



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
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START

ALL EGGS IN A BASKET

*DABAWENYO F AS
IM-PECK-ABLE INVESTMENT
FROM SAAD'S CHICKEN
PROJECT*

SAAD DAVAO REGION TRAINS CDOs ON LAYER CHICKEN MANAGEMENT

JAMES BRIAN R. FLAGA, WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
RONNELL B. TANGONAN, PHOTOGRAPHY

DAVAO REGION, September 7, 2023 – To equip its project implementers with practical know-how for on-ground implementation, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development Davao Region trained its seven (7) community development officers (CDOs) with layer chicken best management practices.

This was in preparation for the simultaneous distribution of layer chicken livelihood projects to fourteen (14) farmers' associations (FAs) from Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, and Davao Occidental. Each farmer group will receive 300 heads of layer chicken with a cage system, assorted veterinary drugs, egg trays, and weighing scales.

Since it's the SAAD Davao Region's first attempt at layer chicken production with its beneficiaries, the program necessitated its implementers to gain baseline knowledge in basic bird management, feeding and water requirements, and disease control.

Previously, the program devised upgraded native chicken production projects in Davao de Oro for its first phase of implementation. While retained

field implementers gained experience and first-hand knowledge from that implementation, the shift into layer from native based from beneficiary needs assessment results, required nuanced knowledge specific to the breed's management. The upgraded native variety was meant for both meat and egg production, with the birds intended for free- or limited-range roaming. Layer chicken, on the other hand, is purely egg-producing and caged for its lifetime.

The training took place at LDM Farm, an operating layer chicken farm in Mati, Davao Oriental. LDM Farm supplies table eggs across Region 11.

"Dako kaayong tabang ni nga training para ma-capacitate atoang mga tao unsaon pag-atiman sa layer chicken. Ang mga basic farm practices mao nay kinahanglan para mahimong successful ang project ni SAAD," Mr. Mckevin Mosquesa, SAAD's community development officer, remarked.

(The training is a big help to capacitate our staff on how to manage layer chicken. Those basic farm practices are vital in making SAAD's project successful.)

