa nga madugangan ang panginabuhian sa mga mag-uuma sa hilagiyong dapit" (SAAD has always been about supplementing our farmers' income streams in hinterland areas), Ms. Lamata added.

SAAD 11 FY 2022 Implementation This year, SAAD 11 identified 46 GIDA and ELCAC FAs in the province to receive livelihood projects. Andap Small Coconut FA, one of the 46, has already received upgraded native chicken. Their crop-based intervention of Open-Pollinated Variety (OPV) corn is on the way. Meanwhile, PMPC has entered its Community-based Enterprise (CBE) phase under SAAD, with the program monitoring and providing technical support of interventions given previously.

Asked about what he thought of the SAAD program, Mr. Balliner echoed the region's informal slogan, *"Ok kaayo! Sa ako, ok kaayo ang dagan sa proyekto, basta naa lang juy interes ug kakugi."*

(In my part, the project is doing really well. You just need to be interested and hardworking).

The phrase Ok kaayo! is a popular Bisayan expression to convey delight in things going swimmingly. It translates literally to "very OK".

SAAD 11 is positive that both FAs will sustain the project. The program provides continued technical support to make the most out of the hens' productivity.

As Mr. Balliner closes the bamboo gate to the ducks' pen, he does so with great expectations that tomorrow, in the cold, early mornings of Davao de Oro, he'll find a batch of duck eggs ready for collection again. ###

SUCCESS STORY



Egg-economically rewarding: LUFIA agripreneurs road to sustainable layer egg farming

by *Cedie C. Bataga*

What better way to keep hunger at bay than to sell fresh bounty a day?

In the Philippines, the July to September 2021 total chicken egg production at 166.82 thousand metric tons (TMT) or 166,820 kilograms was 8.1% higher than the previous year's same period output of 154.30TMT. This data was published by the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA) in November 2021 with Western Visayas placing fifth in terms of distribution of total chicken laying flock inventory in the country.

The egg industry has gained economic significance and has been a source of protein when the supply of pork and chicken hit low. During the pandemic, the demand for the commodity rose due to the months-long lockdown that forced small retailers and bake shops to sell pastries and try other income-generating activities online.

The growing demand served as a breakthrough for lots of business owners, especially small-scale farmers. One of the players in the local layer industry who seized the same opportunity is the Lupaan Farmers and Irrigators Association (LUFIA) generating Php 73,234 eleven-month net income from the Chicken Layer Egg Production Project of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

About LUFIA

From June 24 to 28 of 2019, the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) in coordination with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Laua-an, conducted a series of social preparation activities such as Focused Group Discussions (FGD), validation, and profiling in Barangay Lupaan.

Lupaan Farmers and Irrigators Association, established on

June 26, 2018 qualified to receive livelihood support from the SAAD Program, is composed of 40 members, who are rural farmers engaged in small-scale vegetable, root-crop, and livestock farming, aged 45-65 with a monthly income ranging from Php 2,000 – 5,999.

Due to the steady demand of eggs in their municipality, the group proposed for layer poultry farming where they received 480 head (10 sets) of ready-to-lay (RTL) chicken layer stocks, 10 sets of drugs and biologics, 176 paper egg trays, 10 rolls water hose, 2 pieces weighing scale, 30 pieces chicken crates, and 2 drums worth Php 852,009.80 – delivered and distributed on June 22, 2021. In the following months, 100 bags of feed were delivered to complete the support.

Two months later, the group was equipped with health and management skills on chicken layer egg production. LUFIA was then capacitated through a simple bookkeeping training in October of the same year.

As counterpart of the project and through Bayanihan, the recipients shouldered and built a housing intended for the layer stocks. It was located in a 20-square meter (sqm) lot owned by Ms. Marsalina Labanon, sister of LUFIA president Marcelo Labanon, and rented at Php 500 monthly.

Bayanihan, widely practiced in rural areas is an act of camaraderie, where the whole community partakes in different communal activities such as structure building which the locals call the *dagayaw* system.

Project Implementation and Results

Walking towards the enterprise phase, LUFIA's goal is to put up a consolidating center where they can market their various products under SAAD. Considered as a partially-established enterprise, LUFIA currently manages a layer egg production project where they source their monthly income.

