

SAADvocacy

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

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TIKA-SAAD partnership continues to benefit SAAD FAs in select Phase 1 and Phase 2 provinces for 2023-2028

by Jemiema Arro and Jessamae Gabon | NPMO

TAGUIG, April 11, 2023 – Perpetually forwarding “cooperation partnership” through development-based changes, the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) Philippines laid down proposals for continued agricultural assistance to the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program beneficiaries in selected provinces.

Present in the harmonization meeting are both

institutions’ chiefs, headed by the DA-SAAD Program National Director Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr., and TIKA Philippines Director Fahri Burak Aydogdu and their respective offices’ representatives. The meeting transpired in Taguig on April 4, 2023, that aimed to consolidate both parties’ concerns and course of actions toward the continuous provision of agricultural assistance in selected SAAD provinces from Phase 1, and proposal for Phase 2 covered areas...**Feature, p. 13**

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES



SAAD Caraga awards delivery vehicles to support 6 FAs' enterprises

by Mark Angelo C. Pineda | Caraga

BUTUAN CITY, February 27, 2023 – To strengthen market linkage and sustain delivery of product lines, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program Caraga awarded delivery vehicles to six (6) assisted farmers’ associations (FAs) in a formal turnover at the Regional Office, Butuan City on January 27, 2023.

The recipient FAs are engaged in abaca, chicken, and goat production funded by the Program under its Phase 1 implementation (FY 2019-2022), which are considered partially-established community-based enterprises (CBE). All six (6) FAs received one unit of three-wheel motorcycle with cab worth Php 345,000.00, which is on top of the inputs targeted by the Program in FY 2022...**continue to p. 2**



SAAD Caraga awards delivery vehicles...from page 1

The demand for such was raised during a consultation meeting in October 2020 from farmers and partner local government units to aid the FAs in selling their produce outside their community.

Provision of inputs, such as planting materials, fertilizers, native chicken, goat, and feeds, to the FAs concluded in 2023 relative to the end of SAAD Phase 1 implementation. As a timely input, the vehicles, which will be shared by all members of recipient FAs, will aid them in sustaining their projects from FY 2023 onward in terms of mobilization of goods and other operational needs.

Emphasizing project sustainability, DA Regional Executive Director Engr. Ricardo M. Oñate encouraged the FAs to always seek support and lobby concerns to the agency.

“Ang challenge sa ato karon mao ang pag

sustain aning mga proyekto. Ang lihok naa sa inyo. Kami na ra pirme andam maminaw ug mo hatag ug assistance. Kung naa moy concerns, ipaabot dire sa Region kay kamo man ang mas nakabalo sa inyong sitwasyon.” (The challenge now is how to sustain these projects. You are the main actors, but the Region is always ready to listen and provide assistance. Let us know your concerns because you are most knowledgeable of your situation), expressed Director Oñate.

Highlighting the importance of sustainability measures, Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Operations Rebecca R. Atega encouraged the FAs to implement sustainability mechanisms, echoing its importance in her closing message.

“Padayon mo sa pagpallig-on labi na ang pag implementar og mga mechanisms aron ma sustain ang mga projects (continue in your endeavors, especially in implementing mechanisms to sustain your projects.) We will

partner with the LGUs for additional support, including close monitoring,” said RTD Atega.

Mr. Ariel Gay-od, Chairperson of the RCFA from Lingig, Surigao del Sur (SDS), expressed appreciation for the intervention and shared how they benefited from the Program. “Sama sa pag amping namo sa proyektong nadawat, amo ampingan kining bag-ong sakyanan. Daghang salamat sa Program sa DA. Sa kalayo sa among lugar, abi namo nga wala nay makaabot didto nga Program. Kung wala ang SAAD, wala ang RCFA karon,” said Mr. Gay-od.

(We will maintain and care for this vehicle just like how we looked after the SAAD project. We are thankful to the DA for this Program. We never thought a program would reach our community considering its distance. If not for SAAD, RCFA will not be realized.)

RCFA is situated at Brgy. Rajah Kabungsuhan, around 40 km away (1 hour travel time) from Lingig proper. Considering the distance and the steep, rocky, and unpaved road leading to the barangay, the transportation cost per person is also high at Php 1,500 per person one-way.

With the vehicles, RCFA, like the rest of the recipient FAs, would cut down their expenses for transporting their product lines.

Engr. Renante R. Abado of the DA-Regional Agriculture and Engineering Division also discussed the memorandums of agreement and deeds of donation with the FAs after the turnover. ###



Ifugao farmers and fisherfolk gear up for BFAR-SAAD aquaculture projects

by Jessamae Gabon, Rodelyn F. De Vera | NPMO, BFAR-CAR

IFUGAO, March 21, 2023 - Entering the province of Ifugao for its Phase 2 implementation, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Special Area for Agricultural Development (BFAR-SAAD) Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) conducts fundamental leadership and management training in preparation for aquaculture livelihood grants to about 106 farmers and fisherfolk in the province.

Backed by the Hingyon Local Government Unit (LGU), the activity was personally attended by the municipality Chief, Mayor Florencio B. Nanula. “The deserving project recipients must be interested in the intervention - that is one of the important considerations in selecting our fisherfolk beneficiaries because you will be pioneering the implementation and success of the program here in Ifugao, and be the model for other fisherfolk to replicate the result of this, soon,” he shared in his message.

In the province of Ifugao, BFAR-SAAD targets to assist 3 fisherfolk associations (FAs) that will benefit around 106 individual fisherfolk

Table 1. SAAD Caraga FAs awarded with 1 unit delivery vehicle

PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITY	FARMERS' ASSOCIATION	PROJECT	PRODUCT LINE
Surigao del Sur	Bayabas	Balete Chicken Growers' Association (BACGA)	Native Chicken Production	Native chicken, chicks, eggs
	Bislig City	Goat Raisers' Association of Mabog (GRAM)	Native Goat Production	Native goat
	Carmen	Cancavan Corn Growers' Association (CCGA)	Native Chicken Production	Native chicken, eggs, chicks, corn
	Lingig	Rajah Cabungsuhan Farmers' Association (RCFA)	Native Goat Production	Native chicken, eggs
Agusan del Sur	San Luis	Cecelia Abaca & Corn Planters' Association (CeAbCoPA)	Abaca Production, Native Chicken Production	Native chicken, eggs
	Veruela	Candiis SAAD Farmers' Association (CSFA)	Native Chicken Production	Native chicken, eggs





members in Asipulo, and Hingyon municipalities, both tagged as 5th income class municipalities and with poverty incidence rates at 32% (former), and 23% (latter) respectively.

The activity, specifically focused on Hingyon, was attended by a total of 46 beneficiaries and members from two (2) targeted fisherfolk associations: (1) Iwang Farmers Fisherfolk Association from Barangay Poblacion, and (2) Naluwah Farmers and Fisherfolk Association from Barangay Cababuyan South. Both FAs are composed of 23 members and are newly organized to qualify for the assistance of the program.

As part of the basic eligibilities of the SAAD Program, recipients who are organized fisherfolk groups, particularly in the identified 38 municipalities based on the 2018 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) Small Area Estimates data bearing the highest poverty incidence rates in the Cordillera Region, will be accommodated and considered for the projects from SAAD.

Project management and financial training

Naluwah and Iwang are Tuwali terms (native Ifugao language) about the cultural practice of planting rice. Naluwah signals the start of the fishing period, while Iwang signals the end of the rice harvest. They thought of these names to preserve the cultural belief and practices of the old folks in Hingyon believing that recognizing said traditional practices will bring forth a bountiful harvest for the community.

Naluwah and Iwang FAs are lined up to receive free aquaculture livelihood inputs such as feeds and fingerlings applicable for rice and fish culture in one cropping period. Per the SAAD Phase 2 guidelines, the FAs already underwent beneficiary needs assessment (BNA), one of the activities of social preparation component done in the early stage of community engagement. As of date, the FAs now proceed to the capability-building activity prior to receiving the livelihood grants.

The participants underwent a lecture orientation about the SAAD Phase 2 implementation, other BFAR-CAR programs, different tilapia culture management,

and the "fish n LEarn", or the financial education game for fishers.

"I enjoyed the game since I was able to appreciate the importance of decision-making on what needs to prioritize such as savings, negosyo, and insurance," said Leni B. Tuguinay, a member of the Iwang FA.

The game was a good avenue for the project recipients to internalize the value of having a business emphasizing the SAAD project inputs as their initial capital in their business venture. The goal of SAAD Phase 1 primarily focused on strengthening the sustenance capacity of the marginalized fisherfolk in the priority provinces, addressing food security in the communities. However, sustainability efforts were then equally emphasized which was addressed through the establishment of community-based enterprises (CBEs) that will help the recipients maintain the operation of the grants.

The "fish n LEarn" is a simulation game for fisherfolk aimed at equipping learners with financial knowledge and positive money values. The game is structured around five key messages (5Ms) for fisherfolk that include: (1) maging mapagkalinga sa karagatan; (2) mag-impok ngayon para sa kinabukasan; (3) magpalago ng kita sa pamamagitan ng pagne-negosyo; (4) mag-seguro para protektado; and (5) maging matalino sa pag-utang.

For BFAR-SAAD's Phase 1 implementation, the program covered 3 provinces in CAR: Kalinga, Mountain Province, and Apayao, which assisted 25 municipalities in the region. As Phase 2 commences in CAR, the program targets to cover 38 fisherfolk groups with about 1,140 members across 6 provinces (Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Mt. Province, Kalinga) and 38 municipalities that qualify the area and beneficiaries selection considerations.