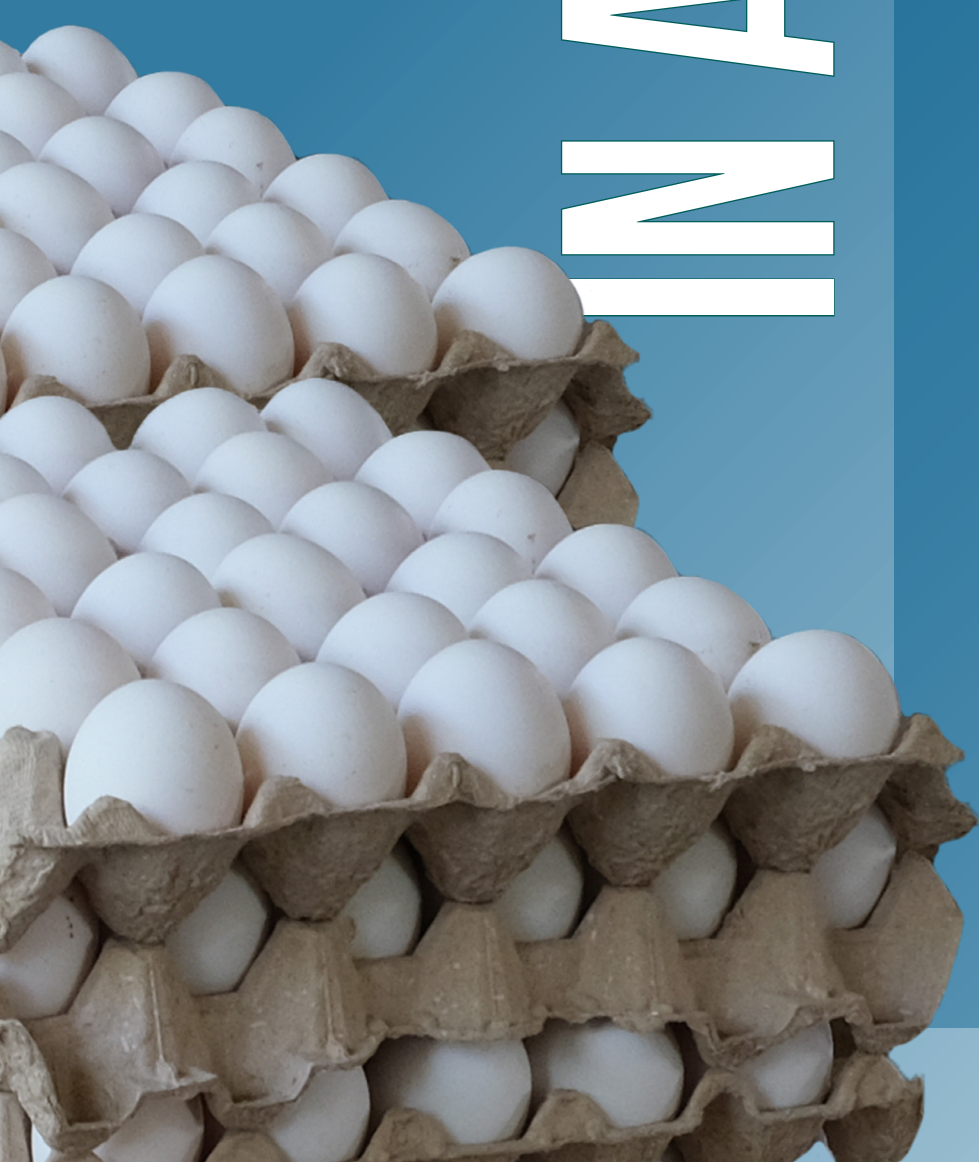
Application

The training capacitated the CDOs to directly train their assigned FAs in both theoretical and practical management of layer chicken. Aside from knowledge and skills transfer, the training of trainers also ensures smoother project implementation. In the next two months, distribution of the project will commence.

ALLEGS IN A BASKET

JAMES BRIAN R. FLAGA
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DABAWENYO FA'S IM-PECK-ABLE INVESTMENT FROM SAAD'S CHICKEN PROJECT



DAVAO DE ORO, July 10, 2023 – The Quarry Highlander Farmers Association, a Dabawenyo farmers group, construct a roadside “bagsakan” to diversify the income from their upgraded native chicken and tilapia, a Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Phase 1 convergence projects under the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

A “bagsakan”, typically a building that houses retail stores for various commodities, will primarily display vegetables and fruits from members of the farmers association. The FA kept costs at a minimum by sourcing materials, mainly logs and wood, and labor from FA members, then invested, as of writing, more than Php 10,000 for the miscellaneous expenses.

“Pagkusog sa itlog, nakit-an namo nga dako iyahang potential nga maka-income ang asosasyon. Nag-initiate mi kay para dili lang saligan ang manok, kani amoang gigastohan, kaning bagsakan” (When income from the eggs boomed, we saw that it has great potential for the group to earn. We initiated this so that we won’t be depending on the chicken alone, we started to fund this commissary), Joseph Esperada, chairperson for the group said.

Mr. Esperada told SAAD Davao Region they plan to launch the “bagsakan” later this year after finishing the building’s flooring.

The decision to build a vegetable and fruit commissary stemmed from the increased influx of economic activity in Barangay Ngan from travelers traveling to and fro Davao Oriental. With temperate weather all year round except for the wet season, the barangay has seen a surge in tourist stops alongside highways in the past five years. Designed to carry 14 spaces, the bagsakan already has all the spaces reserved for its members. They’re looking to charge Php 10/day in rent.



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A year after the chickens arrived, the association has listed more than Php 75,000 in income. Esperada said that most of it has gone to feeds. The association pulled from their seasonal income from the inland fishery, of which the FA was also a BFAR-SAAD Davao Region beneficiary. When SAAD Davao Region visited the FA, the building was at least 70% done.

"Higayon kaayo nga nag-invest mi ani. Amo-ang mga abot gikan sa bukid, diri ibutang. Among harvest sa mais, mga prutas, ug uban pa, diri namo i-display" (It's opportune that we invested in this. We'll put our produce here, the corn harvests, fruits, and other, this is where we display them).

Quarry Highlands FA

Formed in August 2016, Quarry Highlander FA is a locally-formed, farmers' group in Ngan,

Compostela, Davao de Oro. The association has more than 30 regular members as of June 2023.