The project started picking up in July 2021, yet, LUFIA incurred net losses in the months of September and November due to the unprecedented feeds' price escalation fueled by the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine that adversely influenced the global market. This, in turn, led to the constant increase of oil prices and higher world price of raw materials for feed production. The situation greatly affects small farmers like them, forcing them to borrow Php 18,000 from a local supplier as a last resort for the purchase of feed and the construction of the expansion of their housing to accommodate more stocks.

In August, 50 bags of feeds were finally provided as part of the package in addition to the 50 bags delivered prior in July.

The provision allowed the group to cut off expenses from buying feeds, thus, using the money to pay their loan on staggered basis in the months of September and November.

For eleven months, LUFIA listed a gross income of Php 350,181 by selling fresh eggs according to sizes – Php 100 for peewee, Php 120 for pullet, Php 160 for small, Php 170 for medium, Php 190 for large, Php 200 for extra-large, and Php 210 for jumbo.

From their gross income, the group deducted their expenses from poultry house reconstruction (Php 16,300), purchase of electric motor for water supply (Php 3,800), and operation and maintenance (Php 256,847), which left them a net income of Php 73,234.

A discount of Php 10 per tray is granted to members, hitting two birds with one stone: access to cheap fresh table eggs, and a practical way to generate revenue without having to transport supplies to the town market.

Ms. Beth Damayon, LUFIA treasurer, shared that they also distribute free fresh eggs to members who are present during their meeting. This move was initiated to encourage their members to become more active and engaged in the project.

Agricultural Practices

Within a month upon receipt, the group designated all members in a rotational schedule to keep the housing conducive for production as well as maintain biosecurity and farm hygiene.

In these months, however, they noticed the effect of human contact with the layer stocks. The greater the number of visitors there is, the lesser the volume of production. Thus, the group agreed to leave the task to four members who will manage the housing while still keeping the flock in a clean environment but with minimal stress.

To minimize the unpleasant odor of chicken dung, they make use of rice hulls and agricultural lime as litter for brooding layers which has been beneficial technologies to them and to farmers alike.

Commonly known in local dialect as *labhang*, rice hull is sterile which minimizes disease contamination and readily absorbs moisture. Other times, they run out of supply, so they place sacks underneath the chicken cages as an alternative and change it regularly. Recycling and burying chicken dung into the ground for composting are also practiced by the association which is a cost-effective means of managing waste.

Due to changing weather conditions, 32 mortalities were recorded and production...*continue to next page*



has become unsteady and fluctuates from time to time beginning July to August 2021. The soonest they noticed a gradual decrease in stock's health, LUFIA president Marcelo Labanon urgently informed the area coordinator and the local agricultural technician for possible biosecurity measures. The mortalities prompted them to immediately consult a local veterinarian to monitor poultry health under its supervision. Apart from these, management procedures were adjusted and infected flocks were isolated. As of present, there are 421 laying head remaining with 59 mortalities recorded.

Market Links

Lupa-an is located 8-10 kilometers from the town proper. Reaching their small community takes about 25 to 30-minute travel through a habal-habal or what the locals call it as "skylab".

Despite it being a far-flung barangay, marketing their produce was a walk in the park. LUFIA, with its mission of becoming the number one supplier of fresh table eggs, has found willing buyers in the local market and nearby barangays.

After every harvest, Mr. Labanon would deliver their freshly-picked eggs to a local retailer, even to community sari-sari stores. This is made possible through the member's initiatives of inquiring in the market for possible linkages. Oftentimes, walk-in clients and passersby would avail of the products on-site.

Plans

Currently, LUFIA saves 50% of their income for capital build-up that they can use in the future, the other half goes to their circulating fund which they plan to use for their needs, and sometimes shared among caretakers and members.

Once the stocks reach their production peak, the group plans to cull the chickens and sell them in the town market and to consumers within the area. The income gathered will then be used to replenish their stocks for continuous supply of eggs. As for long-term plans, LUFIA wants to venture on value-adding for this would mean generating increased revenue.

Egg production alone is highly profitable, more so, when processed. With this, the group hopes to receive training on making leche flan and other products such as balut or salted eggs as part of their mission to establish a self-sufficient community-based enterprise and at the same time help ease hunger at the local level. ###

Ylimos IP farmers reinforce inti and basi production tradition thru DA-SAAD

by Sheena Phine P. Dayagon

KALINGA, August 15, 2022 – The FY 2021 Sugarcane Wine and Muscovado Enterprise Project of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program inspired 20 indigenous farmers from the Ylimos tribe to strengthen their tradition of *inti* and *basi* production.

