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Special Area for Agricultural
Development (SAAD) Program
daan sa maunlad na kalihayan



The DELIVERANCE:

2018 SAAD News Compendium

Editors

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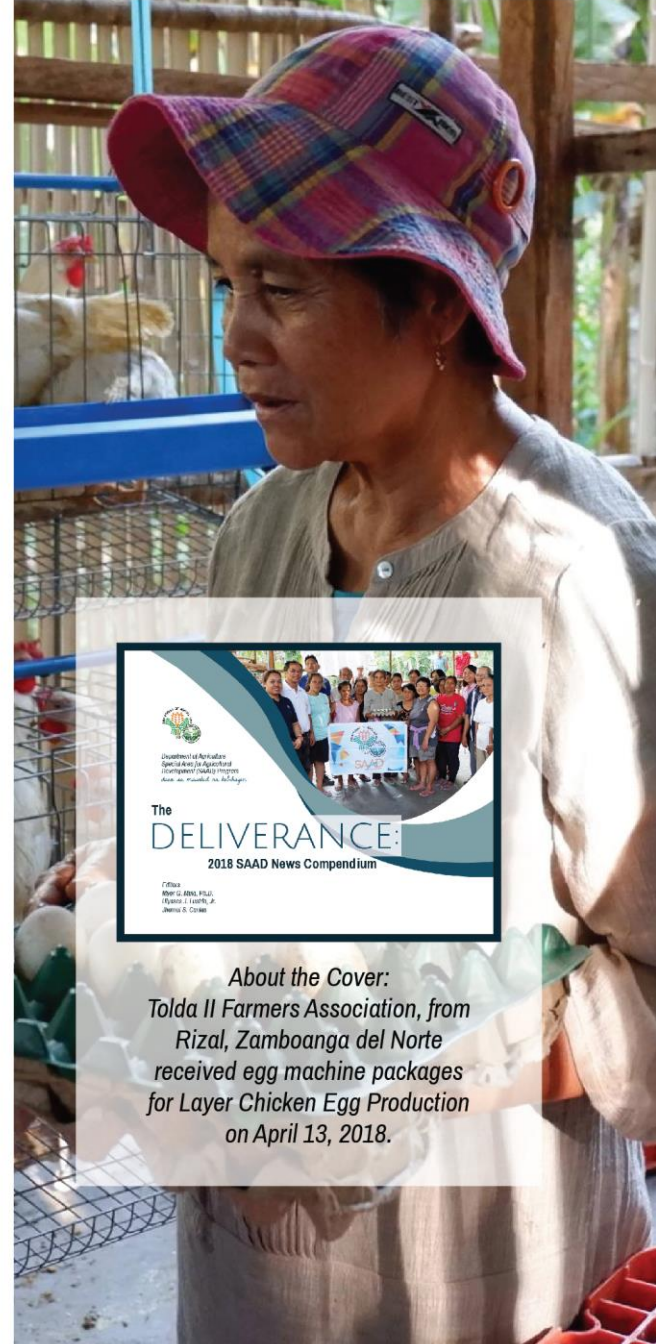
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*About the Cover:
Tolda II Farmers Association, from
Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte
received egg machine packages
for Layer Chicken Egg Production
on April 13, 2018.*

“

Government should
nurture the hand that
feeds the nation, so
farmers and fishers can
continue doing so, lest
we all starve!

William D. Dar, Ph.D.
Secretary, Department of Agriculture



FOREWORD



I am very much honored of the second compendium of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program entitled 'The Deliverance'. I believe that this program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) plays a vital role in the development of the agriculture and fishery sectors in the Philippines' rural areas, especially those that have the highest poverty incidence rates among families.

This book will show you the important activities and events of the program in 2018, such as the delivery of interventions, which is essential to kick off the implementation of the granted livelihood projects. It is also the year for SAAD's continuous enhancement of its operations and manpower.

This publication will help us see the determination and potential of our farmers to be successful in the endeavors they willingly chose. With SAAD, they will be independent with associations and enterprises built to advance their welfare.

In the long run, I am positive that poor Filipino farmers and fisherfolks could have a chance to be agripreneurs, who can generate income for their families and supply abundant food for their communities.



As you read the compiled articles of the program, I hope you will understand the programs goals and objectives.

Engr. Ariel T. Cayanan
Undersecretary for Operations

MESSAGE



2018 was officially the second year of the SAAD Program implementation. We started the year with training and workshops, both for our project implementers and beneficiaries, which were done to ensure the strengthening of the organization and enhance our methods in delivering support to the poorest of the poor farmers and fisherfolks in the country.

There were improvements and changes needed to be made in the management; such as in planning and budgeting where we had to adjust to cash-based budgeting; Regional Program Management Support Offices (Provincial and Area Coordinators) and our counterpart in the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources were presented with the Community Logical Frame (which were adopted in planning and design of projects) and underwent financial and business planning; the Information Technologists were trained to apply quantum geographic information system and open-data kit software to improve the geotagging and profiling of the beneficiaries; and the communications team were also trained on effective presentation and writing skills.

It was also this year when I conceptualized the SAAD Saga, an event in every province that recognizes our exceptional beneficiaries and showcases their products. The event kicked off in 2019.

I am also proud of the SAAD Program as it has been recognized as a contributor to the performance of Agriculture in the country by the Philippine Statistics Authority, while our beneficiaries have been featured at International Fund for Agricultural Development Philippines' Knowledge Learning Market and Policy Engagement Conference 2018.

Perseverance and continuous improvement come hand in hand to face the challenges and overcome them. With the collective efforts of the national, regional, and provincial management teams, I am confident to say that we have realized the promise to our beloved recipients as witnessed through this publication.



Again, I hope that through this publication, you may appreciate the efforts of the program as well as be inspired to bring more opportunities to our fellow farmers and fisherfolks in poverty-stricken areas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. F. San Juan', written over the printed name.

Bernadette F. San Juan, CESO II
Director, National Organic Agriculture Program
Former Director, SAAD Program

MESSAGE



Welcome to the 2018 SAAD press releases compendium!

2018 was the year when the SAAD was beginning to have impact in the lives of poor farmers and fishers. This was also the year when the SAADvocacy, monthly newsletter, and SAADventures, success stories in the provinces, were conceptualized.

Just like at the present, each of the PR & Comms officers of the SAAD NPMO were given assigned regions to handle. They worked with the NPMO Planning and Monitoring Group (PMG) officers to document the training, workshops, meetings, and other project implementation-related activities through press releases.

As their PR & Comms Cluster Head and later on as PMG Head, I would like to take this opportunity to express that it was a pleasure to have worked with the PR & Comms officers who eloquently and accurately packaged the achievements of the program.

Also, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and contribution of the writers from the Regional and Provincial Management Support Offices, as well as the coordinators who have given us the information needed for the press releases.



I hope that we were able to keep you informed and inspired to be involved in alleviating poverty in our society.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr." in a cursive style.

Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr.
Deputy Director, SAAD Program

MESSAGE



I am pleased to present the second compendium entitled 'The Deliverance'. This book is composed of the 2018 news articles and features, showcasing the achievements and all the other activities of the SAAD Program.

I am thankful of former Director San Juan for laying a strong foundation of the SAAD Program. It was under her leadership that most of our farmer- and fisherfolk-beneficiaries, who are from the unreachable and poorest areas of the country, got a taste of unrelenting government support.

Also, a lot of thanks to her for reporting and publishing all of these through press releases through the PR and Comms group for I believe that every organization should uphold transparency and accountability.

In that year, I would like to share with you that SAAD was able to give agricultural and fishery support to 30,175 farmers, 12,361 fishers, and 357 associations. This was made possible through the persistent efforts of our staff (national, regional, and provincial), local government units, and our partners. They are all key players in the fulfillment of the SAAD's mission of contributing to the poverty alleviation of the 20 priority provinces with high poverty incidence rate among families.



May you appreciate the stories of everyone involved in the SAAD Program - from planning to implementation, and be encouraged to take part in our purpose to deliver the promise to our beneficiaries.



Myer G. Mula, Ph. D.
Director, SAAD Program

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“The Deliverance” is the second sequel of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program’s yearly compendium of press releases and other articles.

This book focuses on the program’s noteworthy activities and events, which were published in 2018.

2018 is the year of the program’s continued progress in realizing the agricultural and fishery livelihood interventions it is providing to the marginalized beneficiaries engaging in agriculture and fishery. From 10 provinces in 2017, SAAD expanded its coverage and added 10 more based on the based on the 2015 poverty incidence rates among families provided by the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The 20 provinces are Apayao, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Negros Oriental, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Sarangani, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Siquijor, Sulu, Davao de Oro, Sultan Kudarat, and Bukidnon.

Multi-year planning (MYP) and budgeting workshops for SAAD’s implementation from 2020 to 2022 for the program’s 20 priority provinces, including the 2019 additional areas (Kalinga, Mt. Province, Occidental Mindoro, Antique, Negros Occidental, Bohol, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Surigao del Sur, and Agusan del Sur), were deliberately conducted and documented in 2018.



Aside from becoming the basis for the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in the annual approval of the DA-SAAD Program's Plan and Budget proposal, the MYP workshops have a deeper purpose.

The series of workshops aims to set directions for the program's implementation at the provincial level for FYs 2020-2022. The directions are necessary towards the attainment of its mission of contributing to the poverty alleviation of the provinces through the beneficiaries' improved household consumption, increased income, and improved economic status.

More tangible benefits

From social preparation activities conducted in 2017, which aim to empower and enrich the farmer- and fisherfolk-beneficiaries with knowledge and skills; SAAD delivered the actual interventions of its promised livelihood production projects for various crops, livestock, and fisheries in 2018.

One of the most significant events of 2018 is SAAD sharing its mission and projects to another platform, where key leaders, policy-makers, agencies, and organizations meet to recognize various programs and discuss issues related to a certain theme.

A story of the program's progress and immediate impacts on an organization in Salug, Zamboanga del Norte was featured at the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Philippines' Knowledge Learning Market and Policy Engagement (KLMPE) Conference 2018. The event was held from 7 to 8 of November 2018 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management Building in Quezon City in celebration of the International Year of Family Farming with a theme, "Inclusive Agricultural and Rural Development: No One Left Behind".

Through the untiring efforts of the SAAD's regional and provincial staff, countless distribution of farm inputs, equipment, and machinery to far-flung areas that most DA regular programs could not reach were made possible.

Training and other social preparation continued to provide the program implementers and beneficiaries with the up-to-date knowledge, approaches, and technologies on agriculture and fisheries.





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In total,

PRESS RELEASES

and

13

FEATURE ARTICLES

were documented in 2018, which were published on both SAAD's website at www.saad.da.gov.ph and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/da.saadprogram.



SAAD PROVIDES SWINE HEADS TO EASTERN SAMAR BENEFICIARIES

January 5, 2018

EASTERN SAMAR – Fifty-nine (59) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Eastern Samar beneficiaries from General MacArthur, Bigo and Conception in Arteche received three (3) swine heads for fattening on December 28, 2017.

Farming and fishing remain as Eastern Samar's leading economic activities with roughly three-fourths of the total estimated employed persons engaged in said activities.

However, low productivity in agriculture and fishery continue to hamper the province's economy.

The SAAD program aims to help alleviate poverty in the poorest provinces of the country through the provision of agricultural and related interventions to the poor in the farming and fisheries sector.

Eastern Samar is one of the SAAD priority provinces having a poverty incidence among families of 37.4% based on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Ariaga)

MORE THAN 3,900 FERTILIZERS DISTRIBUTED TO MAGPET CORN FARMERS

January 5, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of North Cotabato, distributed 3,960 bags of fertilizers to corn farmers of Magpet, North Cotabato last January 4, 2018. Each farmer received two bags of complete fertilizer (14-14-14), one bag of urea (46-0-0), one bag of potassium (0-0-60), and 25 kilograms of diammonium phosphate (18-46-0).

Engr. Milagros C. Casis, DA-RFO XII Regional Executive Director, spearheaded the mass distribution together with Mr. Edgardo Linsag, the Municipal Agriculturist of Magpet, Engr. Jupiter Rubino, the Municipal Administrator of Magpet, and SAAD North Cotabato staff.

Mr. Edgardo Linsag, emphasized three things for a person to become a proper farmer. He dubbed it as "ATM" which stands for Area, Time, and Money. According to him, a farmer must have a land to till, a time to work on the farm, and money to finance farm activities.

He also stressed out to properly utilize what the government has given.

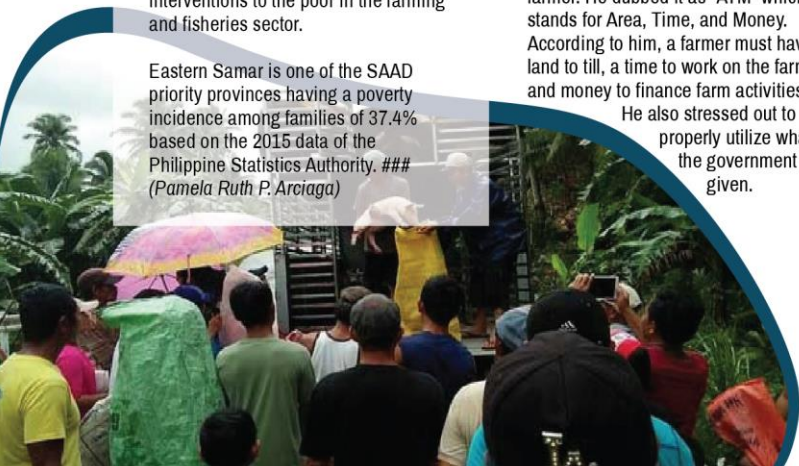
In line with this message, Engr. Jupiter Rubino, expressed the all-out support of Magpet LGU headed by Hon. Florenito Gonzaga due to the fact that the father of Magpet is also a farmer. He thanked the present administration and the Department of Agriculture for the interventions Magpet has received especially that it has received the largest chunk of the 2016 first tranche budget of SAAD amounting to Php 11.6 million.

In this momentous event, Engr. Milagros C. Casis related to the real problems of farmers having served as a government employee from the time of Secretary Emmanuel Piñol's governorship until now that he moved up the ranks as a cabinet member.

Director Casis recalled that Secretary Piñol designed a program to help the farmers of North Cotabato during his time as governor. Now that he became Secretary of the Department of Agriculture (DA), this program was revived and expanded nationwide in what is now known as the SAAD Program which strives to deliver livelihood programs to the marginalized farmers and fisherfolks in the poorest provinces in the country.

Director Casis also shared the success of SAAD Sarangani. Through the full support of the Department, the upland rice products of Sarangani is now being promoted through some media channels. As a result, Sarangani had to

expand upland rice production to meet the increasing demand. She also highlighted the Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) Program of the Department of Agriculture which aims to help legitimate farmers in financing their farm operations. This is a non-collateral loan assistance program with a minimal 6% interest annually and the interest will go to the farmer organizations in the form of savings. Director Casis also urged farmers and stakeholders not to hesitate in approaching the Department of Agriculture through different SAAD Area Coordinators for any agricultural concerns. She also left a message to nurture and treasure all interventions from the government. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



DA BICOL RED SAYS SAAD NEEDS WORKERS WITH A HEART

January 10, 2018

NAGA CITY – “What we need in the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) are people with the heart, para maiangat sa kahirapan ang pinakamahihirap na mga Bicolana.” This is what Department of Agriculture-Region V Regional Executive Director (RED) Dr. Elena B. Delos Santos stressed out to 50 SAAD Program implementers last January 4-5, 2018 during the regional office's Strategic Action Planning and Workshop on the SAAD Program.

RED Delos Santos, also the SAAD Bicol Program Director, welcomed the 23 newly hired SAAD program implementers and challenged them to have the heart to implement the program. She said, “Please have the heart to implement the program because if you have the heart, nothing can go wrong.” She also urged the implementers to focus more on social preparation – the first component of the program, since it is the most difficult one.

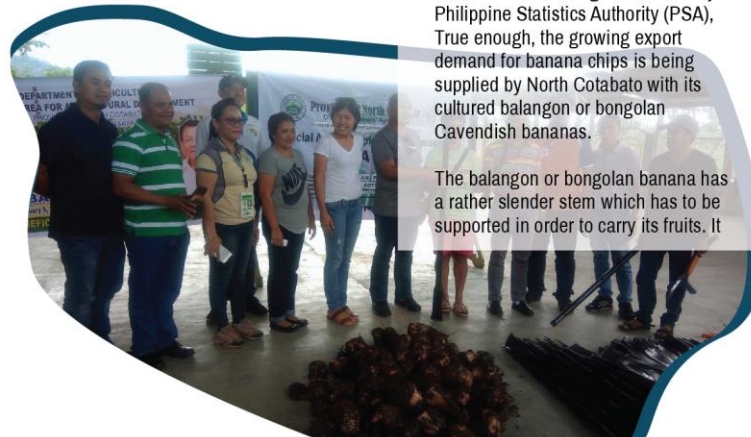
SAAD National Program Director Bernadette San Juan affirmed RED Delos Santos' directive saying that with the right state of heart, the mind and action will follow.

Having three provinces included in the region – Catanduanes, Masbate, and Sorsogon, Mr. Rodel P. Tornilla, DA-Region V OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension,



cited that among all the 20 provinces included in the SAAD 2018 budget, Bicol region is one of the recipients with the biggest chunk compared to other regions.

Meanwhile, the SAAD implementers underwent orientation on community needs assessment and logical framework approach which was headed by Mr. Justin dela Rueda of SAAD National Program Management Office. Furthermore, the implementers will also undergo a series of training on community needs assessment, geotagging, and extension methodologies in the last week of January 2018. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza and Lovella P. Guarin)



ARAKAN FARMERS RECEIVE INPUTS FROM SAAD NORTH COTABATO BANANA PROJECT

January 11, 2018

ARAKAN, NORTH COTABATO – A total of 100 Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program farmer-beneficiaries from the municipality of Arakan, North Cotabato received agricultural inputs on Organic Banana Bongolan Project during the turn-over ceremony held at Brgy. Meocan, Arakan last January 9, 2018.

Department of Agriculture – Region XII (DA RFO XII) Regional Executive Director (RED) Milagros C. Casis spearheaded the ceremonial distribution to farmers from barangays Ganatan, Sto Niño, Dallag, Allab, and Meocan, which are also known as the Tinanan Cluster.

The Philippines is known as a leading banana fruit producing country in the world. Playing a major role is Region XII, one of the biggest contributors in the country's banana production, which is at 11.2% according to 2016 survey of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). True enough, the growing export demand for banana chips is being supplied by North Cotabato with its cultured balangon or bongolan Cavendish bananas.

The balangon or bongolan banana has a rather slender stem which has to be supported in order to carry its fruits. It

produces medium-sized bunches having 6 – 12 hands that comes with 12 – 20 fingers per hand. When the fruit is ripe, it is light green to greenish yellow, medium in thickness, and peels off readily. The pulp is soft, fine-textured, sweet, and deliciously aromatic. True to the SAAD promise to help farmers venture on bongolan banana, the SAAD North Cotabato turned over a more than P1.3 Million banana project for 100 farmer-beneficiaries. The project targets to plant the local banana on one-hectare land per beneficiary. The project also composed of farm tools, such as shovel, spade, deleafing knife, desuckering bar, lagaraw, sanggot, sharpening tools, knapsack sprayers, 21,000 banana corms, 260 sacks vermicast fertilizer, 400 kg twine for propping, and five (5) power sprayers.

Also present in the event are Arakan Mayor Rene Rubino, Sangguniang Bayan members, Office of Provincial Agriculturist staff, Office of Municipal Agriculturist staff, and SAAD North Cotabato Provincial Coordinator Jerry Tingson.

North Cotabato, having a 44.8% poverty incidence rate among families based on the 2012 poverty report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), was chosen as one of the 2017 priority provinces of the SAAD Program. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD HOLDS EXTENSIVE PROJECT PLANNING FOR EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

January 12, 2018

CEBU CITY – Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program National Program Management Office (NPMO) conducted an extensive planning orientation with SAAD regional and provincial staff from Regions VI, VII and VIII through a Logical Framework Approach (LFA) held at Cebu Business Hotel, Cebu City on January 10-11, 2018.

The LFA, a methodological tool for project planning and designing, has been adopted across SAAD regional and provincial units to come up with multi-year plans.

DA-VII Regional Executive Director (RED) Leo P. Cañeda led the event, which trained SAAD Focal Persons, Regional Project Management Support Officers, and Provincial Coordinators on Community Needs Assessment, LFA, and Multi-Year Planning and Budgeting for SAAD.

RED Cañeda shared how glad he is that there is a program in the Department of Agriculture, under the present administration, that focuses on the marginalized farmers and

fishermen.

On their part, SAAD Regional Focal Persons OIC-RTD for DA-RFO 8 Andrew Orais and DA-RFO 7 Engr. Eugene Cahiles shared their CY 2016 and 2017 SAAD experience. For the lectures and group workshops, the LFA and Multi-Year Planning were handled by SAAD NPMO staff Ulysses Lustria Jr. and Fe Ybañez, respectively.

According to SAAD NPMO, a carefully laid out project plan and design can improve the delivery of quality services and assistance to SAAD target beneficiaries.

In 2017, DA started a new program known as Special Area for Agricultural Development that shall augment the regular programs in increasing food production and alleviating poverty in 10 provinces where poverty incidence is high. In 2018, additional 10 provinces were included in the program. Hopefully, for 2019, another 10 provinces could be covered.

The same planning orientation will also be conducted for other SAAD regional offices. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

PROGRAM OVERVIEW, LOG FRAME APPROACH ORIENTED TO SAAD 2019 PROVINCES

January 16, 2018

QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES – Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's provinces for Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 were oriented on the SAAD Program overview, concerns, among others at the DA New Building, Conference Room B on January 9, 2018, as attended by representatives from DA Regional Field Offices (RFO) IV-B, VI, XIII, Bureau of Agricultural Research (BAR), Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD), Planning and Monitoring Service (PMS), and SAAD – National Program Management Office (NPMO).

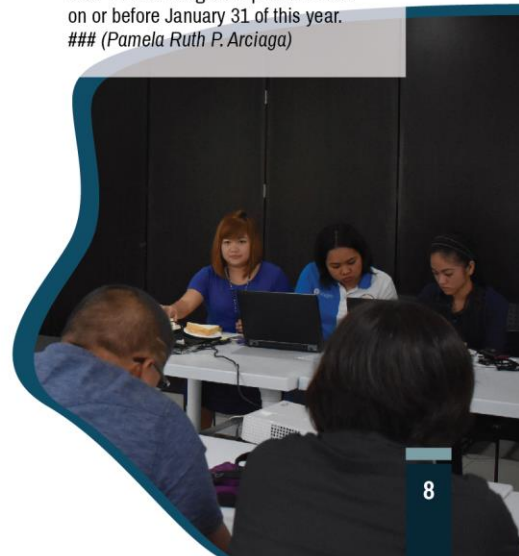
Representatives from CARAGA clarified about the intervention recipients, in which it was clarified that these can be provided to individuals and farmer groups or organizations. Also, representatives from RFO VI provided updates about the study conducted by University of the Philippines – Los Baños (UPLB) consultants. During the activity, it was also stressed that the social preparation of the new provinces should commence this year due to changes in the budget approach for FY 2019 Budget Preparation.

Also, the Log Frame Approach (LFA), a powerful methodological tool for planning and design has been likewise tackled was introduced. Ms. Nievea

Natural of PMS discussed the LFA along with providing a sample exercise for the Regional Field Office (RFO) attendees.

The RFOs presented their sample log frames having noted that social and cultural aspects should be considered for Indigenous People (IP) beneficiaries. Further, Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIP) from the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) can also be considered in the selection of interventions per province. Regarding small-scale food processing, compliance to Food Safety Act should also be considered.

It was agreed that the submission of the FY 2019 Budget Proposals will be on or before January 31 of this year. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



TWO BARANGAYS IN GENERAL MCARTHUR EASTERN SAMAR RECEIVE 180 PIGS AND GOATS



January 17, 2018

GENERAL MACARTHUR, EASTERN SAMAR

One hundred and eighty (180) pigs and goats were given to 60 farmer-beneficiaries from two barangays in the municipality General MacArthur under the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Eastern Samar last January 12, 2018.

Forty-five (45) farmers from Barangay Binalay got three heads of swine each while 15 farmers from Barangay San Isidro received three heads of goats each.

Last December 2017, SAAD Eastern Samar also delivered 312 pigs to 104 beneficiaries from Quinapondan, Arteché & General MacArthur and 45 goats to 15 beneficiaries from Balangkayan.

Being one of the poorest provinces in the Philippines based on the Philippine

Statistics Authority (PSA) 2012 poverty report, Eastern Samar along with two other Eastern Visayan provinces – Northern & Western Samar – were chosen as one of DA-SAAD's ten priority provinces for its first implementation in 2017.

To augment the DA National Livestock program in its aim to increase livestock and poultry inventory in Region 8, SAAD Eastern Samar implemented projects such as poultry, swine, and goat production. Besides livestock projects, it also focused on rice, corn, and vegetable production.

All SAAD projects in Eastern Samar were executed in ten covered municipalities – Jipapad, Arteché, San Policarpo, Maslog, Oras, Dolores, Balangkayan, Hernani, General MacArthur, and Quinapondan. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

DA-SAAD HOLD SEMINARS ON LIVESTOCK DISPERSAL IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

January 17, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) held seminars on proper livestock handling in Poblacion San Jose, and Amlan in Negros Oriental on January 9 and 10, 2018.

The back-to-back activity was attended by the SAAD Negros Oriental Staff together with Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Marcelina U. Cabonelas, Information Technologists (IT) Mr. Francis Ray Ozoa and Mr. Karl Cabonelas, SAAD-Admin Ms. Angelique Babaran; Asst. APCO Mr. Virgilio Awayan, and Agriculturist II Mr. Jose Andro Vendiola, and of course, by the SAAD-Negros Oriental beneficiaries.

San Jose Mayor Atty. Mel Nick Logronio

and Sangguniang Barangay (SB) officials, together with Ms. Evangeline P. Manuel of the Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO), were present on the first seminar leg. Amlan Vice Mayor Bentham Dela Cruz came with SB officials, together with the MAO's Mr. Jovencio Felisilda, for the second leg. After Mayor Logronio's message for the beneficiaries, the resource speakers discussed ruminant management, specifically feeding and disease handling.

On the second seminar leg, Vice Mayor Dela Cruz likewise gave an inspirational message to the beneficiaries. The resource speakers discussed proper livestock handling as part of the social preparation aspect of the SAAD Program in the province of Negros Oriental. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD CONDUCTS PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR APAYAO, MT. PROVINCE, AND KALINGA

January 19, 2018

BAGUIO CITY – The Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program conducted an initial planning workshop on January 10-12, 2018 that will pave the way for the crafting of SAAD 2019-2022 plans for Apayao, together with two (2) new provinces of the Program which are Mountain Province, and Kalinga, through a powerful methodological tool that is the Logical Framework Approach or LFA.

The Program is adopting the use of the LFA which aims to identify the agricultural concerns of the SAAD-covered municipalities and barangays and determine solutions (problem to objective tree) in order to come up with a multi-year plan of activities and budget.

Right after the discussion of the SAAD guidelines by the SAAD NPMO (National Program Management Office) Program Director, Bernadette F. San Juan, and welcoming remarks of the DA-CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region) Regional Executive Director (RED) Narciso A. Edillo, an initial list of Barangays from these provinces were identified by the participants through hands-on exercises as facilitated by SAAD-NPMO's Justin Dela Rueda.

Impressive outputs to the workshop are also highlighted as shown by the participant's presentations. It is evident

that the representatives of these provinces are eager to plan ahead of time for project implementation in year 2019 and beyond.

In 2017, DA started a new program known as SAAD that shall augment the regular programs in increasing food production and alleviating poverty in 10 provinces where poverty incidence is high. In 2018, additional 10 provinces were included in the Program.

The activity was organized by SAAD-CAR led by its Regional Focal Person and also the DA-CAR's Regional Technical Director (RTD) Engr. Danilo Daguito. The same workshop will also be mirrored in other SAAD Regional Offices. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD ORIENTS REGION IX AND XII ON COMMUNITY LOG FRAME FOR THE MULTI-YEAR PLAN FY 2019-2022

January 22, 2018

KORONADAL, SOUTH COTABATO – Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program National Program Management Office (NPMO) conducted an Orientation on Community Logframe for the Multi-Year Plan with SAAD Focal Persons, Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) staff, Provincial Coordinators (PCs), and Area Coordinators (ACs) from DA-Regional Field Offices (RFOs) IX and XII held at Koronadal City, South Cotabato on January 17-18, 2018. The activity started with a welcome message by DA-RFO XII Regional Technical Director (RTD) Isaac

Bangcaya. He congratulated the participants since they have the opportunity to help the poor farmers through the SAAD Program.

For her part, SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan briefed the participants especially the newly-hired SAAD staff of DA-RFOs IX and XII. She emphasized that the SAAD staff should be like missionaries, doing committed work for poor farmers.

DA-RFO XII Regional Executive Director (RED) Milagros Casis also visited the participants and enjoined the SAAD staff to remain committed to their work.

The Logical Framework Approach (LFA) lectures and workshops were handled by SAAD-NPMO's PR and Communications Head, Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr. The LFA is a methodological tool for project planning and designing and will be used to come up with a multi-year plan of activities and budget.