In 2022, SAAD Davao Region chose the group to receive upgraded native chicken and Open-Pollinated Variety corn projects. The association received 320 chickens, 50 sacks of feed, and veterinary drugs from the program as well as corn seeds.

The chicken started laying eggs in July last year. At peak production, Mr. Esperada reported that the association could harvest more than 80 eggs a day. The association has a standing arrangement with a local grocer that consigns the eggs at Php6.00 across the board regardless of size.

But selling eggs alone wouldn't sustain the

upkeep of the chicken. Feed requirement for laying hens, if maximized, would sink the FA's profit to a loss.

"Dako kaayo ang gasto sa feed. Amoang income sa itlog ibalik sa pagkaon, tapos naa pay pasweldo sa nag-maintain. Kinahanglan namo ug uban pang gikanan sa income" (Feed cost have been astronomical. The income from eggs will cycle as expense for feed, notwithstanding the wages of the caretaker. We need another income generator), Mr. Esperada related.

This is where the association looked into hatching and selling chicks for additional income. SAAD Davao Region, in turn, provided the incubator. *"Mas dako amoang income sa mga piso. Diri pa lang mismo, daghan na ug mamalit"* (We get most of our profit from the chicks. A lot

of buyers here in our area alone). The FA sells the chicks at Php 90 each and has started priming some to increase the existing flock. Once culling season starts, the existing hens will reach their unproductive stage, wherein they will be sold off. The new hens will continue the next cycle.

Of the original 320 poultry stocks, 110 were dispersed to 10 individual members, with an arrangement with the FA to replace them with chicks. A hundred and thirty-eight (138) chicken remain with the association, situated in a coop coincidentally overlooking from the bagsakan.

SAAD Phase 1 native chicken project

SAAD Davao Region's native chicken project

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in 2022 provided free-range, upgraded native chicken to 18 farmers' associations across 11 municipalities of Davao de Oro. Out of 18 FAs, three associations received a component of chicken housing. The program allotted Php 5.5 million for the entirety of the livelihood project.

"Kaning atong chicken program is para magdugangan ang panginabuhian sa atong mag-uuma," Naomi Lamata, SAAD Davao Region Alternate Assistant Focalsaid. *"Nalipay ta kay naa juy mga asosasyon nga napadako nila ang proyekto ug kana, natuman ang tumong sa SAAD"* (Our chicken program is aimed to augment the livelihood of our farmers. We're elated that there are groups that prospered through the project, hence the purpose of the program).

For 2023, SAAD Davao Region opted for layer chicken as a project for 14 FAs across four provinces of the region.



JAMES BRIAN R. FLAGA, WRITING AND PHOTOGRAPHY
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DAVAO REGION, August 1, 2023 - To help its team from the regional and provincial support offices improve their organizational management skills, the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Davao Region trained 21 staff on leadership, bookkeeping, and cultural sensitivity last July 24 to 27, 2023.

As the Program intensified its thrust to impart practical skills among FAs to create community-based enterprises (CBEs) within its timeline of Phase 2 operation, said training will help the implementers prioritize and manage time and resources effectively.

"I-capacitate jud nato atong mga tao kay para mas masabtan nila ilahang role. Kani para jud ni sa atong mga CDOs pero ma-apply ni sa tanan. Kinahanglan nato ni sa implemtasyon sa atong programa kay para mapakusgan ang atong mga mag-uuma," Naomi Lamata, SAAD Davao Region Alternate Assistant Focal Person, said.

(We capacitate our personnel so that they will understand their role. This [training] is especially catered to our CDOs [community development officers], but its application is for all of us. We need this in our implementation so that we can empower our farmers.)

Leadership, bookkeeping, cultural sensitivity
Focused on three major discussions, the training tackled relevant interpersonal and organizational skills in leadership, bookkeeping, and cultural sensitivity. SAAD Davao Region sought expert speakers to tackle each skill set.

For cultural sensitivity, the Program invited Ms. Lyn Balanza, a community affairs officer from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) to lead and facilitate the discussion. The program deemed it critical for its CDOs to know the mechanics of properly dealing with IPs since most of the FA's members belong to these marginalized groups.