Beneficiaries, like in the Phase 1 implementation, will access capacity-building training focused on production, values formation, fiscal management, and aquaculture livelihood projects considering community needs and socio-economic conditions of the fisherfolk. ###

BFAR-SAAD LDN and LGU craft cross-functional collaboration for fishing communities devt projects

by Al Jun B. Magamano
| BFAR REGION 10

LANAO DEL NORTE, March 21, 2023 – To establish clear policy and guidelines understanding for Phase 2 implementation in Lanao del Norte, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-Special Area for Agricultural Development (BFAR-SAAD) 10 convened with its partners and stakeholders to communicate the totality of the next phase implementation, mechanics and flow of service improvements from Phase 1.

On March 14, 70 counterpart representatives from the eight (8) Local Government Units (LGUs), Municipal Agriculture Offices (MAOs), Fisheries Extension Workers (FEWs), and BFAR's partner agencies from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI), Mindanao State University-Lanao del Norte Agricultural College (MSU-LNAC), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Mindanaw Tripartite Youth Core (MTYC), Lanao Aquatic and Fisheries Center for Community Development (LAFCCOD), Department of Education-Alternative Learning System (DEPED-ALS), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and Provincial Agriculture Office (PLGU-PAO) gathered for SAAD Phase 2's ceremonial launching, marking the beginning of 6-year development activities and partnerships for the Lanao del Norte implementation.

Dr. Noel M. Saldajeno, Provincial Fishery Officer and SAAD Provincial Focal Person highlighted in his welcome remarks the importance of inter-agency collaboration and the whole-of-nation approach in project implementation to ensure projects sustainability and success. He also challenged the Municipal Agricultural Officers (MAOs) to implement the livelihood projects guided by the Program's ultimate goal of contributing to poverty reduction among the marginalized fisherfolks in Lanao del Norte.

"The purpose of the collaboration with other stakeholders is to encourage the partners to assist in the conduct of monitoring and evaluation of the projects," he said.

Mr. Marlou N. Fernandez, SAAD Alternate Regional Focal Person, and BFAR-10 Chief Aquaculturist underscored that the program implementation should be done passionately and faithfully for the welfare of fisherfolk beneficiaries; and consistently monitor their project to assess if progress is made in achieving expected results.

Mr. Ibrahim R. Sanggoyod, SAAD Assistant Alternate Regional Focal Person, presented the implementing guidelines of SAAD Phase 2 for FY 2023-2028 through Department Order No. 6, issued by the Department of Agriculture (DA) in 2023. The purpose of the said guidelines is to provide direction to the program implementers and highlight the...*continue to p. 5*

Ifugao fishers prepare for tilapia farming

by Rodelyn F. De Vera | BFAR CAR



IFUGAO, March 29, 2023 – To prepare beneficiaries for the aquaculture project, 60 Cawayan Farmer’s Association (CFA) underwent Tilapia culture management training facilitated by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

The training from March 14-15 discussed basic tilapia farming and management to properly utilize the materials included in the livelihood package such as feeds and fingerlings. Further, the basics of tilapia biology, tilapia culture in ponds highlighting pond preparation, stocking, feeding, water management, and pond care and maintenance were also discussed. The activity also served as a venue for the association to formulate a policy that fosters a sense of duty and responsibility among members in sustaining projects handled by the organization.

Based on SAAD Phase 2 implementing guidelines, in the beneficiary selection, the program will assist fishers who are members of an organized association to qualify for SAAD’s services, particularly in the identified 38 most marginalized municipalities marked by the Philippine Statistics Authority (2018) in the Cordillera Region.

The Cawayan Farmers Association in Barangay Cawayan, Asipulo, Ifugao was organized in 1992 with an initial membership of 66 and was only registered with DOLE in 2011. As of writing, the association has grown to 213 members who collectively envision increasing their assets by Php 10 million by 2030 through linkages and partnerships with various government agencies and local government units. As an established association, the group has Php 380,419.09 savings and cash on hand fund.

The activity also introduced Fish N’ Learn, a financial knowledge game imparting positive financial values essential in maintaining the good monetary performance of the association, gaining returns on their project, efficient utilization of funds, and creating real and safe investments in the agri-fishery business.

In this game, each participant was given seed money which they will allocate for different needs such as

savings, insurance, business, or cooperative. “The game was good and it gave me a lesson to realize the value of saving money every day. I got the highest remaining amount of money at the end of the game because of the idea that I bought three businesses during the game,” said CFA Vice-chair Victor Anudon.

Fish N’ Learn is structured around five key messages (5Ms) for fisherfolk that include: *maging mapagkalinga sa karagatan; mag-impok ngayon para sa kinabukasan; magpalago ng kita sa pamamagitan ng pagnegosyo; mag-seguro para protektado; and maging matalino sa pag-utang.*

It is an avenue for the fishers to reflect on their spending priorities and future financial decisions. The game was launched to spread finance management education among fishers across the country in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA) through BFAR, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Banco De Oro Foundation, and Fish Right Program of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

Ifugao Provincial Fishery Officer, Eumic C. Culimay spearheaded the activity in collaboration with the local government unit of Asipulo and officials of barangay Cawayan.

After enhancing and developing the beneficiaries’ aquaculture knowledge on both technical and financial aspects, the Bureau will begin distributing fishery project inputs in the first week of April. This comprises 46,000 fingerlings and 460 bags of feeds, enough for their consolidated 9,200 square-meter pond (accumulated and shared by 60 select members of CFA). Members’ ponds are also ready for fish stocking.

BFAR-SAAD Program in CAR will cover 38 fisherfolk groups with about 1,140 members across 6 provinces (Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Mt. Province, Kalinga) and 38 municipalities that qualify based on the area and beneficiaries selection considerations. Through SAAD, fishers can access capacity-building training focused on production, values formation, fiscal management, and aquaculture livelihood projects considering community needs and socio-economic conditions of the fisherfolk. ###



SAAD Central Visayas implementers undergo BNA workshop

by Jolina T. Daño | REGION 7

BOHOL, March 30, 2023 – Strengthening the social preparation efforts in the region, Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Central Visayas implementers underwent Beneficiary Needs Assessment (BNA) workshop in Tagbilaran City.

The weeklong training, held on March 13 to 17, 2023 was led by SAAD’s National Program Management Office (NPMO) Program Deputy Director Dr. Pedro Dumaraos, Jr., a social development scholar, and seasoned community organizer.

Essence of BNA in program implementation

BNA is a social research method that aims to improve project planning and seeks to provide the most suited projects to the target communities; it also opens the planning stage to carefully consider community resources, experiences, priorities, and goals.

The training was attended by the Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) of Siquijor and Bohol and 14 Area Coordinators (AC) of all the municipalities covered by the SAAD Program in Central Visayas. ACs are on the frontline of the program implementation in their respective municipalities.

During the workshop, SAAD NPMO Region 7 NPMO Focal, Gio Renzo Caballero, led the orientation of the participants on the BNA tools such as (a) document review; (b) BNA interview and observation; and (c) site validation and the approach incorporated to each tool.

All mentioned tools will be triangulated to effectively validate collected information, to arrive at the most objective project design for the beneficiaries. These strides of the program and in the implementers are an attempt to lay the foundation of sustainable livelihood interventions.

Further, Mr. Caballero added that the BNA must be done not just to meet the physical and financial goals, but also to serve and help the farmers with their needs by giving them a chance to share their socioeconomic perspectives.

As part of the BNA activity, participants conducted a simulation on potential scenarios and difficulties that implementers might face in the field. They were divided into five (5) groups and given the opportunity to rehearse the guide questions using the pre-identified projects assigned to them.



Deputy Director Dumaraos, in his message, lauded the implementers for their effort and heart that they put into doing their work. "Focus not just on the present but also on the future. Isapuso ang ating ginagawa (Take what we do by heart). Put people first, always. More than being paid, be committed," Dr. Dumaraos shared.

The OIC-APCO of Siquijor, Julius Galvan, DVM, appreciates the learnings he got from the training, which he can utilize to fulfill the goals of the program – to economically empower the farmers and help them establish their community-based enterprises (CBEs).

"I appreciate everyone's effort and the shared realizations, ideas, and tips from Doc Dumaraos. I am excited to apply the methods I learn here when we go back to our respective offices and areas to fulfill the purpose of the project. Justify why we are here, empower farmers, and help them develop CBEs," Dr. Galvan said.

"I am very much thankful po, in my three years experience as a coordinator, dito po sa BNA ko po na open kung ano po talaga ang tunay na essence ng development worker. Dahil sa maraming factors sa sistema, may mga bagay na ginagawa for compliance, dito, narealize ko po na dapat slowly but surely sinusunod at dinadaan sa tamang proseso ang pag implement ng project para makamit ang hangad ng programa," shared Maria Reigelyn Malarijes, Provincial Program Management Support Office, Bohol Provincial Coordinator.

(I am very much thankful, in my three years experience as a coordinator, here in my BNA, I was able to open what the true essence of a development worker really is. Due to the many factors in the system, some things are done for compliance; here, I realized that the implementation of the project must be followed slowly but surely and go through the correct process to achieve the program's goal.)

As of writing, the SAAD Central Visayas have conducted series of BNA activities from March 15 to 24 which covers 495 farmer-beneficiaries from a total of 28 barangays in the municipalities of Alburquerque, Sikatuna, Loay, Lila, Cortes, Dagohoy, San Isidro, Anda, Sevilla, and Clarin.

Municipalities of Batuan, San Jose, Maria, San Juan, and Larena are set to participate in the BNA from April to May 2023. ###



BFAR-SAAD LDN and LGU craft cross-functional collaboration...from page 3

significance and correlation of the Program's four (4) core components.