SAAD-NPMO's Operations Head, Fe Ybañez, discussed Multi-Year Planning as well as the required SAAD forms. Lastly, beneficiary profiling concerns were discussed by SAAD-NPMO's Information Technology Head Marvin Segovia. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD EYES POSSIBLE PARTNERSHIP WITH HINELEBAN FOUNDATION

January 24, 2018

BUKIDNON – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program eyes a possible partnership with the non-government organization, Hineleban Foundation Incorporated, as discussed in their meeting last January 15, 2018 at the Hineleban Farm, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.

Hineleban Foundation, Inc. focuses on the restoration of the environment and provision of sustainable livelihood for Lumads and the Bangsamoro. With the foundation's goals for our indigenous peoples, SAAD saw the opportunity to collaborate with the organization.

Hineleban officials, Dr. Urroj Malik, Dr. Norma Llemit and Ms. Renee Perrine, oriented the SAAD team on the foundation's thrusts and projects. The meeting was then followed by a tour around the Hineleban Farm that showed the agricultural technologies being promoted by the foundation.

According to Hineleban officials, the foundation also has successful models

which the SAAD can adopt or support. It was then agreed upon that the Hineleban team will meet with Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 10 and later submit a proposal for possible SAAD funding.

The meeting was attended by SAAD National Program Management Office Director Bernadette San Juan and cluster heads, SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office 10 staff, Bukidnon Provincial Agriculturist staff, Manolo Fortich Municipal Agriculturist and staff, and Hineleban officials.

Hineleban means “the spirit of the gathering and giving Mother Tree of the Rainforest that sustains the cycle of all life”.

You can visit Hineleban Foundation, Inc.'s website at hineleban.org.
(Jeanelle M. Amolaza and Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD LEADERS MEET SULTAN KUDARAT GOVERNOR MANGUDADATU



January 25, 2018

SULTAN KUDARAT – Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program National Program Management Office (NPMO) conducted an orientation meeting with Sultan Kudarat (SK) Governor Pax Mangudadatu held at Sultan Kudarat Provincial Capitol, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat on January 16, 2018.

Sultan Kudarat was chosen as one of the ten covered provinces of SAAD for the year 2018 due to its high poverty incidence rate per family, which is at 39.17%, based on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The NPMO was led by SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan, together with three (3) SAAD-NPMO Cluster Heads; Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr. for PR and Communications; Fe Ybanez for Operations, and Marvin Segovia for

Information Technology. They were also joined by Provincial Agriculturist Estela Hallegado, Municipal Agriculturists, and DA-RFO XII staff.

Director San Juan briefed the participants on the SAAD Program. For his part, Governor Mangudadatu expressed the full support of the Sultan Kudarat Provincial Government to the SAAD Program.

The SAAD and the Provincial Government agreed to complement each other's projects for the good of the people and future of SAAD's farmer-beneficiaries in Sultan Kudarat.
(Jemiema D.R. Arro)

BIG DEMAND IN POULTRY: SAAD WESTERN SAMAR GIVES 96 INCUBATORS TO ITS POOR FARMERS



January 30, 2018

WESTERN SAMAR – A total of 96 incubators are ready to be distributed to farmer-beneficiaries from six municipalities of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of Western Samar as the SAAD provincial team saw big demand in Philippines poultry consumption in the year 2017.

According to research, chicken meat is the second most popular meat in the country, following pork. The forecasted annual capita poultry consumption in the year 2017 was at 11.98%. Pork was at 14.2% while beef was at 2.95%.

SAAD Western Samar initially delivered 48 incubators to the municipalities of Sto. Niño, Almagro, Tagapul-an, Matoguinao, Calbayog, and Sta. Margarita last December 6, 2017 while another 48 incubators were also

distributed to Talalora, Daram, Zumarraga, Tarrangan, San Jose De Buan, and Hinabangan last January 4, 2018. The said municipalities have been given eight incubators each, which were only received by their respective Municipal Agriculturists. According to SAAD Western Samar staff, the incubators will not only help improve the poultry production of the province's poor farmers but also commercialize their beneficiaries' businesses.

Aside from poultry, peanut production was also implemented in the province's SAAD Program in 2017. For this, four multi-cultivators were distributed to Calbiga Agricultural Office last November 17, 2017. Beneficiaries, who are from Tabok Polang Farmers' Association, Panayuran Upland Association, Beri Farmers' Association, and Borong Active Farmers' Association, were taught how to use the machine on the same day. All the said equipment is expected to be delivered to the beneficiaries this February 2018.

The province of Western Samar was chosen as one of the 2017 priority provinces of the SAAD Program due to its high poverty incidence rate per family, which is at 43.5% according to the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. The SAAD implementation in the province will also continue this 2018. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD MAGUINDANAO CONDUCTS EXPOSURE TRAININGS FOR EIGHT MUNICIPALITIES



February 1, 2018

MAGUINDANAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program-Maguindanao team conducted back-to-back exposure trainings on Mallard Duck, Goat Upgrade Breed and Free Range Native Chicken, held in two different venues at Umani Farm and APPC (Animal Production & Processing Center) in Brgy. Tinongcop, Tantaran, South Cotabato, last January 30, 2018.

These exposure trainings are part of SAAD Maguindanao's Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Assistance for Maguindanao (ISLAM) Project 2017. Said project was derived from the concept of "APAT DAPAT" wherein the beneficiaries can receive a package of

four (4) commodities such as Goat (Upgraded Breed), Chicken (Free range native), Mallard Duck, and Vegetables. Also, these exposure trainings aim to educate farmers on how to sustain their livelihood, uplift the life status of the farmers from poverty, and expose the beneficiaries to proper management of the said commodities.

Department of Agriculture – SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office 12 and SAAD Maguindanao spearheaded the trainings with the assistance of the Provincial Veterinary Office of Maguindanao and two (2) resource speakers – Mrs. Jocelyn Sueno and Doctor Raul Teves.

Mrs. Jocelyn Sueno, Owner of Umani, shared her experiences and learnings in the Mallard Duck industry. Way back in 2012, they started with only 300



Mallard Ducks. But now, they were able

to produce 15,000 eggs every 3 days. She also emphasized that “we help the farmers in order to help themselves”.

Meanwhile, Doctor Raul Teves explained the advantages of breeding one (1) hybrid male goat with 25 native female goats.

The main participants in the training were 85 beneficiaries – 25 each from the municipalities of Paglat, North Upi and South Upi and two (2) each from the five remaining municipalities of Buluan, Pandag, Datu Odin Sinsuat, Datu Abdullah Sangki, and Datu Saudi Ampatuan. They were joined by three (3) participants each from the LGUs of the said municipalities, composed of one (1) Municipal Agriculturist, one (1) Agricultural Technologist, and one (1) Area Coordinator.

The eighty-five (85) are included in the two hundred (200) beneficiaries who will receive interventions, as part of the continuous distribution in Maguindanao from January 30, 2018 to March 2018.

Each beneficiary will receive twenty-two (22) mallard ducks – 20 female and two (2) male – and four (4) bags of laying pellet feed. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SAAD CAR PROVINCES GEAR UP TO CARRY OUT 2019 PLANS

February 5, 2018

BAGUIO CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) National Program Management Office (NPMO) led by its Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan (Dir. SJ) along with the SAAD-CAR team continued with the outputs that were brainstormed from the initial planning held in Baguio on January 10-12, 2018.

The separate presentations of Apayao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province were held in these respective provinces starting from January 27 until 31, 2018. The program highlighted these provinces' ways to meet their 2019 targets realistically.

The NPMO team ensured that a year ahead of plan is already in place especially for the two (2) new CAR Provinces which are Kalinga and Mountain Province.

Delivery and procurement reports to Dir. SJ had been prepared by Apayao, alongside their 2019 activities and budget planning.

The SAAD Program was introduced in CAR through Apayao in 2016 and is now spreading through Kalinga and Mountain Province come year 2019. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SHINES IN KALINGA

February 5, 2018

TABUK, KALINGA – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) witnessed the presentation of the Province's 2019 Plan in Golden Berries Hotel, Tabuk on January 27, 2018. Kalinga is one (1) of two (2) 2019 additional SAAD provinces along with Mountain Province in Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

An open forum followed each presentation of projects identified for each municipality. The municipalities of Tanudan and Pasil focused on Banana Production, while Balbalan was on Root Crops Production.

Assistant to the Provincial Agriculturist Juliana Aclam calls for the commitment and cooperation of the barangays as they are lucky to be chosen as a SAAD community for 2019. Further, she states the importance of using the preparation phase in order to implement the project proposals effectively.

“We want to hit the ground running,” stressed Caesar D. Lagon along with the Kalinga LGUs who were committed to deliver the services to its identified farmer-beneficiaries but with realistic targets.

Also discussed were “plant now, pay later” schemes wherein the farmers will be paid for the produce.

The Barangay Captains were thankful to SAAD being one of the government programs with benefits that they will actually feel. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD INCLUDES MOUNTAIN PROVINCE AS ONE OF ITS NEW PROVINCES FOR 2019

February 6, 2018

BONTOC, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE –

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) conducted a consultation meeting attended by the representatives of the Municipal Local Government Units (MLGUs). The activity was held in Archog Hotel and Restaurant, Bontoc, Mountain Province on the 29th of January 2018.

Providing full support was no less than the Governor of Mountain Province, Hon. Bonifacio Lacwasan, Jr., who was joined by representatives from SAAD Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) and National Program Management Office (NPMO). The Provincial Agriculturist of Mountain Province, Mr. John Likigan, was also present. Based from the Philippine Statistics Agency (PSA), Mountain Province is among the poorest provinces (with poverty incidence rate among families of 29.5 % as of 2015) in the Philippines making the province eligible as one (1) of two (2) 2019 additional SAAD Provinces along with Kalinga (with 30 % poverty incidence rate among families) for CAR.

Concepts of 'cash for asset' and 'roll-over scheme' was brought up, along with the ideal existence of farmer associations that will sell and dictate the price of their produce, ultimately leading to the Program aim of augmenting the Department of Agriculture (DA) banner programs in

increasing food production and alleviating poverty in priority provinces where the poverty incidence is high. For the farmer's side, SAAD Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan suggested to focus on the marketing side of the province's produce as well, rather than on its production stage alone.

In 2017, the Department of Agriculture (DA) started a new program known as SAAD that shall augment the regular programs in increasing food production and alleviating poverty in priority provinces where poverty incidence is high.

Attendees are hopeful that their barangays will also 'graduate from poverty' after the SAAD Program commences to a close by year 2022. Even though monetary return of investments may take time to materialize, Ms. Hazel Fagyan of Paracelis, Mountain Province stressed the importance of labor and hard work in leaving a legacy through the SAAD Program.

Further, Ms. Jane Tumapang, in behalf of the Provincial Agriculturist, said that being poor may have its disadvantages that makes poor people feel small, but at the same time it is a leverage in being eligible to badly needed assistance. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD REGION 7 CONDUCTS 2017 YEAR-END ASSESSMENT & TURNOVER CEREMONY

February 7, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – A year-end assessment and turnover ceremony was conducted by the Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Region 7 in Plaza Maria Luisa Suites Inn, Bishop Epifanio Surban St., Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental on January 29, 2018.

Updates were discussed on the ongoing process of 2017 SAAD project implementation. During this event, checks were also turned over to seven (7) municipalities of Negros Oriental including Amlan, San Jose, Sibulan, Tayasan, Vallehermoso, Jimalalud, and Bayawan.

SAAD Regional Focal Person (also Chief of Operations Division of Region 7), Engr. Eugene Cahiles, Jr., provided updates on Food Production and Livelihood Component of the 2017 SAAD Program. He also discussed the budgetary allocation of Negros Oriental and the status of the projects to be implemented by DA-RFO 7, including fund transfer.

Engr. Cahiles also shared a glimpse of what's ahead for SAAD in the year 2018. He stated that the budgetary allocation is Php 62,730,000.00, which will be divided between Negros Oriental and Siquijor. He added that, in Negros Oriental, there will be only two (2) interventions to be given to the ten (10) poorest municipalities which would



focus on the upland rice and the goat production.

Also in the event were SAAD Negros Oriental staff, SAAD National Program Management Office's (NPMO) Ms. Fe E. Ybañez, PATCO's (represented by APCO) Ms. Sarah J. Perocho, Municipal and City Agriculturists from the twenty-four (24) municipalities of Negros Oriental, as well as Amlan Vice Mayor Bentham Dela Cruz and San Jose Mayor Atty. Mel Nick Logronio, together with municipal accountants and treasurer.

To ensure continuation, Area Coordinators (ACs) were advised to monitor the procurement process until the distribution of project interventions to the seven (7) said municipalities, now that the turned-over checks are already in their hands. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD ORIENTS REGIONS 10, 11 AND 13 ON COMMUNITY LOGFRAME AND MULTI-YEAR PLANNING

February 7, 2018

DAVAO CITY – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) held a workshop on Community Logframe and Multi-Year Planning for DA-Regional Field Offices (RFOs) 10, 11 and 13 last January 24-25, 2018.

The participants were welcomed by DA-RFO 11 Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Operations Marila L. Corpuz, who expressed her full support to the SAAD Program. Also participating actively throughout the whole activity was DA-RFO 13 OIC-RTD for Operations, Albert D. Ocampo, Jr.

SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) gave the presentations

and facilitated the workshop sessions.

The SAAD Briefer and the Monitoring and Evaluation forms were discussed by Ms. Fe Ybanez. On the other hand, Mr. Marvin Segovia clarified some points regarding the Beneficiary Profiling Forms.

The Logframe Analysis sessions were handled by Mr. Ulysses Lustria, Jr., while the Multi-Year Planning (MYP) was discussed by Ms. Ybanez. Meanwhile, Engr. Kristine Eusebio presented the SAAD fund utilization status for 2017 per region. DA-RFO 10 got the highest obligation with the rate of 100%.

Some concerns raised and resolved were about the hiring of Job Orders and the timeline for the submission of the SAAD MYPs. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza)



APAYAO HANDLES SEVEN MUNICIPALITIES FOR 2019 SAAD IMPLEMENTATION

February 8, 2018

LUNA, APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) led by its Program Director, Bernadette F. San Juan, visited Luna in Apayao on January 31, 2018 to oversee the Program's three-year plans for the said area. Held in the Municipal Conference Hall—Warlito Madamba—SAAD Apayao Provincial Coordinator (PC), led the presentation of Apayao's Procurement and Deliveries status covering 2016-2017 funds.

SAAD, which started in 2016, targets thirty (30) provinces in the Philippines wherein the Poverty Incidence (PI) is high. Further, it targets alleviating poverty by enabling its farmer-beneficiaries to produce their household food supply as well as to market the surplus for their additional income.

All seven (7) municipalities in Apayao are identified in terms of their PI. Ranging from 1 to 7 (1 having the highest PI), they are Kabugao, Calanasan, Conner, Pudtol, Flora, Luna, and Sta. Marcela, respectively. Attendees were aiming to have improved crop yield and production, reduced or minimal post-harvest losses, improved marketing system, and available alternative sources of income for the SAAD-covered barangays in the said municipalities.

In 2016, Apayao became the first SAAD province from the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), and will be followed by Kalinga and Mountain Province for 2019.

Apayao Provincial Agriculturist, Prudencio Bosing shared that the governor will spearhead the ceremony for the awarding of agricultural machineries (including 4WD tractors and combine harvesters) to SAAD farmer-beneficiaries which will be held in Apayao on the 14th of February this year. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD MAGUINDANAO DISTRIBUTES INTERVENTIONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANDAG



February 9, 2018

MAGUINDANAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program-Maguindanao team conducted their third distribution of interventions under its Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Assistance for Maguindanao (ISLAM) Project 2017. The (25) beneficiaries from barangay Lower D'lag, municipality of Pandag received five hundred fifty (550) mallard ducks, one hundred twenty-five (125) goats, and one hundred (100) bags of feeds last February 2, 2018.

An on-going distribution of interventions to eight (8) pioneer municipalities of Maguindanao through the SAAD-ISLAM Project 2017 is happening from January 31 until March 9, 2018. Recent distributions were held in Paglat and Buluan while the third and current municipality is Pandag.

Mr. Yusop B. Manalindo, the Municipal

Agriculturist, gave a welcome message for the SAAD beneficiaries, stating that: "The SAAD Program is unique when it comes in choosing beneficiaries. Why? It is because they choose the poorest of the poor beneficiaries (beyond reach). We are thankful that out of 36 Municipalities in Maguindanao, we were chosen. This means, SAAD already knew we need it the most. We are blessed that the government projects reach us and SAAD is monitoring to see that this kind of projects is given to those who deserve it."

In response, the farmer- beneficiaries said that: "Our objective is one becomes more." This means that it is the obligation of the farmers to grow the numbers of the mallard ducks and goats and increase productivity. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SAAD MAGUINDANAO DELIVERS 500 DUCKS AND 100 BAGS OF FEEDS TO BENEFICIARIES IN PAGLAT

February 9, 2018

MAGUINDANAO – Five hundred fifty (550) heads of mallard ducks and one hundred (100) 200-kg bags of feeds, fifty (50) bags of pre-layer, and fifty (50) bags of pre-pallet were distributed to twenty-five (25) beneficiaries from Barangay Poblacion, Municipality of Paglat, Maguindanao, by Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program-Maguindanao last February 1, 2018.

During the turnover program, Sagadian M. Gumonsang, the Brgy. Captain of Poblacion, Paglat, expressed gratitude to the SAAD on behalf of his constituents. He stated: "This is the first time that we have been given a project like this with four components. We have to take care of the inputs we received. With this, we can build trust and our place will have more projects to come. Thanks to SAAD."

Also present were representatives from the Office of Provincial Agriculturist, Municipal Agriculture Office, MLGU & BLGU.

The 25 beneficiaries are included in the two hundred (200) beneficiaries who received 22 heads mallard ducks and four (4) bags of laying pellet feed interventions each, as part of SAAD's Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Assistance for Maguindanao (ISLAM) Project 2017. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD BENEFICIARIES OF BULUAN, MAGUINDANAO RECEIVE 550 MALLARD DUCKS AND 100 BAGS OF FEEDS

February 7, 2018

MAGUINDANAO – Last January 31, 2018, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Maguindanao team distributed 550 heads of mallard ducks and 100 200-kg bags of feeds which includes 50 bags of pre-layer and 50 bags of pre-pallet, for the 25 beneficiaries from Barangay Talitay, Municipality of Buluan, Maguindanao.

The interventions are part of SAAD Maguindanao's Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Assistance for Maguindanao (ISLAM) Project 2017, wherein each farmer-beneficiary receives 22 mallard ducks – 20 female and two (2) male – and four (4) bags of laying pellet feed. The distribution was attended by Municipal Agriculturist Nasino O. Umbi, and representatives from the Office of Provincial Agriculturist, Municipal Agriculture Office, MLGU, and BLGU.

During the orientation, Mr. Umbi emphasized the value of the project that gives to the farmers. He said that: "We had been given the package to start our own business that will somehow sustain our daily lives. In return, we must prove to them that we are worthy and deserving to receive it." He also gave the assurance of full support from LGU of Buluan and MAO. The two beneficiaries who attended the exposure trainings last January 30, 2018 shared their learnings and how they were inspired by the story of Mrs. Umani who started with only 300 ducks and was able to produce 15,000 eggs every 3 days.

All 25 farmers decided to put the 550 ducks in one place so they can save time and closely monitor their project. The DA Regional Field Office-12 promised to give them one (1) incubator for the sustainability of the project and for them to succeed. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SAAD PROGRAM HELPS SWINE PRODUCTION CONTINUALLY GROW IN NORTHERN SAMAR

February 14, 2018

NORTHERN SAMAR – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture helps the province of Northern Samar continually grow its production of swine with the ongoing Swine Fattening Project under the program's FY 2017 Fund in 10 municipalities.

It is undeniable that hog raising in the Philippines has been a common and profitable business for Filipinos through the decades, especially those families living in the rural areas,

With the 2,231.66 million metric tons of hogs produced in the country as of 2016, a total of 76,390 metric tons was produced in Eastern Visayas region with 8,741 metric tons contributed by Northern Samar.

Last February 1, 2018, 105 heads of piglets were given to 35 beneficiaries from Barangay Bangkerohan in the municipality of Catarman. Beforehand, they were also given a total of 157.5 bags of starter feeds.

Also, 35 beneficiaries from the municipality of Catubig received 157.5 bags of starter feeds for swine production last January 30, 2018.

The rest of the municipalities covered by the SAAD Northern Samar's swine

fattening project are Bobon, Lavezares, Rosario, Mondragon, Silvino Lobos, San Roque, Pambujan, and San Jose. The same project is also being done in various municipalities of Eastern and Western Samar under the SAAD Program FY 2017 Fund.

Aside from swine production, SAAD Northern Samar also has other projects such as poultry, goat, vegetable, rice, and corn production. Last February 1, 2018, 31 bags of complete fertilizer, 31 bags of urea, and 31 bags of muriate of potash were given to 32 beneficiaries from Barangay Cancahepus, Laoang under the corn production project of the province.

The province of Northern Samar is one of the 10 priority provinces of the SAAD Program in the year 2017, along with Eastern and Western Samar. This year, Leyte and Southern Leyte are included in the program. All said provinces are from the Eastern Visayas Region. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



DA REGION 6 PREPARES FOR SAAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION IN ANTIQUE

February 20, 2018

ILOILO CITY – The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 6, together with the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) National Program Management Office (NPMO), made preparations for the province of Antique's SAAD implementation, which will start in the year 2019 until 2022.

The event, which was held at The Mansion, Iloilo City last 13th to 15th of February 2018, aims to orient implementers in coming up with a multi-year project plan for the SAAD Program through a methodological tool called Community Logical Framework (Log Frame) approach.

The meeting was attended by Antique's Municipal Agriculturists and LGU officials, staff of the Provincial Agriculturist, and DA-RFO 6 SAAD Focal Person Rene Famoso and staff.

The participants identified the municipalities of Laua-an, San Remigio, and Valderama as potential beneficiaries of the SAAD Program in the province due to their high poverty incidence among families based on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA). Laua-an has a 25.9% poverty incidence while San Remigio is at 35.9%, and Valderama is at 30.2%.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan started the orientation with an introduction to the SAAD Program.

SAAD Program Public Relation and Communications head Ulysses Lustria, Jr. discussed the log frame analysis while SAAD Program Planning and Budget head Kristine Eusebio handled the discussion on multi-year planning.

DA-RFO 6 will now conduct workshops in Antique and Negros Occidental to come up with the respective provinces' SAAD multi-year plan.

Because of a typhoon, Negros Occidental participants weren't able to attend the activity. The said provinces were recognized as SAAD's 10 priority provinces for the year 2019 due to their high poverty incidence rate among families based on PSA 2015 records. Antique has an 18.4% poverty incidence while Negros Occidental has 21.9%. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



DA-SAAD COMMITS AND DELIVERS: FARM MACHINERIES AWARDED TO FARMERS IN APAYAO

February 21, 2018

STA. MARCELA, APAYAO – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) National Program Management Office (NPMO) enjoin the Province of Apayao (Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)) in its 23rd Founding Anniversary during the awarding of farming machineries to the SAAD beneficiaries (celebrated this year on the 11th of February).

The event, graced with a fair weather, was led by Apayao Provincial Governor Hon. Elias "Butz" C. Bulut, Jr. and Congresswoman Hon. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang. Also present were Municipal Mayors Hon. Rolly U. Guiang (Sta. Marcela) with his wife Mrs. Rizza Tesalona-Guiang, Hon. Hector Revel

Pascua (Pudtol), Hon. Rodolfo B. Juan (Flora), and Hon. Martin Lucero Lawat (Calanasan). Providing support was Provincial Agriculturist (PA) Prudencio G. Bosing, and the DA, namely: SAAD-NPMO Operations Cluster Head, Ms. Fe E. Ybanez; Regional Executive Director (RED) for CAR Narciso A. Edillo, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Ms. Digna Villanueva, Provincial Coordinator (PC) Warlito C. Madamba, and other SAAD NPMO, RPMSO, and PPMO staff.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 interventions costing a grand total of Php 12,638,000.00 is comprised of two (2) units of rice combine harvesters and 4WD tractors; 17 multi-purpose threshers and corn shellers; and 18 units of rice and corn hand tractors. These were allocated to all seven (7) municipalities in Apayao (Calanasan, Conner, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, and Sta. Marcela), which are all catered by the SAAD Program since 2017.

Representative to the Lone District of Apayao Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, emphasized that the celebration that the Yapayaos are having is not only a celebration but, along with it, is the improvement of each municipality, stressing that it is during these moments that the townspeople can show their unity. Also, to her, the vast lands of Apayao is its treasure.

According to RED Edillo, the average age of farmers is 58 years old. Ms. Ybanez, on the other hand, stressed in her speech to encourage the youth [that] there is money in farming. RED Edillo further inspires that “we should not forget [to do] research in order to develop a technology that is suitable in Apayao.”

Governor Butz encourages the farmers towards ‘Market Tourism’ and develop a product that tourists can bring home

while Hon. Rodolfo B. Juan suggests a sense of ownership on the part of the farmers.’

Say-am (Isnag* for ‘Fiesta’) Apayao commemorates the province’s founding anniversary in 1995. The festivities (which includes boot, product presentations, cook fest, float, talent competitions, among other rich and colorful activities) ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD HOLDS MUNICIPAL-WIDE CONSULTATIONS IN SINDANGAN AND SIAYAN

February 21, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Municipal-wide consultations in Sindangan and Siayan were held to determine the opportunities in line with strengthening the Department of Agriculture–Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) interventions for 2019-2022. The separate sessions were held in the Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO) of Sindangan, and a training center in

Siayan on February 13 and 19, 2018, respectively.

Team SAAD briefly discussed the Program’s objectives to its new partners and the mapping done of its 2017-2018 interventions. The SAAD Program interventions possibly suited for years 2019-2022 were also determined.

The new SAAD beneficiaries were also identified and oriented about the Program and are set for profiling and geotagging.

Sindangan and Siayan are two (2) of the current twenty-seven (27) covered municipalities in Zamboanga del Norte, one of the provinces catered by the SAAD Program in its onset in year 2017.

DA-SAAD is a brainchild project of DA Secretary Emmanuel “Manny” Piñol which aims to help increase the income of poor farmers coming from the poorest provinces of the country, as part of the thrusts of President Rodrigo Duterte to increase food production and reduce poverty in the Philippines. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD CONTINUES THE ISLAM PROJECT DISTRIBUTION IN DATU SAUDI AMPATUAN



March 1, 2018

MAGUINDANAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Maguindanao distributed 550 heads of mallard ducks and 100 200-kg bags of feeds, for 25 beneficiaries from Barangay Ki tango in the municipality of Datu Saudi Ampatuan on February 6, 2018.

The distribution of SAAD Maguindanao is in cooperation with the Office of Provincial Agriculturist, Municipal Agriculture Office, Municipal Local Government Unit, & Barangay Local Government Units.

Vice Mayor Datu Rasul Sangki expressed gratitude to the SAAD on behalf of his constituents and the Mayor of the municipality of Datu Saudi Ampatuan. He stated: “We are very much thankful for this project, ISLAM Project, despite the negative image of our municipality. My role is to take it as a challenge to encourage others to put more businesses and projects in our place by instilling Peace and Order. Let us all face the challenge and trust ALLAH, Insha Allah!” ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

DATU ABDULLAH SANGKI RECEIVES AGRI COMMODITIES FROM SAAD MAGUINDANAO



March 1, 2018

ILOILO CITY – Five hundred fifty (550) mallard ducks, one hundred twenty-five (125) goats, and one hundred (100) bags of feeds was distributed to (25) beneficiaries from Barangay Kaya-kaya, Municipality of Datu Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program on February 05, 2018.

Barangay Kaya-kaya is remote, due to the geographic conditions of the area and thus difficult to reach by government projects. This is one of the reasons why it was chosen as part of the Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Assistance for Maguindanao (ISLAM) Project 2017 of the SAAD program.

On the momentous event, Mr. Edris Sangki, the Association of Barangay Councils (ABC) President of Datu Abdullah Sangki, gave emphasis on how the commodities can help the beneficiaries. He stated, as translated from the Maguindanao dialect: "These serve as your capital. So, I'm encouraging you to manage it well. In addition, let us work together to be progressive." ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SAAD MAGUINDANAO CONDUCTS 3-DAY CONTINUOUS DISTRIBUTION FOR ISLAM PROJECT 2017

March 1, 2018

MAGUINDANAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Maguindanao conducted a 3-day continuous distribution of interventions for the Integrated Sustainable Livelihood Assistance for Maguindanao (ISLAM) Project 2017 at Barangay Nekitan, Datu Odin Sinsuat; Barangay Kiga, North Upi; and Barangay Romongab, South Upi in Maguindanao last February 7 to 9, 2018.

The said project was derived from the concept of "APAT DAPAT", wherein the twenty-five (25) beneficiaries in each municipality can receive a package of four (4) commodities such as Goat (Upgraded Breed), Chicken (Free range native), Mallard Duck, and Vegetables.

The 75 farmer-beneficiaries of the said three (3) municipalities

received a total of 1,650 heads of mallard ducks and 300 200-kg bags of feeds which includes 150 bags of pre-layer and 150 bags of pre-pallet.

The ISLAM Project 2017 of SAAD Maguindanao will distribute interventions to eight (8) pioneer municipalities of Maguindanao for the other commodities until March 9, 2018. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD NORTH COTABATO DISTRIBUTES 400 HEADS OF MALLARD DUCKS IN PIGCAWAYAN

March 1, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – A total of 400 heads of mallard duck was distributed by the Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) North Cotabato to the beneficiaries of two (2) farmer associations – the OFW Association and Midpapan Farmers Association.