Fundamentals in Leadership and Organizational Development was also a topic of discussion, with personnel encouraged to imbibe the importance of building strong foundations within a people's organization. Former Senior Cooperative Specialist from the Provincial Agriculturist Office of Davao de Oro Feliciano Crucio and current officer-in-charge of the Cooperative Development Division Marilou Lanoy led the discussions.

Practical applications of simple bookkeeping for FAs was spearheaded by Agricultural Training Institute's James Philip Saludaes.

"Kinahanglan well-informed jud ta, labi na sa ground, kabalo sila mag-adjust. Mao jud na siya kinahanglan nato. Aside ana, in terms of fi-

nancial literacy sila na mag-train sa ilahang FA. Importante ni kay para matutukan nila ang ilahang mga FA," McKevin Mosquesa, SAAD Davao Region's lead CDO III, emphasized.

(We need to be well-informed, especially on-ground, we should know how to adjust. That's what we truly need. Aside from that, our CDOs should know how to train our FAs with financial literacy. These training sessions are all imperative in order for us to really focus on our FAs.)

In the next quarter, SAAD Davao Region will roll out the bulk of its 2023 livelihood projects. The regional management deemed it imperative for implementers on-ground to be well-equipped for the projects to prosper.



SAAD DISTRIBUTES LAYER CHICKENS

JAMES BRIAN R. FLAGA
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DAVAO REGION, October 3, 2023 - Fourteen (14) farmers associations (FAs) across Davao Region received inputs from the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) for the chicken layer project during its successive distributions for the week.

The FAs with 350 members all in all (25 each FA) from Davao del Norte, del Sur, Oriental, and Occidental were each given 300 layer chickens with a cage module system and 90 sacks of feeds, costing over half a million each, through the SAAD Program. The production project was a result of beneficiary needs assessment, wherein layer chicken proved a better option for the FAs than the program's previous poultry project, upgraded native chicken.

"Among kinasingkasing nga ipaabot amoang pag-pasalamat sa atong gobyerno, sa SAAD program. Nadawat na jud namo among ginapangandoy nga proyekto," Mrs. Meraya Torentira, chairperson for San Roque Farmers Association in San Isidro, Davao del

TO 14 FAs ACROSS DAVAO REGION



Norte, said.

(Our heartfelt gratitude to our government, and to the SAAD Program. We've finally received the project we've dreamed of.)

Their neighboring FA shared the same sentiment in the municipality of Talaingod in the same province.

"Dako among pasalamat kay natagad mi sa gobyerno. Pan-ingkamotan namo nga ma-dala namo ni ug maayo," Mr. Alex Diabo, chairperson for Banoog CAA Farmers Association, agreed. Banoog CAA Farmers Association is a local group of Aeta-Manobos in the area.

(We're thankful to the government for the attention given to us. We'll strive to make the most out of this.)

Layer Chicken Production Project

For FY 2023, the layer chicken project is the only animal-based project of the SAAD Davao Region. Paired with either corn or banana, the livelihood projects are designed to create community-based enterprises out of the FAs.