"The SAAD Program Phase 2 aims to contribute to the reduction of poverty through the provision of agricultural and fishery interventions to the poor fishing sector by improving food production, household consumption, and commercial purposes in areas of operation and assisting the beneficiaries in establishing community-based fishery enterprises," he said.

Mindanao State University – Lanao del Norte Agricultural College (MSU-LNAC) researchers, represented by Assistant Professor Lessie Mae Mata and Mr. Albert Cabolbol, discussed the findings of their evaluation of how SAAD conducted its social preparation activities and its relation in the establishment of community-based enterprises in Phase 1. Tightening up connections between partners, the SUC laid out how diverse skills and areas of expertise contributed to the realization of set goals: beneficiaries' and communities' food sustenance, and food security which indicated a successful Phase 1 program implementation in Lanao del Norte. MSU-LNAC is the counterpart State University and College (SUC) of Central Luzon State University (CLSU) in LDN, SAAD's partner in impact assessment and evaluation studies.

In his message, Lanao del Norte Provincial Board Member and Chairman of the Committee of Agriculture and Cooperative, Mr. Reinario B. Bihag challenged the officials and government employees, especially the MAO to ensure that the projects are suited to the community and can meaningfully help in the socio-economic conditions of the fisherfolk.

As part of the collaborative efforts approach to program implementation, Mr. Bopp Benjack Dacup, SAAD Regional Support Staff, presented the proposed delineation of functions and project collaborations among BFAR, LGU, beneficiaries, and partner agencies such as DOLE, DTI, TESDA, NFRDI, MSU-LNAC, DepEd-ALS, AFP, MTYC, LAFCCOD, and CDA to foster wider linkages during the program roll-out in the province.

Mr. Al Jun B. Magamano, Alternate SAAD Provincial Focal Person, presented the pipelined activities for FY 2023 to the partner agencies. Out of the eight (8) municipalities covered by SAAD, seven are classified as Focus Area A or both Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) and conflict-affected and vulnerable areas, with poverty prevalence of more than 30%.

Gaining a better understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing the Program's Phase 2 implementation, at the end of the activity, the partners and stakeholders were encouraged to do a cross-functional collaboration – fostering inclusivity and building a shared sense of purpose aligned with SAAD's perspective to navigate challenging projects more effectively.

Involving partners in developing plans, implementing strategies, and executing the livelihood project to completion, the BFAR-SAAD Lanao del Norte team is now set to conduct its Beneficiary Needs Assessment for target beneficiaries, profiling, and geotagging of aquaculture farms, with a wider scope of implementation in 8 priority municipalities in the province. ###



Dear Readers:

Having in mind the value of communication to effective program implementation, we are pleased to share our SAADvocacy newsletter, featuring the most recent activities taking place at the national, regional, and local levels of the DA-SAAD Program.

The first quarter of the Phase 2 implementation has been remarkable with the new guidelines in place. SAAD from the national up to the regional operations, with the **cooperation and valuable support of the DA and BFAR regional field offices** of the Department, and the local government units - from provincial, municipal, to the barangay - have played equally important roles in the Social Preparation component.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

This issue is a combination of stories from Phase 2, where local networks are established upon community entry, at the same time, some Phase 1 narratives that feature the progress and transition of the beneficiaries, again to the local government programs for agriculture.

We can say that SAAD stays committed and faithful to its mission since 2017, sailing smoothly because of the efforts not only among development partners but more so due to the dedication and warm welcome of the communities, and beneficiaries.

The training, and provision of agricultural livelihood is aimed at increasing their production, only this time, SAAD has a clearer vision, equipped with the necessary means, structure, and processes to attain the goal of establishing community-based enterprises (CBEs).

We can essentially say that SAAD, in the name of increasing social protection among the marginalized, is continually creating foundation to engage the farmers and communities to economic activities and decision-making.

We cannot attain the fulfillment of these goals alone, even with concerned institutions' backing without the command from the administration and its commitment to prioritize in helping the plight of the poorest segment of the population. Awareness and consciousness building are always the essential and primary step in forwarding the call, our call for agricultural development in the rural areas.

ULYSSES J. LUSTRIA, JR.
Director, SAAD-NPMO

BFAR 10 seeks LGU partnership for SAAD-covered areas in Bukidnon

by Jennifer Valcobero | NPMO

BUKIDNON, March 30, 2023 – Kickstarting implementation with a strong inter-agency grip on the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Special Area for Agricultural Development (BFAR-SAAD) Program's goals for the development of local fisheries production, fisheries counterpart of SAAD solicited full support from the local government units for complementary actions in the operation of the program.

Building effective collaborative relationships with the SAAD Program's stakeholders for the Phase 2 implementation, BFAR 10 organized a kickoff meeting with 33 regional and provincial program implementers and local government units (LGUs) representatives to go over the Program's plan and objectives, review proposed time frames, clarify roles and responsibilities, and encourage participants to point out improvements that could be made.

In response, 40 LGUs from Lanao del Norte, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, and Camiguin pledged their full support and any assistance they can extend for the benefit of roughly around 820 fisherfolk and constituents. This goal is also aligned with the nationwide call of achieving a 10% overall increase in fish production through the provision of different development projects for the fisheries sector, in adherence to the administration's 8-point economic agenda.

During SAAD Phase 1, 22 municipalities in Bukidnon declared by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) 2015 with the highest poverty incidence rate were assisted by the Bureau with both aquaculture and inland municipal fishery projects. For three (3) years, 25 FAs with 640 members were granted tilapia culture cultivated in two methods: Aquaculture Community-





SAADvocacy News



Based Participatory Action Research (AquaCPAR) Technology and Tilapia Culture in Pond (TCIP).

Marking its Phase 1 success, the PICKISM Tilapia Grower's Association emerged with a total association income of Php 1,058,610. This group has been engaged in tilapia culture in a pond since 2018, and later on, expanded to fish processing such as tilanggit and tilapia ice cream.

For Phase 2, Bukidnon is among the five (5) provinces in Northern Mindanao to be covered by the Program for FY 2023-2028. Fourteen (14) areas of the said province belonging to the top third poorest municipalities based on the PSA 2018 poverty incidence data will be covered.

Targeted to receive fishery projects that are suited to their communities

are 14 groups with 20 members each belonging to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC) and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA). Some of the FA members from Malitbog, Talakag, Impasugong, and Kitaotao are part of the Talaandig, Higa-onon, Bukidnon, Umayamnon, Matigsalug, Manobo, and Tigwahanon ethnic groups.

Tilapia Grow-out Production is one of the projects intended for the FAs since most members already have existing backyard fishponds but lack the capital to buy fingerlings and feed inputs to support their fishing venture. This is also best for their tropical climate.

BFAR-SAAD Bukidnon Alternate Focal Person Alfonsus Gonzaga stressed during the conference that "through strong coordination and partnership with the LGUs and cooperative partner-beneficiaries, it will lead to the attainment of more successful



Phase 2 program operation."

After the said ceremonial marking of Phase 2 implementation, the Bukidnon team is set to simultaneously conduct its Beneficiary Needs Assessment (BNA), profiling, geotagging, group values and by-laws formation, and a series of technical training on tilapia culture in pond and marketing.

These activities are lined up for the municipalities of Baungon, Talakag, Malitbog, Sumilao, Lantapan, Impasugong, San Fernando, Cabanglasan, Damulog, Kibawe, Kadinglan, Quezon, Kitaotao, and Pangantuan. Distribution of fishery inputs will start from June up to the third quarter of 2023. ###

SAAD CALABARZON equips implementers with PRA

by Nicole C. Zarsuelo, Pamela Faith M. Garcia
| CALABARZON

CALABARZON, March 30, 2023 – A common practice in the CALABARZON Region, as a new addition to the Department of Agricultural – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program Phase 2, implementers received training on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) with the goal of providing key tools and basic principles on community organizing.

Held at Organic R&D Conference Hall, Brgy. Marauoy, Lipa City, the two-day training from February 15-16, 2023 was headed by Mr. Wilmer S. Faylon, Assistant Regional SAAD Focal Person. Thirty-three (33) SAAD implementers from the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO), and Provincial Program Management Office (PPMSO) of Quezon and Batangas, as well as representatives from the Research and Development Division, Municipal Agriculture Office

(MAO), and Office of Provincial (OPA) of Batangas and Quezon attended the workshop.

Said activity is a crucial part of the social preparation component of the program implementation, aimed at making the planning process more efficient, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of the beneficiaries. It is an interdisciplinary approach that primarily fosters the sharing of livelihood experiences and life conditions among key participants in a community-specific setting. In this aspect, factors affecting the realities on the ground are extracted and later used for planning development projects that are responsive to the beneficiaries' needs.

Regional implementers on PRA workshop

In his introductory address, Mr. Faylon, stressed the importance of PRA in determining the appropriate assistance



for the beneficiaries of SAAD Phase 2. "Sa pamamagitan ng PRA, magkakaroon ng maayos na koordinasyon at ugnayan sa pagitan ng mga benepisyaryo, stakeholders, at mga tagapagpatupad ng proyekto." (Through PRA, there will be proper coordination and relationships between beneficiaries, stakeholders, and project implementers,) said Mr. Faylon.

A team of PRA experts steered the discussions where topics were divided among resource persons. For starters, Agro-Ecosystem Mapping concept and relevance to the study were introduced by Mr. John Carlo P. Narvacan, Science Research Technician. Further, Ms. Elizabeth R. Gregorio, Senior Science Research Specialist, focused

on Timeline and Trend Analysis while Mr. Girsky V. Anda, Science Research Specialist (SRS I) discussed Cost and Return, Resource Flow, Seasonal Calendar and Institutional Diagram. The Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis and Problem Identification Analysis were discussed by Ms. Daisynette D. Manalo, Senior Science Research Specialist, while Threats, Opportunities, Weaknesses and Strengths (TOWS) Matrix and Action Planning were discussed by Mr. Faylon.