Each association received 200 heads of mallard duck at Pigcawayan, North Cotabato last February 19, 2018. Together with OFW Association and the Midpapan Farmers Association, there are three (3) association beneficiaries who will also receive the same commodities in March 2018. These are People with Disability Association, Skylab Driver's Association, and Bagong Pag-asa Credit Cooperative.

As a part of the turnover ceremony, social preparation was conducted for the five (5) farmer association beneficiaries by SAAD staff headed by Provincial Coordinator Jerry W. Tingson to assess the farmers' readiness to accept the project. Also provided was a little technique in mallard duck farming and discussion on the sustainability of the project by farmers' association.

Engr. Milagros Casis, DA-12 Regional

Executive Director, gave an encouraging message to the farmers and details on the SAAD program. She acknowledged each farmers' association president for leading their organizations, and the Office of Municipal Agriculturist, Barangay Councils, and SAAD Coordinators for facilitating the program.

The farmer-beneficiaries gave their appreciation on the interventions they received from DA-SAAD including the action of Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol for the changes in Department of Agriculture. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

PANGINABUHAN SA MGA MAG-UUMA: SAAD NORTH COTABATO GIVES GILTS TO PIGCAWAYAN BENEFICIARIES

March 1, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD)-North Cotabato turned over 10 heads of gilts, ranging 70-75 kilograms each, to the farmer-beneficiaries of Malu-ao Lowland Upland Integrated Farmers Association (MULFA) of Brgy. Malu-ao, Pigcawayan, North Cotabato last February 21, 2018.

The commodities that the association received are intended for their multiplier farm livelihood project. In line with this, SAAD-North Cotabato conducted a social preparation activity for the beneficiaries of MUL FA on the same day, to help ensure the sustainability of the livelihood project given to them.

SAAD staff led by Ricky P. Lagdamin, Area Coordinator, together with Jerry W. Tingson, Provincial Coordinator, facilitated the turn-over ceremony with the cooperation of the Malu-ao Local Government Unit.

The farmer-beneficiaries of MUL FA showed their appreciation for the interventions they received from the SAAD, and to the activeness of Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel "Manny" F. Piñol and Regional Executive Director Engr. Milagros C. Casis. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



SAAD CULMINATES QGIS AND ODK TRAININGS FOR THE ITS

March 1, 2018

BOHOL – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) National Program Management Office (NPMO) Information Technology (IT) Cluster conducted an Advanced Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) Training and Introduction to Free and Open Source Mobile Data Gathering System last 5-9 February 2018 in Alta Bohol Garden Resort and Convention Center, San Isidro, Bacayon, Bohol. The training was hosted by DA-RFO 7 and was participated by the SAAD ITs from DA-Regional Field Offices (RFO) CAR, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12.

In her opening message, SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan, discussed the significance of mapping and geotagging in the program. Geo-tagging is a process of adding geographical identification marks like latitude and longitude. It can help users find a wide variety of location-specific information from a device. It also provides users the location of the content of a given picture while geo-mapping is a visual representation of the geographical location of geo-tagged assets layered on top of map or satellite imagery.

Director San Juan also encouraged each IT staff to strive hard to learn the QGIS and Open Data Kit (ODK) applications so that it would be much easier for them to geotag and profile

the beneficiaries. She also thanked the DA-Information and Communications Technology Service (DA-ICTS) team for their assistance in the training.

Mr. Marvin Segovia, head of SAAD IT Cluster, presented the rationale and background of the training. He mentioned the importance of the QGIS, ODK, and geotagging in the SAAD Program. According to Mr. Segovia, its importance is to capacitate the SAAD IT staff on creating their maps for their respective provinces. "We need GIS to help analyze and monitor the beneficiaries data visually through maps".

Ms. Jessa Honeylet Manuel-Fong, IT staff of Region 12, mentioned that the GIS training will be useful for their monitoring. On the other hand, Mr. Francel Mero (Region 8 IT staff), thinks that the training is a powerful tool for the monitoring of beneficiaries. Further, he also thanked the ICTS for teaching them and hoped that they will not forget their learnings during the training.

The training ended with an open forum and the presentation of certificates of the participants as well as the resource speakers. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza)



SAAD ORIENTS BOHOL FOR 2019 IMPLEMENTATION



March 2, 2018

BACLAYON, BOHOL – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program will be implemented in Bohol in the year 2019. This is why the National Program Management Office (NPMO) oriented the regional implementers about community logical framework (logframe) and multi-year planning (MYP) on February 5-9, 2018.

The event was attended by the Municipal Agriculturists and some barangay officials from Bien Unida, Buenavista, Getafe, Pres. Carlos P. Garcia and Mabini; the Provincial Agriculturist, Mr. Larry M. Pamugas; and SAAD Regional Support Management Support Office (RPMO) staff, headed by Engr. Eugene Cahiles. In his welcome message, Mr. Pamugas thanked the Department of Agriculture and President Rodrigo Duterte for including the province of Bohol in the SAAD Program.

On her part, SAAD NPMO Operations Lead Ms. Fe Ybañez explained what the SAAD Program is all about, which is helping poor and unreached farmers.

Engr. Cahiles then presented the SAAD Bohol proposal for 2019.

On the other hand, for the SAAD-BFAR implementation, mud crab production and fattening, and fishing gears were proposed.

On the orientation and workshop sessions, the community log frame was headed by Mr. Ulysses Lustria, Jr. and Mr. Justin dela Rueda. Later, the multi-year plan was handled by Ms. Kristine Eusebio.

Some concerns were tackled regarding the project proposals, such as the policy mechanism for the carabao project that should be made to ensure sustainability and the inclusion of farm implements for carabao, as discussed by SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan.

With the tools discussed by the SAAD NPMO, it was then agreed that the RPMO 7 will call for a workshop to craft the MYPs for the SAAD Bohol. ### (Jeanelle M. Amolaza)

SAAD REGION 7 DISTRIBUTES KNAPSACK SPRAYERS IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

March 9, 2018

BAIS CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program continues to support the production needs of the farmer-beneficiaries through a mass distribution of knapsack sprayers, organized by SAAD in Sitio Cambayungon, Barangay Tagpo, Bais City, Negros Oriental on March 1, 2018.

The turnover was attended by DA-SAAD Negros Oriental staff Mr. Jasanro Amarante, together with Bais City Agriculturists, City Planning and Development Coordinator Officer, Engr. Ma. Angeles Socorro A. Banogon, as

well as the beneficiaries of the SAAD Program.

Negros Oriental is one of the first ten (10) provinces covered by the SAAD Program in 2017 to alleviate poverty through the provision of livelihood programs.

DA-SAAD is a brainchild project of DA Secretary Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol which aims to help increase the income of poor farmers coming from the poorest provinces of the country, as part of the thrusts of President Rodrigo Duterte to increase food production and reduce poverty in the Philippines. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



EASTERN SAMAR FARMERS SHOW GREAT PROGRESS ON THEIR SAAD INTERVENTIONS

March 13, 2018

GENERAL MACARTHUR, EASTERN SAMAR – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program farmer-beneficiaries from General MacArthur, Eastern Samar show great progress on their rice and swine interventions during the SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) staff's monitoring, together with SAAD regional and provincial staff, on the 7th of March 2018.

Fifty-one-year-old farmer Alfredo Amoyan from Barangay San Isidro in the municipality of General MacArthur was given one sack of certified rice seeds, six sacks of organic fertilizer, two sacks of complete fertilizer, two sacks of urea, and one sack of muriate of potash. He shared that his rice plants – sowed in a 1.5-hectare land – are now in their reproductive stage-panicle initiation.

Despite the successive typhoons that affected Amoyan's crops, he said that they are healthy. He added that the complete fertilization helped the plants survive.

Amoyan said that an estimated 60 sacks of rice from SAAD will be added more to another 50 sacks of harvests in March 2018. His usual income of P10,000.00 per harvest, which happens every three months, is expected to increase to P20,000.00 to P30,000.00.

Meanwhile, 35-year-old farmer Glenelyn Borja from Barangay Binalay, who was given three piglets for fattening on the 12th of January 2018, shared that her animals are already medium-sized, weighing around 60kg. She added, "Ok sila. Malalaki na. Sabi ko nga, malapit na sila kumbagang ma-harvest. So makakatulong siya lalo na ngayon na magpapasukan." After being given 4.5 bags starter feeds and 6 bags grower feeds in December 2017, she is still set to receive more bags of grower feeds this month for supplementation.

Borja is one of the lucky residents of General MacArthur that was given a chance to become a SAAD beneficiary. "Kaya ako nakasali kasi, meron nagmimiting sa plaza habang nagtitinda ako ng gulay, mga cosmetics. Nalaman ko na may nagbibigyan daw ng baboy. Sabi ko, mabuti pa sila nandun sa listahan. Tapos one time, may pumunta... nung nakita ang kalagayan namin, isa ako sa mga nabigyan nila. Napakasarp", she said.

As consulted with the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 8 marketing group, Borja can sell her hogs after they have gained 80-110kg live weight.

Both Amoyan and Borja are thankful for



the little help they've had from SAAD Eastern Samar but that doesn't end with that. The SAAD Program doesn't only give agricultural assistance, it also educates farmers to fully hone their skills and knowledge. SAAD Eastern Samar also conducted various trainings, some incorporated climate-smart agriculture which aims to teach climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.

With the learnings Amoyan acquired from SAAD Eastern Samar's Farmers Field School Training, he is happy that he can now save a lot of his seedlings. He said, "Noon, yung pagtatanim ng palay namin ay random. Ngayon, nalaman namin na mas mabuti na gamitan ng marker, 20x20. Noon, three

sacks of seedlings sinasabod namin, ngayon isang sako na lang."

Although Borja hasn't participated in any capacity enhancement activities yet, she is willing to attend and learn about swine production and fattening technology.

With the small help that the SAAD Program gave them, Borja and Amoyan are happy and grateful to the implementers for providing them agricultural inputs without cost. Borja said, "Sa SAAD na tumutulong sa mga mahihirap, salamat dahil isa siya na programa na talagang tumutulong sa mga mahihirap na kagaya ko. Sana mas malawak pa ang kanilang matutulungan." ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD REGION 8 TARGETS TO OBLIGATE AND DISBURSE 90% BY MIDYEAR 2018

March 13, 2018

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE – “I think hindi imposible na target namin ang maging number one in the SAAD areas in terms of physical (distribution) and financial utilization”, said Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Region 8 Focal Person Dr. Andrew Rodolfo T. Orais.

With a 97% obligation rate and a low disbursement rate in 2017, SAAD Program implementers in the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) 8 shared that they have learned from their previous experience that is why they aim to obligate and disburse at least 90% of their FY2018 fund by midyear.

Dr. Orais said that they have to shorten the time of implementation by improving their strategies and efficiency in their delivery system. They also plan to reserve the last quarter of the year for the preparation of their 2019 implementation.

The provinces of Northern, Eastern & Western Samar from Region 8 are among the 10 priority provinces of the SAAD Program in the year 2017. For this year, another two provinces from the region were included in the SAAD Program, which are Leyte and Southern Leyte.

The said provinces are inhabited by families with income way below the poverty threshold in their respective

provinces. One example is Alfredo Amoyan and his family from Barangay San Isidro, General MacArthur, Eastern Samar.

Alfredo Amoyan and his wife Mr. Amoyan is a SAAD farmer-beneficiary of Eastern Samar's rice production enhancement project, wherein he was given one sack of Certified Seeds (CS) Bigante variety, six sacks of organic fertilizer, two sacks of complete fertilizer, two sacks of urea, and one sack of muriate of potash. His family's average monthly income is about Php 4,000.00, which is below the poverty threshold income of Php 9,536.00 for a family of five in Eastern Samar.

With this reality, SAAD Region 8 continuously strives harder to help their farmer-beneficiaries be uplifted from poverty by providing them with agricultural livelihood interventions and by socially preparing them through trainings.

An improved way to socially prepare Region 8 farmers

As a typhoon-stricken area, Dr. Orais said that they are trying to integrate the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) concept in their region's SAAD Program to better prepare their farmers when calamities hit.

“Being the AMIA focal person, nakikita ko yung importance na unti-unting ime-mainstream naten ang mga climate-resilient agriculture practices sa farming activity ng SAAD beneficiaries,” Dr. Orais said, as he saw the need for adapting AMIA's mission in the SAAD.

At this point, with the recent deliveries of their agricultural interventions – such as rice, swine, and chicken – Dr. Orais can now see the difference, though little, that the SAAD brings to Region

8's farmers. He said, “The way SAAD implements now, nafi-feel namin na very happy ang mga partners (farmers) naten kasi well-informed sila about the program. Halos ma-memorize na nila ang SAAD kasi madali dahil it means promise.”

SAAD Region 8 intends to deliver their interventions earlier not only to achieve their 90% obligation and disbursement by midyear 2018 but also to create an immediate impact on the lives of the farmers. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

26 ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE PARTNER BENEFICIARY-FARMERS RECEIVE LIVELIHOOD SUPPORT

March 13, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) delivers livelihood support to twenty-six (26) partner-beneficiary farmers in Barangays Dilawa, Sikitan, Luz Villa, and Sta. Fe (all from the municipality of Piñan) in Zamboanga del Norte on February 20, 2018.

Zamboanga del Norte has a Poverty Incidence (PI) rate of 41.1% (among families) based on the 2015 survey of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA), thus making it among the priority provinces of the SAAD Program for 2017. Zamboanga del Norte's economy depends mainly on agriculture with majority productions on coconut, rice, as well as corn.

The recently-distributed interventions included peanut seeds, Open

Pollinated Variety (OPV) corn seeds, fertilizer, and a Heifer carabao for each partner-beneficiary farmer. Other project components included knapsack sprayers, plows, and harrows.

DA-SAAD is a brainchild project of DA Secretary Emmanuel “Manny” Piñol which aims to increase the income of poor farmers coming from the poorest provinces of the country, as part of the thrusts of President Rodrigo Duterte to increase food production and reduce poverty in the Philippines. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD FARMERS' CORNER: IRENE PURISIMA AND TATA PUMBAYA

March 13, 2018

*"Masaya kaming lahat kasi
alam namin na yung nabigay
ng SAAD ay makakatulong
sa amin balang araw.
Nagpapasalamat kaming lahat
sa inyo."*

Irene Purisima, SAAD Apayao beneficiary



Irene Purisima is one of SAAD Apayao's beneficiaries of its poultry production project in the year 2017. She received 10 heads of high breed chicken in December 2017. But before that, she has been engaged with SAAD since April 2017, wherein she learned about it through their municipal office in Flora.

Irene and her family's life

Before digging deeper into the status of her chickens, let's wrap up Irene and her family's life in Barangay Malubibit Sur, Flora, Apayao.

Thirty-five-year-old Irene and her 38-year-old husband, Angelito, have been farming for a long time now. They plant rice in a one-hectare land. They also raise animals, such as native chicken and hogs. They provide

farming service to other farmers as well. They do all of these to support their four children. Without a doubt, however, their annual gross income of P40,000 barely sustains their needs as a family.

Not just receiving, but also learning

In SAAD, farmers don't just receive agricultural interventions; they also get socially prepared by undertaking seminars, trainings, and technological demonstrations. Irene has participated in SAAD Apayao's Farmers' Field School, where she learned more about taking care of poultry animals.

"Nakatulong talaga yun. Natuto kami paano mag alaga ng manok, paano linisan, pakainin. Lahat natutunan namin."

Due to a little amount of money her family earns, Irene only confines all her chickens in a makeshift, small wooden cage – which may affect the health of the animals. Fortunately, all of her chickens are in tip-top shape! Though, if ever they get sick, the Apayao local government unit (LGU) is open to giving drugs and biologics.

More good news still in store!

Since December 2017, Irene's chickens have improved a lot. She shared that one of her chickens weigh three (3) kilograms already. Plus, she is expecting that they will lay eggs after a maximum of four months!

"Di pa nangingitlog pero inaasahan na namin yun. Hinihintay lang namin. Inaabangan na namin na makakatulong iyon. Kasi malalaki na talaga yung mga manok namin."

And if you're worried about the multiplication of these chickens, don't be! That is because the organization that Irene belongs to has also been awarded one unit of incubator. Her organization is called Rural Club Incorporation MAST Farmers' Association.

Apayao LGU, being a counterpart of SAAD Apayao, is still set to give Irene and other farmer-beneficiaries some feeds soon to support SAAD's poultry production in the province.

Struggling Lanao del Sur

For the past decade, Lanao del Sur's residents seemed to struggle more and more. It's not just considered as the poorest among all provinces in the Philippines in 2015, it is also the home of Marawi City – the center of the clashes between government forces and the Maute Group.

In the town of Butig – also a place greatly affected by the conflict with the Mautes in 2016, lies the faces of poverty in the province. Here, we can find Tata Pumbaya, a 43-year-old farmer & vegetable vendor from Barangay Bayabao. She is also a beneficiary of the province's SAAD Program.

Barely making ends meet

Pumbaya shared how her family depends on debts to survive when they were unable to plant crops, when rice and corn planting seasons are off, or when their crops were affected by calamities, pests, etc. In fact, she was a victim of fire and totally lost all of her family's crops.

Worse is, Pumbaya's family shares half of their agricultural produce income of P10,000 per harvest with the owner of the land they till and live at. Although she also plants and sells vegetables, e.g. eggplant, cabbage, tomato, and squash, as another source of livelihood, she admits it is not enough to sustain

"Nagpapasalamat ako sa Diyos na dumating ang SAAD."



Tata Pumbaya, SAAD Lanao del Sur beneficiary

the needs of her five children.

A little hope...

Pumbaya shares how genuinely glad she is when she found out about the SAAD Program and it made her even happier when she received SAAD Lanao del Sur's promised help on rice and corn production. With those simple rice seeds, corn seeds, and fertilizers, they gave her just a little more hope to give her family what they need. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD DISTRIBUTES INTERVENTIONS THROUGH THE PROVINCIAL-WIDE CORN PRODUCTION PROJECT

March 13, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Forty-four (44) Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program farmer-beneficiaries from Barangay Teresita, Municipality of Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte received farm inputs under the program's Corn Production Project on February 22, 2018.

The inputs that the farmers were able to take home were comprised of eleven (11) bags of Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) white corn and complete fertilizer, as well as urea fertilizers at 44 bags each.

The activity was supported by the Provincial Agriculturist, Ms. Celsa Gayapa, and her staff – Mr. Richard Baliling, Mr. Aggie Sumog, and Ms. Arlene Taan; and SAA-Zamboanga del Norte staff – Area Coordinator (AC) Irish Jane Mallo and Information Technologist (IT) Jeffrey Nigos. Aside from the said barangay, six (6) more municipalities are also set to receive the same inputs: Mutia, Sergio Osmeña, Sindangan, and Tampilisan with one (1) barangay each; Godod, with two (2) barangays; and Leon Postigo, with three (3) barangays. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

DA-RFO VII NOW SET TO IMPLEMENT SAAD PROJECTS IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

March 14, 2018

DUMAGUETE CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL – Half-a-million worth of check under the 2017 SAAD funds has been handed a to the Dumaguete Treasurer's Office by the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Region 7 (Regional Field Office/RFO VII), Negros Oriental on March 7, 2018. This is to support the Urban Organic Gardening Project for eight (8) Poblacion Barangays of Dumaguete City.

Witnesses include SAAD Negros Oriental staff; SAAD NPMO headed by its Operations Cluster Head, Ms. Fe Ybañez; SAAD RPMO led by its Regional Focal Person, Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles; Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO) represented by the Assistant Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Mr. Virgilio Awayan.

The activity marks the beginning of document preparation in line with the implementation of the SAAD Projects in the province of Negros Oriental. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD REGION 8 STAFF AND IMPLEMENTERS RETOOLED

March 16, 2018

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE – Some 45 personnel of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Region 8 coming from the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMO) and five Provincial Program Management Support Offices (PPMSOs) underwent a comprehensive Training on Quantum Geographical Information System (QGIS) and Geotagging on March 5–7, 2018 at the Leyte Park Resort Hotel, Tacloban City.

The knowledge and skills developed will have practical application in situating the farmer-beneficiaries and the projects they are engaged in, spread over the five provinces covered by the program. Although most of the participants had already attended similar trainings in the past, it was imperative for them to undergo this capability enhancement activity in order to have a common reference point in the context of the SAAD.

Ms. Fe Ibañez, Head of the Operations Cluster of SAAD National Program Management Office, who was present at the event, delivered an inspiring message. In it, she presented a bird's eye view of the status of SAAD Program at the national level and operational requirements that the field offices have to regularly deliver. She encouraged and inspired the

participants, reminding them of the password: TEAMWORK, even congratulating Northern Samar for being the first province to liquidate FY 2016 and 2017 downloaded funds.

The resource person, Engr. John Arnel Manalo, together with Mr. Ralph Mancio, GIS Data Officer of Philippine Rural Development Project from the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 8, fired the first salvo, lecturing about Applied Geotagging Tools (AGTs) and their uses. He related the history of the technology and highlighted its importance in monitoring community livelihood/enterprise. The attendees, endowed with unbridled and infectious enthusiasm, engaged in hands-on geotagging activity within the vicinity of the venue. Their outputs were immediately processed afterward, and drawbacks were discussed and as well as how to counter them.

Next, Mr. Arnel Nombre, GIS Focal Person of the DA Region 8, took on the topic, Online Data Kit (ODK). A kit is a handy tool in farmers' profiling where

vital information about beneficiaries – the project they are involved with, commodity details, their organization, etc. are stored and easily accessed. With data they brought from their respective areas, participants readily applied their learning.

Finally, Mr. Nombre introduced the Quantum GIS topic. This innovative feature is useful during report presentation where colorful illustrations could facilitate in locating features of the program speedily and effortlessly. The training was offered as a package of technologies because, without the other two, GIS alone would not result in presenting a complete picture of the SAAD program.

The knowledge and skills acquired by the participants are indispensable in the task of monitoring and evaluation, and at this age of advanced technology and fast-paced lifestyles, they would be most useful to the implementers even beyond their engagement with SAAD program. ### (Michael Dabuet)



SAAD REGION 7 HOLDS FIRST ASSESSMENT MEETING WITH CITY AND MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURISTS

March 16, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Department of Agricultural (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Region VII (Regional Field Office/RFO VII) holds its First Assessment Meeting in Plaza Maria Luisa Suites Inn, Bishop Epifanio Surban St., Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental on March 6, 2018.

SAAD Negros Oriental staff, SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSSO) headed by the Regional Focal Person (FP) Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles, Jr., Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO) represented by the Assistant Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Mr. Virgilio Awayan, together with Municipal and City Agriculturists in Negros Oriental, met to discuss the progress of identifying and profiling SAAD beneficiaries for 2018 as well as the on-going distribution of interventions for 2017.

Zamboanguita Municipal Agriculturist Office (MAO) raised why their municipality wasn't included in the Program. FP Engr. Cahiles, Jr. clarified that only the top 10 poorest municipalities are included in the Program.

Negros Oriental is one of the approved priority provinces for 2017-2022 SAAD Program implementation chosen based

on the poverty statistics report of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) in 2012. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FARMER-BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE BANANA PLANTLETS FROM SAAD



March 20, 2018

SIAYAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Office (RFO) IX provided five thousand (5000) banana plantlets to Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) farmer-beneficiaries in the province of Zamboanga del Norte, in support of their 2017 Banana Production project.

Five-hundred (500) plantlets were allocated per beneficiary situated in three (3) barangays of Siayan in Zamboanga del Norte namely, Macasing, Seriac, and Litolet on January 23 – 25, 2018.

As facilitated by SAAD Area Coordinator (AC) Marisol M. Opinio,

and with the help of the Municipal Agriculturist and technician from the Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO), the distribution was done in the respective Barangays' Pangkabuhayan Centers.

The banana plantlets were sowed one week after distribution to the farmer beneficiaries. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD PROGRAM IN NEGROS ORIENTAL UNDERGOES EVALUATION BY SPCMAD

March 20, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program interventions were assessed by the Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD) in the Province of Negros Oriental on March 13 – 15, 2018.

The SPCMAD covered Brgy. Mayabon (Zamboanguita), Brgys. 4, Datag, and Canaway (Siaton) on their first day; Brgys. Bal-os and Bongalonan (Basay), and Brgy. Caranoche (Sta. Catalina) on their next day; and Brgys. Tambulan and Jilabangan (Tayasan) on the third.

Assisted by the staff of SAAD Negros Oriental and the Local Government Unit (LGU) support staff, the SPCMAD personnel interviewed selected beneficiaries (including Farmers' Association Presidents) who received the interventions.

Negros Oriental is one of the first 10 provinces covered by the SAAD Program in 2017 to alleviate poverty through the provision of livelihood programs. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN 4 MUNICIPALITIES IN OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

March 26, 2018

SAN JOSE, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO

– Two more municipalities from the province of Occidental Mindoro in Region IV-B will be covered by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the year 2019, which is an addition to the initial two municipalities identified as potential beneficiaries. The decision was made in a SAAD orientation-workshop for the program implementers in Occidental Mindoro on March 14-15, 2018 in Sikatuna Beach Hotel, San Jose, Occidental Mindoro.

Occidental Mindoro concerned officials were very happy that their request to include the municipalities of Abra de Ilog and Paluan in addition to Magsaysay and Santa Cruz was granted. The two municipalities were added based on poverty level, the number of indigenous people, need assessment, and project sustainability.

The four municipalities are considered as areas of the province with the highest poverty incidence among families as recorded in the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) with Santa Cruz as the highest at 35.2%, followed by Magsaysay at 34.3%, Abra de Ilog at 32.3%, and

Paluan at 29.6%.

The province of Occidental Mindoro, which has a 36.34% poverty incidence among families based on PSA 2015, is one of the 10 additional priority provinces of the SAAD Program in 2019. The province occupies the western half of the island of Mindoro. It is endowed with marine beauty from its virgin forests, white sand beaches, islands and islets rich in marine life, coral gardens, caves, and cascading waterfalls.

Meanwhile, the workshop intends to orient the involved local government units of SAAD Occidental Mindoro. Formulation of 2019 plans and a 2019-2022 multi-year plan were also conducted. Key SAAD implementers of the province laid out their timeline for this year, as well.

Beforehand, the SAAD National Program Management Office staff, headed by Director Bernadette F. San Juan, has also visited the office of Occidental Mindoro Vice Governor Peter J. Alfaro on March 13, 2018. He stressed the need for inter-agency convergence. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD REGION VII FACILITATES TRAINING ON UPLAND RICE FOR NEGROS ORIENTAL FARMERS

March 26, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Regional Field Office (RFO) VII held an Upland Rice Production Specialized Training in two barangays of Tayasan in Negros Oriental, Barangay Tambulan on March 19 to 20, 2018 and Pinalubngan on March 21 to 22, 2018.

Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) personnel, Ms. Virginia G. Tadiaman, Mr. Roy Serion, and Ms. Clarence Cabrera, elaborated on different topics such as Pest Control, Land Preparation, Values Formation, as well as Leadership.

In addition, SAAD Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo together with SAAD staff discussed their LogFrame covering the upcoming DA – SAAD projects such as on corn mill and hybrid goat.

Also present in the activities held were Local Government Unit (LGU) support staff, with Tanlad Farmers Association (FA), Pinocawan, and Pinalubngan beneficiaries. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD CONDUCTS GEOTAGGING TRAINING FOR DA REGION 12 IMPLEMENTERS

April 2, 2018

KORONADAL CITY, SOUTH COTABATO

– The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) – Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Office XII (RFO XII) conducted a training on geotagging and mobile-based monitoring application to fifty (50) personnel of the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) and four (4) more from the Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) held at the Viajera Dine and Cafe, Hotel de Viajera, Morales, Koronadal City on March 26 to 28, 2018. They were all welcomed by DA-RFO XII Regional Executive Director (RED) Milagros Casis.

Before the activity began, DA-RFO XII SAAD Focal Person Ms. Cecilia A. Parcon distributed smartphones to concerned SAAD staff, especially the Area Coordinators (ACs), and Information Technologist (ITs), in Sarangani, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and North Cotabato.

The resource person, SAAD-National Program Management Office (NPMO)'s



IT Cluster Head, Mr. Marvin Segovia, discussed about beneficiary profiling concerns and formally introduced the Open Data Kit (ODK) to the training participants. The kit serves as a handy tool in the farmers' profiling stage wherein vital information about beneficiaries such as the project they are involved with, their organization, commodity details, etc. are stored and easily accessed.

Planning Officer I, as well as Geo-mapping and Governance Unit (GGU) Master, Mr. James P. Opre, lectured the participants on Applied Geotagging Tools (AGTs) and its uses. He also related the topic with the history of technology and highlighted its importance in monitoring community livelihood/enterprise.

The learnings gathered from the technical training shall be useful in the geo-tagging and profiling of SAAD beneficiaries and interventions. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SECRETARY PIÑOL COMMITS TO OUR IP FARMERS IN SARANGANI



April 2, 2018

MALAPATAN, SARANGANI – The Department of Agriculture (DA) More than 700 indigenous peoples of different tribes from the provinces of Sarangani, North and South Cotabato converged during the IP Leaders and Farmers' Summit with the theme, "Indigenous Peoples in agriculture for sustainable development". The event was held in Malapatan Gymnasium, Malapatan, Sarangani on March 23, 2018.

Hon. Alfonso M. Sincoy, Sr., Malapatan Mayor, in his opening message, said that it is a significant event to address the needs and uplift the lives of our IP farmers and fisherfolk. He also stressed the importance of considering the environment as they engage in new technology and new farming techniques.

The Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, as a guest of honor, emphasized that DA will focus more on Pres. Duterte's objective to "provide Available and Affordable Food to my People."