The beneficiaries were among the 46 total members of the Ba-ay Indigenous People Farmers Association (BIPFA). Formed in September 2020, Barangay Ba-ay is an identified End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) area.

Years ago, locals from the remote area of Ba-ay produced their own sweetener called *inti* or sugarcane molasses and *basi* or sugarcane wine/vinegar. However, when the elders passed away, the number of sugarcane growers also decreased, as explained by Mr. Inosensyo Dail, BIPFA chairperson. The community is isolated, located in the forest and mountainous area, and the marketplace is inaccessible.

Their *inti* product is used as sweeteners of rice cakes and coffee – the major delicacy and beverage of Ykalingas. Meanwhile, *basi* is local wine and a staple part of occasions like bodongs or peace pacts, weddings and wakes.

With the SAAD Program, the group was provided with 1,000 pieces of sugarcane cuttings on July 14, 2022 for the project with a total cost of Php 535,700.00 to increase sugarcane production areas from 500 to 1,000 square meters, after five of the seven sitios engaged in sugarcane cultivation. In addition to the planting materials, postharvest and enterprise materials will also be provided before the fourth quarter.

Table 1. Sugarcane wine and muscovado enterprise interventions provided to BIPFA

INPUTS	UOM	QUANTITY	TOTAL COST (Php)
Sugarcane cuttings	piece	1000	10,000.00
Mechanized Sugarcane Presser	unit	1	352,000.00
Vat (silyasi), 100 liters cap, cast iron	piece	2	17,000.00
Terracotta (clay jar), 100 liters cap	piece	2	22,000.00
Packaging material, plastic, clear, resealable	piece	50	26,300.00
Bottle, 500ml clear, glass	piece	50	50,000.00
Plastic cap seal, 1 bundle @ 100pcs	bundle	20	1,400.00
Heat gun	unit	2	2,000.00
Impulse sealer	unit	2	25,000.00
Training on Processing, Packaging, Labeling and Marketing cum GMP		1	30,000.00
TOTAL			535,700.00

Efren Tawway, Barangay Councilor of Ba-ay, Pinukpuk, suggested that modernization may be a means to inspire the youth to address their decreasing involvement in agricultural activities. The mechanized sugarcane presser (MSP) might just spark the youth's interest in this tradition.

"ti daytuy nga sugarcane production project iti SAAD...continue to page 8



Ylimos IP farmers reinforce inti and basi production tradition...from p. 7



namnaen mi nga gumaget dagiti taga Ba-ay nga agmula manen iti unas ken maddaan ti barangay ti supply nga asukar ken basi," said Mr. Inosensyo Dail.

(With this sugarcane production project from SAAD, we are hoping that the

Ba-ay populace would go back to planting sugarcane and for the barangay to have its own supply of sugar and wine).

Based on the SAAD Kalinga's monitoring of intervention and validation of sites on July 26, the cuttings were now in the germination period when some sprouts and roots were already seen. The production sites are also currently undergoing land clearing or removal of existing vegetation relative to their land preparation. The sugarcane planting materials are set to be planted in August.

Sugar is a staple need in most households and with the increasing price of the product, the Ylimos people were more than interested in pursuing the project. The price of brown sugar is now Php 70 from its Php 38 price two months ago, according to the price monitoring of the province.

SAAD is committed to continuously support the production of basi and sugar, ushering the FA to prosper with both production and enterprise aspects and soon supply the municipality of Pinukpuk with locally produced wine, vinegar, and sugar. The training on processing, packaging, labeling and marketing of sugarcane products, and Good Management Practices (GMP) on sugarcane production are set to be conducted within the third quarter of 2022. ###



DA-SAAD caps 2022 midyear assessment...from p. 1

Each regional field unit presented updates of the physical and financial accomplishments where the floor was opened for evaluation of the Program Steering Committee (PSC) members from the DA's Budget Division, Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD), Bureau of Fisheries and Agricultural Engineering (BAFE), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR).

Issues on the financial obligation and disbursement and database profiling are fast tracked targeting to close all accountabilities in the following months as Phase 1 completes.