The FAs are also set to receive egg weighing scales, egg trays,



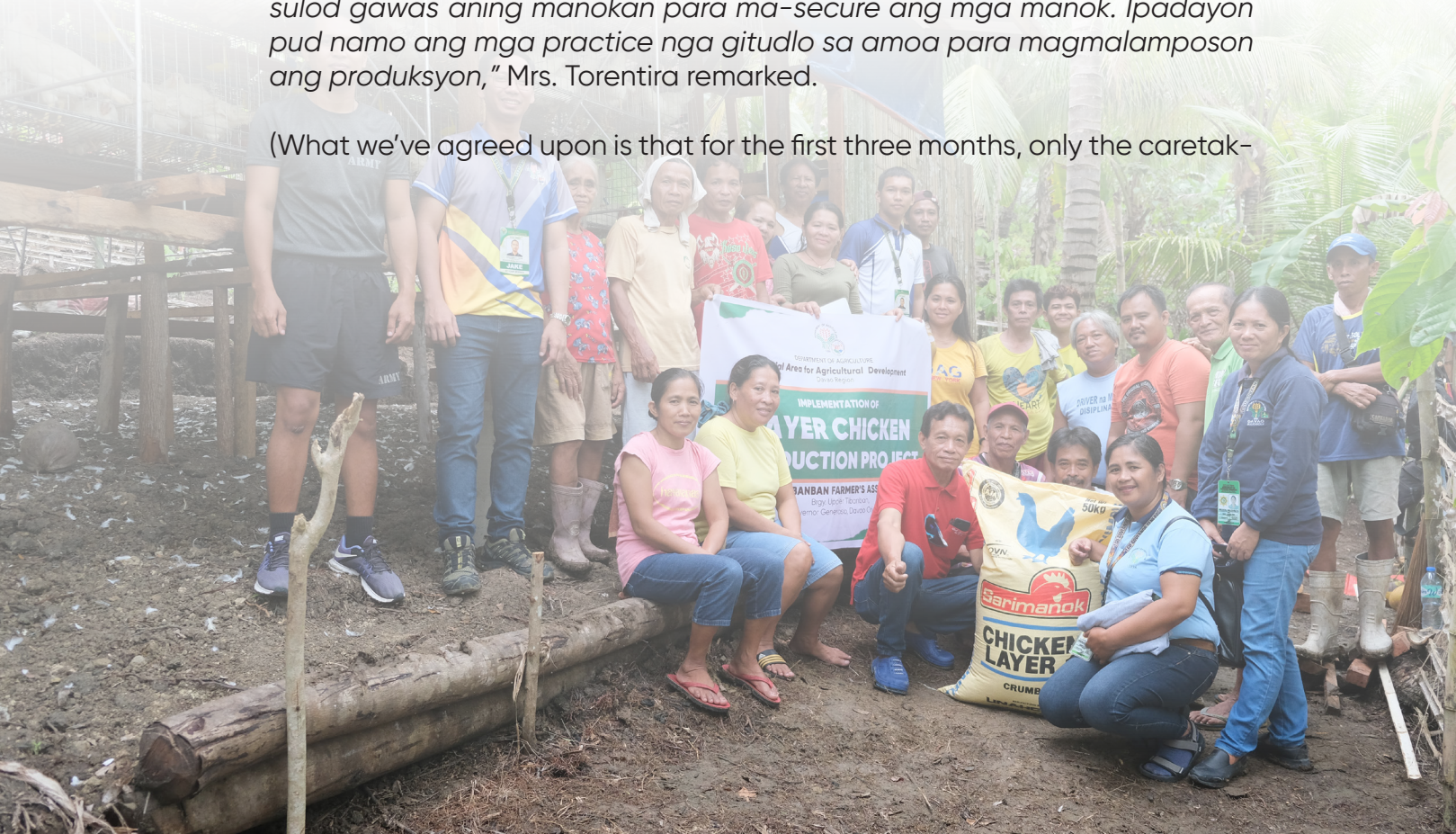
The program will support the FAs with agricultural projects for the next three years.

Ways Forward

Designed to last the FAs for 4-5 months, the feed supply will be delivered in two tranches, each comprising 45 sacks of feed. SAAD Davao Region expects the FAs to sustain the project once the supply feeds run out by selling table eggs in their communities and probable local egg suppliers.

"Among nasabotan, sa unang tulo ka bulan, ang caretaker ra juy maka-sulod gawas aning manokan para ma-secure ang mga manok. Ipadayon pud namo ang mga practice nga gitudlo sa amoa para magmalampason ang produksyon," Mrs. Torentira remarked.

(What we've agreed upon is that for the first three months, only the caretaker



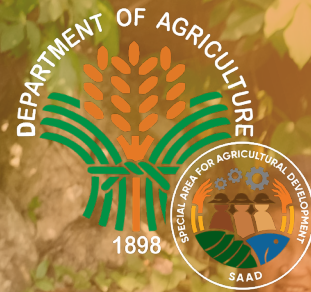
er can go in and out of the facility. This is to secure [the safety] of the birds. We'll continue the practices that were taught to us so that this production will prosper.)

"Pagabot sa pangitlog, ibaligya namo. Ang halin, didto namo ibutang sa asosasyon," Mr. Diabo added.

(Once the hens lay eggs, we'll sell them. The profit will go directly to the association.)

Prior to the distribution, SAAD's community development officers (CDOs) trained their respective FAs in basic bird management, feeding and water requirements, and disease control.





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