During the forum, IP chieftains and

farmers from different groups addressed their agriculture-related concerns to the DA Secretary. Problems with farm-to-market roads, access to quality inputs, and tenure status, among others were reported. IP leaders and farmers added that these issues hinder them to produce an optimal level and realize a more decent profit.

In response to the issues raised, several projects were proposed by the IP groups to the Secretary. Project proposals for agro-production (upland rice, abaca, cacao, coffee and coconut), for livestock raising (goat, chicken, and carabao), for post-harvest (corn sheller, solar dryer) and for fisheries (boats) gained approval provided that there is proper validation.

Sec. Piñol also spearheaded the turnover of interventions from the Department of Agriculture Regional Office 12 amounting to PHP 300,000.00 which include rice and corn seeds, various planting materials, organic fertilizers, and abaca seedlings.
(Jeanelle M. Amoloz)

DA-SAAD TURNS OVER 10 FLOATING TILLERS WORTH PHP 60,000 EACH

April 2, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Ten (10) floating tillers with a total amount of Php 600,000.00 were received by eight (8) Farmer Associations (FA) from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) at the Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO), Lo-oc, Dumaguete City in Negros Oriental on the 7th of March 2018.

The associations and the number of units they received were, namely:

- Tambulan FA, Jilabangan FA, Lag-it FA, Pindahan FA, Tanlad FA, and Siaton municipal federated association – one (1) unit each; and

- CATACOFA and Zafia FA – two (2) units each.

Ang akong saad sa SAAD ("Ang aking pangako sa SAAD") was recited by the attendees in line with the ceremonial act of releasing balloons spearheaded by DA-SAAD RFO VII Office in Charge – Provincial Coordinator (OIC – PC) Jaypee S. Soldivillo.

As facilitated by the DA-RFO VII team, the engines were inspected and tested with the help of the Regional Agricultural Engineering Group prior to turnover to its intended beneficiaries.
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA SEC PIÑOL TURNS OVER PHP 3M SAAD INTERVENTIONS TO ZANORTE FARMERS

April 3, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel “Manny” Piñol led the turnover of agricultural interventions in Olingan, Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte, through his brainchild project called the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) on March 22 – 23, 2018.

The Farmer Associations (FAs) that received Php 3-Million worth of various agricultural inputs and machineries (including water pump – open source, hermitic cocoon, collapsible dryer case, shredder machine, rice thresher, and hand tractor) were RG Macias FA (Sindangan), Titik Indigenous People Communal Irrigator and Upland FA (Sindangan), La Libertad FA (Gutalac), Matunoy FA (Gutalac), Sim Irrigators FA (Gutalac), San Isidro Lowland Rice FA (Gutalac), Sebod FA (Roxas), Nacibac Mountain Side FA (Leon B. Postigo), Lawigan FA (Labason), Gabu FA (Labason), Labukanan FA (Kalawit), La Libertad Agricultural Producers Association (La Libertad), Sitio Tuwayon FA (La Libertad), and Diwan Vegetable FA (Dipolog City).

The SAAD Program aims to help increase the income of poor farmers coming from the poorest provinces of the country, as part of the thrusts of President Rodrigo Duterte to increase food production and reduce poverty in



the Philippines.

The aim of DA-SAAD Regional Field Office IX (RFO-IX) is to build basic agriculture activities for at least a hundred and thirty (130) communities. SAAD Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Ronillo Dusaban shares their development master plan as he stressed that cutting edge of [the] SAAD Program is the strength it has which are its development workers.

As an area development specialist for the longest time, PC Dusaban envisions [the SAAD] as a contribution that is unique to the DA ‘brand’ at this time, given that the Philippines is an agricultural community. Further, he says that it is a natural thing as a community development worker to see how they can best serve the hard-to-reach people, as the outcomes are the things

that money can’t buy.

As for the beneficiaries in Zamboanga del Norte, Dusaban shares that, ‘SAAD does not just give, SAAD is also trying to give capacities through trainings on organization and management, technologies, as well as values formation.

“We have to take care of the people who feed the nation,” said PC Ronillo Dusaban, as he stresses the importance of an old quote about teaching a man how to fish to feed him for a lifetime.

The said turnover coincided with the 6th National Rice Technology Forum (NRTF) held in Barangay Olingan, Dipolog City, an event hosted by DA-RFO IX. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

A LOOK INTO SAAD EASTERN SAMAR’S RICE AND GOAT PRODUCTION PROJECTS

April 5, 2018

QUINAPONDAN, EASTERN SAMAR – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program and Special Projects Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD) of the Department of Agriculture looked into the status of SAAD’s implementation in the province of Eastern Samar on March 22, 2018.

Staff from the national, regional, and provincial levels visited Barangays Sta. Margarita and Bagtie in the municipality of Quinapondan to check the enhanced rice and sustainable production projects of the province’s SAAD farmer-beneficiaries.

In Barangay Sta. Margarita, SAAD and SPCMA staff met 47-year-old Rufino Habagat, Jr., president of Sta. Margarita Farmers’ Association, busy harvesting his crops planted in a one-hectare tenancy land. An estimate of 50 cavans, each weighing 50kg, has been harvested on that day, however, he will be sharing more than half of those to two landlords. In his previous harvest last season, he only harvested 45 sacks. He plans to sell 10 cavans of rice to the market.

Habagat, Jr. shared how difficult his family’s life. Some of his five children

stopped attending school due to financial problems. Aside from farming, he is also a fisherman and he usually goes to the sea three times a week. He earns Php 200 per 2kg of fish.

Aside from Habagat, Jr., seven other members of the association – Miguel Lumagbas, Tomas Somono, Roberto Habagat, Ernesto Cabarillo, Hernando Pillero Saturnino Macawili, and Jose Parizal – were also present that day. All have received one sack of certified rice seeds, six sacks of organic fertilizers, three sacks of complete fertilizers, muriate of potash, and urea. Majority of them don't own their half-hectare farmlands. They also expect that their yield will increase, just like Somono, who anticipates a harvest of 20 cavans compared to the usual 12 cavans.

Some members also attended a training conducted by the local farmer technician on December 22, 2017, wherein they learned about the application of fertilizers, land preparation, and the use of 20 x 20 marker when planting. On April 6, they are about to attend a training that SAAD will conduct. As president of the association, Habagat, Jr. encouraged other members to participate, saying: "Sa kapwa ko magsasaka ngayon darating ng seminar ng SAAD umattend tayo para din sa dadag kaalaman para sa pagtatanim ng palay at para na din sa ating karagdagang kita."

They are all expecting to harvest this April 2018. Most of them use their produce for their family's food consumption. They sometimes sell two sacks of rice for their other needs. Each sack, weighing 50kg, is sold at Php

1,800 to Php 2,000.

Meanwhile, in Barangay Bagte, SAAD and SPCMA met 39 year-old Luzviminda Pabello and 66 year-old Francisco Baillo, who both received three goats each on December 2017. Pabello said, "Nung bagong dating nga po yung bigay na kambing e meron na nga pong gustong bumili. Di po pwede kasi nga po, padadamihin."

At present, one of Pabello's goats is pregnant. Although all of her goats have coughs and colds due to the cold weather, she exclaimed that there is a veterinarian from government checking up on them. It is not her first time raising animals. In fact, she already bred chickens, pigs, and carabaos. Both Pabello and Baillo have other sources of income, mostly from copra production in a land they don't own. They harvest every three months and they share 50% of their yield to the landlord.

Pabello also plants rootcrops, such as gabi, kamoteng-kahoy, kamote, and the like. She was able to sell Php 400 per can of gabi, which is being harvested every year. She also sells Php 100 per can of kamoteng kahoy, which can be harvested twice in a year.

On the other hand, Baillo has a backyard vegetable garden in which he plants patsay, eggplant, and pumpkin. He is able to harvest 200 wraps of patsay, which can be sold at Php 15 per wrap.

Although they have other sources of income, they are still one of the poorest of the poor in the province; not being able to meet the Php 8,391 monthly

poverty threshold for a family of five in Eastern Samar.

They are about to receive napier grass for pasture purposes, as part of the SAAD's Sustainable Goat Production soon.

Most of the 15 other beneficiaries who are also part of the project had goat fatalities due to a disease called orf. Orf is an exanthemous disease caused by a parapox virus and occurring primarily in sheep and goats. Only Pabello and Baillo's goats haven't suffered the same incident.

SAAD Eastern Samar Provincial Coordinator Jeanrose G. Basilan explained, "Yung delivery po e saktong December, e malamig po dito tapos maulan pa kaya marami po talagang namatay (at nagkasakit)."

Despite the unfortunate events, they are still thankful for what SAAD Eastern Samar had given them. Pabello said, "Nagpapasalamat po ako sa SAAD na naging benepisyo po kami nila, tulad po nito na nagbigay sila ng livelihood para sa amin. Karagdagang pangkabuhayan naming na balang araw e mapagkukunan naming ng pinansyal."

Sta. Margarita Farmers' Association president Rufino Habagat, Jr. also professed his gratitude to the government, saying "Nagpapasalamat po kami kay Pres. Duterte na nagbigay ng ganitong programa, nagbigay ng mga input sa mga magsasaka. Madami na po kasing naitutulong ang programa ngunit noon po maliit ang kita ngayon po nadagdagan na po ito." ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



Luzviminda Pabello



Francisco Baillo



Sta. Margarita Farmers' Association

SAAD APAYAO DELIVERS FARM MACHINERIES TO ITS BENEFICIARY IN CALANASAN

April 17, 2018

CALANASAN, APAYAO – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) in CAR (Cordillera Administrative Region) facilitated the turnover of farm machineries to farmer-beneficiaries in Calanasan, Apayao on March 2018.

A hand tractor and a corn sheller each went to the Agbiag Macalino and Pagbiyagan Farmers Associations (FAs) while a hand tractor unit has been received by Naguilian Pantawid FA in the municipality of Calanasan in Apayao. These FAs were represented by their respective presidents, Mr. Ariel Bawat (Barangay Macalino), Ms. Criselda Ulang (Brgy. Naguilian), and Ms. Lydia Casigay (Brgy Namaltugan).

The FA Presidents, in behalf of their association members, expressed their profound gratitude to DA in the Province of Apayao, for realizing and fulfilling their dreams to have their own modern farming equipment,

"...[N]agkatotoo na po [ang] aming panaginip na mabigyan kami ng ganitong makinarya at tunay nga pong napakalaking tulong nito sa amin upang mapataas ang aming kita at mapaunlad ang aming kabuhayan na mga magsasaka."

SAAD was launched in Apayao in 2016, aiming to alleviate poverty through the provision of livelihood programs. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Le Ann A. Aguirre)



DA-SAAD SIKUIJOR STREAMLINES PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNTIL 2019

April 18, 2018

SIKUIJOR – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the Province of Siquijor (Region VII) held its consultation workshop for the Proposed 2019 SAAD Projects in Helen, Larena, Siquijor on April 11, 2018.

SAAD was represented by its PPMSO and RPMSO staff led by the Regional Focal Person for DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) VII Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles, Jr. The other attendees were DA – Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO) – Siquijor headed by Ms. Bernadith S. Bunado (ACC-II); Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (PAO) represented by its OIC – Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Lilibeth P. Caroro; Siquijor Municipal

Agriculturist Ms. Chita M. Maglinte; MAO for Enrique Villanueva Ms. Ceceil G. Hora; and their agricultural extension workers including those in the Provincial Veterinary Office.

Through reporting done per Area Coordinator (AC), the attendees were updated with the status of implementation of the SAAD Program in the Province of Siquijor for the projects under the 2018 budget, as well as consulted on the 2019 SAAD Projects to be implemented in Siquijor.

The team aims to continue the profiling and geotagging of the 2018 SAAD Program farmer-beneficiaries and conduct the remaining trainings as scheduled. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

FOUR THINGS TO EXPECT IN SAAD'S 1ST ASSESSMENT THIS APRIL 2018

April 19, 2018

The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Office (RFO) VIII will be hosting this year's Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program's 1st Quarter Assessment (QA) on April 24 to 27. Here are four things to expect in this four-day event:

First, **ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT + AWESOME VIEWS!** DA-RFO VIII strategically located SAAD's 1st QA of 2018 in an environment helpful for the holistic well-being of individuals present at the event. It will be conducted at Caluwayan Palm Island Resort & Restaurant on April 24-27, 2018, which will be participated in by some 130 staff and implementers from all SAAD Program areas in the country.

Caluwayan Palm Island Resort & Restaurant is located at Barangay Caluwayan, Marabut, Samar. It can be reached by car – a 45-minute drive from Tacloban City. The resort can also be reached directly by boat from Tacloban City wharf.

For sure, discussions in the assessment event would be intense that is why the place would be an ideal fit to balance work and mental repose. The place is an ideal ecotourism-oriented resort designed to fit as a perfect alternative place of relaxation, being surrounded by a breathtaking view of towering rock islands and islets with secluded coves and coral gardens,

truly a paradise for work and play. The resort also offers possibilities for island hopping, rock climbing, other aqua sports activities, and sightseeing.

Caluwayan Palm Island Resort & Restaurant can be reached at +63977-345-5692 or at caluwayan@g-mail.com. Participants can also contact DA-RFO VIII at +63917-309-4966 for inquiries and concerns.

Second, **MEANINGFUL DISCUSSIONS.** Participants shall expect concentrated and significant discussions for the SAAD Program in its upcoming 1st QA.

The status of each SAAD regional implementing unit's financial and physical accomplishments for the year 2018 will be presented as well as their achievements for fiscal years 2016 & 2017 and their catch-up plans.

DA's counterpart in the SAAD implementation, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, will also be there to share the highlights of their performance for the years 2018 and 2017. Harmonization of activities of both SAAD implementing agencies will also be a main concern in the discussions.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation will be attending SAAD's 1st QA to relay information and ways on how SAAD beneficiaries can

avail crop insurance.

Other discussions will revolve around SAAD beneficiaries' database and the FY 2018 Budget Accountability Report guidelines.

Third, **A TIME TO APPRECIATE THE VAST CULTURE IN SAMAR AND LEYTE.** Going to the venue, participants will pass through the famous picturesque San Juanico Bridge that connects Leyte and Samar; and the ancient town of Basey, which is famous for its unique cave and woven mat (banig). In fact, Samar has been dubbed as the "Caving Capital of the Philippines" as many international spelunkers have been drawn with its amazing caves.

Since it is just 45-minute away from Tacloban City, Leyte, there can also be a time to give prayers to those who passed away during the Typhoon Yolanda at shrines and memorials erected within the area.

Samar and Leyte are also famous for delicacies, such as moron and binagol. Also found there are Spanish-era biscuits like the corioso, roscas, podrida and pasalubong favorites like hopia de pili and delicias de pili.

Last but not the least, **ABUNDANT AGRI AND FISHERY RESOURCES.** As an agricultural province, Samar is abundant in crops such as coconut, palay, corn, cassava, camote (sweet potato), gabi (purple yam), and pineapple – which visitors could enjoy and delight in.

Samar is also the second major fishing-producing province in the

region. Smoked fish (tinapa) and mussel (tahong) are among its major industries. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



DA-SAAD APAYAO AWARDS AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTION TO SAAD FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN LUNA



April 23, 2018

LUNA, APAYAO – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) awards rice combine harvesters to farmers at the Apayao Provincial Capitol in Luna, Apayao on March 7, 2018.

DA SAAD – Apayao awarded a unit of rice combine harvester to the Midstream Livelihood Farmers Association (FA), as represented by its Vice President, Mr. Benedict Gorospe. Farming will be made easier for the hundred and sixty (160) beneficiaries from the Midstream Livelihood FA, as

the assistance can do six (6) operation varieties such as gathering, transporting, reaping, threshing, cleaning, and bagging all in just one machine.

Apayao LGU Senior Agriculturist, Mr. Rey Vicerra conducted the ceremony with the help of Luna Area Coordinator (AC), Ms. Ruby Ann Batara Vicerra.

SAAD was launched in Apayao in 2016, aiming to alleviate poverty through the provision of livelihood programs. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Le Ann A. Aguirre)

SAAD APAYAO FARMERS REGAINED HOPE DUE TO AWARDED FARM MACHINERIES

April 23, 2018

LUNA, APAYAO – A unit of hand tractor has been awarded to the BISS Farmers Association (FA) by the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) in Payanan Sports Complex, Luna, Apayao on March 6, 2018.

The FA received the agri-intervention, as represented by their President, Mr. Pedro Serquinia. It was awarded by Apayao LGU Senior Agriculturist Mr. Rey Vicerra, together with Area Coordinator of Flora and Sta. Marcela, Ms. Marjorie A. Tangliben.

Meanwhile in the municipalities of Pudtol, DA-SAAD Apayao awards interventions to five (5) more SAAD FAs—ECASAN FA (Mr. Estanislao Acob, President), CASS FA (Ms. Elizabeth Camangeg, President), SLD FA (Mr. Fernandez Licuan, President) which received a one corn sheller and one hand tractor each. Proceeding to Luna, a hand tractor unit has been received by the Midstream Livelihood FA through their Vice President, Mr. Benedict Gorospe. Upstream Livelihood FA on the other hand, received a unit of hand tractor as well as a corn sheller, as represented by their President, Ms. Girlie Miguel.

The series of awarding was successful through the help of Mr. Rey Vicerra; SAAD Apayao Area Coordinator of

Luna & Pudtol, Ms. Ruby Ann Vicerra; Agri Tech II Mr. Jeffrey Calizo and Mr. Roniel Dugay; and Municipal Agriculturist of Luna, Mr. Florencio Agustin.

Beneficiaries went home with high hopes and smiles on their faces when they received these machineries. They are hoping that farming will now get easier for them and would lead to a fruitful production and more earnings for their family.

SAAD was launched in Apayao in 2016, aiming to alleviate poverty through the provision of livelihood programs. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Le Ann A. Aguirre)



SAAD-ASSISTED MESS FARMERS ASSOCIATION GAINS AND SAVES FOR THE FUTURE

April 23, 2018

APAYAO – While walking through the loamy soils of Emiliana farms in Sta. Marcela, Apayao to meet the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) beneficiaries of rice and vegetables at Malekgeg, we sat down and met with the Association Treasurer of MESS Farmers Association (FA), Mr. Frederick Andres, as he happily told us about the awarded rice combine harvester to them by showing us the machine.

He shared that they can't accommodate all reservations due to many schedules. Later, he handed me his notebook which, though little, showed a large amount of income that they had since harvesting started this month.

I was surprised that this small notebook reflected a hundred and eighty-nine thousand (189k) income in just a week. "Ma'am, if we gain more, we will invite you to a picnic," the president, Mr. Froilan Andres, added in jest. "Sure, sa amin na 'yung entrance..." I quipped back.

Along with DA-SAAD Apayao Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Marjorie Africano Tangliben, and Administrative Assistant III (AAIII) Ms. Meliza Feliciano, we became witnesses today of the result of these farmers' hard works. ### (Le Ann A. Aguirre and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD IMPLEMENTERS TRAINING ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND PLANNING SKILLS

April 26, 2018

QUEZON CITY – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) held a five-day back-to-back workshop on Admin and Procurement, and Planning and Budget. The event, hosted by DA-SAAD – National Program Management Office (NPMO) transpired at Icon Hotel, North EDSA on April 16-20, 2018.

Beginning the first day at 2 in the afternoon after officially opening the whole program, the session on Administrative Capability Building participants from SAAD Regional Program Management Support Offices (RPMOS), as well as Provincial Program Management Support Offices (PPMSOs) are welcomed by the

Supervising Admin. Officer of the Personnel Division, Ms. Bella H. Artieda, with a topic on Personnel Management.

The open forum that ended the first day paved the way to discuss issues concerning Contract of Service (CoS) Personnel and the need for guidelines to address these concerns.

Continuing the sessions, Civil Service Commission (CSC) resource person, Ms. Heddie M. Micor, shared various topics revolving around managing and organizing meetings and other activities such as venue and physical arrangement, documentation, effective facilitation tips, and even email efficiency.

In an earlier but related session, SAAD NPMO PR & Communications Cluster Head, Mr. Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr. also echoed Ms. Micor's lecture on Complete Staff Work to the SAAD NPMO staff that empowers organization subordinates in becoming responsible with presentation of viable recommendations to their superiors. On the other hand, Administrative Assistant from the DA Records Division, Ms. Jhonalyn R. Moya, gave the participants a refresher on Records Management.

The workshop continued its third day with the resource person from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Mr. Gilbert C. Mondroy, as he laid down the terms and flowcharts under the Procurement Planning and Monitoring. OIC-Chief for Internal Affairs Division, DENR-Legal Affairs Service, Atty. Anthony Raymond M. Valencaria, also discussed the standardized bidding procedures for goods and services.

Meanwhile, DSWD-Procurement Service Director, Ms. Mary Angeline DP. Arabit-Tolentino, tackled alternative methods of procurement. She also elaborated on the community participation in procurement to arm SAAD staff with additional knowledge and skills in administrative and procurement-related activities.

The five-day workshop ended with the awarding of certificates to the participants and a closing remarks from the SAAD Program Director. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Jeanelle M. Amoloza)

SAAD SIQUIJOR INTENSIFIES FARMERS' SKILLS CORN-PEANUT PRODUCTION TRAINING

April 23, 2018

SIQUIJOR – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Regional Field Office (RFO) VII organized a capability enhancement training on corn-peanut production in different sites in the Province of Siquijor on March 7–9, March 26–28, and April 17–19, 2018.

Getting ready for the planting season, and with the purpose of equipping the SAAD farmer-beneficiaries with technical knowledge and values to be socially and effectively prepared for program implementation, several groups of farmers were trained.

The first group, consisting of 294 Corn-Peanut Production farmer-beneficiaries were trained on March 7–9, 2018, namely:

1. Cang-apa, Larena – 40 farmers
2. Ponong, Siquijor – 53 farmers
3. Enrique Villanueva – 29 farmers
4. Gabayan, Lazi – 42 farmers
5. Liloan, Maria – 47 farmers
6. Logucan, Maria – 44 farmers
7. Catulayan, San Juan – 39 farmers

On March 26–28, 266 farmer-beneficiaries received the same training, namely:

1. Nabutay, Maria – 49 farmers
2. Timbaon, San Juan – 39 farmers
3. Simacolong, Lazi – 30 farmers



4. Gabayan, Lazi – 40 farmers
5. Campalanas, Lazi – 50 farmers
6. Campalanas, Lazi – 58 farmers

Recently, 73 farmer-beneficiaries were trained on April 17–19:

1. Cang-asa, Siquijor – 48 farmers
2. Pasihagon, Siquijor – 25 farmers

The activities were sustained with the help of SAAD – Siquijor staff; DA – Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO) – Siquijor headed by the Agricultural Program Coordinating Office (APCO) Ms. Bernadith S. Bunado (ACC II); Office of the Provincial Agriculture headed by its OIC – Provincial Agriculturist Ms. Lilibeth P. Caroro; and agricultural extension workers from the Provincial and Municipal Agriculture Offices – Municipal Agriculturists Ms. Chita M.

Maglinte (Siquijor), Mr. Arnold V. Manginsay (San Juan), Mr. Jorge A. Arcaya (Larena), Ms. Erlinda Aso (OIC-MAO for Lazi), Ms. Ceceil G. Hora (Enrique Villanueva), and Mr. Danilo T. Casalta (Maria).

Project implementation scheme on Corn-Peanut Production included ideas on allocating the portion of harvest in preparation for the next cropping. Such allocation (which could be cash or in kind) can be kept by the organization's president and treasurer. This scheme can help the project's sustainability.

The farmer-beneficiaries were also acquainted with their role as beneficiaries based on the SAAD guidelines as they are also expected to be socially prepared for the implementation of the SAAD Program. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD TOP PERFORMING REGIONS COMMENDED DURING ITS NATIONAL 1ST QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT

May 3, 2018

MARABUT, SAMAR – The top three performing implementing regional offices of the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program were given commendations for their work during the program's National 1st Quarterly Assessment on April 24 to 27, 2018 in Caluwayan Palm Island Resort and Restaurant, Marabut, Samar.

DA – Regional Field Office VIII, which hosted the event, ranked first in SAAD's top performing regions with 59% obligation rate (obligated amount as of March 31, 2018 vs. total FY2018 Regional Allotment) along with new implementing regions – DA-RFO XI at 55% and DA-RFO V at 45%. DA-RFO VIII started implementing the SAAD Program in three Samar provinces in the year 2017. Two more provinces, Leyte and Southern Leyte, were added in this year's SAAD implementation. Meanwhile, DA-RFOs XI and V began their journey in the SAAD Program in FY 2018 with Compostela Valley, Catanduanes, Sorsogon, and Masbate as the SAAD provinces.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan praised the top three regions for their hard work. However, she encouraged all DA-SAAD implementing regions to do and perform more as she also reminded them of the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) annual cash-based budgeting system, which will start in FY 2019.

According to DBM, annual cash-based budgeting – as opposed to the traditional multi-year obligations-based budgeting – “limits incurring obligations and disbursing payments for goods delivered and services rendered, inspected, and accepted within the fiscal year”.

During the assessment

SAAD Region 8 Focal Person Dr. Andrew T. Orais was grateful that his region was chosen as the host of the event while DA-RFO VIII Regional Executive Director Atty. Cipriano G. Santiago gave out words of encouragement for the participants.

Aside from the status of FY 2018 Physical and Financial Accomplishments, each region presented their FY 2016 and FY 2017 summary of accomplishments as well. Most of the regions had problems with failed biddings that is why Dir. San Juan instructed them to get the contact information of other regions' suppliers with successful transactions.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the DA-Planning and Monitoring Service and the Budget Division of the DA-Financial and Management Service discussed FY 2018 Budget Accountability Report guidelines and

the process of realignment that would help SAAD in its implementation. Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, the fishery sector counterpart of DA-SAAD, presented its physical and financial outputs for FY 2017 and 2018. Harmonization between the two agencies will be made through consultative meetings. With the objective to help the poor farmers get security for their crops, SAAD has tied up with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, with their representative providing thorough instructions on how SAAD beneficiaries can avail the insurance.

Meanwhile, Dir. San Juan also mentioned about possibilities of SAAD farmers having life and accident insurance, which will be clarified in future discussions with concerned agencies.

Not only did the participants learn and share their experiences in the assessment, they enjoyed their stay as well with DA-RFO VIII laying out a non-stressful program. They were awed with Samar and Leyte's beauty, food, and culture.

Research studies for the SAAD Program

Dir. San Juan mentioned in the assessment that a formed Technical Working Group in the National Program Management Office will be conducting research studies that aim to assess the impact of the SAAD Program. The results of the studies can be used as the basis for continuing the program beyond 2022. ###



SAAD DISTRIBUTES P1.2M FARM INPUTS IN CARMEN, NORTH COTABATO



May 11, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – A total of P1.2M farm inputs was distributed by the DA's Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD)-North Cotabato to 150 farmer-beneficiaries of Malapag, Carmen, North Cotabato last May 9, 2018.

Marvin Segovia, SAAD-National Program Management Office (NPMO)'s Coordinator, gave an encouraging message to the four farmer associations and provided details on the SAAD program that will help them boost the production volume with the full support of the government through the Duterte administration.

Jerry Tingson, DA-SAAD Provincial Coordinator, mentioned that the farm inputs worth P1.2M is composed of different varieties of vegetable seeds, fertilizers, garden tools and livestock.

The project will serve as pilot demonstration of the DA's new thrust for massive organic vegetable

production with goat multiplier farm. During the event, Ma. Lourdes Salac, Agriculturist Technician, gave a presentation for the farmers and barangay officials about basic information and accessibility of all agricultural programs of the current administration.

Mary Grace Panzo, Barangay Malapag chairperson, expressed her gratitude to the SAAD on behalf of her constituents. She stated: "We are very happy and lucky that, out of 28 barangays in Carmen, Malapag has been chosen as the beneficiary of the DA SAAD project. We hope that this is not just the beginning, but still will this go further and help boost not only the farming industry but the farmers' lives as well,"

The farmer-beneficiaries expressed their appreciation on the interventions they received from DA-SAAD and to DA Region 12 Executive Director Milagros Casis and Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

SAAD DISTRIBUTES FARM INPUTS TO 650 NORTH COTABATO FARMERS

May 11, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – The Department of Agriculture's Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD)-North Cotabato distributed farm inputs to 26 Farmer Associations with a total of 650 farmer-beneficiaries in Poblacion, Pikit, North Cotabato last May 9, 2018.

The activity was conducted in cooperation with the concerned Office of the Municipal Agriculturist and Barangay Local Government Units. The total farm inputs received were: 423 shovels, 423 hand trowels, 423 hand rakes, 423 sprinklers, 1,269 pinakbet seeds in pack, 240 Urea Organic Foliar bags, and 123 Complete Vermicast bags.

The following are the 26 Farmers Associations which received the said farm inputs, namely:

- Balabac Farmers Association
- Balabac Rural Improvement Club
- Balatikan Rural Improvement Club
- Balatikan Farmers Association
- Balong Rural Improvement Club
- Barungis Farmers Association
- Batulawan Farmers Association
- Batulawan Rural Improvement Club
- Calawag Farmers Association
- Calawag Rural Improvement Club
- Catilacan Rural Improvement Club
- Catilacan Farmers Association
- Dalingaoen Farmers Association
- Dalingaoen Rural Improvement Club
- Ginatilan Farmers Association

- Ginatilan Rural Improvement Club
- GLI GLI
- INUG UG
- Ladtingan Rural Improvement Club
- Lagunde Farmers Association
- Lagunde Rural Improvement Club
- Nungan VEGETABLE Association
- Pamalian Farmers Association
- Silik Farmers Association
- Silik Rural Improvement Club
- Takepan Farmers Association

In response, the farmer-beneficiaries expressed their appreciation to DA-SAAD and to Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)



100 SAAD SORSOGON BENEFICIARIES UNDERGO UPLAND RICE PRODUCTION TRAINING

May 16, 2018

SORSOGON – A total of 100 farmer-beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agriculture Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Sorsogon had undergone training on Upland Rice Production as an initial intervention of the program. Two batches were held for the said training.