Concluding the semester with the recognition of the regional units' efficient performance, the top performing regions were announced before the closing of the four-day virtual activity.

With a total budget of Php 923,789,000 million for FY 2022, the SAAD Program had obligated 62% or Php 568,992,000. The top three regional operating units are Region 5 (81%), Region 6 (74%), and Region 8 (73%). Meanwhile, the program disbursed 25% or Php 144,714,000 of the obligated funds. The top three regional operating units are Region 9 (52%), Region 12 (39%), and Region 4B (38%).

Evaluated through its physical (40%), obligation (30%), and disbursement (30%) shares, Region 5 ranked

first in the overall physical and financial performance earning 72 points. Region 6 came in second with 68 points and Region 11 with 66 points.

Since its inception in 2017, the program which is set to conclude its Phase 1 this year, already implemented 3,461 livelihood projects serving 168,664 members of 5,953 farmers' and fisherfolk associations, and 143,229 individual beneficiaries. It has also established 257 community-based enterprises operated by 9,104 entrepreneurs across 11 covered regions.

In his message, National Program Director Myer Mula extended his sincere appreciation to national and regional offices for their untiring support and enthusiasm in performing their tasks.

"Thank you for your excellent job which resulted in the approval of the program's Phase 2. For the next 6 years, let us put in place the lessons learned in Phase 1. The NPMO will craft a standardized set of guidelines and policies to guide and improve our services in the next phase of the program which will cover all the regions, except for Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM)," underscored Dir. Mula.

FY 2022 Directions

Program Management Office (PMO)

A standardized manual on the PMO component covering the functions, activities, and experiences in all

ranks from managerial, technical, and non-technical SAAD staff at the national, regional, and provincial levels will be crafted for the whole team's guidance.

This is based on the study conducted by the national office that aims to define the structures and functions of the program staff and the internal system used by the program to facilitate its implementation.

Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation (PME)

For PME, the following were the directions provided:

- assure full implementation of committed targets in the BEDs
- provide additional support to strengthen multiplier farms and related enterprises through savings utilization
- planning workshop and updating of proposals (recalibrate proposal), internal activities for Phase 2 implementation (multi-year planning)
- site validation for Phase 2 using savings, site validation should be within SAAD Phase 1 provinces
- capacity building of regional and provincial staff since some staff might be transferred to SAAD Phase 2 provinces
- crafting of Phase 1 terminal report...*continue to next page*

Public Relations and Communications

The SAAD will continue to produce information and educational materials to continue to raise public awareness and manifest commitment to transparency of the program and its activities and achievements utilizing online and print platforms to reach a wider audience.

The program will continue the production of the newsletter, coffee table book (per commodity), video testimonials, annual report, terminal report, books, news compendium, and other related publications.

SAAD's partners for development

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)

For the Sustainable Livelihood Project (SLP) implementation, under the Zero Hunger Program, SAAD has partnered with DSWD.

The SAAD and SLP share a common objective to help the marginalized sectors improve their socio-economic status by providing a sustainable source of income through the establishment of community-based enterprises.

SAAD will submit the list of SAAD beneficiaries for cross-matching and validation to the DSWD-SLP database. The selected beneficiaries shall be provided with SLP livelihood interventions worth Php 15,000 per individual with counterpart technical assistance and other support from the SAAD.

Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE)

Meanwhile, with the presence of representatives from different agencies, synergy is strengthened between SAAD, BAFE, Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED), and Agricultural Machinery Testing and Evaluation Center (AMTEC), to address issues on availability, specifications, and AMTEC accreditation of machineries and equipment for the beneficiaries.

The AMTEC discussed specifications as its support

to actively contribute to the country's mechanization efforts. The main objective is to establish standard specifications and performance indices for machinery and provide technical assistance through testing and evaluation.

It was agreed upon that more Manufacturers' Forums and related activities should be done to increase the number of suppliers with AMTEC accredited products. AMTEC also offered to provide contact information of SAAD RPMSOs to suppliers whenever there are machineries needed to be procured.

Furthermore, BAFE is currently developing an Agricultural Bio-systems Engineering Management Information System (ABEMIS) serving as the DA's repository to help and assist the implementers accelerate their capability to efficiently monitor and evaluate the implementation of all its agricultural and fisheries mechanization and infrastructure projects, from the proposal, validation, procurement, construction, and completion to operation. SAAD is already involved in providing project information to the ABEMIS.