Using the knowledge acquired from the lecture, a PRA simulation was conducted where Batangas and Quezon cluster participants were enacted as settlers and facilitators. Through this, the implementers were able to experience the dynamics of PRA. Engaged and active during the workshop, the activity concluded with an open forum and sharing of knowledge.

SAAD CALABARZON will begin conducting PRA in the second quarter of the year. The program looks forward to strengthening the collaboration between the community and promoting grassroots development of target municipalities. ###



Mountain Province fishers benefit from BFAR-SAAD’s tilapia culture project for Phase 2

by Rodelyn F. De Vera | BFAR CAR

MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, April 3, 2023 – A year since the conclusion in Cordillera, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Special Area for Agricultural Development (BFAR-SAAD) Program resumes giving out fisheries livelihood assistance to identified farmers associations in the municipalities of Sadanga, Paracelis, Besao, Sagada, Barlig, and Sabangan, Mountain Province.

Each of the six (6) fisherfolk groups received 23,000 fingerlings and feeds required for one (1) cropping period under the FY 2023 Tilapia Culture in Pond project. The package is worth Php 1.6 million for the first cropping, and one of the proposed projects suited to the communities in Mountain Province.

Cultivating tilapia can be an alternative source of livelihood for farmers and fishers to increase their income and ensure food is on the table. Aside from growing in a pond, folks also practice tilapia culture in tanks, and rice-fish alternate farming. With the existing irrigation and spring as their sources of water, a farmer can establish his own monoculture fish farm.

In the recent data released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), for freshwater fishpond, tilapia production increased by 76.85% from 1.08 to 1.91 metric tons in the first quarter of 2020 and 2021 in Mountain Province.

The Adawshat Integrated Farmers and Fisherfolk Association (37 members)

in Sadanga, Paracelis “Uggadiw” Farmers and Fisherfolk Association Incorporated (31 members) in Paracelis, and Golinsan Fisherfolk and Farmers Association (29 members) in Besao are the new beneficiaries for SAAD Phase 2.

The Pide Ulnos Kabiyaan Organization (44 members) in Sagada, the Barlig Farmers and Fisherfolk Association Incorporated (46 members) in Barlig, and the Ug-ugbo Farmers and Irrigators Association Incorporated (29 members) in Sabangan are Phase 1 recipients who continued to receive support fishery inputs after being listed as beneficiaries for the Program’s next phase based on the Beneficiary Needs Assessment conducted in the province.

In 2019, the aforementioned FAs benefited from BFAR-SAAD’s tilapia culture project but this was halted due to limited funding. This restrained the FAs’ transition to community-based fishery enterprises. Recurring groups without overlapping DA and BFAR support for a minimum period of two (2) years are eligible to qualify for SAAD Phase 2 assistance.

One of the project recipients in Sabangan, Glen B. Abad of Ug-ugbo Farmers and Irrigators Association Incorporated shared, “I started the aquaculture venture with my interest to earn a living and expand more of my area. The expansion came to an idea when I saw that fish culture is a lucrative activity, especially during the lockdown.”

Abad received the SAAD tilapia culture project in 2019, operating in a 300-square meters (sqm) pond area that he later

expanded to 500sqm.

Each of the 6 FAs has around 4600sqm consolidated pond area. After the simultaneous stocking of tilapia fingerlings, the FAs expect to harvest this September 2023. At the same time, they will also receive fingerlings and feeds from BFAR-SAAD intended for the subsequent croppings.

The Cordillera Administrative Region has a relatively low fish sufficiency level of 10.76% (BFAR-CAR, 2021) in contrast with other coastal areas such as Region 9 (338%), Region 12 (218%), MIMAROPA Region (166%), and Region 6 (127%). This is due to limited fishery resources and opportunities for both municipal inland and aquaculture production being situated in a landlocked area. BFAR-SAAD CAR concentrates in the far-flung communities, where fish supply is scarce, ushering fish farmers to practice fishing and aquaculture to aid in food security, and later on, enterprise development. ###

DA-SAAD Zampen completes BNA for 20 FAs, profiles 540 farmers to receive agri-projects

by Ellaine Quiamco | REGION 9

ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA, April 4, 2023 – On track with its timeline, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Zamboanga Peninsula completed the Beneficiary Needs Assessment (BNA) and profiling of beneficiaries in Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, and Zamboanga del Sur.

A total of 444 participants in the BNA community study were interviewed by the implementers from February 14 to 24 to learn communities’ basic agricultural information and identify the project rationale. About the region’s socio-cultural profile, 73% are adhering to the Christianity faith, with the remaining 27% practicing Islam or Buddhism (NNC, 2020).

The regional implementers strategized to conduct the BNA activity simultaneously in 20 SAAD-covered municipalities. There were eight (8) teams deployed in the areas, each with one community development officer, one social preparation sub-unit staff, and one information officer. The target per team was to complete one to three municipalities per day, with data being evaluated immediately following each BNA to maximize time and facilitate the profiling of qualified beneficiaries



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after. During the BNA, particularly in Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay, some of the target beneficiaries for SAAD Phase 2 are members of Muslim communities. Thus, livestock project discussion only covers cattle, goat and carabao raising.

Ms. Analisa Dauring, Social Preparation Cluster Head, thoroughly explained the importance and purpose of the BNA to the farmer participants.

“Kining amoang mga pangutana importante ni para makahibaw mi sa inyohang mga kinahanglang tabang o supporta gikan sa gobyerno, ug unsa ang angay nga tabang-panginabuhi na ihatag para ninyo...ug amo ni gamiton as baseline aron mapalambo pa ang amoang serbisyo para ninyo,” said Dauring.

(These questions we asked are vital for us [implementers] to identify what livelihood assistance are needed to be provided or support from the government to your community, and use this information as the baseline to improve our services.)

Site validation was also led by Mr. Nadzmar Abdulhatip, Food Production and Livelihood Cluster Head, assisted by SAAD community development officers and the barangay government, to verify the information gathered during the focused group discussions to match the actual farm areas of the respondents.

This transpired in the municipalities of Godod, Jose Dalman, Mutia, La Libertad, Rizal, Sibutad, Kalawit, and Sirawai in Zamboanga del Norte; Imelda, Talusan, Mabuhay, and Olutanga in Zamboanga Sibugay; and Lakewood, San Pablo, Vincenzo Sagun, Tabina, Tigbao, Josefina, Midsalip, and Sominot in Zamboanga del Sur. These areas belong to the 4th-5th class municipalities and the top 20 with the highest poverty incidence rates in the region, which are among the Program’s beneficiary selection criteria.

The team found out that the members have land areas planted with various crops that are sustainable in their areas, but mainly for household consumption. They lack the capital to buy seeds and seedlings because their harvests are just enough to make ends meet, and sometimes remain in debt to provide for extra needs. Also, in terms of farming, most of them practiced the traditional methods which are labor-intensive and time-consuming. For this reason, the FAs hope to avail agri-inputs and pre- and postharvest machinery to modernize their farm activities, increase farm productivity, and grow more crops.

The shortlisted farmers’ associations (FAs) with 540 total members were then profiled to support beneficiary-centered and iterative program design and implementation. This process facilitates the enlistment of beneficiaries into the central registry system, encoded by regional information technologists as part of the efforts to strengthen baseline

data for more efficient identification, execution of projects, and avoidance of duplication to maximize the Program’s resources and reach more farmers in the community.

The members of the FAs were enlisted in the Registry System for Basic Sector in Agriculture (RSBSA) to access agriculture-related programs and services, and are registered at the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) for the mutual aid and protection of its members, or for other legitimate purposes to achieve legal recognition, and priority during the national and local development planning in the agriculture sector.

Carefully considering the community resources and experiences, the result of the BNA study revealed that the proposed projects in each municipality were seen as feasible and suited to the agricultural farms of the beneficiaries. Data collected on the socio-economic profiles of the farmers reflect the individual’s capability to grow and manage various crops such as corn, rice, banana, peanut, and vegetables, as well as raising poultry and livestock.

For instance, farmer-members in Midsalip, Zamboanga del Sur, have experience cultivating lakatan and cardava banana varieties because they received inputs from DA years ago; however, production was halted because marketing and consolidation (third party) can be challenging for the farmers. Said areas listed as End-Local Communist and Conflict (ELCAC) and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas (GIDA) now have direct access to markets through the road development projects of the National Task Force-ELCAC.

Banana production is very promising in the region as it grows productively in tropical areas, cultivated by farmers next to cassava, corn, and rice. It is a perennial plant that replaces itself after 9 to 12 months before harvesting. During the second quarter of FY 2022, Zamboanga Peninsula shares 3% of the total banana production in the country according to the Philippine Statistics Authority’s data.

Of the 20 FAs, 11 will receive livestock and poultry-related projects, 5 groups for high-value crops, 2 groups for corn, and another 2 groups for rice. The distribution of livelihood inputs will take place in the second to third quarter of 2023.