The first batch of training was held in Dancalan, Donsol on 16-18 April 2018 and was attended by 55 farmer-beneficiaries from the municipalities of Pilar (Barangays Calongay and Sta. Fe) and Donsol (Barangays Pinamanaan, Lourdes, and Malapoc).

On the other hand, 45 farmer-beneficiaries from the municipalities of Juban (Barangays Calmayon, Putting Sapa, and Maalo) and Matnog (Barangay Senibaran) attended the second batch of training held on 18-20 April 2018 in Juban.

Majority of the participants are beneficiaries of the 4Ps and some are members of indigenous people located in bypassed marginal communities. More than 65% of the participants are housewives or female head of the family.

Department of Agriculture Regional Office Superintendent of Central Bicol Experiment Station (CBES) Corazon

Orbon discussed the varieties of upland rice while Maricris Reforba of the Operations Division discussed rice pre and postharvest practices. Cindie Pardo of Regional Crops Protection Center discussed Integrated Pest Management. Aside from lectures, the participants had a workshop on farm planning and budgeting.

The SAAD Program targets to expand upland rice production in Sorsogon by covering at least 30 hectares for each of the five municipalities (Magallanes, Pilar, Donsol, Sta. Magdalena and Juban) included in the program, according to Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer for Sorsogon and Albay Florentino Ubalde.

Meanwhile, a total of 200 individual beneficiaries were selected to receive upland rice seeds and complete fertilizers after their training. Four organized farmers' groups will also receive rice threshers.

Locally-funded by DA, the program is in line with the government's initiatives to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors in agriculture and fishery. The program has two major components: Social Preparation and Intensified Production and Livelihood Interventions based on the assessed needs of the farmer-beneficiaries. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza)



SAAD HOLDS CROP PRODUCTION TRAINING TO ITS BICOLANO BENEFICIARIES

May 17, 2018

MASBATE – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agriculture Development (DA-SAAD) held five (5) batches of training on upland and rainfed rice production and processing, white corn production and processing, and high value crops production to prepare its farmer-beneficiaries from the province of Masbate for the May planting season.

The Upland and Rainfed Rice Production and Processing training, attended by 45 pre-selected SAAD beneficiaries, was conducted in Sitio Cantorna, Monreal on 25-26 April 2018.

Meanwhile, four batches of White Corn Production and Processing and High Value Crops Production trainings were held in the municipalities of Esperanza on 5-26 April 2018 and Pio V. Corpuz on 26-27 April 2018. Afterwards, the participants were given OPV white corn seeds.

The resource speakers for the said trainings were technical staff from the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 5. Marcial Bustarga, from Rice Program, lectured on land preparation, rice production, pre- and postharvest practices, and farm

planning and budgeting. On the other hand, Cyndie Pardo, from the Regional Crops Protection Center, discussed integrated pest management. The farmers also had workshop and reporting activities on farm planning and budgeting.

Bustarga emphasized the importance of farm planning and budgeting, as he said the combination of the two will lead to wise decisions and proper allocation of farm resources, which will ultimately lead to productivity. "It is not enough for a farmer to know the cultural practices of rice farming. What is more important is he can plan these activities properly and allot his budget wisely so that he will know at once if he will profit or not on the proposed business," Bustarga mentioned.

Wilfredo Nelmida, Agricultural Programs Coordinating Officer who oversees the simultaneous activities of the SAAD program in the province, advised the farmer-beneficiaries to prepare the land before planting and practice synchronous planting for efficient use of irrigation and

minimization of pest damage within an area.

With the acquired knowledge, majority of the participants hope that the provided projects of the SAAD Program will prosper. Thirty-eight-year-old Bicolano farmer, Fred Alminana, said that the latest farming practices and technologies he learned will be a big help to him. He will receive one bag of upland rice seeds and one bag complete fertilizer this May 2018, which will be an additional source of livelihood to his eight-hectare tenancy coconut plantation.

The province of Masbate has been selected as one of the 30 priority provinces of the SAAD Program due to its high poverty incidence rate among families based on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, which is at 35.5%. Livelihood interventions in the form of rice, corn, high value crops, pig, chicken, goat, and carabao will be given to more than 4,700 farmers from the municipalities of San Pascual, Monreal, Balud, Mandaon, Esperanza, and Pio V. Corpuz. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza)

GETTING TO KNOW THE SAAD FARMERS AND THEIR PROJECTS IN THE SAMAR PROVINCE

May 18, 2018

SAMAR – A group of people from the Special Area for the Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program and Special Project Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted interviews and field visits in different municipalities in the Samar province to see the status of livelihood interventions given to the SAAD beneficiaries.

In Barangay Pequit, Paranas

In Barangay Pequit in the municipality of Paranas, the group met 38-year-old Rodrigo Ercibuche, founder of Uswag Pequit Association. The organization started off in February 2017 so that its 20 pioneer members could reach out to the government, especially to the Department of Agriculture.

Uswag Pequit Association's members At present, the association has 54 members, in which 15 of them just recently joined because of the hope that SAAD Program in Samar brought to them.

Coconut production is their main source of income while peanut is only planted every now and then. They sell their peanut produce to nearby barangays, which are known for delicacies such as peanut rolls, peanut butter, and the classic piñato.



Aside from farming, most of them earn as part-time truck drivers with a Php 200 per day salary.

The magic of a multicultivator The organization received a multicultivator under SAAD Samar's Sustainable Peanut Production project on February 7, 2018. The members have also attended a demo training for the equipment on January 2018.

The multicultivator made the organization members' lives easier as it cuts down their work days. Uswag Pequit Association president Cesar Mabini is a living proof of it... "Maganda ngayon kasi hindi na paulit-ulit. Mas mabilis nang apat na araw (kumpara sa pag-aararo). Mabini said the 10-liter diesel capacity of the multicultivator can last for a whole day, making it very cost- and time-efficient", he shared.

At present, the organization's members use the machine for vegetable





Rodrigo Ercibuche and Cesar Mabini

gardening since SAAD Samar hasn't delivered the peanut seeds and fertilizers yet. Samar AC Kristine Danago added that the Samar provincial local government unit will procure the said interventions since fund was downloaded to the office in 2017.

Maintaining the equipment Uswag Pequit Association has issued a Php 200 multicultivator usage fee per day. Its members are also entitled to pay a monthly membership fee of Php 20. Ercibuche said they plan to open a bank account for their association's funds that will be used for the maintenance of the equipment, for their future plans, and for emergency purposes.

One thing that he wishes is strong cooperation from his fellow farmers not only for the success of the project but also for the prosperity of their livelihood.

"Suportahan kung ano ang programa ng SAAD kasi hindi naman ito para sa akin, para sa atin lahat ito para ma-promote naman ang province ng Samar", Ercibuche exclaimed. According to SAAD Samar AC Kristine Danago, there are 300 sustainable

peanut production beneficiaries in Paranas. Other farmers' organizations that received multicultivators in Paranas are Tutubigan Farmers' Association, Casandig Upland Farmers' Association, and Tigbawon Farmers' Association. There are also another 300 beneficiaries each of the same project in five other municipalities of the Samar province.

In Barangay Pabanog, Paranas Thirty-nine-year-old Florita Abaratige and her husband, Antonieto, live normal farmer lives in Barangay Pabanog, Paranas. They support their two children through farming in a 1.5-hectare rice tenancy land. Florita sells packed peanuts and can earn a maximum of Php 300 per day while Antonieto works in construction as part-time job.



Florita and Antonieto Abaratige

They started farming since their first child was born 16 years ago. Half of their produce are usually given to the landlord while the rest will be allocated for food consumption. However, they also sell some of their harvests when money is not sufficient for their daily needs and for the financial necessities of their children's education.

On November 2017, Florita received one sack of certified rice seeds, complete fertilizers, and urea from the SAAD Program. She and her husband planted in December 2017 and they harvested an estimate of 40 sacks of rice at the end of March 2018, which is earlier than anticipated since the maturity of the rice had advanced to 98 days due to the hot weather. She said that they will set aside 1 ½ sacks for the next planting season. She exclaimed how happy she is and her husband for they have saved their money from SAAD's assistance.

"Nagpapasalamat po ako sa SAAD kasi naka-avail kami, nakasali kami sa SAAD. Malaking tulong rin na hindi na kami bumili pa ng fertilizer. Malaki ang pagpapasalamat namin. Salamat po sa lahat ng bumubuo ng SAAD."

Florita also expressed her deepest gratitude to SAAD for the learnings in rice farming she continually acquires through the agro ecosystem analysis (AESA) training, which happens every Wednesday in their barangay.

In Barangay Panayuran, Calbiga

"...sabi ko nga salamat, meron na rin akong pandagdag na pagkakakitaan kasi kung yung 4Ps lang talaga ang aasahan, hindi kaya. Kung hindi talaga kami kumayod na mag-asawa, yung mga anak ko gutom", shared by 47-year-old Belen Samar, one of 43 beneficiaries of SAAD Samar's Sustainable Ube Production in Barangay Panayuran, Calbiga.



Belen Samar

Belen and her husband are examples of very hardworking farmers. Despite the hardships and challenges in life, they managed to build a decent house for their three children. She claims that their crops, especially ginger and talyan, are their road to that little achievement. In fact, ginger prices have gone up from Php 150 to Php 240 per kilogram in 2015. Belen also plants vegetables, sweet corn, pineapple and anything she can lay her hands on. Belen was given 46 ube plantlets from SAAD Samar in December 2017. But most of the plantlets have low chances of sprouting probably due to frequent rains. However, she is still hopeful as SAAD Samar and the local government unit of Calbiga are ready to help her and 43 other farmer-beneficiaries from their struggles.

In SAAD Samar's first implementation in 2017, all municipalities were covered. For 2018, chosen municipalities are Sta. Margarita, Matuguinao, Hinabangan, Calbiga, Talalora, and San Jose de Buan. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD ENRICHES SOUTHERN LEYTE FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE IN CORN AND CASSAVA PRODUCTION

May 22, 2018

SOUTHERN LEYTE – Six trainings on corn and cassava production have recently concluded in the province of Southern Leyte, enriching the minds of the farmer-beneficiaries from five municipalities – Bontoc, Malitbog, Tomas Oppu, Sogod, and Liloan.

With the help of Corn and Cassava specialists from Agricultural Program Coordinating Office (APCO), representatives from Provincial Agricultural Services Office (PAGSO) and Office of Municipal Agriculturist (OMA), the trainings were simultaneously conducted on the following dates below.

Table 1. SAAD Southern Leyte Corn and Cassava Production Training

DATE	ACTIVITY	VENUE	FARMER ATTENDEES
May 2-3, 2018	Corn Production Training	Olayvar's Place, Bontoc, So. Leyte	Bontoc
May 7-8, 2018	Corn Production Training	Diagnostic Center, Malitbog, So. Leyte	Malitbog
May 9-10, 2018	Corn Production Training	ABC Hall, Tomas Oppu, So. Leyte	Tomas Oppu
May 2-3, 2018	Cassava Production Training	ABC Hall, Bontoc, So. Leyte	T.Oppu and Bontoc
May 7-8, 2018	Cassava Production Training	Marianne Family Center, Sogod, So. Leyte	Sogod
May 9-10, 2018	Cassava Production Training	Marianne Family Center, Sogod, So. Leyte	Malitbog & Liloan

Only at least 80% of the total 360 beneficiaries attended the training due to financial and transportation issues. Making sure that all beneficiaries are up-to-date with latest technology and planting strategies, SAAD Provincial Coordinator Jocelyn Cabañas said that

they will still conduct training on-site for those who weren't able to join the classroom training.

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Cabañas also stressed the importance of the training as she found out the

wrong practices of the farmers, especially in planting cassava. She added, "they need to know the correct ratio of fertilizers to be applied to maximize the production potential of the soil and seeds."

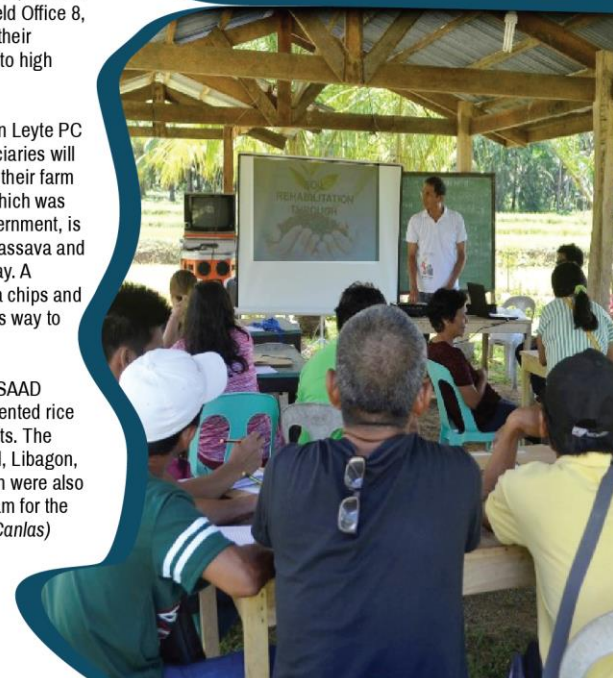
Corn and cassava SAAD beneficiaries from Southern Leyte will receive cassava planting materials, open-pollinated variety and hybrid corn seeds, complete fertilizers, urea, and muriate of potash. Aside from that, machinery such as power tillers, multi cultivators, cassava shredders, and cassava spinners will be given to farmers' organizations.

The demand for corn and cassava in Southern Leyte

SAAD program implementers in Southern Leyte, headed by Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 8, chose corn and cassava as their livelihood interventions due to high demand.

According to SAAD Southern Leyte PC Cabañas, the farmer-beneficiaries will not have a hard time selling their farm produce since a feed mill, which was put up by the provincial government, is needing 1.2 metric tons of cassava and 80 metric tons of corn per day. A processing plant for cassava chips and other delicacies is also on its way to completion.

Besides corn and cassava, SAAD Southern Leyte also implemented rice and swine production projects. The municipalities of St. Bernard, Libagon, San Francisco, and Pintuyan were also covered in the SAAD Program for the year 2018. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAMAR AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS DISCLOSE BRIGHT PROSPECTS FOR THE PROVINCE

May 23, 2018

SAMAR – In recent close-in interviews with Samar Officer-In-Charge Provincial Agriculturist (OIC PA) Ma. Gloria A. Borja and Samar Acting Provincial Veterinarian (PVet) Juliet T. Dayap, they revealed their experiences about the SAAD Program, their aspirations, and visions for the province even after the program terminates in 2022. Both were optimistic that with SAAD's assistance to farmers and livestock raisers, there will be a "360° turnaround" in farmers' knowledge, skills, practices, and more importantly, increased income and productivity.

OIC PA Borja was bubbling with enthusiasm during the short tete-a-tete, saying that choosing her province as recipient of the program is both an opportunity and responsibility to convert the province from a "sleeping dragon" to a new, productive, and progressive Samar with developed farmers embracing, imbibing, and enjoying modern, inclusive, market-oriented, and climate-resilient agricultural growth and development.

This sentiment was more or less echoed by Acting PVet Dayap, who opined that the program brought pure joy to livestock farmers because of the grant assistance which could possibly be multiplied and rolled over to their fellow farmers. Dr. Dayap envisions Samar to be taken off the list of top 10 poorest provinces in the country by

2022. Moreover, the livestock raisers aside from being empowered should have by then developed their marketing and entrepreneurial skills.

To quote Ms. Borja, "Katumanan na ine nga SAAD Program han mga hingyap han mga parag-uma nga maalsa an ira kabutangan." (This is a fulfillment of the farmers' aspirations to alleviate their sorry condition.) From marginal or subsistence farmers, with small farm lots, practicing traditional farming methods, and who lack capital for farm inputs and labor, her dream is for farmers to be more aggressive towards progress, cooperative, responsive, and united for a more developed agricultural economy. Hence, she appealed to them, "Higugmaon ngan ugopan naton an programa." (Let us love and value SAAD Program.)

For her part, Dr. Dayap urged livestock raisers to take good care of the animals for sustainability, so program management will not regret in choosing Samar as among the first recipients. He also hopes DA would grant the province in the future with other programs/projects that will benefit the farmers.

(Michael Dabuet)

SAAD PROVIDES COWS AND CARACOWS TO ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

May 29, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Over 50 heads of cows/caracows have been distributed to different municipalities of Zamboanga del Norte from March to April 2018.

DA-SAAD ZaNorte was launched in 2017 with two objectives, to increase productivity and establish self-sustaining agricultural enterprise communities.

Sibutad farmers in ZaNorte receive large cattle from the SAAD Program

Twenty-four (24) farmer-beneficiaries from the Municipality of Sibutad received cows and caracows from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) on March 14, 2018.

In his message, Mayor Eufrazio Caicid encouraged the SAAD farmer-beneficiaries to value the grant given to them by the government through DA. He called on the farmers to take good care of the large ruminants in order that they

will reproduce well for the next in-line beneficiaries.

Under the Large Ruminant Dispersal Program, the recipients shall take care of the animal until it will have two (2) offsprings. The recipients shall eventually own the large ruminant after giving back the offsprings to the Farmers' Association (FA).

Other than the dispersal of large ruminants, the Municipality of Sibutad has entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with the DA – Regional Satellite Office (RSO) IX for the implementation of Mushroom Production Project. The project already received fund support from the SAAD Program.

Siayan farmer-beneficiaries receive 30 heads of cattle

Meanwhile, DA-SAAD still in Zamboanga del Norte, facilitated the turnover of thirty (30) heads of cattle to its farmer-beneficiaries in barangays Litolet, Macasing, and Seriac on April 17 & 19, this year.

These barangays have their own established cooperatives. These cooperatives are the Litolet Consumers Cooperative (LICONCO), Macasing Consumers Cooperative (MACONCO), and Seriac Consumers Cooperative (SECONCO). Ten (10) members of these cooperatives were chosen to be



the recipients of DA-SAAD Program.

The first batch of cattle arrived last April 17, 2018, with a partial total of seventeen (17) heads of cattle. Present during the distribution of DA-SAAD inputs were the farmer recipients of LICONCO and SECONCO. Also present were Ms. Jailyn Gamutan, SAAD ZaNorte Livestock Technical Personnel, and Ms. Marcelina Alcazaren, Livestock Inspector from Zamboanga City (DA-RFO IX). The LICONCO farmer recipients received ten (10) heads of cattle while the SECONCO farmer recipients received an initial seven (7) heads of cattle.

On April 19, 2018, the second batch of large ruminants arrived with a remaining total number of thirteen (13) heads of cattle. Present during the second batch of turnover were the farmer recipients of MACONCO and SECONCO. Also present were Ms. Gamutan, Ms. Alcazaren and Ms. Betty

Llanelo, OIC-Property Officer, representative of Dipolog City (DA-RSO IX). The second batch fills in the remaining balance of three (3) cattle to comprise a total of ten (20) cattle heads intended for the farmer recipients of SECONCO. On the other hand, the farmer recipients of MACONCO also received a total of ten (10) heads of the same intervention.

All the farmer recipients of the cooperatives were present and expressed their heartfelt appreciation to DA-SAAD for the realization of their dreams for them to grow as agricultural communities.

Also, a similar event happened in the municipality of Katipunan, 23.2 kilometers away from the Provincial Capital of Zamboanga del Norte—that is Dipolog—wherein ten (10) heads of caracows have been dispersed. ###
(Roger Dave Gramatica, Ronilo Dusaban, and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD ZANORTE TEAM PLOTS SERIES OF MUNICIPAL-WIDE CONSULTATIONS

May 29, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Zamboanga del Norte (Regional Satellite Office IX/RSO IX) held Municipal Wide Consultations (MWC) in different barangays (brgys.) of Zamboanga del Norte from February until March 2018.

The MWC aims to orient the attendees regarding SAAD projects, as well as to present the project status guidelines for 2017-2022 implementation; to identify and prioritize projects for 2019 until year 2022 implementation, and to meet with 2017 & 2018 partner communities.

The MWC in Malayal, Sibuco was held on February 20, 2018. It was attended by no less than SAAD Farmers Associations in Malayal, and Local Government Unit (LGU) officials, with the Municipal Mayor of Sibuco, Mayor Norbideiri B. Edding at the helm. Also present was Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) of Dipolog, Ms. Ana Aying, representing DA-RSO IX.

Covered were the conduct of Community Mapping, Problem and its corresponding Objective Tree, consultation with the farmer-beneficiaries regarding their needs in the years to come, and the identification of the three (3) barangay-recipients of the Layer Chicken Production Project.



The beneficiaries were reminded of their responsibilities including the lacking requirements that still need to be complied under the 2017 SAAD Projects. SAAD ZaNorte is also set to geotag three (3) remaining beneficiary groups in the days to come.

Meanwhile, due to geographical constraints, the SAAD farmers of the hinterlands of Brgy. Paniran could not attend the MWC on its original schedule. Their Chairperson, Ms. Cecilia Alas-as was present in their behalf, and with this, the special meeting has been moved for the said group on March 10, 2018.

Similar activities were held in Brgy. Malayal, in Sibuco on the same day; in Brgys. Makiang, Siocon on March 13, 2018; then two weeks after in Baliguian on March 27, 2018. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD-ZANORTE DISTRIBUTES INTERVENTIONS THROUGH GOAT DISPERSAL PROJECT

May 29 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) in Regional Satellite Office (RSO) IX dispersed goats to its farmer-beneficiaries in Zamboanga del Norte on April 5, 2018.

Twenty (20) SAAD farmer-beneficiaries under Dampalan Farmer's Association (FA) received five (5) bucks, and twenty-five (25) does in Barangay Dampalan, Dapitan City while beneficiaries under La Libertad Agricultural Producers Association in La Libertad received four (4) bucks, and twenty (20) does.

The event was assisted and supported by the Local Government Unit – Municipal Agricultural Office (LGU-MAO) staff, barangay officials in the respective municipalities, as well as SAAD-ZaNorte area-in-charge Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Shelain Apolinario, Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Ronillo Dusaban, and Technical Staff for Livestock, Ms. Jailyn Gamutan.

The Goat Dispersal Project is a component of the Cassava Production Project of Dampalan Farmers Association (FA) in Dapitan City, and the Sweet Corn Production Project of La Libertad Agricultural Producers Association in Municipality of La Libertad.

Its module is composed of five (5) does and a (1) buck for breeding. The offsprings shall eventually be dispersed to other members of the association. Monitoring on the dispersed goats shall be likewise conducted. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



ZANORTE FARMERS ATTAIN TESDA CERTIFICATES IN ORGANIC FARMING

May 29, 2018

DIPOLOG, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

– Forty-four (44) Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program farmer-beneficiaries in Diwan, Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte are now certificate holders of National Certificate (NC) II Training on Organic Farming from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), in a graduation ceremony held in Barangay Diwan, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte on April 19, 2018.

Other fifty-six (56) certificate holders are household members, including the earlier mentioned number of DA-SAAD ZaNorte beneficiaries, comprising a total of a hundred (100) graduates from Diwan.

Not wasting the day away to deliver interventions to its target beneficiaries, DA-SAAD ZaNorte team also held a distribution of SAAD Program interventions particularly assorted vegetable seeds and fruit tree seedlings to a total of 500 individual recipients. Meanwhile, farm equipment including six (6) units of water pump open source (with engine), three (3) each for blue and green drums, three (3) steel stands (with 100m distribution hose) were turned over to two (2) Farmer Associations (FA) namely, Diwan FA, and Diwan Vegetable Association.

The event, also dubbed as “SAAD sa Diwan,” was a community event jointly organized by the Local Government Units (LGUs) in Dipolog City, including Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), TESDA, Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), Philippine National Police (PNP), and DA-SAAD Regional Satellite Office (RSO) IX – represented in full force by the Agricultural Program Coordinating Office (APCO) Officer, Ms. Ana Aying, SAAD-ZaNorte Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Ronillo Dusaban, its Area Coordinators (AC) Ms. Cecille La Plana, Ms. Shelain Apolinario, and Ms. Abigail Malcampo, together with Ms. Jemaima Estillore (Engineering), Ms. Rheva Sawayan (Crops), and Mr. Jeffrey A. Nigos (IT).

Assisted by Diwan Barangay Officials, along with City Agriculture Officer Kerr Porlas, and other LGU-Dipolog City officials, a ceremonial tree planting (lanzones tree) was headed by Dipolog City Mayor Dexter Darell Uy. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



ZANORTE FARMERS RECEIVE INPUTS UNDER THE SAAD CORN PRODUCTION PROJECT

May 29 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) in its Regional Satellite Office (RSO) in Zamboanga del Norte (Region IX) organized series of distributions under its Provincial-Wide Corn Production Project from March 8-9, 13, & 15, 2018. Supported by personnel under the Office of Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG), SAAD-ZaNorte Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Irish Jane Mallo, continuous monitoring shall be done following the distribution of 165 farm inputs to 38 SAAD farmer-beneficiaries in Barangay (Brgy.) Alvenda, Municipality of Mutia on March 8, 2018.

On the next day, beneficiaries from three (3) barangays namely, Teresita (Piñan), Alvenda (Mutia), and Situbo (Tampilisan) were provided interventions. Present were OPAG's Ms. Arlene Taan, representative of the Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) of Tampilisan, Mr. Lucito Cerna, together with SAAD-ZaNorte AC Mr. Nadzmar Abdulatip, IT Mr. Jeffrey A. Nigos, and Brgy. Captain Ms. Juanita Larato. 44 SAAD farmer-beneficiaries received 11 bags of OPV white corn seeds, 44 bags each of complete fertilizer, & urea fertilizers, as well as 165 bags of organic fertilizers for farm inputs in Brgy. Situbo, Municipality of Tampilisan.

Still under the Provincial-Wide Corn



Production Project, 26 farmer-beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program received corn production package of interventions in a simple turn-over ceremony at Rizal, Zamboanga del Norte on March 13, 2018.

The package of interventions consisted of 18 kilograms of Open Pollinated Variety (OPV) white corn seeds, and organic and inorganic fertilizers. The partner farmer-beneficiaries of SAAD Program are members of San Roque Farmers Association (FA) and Nangkaan FA in the town of Rizal. Aside from the corn production package, Rizal will also receive 12 modules of caged-layer chicken under the Layer Chicken Livelihood project of farmers from the villages of East Poblacion, New Dapitan, and Sebaca. Each module of caged-layer chicken

also known as "egg machines" has 48 heads of ready-to-lay pullets. The local government of Rizal has already received the funding support for the provision of the "egg machines" to the pre-identified partner-beneficiaries from the said villages.

Four (4) more municipalities within the Zamboanga del Norte Province, two (2) barangays in Municipality of Godod, three (3) barangays in Leon Postigo, and one (1) barangay each in Sindangan, are also about to be distributed with same inputs.

Meanwhile, on March 15, 2018, 3 ½ bags were received by the farmer-beneficiaries in Brgy. San Jose, Municipality of Sergio Osmeña. A total of 165 bags of organic fertilizers were delivered under the same project. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Ronilo Dusanban)

DA SUPPORTS BANGON MARAWI PROJECT, RAMADAN CELEB

May 30, 2018

LANAO DEL SUR – Department of Agriculture (DA), as partner agency of Task Force Bangon Marawi together with other agencies, helped in providing livelihood and technical assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs).

Through Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSSO) staff in DA Regional Field Office (RFO) 10,500 packs of vegetable seeds including squash, okra, ampalaya, eggplant and sitaw, were distributed to 100 beneficiaries in Lanao del Sur on May 17, 2018. DA-RFO 10 Provincial Operations Center Chief of Lanao del Norte, Engr. Dominicio Eleseo, facilitated the distribution of assistance.

Meanwhile, in support to Ramadan Celebration and Marawi Week of Peace, DA-SAAD donated assorted fruits amounting to P5,000 on May 23, 2018. The fruits were distributed to 60 households or IDPs of Barangay Mipaga, Marawi City for the iftar, a meal eaten by Muslims after sunset during Ramadan.

The province of Lanao del Sur has been selected as one of the 30 priority provinces of the SAAD Program for having the highest poverty incidence

rate among families in the country, which is 66.30%, based on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. Livelihood interventions in the form of corn, high value crops, chicken, and goat will be given to the program beneficiaries from the municipalities of Butig, Bubong, Kapai, Lumbatan, Marawi City and Piagapo for 2018. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza and Angelilah Cabig)



DA-SAAD APAYAO'S CHICKEN PROJECT STARTS PRODUCING RESULTS

May 31, 2018

APAYAO – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program conducted field monitoring of free-range chicken heads (88 to be exact) in Barangay Malubibit Sur, Flora, Apayao on April 26, 2018.

A week after the provision of electrolytes (vetracine) vitamin, each chicken gained 3-4 kilograms in weight and started laying eggs to the delight of some 15 beneficiaries.

"Agyaman kami iti programs ti SAAD ta naikkan kami iti nayon ti pag inkaman mi, ken nu ipalubos ti apo, maysa kamin run a supplier ti free range chicken," one of the beneficiaries said, which means "[n]agpapasalamat ako sa programs ng SAAD dahil nabigyan kami ng pandagdag income namin, at kapag will ni Lord, magiging isa kaming supplier ng free range chicken," when translated in Filipino.