For Community-based enterprise initiatives

With the approval of the SAAD's guidelines on community participation procurement, it is a big advantage for the program's Farmers and Cooperatives Associations (FCAs) who established community-based enterprises. The procurement method aims to prevent long periods and delayed delivery of interventions as inputs will be sourced locally, specifically from eligible SAAD associations who have multiplier farms and nurseries.

Thinking ahead, Dr. Mula reminded the regions to review the list of municipalities to cover following the top 1/3 municipalities with the highest poverty incidence and those belonging to the 5th and 6th class. The DBM's recommendation for the continuation of SAAD can be translated to thousands of additional beneficiaries that will benefit from the agricultural livelihood projects offered by the program. With the refined implementation given the application of learnings and experiences from the Phase 1, SAAD ensures more efficient delivery of services that will benefit communities all over the country.

The virtual conference was attended by 92 participants from the national, regional, provincial SAAD staff, PSC representatives, and the DSWD. ###

(For more information on PaClayFA, visit <https://saad.da.gov.ph/2022/03/eggs-ploring-womens-potential-paclayfas-booming-egg-production-in-paluan>)

Ms. Lilibeth Gonzales, chairperson of PaClayFA, emphasized the importance of sorting eggs to maximize income from their production, "*Mahalagang i-sort ninyo ang mga itlog nang tama para mapresyuhan ninyo nang tama ang mga produced ninyong itlog at hindi kayo malugi*" (Sorting of eggs is important so you can price them right and avoid underpricing).

On the other hand, Mr. Marlon Lopez demonstrated ways of maintaining his stocks such as using rice hulls as deodorizers for chicken manure, thorough and on-schedule cleaning of the water tank and food trays, and establishing an eating schedule to ensure the health of the RTL chicken.

Municipal Agriculturist Julia Amodia shared that tapping the youth to be SAAD beneficiaries aims to spark their interest in agriculture and prepare them to be agripreneurs in the future.

"Masaya po kaming napili [na maging beneficiary] ng SAAD at maka-attend ng training para matuto rin kami saka para alam namin ang gagawin kapag naibigay na yung para sa amin" (We are happy to be chosen as SAAD beneficiaries and be able to attend the training to learn so we will know what to do when we receive the project intended for us), a beneficiary from The Chick Zone FA shared during the training.

Both associations will be receiving 10 sets of RTL chicken cages, 410 head of Dekalb white chicken, vitamins, biologics, and feeds from SAAD in August 2022.

SAAD prioritizes empowering farmers, especially those who are intersectionally marginalized including the rural women and youth by equipping them with knowledge and skills prior to receiving livelihood interventions. This will somehow ensure the success of their projects if the application of learning is religiously applied. As for the program's part, SAAD OccMin will continue to conduct technical and training support to assist the beneficiaries with their immediate on-field production needs. ###



OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, August 1, 2022

- The Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program trained an all-women and youth farmer groups for Ready-to-Lay (RTL) chicken egg production on July 19-22, 2022 to ensure preparedness before receiving egg production packages scheduled around August, 2022.

Thirty (30) all-women farmers from Samahan ng Madiskarteng Kababaihan Farmers Association (SAMAKAFA) and 30 youth farmers from The Chick Zone FA underwent training on cultural management of RTL chicken which includes proper feeding and management of ready-to-lay chicken spearheaded by Dr. Anthony John Rebong and Dr. Kristofferson Gonzales from the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian.

An on-site visit to Paluenos Chicken Laying Farmers Association (PaClayFA), an established SAAD community-based enterprise involved in RTL chicken egg production, was conducted, showcasing the actual weighing and sorting of eggs, chicken feeding, and cleaning of RTL housing. This is an attempt to duplicate best practices of the PaClayFA for effective operations.

Women and youth beneficiaries prepped up for SAAD egg production project

by Dianne Francis A. Sy-Gorembalem

Abaca farmers in Caraga join grading and trading forum

by Mark Angelo Pineda

AGUSAN DEL SUR, August 8, 2022 – Eighteen (18) Caraga abaca farmers assisted by the Department of Agriculture- Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA- SAAD) Program participated in the Abaca Forum held in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur, on July 29, 2022.