The two-week activity was joined by the Agricultural Program Coordinating Officers (APCOs) in the three provinces, namely: Mr. George Valliente, Ms. Desiree Arriola, and Mr. Jose Agad. Following this field event, the DA-SAAD 9 implementers are set for beneficiary profiling, agricultural livelihood project distribution, marketing assistance for the recipients’ products, and mobilizing them to develop an agri-enterprise to ensure project sustainability. ###



Table 1. Schedule of BNA and Profiling activities in Zamboanga Peninsula

PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITY	FARMER'S ASSOCIATION (FA)	CONDUCT OF BNA (DATE)	CONDUCT OF PROFILING (DATE)
Zamboanga del Sur	Lakewood	Lukuan Integrated FA	Feb-14	Feb-16
	Josefina	Ebarly FA	Feb-15	Feb-17
Zamboanga del Norte	Kalawit	New Calamba FA		Feb-21
Zamboanga Sibugay	Talusan	Kasigpitan FA	Feb-16	Feb-16
Zamboanga del Sur	Midsalip	Cabaluran Banana Planters Association		Feb-17
	Tigbao	Poblacion Tigbao FA		Feb-21
Zamboanga del Norte	Sibutad	Marapong Integrated FA	Feb-17	Feb-17
Zamboanga Sibugay	Olutanga	Matim FA		Feb-17
Zamboanga del Sur	Sominot	Eastern Poblacion FA		Feb-17
	San Pablo	Kapamanok Rootcrops Kabatan Fa	Feb-21	Feb-21
	Vincenzo Sagun	Kilusang Pagbabago Kabatan FA		Feb-21
Zamboanga del Norte	La Libertad	7M La Victoria	Feb-20	Feb-23
	Mutia	Pasorio FA		Feb-22
Zamboanga Sibugay	Mabuhay	San Roque FA	Feb-20	Feb-23
Zamboanga del Norte	Imelda	Israel FA		Feb-23
	Godod	Makugihang Mag-uuma sa Poblacion FA		Feb-23
Zamboanga del Sur	Tabina	Mabuhay Fa	Feb-22	Feb-24
Zamboanga del Norte	Jose Dalman	Tabon FA	Feb-23	Feb-24
	Sirawai	Farmers Cowland Association		Feb-24
	Rizal	Sipaon FA		Feb-24

Table 2. DA-SAAD 9 total number of BNA participants

PROVINCE	MUNICIPALITY	BARANGAY	FARMER'S ASSOCIATION (FA)	BNA PARTICIPANTS	PROFILED BENEFICIARIES	
Zamboanga Sibugay	Imelda	Israel	Israel FA	25	25	
	Mabuhay	San Roque	San Roque FA	25	25	
	Talusan	Kasigpitan	Kasigpitan FA	25	25	
	Olutanga	Matim	Matim FA	25	25	
	Zamboanga del Sur	Sominot	Eastern Poblacion	Eastern Poblacion FA	25	25
		Midsalip	Cabaluran	Cabaluran Banana Planters Association	25	25
		San Pablo	Kapamanok	Kapamanok Rootcrops FA	25	25
Zamboanga del Norte	Lakewood	Lukuan	Lukuan Integrated FA	25	25	
	Josefina	Ebarly	Ebarly FA	15	25	
	Tigbao	Tigbao	Poblacion Tigbao FA	15	25	
	Vincenzo Sagun	Kabatan	Kilusang Pagbabago Kabatan FA	25	25	
	Tabina	Mabuhay	Mabuhay FA	25	25	
	Kalawit	New Calamba	New Calamba FA	29	29	
	Sirawai	Lubok	Farmers Cowland Association	15	25	
	Jose Dalman	Tabon	Tabon FA	30	25	
	Godod	Poblacion	Makugihang Mag-uuma sa Poblacion FA	30	31	
	La Libertad	La Victoria	7M La Victoria FA	15	29	
Total	Mutia	Pasorio	Pasorio FA	15	31	
	Rizal	Sipaon	Sipaon FA	15	30	
	Sibutad	Marapong	Marapong Integrated FA	15	40	
				20	444	540

SAAD core social prep activity pivots from PRA to BNA

by Jessamae Gabon | NPMO



QUEZON CITY, April 11, 2023 – Amplifying farmers’ and fishers’ voices in the project design, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program will conduct the Beneficiary Needs Assessment (BNA) for 2023 – a temporary alternative to the intended Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) to learn beneficiaries’ material conditions, perceptions, experiences, and priorities directly.

Aligned with its direction since the extension approval, SAAD takes proactive actions to improve and strengthen its Social Preparation component by mainstreaming planning tools that aim to capture and understand the needs and conditions of the beneficiaries. The program will utilize the BNA and PRA social research approaches to improve interventions by considering the communities’ sense of ownership of the development initiatives brought to them as the primary actors of the project.

Per the released BNA guidelines dated January 24, 2023, “The Beneficiary Needs Assessment (BNA) aims to gather basic data on the target beneficiaries

and align present and future plans with these data. The BNA should focus on capturing necessary data related to the beneficiaries’ socio-economic profile. This shall be processed in a report and shall serve as basis for other SAAD-related activities.”

This improvement in the program’s main processes is in line with the current administration’s direction on the Plan for Economic and Social Transformation, where meaningful engagement with various sectors for the delivery of interventions is one of the main takeaways from the pandemic experience of the country (Philippine Development Plan, 2023). As the state continues to paddle against the socioeconomic setbacks of COVID-19, the limitation of resources is of primary concern as all sectors call for revitalization efforts.

Meaningful or purposeful engagement underscores the position of local communities and their crucial role in effective development activities’ implementation. Further, it also adheres to the economic agenda of strengthening social protection by enabling actors and clients of social development a chance to provide their voice and exercise collective agency as well as solicit their perspective in the development projects. SAAD is designed as an area-

based scheme to generate employment and improve symptoms of poverty while enhancing the capacity of the clients to gradually diminish their vulnerabilities.

Assessing the receiving end of development projects: first step to effective project implementation

Beneficiary assessment is a social research technique used as a tool for project management, extracting qualitative data that centers on the perception of the persons subjected to the study. Its goal is to understand shared experiences and the collective consciousness of persons, who are the clients of development programs and projects in different organizations.

The World Bank subscribes to Lawrence Salmen’s (1995) definition of beneficiary assessment as a systematic inquiry and consultation into people’s values and behavior concerning a planned or ongoing intervention for social and economic change. The assessment collects understanding, meanings, and values that people attach to certain aspects (economic, health, education, etc.) of their life so that development workers can consider and use this information to enhance people’s ability to lead their development.

Beneficiary assessments are done through personal interviews, group discussions, and sometimes direct and participant behavioral observations. In local dialect, approaches in BNA can be done through the following strategies: pakikipagkwentuhan, pagmamasid, pakapakapa, pakikiramdam, pakikinig, patanong-tanong at pagsubaybay.

SAAD’s BNA process involves methods such as a desk review of the socio-economic and agricultural history and convention of the areas, personal interviews on the experiences of the target farmers and fishers, and a geographic validation of the extracted information as a strategy to design projects that will fit the needs and realize the potential of the communities. The information will then be triangulated (methodology) to ensure that the implementers shall arrive at the most accurate description of the socioeconomic

conditions of the target beneficiaries.

The SAAD BNA is a farmer-directed activity required by the program before handing out livelihood projects. Through the manner in which the information is read, the regional implementers can now see the beneficiaries’ perspective of the intervention, be informed of their needs, and assess whether these match and even future-proofs sustainability legroom.

In SAAD, a team of area coordinators (ACs) will handle the BNA where each group of farmers is invited for an interview. In practice, ACs are the direct points of contact between the program and the beneficiaries. They are based in the programmed areas and are in consistent coordination with the local government and the DA regional and provincial field offices. The ACs lead the 3 phases of the BNA activity until the consolidation report. These reports will then be handed to and reviewed by the regional implementers and the national office as a basis for strategic planning and reinforcement projects for the beneficiaries.

The BNA is a pivot from the more extensive PRA tool, a direct-to-farmers and fisherfolk community research approach to identify existing dynamics. The PRA takes longer to conduct which will not match the current workforce capacity and timeline of the program.

Overall, social study and community assessment are geared at improving SAAD projects’ impact on the beneficiaries. The program sees this as a rudimentary requirement and a step into meaningful project implementation to avoid project mismatching, increase community participation, and maximize the economic sustainability of the projects to be given out to identified marginalized communities. ###

TOWARD CBEs

SAAD veggie grower trades pickles, plant-based meatballs to earn extra income

by Christ John B. Gamarcha | REGION 6

Juvy Albiar, or Manang Juvy as she is fondly called by her family and friends considers farming as her bread and butter. Nestled in a far-flung village of Agpangi in Calatrava, Negros Occidental, Manang Juvy grew up accustomed to farmwork, and now with two

(2) children, she oversees their half-hectare farmland while her husband works overseas. She built a small vegetable garden allotting her harvests to home consumption.

In 2019, she joined a group of vegetable cultivators with the aim of contributing to product consolidation in their village.

Assisted by the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), they mobilized 60 farmers to form the Agpangi Nalikban Vegetables Growers’ Association (ANVEGA). Most ANVEGA farmers tend small-scale vegetable gardens, while others are engaged in swine and native chicken production.

In 2020, Calatrava MAO called for a town-wide meeting and orientation for the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program. ANVEGA officers, including Manang Juvy who was then its treasurer, attended the activity in hopes of accessing farming assistance.

“Sa nahibal-an namon ang bahin sa SAAD, interesado kami nga moapil tungod kay ang

among grupo wala pa makadawat mga proyekto sa gobyerno. Pinaagi sa tabang sa MAO sa amoang lungsod, swerte nga kami napili isip usa sa mga benepisaryo. Gani, kami naga pasalamat kay dako ni nga tabang para namo” (When we learned about SAAD, we were interested to join since our group has yet to receive government projects. Through the assistance of MAO in our town, luckily, we were selected as beneficiaries. We are thankful because it is a big help to us), said Manang Juvy.