As of writing, each chicken has already produced at least 75 eggs ready to be incubated for hatching as well as to be distributed to the second beneficiaries.

Under the SAAD Program, DA shall focus on the poorest provinces, in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's thrust to increase food production and to trim down poverty incidence through the provision of livelihood projects. ### (Marjorie A. Tangliben and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD ZANORTE FARMERS UNDERGO CATTLE RAISING AND UPLAND RICE PRODUCTION TRAINING

May 31, 2018

SIAYAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – A total of sixty (60) farmer-beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA – SAAD) Program in the Municipality of Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte had undergone training on Cattle Raising and Upland Rice Production Training on May 28, 2018.

On the next day, May 29, 2018, field demonstration was conducted. The activity served as a post-delivery intervention after the beneficiaries received the crops and livestock interventions of the program. Three (3) cooperatives namely Litolet Consumer's Cooperative (LICONCO), Macasing Consumer's Cooperative (MACONCO), and Seriac Consumer's Cooperative (SECONCO) participated in the training. Also, it was attended by some of the members coming from the cooperatives of barangays Moyo, Datagan, and Balunokan. These barangays were the newly identified areas of the DA-SAAD Program in Siayan.

Majority of the participants are members of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) coming from different Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) in Siayan. DA-SAAD, together with the efforts of the Local Government Unit (LGU), works hand in hand to convert and enrich these areas into Basic Agricultural Communities (BACs).



The Resource Speaker for the Cattle Raising training was a former Agriculture Technician from the Municipal Agriculturist Office of Siayan, in the person of Mr. Genor Q. Cabato. He highlighted the importance of the quality of health care and alternative food consumption and enrichment tips for raising cattle.

The Upland Rice production training was discussed by the Chief Superintendent of Betinan Research Station, San Miguel, Zamboanga del Sur, Mr. Ruben T. Baltonado. He

emphasized the huge market potential of the upland rice variety. He also discussed the varieties of upland rice and its agronomic characteristics, pre- and post-harvest practices, and the different techniques and technologies for the upland rice production.

The SAAD Program together with the LGU, targets to expand upland rice production in Siayan, by covering an additional 35 hectares in the seven (7) identified areas for 2018 SAAD program intervention. For the 2017 SAAD project in the area, 30 individuals each received upland rice seeds good for half a hectare production.

The main goal of the DA-SAAD is in line with the Administration's initiatives to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors in agriculture. The program is geared toward poverty alleviation of the poor farmers and fisherfolk in selected areas of operation. ### (Roger Dave Gramatica and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD APAYAO DISTRIBUTES INPUTS FOR ITS FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN FLORA



May 31, 2018

APAYAO – 584 bags of organic fertilizers are distributed by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) through its Cordillera Administrative Region Field Office (CAR FO) on May 17, 2018.

81 farmer-beneficiaries from the poorest barangays in the Municipality of Flora, Apayao, namely San Jose, Anninipan, Malubibit Sur, Malayugan, and Tاملunog were able to receive the said inputs.

The distribution was led by Area Coordinator (AC) for Flora, Ms. Marjorie Tangliben, together with Municipal Local Government Unit representative,

Ms. Evangeline Aguda. Beneficiaries say "dakkal nga tulong knyami dytoy ta jy igatang mi ti abono igatang mi ti nasken nga kasapulan min," which roughly translates "Malaking tulong po ito sa amin kasi yung ibibili namin ng abono ay ibibili na lang namin ng mas pangangailangan namin" in Filipino.

Under SAAD, the DA will focus on the poorest provinces, in line with President Rodrigo Duterte's thrust to increase food production and to trim down poverty incidence through the provision of livelihood projects.

Flora is one of the seven (7) covered municipalities in Apayao. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

DA-SAAD DISTRIBUTES PHP 2.5M FARM INPUTS IN ARAKAN

June 7, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) – North Cotabato conducted distribution of farm inputs worth 2.5-million pesos in the Barangay Malibatuan, municipality of Arakan, North Cotabato last June 1, 2018.

The beneficiary of the said inputs is the Malibatuan Farmers Credit Cooperative – MFCC, wherein 2,000 bags of fertilizers, 200 bags of foliar fertilizers, and 100 knapsack sprayers was formally received by Elizer Parañaque, the head of the MFCC.

The activity was led by DA-RFO 12 Regional Executive Director Engr. Milagros C. Casis, together with DA-NPMO National SAAD Coordinator Marvin Segovia, DA-PPMSO Provincial SAAD Coordinator Jerry Tingson, SAAD North Cotabato, Municipal Agriculturist, and Municipal & Barangay officials.

Engr. Milagros C. Casis, appealed to the beneficiaries to give importance to government agricultural interventions by sustaining them for the benefit of all. She emphasized: "Since these interventions are free, we are asking you to give importance to and be responsible for them."

Furthermore, James Dulay, Arakan's

OIC-Municipal Agriculturist, expressed that he was overwhelmed by the continuous DA assistance to poor farmers by the current administration. A few months ago, the farmers here were provided a combined harvester, mechanical drier, and farm tractor.

The farmer-beneficiaries also expressed gratitude to the SAAD and to DA Sec. Emmanuel 'Manny' Piñol for the all-out support to them. ### (Anisa Allyn M. Saaduddin and Jemiema D.R. Arro)



WOMEN FARMERS IN ZANORTE RECEIVE 1,500 CHICKENS THROUGH SAAD

June 15, 2018

MUTIA, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Four (4) women farmers' associations from the municipality of Mutia, Zamboanga del Norte received more than 1,500 ready-to-lay pullets under the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program's Chicken Layer Project in the province on June 5, 2018.

A total of 168 women farmers from barangays New Siquijor, Buena Suerte, Diland, and New Land benefited from the project amounting to more than Php 1.8 million. Each group got eight (8) modules of the so-called egg machines, each containing 48 22-week-old fully-vaccinated chickens.

According to SAAD Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Coordinator Ronilo Dusaban, the project aims to address

nutrition problems in the identified villages and to augment the income of the recipients' families.

DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, the brain behind SAAD, said that it is one of the programs that the agency offers as a better alternative to conditional cash transfer programs, such as the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps).

He also expressed in his article his admiration to the beneficiaries, saying "Seeing the women take care of the chicken as a source of their extra income gives me so much inspiration and the determination to expand the coverage of the program."

Prior to the said distribution, SAAD Zamboanga del Norte had also delivered egg machines to two other

municipalities, Salug and Rizal. In Salug, Liguac Farmers' Association (with 33 beneficiaries) and Pacuhan Farmers' Association (with 40 beneficiaries) were given 18 units of the machine per group, with 48 heads of chicken per unit. The project in Salug costed more than Php 1.8 million as well.

Meanwhile, in Rizal, the same project amounting to Php 1.2 million was implemented to help three farmers' associations from barangays East Poblacion (with 30 beneficiaries), Sebaca (with 30 beneficiaries), and Tolda II (with 20 beneficiaries). Each group received four (4) units of the machine, containing 48 chickens per unit.

Beforehand, all beneficiaries have undergone trainings on Layer Chicken Production, Financial Management, and Production Recording to help them succeed with the livelihood projects. Sec. Piñol is also confident that these projects will help the poor farmers to

earn more if managed properly. At present, the SAAD Program is being implemented in 20 provinces, which were chosen due to their high poverty incidence rates.

Zamboanga del Norte, one of the top 10 poorest provinces in 2012, was chosen as a SAAD province for the program's first implementation year 2017 along with Apayao; Northern, Eastern, & Western Samar; Lanao del Sur; Negros Oriental; North Cotabato; Maguindanao; and Sarangani.

In 2018, the provinces of Occidental Mindoro, Catanduanes, Masbate, Sorsogon, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Siquijor, Bukidnon, Sulu, Compostela Valley, and Sultan Kudarat were added. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



DA-SAAD STRENGTHENS ITS DATABASE REPORTING THROUGH IT ACTION PLANNING

June 19, 2018

BAGUIO CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted the National IT Assessment and Action Planning Workshop at the Highland Villa Hotel & Resto in Baguio City on June 4-8, 2018.

Participants coming from all SAAD-covered regions for 2018 (CAR, V, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, and XII) were welcomed by SAAD NPMO Operations Head Ms. Fe “Bong” E. Ybanez who emphasized the importance of having the assessment from the operations perspective, in terms of the data that has been able to be captured by the ITs that properly documents SAAD Program’s implementation.

For his part in stating the purpose of the activity, SAAD NPMO IT Cluster Head Mr. Marvin P. Segovia stressed on the use of maps to visually and effectively present the data gathered by SAAD Area Coordinators (ACs).

On the first day, presentations on the summary of FY 2018 accomplishments started with Region 8 (wherein SAAD is covering five (5) provinces—NEW Samar, Leyte, and Southern Leyte), followed by other SAAD-covered regions who attended the event.

Also present in the event were



SAAD-CAR Regional Technical Director, Mr. Danilo Daguio; Regional Focal Person for Regional Field Office (RFO) VIII, Dr. Andrew Orais; and Regional Focal Person for RFO VII, Engr. Eugene Cahiles, Jr.

On the second day, aside from the concerns raised per region, all the participants presented their individual maps of interventions as well as their shortlisted beneficiaries, concluded by an action plan and an improved understanding or appreciation of SAAD data at hand.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan also challenged the IT participants to think of the bigger picture to help them in making sense of the data they have gathered into their database, or in analyzing the stories behind the figures that they present. The National IT Assessment and Action Planning Workshop was hosted by DA-Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Jeanelle M. Amolozza)

DA-SAAD SIQUIJOR TEAM PREPS FOR 2019 IMPLEMENTATION

July 4, 2018

SIQUIJOR – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) convened to discuss its status of implementation in the Province of Siquijor at OPA Conference Hall, Helen, Larena, Siquijor on June 14, 2018.

CY 2019 SAAD projects for Siquijor were reported and discussed in the activity attended by SAAD-Siquijor staff, SAAD-Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMO) headed by Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles, DA-Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO) in Siquijor headed by Ms. Bernadith S. Bunado (ACC-II), Office of the Provincial Agriculture, agricultural extension workers from Provincial Veterinary Office, and officials and staff from the Provincial and Municipal Agriculture Offices.

The Corn-Peanut Production Project Proposal was also presented by Mr. Edgar Anhao.

SAAD-Siquijor team has been consistent with the profiling, geotagging, and distribution of farm inputs to farmer-partners for 2018 SAAD Program and continues to conduct the remaining trainings as scheduled. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD CONDUCTS MULTI-YEAR PLANNING IN DA REGION 6

July 4, 2018

JARO, ILO-ILO CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) is conducting a series of Multi-Year Planning (MYP) workshops for its 2019 provinces, holding the activity for Region VI at the Eon Centennial Resort Hotel and Water Park, Alta Tierra, Jaro, Ilo-Ilo City on June 18-20, 2018.

The activity was led by Regional Executive Director (RED) for DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) VI, Ms. Remelyn R. Recoter, DA-RFO VI Field Operations Chief, Mr. Rene B. Famoso, and SAAD NPMO Program Director Bernadette “SJ” F. San Juan.

RED Recoter challenged the participants coming from respective Region VI Local Government Units (LGUs) to think of organizing programs that are comprehensive and resilient to climate change, supported by Director SJ by encouraging them to not let go until the farmer-beneficiaries are finally out of the poverty threshold—leaving them with industries once the SAAD Program is confident to let the communities stand on their own.

Also present to critique the outputs are Clark N. Melendres, DA-RFO 6 Agriculturist II and Coordinating Officer, and Mr. Darwin A. Pamatmat, Ms. Karla

Borromeo, and Ms. Jacquelyn Rebusit, DA-SAAD NPMO staff.

As the participants were tasked to fill up the MYP form, Pamamat explains that a common confusion encountered in filling the form is in the identification of the projects. The timely activity aims to help the participants accurately classify the interventions, whether these may fall under or related to Production, Post-Harvest, Processing or Marketing.

The MYPs for FY2020-2022 aim to set a direction for the Program towards the attainment of its overall objective, aside from becoming the basis for the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in the annual approval of DA-SAAD Program Plan and Budget proposal.

Negros Occidental, Bohol, and Antique are the three (3) SAAD-covered provinces in Visayas for year 2019, chosen based on the 2015 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) poverty statistics report. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD OF DA DISPERSES CATTLE FOR APAYAO FARMER-PARTNERS

July 4, 2018

CALANASAN, APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) dispersed beef cattle to its farmer-partners in various municipalities in Apayao on May 21 and 22, 2018.

Five (5) heads of heifer beef cattle (*Bos taurus*: Brahman) with a minimum of 25 kilograms were distributed to five (5) farmers of Catablangan, Conner in Apayao (with Manag, Conner as dropping point) on May 21. The distribution has been assisted by Area Coordinator for Conner, Mr. Sunder D. Luis, and Agricultural Technician, Mr. Mark Dondon U. Budod.

Another five (5) individual farmers in Sitio Sina, Namaltugan, Calanasan were able to receive one head of cattle each on May 22: Tirso Amlag and Jemrick Parac of Sitio Sugo, Simeon Talosig of Banbaban, Danilo Litao of Sitio Aputan, and Lydia Casigay of Sitio Abbel.

SAAD-Apayao on the other hand, facilitated the delivery of buffalos in Sitio Malitao Butao (still in Calanasan) on June 1, 2018, wherein two (2) farmers, Dave Ringcodan and Percy De Leon, were listed as recipients of one (1) head buffalo.

Meanwhile, livestock hauling in Kabugao was assisted by the Local Government Unit (LGU), Field

Coordinator, Ms. Aida Batil, and Field Utility, Mr. Rodelio Ruping (Natubuka Cluster).

Honorable Mayor Leonardo D. Dangoy expressed his gratitude to SAAD, by saying “Agyaman kami unay ti SAAD ket aywanan mi garod dagitoy a baka,” (We are very thankful to SAAD and we will take good care of the cattle given to us).

Also, six (6) multi-purpose threshers under the FY 2018 funds were inspected by the SAAD team in Apayao.

Apayao is one of three (3) SAAD-covered provinces in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), chosen based on the 2012 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) poverty statistics report. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga, Marilou B. Marjalino, and April Jean D. Pascua)



SAAD DISTRIBUTES 7,200 NATIVE CHICKENS TO MONKAYO FARMERS

July 4, 2018

COMPOSTELA VALLEY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Compostela Valley team in Regional Field Office (RFO) XI distributed 7,200 native chickens under the program's Native Chicken Production Project in the municipality of Monkayo from April 18 to June 29, 2018.

The project, worth Php 3.3 million, will augment the income of 900 households from barangays Awao, San Jose, Salvacion, and Casoon. They are composed of 454 Indigenous Peoples (IPs), with Dibabawon, Mangguangan, Manobo and Mandaya as their ethnic group, and 446 non-IPs.

Inputs provided were 7,200 heads of free-range native chicken and 22,500 kg of cracked corn feeds (25 kg each bag).

Each beneficiary received eight native chickens (2 cockerels and 6 pullets) and 25 kilograms cracked corn feeds, amounting to P3,705.00.

Compostela Valley is one of the covered provinces of SAAD for 2018. It was selected due to its high poverty incidence rate among families (22%) based on the 2015 PSA poverty statistics report. ### (Jemiema D.R. Arro)

DA-SAAD FINE-TUNES STAFF'S COMMUNICATIONS SKILLS

290 FARMERS IN MASBATE UNDERGO UPLAND RICE AND RAINFED RICE

July 4, 2018

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, dedicated to effectively communicate the Program's assistance to poor farmers in its covered provinces, conducted its first-ever training on Effective Business Writing and Presentation Skills at the Boso-Boso Highlands Resort and Hotel in Antipolo, Rizal on June 25-29, 2018.

The University of the Philippines-Open University (UP-OU) co-hosted the activity which is attended by representatives from the national, regional and provincial offices of the SAAD covering its 2017 and 2018 target provinces.

The resource speakers are Dr. Paz Diaz and Ms. Emely Amoloza. Dr. Diaz is a communications consultant, researcher, trainer, case writer, media literacy expert, and training materials developer. She is currently the Vice President for Academics at the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication and an affiliate member of UP-OU Faculty of Information and Communication Studies.

On the other hand, Ms. Emely Amoloza is a notable researcher and writer. She is a University Extension Associate at UP-OU's Faculty of Information and Communication Studies.

Engaging activities were facilitated by the guest lecturers from UP-OU encompassing various communications-related topics such as Basic Communication Skills, Effective Communication, Effective Writing, Writing Business Letters and Memos, Effective Presentations, as well as Writing Press Releases and Feature Articles.

One of the outputs developed were the provincial (area) profiles that would be beneficial to the SAAD in documenting not just the program's implementation but also its impact on its farmer-partners.

Southern Leyte Provincial Coordinator (PC) Ms. Jocelyn Cabanas mentioned three words about the event: vanished, unleashed, and liberty. She added that her fears were set aside in letting the process of letting out her ideas for writing saying that, "Pinagana ang [aming] utak ng 'di mababagot." NPMO Planning Officer for Mindanao Mr. Justin dela Rueda admired Dr. Paz's on-the-spot checking of the write-ups done by each region, while SAAD North Cotabato staff Ms. Anisa Allyn M. Saaduddin is happy to share that the Biz Writing workshops helped her with her confidence.

Participants went home happy as they obtain their certificates of completion through a mini-graduation ceremony. Each one was also able to receive

clipboards to further inspire them in their writing journey, as well as shirts bearing designs of Antipolo, Rizal representing the host venue of the event in Region IV-A.

The participants were oriented on the new regional assignments of the NPMO staff in order to continuously facilitate an active exchange of reporting activities on the ground.

DA-SAAD is a locally-funded project under the Department of Agriculture that aims to help alleviate poverty in the poorest provinces of the country through provision of agricultural and related interventions to the poor in the farming and fisheries sector. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



July 4, 2018

BALUD, MASBATE – 290 farmer-beneficiaries underwent training on upland rice and rain fed rice production on June 12-15, 2018, in Balud, Masbate conducted by the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Region V.

Four batches of training were conducted for barangays Ilaya, Panubigan, Tonga, Dao, and Palani to educate the farmers in managing new farming techniques.

Ms. Cindy Pardo, the DA Rice Program – Integrated Laboratory Division staff, discussed topics such as integrated pest management system.

SAAD Area Coordinator Engr. Edilberto Luzong, DA Rice Program staff Kim Bolivar, and SAAD Agricultural Provincial Coordinating Officer (APCO) Mr. Wilfredo Nelmda facilitated the training programs. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza and Charice Gueriba)



DA-SAAD ENHANCES SKILLS IN AGRI EXTENSION AND BUSINESS PLANNING

July 4, 2018

CEBU CITY – The technical skills of the Area and Provincial Coordinators (AC and PCs) of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) were polished through the Project Management Workshop (PMW) at the Cebu Northwinds Hotel, Salinas Drive, Lahug, Cebu City on June 19 to 22, 2018.

The workshop further capacitates the ACs and PCs in doing an agricultural extension and in crafting sound business plans.

Dr. Merrian P. Soliva from the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) discussed the concepts and principles of agricultural extension service and community organizing. She also facilitated corresponding workshops for better appreciation of the participants. On the other hand, Mr. Fernando Flores and Ms. Kristine Mercado from the

Project Development Service (PDS) of the DA explained the basic components of a Business Plan. The topic was consistent with the SAAD's aim to provide viable and sustainable livelihood interventions to its farmer-partners.

From the hands-on exercises, the coordinators came up with draft project proposals addressing the needs of their respective areas of assignment. From said proposals, business plans were then crafted.

Moving forward, SAAD hopes to conduct more of this kind of capability-building activity among its field implementers on a yearly basis for a more efficient and effective program implementation.

The first-ever PMW was conducted on September 2017. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Justin dela Rueda)

A RENEWED HOPE WITH SAAD

July 5, 2018

A caring person. A mother of three. A stroke victim. She was chosen to be one of the farmer-partners of Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) in Region VIII.

Her name is Anita Agbon, 45 years old, and a resident of San Sebastian, Western Samar. As a Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) beneficiary who only earns Php 2,600 per month, it is truly difficult for her to make both ends meet for her children. Even though a portion of her body is paralyzed due to her condition, she perseveres just to provide for her family.

Just when she needed it the most, SAAD came and gave her a livelihood opportunity that would somehow change their lives. She received six heads of ready-to-lay chickens, 60 kilograms of chicken feeds, and 20 meters of polynet on June 18 to 22, 2018.

During the distribution, Anita shed tears because of sheer happiness, "I am thankful that you came and gave us all these blessings," she uttered. "This gave me an opportunity to raise my three children better," Anita added. Despite the hardships in life, Anita did not lose hope because she believes that the government is there to guide and help the poor escape the cycle of poverty.

It was raining during the distribution, and after receiving the interventions,



she exclaimed, "I did not lose hope. I just waited because I knew the rain would stop."

SAAD aims to improve the living condition of those farmers in the marginalized sector by providing them the necessary social preparation and livelihood interventions. ### (Arnold Nombres, Ferdinand Ultra, Jeanrose Basilan, Jocelyn Cabanas, Kevin Biol, Vilvic Ilo, Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga, and Jhomai S. Canlas)

14TH BALANGKOY FESTIVAL BECOMES EXTRA SPECIAL FOR SAAD APAYAO FARMERS



July 6, 2018

STA. MARCELA, APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) continues its distribution of interventions in the municipality of Sta. Marcela which started on June 4, 2018.

Almost two (2) weeks after on June 15, 146 bags of urea & complete fertilizers with additional sixty (60) bags of inbred rice, and 132 bags of hybrid corn were awarded to three (3) SAAD Farmers'

Associations (FAs) in the opening ceremony of the Agro-Industrial Trade Fair, also the 14th Balangkoy Festival in Sta. Marcela.

It is during the Balangkoy Festival wherein different products that come from Balangkoy or cassava (*Manihot esculenta*) are showcased.

Regional Executive Director (RED) Mr. Narciso A. Edillo was the guest speaker of the event. Also present was Provincial Agriculturist Prudencio G. Bosing, and Congresswoman Leah B. Begtang.

SAAD was launched in Apayao in 2016, aiming to alleviate poverty through the provision of livelihood programs. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Meliza I. Feliciano)



DA-SAAD PROVIDES AGRI ASSISTANCE TO FARMER-PARTNERS IN PUDTOL, APAYAO



July 6, 2018

PUDTOL, APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) awarded various agricultural assistance under the FY 2016 fund in the municipality of Pudtol in Apayao on May 17, 2018.

Eight (8) bags of lowland certified rice seeds were given to 11 farmers in Barangay (Brgy.) Mataguishi along with a package of urea and foliar fertilizers per farmer. Also, 20 bags of upland rice seeds were distributed to 27 beneficiaries in Brgy. Mataguishi, also in Brgy. Lt. Balag, this time around with a package of foliar fertilizers per farmer. Thirty-eight (38) farmers in Brgy. Alem, and Lydia benefited in the distribution of 29 bags of hybrid corn seeds.

The affair was headed by Municipal Agriculturist (MA) Marivic B. Lagmay, Municipal SAAD Focal Person Dr. Divine Biton, Senior Agriculturist of DA-CAR Dr. Pedro Pinos, and Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Ms. Digna Villanueva. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

LOCAL SCHOOL IN DIPOLOG CITY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PARTNERSHIP WITH DA-SAAD

July 6, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) visited the five (5)-hectare Pamansalan Eco-Tech High School in Barangay Diwan, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte on April 19, 2018.

DA Secretary Manny Piñol, on his March 22 visit for the 6th National Rice Technology Forum held in Barangay Olingan, Dipolog City, committed to helping when its Principal, Ms. Loela A. Ben-eli, (who courageously stood up from a crowd) requested that the school be developed into a full-blown agricultural school.

She is eager to educate her students along with her high regard for agriculture. She says that, "Agriculture is where the money is. Otherwise, who should be producing our food?" The machineries to be provided, under the SAAD 2018 funds, will be used by students in actual and applied (demonstration purposes) agricultural learning and practices. These are, as follows:

- One (1) unit hand tractor with implements
- Two (2) units brush cutter
- Two (2) units open source water pump

(with complete accessories)

Ben-eli believes that promoting backyard vegetable planting through cultivating eggplant and tomato, an act which advocates organic farming, can change the youth's mindset toward agriculture (backyard garden youth). She stressed that the assistance from DA—which she treats as a “blessing to their area”—will be very beneficial to them given the following:

1. Currently, students only have limited tools for use in their agri[cultural] lot.
2. A decline in the number of enrolling students, as well as an increase in the number of transferees for senior high with the current traditional agricultural ways that Pamansalan Eco-Tech Highschool can offer.
3. The open source water pumps will be used so that water from a distant source could reach the school.
4. Parents can assist in the backyard gardening of the students to turn it into economic enterprise venture/livelihood engagement.
5. Basic vegetable production could mean source of livelihood for school (c/o Parent-Teachers' Association/PTA) in order to source out funds for

maintaining or operating the machineries.

SAAD, in its Regional Satellite Office (RSO) in Region IX, proposed the government Tech-Voc school to become an egg machine training ground—a seemingly perfect fit as the school is also practicing “green manuring” and vermicast.

Ben-eli proudly shares that their school does not only teach “something that is only in theory.”

Parent engagement could also increase they can also teach their children the modern way of layer chicken production.

This is also expected to become another form of livelihood for their family, and the eggs may also be used in feeding programs.

The said intervention is forecasted for implementation in years 2020-2021, according to the province's SAAD Multi-Year Plan (MYP). ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Cecille La Plana)

SAAD ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FARMERS EXPECT TO HARVEST 13,500 BANANA BUNCHES



ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Thirty (30) farmers from Siayan in Zamboanga del Norte expect to harvest 13,500 bunches of banana, from the plantlets they received from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, this November to December 2018, given the 10 to 11 months' harvest period of the crop.

Siayan, having 70.05% poverty rate according to the 2012 data of Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA), is the poorest among the 25 municipalities and two cities of Zamboanga del Norte.

Three farmers' association – Macasing Consumers Cooperative, Seriac Consumers Cooperative, and Litolet Cosumers Cooperative – received the 15,000 banana plantlets on January 23 to 25, 2018.

The plantlets are part of the FY 2017 Banana Production Project of SAAD Zamboanga del Norte worth P1.025M. Five hundred (500) plantlets were given per beneficiary.

The beneficiaries started sowing the plantlets a week after the distribution. They were intercropped with the farmers' existing crops, such as corn and coconut.

According to SAAD Provincial Coordinator Ronilo Dusaban, the banana plants serve as cash-crop of the farmers since there is a potential market for the produce within Siayan.

The scheduled project monitoring of the banana plants will be this month of July 2018. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



APAYAO FARMER-PARTNERS RECEIVE AGRICULTURAL INTERVENTIONS

July 13, 2018

PUDTOL, APAYAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) awards agricultural interventions under its 2018 funds in the municipality of Pudtol in Apayao on June 5, 2018.

Awarded were Mula Dur and Lt. Macau Farmers Associations (FAs), with two (2) units each, and ECASAN FA, with one (1) unit.

Meanwhile, 94 individual farmer-partners were provided with a 116 bags of hybrid pioneer corn seeds (with complete package of fertilizers). Also, 25 farmers each received a bag of OPV corn seeds, with complete package of fertilizers.

Three hundred sixty-eight (368) bags of organic fertilizer were given to 88 individual farmers, followed by vegetable seeds (92 assorted seed cans of bitter melon, tomato, eggplant, okra, pole sitao, hot pepper; 88 cans of squash seeds; and 104 kilos of ginger),

with some of the farmers receiving twice than the 1:1 ratio, depending on their area of production.

Additional 178 bags of organic fertilizer was allocated to fruit bearing trees that went to 14 farmer-partners, which makes the total number of organic fertilizer bags given to 546.

Meanwhile, 76 bags of inbred rice seeds with complete package of fertilizers were allocated to 81 individual beneficiaries.

Present in the distribution ceremony were Municipal Mayor Hector Reuel D. Pascua, SB Edaño Patayan, SB Reynaldo Burigsay, Municipal Agriculturist (MA) Marivic B. Lagmay, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Ms. Digna Villanueva, and SAAD-Apayao Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Warlito Madamba. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga and Ruby Ann B. Vicerra)



298 LANAO DEL SUR FARMERS RECEIVE LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE FROM SAAD

July 15, 2018

LANAO DEL SUR – The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) X, as the implementing unit of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the province of Lanao del Sur, delivered 74 goats, 144 cattle, and 13 carabaos to benefit 298 farmers from six municipalities on April and June 2018.

Forty-eight SAAD farmers from the municipality of Marantao are the first to receive 48 cattle worth Php 1.05 million on April 22, 2018.

The municipality of Marogong with 34 beneficiaries got 34 heads of goat worth Php 153,000.

Twenty-six farmers from Madalum obtained 26 heads of cattle worth Php 780,000 while 40 farmers from the same municipality also received 40 heads of goat worth Php 180,000.

Meanwhile, three organizations from Pagayawan, which are Ngingir Bubong Farmers' Association, Linindingan Farmers' Association, and Bangon Farmers' Association with a total of 104 SAAD farmer-partners, were also bestowed 37 heads of cattle worth Php 1.11 million.

The distribution of livestock in Marogong, Madalum, and Pagayawan were conducted simultaneously on April 23, 2018.



In Sultan Dimalondong, 33 farmers got 20 heads of cattle and 13 heads of carabaos worth Php 990,000 while in Malabang, 13 farmers received 13 heads of cattle worth Php 390,000. They were given at the same time on June 6, 2018.