The abaca forum, organized by the SAAD regional team, sought to supplement farmers' knowledge on commodity, fiber classification, and value-added products. Aside from the farmers, fiber traders in the region, personnel from the DA-Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD) and Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) participated in the forum, sharing technical knowledge during the lectures and open forum.

Abaca production is among the big-ticket projects of the Program with an allocation of Php 40.1 million provided to six associations in the municipalities of Talacogon (1), San Luis (2), Rosario (1), and Veruela (1) in Agusan del Sur, and Bayabas (1) in Surigao del Sur. Five of the projects were established in 2019, another one in 2021, with yearly support up to 2022, benefiting 356 abaca farmers in the region.

Table 1. SAAD-funded abaca projects in Caraga Region

Municipality	Farmers' Associations	No. of beneficiaries	No. of hectares planted (ha)	Project Cost* (Php)
Agusan del Sur				
San Luis	Cecelia Abaca and Corn Planters Association (CeAbCoPA)	100	115	7,857,445.39
	Muritula USAD Farmers Association (MUFA)/Muritula Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (MUFACO)	80	85	10,547,574.21
Talacogon	Culiram SAAD Farmers Association (CuSAFA)	66	53.5	9,984,563.59
Rosario	Cosep Peoples Organization (COPO)	40	40	3,619,509.22
Veruela	Caigangan SAAD Farmers Association (CAFA)	50	50	6,662,592.01
Surigao del Sur				
Bayabas	P-7 Panaosawon Farmers Association (PPAFA)	20	20	1,484,933.80
TOTAL		356	363.5	40,156,618.22

**based on actual (2019-2020) and allocation (2021-2022)*

The FA members are old and new abaca farmers. With most projects expected to mass harvest by the fourth quarter of 2022, their immediate concerns include securing partnerships with traders.

To Gil Gabales, CuSAFA president, the forum addressed his long-time query about abaca fiber grading and classification. He and his members admitted to selling both S2 (high grade) and Binaba (low grade) fibers at the same price. *"Nakatabang ang forum aron kami mga farmers makahibalo sa grado ug balor sa among fibers. Karon, pwede nami maka negotiate sa mga trader aron ma presyohan og tarong ang fiber ug mas mo dako ang among halin,"* Gabales expressed.

(The forum helped us to know more about the grade and value of our fiber produce. We will negotiate with traders to value our fibers according to their grade so that we can also earn more).

PhilFIDA Supervising Science Research Specialist Marnelli Racsa encouraged the farmers to classify their fiber from low to high grade right after stripping to prevent mixing them up and retain their value upon selling to traders. The forum is part of the sustainability efforts of the Program in time for its Phase 1 conclusion this year.

This year, the regional management support office continues to assist all FAs in securing partnerships with traders in the region and linking them to other government agencies, such as the PhilFIDA, for technical assistance. ###



94 Sorsogon farmers attend value-chain training on poultry

by Pauline Trixia D. Borja



SORSOGON, August 9, 2022 – Ninety-four poultry raisers from 481 members of 18 farmers associations (FAs) in various municipalities in Sorsogon received Poultry Production and Product Development Training initiated by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program providing necessary knowledge, skills on basic poultry management and practices, food processing, product packaging, labelling and costing.

Hailing from the municipalities of Juban, Magallanes, Pilar, Donsol, Matnog and Sta. Magdalena, the beneficiaries toil as poultry raisers, fishermen, and farmers of rice, vegetable, and copra whose earnings are just enough for the basic needs of their families. Complementing their existing farming practice, poultry production was the decided project through consultation meetings with the DA-SAAD staff and was validated by the area and provincial coordinators...*continue to next page*

Table 1. Table 1: Farmers' Association participants in Poultry Production and Product Development Training