ANVEGA’s inclusion in SAAD Program

In 2021, the ANVEGA received a



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Vegetable Production package worth Php 257,460.42 from the Program after a community needs assessment. The project is composed of vegetable seeds and farming tools and supplies.

Without a communal area to build a vegetable garden, the members initially agreed to distribute the inputs to 30 first-line members chosen for backyard cultivation. Another wave of vegetable production support was granted in 2022 with the same inputs and an additional communal greenhouse facility worth Php 616,004 to support the group's plan to increase harvest and produce vegetables all year round.

This time, 30 new beneficiaries benefited from the second wave of inputs and are required to return a 10% share of their profit to the association. ANVEGA's selection process involves an assessment of each member's capability to manage the project such as the availability of gardening area.

Albiar's project implementation

Manang Juvy was among the members who received the second wave of inputs in 2022. *"Bilang usa ka housewife nga nananom ug utanon para extra income, ang mga gamit sa uma, mga binhi ug mga abono nga gihatag kanamo sa SAAD Program dako kaayog tabang sa akong pag-panguma. Naminusan nako ang akong gasto sa produksiyon ug mitaas gyud ang akong ani nga nabaligya nako ug nakakuha kita"* (As a housewife who grows vegetables for extra income, the farm tools, seeds, and fertilizers given to us by the SAAD Program were all a big help to my farming activity. My expenses in production were reduced and my harvest increased which enabled me to sell and earn), she shared.

Table 1. Schedule of BNA and Profiling activities in Zamboanga Peninsula

AGRICULTURAL INPUTS	QUANTITY	UNIT OF MEASURE
Cucumber Seeds	25	70 seeds/pack
Eggplant Seeds	25	300 seeds/pack
Hot Pepper Seeds	25	70 seeds/pack
Triple 14	2	bag
Organic Fertilizer	2	bag
Urea	2	bag
Seedling Tray	4	piece
Pronged Rake	1	piece
Plastic Crates	5	piece
Trowel	1	piece
Spade	1	piece

After land preparation, Manang Juvy was able to plant the seeds on her 0.5-hectare farm early in March 2022. Together with ANVEGA members, she likewise received capacity-building and technical training on vegetable production and enterprise development discussing farm practices for efficient food production.

From March to April 2022, Manang Juvy earned Php 28,100 gross income after harvesting a total combined 785 kilograms (kg) of eggplant, hot peppers, and cucumbers (Table 2). She saved up from hauling expenses since she sells her produce to a vegetable trader who consolidates fresh produce in their barangay bringing these to the town market or the neighboring city of San Carlos.

Table 2. Manang Juvy's Vegetable Harvest and Income

VEGETABLES	PLANTING CYCLE	TOTAL HARVEST (kg)	TOTAL HARVEST SOLD (kg)	PRICE/KG (Php)	GROSS INCOME (Php)
Cucumber (45 days)	March-April 2022	357	300	30.00	9,000.00
Hot Pepper	March-May 2022	98	85	60.00	5,100.00
Eggplant	March - May 2022	436	400	35.00	14,000.00
TOTAL		891	785	125.00	28,100.00

Towards Community-Based Enterprise

Manang Juvy came up with an idea to prolong the shelf life of perishable produce, and enhance and add value to her raw vegetable harvests using the knowledge she gained from SAAD's Value-Adding Training on Vegetable Processing. She decided to venture into vegetable pickling and vegetable meatball creation using the surplus of her harvest.

"Bilang usa ka mag-uuma ug ginang sa balay, nanginahanglan ko og dugang nga kita mao nga gisulayan nako ang paghimo og vegetable pickles ug meatballs. So sang akon na try, ning click man sya" (As a farmer and housewife, I needed extra income so I tried making vegetable pickles and meatballs. So when I tried, my products clicked), shared Manang Juvy.

Table 3. Manang Juvy's income from value-added products

PRODUCT	QUANTITY	PRICE (Php)	GROSS INCOME (Php)
Vegetable pickles	10 jars	30.00	300.00
Eggplant-cheese balls	20 packs	50.00	1,000.00
TOTAL			1,300.00

In combination with breadcrumbs, cheese and a small portion of meat, roasted eggplants are the base of Manang Juvy's meatballs made into bite-sized pieces for easier consumption.

"Luw sa pagpamaligya ug presko nga utanon, nag-pagproseso man ko sa akong mga ani aron makakuha og dugang kita. Tungod kay nahibal-an nako nga kung maghimo ako usa ka bag-ong produkto ug mahimo nako ibaligya ang akong produkto sa labi ka taas nga presyo" (Aside from trading fresh vegetables, I ventured into processing my harvested crops for additional income. Because I know that if I do value-adding, I will produce a new product and sell these at a higher price), added Manang Juvy.

On her first try, Manang Juvy sold 10 jars of vegetable pickles worth Php 30 each and 20 packs (8 pieces) of eggplant with cheese filling balls with Php 50 each. For this, she earned a gross income worth Php 1,300 offering the products to her neighbors and to the town market.

"Kinahanglan ko gid ug budget para magpalit ug ingredients nga uban. Tapos time and effort kung magbuhat ka products - kinahanglan naka-focus gyud ka kay sa akon pud as a mother with two kids, budlay gyud mag-focus kay naa pa koy kahayupan. So kinahanglan mag-allot jud time ug effort" (I really need the budget to buy other ingredients. Then, time and effort are required when creating products - you need to be focused because for me as a mother with two kids I find it difficult to focus since I also tend to my animals. So you need to allot time and effort), said Manang Juvy.

To sustain her production, Manang Juvy used her savings from vegetable and value-adding income to buy additional 30 packs each of squash, cucumber, and string bean seeds. Preparing her garden in March, she expects that harvest season may fall by the end of April.

"Kung magmalampuson ang akong pag-ani sini nga cropping season, nagplano ako nga maghimo naman usa ka batch sang akong mga value-added products" (If ever

my harvest would be successful, I am planning to make another batch of value-added products), said Manang Juvy.

According to Manang Juvy, she looks forward to producing more pickles and veggie-balls as well as improving the packaging and labeling of her products. To gain more buyers, she also created a Facebook page where she can advertise her processed goods. Some ANVEGA members were also encouraged to process their harvested crops after seeing the good outcome of Manang Juvy's flourishing enterprise.

ANVEGA's vegetable production venture

ANVEGA reported Php 115,000 worth of accumulated savings for three (3) years of managing SAAD's vegetable production project. They are utilizing their fund to procure vegetable seeds, farm tools, and organic fertilizers to sustain their production.

In July 2022, ANVEGA farmers cultivated bell peppers at their communal greenhouse facility measuring about 197.4 square meters. After five (5) months, the group harvested 109kg and sold it for Php 80/kg, recording a Php 8,720 gross income. They deducted their expenses from labor fees for land preparation and dividends intended for each member which amounted to Php 5,500. Finally, the association recorded a Php 3,220 income allotted as group savings.

Ways Forward

With the closure of SAAD Program Phase 1 implementation in the town of Calatrava, ANVEGA aims to be a financially-stable entrepreneurial vegetable growers and traders. In December last year, provincial implementers endorsed ANVEGA to the High-Value Crops Section of the Municipal Agriculture Office in Calatrava for continued livelihood support and monitoring from the municipality and other concerned agencies. To further their vegetable production, the group plans to take two huge steps: first is to establish a consolidation center or bagsakan wherein they could sell their fresh produce as well as processed products; and second is to turn their association into a cooperative since more farmers expressed their interest in joining ANVEGA to replicate their vegetable venture. ###



YPangol IP farmers earn Php137K from egg-citing enterprise

by Sheen Dayagon | CAR

KALINGA, March 24, 2023 – Indigenous YPangol chicken raisers in Kalinga earned Php 137,720.00 net income from Free-range Chicken and Egg Production Project (FY 2021) provided by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

In keeping with the program's objectives to support grassroots communities including the indigenous people (IP) living in remote locations, the 47-member Mabigajan, Taku Gapu Umili a Naos-Ossagan Farmers Association (MATAGUAN FA) was given a poultry livelihood grant worth Php 1,525,610.00 in June 20, 2021. The members who are mostly rice, and corn farmers received a SAAD livelihood package consisting of

88 white-layer chicken, and 336 head brown dekalb chicken, feeds, trays, net intended for fencing, and training on poultry production.

Background

In August 2021, the farmer group from Brgy. Lay-asan, Tanudan, Kalinga was officially registered with the Department of Labor Employment (DOLE) as the MATAGUAN FA.

After a needs assessment conducted by the SAAD staff in coordination with the local government unit (LGU) of Tanudan, the findings show that Brgy. Lay-asan has a limited supply of eggs since their location is one hour away from the town proper and public transportation is limited. Through this, the poultry project was viewed as having high potential in terms of income opportunities

for farmers while increasing egg production in the area.

To show their commitment in implementing the project, the members allocated a 150-square-meter (sqm) communal production site in Brgy. Lay-asan. The FA members also constructed poultry housing made of locally-available materials like bamboo and wood, which later served as poultry cages.

MATAGUAN on marking its journey towards enterprise

After receiving the project in June 2021, the group started to manage their communal farm, and from October 2021 to February 2022, the project helped the members access fresh eggs for family consumption. This progress is drawn from the primary goal of the program to increase food availability on the table.

Driven to engage into marketing after one year of project operation, the group initially consulted the SAAD technician on how to enhance the egg production. In response, SAAD advised the group to strategize their farm management, limiting human exposure and reducing the possibility of avian diseases. The group also initiated to build another poultry house in March 2022.

Through proper animal care such as establishing biosecurity measures and providing comfortable space for the

chickens, after three (3) months, egg production improved giving the group a chance to expand its potential market through partnerships among retail stores in Brgy. Banneg, Kalinga.