The cattle and carabaos were awarded as draft animals. On the other hand, the goats were dispersed for production purposes.

SAAD Lanao del Sur covered the said six municipalities in 2017 along with 10 other municipalities.

The municipalities were chosen due to their high poverty incidence rate among families based on the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. They are listed as follows: a) Marogong at 76.2%, b) Sultan Dimalondong at 73%, c) Pagayawan at 71.6%, d) Malabang at 68.1%, e) Madalum at 60.9%, and f) Marantao at 60.2%. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

OCCIDENTAL MINDORO PREPARES FOR 2019-2022 SAAD IMPLEMENTATION

July 16, 2018

MAMBURAO, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program conducted Multi-Year Planning (MYP) Workshop for the program's 2019-2022 implementation for the province of Occidental Mindoro on June 12-14, 2018 in La Gensol Plaza Hotel, Mamburao, Occidental Mindoro.

Facilitated by the SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) staff, Mr. Ulysses Lustria, Jr. and Mr. Darwin Pamamat, the MYP Workshop was attended by the Municipal Agriculturists and LGU officials from the municipalities of Magsaysay, Sta. Cruz, Abra de Ilog and Paluan. Also present were the OIC-Provincial Agriculturist, Mr. Sofronio Baranda, and DA-RFO IV-B staff, led by PMED Chief, Ms. Josephine de Sales.

Mr. Baranda started the program by welcoming the participants and expressed that the Office of the Provincial Agriculture will support the SAAD Program.

The SAAD in the province of Occidental Mindoro will cover the four municipalities, having eight barangays in total (four barangays for Magsaysay, two barangays for Abra de Ilog, and one barangay each for Sta. Cruz and Paluan).

After the MYP workshop, the following projects were proposed:

- Santa Cruz – rice, corn, cassava, vegetables, native chicken
- Paluan – cassava, vermicomposting, goat, native chicken
- Abra de Ilog – vegetables, corn, cassava, native chicken, swine, goat, banana, ginger, rice
- Magsaysay – rice, cassava, corn, carbonized rice hull, wood vinegar, organic foliar fertilizer, vermicomposting, mushroom, vegetables, swine

Meanwhile, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) IV-B, led by Mr. Patrick Lorque, presented their SAAD Program. It was then agreed that the four municipalities will also submit proposals for their fisheries.

After the workshop, review and refinement of the MYP proposals will be done by the DA-RFO IV and will be then be submitted to the SAAD NPMO. ### (Jeanelle M. Amoloza)



SAAD ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE CONDUCTS SERIES OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING

July 19, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Zamboanga del Norte held a series of Community-based Financial Management Training (FMT) in the different covered municipalities of the province from June until July of this year.

The two-day Community-based Financial Management Training (FMT) is designed to put to the challenge the economic responsibilities of the farmer-partners of the program in setting financial priorities, protect the financial interest of the organization from risks, and set sustainable financial plan and goals.

The FMT in the municipality of Siayan was held on June 26-27, 2018. Farmers from barangays Balunokan, Datagan, Litolet, Macasing, Moyo, Seriac, and Soguilon actively participated in the training. The event was also attended by Provincial Agriculturist Maybel



Bustalino and staff.

Farmers from the municipality of Sindangan were also trained on June 28-29, 2018. They are from barangays Benigno Aquino, Dagohoy, Imelda, Inuman, Lapero, Motibot, Nipa-an, RG Macias, and Titik.

The undying support of the Sindangan Municipal Agriculturist Office through the strong leadership of Ms. Luz Dela Cruz and her staff was also felt during the two-day training workshop.

The main objectives of Community-based FMT are to establish a sound community-based financial management system, adapt and incorporate basic concepts of financial management, establish basic bookkeeping system and cash flow management, establish control system on the financial aspect, and apply the learnings in their respective association or cooperatives.

Similar activities were also conducted during the said dates in the municipalities of Katipunan and Manukan.

Meanwhile, a series of FMT is also being conducted in La Libertad, Sibutad, Gutalac, Labason, Liloy, and Salug. ### (Roger Dave F. Gramatica and Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD PLANS WITH REGION 10 IMPLEMENTERS AHEAD OF DBM'S CASH-BASED BUDGETING

July 19, 2018

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program held its 7th Multi-Year Planning (MYP) Workshop with Region 10 implementers, especially the Provincial and Municipal Agriculturists, at Harbor Lights Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City from July 9 to 13, 2018.

The workshop aimed at crafting project proposals for Lanao del Sur, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, and Lanao del Norte not only for the provision of funds for FY 2020-2022 but also in preparation for the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) one-year cash-based budgeting, which will start in 2019.

The provinces of Lanao del Sur and Bukidnon are the covered provinces of the SAAD Program in the region starting years 2017 and 2018, respectively. Misamis Occidental and Lanao del Norte will be covered in 2019.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan stated that 21.6% of people in the Philippines are poor, wherein farmers ranked first in the poverty incidence for basic sectors with 34.3% along with fishermen with 34%. She also discussed a Project Proposal Rating Sheet which the implementers

should use to review every project proposal in the MYP.

SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) 10 Focal Person and Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Roxana Hojas as well as SAAD Deputy Focal Person Carlota Madriaga were present at the event. ARD Hojas briefed the participants regarding the importance of having MYPs, especially those who are from the 2019 SAAD provinces.

During the workshop, SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) Planning and Budget Head Darwin Pamatmat said that the cash-based budgeting requires that intervention items should be procured, distributed, and disbursed within the year. Otherwise, funds will be reverted back to the Treasury.

Pamatmat also emphasized to the regional and provincial implementers present at the workshop that every bottleneck of the program shall be taken into consideration when planning. He stressed that point when some participants raised up issues on procurement due to supplier problems.

Meanwhile, community participation was encouraged as a means of procurement. In fact, it is being practiced by the local government unit

of Kalilangan, Bukidnon.

Also present in the event are SAAD NPMO Assistant Planning and Monitoring Head Ulysses Lustria Jr., SAAD NPMO Planning and Budget Officer Karla Borrero, SAAD NPMO Planning and Monitoring Officer for Regions 9 and 10 Abigail Dela Cruz, and SAAD NPMO Public Relations and Communication Officer for Regions 9 and 10 Jhomai Canlas. Engr. Abdulharris Paporo, SAAD Region 10 Secretariat Head, and RPMSO and Provincial Program Management Support (PPMSO) staff provided the technical and administrative support.

The new SAAD Provincial Coordinator of Lanao del Sur, Datu Sabdullah Macapodi, was also introduced at the event for the first time.

SAAD Region 10 implementers are set to submit their multi-year proposals on July 20, 2018. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



DA PARTICIPATES IN POVERTY REDUCTION CITED IN PRE-SONA FORUM



July 20, 2018

PASAY CITY – A Human Development and Poverty Reduction Cabinet (HDPRC) Cluster Pre-SONA Forum was held in the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) on July 11, 2018.

HDPRC, composed of selected national government agencies, is mandated to "exert all efforts to improve the quality of life of the Filipino people through a broad-based approach in the delivery of services."

Among the goals of the Cluster are to increase social protection and engage communities in their own development, build capacities and create opportunities among the poor and the marginalized, as well as ensure effective coordination of national government programs for poverty reduction at the local level.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is one of the members of the (HDPRC).

DA's Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program is one of the projects supporting the Cluster's goals.

Poverty in the Philippines remains to be a predominantly rural phenomenon, with three-fourths of the poor residing in rural areas. Among the basic sectors, poverty incidence (2015) is highest among farmers (34.3 percent) and fisherfolk (34.0), far above the national average of 21.6 percent. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD DELIVERS PHP 7.79M AGRI SUPPORT DURING MARAWI FARM MECHANIZATION LAUNCHING

July 21, 2018

MARAWI CITY, LANAO DEL SUR – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) delivered agricultural livelihood assistance worth Php 7.79 million to benefit 11 municipalities of Lanao del Sur on July 17, 2018 during the Launching of the Farm Mechanization Recovery Assistance Program for Marawi City and the whole province.

DA Regional Field Office (RFO) 10 spearheaded the event held at Barangay Cadayunan II in Marawi City, with the presence of DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, DA Assistant Secretary Andrew Villacorta, SAAD Director Bernadette San Juan, and other DA officials.

SAAD farmer-partners from the municipalities of Bacolod Kalawi, Buadipuso Buntong, Calanogas, Kapatagan, Madalum, Madamba, Malabang, Marantao, Marogong, Pagayawan, and Tubaran received SAAD agricultural aid for livestock, rice,

corn, and other crops.

For livestock assistance, farmers were given 1,200 heads of native chicken, 52 heads of goat, 57 heads of cattle, 10 heads of carabao, feeds, animal-drawn supplements, and vaccination vitamins.

Ten 10 units of a water pump, 308 units of knapsack sprayer, four units of mechanical corn sheller, assorted farming tools, and one unit each of power spray, grass cutter, floating tiller, hand tractor were also distributed.

Meanwhile, 539 bags of OPV corn seeds, 199 bags of inbred rice seeds, 120 bags of upland rice seeds, 90 tins

of watermelon seeds, and assorted vegetable seeds were also awarded to SAAD farmers of Lanao del Sur.

Aside from the SAAD interventions, DA also brought in 2,689 bags of organic fertilizer and 1,679 bags of OPV corn seeds worth Php 3.23 million as well as 46 farm tractors, 15 of which will be assigned in Marawi City and are already available to provide free services. These are part of DA's commitment to assist in the rehabilitation and recovery of the city and the whole province.

The operation of the farm mechanization program will initially focus in the city with a target of 90 hectares for rice production and 1,314.14 hectares for corn production.

During the launching event, Sec Piñol operated a farm tractor, plowed the fields, and planted corn seeds to mark the start of the rising Marawi. Sec Piñol, in his article, stated that private companies such as Pilmico ensured a market for the corn production of Marawi and Lanao del Sur farmers.

Also present at the event are Housing Czar and Marawi Rehabilitation Point Person Secretary Eduardo del Rosario and Marawi City Mayor Majul Gandamra.

The five-month-long conflict in Marawi brought inactivity and lack of productivity in the land and other conflict-stricken areas in the province for the past few months. With the help of DA, Marawi and the province of Lanao del Sur will surely soon progress. ### (Jhoma S. Canlas)





MAKILALA FARMERS RECEIVE PHP 2.8M WORTH OF AGRICULTURAL ASSISTANCE FOR VEGETABLE AND SWINE PRODUCTION

July 24, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – Two groups of farmer-partners in Makilala town of this province had received Php 2.8 million total worth of funds for the production of vegetables and swine that would boost their agricultural activities.

The fund is under FY 2016, which was downloaded to the local government unit of Makilala, was provided by the Department of Agriculture (DA) through its flagship program, Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD).

A simple turnover rite was held on June 28, 2018, at Makilala Municipal Hall graced by SAAD national coordinator Marvin Segovia and witnessed by Makilala Mayor Rudy S. Caoagdan, Municipal Agriculturist Rosario G. Paguican, Makilala SAAD Area Coordinator Geoffrey Sean Garcia,

representatives of the farmer-partners, and other local officials.

Garcia said the groups are the Paradise Rural Improvement Club (PRIC) and the Malabuan Farmers Association (MFA).

The PRIC was allocated with Php 1,395,380 for the vegetable production while the MFA got 1,472,200 pesos for the swine production, he added.

Makilala is located at the foot of the tallest mountain in the country, the Mt. Apo, a fertile soil area suitable for vegetable production. The swine production will be implemented in the area. ### (Anisa Allyn M. Saaduddin and Jemiema D.R. Arro)

M'LANG FARMERS RECEIVE PHP 1M WORTH OF SUPPORT FOR MALLARD DUCK PRODUCTION

July 24, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – The Department of Agriculture (DA) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) conducts training programs for Mallard Duck production to enrich knowledge of the farmer-partners in M'lang, North Cotabato on July 12, 2018.

common diseases on the duck. The training would help farmer-partners learn good practices in taking care and proper feeding of ducks to achieve good production. (Anisa Allyn M. Saaduddin and Jemiema D.R. Arro)

To increase food production and lessen poverty, members of the Lepaga United Farmer Association (LUFA) and Dalipe Agribusiness Farmer Association (DAFA) are trained on the proper handling of Mallard Duck and basic know-how on duck egg production. The fund amounting to Php 1 million, which came from the DA Central Office downloaded to the Municipal Local Government Unit of M'lang, included social preparation activities, distribution of interventions, and monitoring.

SAAD Provincial Coordinator Jerry Tingson organized the training with M'lang Area Coordinator, Victor Panogadia, Municipal Agriculturist (MA) Caleb Aaron Fabila, and other SAAD coordinators. Mayor Russel Abonado and Vice Mayor Joselito Piñol are also present.

Agriculturist Technician and Livestock Coordinator Idefonso Saligumba Jr. discussed the basic technique on duck egg production while Lilian Lumbao, DVM, stressed how to deal with



SAAD COVERS THREE PROVINCES IN THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION FOR 2019-2022

July 26, 2018

BAGUIO CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) National Program Management Office (NPMO) conducted a Consultative Meeting for multi-year plan (FY 2019-2022) crafting for the provinces of Apayao, Mountain Province, and Kalinga in Baguio City on 2-6 July 2018.

SAAD Director Bernadette F. San Juan opened the meeting by mentioning that the SAAD was recognized by the Philippine Statistics Authority as a program that contributed in the performance of agriculture. Further, she also encouraged each one to come up with a good plan to be able to achieve successful implementation.

Attendees from the NPMO are Dir. San Juan, Mr. Ulysses Lustria, Jr., Mr. Darwin Pamatmat, Ms. Karla Ivanah Borromeo, Engr. Maria Sandra Guinguing, Engr. Quincel Ramos and Ms. Jeanelle Amoloza. It was also attended by the representative of DA-CARFO Planning Officer assigned for SAAD, SAAD RPMSO-CAR staff, APCO, and Provincial & Municipal Agriculturists from Apayao, Kalinga and Mountain Province.

Mr. Darwin Pamatmat, from the NPMO Planning and Budget team, discussed the mechanics of the consultative meeting. He then mentioned that the

projects given to the farmer-partners will be developed into enterprises that are sustainable for their future needs.

Banana production and marketing, root crop production and processing, muscovado production and marketing, and nursery development were some of the proposals prepared by the Mountain Province, Kalinga and Apayao. It is hoped that these projects and interventions will help uplift the lives of our poor farmer-partners in these provinces by the year 2022.

The draft proposals were critiqued by the NPMO and would be finalized and submitted within the month of July. ##
(Jeanelle M. Amoloza)

DA-SAAD HOLDS BACK-TO-BACK MYPs FOR 5 COVERED PROVINCES IN REGION VIII

July 26, 2018

TACLOBAN CITY, LEYTE – The National Program Management Office (NPMO) of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program conducted its Multi-Year Planning (MYP) and Workshop with program implementers in Region VIII at the Luxury Suites Hotel, Tacloban, Leyte on July 16 to 20, 2018.

Regional Technical Director Dr. Elvira C. Torres, Assistant SAAD Regional Focal Person, welcomed the participants and expressed support to SAAD, stating that in the program implementation, “there is a lot of money (budget) but there is also a lot of responsibility (accountability)”.

In the succeeding days and for his part, OIC-Regional Technical Director Dr. Andrew Rodolfo T. Orais, SAAD Regional Focal Person, inspired the implementers by encouraging them to strengthen, organize, and consult [the stakeholders] in terms of what they really want and can continue to utilize as an organization.

He added, that as change agents, we should instill ownership of projects to the farmers in order to help them graduate from poverty, as the government only facilitates these food and livelihood interventions.

Consisting the SAAD NPMO Planning and Monitoring Team Visayas are its Planning Officer, Ms. Katherine Angeles; its Monitoring Officer, Ms. Ashley Mae Apigo; and its PR & Communications Officer, Ms. Ela Arciaga; led by the Assistant Head of the SAAD NPMO Planning and Monitoring Group, Mr. Ulysses Lustria, Jr., who said that, ‘we don’t just give [the farmers] food, we give them [sustainable] livelihood’.

They discussed the Project Proposal Rating Sheet which the implementers should keep in mind in reviewing every project proposal in the MYP. This ensures that the projects are relevant, suitable, efficient, effective, and sustainable; and that logistics, proximity, impact, farmers’ capability (absorptive capacity) are factored in.



They also emphasized that the individual farmer-partners should be formed into organizations or be made to join one, later on transforming them into viable enterprises.

During the workshop, SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) Planning and Budget Head Mr. Darwin Pamamat said that the cash-based budgeting, which will start in FY2019, requires that intervention items should be procured, distributed, and disbursed within the year. Otherwise, funds will be reverted back to Treasury. Thus, every bottleneck of the program shall be taken into consideration when planning.

Consistent with the agreements during the SAAD Program's First Quarter Assessment (held in Caluwayan Palm Island Resort and Restaurant, Marabut, Samar on April 24 to 27, 2018), which include working together with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) – SAAD, the latter's interventions (fingerlings distribution, seaweed development, fishing gears

and paraphernalia, technology distribution, cages for livelihood, post-harvest equipment, and marketing assistance/support) were presented during the program as well.

After reviewing and evaluating each MYPs made by the concerned provinces, SAAD RPMSO VIII is set to submit their multi-year proposals to the SAAD NPMO on July 27, 2018.

The MYPs for FY 2020-2022 aim to set a direction for the SAAD towards the attainment of its overall objective, aside from becoming the basis for the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in the annual approval of the SAAD Program Plan and Budget proposal.

Leyte, Southern Leyte, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, and Samar are five (5) SAAD-covered provinces in Region VIII since 2017, chosen based on the 2012 and 2015 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) poverty statistics reports. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD HOLDS 2ND QUARTER ASSESSMENT IN ZANORTE; DA REGION VIII REMAINS AS THE TOP PERFORMER

August 16, 2018

PIÑAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Department of Agriculture (DA) – Regional Field Office (RFO) VIII remained the top performer of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program as recognized during the latter's 2nd

Quarter Assessment in Manuel's Resort, Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte (ZaNorte) held from August 6 to 10, 2018.

From 59% obligation in the 1st quarter, DA Region VIII got 87.79% obligation



for the 1st Semester vs. FY 2018 General Appropriation Act (GAA) budget. The top-performing region is followed by DA Cordillera Administrative Region at 86.92% and DA Region V at 74.7%.

During the assessment

"This is not only our time to measure our targets; this is also the time to learn from each other, the time of reflection to recalibrate our strategies, the time for updating on new policies; and the time to enjoy the place and each and everyone's company." This is what SAAD Director Bernadette San Juan emphasized during the assessment.

DA Region IX Director Constancio Alama and Executive Assistant for the Governor of ZaNorte Fraxides Rubia also gave their speeches. They were both grateful for holding the event in the twin-city province.

The event started off as SAAD implementers settled issues and

concerns as they recall the agreements in the 1st Quarter Assessment, which was presented by Darwin Pamamat, SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) Planning and Budget Head.

After that, SAAD regional representatives, as well as SAAD Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), presented their FY 2018 Physical and Financial Accomplishments. It was also decided that the regions will present a video of their actual accomplishments, highlighting the enterprises developed, for SAAD's 3rd Quarter Assessment this October 2018.

Meanwhile, SAAD national staff sat down with their regional and provincial teams to discuss and evaluate their projects which were included in their multi-year proposals for FY 2019-2022. Staff from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation Region IX clarified issues regarding SAAD's availment of insurance for its

beneficiaries.

Ulysses Lustria, Jr. from SAAD NPMO Planning and Monitoring Group discussed the draft guidelines for SAAD's Cash for Assets (CfA). SAAD intends to provide CfA, temporary work to the most vulnerable population, as the program's another intervention.

On the other hand, SAAD NPMO Planning Officer Justin dela Rueda explained the template for Farm Record Keeping, which farmers can use to monitor their income and expenses. A tribute was also presented to honor the life of late Louie Española and the services he rendered in the program as the SAAD Provincial Coordinator for Compostela Valley. He passed away on July 11, 2018.

SAAD visits projects in ZaNorte

DA Region IX also prepared a field visitation to monitor some SAAD projects implemented in ZaNorte.

On the 9th of August 2018, SAAD implementers visited the Laver Chicken Egg Machine Production in New Siquijor, Mutia and the Sweet Corn & Goat Production in Sta. Catalina, La Libertad. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



DA AND BFAR TO STRENGTHEN HARMONIZATION OF SAAD IMPLEMENTATION

August 17, 2018

PIÑAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) and its attached agency, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), will strengthen the harmonization of their Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program implementation as agreed during DA-SAAD's 2nd Quarter Assessment. The event was held at Manuel's Resort, Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte from August 6 to 10, 2018.

BFAR-SAAD covers the same 30 priority provinces of DA-SAAD from 2017 to 2022 to cater the livelihood and capability needs of the poor fishermen. Its beneficiaries must be included in the BFAR Fishfolk Registration system.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan asked that BFAR-SAAD regional and provincial implementers meet with their DA-SAAD counterpart teams every month. This is for complementation of support that BFAR and DA provide to beneficiaries and for keeping track of the accomplishments of both agencies.

The implementers also plan to discuss what agricultural help that may be possibly given to the fisherfolk beneficiaries so that they could have an alternative source of income during off-season and calamities.

Meanwhile, BFAR Planning staff Arnel Valenzuela shared that the BFAR-SAAD has a P270M allocated General Appropriations Act (GAA) budget for FY 2018. It covers the delivery of aquaculture livelihood support, fishing gears and accessories, postharvest equipment, and fiberglass boats. Valenzuela added that Cordillera Administrative Region, Region 11, and Region 9 performed well in terms of their FY 2018 1st semester accomplishments.

The 30 priority provinces of the SAAD Program are as follows:

1. 2017: Apayao, Negros Oriental, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Northern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sarangani;
2. 2018: Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Siquijor, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Sulu, Bukidnon, Compostela Valley, and Sultan Kudarat; and
3. 2019: Kalinga, Mountain Province, Occidental Mindoro, Negros Occidental, Antique, Bohol, Misamis Occidental, Lanao del Norte, Agusan del Sur, and Surigao del Sur. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

SAAD PROMISES COME TRUE IN BICOL

August 20, 2018

True to the essence of the Department of Agriculture's newest program, the Special Area for Agricultural Development or SAAD, which is a Visayan word meaning "promise", the interventions to the farmer-partners in Bicol were recently distributed at their doorsteps.

In the province of Catanduanes, a total of 286 farmers from the most marginalized sector of the towns of Bagamanoc, Baras, Bato, Gigmoto, Panganiban, and San Miguel received various interventions.

After the completion of the series of training on Upland Rice Production, some 70 upland dwellers received rice seeds at one sack each along with complete fertilizer. The pre-selected farmers are cultivating an average landholding of one hectare.

Also in Catanduanes, 56 groups received packets of vegetable seeds which include okra, pechay, bush and pole sitao and ampalaya.

Meanwhile, in Masbate, a total of 2,300 bags of upland rice, 1,270 bags of complete fertilizers and 430 bags corn seeds were distributed to the pre-selected farmers from the municipalities of Esperanza, Balud, Pio V Corpus, and Mandaon.

In the province of Sorsogon, 550 bags of upland rice seeds were distributed to the farmer-partners in the



municipalities of Donsol (75 farmers), Pilar (187 farmers), Magallanes (51 farmers), Juban (93 farmers), Sta. Magdalena, (70 farmers) and Matnog (74 farmers).

Earlier, the SAAD area coordinators in the three provinces conducted a house-to-house interview of the farmers to assess their needs and available resources as well as identify the potential areas where the project can have the greatest impact.

Having identified the needs and available resources of the beneficiaries, a number of training programs on upland rice and vegetable production were conducted in coordination with the DA RFO 5 banner programs to prepare the mindset of the farmers and equip them with the necessary skills to sustain the projects. ### (Lovella P. Guarin)

SAAD MAGUINDANAO CONDUCTS DISTRIBUTION FOR NATIVE CHICKEN PROJECT

August 24, 2018

MAGUINDANAO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) – Maguindanao conducted distribution of interventions for the Native Chicken at Barangay Poblacion, Paglat; Barangay Lower Dilag, Pandag; Barangay Talitay, Buluan; Barangay Kaya-kaya, Datu Abdullah Sangki; Barangay Kitango, Datu Saudi Ampatuan; Barangay Nekitan, Datu Odin Sinsuat; Barangay Romongaob, South Upi; and Barangay Kiga, North Upi in Maguindanao on July 27 to August 1, 2018.

The Native Chicken Project is under the SAAD 2017 fund, wherein each of the 8 barangays (at 25 farmer-partners each) received a total P 269,200.00 worth of interventions.

Overall, two hundred (200) farmer-partners received 12 heads of native chicken each composed of 2 males and 10 females, together with the inputs of feeds, drugs & biologics, sweatshirts, and hats.

The distribution was made in cooperation with Barangay staff and officials, Municipal Agriculturist Office, Agricultural Technician, Office of Provincial Agriculturist and Office of Provincial Agricultural Veterinary. ### (Niño F. Anzano)



SAAD TRANSFERS FUND WORTH PHP 2.26 MILLION TO MUNICIPALITY OF MATALAM

August 24, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – A total of P 2.26 million was transferred by the DA's Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD)-Regional Field Office (RFO) XII to the municipality of Matalam, North Cotabato on July 19, 2018. The fund was sourced from the SAAD's FY 2017 fund.

The fund will support several projects such as rice and corn production, vegetable production, and goat raising production in five barangays in Matalam. A total of 660 farmer-partners from six different farmers' associations are expected to benefit from the said projects. These projects were proposed by the Municipal Local Government Unit of Matalam to provide additional food for poor households and to augment their income.

SAAD hopes that the LGU of Matalam will work closely with SAAD Regional and Provincial Offices throughout



project implementation and monitoring to ensure its success and achieve the desired change in the lives of its farmer-partners.

Regional Executive Director Milagros C. Casis handed the check to Municipal Vice Mayor Oscar Valdevieso, together with OIC Municipal Agriculturist Elmirita J. Llagas. ### (Jemiema D.R.Arro and Anisa Allyn Saaduddin)

SAAD HANDS A PHP 2.26 MILLION WORTH OF CHECK TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN

August 24, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program-Regional Field Office (RFO) XII turned-over P 2.26 million worth of check under the FY 2017 fund to the municipality of Kabacan, North Cotabato on July 19, 2018.

The funds are intended to cover four projects namely, mallard duck and balut production, native swine production, native goat production, and native chicken production.

These projects will be provided to and

managed by 4 farmers' associations namely, Bangilan Farmer's Association, Pisan Rural Improvement Club, Bannawag Fishfolk Association, and Dagupan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries-MPC.

Regional Executive Director Milagros C. Casis handed the check to Municipal Vice Mayor Myra Dulay Bade, together with Municipal Agriculturist Sasong S. Pakkal, and Sangguniang Bayan Chairman on Agriculture Hon. Reyman Saldivar.

Director Casis expressed her gratitude to DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and to President Duterte for the opportunities that the SAAD gave to several municipalities and to less fortunate people in Region 12. She said, "We are one lucky. DA reaches out even to the farthest places just to give projects but we hope you take care of the projects given to you".

The following were also present during the event: SAAD Regional Program Support Office (RPMO) and Provincial Program Support (PPMSO) Staff, Municipal and Barangay Officials, and farmer groups' representatives. ### (Jemiema D.R.Arro and Anisa Allyn Saaduddin)

DA-SAAD SUPPORTS BACKYARD CATTLE FATTENING IN PIKIT, NORTH COTABATO



August 24, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – A total of 51 heads of cattle was distributed by the Department of Agriculture's (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program to various farmers' associations from 3 barangays in Pikit, North Cotabato on July 26, 2018.

The dispersal was facilitated by the Provincial Local Government Unit of North Cotabato in cooperation with the representatives from SAAD Provincial Program Support (PPMSO)-North Cotabato and members of recipient farmers' associations.

The Backyard Cattle Fattening Project with a total worth of P 1.43 million was funded using the FY 2016 fund. The project will be managed by 3 farmers' associations namely, Lagundi Irrigators Association, Pamalian Farmer Association, and Langayan Farmer Association. It is expected to augment the household income of poor members of the association and to boost the local



economy.

The activity also gave the farmer-partners the opportunity to express their warm appreciation to the Duterte administration, particularly to DA Sec. Emmanuel Piñol and DA-Region 12 Executive Director Engr. Milagros Casis for their continuous support through SAAD interventions. ###



DA-SAAD DISTRIBUTES 2,130 HEADS OF MALLARD DUCKS IN ANTIPAS, NORTH COTABATO



August 24, 2018

NORTH COTABATO – A total of 2,130 heads of Mallard Ducks were given to 30 farmer-partners from barangays

Malatab, Kiyaab, luhong, Camutan, Malire, and Malangag in Antipas, North Cotabato on July 19, 2018. The project amounts to Php 1.19 million pesos as each farmer-partner received 71 heads of mallard ducks.

The distribution was facilitated by the Provincial Local Government Unit of North Cotabato using the 2016 DA funds. During the event, Mrs. Elvira Mendoza from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAG) discussed techniques on the proper care and management of mallard ducks.

Also, there to witness the event were the representatives from SAAD Provincial Program Support Office-North Cotabato, Office of Municipal Agriculturist, Office of Provincial Agriculturist, and barangay officials. ### (Jemiema D.R.Arro and Anisa Allyn Saaduddin)

DA-SAAD VISITS TWO ENTERPRISE SITES IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

September 5, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted its 2nd Quarterly Assessment (2QA) hosted by Regional Field Office (RFO) IX in Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte on 6-10 August 2018.