MUNICIPALITY	VENUE	FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	YEAR ESTABLISHED	NO. OF MEMBERS	NO. OF TRAINING PARTICIPANTS
Matnog and Sta Magdalena	Villa de Sanj, Matnog, Sorsogon	Hidhid Farmers' Association	2021	23	7
		Genablan Oriental Itikan Para sa Pag asenso	2022	25	4
		Genablan Occidental Farmers' Association	2022	22	3
		Tinago Duck Raisers Association	2021	21	4
		Samahan ng Mangingisdang ng San Bartolome	2022	24	5
		Samahan ng Mangingisdang ng Brgy Kwatro	2022	24	5
Juban and Magallanes	Casa Feliz, Juban, Sorsogon	San Rafael San Roque Farmers' Association	2022	30	5
		Embarcadero Agri Itik Farmers' Association	2022	35	5
		Aroroy Mallard Duck Farmers' Association	2022	30	5
		Angat Farmers' Association	2022	20	5
		Sta Elena Mallard Duck Farmers' Association	2022	29	5
		Brgy Magsaysay Farmers' Association	2022	20	4
Pilar and Donsol	LGU Pilar	Caditaan Mallard Duck Farmers' Association	2022	27	5
		Pangpang Farmers' Association	2022	35	5
		Abucay Farmers' Association	2022	25	4
		Cagdangon Farmers' Association	2022	31	4
		Tupas Indigenous People Farmers' Association	2021	30	10
		Ogod Agta Agricultural Production Farmers' Association	2021	30	9
TOTAL				481	94

Fourteen out of the 18 FCAs who participated in the training were newly established this year.

Poultry Production and Product Development training

SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSSO) Technical Staff for Livestock and Poultry, Gail Antioquia discussed the production guide on Ready-To-Lay (RTL) Chicken and proper duck raising where participants were taught on the fundamentals of poultry management such as proper housing, feeding management, biosecurity, and disease treatment and prevention.

Meanwhile, a cooking demo was conducted by RPMSSO Researchers Honey Leah Cantoria and Jenny Delmiguez. Processing of various poultry-based products like chicken cordon bleu, chicken tocino, chicken tapa and salted egg was taught in order to upskill the participants on value-adding, which they can apply as additional products to generate extra income or can be helpful in providing readily available food for household consumption.

Pangpang Farmers' Association member of Pilar, Elias Hagler, shared his insights on the conducted training, *"Nang dahil sa training nakaaram kami kang pag mantinar asin pag-asikaso ning mga manok. Naaraman mi ang mga dapat gibuhon na dapat suway ang may mga hilang sa wara tanganing dai mag-urulakitan. Nagpapasalamat po ako sa magayon na programa kang gobyerno dahil magayon na nakaukod muna kami bago kami matawanan ning mga manok."*

(Because of the training, we learned the proper maintenance of poultry production. We were taught proper isolation methods in case one of our chickens gets infected by viruses. I'm thankful for this great program

of the government for the opportunity to have some knowledge first before receiving the chickens).

With the help of the Committee on Agriculture and the Municipal Agriculture Office, the selected FAs started receiving agricultural inputs for poultry production and enterprise development since April this year. All interventions are expected to be completed by the third quarter of FY 2022.

Seven (7) groups received the Chicken Production package with interventions worth Php 310,800.00 each which included Ready-To-Lay chickens, laminated sacks, chicken feed layer, cages, egg trays and weighing scale.

On the other hand, eight (8) groups were granted with the Mallard Duck Production Package. The package will include interventions worth Php 666,255 per group, which includes incubators, mallard ducks, laminated sacks, duck feed layer, duck feed grower, egg trays and weighing scales.

Further, one (1) group received the Chicken Production and Enterprise Development package worth Php 297,800 which includes the above-mentioned interventions without the cages but with additional inputs for enterprise establishment such as various kitchen utensils, storage containers and packaging materials, PPEs, cooking stove (heavy duty), 3 tier stainless steamer, meat processor, meat grinder and other kitchenware.

Finally, two (2) groups were granted the same above-mentioned enterprise inputs worth Php 772,255 under the Duck Production and Enterprise Development package.

Looking forward, the attendees expressed that they would like to focus first on poultry production and to increase the amount of poultry products within their areas until they are ready to open an enterprise. ###



Sorsogon FAs benefit from SPIS and multicultivator machine from DA-SAAD

by Juan Paulo A. Quizana

SORSOGON, August 18, 2022 – Farmers' associations engaged in high-value crops (HVC) production from Sorsogon received a Solar Power Irrigation System (SPIS) and a multicultivator machine from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program to advance soil cultivation processes and address water supply needs of beneficiaries.