Recently identified as a fully-established community based-enterprise (CBE), the MATAGUAN FA accumulated a total of 165,920.00 gross income from selling chicken eggs within their community from July 2022 to February 2023.

Fresh eggs were sold depending on egg size variations, ranging from Php 210.00 to Php 250.00. This year, with the emerging price hike of feeds, the group later increased their price per tray from Php 220.00 to Php 260.00.

As of February 2023, the group utilized Php 28,200.00 from their sales to construct poultry housing and purchase layer feeds to maintain their production leaving Php 137,720.00 net income which was deposited in the group's bank account.

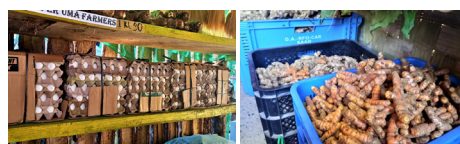
Ways forward

To date, the group plans to purchase additional poultry stocks in 2024 to sustain the project. Committed to assisting the group, representatives from the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) will continue to monitor the project and offer technical assistance for the sustainability of the community enterprise. ###



Table 1. Egg sales of MATAGUAN FA

MONTH	EGGS HARVESTED (pc)	TRAYS SOLD	GROSS SALES (Php)	EXPENSES (Php)	NET INCOME (Php)
July 2022 – February 2023	21,330	770	165,920.00	28,200.00	137,720.00



SAAD Kalinga joins Bodong Agro-Fair

by Sheen Dayagon | CAR

KALINGA, April 3, 2023 – Fourteen (14) Farmers' Associations (FAs) supported by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program Phase 1 showcased their farm products, agriculture based food specialties, delicacies, and other crops in the four-day Bodong Agro-Fair held in the Capitol Grounds, Bulanao, Tabuk City, Kalinga.

Held from February 13 to 17, 2023 – the Bodong Agro-Fair is one of the province's major activities in celebration of Kalinga's 28th Founding Anniversary and 4th Bodong Festival. It serves as an avenue for local farmers to promote

their agricultural products and an opportunity for possible market linkage among agricultural firms and investors.

SAAD farmers associations (FA) in joining agricultural trade fair in Kalinga

In partnership with the Municipal and Provincial Local Government Units of Tabuk, the event took place to urge the participation of farmers from various municipalities. Thus, the SAAD Kalinga team mobilized the program beneficiaries to display their products during the celebration.

The festival featured cultural performances and a farmer's market. Among the products displayed were table eggs, taro, turmeric rhizomes, mungbean, banana chips, peanut butter, ground coffee, unshelled and roasted peanuts, turmeric powder, sugar cane wine, and livestock – all produced by the beneficiaries. Through this, the SAAD beneficiaries were able to earn Php 76,500.00.

Fourteen (14) associations from different SAAD-



SAADvocacy Feature

TIKA-SAAD partnership continues...from page 1



The Quick Impact Projects (QIP) introduced to SAAD by Director Aydozdu aims to offer immediate short-term solutions to the communicated and basic needs of the communities. This approach is ensured to complement long-term development strategies and is usually implemented with the help of local actors (such as SAAD). Through the QIPs, confidence in the development mission is increased, while the intent for outreach is broadened and carried out directly to the recipients (United

Nations). Picking up from the February 2022 meeting, the CY 2022-2023 projects are still on hold awaiting the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) approval, to which the TIKA Philippines Chief asked for SAAD to step in to lobby the document processing to immediately award the projects to SAAD beneficiaries.

For 2023, TIKA will provide livelihood complementation to the following SAAD farmers associations:

P7 Panaosawon Farmers Association (PPAFA) of Brgy. Panaosawon, Bayabas, Surigao del Sur, SAAD-organized FA with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) registration since August 6, 2019. Composed of 20 members, PPAFA farmers are mostly engaged in abaca, coconut, and rice production. To increase the capacity of abaca production, additional planting materials, fertilizers and pesticides, knapsack sprayer, mobile stripping machine for abaca and draft animals will be given to support the group.

Leghom Production project, aimed at modernizing their practice, and engaging in enterprise to increase and sustain production.

SAAD Organized Vegetable Farmers Organizations in Sorsogon was identified with the need to augment community-based vegetable processing facilities and a hauling truck to connect the vegetable producers directly to the consumers replicating KADIWA enterprising initiatives.

covered municipalities participated in the activity. They are program beneficiaries from MATAGUAN Farmers Association; Lay-Asan Proper Farmer's Developer Association; Bawac, Darulog, Allubaggan, Pagugo Farmers Organization; Makilo Farmers Association; Mallango Ufi Farmers Association; Magic 78 Lower Bangad Farmer's Organization; Santor SAAD Livelihood Association; SAAD Dao-Angan Organization; Gubang Tribe Farmers Association; Bolo-Nawoy-Kilayon-Ligayan Farmers Association; YMabaca Farmers Association; Tanglag

Farmers Fisherfolk And Irrigators Association; Tanglag Farmers and Fisherfolks Association; and Latawan Ag-Agama Mallongan Farmers Association.

Kalinga Vice Governor Jocel C. Baac, in his message, recognized the efforts and hard work of the farmers who are the backbone of the society. He also signified his support in prioritizing the agricultural sector.

"We cannot simply celebrate the event in the province without holding an agro-fair because this is one of the opportunities to highlight the products

135 family-based project beneficiaries from Agusan del Sur, who are coming from families engaged in fishing activities across 14 municipalities and city shall benefit from the Capacity Development in 4 Modalities for Fishing Families project, an extensive capability enhancement initiative composed of training in boat maintenance, fishing gear fabrication, Farmers Field School (FFS) in Aquaculture, financial literacy, and radio school.

United Landowners and Farmers Association of Upper Lubakan, Kapaya, Bagumbayan, and Sultan Kudarat engaged in traditional native chicken raising but lacked enough access to said commodity. They are pipelined to receive the Backyard Small-scale White

SAAD's partnership with TIKA

TIKA is known to engage in development cooperation and humanitarian assistance activities in various countries, including the Philippines. Since 2017, the TIKA opened its doors to the DA-SAAD through the TIKAbuhayan Program, which aims to support sustainable production across the Philippines, targeting indigenous cultural communities (ICCs) and climate risk, economically, and geographically vulnerable areas.

In 2019-2020, TIKA has already provided millions worth of assistance to SAAD beneficiaries in selected areas. In Apayao, draft animal and training were granted to Katablangan Indigenous Farmer's Association and the Nanawatan Nabuangan Upland Developer Association to help in the transportation of goods, while rice production support through machinery was given to SAAD Eastern Samar FAs namely the Tabi Rice Planters Association from Balangkayan and San Pedro Farmers Association from Quinapondan.

In 2022, SAAD farmer-beneficiaries in North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, and Sorsogon in Bicol are on TIKA's priority lineup with eight (8) livelihood and development project proposals, for which six (6) are for agriculture sector (crops, poultry, and livestock) and two (2) fisheries sector projects under CY 2022 to 2023.

SAAD Program chief, Dir. Lustria extended his gratitude and praise to the organization (TIKA) for sharing the same vision with SAAD. He committed to help facilitate the processing of the project proposals with concerned agencies.

TIKA Philippines is planning to visit SAAD sites in Surigao del Sur and the provinces of the SAAD for project assessment. ###

Table 1. Sales per association

MUNICIPALITIES	FARMERS ASSOCIATION	PRODUCT	SALES (Php)
Tanudan	MATAGUAN Farmers Association	egg tray	10,150.00
	Lay-Asan Proper Farmer's Developer Association	egg tray	
	Bawac, Darulog, Allubaggan, Pagugo Farmers Organization	banana chips	
Tabuk City	Makilo Farmers Association	egg tray	1,525.00
Tinglayan	Mallango Ufi Farmers Association	peanut butter	2,250.00
	Magic 78 Lower Bangad Farmer's Organization	ground coffee	
Rizal	Santor SAAD Livelihood Association	unshelled peanuts & roasted peanuts	6,200.00
Balbalan	SAAD Dao-Angan Organization	duck stocks, turmeric powder, & banana chips	5,975.00
	Gubang Tribe Farmers Association	turmeric rhizomes & galyang or taro	
	Bolo-Nawoy-Kilayon-Ligayan Farmers Association	basi or sugarcane wine	
	YMabaca Farmers Association	basi or sugarcane wine	
Lubugan	Tanglag Farmers Fisherfolk And Irrigators Association	mungbean	50,400.00
	Tanglag Farmers and Fisherfolks Association	mungbean	
	Latawan Ag-Agama Mallongan Farmers Association	egg tray	
TOTAL			76,500.00

produced by our local farmers. Also, it gives us a chance to honor the efforts made by our farmers and the local government services to elevate and enhance our agricultural products. Thank you so much to all provincial agriculturists and staff, including our municipal agriculture officer," expressed Vice Governor Baac.

During the trade fair's closing program, Provincial Agriculturist Engr. Domingo A. Bakilan extended his gratitude to the SAAD FAs for their participation. Meanwhile, with the finalization of the sustainability plan for their project and association, the local government through Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) is committed to provide technical assistance to guide them in terms of marketing their products. ###

Bontoc IP women sustain broiler production business

by Florde Liza A. Afidchao | CAR



MOUNTAIN PROVINCE, February 22, 2023 – Thirty (30) indigenous Bontoc poultry raisers in Alab Oriente, Bontoc are set to enter third cycle of chicken production on their own after 2 cycles which were supported by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program’s Phase 1.

Bontoc women and beneficiaries have earned enough to sustain their third production cycle unassisted after SAAD’s livelihood grant on Poultry Production and Marketing Project in 2021.

Background

Alab Oriente is a barangay in the Municipality of Bontoc composed of three (3) sitios namely: Inasu, Dantay, and Dongyowan. The Derway Farmers’ Organization (DFO) members are mostly small rice and Highland Value Crops (HVC) producers, local farm labor service providers, stay-at-home mothers, senior citizens, and livestock and poultry raisers whose income falls below the poverty line.

DFO members coming from the three (3) different sitios accepted the said project inputs worth Php 1,625,688 (FY 2022) consisting of 2,000 head of broiler chicks, poultry supplies such as feeds and vitamins, and farm tools.

As their counterpart, they constructed three (3) communal production sites in Sitio Inasu, Sitio Dantay, and Sitio Dongyowan with a total consolidated area of 50 square meters (sqm).

Results of project implementation

On August 12, 2021, the program initially provided the first 1,000 chicks, while the remaining 1,000 were provided on October 4, 2022. Challenges related to weather (Typhoon Neneng) affecting the immune system of the stocks were encountered by the group leading to stock mortalities. However, this was mitigated by the SAAD field implementers administering vitamins and biologics for the immune system of the stocks.

Inspired to make a market shift and expand their means for income acquisition, they started to create a management plan through on-site policy.

Beneficiaries from Sitio Inasu (site 1) are tasked to ensure the safety of chicks during its brooding stage. Meanwhile, after brooding the poultry stocks are transferred to Sitio Dantay (site 2) where the group provided separate growing pens. In this site, members are responsible to manage and raise the chickens until they reach maturity for marketing.

After its growing stage, the stocks are transported to Sitio Dongyowan (site 3) –

slaughtering area where the caretakers can purchase the products at a lower price.

The group offered both liveweight and dressed chicken within nearby barangays during the first cycle of their production. Liveweight chickens were sold at Php 150 per kilogram (kg), while dressed chickens at Php 180/kg. This allowed them to accumulate Php 146,340 gross income for the first cycle.

For their second cycle, they earned Php 30,951.00 from selling 206.34kg of liveweight and Php 37,044.00 from 205.8kg of dressed chickens (Table 1).

The group’s patrons come from nearby barangay, and poultry suppliers in the town proper of Bontoc.

From the first cycle, the group utilized Php 124,735 from their sales to construct poultry housing and purchase other materials, in preparation for their second cycle of production. Further, from the second cycle, the group allotted Php 11,466 from their

sales for the association’s operation expenses that include electric bill, travel fare, and labor cost during the construction of poultry

housing.

In December 2022, DOF bought 500 chicks worth Php 39,000 to continue on their third cycle from their earnings during the two cycles.

As of writing, the group has Php 67,996 cash on hand intended for their operation and maintenance expenses, and Php 4,751 savings on their bank account.

Ways Forward

The group plans to establish their own talipapa (fresh produce market) in town proper of Bontoc to cater more potential clients, hoping to generate more income apart from selling both liveweight and dressed chicken.

“Nan naitulong nan DA-SAAD project mi ay nay et nakatulong tapno makaala kamis new skills mi ya nakaala nan association si puonan ta maruguian nan enterprises mi. Wada et di tapin di ituloy mi as association ta dumakdake ta umalaan si lagbo,” expressed Sarah Cangcang, member of the group.

(The project assigned to our group assisted us in gaining new skills as well as capital for the association to launch this venture. With that, we have a business to continue as an association, from which we can earn additional source of income, as it grows larger.)

Today, with the increasing production, the group gears up to completely establish a community-based enterprise.

Table 1. Income generated from two (2) cycles

CYCLE	LIVEWEIGHT CHICKEN (kg)			DRESSED CHICKEN (kg)			GROSS INCOME (Php)
	No. of heads	kg	Sales (Php 150/kg)	No. of heads	kg	Sales (Php 180/kg)	
1st Cycle (August-December, 2021)	300	472.8	70,920.00	324	419	75,420.00	146,340.00
2nd Cycle (October-December, 2022)	119	206.34	30,951.00	214	205.8	37,044.00	67,995.00

However, they noted that they are still in need of assistance and additional inputs to sustain their production.

In response, SAAD Mountain Province will be endorsing the association to the LGU for additional partnerships among government agencies such as Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) and DA Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service Division (AMAD). Endorsement of FAs to appropriate government agencies is to help ensure the FAs' further development and sustainability of their livelihood projects. ###



Gapus project mi ay inyalin di DA-SAAD, na-agtan nan young mothers mi si gab-gab-en da. Naadal mi metlang nu kasano ay men-brood, men process, ya men market si broiler

(Due to the livelihood initiative of the program, our young mothers now have some work to do. In addition, we have acquired knowledge on how to raise, prepare, and sell broiler chicken.)

- Venus Paleyan, FA President

Mangyan IP farmers in Magsaysay receive postharvest equipment of Php 900K value

by Anne Gasmena
| MIMAROPA

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, April 11, 2023 – To complete the Traditional Rice Production Project FY2022, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development Program (DA-SAAD) MIMAROPA awarded a single pass mobile rice mill, amounting to Php 926,666.00 to Talayob Mangyan Farmers Association (TaMaFA) in Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro.

The turnover was held in Barangay Nicolos, Sitio Talayob, the farmers' association's (FA) community, on March 8, 2023, and was attended by several FA members, Municipal Agriculturist Office of Magsaysay, and Area Coordinator, Oliver Cosme.

Background

Situated in the remote upland areas of Sitio Talayob, almost 20 kilometers away from the nearest town center, the



TaMaFA farmers association comprises 45 indigenous Mangyan members engaged in traditional rice farming, as their primary livelihood. The FA is tilling a combined estimated land area of 30 hectares.

TaMaFa was formed and included as beneficiary in 2020 and was initially awarded upland rice seeds under the FY 2020 funding, with the goal of contributing to food sufficiency in the community. TaMaFa's farmland is rainfed and considered an ancestral domain, wherein TaMaFa practices customary norms in terms of tilling are being utilized to prevent exhaustion of the land.

To aid in their post-harvest activity, one (1) unit of single-pass mobile rice mill was awarded to the association, aimed at

providing immediate milling access not only to the beneficiaries but also to their community.

TaMaFA Chairperson Louie Limos expressed his appreciation for the program and for all personnel working behind it. He shared that the association will be able to reduce their postharvest expenses and losses as they will no longer need to haul their produce to the nearest milling center.

TaMaFA's gross harvest every cropping cycle often records between 50 to 80 metric tons every wet season (May to June), enough to feed their community which has an estimated total of over 270 residents. The acquisition of postharvest equipment is expected to reduce their postharvest expenses by 60%. ###



DEVELOPMENT

SAAD-assisted Siquijor FA endeavors mechanized corn production

by Jolina Daño
| REGION 7

SIQUIJOR, March 27, 2023 – With the goal of mechanization to promote efficient production, the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Central Visayas granted one (1) unit of corn mill worth Php 630,000.00 to Hugpong sa Makugihong Magbabaol sa Cang-asa Farmers' Association (FA) in Siquijor.

The awarding was attended by FA members who will serve as operators of said equipment, who also observed a machine demonstration spearheaded by the DA Regional Agriculture and Engineering Division, in Barangay Cang-asa, Siquijor, Siquijor on January 20, 2023.

about saadvocacy

SAADvocacy is a monthly newsletter produced by the SAAD Program to provide an overview and information on the program's important activities and events toward realizing its goal of contributing to poverty reduction of farmers and fisherfolk groups in the 56 provinces (619 5th-6th income class municipalities) covered by SAAD.

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

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

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DA-SAAD Program

The FA endures production cost loss when traveling to neighboring areas just to avail of milling service. The trip takes around 20 to 30 minutes, and costs Php 100 to 150 fare per trip just to reach the nearby barangay, in addition to the milling service itself which usually costs around Php 3.00 per kilogram.

Background

The Hugpong sa Makugihong Magbabaol sa Cang-asa is a group composed of 50 low-income corn farmers organized in 2018 and registered in 2019 through the help of the local government unit of Siquijor and the SAAD Siquijor staff.

Upon getting short-listed in 2018 the group later then received Corn-Peanut Production Project under FY 2018 and FY 2019 funding. They received the following projects: FY 2018 Corn-Peanut Production, FY 2019 Corn-Peanut Production with Corn Sheller and Knapsack Sprayer with Vegetable, FY 2020 Corn-Peanut Production, FY 2021 Support to Corn-Peanut Production, and FY 2022 Corn-Peanut Production and Processing.

The corn crop was given to further boost the corn production in the community of Cang-asa. The peanut was a complementary crop typically given the second crop cycle to balance the soil condition and prevent soil exhaustion. This crop mainly aims to give the FA other sources of income.

Mechanization's role in establishing community-based enterprise

The acquisition of the corn mill reduces the production cost, boosts efficiency in postharvest, and is an additional source of income for the FA.

In 2021, the group headed by Mr. Glen started the idea of creating a corn by-product such as a corn-based brewed drink that followed the natural coffee brewing process, with naturally infused additional flavors like ginger and turmeric.

The FA established a connection with their local markets like neighboring sari-sari (general merchandise) stores that allowed their products to be displayed in the physical outlets. Now, their products are available in different stores in Barangay Cang-Asa, in a restaurant in Barangay Cantabonan, Lazi, and in a guest house in Barangay Pangil, Siquijor.

Steps toward CBE

The association will continue the production they currently partake in their three (3) hectare land of corn and peanuts. Further, the FA will purposefully continue to offer milling services for additional income for the association.

For continuous improvement and innovation, the FA has been linked to the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for the improvement of their labeling and packaging necessary for the marketing aspect of the products. ###