Sixty-four (64) farmers from the Pootol Backyard Farmers Association (PBFA) and Samahang Pangkabuhayan at Pangkaunlaran ng Calpi (SPPC) will benefit from the machinery inputs worth Php 1,213,330 provided by the program under High-Value Crops Production and Enterprise Development of FY 2022. The 34 members of PBFA from Barangay Pootol, Pilar, and the 30 members of SPPC from Barangay Calpi, Pilar grow lowland vegetables like kalabasa, sitaw, sili, kamatis, upo, ampalaya, etc., and sell them in their barangays market.

The mechanized process of land tilling through the multicultivator machine would cut short the manual process of harrowing soil for planting crops, which required more time and effort using a manual plow. Likewise, the farmers' new irrigation system addresses the area's limited water supply, which is essential to vegetable cultivation.

Both established in 2020, the FAs continue to provide affordable vegetable products within their municipalities cultivating a combined estimate of 10 hectares (ha) land area. They are recognized as the primary suppliers of fresh vegetables in their respective barangays.

Based on the monitoring and validation activities conducted by the SAAD program and through the coordination and endorsement of the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), the associations were identified as the potential beneficiaries for FY 2022 under the High Value Crops package. Further, upon the assessment of the Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED), the PBFA and SPPC were qualified to receive machinery and water supply assistance from the program. The division's monitoring process determines an organization's capacity in managing the agricultural interventions to be provided by the DA, their land area, and the feasibility of water source which the FAs passed...*continue to*

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about saadvocacy

The SAADvocacy is a monthly newsletter produced by the Public Relations and Communications Cluster of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, located at 3/F SAAD Office, Department of Agriculture New Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.

The SAADvocacy aims to inform the program's partners about its important happenings and events towards realizing its goal of contributing the poverty alleviation of the farmers and fisherfolks from 30 provinces and areas covered by the Executive Order No. 70.

The SAADvocacy Editorial Board reserves the right to edit and finalize all stories, prior to publication.

For comments and suggestions, please contact us via telephone number (02) 8929-7349 or via email address at saad@da.gov.ph.

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Ceremony of turnover

During the activity, DA Regional Field Office – 5 (DA RFO 5) Regional Executive Director (RED) and SAAD Regional Program Director Rodel P. Tornilla emphasized the importance of empowering the agriculture sector, while also extending his gratitude to the group beneficiaries.

"Dakula po an pasasalamat kan gobyerno saindong mga para-uma ta dai kamo nagpundong magtanom, magproduser kan pagkakan, ta kun kamo nagpundo, kadakol na tao an magugutom," Dir. Tornilla said.

(The government would like to express gratitude to all of you, our farmers, for your unwavering dedication to food production and support in the fight against hunger.)

Field Operations Division (FOD) Chief and SAAD Focal Person Dr. Mary Grace Rodriguez lauded the farmers recalling the humble beginnings of the SAAD Program and the challenges encountered during the course of its implementation in the marginalized areas of the region.

"People with good intentions make promises, but people with good character keep them — we, the men and women of DA, will do our best to keep our promises," Dr. Rodriguez added.

Also present in the event were Pilar Municipal Mayor, Hon. Carolyn Sy-Reyes, Pilar Municipal Vice Mayor, Luis Leosala, Jr., Sorsogon ROS Superintendent Agnes Espinola, Municipal Agriculture Office OIC Marites Rebellon, and Calpi Barangay Kagawad Hon. Yolanda Lusuegro.

High-Value Crops Production and Enterprise Development

Further, to complete the package amounting to Php 1,655,470 for each association, the delivery of the remaining interventions will be in the third quarter of FY 2022. The remaining inputs include kitchen equipment needed to process their products for enterprise opportunities.

With the interventions given by the SAAD Program to support the farmers in their farming venture, PBFA President, Randy Argote vowed to take care of the inputs provided to them. These interventions, with proper technical support, will help modernize soil cultivation and address water supply problems, especially during the summer season.

"An assurance mi man po sa ngaran kan Pootol Backyard Farmers Association, an ano man po na itinao samo kan SAAD, an gusto mi po, mapakinabangan pa ini kan mga masunod samo. Aalagaan mi po ini sa abot kan samong makakaya ta nganing padagos na magamit ini," said Mr. Argote.

(PBFA will make sure that the provisions given by SAAD will be taken care of so that our successors may still benefit from it. We will take care of it to the best of our abilities).

With the mechanization of vegetable farming methods, the farmers may expect a more abundant harvest, with reduced resources, effort, and time spent in farm cultivation. ###