SAAD in DA-RFO IX assists the poorest farmers in all 27 municipalities of Zamboanga del Norte (or ZaNorte for short). During the 2QA, the host region organized a site visit to two (2) associations in the municipalities of Mutia and La Libertad, respectively. About 30 minutes southwest (14.6 kilometers) from Piñan, Program implementers from the National Program Management Office (NPMO), Regional and Provincial Program Management Support Office (RPMSO, PPMSO) reached the municipality of Mutia to meet with one of the beneficiary associations in its production area.

New Siquijor Women's Association received their 'egg machines' on June 5, 2018. Under SAAD's Layer Chicken Egg Production Project, the women were able to receive trays that usually accommodated thirty (30) eggs, 2-months' worth of feeds, and 384 ready-to-lay pullets which produced medium- to large-sized eggs priced at Php 150 for medium, and Php 165 for



large ones.

Headed by the Association President, Helen Tumombang, the group conducts a once a month meeting which falls on every first Friday of the month. Members consist of a representative from each family in the village. As of current listing, New Siquijor Women's Association has 48 members.

The members take turn in the rotation duty of looking out for and maintaining the chicken house. This includes stocking the chicken manure in order to use some of it as their backyard vegetables' fertilizer as well as fetching water to hydrate the chickens. The women farmers learned the basics having attended trainings on Layer Chicken Production, Financial Management, and Production Recording as part of SAAD's support. No wonder the chicken house is clean and is well-maintained.

In terms of sales, even the members have agreed that they won't be having a discount in patronizing their own product. They currently supply the next



adjacent barangay, that according to them are requesting for additional supply. Having properly recorded their egg count, the women declare having no less than 747 eggs (or 25 trays) to sell per day.

SAAD Program Director, Bernadette San Juan, is pleased with the Women's Association by saying, "Marunong kayong mag-alaga. Dapat kayong tulungan. (You know how to take care [of the animals]. You deserve the help.)" The egg machine earnings (at least Php 26,000 in June), have not yet been divided among the members and at this point will more likely be deposited in a bank. Further, in view of the project's expansion, SAAD team in DA-RFO IX aims to link the women farmers to a supplier that can provide new chickens once their current ones' age.

Next off, and about an hour from Mutia

is La Libertad, where the visitors were welcomed by the Association members and their implementation partners by serving them with various Filipino delicacies, including sweet braised corn which are actually the product of the Laproda Farmers' Association under the Sweet Corn and Goat Production Project of the SAAD Program.

Part of the package they received are 40 kilograms of sweet corn that they grow in a pH (scale) 5 type of soil. The group also plans to plant on a weekly basis to ensure corn availability. The association is able to sell the sweet corn within La Libertad at Php 30.00 per kilo. They plan to expand their market in Dipolog as well.

Reporting the status of their operations, the members have admittedly met many problems with irrigation, which they are only able to counter by relying

on rain. The livestock droppings are also used by the group to help nourish the land condition where they plant the corn. While waiting for additional materials such as power sprayers, corn stands, and a vermicast bin, the members busy themselves by contributing to goat feeding or management of their net income every year.

Director San Juan also suggested to modify the goat house by increasing the height of its stilts for better ventilation, as well as allowing a bigger floor spacing for the droppings to easily pass through to the soil.

The members are also seeking for a hand tractor with trailer that they can use for hauling purposes once they expand. They are able to do a workaround by using habal-habal (motorcycles) at present. They could also make use of a bioreactor to easily decompose the corn stalks.

ZaNorte is among the top ten (10) provinces covered by the Program on its first year of implementation in 2017. This is due to its high percentage of poverty incidence among families, from the Philippine Statistics Authority database in 2012, and continues to be part of the Program until 2022 since it is still among the poorest provinces of the country based on PSA's 2015 poverty data. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DRAGON FRUIT PRODUCTION, AN EMERGING INDUSTRY

September 6, 2018

SIQUIJOR – Twenty (20) farmers covered by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program from the six (6) municipalities in the island of Siquijor attended the Dragon Fruit Production Technology Training at the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (DA-PATCO) on 12-13 July 2018.

Dragon fruit production is 1 of 4 projects implemented by DA-SAAD in strong collaboration with the provincial and municipal LGUs. Each dragon fruit farmer with 0.25 hectare (ha) will receive 630 planting materials and 156 concrete posts. To ensure crop productivity, farmers will also receive plastic drums with cover, sprinklers and heavy-duty bolos. To sum it up, twenty (20) dragon fruit farmers will receive 4.4M worth of interventions.

Provincial Agriculturist (PA), Ms. Lilibeth P. Caroro, said during her opening remarks that, "dragon fruit can thrive well in the province because it is a desert plant". She also added, "Marketing is not a problem because it has a known market".

While giving the inspirational message, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer Ms. Bernadith S. Bunado, encouraged the farmers to concentrate on dragon fruit production because it is

an emerging industry. She asked the farmers to accept the intervention provided whole-heartedly and take care of it. "You are very lucky to be the dragon fruit pioneers of Siquijor. We would like you to be our lifetime partners in the dragon fruit industry," she said.

Before starting his lecture about the Cultural Management and Practices in Dragon Fruit Production, Provincial High Value Crops Coordinator Mr. Lowel B. Salve informed the farmers that this kind of crop is under the High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP). "When we say high value, it means that we can earn money from it," he said.

Mr. Aniano Inao, a known dragon fruit farmer in the province, gave his testimony. He said that the farmers are so lucky to be the recipients of this project. He also shared his farming practices. To encourage the farmers, he told them that he is not only selling fruits but also planting materials. The training ended with a field visit at the Dragon Fruit farm of Mr. Inao in barangay Bino-ongan and Libo, Enrique Villanueva, Siquijor. ###
(Agnes Guanella M. Café and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD REGION VII HOLDS QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT IN SIQUIJOR

September 5, 2018

SIQUIJOR – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its 2nd Quarter Assessment at Dapdap Sunset Grill, in Pangl, Siquijor, Siquijor on July 10-11, 2018.

The assessment was attended by Program implementers from the Regional and Provincial Program Management Support Office (RPMO/PPMSO) which includes staff from Negros Oriental and Siquijor—two SAAD provinces in Regional Field Office (RFO) VII. Also present in the activity is ACC-II/APCO Ms. Bernadith S. Bunado from DA-PATCO Siquijor.

For his part, SAAD Focal Person in Region VII Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles gave an update regarding the status of the 2018 implementation SAAD program in the region.

During the event, Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator Mr. Jaypee Soldivillo and Siquijor Interim Provincial Coordinator (also Area Coordinator) Ms. Agnes Guanella Café reported the Physical Accomplishments as of 2nd Quarter.

The SAAD Map of Interventions were also presented by the Provincial ITs in SAAD Negros Oriental and Siquijor, which was their output during the 1st National IT Assessment in Baguio City on 4-8 June 2018.



The conduct of the Multi-Year Planning (MYP) for FY 2020-2022 was agreed upon to be held in the SAAD covered provinces of Region VII on August.

An upcoming event for Siquijor has been discussed as well. This is a field visit in the dragon fruit farm of Mr. Aniano Inao (one of the Dragon Fruit producers in Siquijor). He will also serve as a resource person Dragon Fruit Production Technology Training slated on 12-13 July. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

THREE DA-SAAD PROVINCES IN REGION 7 UNDERGO MYP DRAFT CRITIQUING

September 6, 2018

CENTRAL VISAYAS – The National Program Management Office (NPMO) of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program conducted its Multi-Year Planning (MYP) and Workshop with program implementers of Region VII in Tagbilaran, Dumaguete, and Siquijor on 28-31 August 2018.

The event was attended by SAAD regional and provincial staff of Region VII, led by Regional Field Office (RFO) VII Focal Person, Engr. Eugene Cahiles, Jr., together with Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee Soldivillo, and Siquijor Interim PC Ms. Agnes Guanella Café. Provincial/Municipal Agriculturists and Agricultural Technicians from each Local Government Unit (LGU) of the covered provinces were also invited to participate in the consultation meeting.

The MYP aimed at crafting project proposals of Negros Oriental, Siquijor, and Bohol, not only for the provision of funds for FY 2020-2022 but also in preparation for the Department of Budget and Management's (DBM) one-year cash-based budgeting, which will start in 2019.

For 2017 SAAD province, Negros



Oriental, there are 24 municipalities being covered by the Program; each municipality aims to cover 10 barangays, and 30 farmers in these barangays. An enterprise shall also be organized per group and not per individual.

Meanwhile, there are 770 farmers listed in 2018 SAAD province Siquijor's MYP. Given the present number of Area Coordinators servicing the province (which is 3), there is a high chance that the beneficiary count would remain the same than expand.

All six (6) municipalities (3 barangays each) of Siquijor are catered by SAAD. Present during the consultation are representatives from Enrique Villanueva, Larena, Maria, San Juan, and Siquijor.

The newest addition to Region VII province in 2019 is Bohol. In their MYP, there will be five of their (5) municipalities that the SAAD Program will cover, six (6) barangays from these municipalities shall be the priority of the province, covering thirty (30) farmers each barangay.

All in all, based on the 'homework' presented by Bohol, a total of 900 farmers in the province shall benefit from the program and will be established as associations.

Composing NPMO Team Visayas are its Planning Officer, Ms. Katherine Angeles; Monitoring Officer, Ms. Ashley Mae Apigo; and PR & Communications Officer, Ms. Ela Arciaga. Leading the

MYP discussion is the Head of the SAAD NPMO Planning and Budget



Team, Mr. Darwin A. Pamatmat, along with Planning and Budget Officer, Ms. Karla Borromeo.

After reviewing and evaluating each MYPs drafted by the concerned provinces, SAAD RPSMO VII is set to submit their proposals to the Planning and Budget Team, for review along with Team Visayas of the Planning and Monitoring Group (PMG) of SAAD NPMO.

The MYPs for FY 2020-2022 aim to set a direction for the Program towards the attainment of its overall objective, aside from becoming the basis for the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) in the annual approval of DA-SAAD Program Plan and Budget proposal.

Negros Oriental, Siquijor, and Bohol are three (3) SAAD-covered provinces in Region VII for 2017, 2018, and 2019, respectively, chosen based on the 2015 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) poverty statistics report.

To date, the Planning and Budget Team of SAAD NPMO has already conducted similar activities in nine (9) SAAD covered regions. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SAAD NEGROS ORIENTAL CONDUCTS CAPABILITY-BUILDING AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

September 6, 2018

DAUIN, NEGROS ORIENTAL – Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) of Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in Negros Oriental conducted a Capability-Building and Leadership Training (part of its 2017 funds and as a component of the Program's Social Preparation stage) held at the Municipal Covered Court of Dauin, Negros Oriental on 16 April 2018.

Entitled, "Leading to Choices—A Social Preparation/Capabilities Building and Leadership Training," it aimed to share knowledge and further enhance the values of the SAAD farmers in Negros Oriental including the leadership aspect.

The training was facilitated by SAAD Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo together with his PPMSO staff, as well as Area Coordinator of Dauin, PAO Personnel Engr. Angelina S. Cubalan.

PC Soldivillo discussed on values and leadership to the attendees while conducting capability exercises.

Meanwhile, procurement process follow-up in the region continues for DA-SAAD RFO VII. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD HOLDS MASS HAND TRACTOR DISTRIBUTION IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

September 6, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Region VII, through its Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) distributed hand tractors under its 2017 funds to SAAD farmers of Negros Oriental—specifically in Tayasan on 26 March; and Basay and Zamboanguita on 27 March 2018.

The distribution is facilitated SAAD Negros Oriental, led by its Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo together with the rest of his PPMSO staff; Zamboanguita Area Coordinator Engr. Angelina S. Cubalan; Tayasan Area Coordinator Mr. Ryan



SAAD NEGROS ORIENTAL FACILITATES SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON GOAT PRODUCTION

September 6, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) organized a Specialized Training on Goat Production for the farmers of Negros Oriental, held in the Municipal Quadrangle of Poblacion Tayasan, Negros Oriental on 26-27 March 2018.

The training, which aimed to share knowledge on goat production to improve the farmers' livelihood, was done by the SAAD Negros Oriental staff, led by its Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo with the rest of his team in the PPMSO.

All out support was given by Tayasan Mayor Engr. Susano L. Ruperto Jr.; Engr. Angelina S. Cubalan, Mr. Francis Ray Ozoa, Ms. Angelique T. Babaran; La Libertad Area Coordinator (AC) Mr. Nelson Pacunla; Tayasan AC Mr. Ryan Maribojoc and Ayungon & Bindoy AC Mr. Rico Sienes; Assistant Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Mr. Virgilio A. Awayan, PATCO Livestock Head Mr. Jose Andro S. Vendiola, Provincial Agricultural Office (PAO) Personnel Virginia G. Tadiaman, and Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) Sarah V. Ignacio.

Mr. Vendiola discussed topics covering goat production, while PAO staff gave lecture on Values Formation and

Leadership. Assigned ACs also conducted LogFraming together with their farmer-partners. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD NEGROS ORIENTAL ORGANIZES SPECIALIZED TRAINING ON UPLAND RICE PRODUCTION

September 6, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Under its CY 2018 funds, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted another training under its Social Preparation component at Barangay Apanangon, Jimalalud Negros Oriental on 10-11 April 2018. Another batch was also held at Brgy. Pacuan, still in Jimalalud Negros Oriental on 12-13 April 2018.

The Specialized Training on Upland Rice Production aims to share knowledge on Upland Rice Production and is tailor-fitted to Farmer Associations with SAAD farmer-beneficiaries as members. This seeks to further assist them in the improvement their established livelihood.

Organizing the said training are SAAD Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo together with the rest of the SAAD-PPMSO staff; with support from the Provincial Agriculturist Office (PAO) personnel Ms. Virginia G. Tadiaman, Mr. Roy Serion, and Mr. Clarence Cabrera; as well as Local Government Unit (LGU) support staff from Brgys. Apanangon,

Maribojoc, and Basay Area Coordinator Mr. Andro Shalom Ramirez. All in all, eight (8) units of hand tractor were given to the municipalities of Basay (1 unit to Barangay Bal-os), Tayasan (5 units to Brgys. Guinalaban, Tambulan, Tanlad, Pindahan, and Bago), and Zamboanguita (2 units to Brgy. Mayabon).

The farmer-partners were grateful and happy to receive the SAAD interventions and they promise that they will use it for greater productivity of their livelihood.

SAAD Negros Oriental will regularly monitor the equipment provided to the said municipalities in Negros Oriental. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

Lacaon, Pacuan, Eli, and Buto.

The PAO discussed various topics such as Upland Rice Production, Pest Control, Land Preparation, Values Formation, and Leadership.

The SAAD staff also facilitated the conduct of LogFrame in Brgys. Apanangon, and Pacuan—which aims

to list down projects that they need. Needs like carabao and FMR or Farm-To-Market roads were identified. However, the implementers stressed that some of the items from the wish list are still subject for approval. The activity, however, let the farmer-beneficiaries have a voice in the consultation process. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

DA-SAAD PROVIDES PHP 12.7 MILLION WORTH OF LIVESTOCK TO SIKUIJOR FARMER-PARTNERS

September 17, 2018

SIKUIJOR – A hundred (100) cattle and 60 goat farmer-partners from the six (6) municipalities of Siquijor will receive Php 7.2 million worth of interventions from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) will spearhead the project implementation in strong collaboration with the SAAD Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) and municipal Local Government Units (LGUs).

On 25-27 July 2018, sixty (60) goat farmer-partners attended the Specialized Training on Goat Raising at the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) Conference Hall in Helen, Larena, Siquijor. Ten (10) farmer-partners from each of the six (6) municipalities attended the said training.

Based from the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) data, goat is one of the major animals shipped out of the Siquijor. As backyard goat raising is common in the province, this makes goat as one of the commodities identified by the SAAD Program as a means of helping the marginalized farmers in increasing their income.

Goat farmer-partners will receive one (1) packet of goat (1 male and 4 female goats). In addition, they will also receive three (3) bags of starter feeds while they still grow their forage grasses and legumes. To protect the goat against climatological influences and stray animals, the farmer-partners will receive Php 20,000 worth of materials for the goat shed. Construction of the goat shed will be the farmer's equity.

On 22-24 August 2018, a simultaneous

Cattle Production Technology Training was conducted in two (2) batches of cattle farmer-partners with fifty (50) farmers per batch as attendees.

Batch 1—which is composed of the farmers from the municipalities of San Juan, Siquijor and Larena—were trained at the OPA Conference Hall in Helen, Larena, Siquijor.

Batch 2—which is composed of the farmers from the municipalities of Enrique Villanueva, Maria and Lazi—were trained at the Maria Farmers Livelihood Center. Cattle is one of the province's priority commodity. Like goat, there is a known market for cattle and its shipment is rampant.

Upgraded cattle breeder stock will be provided to the 100 cattle farmer-partners. They will also receive four (4) bags of starter feeds while they still grow their forage grasses and legumes. They are also provided with veterinary drugs and biologics. ### (Agnes Guanella M. Café and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

DA-SAAD CONDUCTS URBAN ORGANIC GARDENING TRAINING TO FARMER-PARTNERS IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

September 27, 2018

DUMAGUETE, NEGROS ORIENTAL – Two (2) batches of Capability-Building and Skills Training on Urban Organic Gardening was conducted by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) of the Department of Agriculture (DA) at Ms. Ann's Foodtown, Bantayan, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental on 29-31 August, and 5-7 September 2018.

The training aims to give the participants (from Barangays Poblacion 1, & 2, Calindagan, Poblacion 7, & 8, Bagacay, and Tabuc-Tubig) with knowledge on Urban Organic Gardening Production.

Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo led the facilitation of the training. Providing support were Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Marcelina U. Cabonelas (Dumaguete City), AC Engr. Maria Angelina S. Cubalan (Sibulan), SAAD Admin Ms. Angelique Babaran, and SAAD ITs Mr. Francis Ray Ozoa and Mr. Karl Cabonelas. Support from the LGUs came from of City Agriculture Office staff headed by Mr. Albert T. Bael, and 2nd District Board Member



Hon. Nilo Sayson, and APCO-Negros Oriental Ms. Sarah J. Perocho. Aside from the conduct of training, Barangays Poblacion 1 & 2 were also provided with three (3) sacks of vermicompost, one (1) sack of carbonized rice hull, and two (2) pieces of seedling trays. Meanwhile, Brgy. Calindagan was allocated with three (3) sacks of vermicompost, and carbonized rice hull, and two (2) pieces of seedling trays. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD PROVIDES RICE CUTTER UNITS TO FARMER-PARTNERS IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

September 27, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Farmer-partners from six (6) Local Government Units (LGUs) of Negros Oriental were provided by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program with rice cutters in Siaton, Basay, La Libertad, Canlaon, Mabinay, and Tayasan on 20 and 22-24 August 2018.

Events in Siaton and Basay on 20 August were attended by SAAD Area Coordinator (AC) Mr. Andro Shalom Ramirez and Siaton LGU staff, headed by its OIC-Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO) Mr. Nestor K. Macahig. Siaton Municipal Federated Farmer's Association was awarded with six (6) units of rice cutters, as received by their Association President Mr. Ricardo Bucog. Basay LGU staff, headed by its MAO Mr. Rady O. Morados awarded one (1) rice cutter unit to Cabigti-an Cayangcangon Tambo Colos Farmers Association, as received by its President Mr. Neil Jay C. Academia.

A total of five (5) units were awarded on 22 August, Canlaon LGU staff headed by OIC-City Agricultural Officer Ms. Andrea C. Canoy assisted with the awarding of one (1) unit of rice cutter to Budlasan Agri-Farm Family and Irrigator's Association to its President Mr. Elmer G. Encarnacion; two (2) units to Bucalan Farmers Irrigators

Association, received by its President Mr. Nilo Y. Canopin Sr.; and two (2) units to Masulog Agro-forestry Farmers Association, received by its Association President Mr. Eric C. Eleccion.

Meanwhile, one (1) unit each went to two (2) associations in Mabinay namely, Barangay Tara Farm Family Association, received by President Mr. Felix Martin Sr.; and Bato Hapsay Rural Improvement Club, given to its President Ms. Merlita B. Bineas on 23 August 2018.

This was facilitated by the hardworking people behind the SAAD Program, including AC Mr. Rico Sienes, assisted by the Mabinay LGU staff headed by MA Ms. Melanie A. Malacapay. On the next day, 24 August, SAAD AC Mr. Ryan Maribojoc, together with Tayasan LGU staff headed by MA Ms. Sarah V. Ignacio, awarded a total of five (5) rice cutter units to three (3) associations in the municipality.

These are Pinalubngan Farmer Association with one (1) unit, as received by its President Mr. Dieger D. Pacunla; two (2) units to Pinocawan Farmer Association, received by President Mr. Jeson D. Carinal; and two (2) units that went to Tanlad Farmer Association, as awarded to the Association President Ms. Edith G. Paculanang.

The farmers were so grateful to the SAAD program upon receiving the postharvest equipment. The rice cutter aims to lessen the farmer-partners' harvest time and effort, as well as to maintain the good quality of produce.

All distributions were assisted by SAAD Negros Oriental staff, led by its Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo, Area Coordinators (ACs) Ms. Maria Angelina Cubalan, Ms. Marcelina Cabonelas, and SAAD Its Mr. Francis Ray Ozoa and Mr. Karl Cabonelas.

An upcoming distribution of rice seeds is slated this coming October 2018. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



NEGROS ORIENTAL FARMER-PARTNERS RECEIVE 275 HEADS OF GOAT FROM DA'S SAAD PROGRAM



September 27, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Fifty-five (55) individual farmer-partners of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in Negros Oriental received 275 heads of goat, as part of the Program's continuous strive to help increase the farmer-partners' livelihood income. The distribution is held in the Municipal Agricultural Offices (MAOs) of Bindoy, Tayasan, and Ayungon in Negros Oriental on 14 & 20 July 2018, respectively.

The distributions were overseen by the staff of the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO), headed by SAAD Focal Person for Region 7, Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles.

Providing support were Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) led by Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo, joined by Area Coordinators (AC) Engr. Maria Angelina Cubalan (Bacong, Dauin, Valencia, and Zamboanguita), AC Mr. Rico Sienes (Ayungon), and AC Ms. Marcelina Cabonelas (Dumaguete City, Sibulan, San Jose, and Amlan).

Local Government Unit (LGU) staff were also present to assist, headed by respective Municipal Agriculturists (MAs), Mr. Harry R. Calumpang (Bindoy), Ms. Sarah Ignacio (Tayasan), Ms. Mary Marjorie A. Abella (Ayungon). Twenty (20) Bindoy farmer-partners were given 100 heads of goat, wherein one (1) buck and four (4) does went for

each beneficiary.

Moreover, 3,100 kilograms (or 62 bags) of grower feeds were given to the said municipality as the beneficiaries will receive 155 kgs. (or 3.1 bags), individually.

A total of fifteen (15) partner-farmer from Tayasan were also provided with one (1) buck and four (4) does each, having 75 goats for the said municipality. They were also allocated with 2,250 kgs. (or 45 bags) of grower feeds, receiving exactly three (3) bags each.

The same allocation was divided among the farmers in Ayungon – 100 goats, with 1 buck and 4 does for each of the 20 farmer-partners. Also, 3,050 kgs. (or 61 bags) of grower feeds were also given to the Municipality of Ayungon, as the farmers will be allocated 152.50 kgs. (or 3.05 bags) each.

The recipients were so happy that they can't explain their emotion as seen from their tears of joy.

The ACs will continue to monitor the intervention given, as the goat sheds are still in the bidding process. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Ariaga)



SAAD NEGROS ORIENTAL DISPENSES CATTLE TO FARMER-PARTNERS

September 27, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area of Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program facilitated a cattle distribution in the Local Government (LGU) of Dauin on 21 July 2018.

The SAAD Program, continuously committed in increasing the farmer-partners' livelihood income, provided thirty-seven (37) heads of cattle to 37 individual farmer-partners. Six (6) heads were given—on the other hand—to the Dauin Vegetable Grower Association (DAVEGA).

Facilitating the cattle distribution to the 37 farmer-partners and members of DAVEGA (headed by President Diego Elman), are Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) staff including SAAD Negros Oriental Staff Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo, Area Coordinator (AC) Engr. Maria Angelina Cubalan (Dumaguete City), and AC Rico Sienes (Ayungon).

Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) is also represented by its staff headed by the SAAD Focal Person for Region 7, Engr. Eugene C. Cahiles, together with Dauin LGU staff headed by Municipal Agriculturist (MA) Ms. Arlene K.

Corsame.

The recipients were so happy that they can't explain their emotion as seen from their tears of joy.

Eighty-five (85) more heads of cattle will benefit the same number of individual farmer-partners (which is 37), while twenty-nine (29) more will benefit DAVEGA. Until such time, SAAD ACs will continue to monitor the intervention given in Dauin, Negros Oriental. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



INTERACTIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH MAS RESOLVE SAAD IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES

September 27, 2018

EASTERN VISAYAS – One vital component of any program or project, is regular dialogue with implementers and other stakeholders to help keep abreast with what is happening at ground level, and inform management about issues and concerns besetting every aspect of implementation. With early detection of these impediments, strategic interventions could be employed to solve them, thereby effecting smooth implementation of the project activities, in this case, for the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

At the recently-concluded series of Consultation Meetings with Municipal Agriculturists (MAS) and State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) for the three (3) Samar provinces, and

Leyte and Southern Leyte held at Casa Anson, Tacloban City on 17–18 and 22 May 2018, issues and concerns in projects implementation surfaced. Recommendations were proffered, and steps taken to solve the problems were discussed during the free-wheeling dialogue for the participants to interact with.

Operational bottlenecks commonly cited by both program and Local Government Unit (LGU) personnel of the five (5) provinces where SAAD Program is being implemented were late or no delivery of inputs which caused delays in project implementation.

Exacerbating factors mentioned were hauling cost, inclement weather, delinquent suppliers, funds still with the

Provincial Local Government Unit (PLGU), etc. Actions taken were close coordination and follow-up with concerned individuals (suppliers, LGUs, R/PPMSO) to facilitate distribution and delivery of these inputs.

There was also reported political interference in some provinces, such as in choice of beneficiaries of equipment/machinery. Change in PLGU administration in 2016 also caused delay in processing of documents.

It was recommended that SAAD personnel team up with MAs to appeal to Local Chief Executives, convincing them that aforesaid common service facilities are meant originally for the 'poorest of the poor' farmers who will benefit immensely from their use.

Administrative matters, like absence of Provincial Coordinators (PCs) in Leyte and Samar, resource persons for trainings, provision of incentives or honoraria, and processing of Purchase Request (PR) documents, were also given equal attention. Suggestions were considered during the open forum and agreements reached on how to address these challenges.

At the end of each session, participants went back to their respective stations feeling relieved because management and the implementers themselves cooperated and exhausted all efforts to find solutions to problems at hand. Likewise, the activity was an opportune time to air their doubts and reservations about the program, re-establish bonds, and become familiar with all SAAD implementers.

As an aside, an acrostic appeared at the conclusion of University of Eastern Philippines's report regarding trainings conducted. It says:

S – Suporta nga dako
A – Aton pauswagon
A – Atamanun ngan tagan
D – Dungog

Roughly translated, the word play implies, "Let's build up on, cultivate, and give distinction to this huge support (from the government). ### (Jeanrose G. Basilan and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



MARCELINO C. LORONA: PROFILE OF A CASSAVA FARMER

September 27, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – It was just pure coincidence when Marcelino C. Lorona, a 64 year-old farmer residing at Brgy. Fatima, Liloan, Southern Leyte, found out about the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

He was then walking towards his rented farm area when he heard from bystanders about the Program in their barangay. He wished to be part of it, but didn't have the time to linger as he was in a hurry.

"Wa nako damha nga maapil ko aning SAAD. Sa dihang giadto kos Area Coordinator sa SAAD sa akong balay, apil man diay kos lista sa Municipal Agriculturist's Office. Grabe jud akong pasalamat sa Ginoo sa iyang kamaajo kay gitagaan ko nija og oportunidad nga makatagamtam sa hinabang gikan sa gobyerno (I never thought I would be part of SAAD. When SAAD's Area Coordinator went to my

house, it turned out I was included in the MAO's list. I truly thank God He gave me this opportunity to take part of the government's assistance)".

'Nong Marcelino and his wife live in a modest nipa hut; their children having left them many years ago. To sustain their daily needs, they plant root crops and vegetables in empty containers. His wife works as janitress in the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Liloan. Most often, she is assigned to clean comfort rooms even at her old age.

Lorona earns less than Php 100.00 per day; thus, the family's average monthly income is more or less Php 3,000.00, which is way below the monthly poverty threshold of Php 6,785.00 for a family of five in Southern Leyte.

As SAAD beneficiary, 'Nong Marcelino received SAAD interventions, consisting of cassava planting materials that he planted in his quarter-hectare farm, and fertilizer supply. "Dako na ang matabang niani kanamo. Amo ning palambuon kay grasya ning gihtagat sa amoa sa Ginoo pinaagi sa Department of Agriculture SAAD Program (This is already a big help to us. I will nurture and take good care of this gift given to us by the Lord, through the Department of Agriculture-SAAD Program)". ###
(Jocelyn A. Cabañas and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

ORAS MAYOR AWARDS INCENTIVES TO TOP SAAD SWINE PRODUCERS

September 27, 2018

EASTERN SAMAR – The onset of the monsoon season did not stop the culmination and mass induction rites of four (4) association officials held at the covered court of Barangay Sabang, Oras, Eastern Samar on 5 June 2018. Despite the heavy rain, the swine and goat farmers were undaunted because they believed that with the rains come bountiful blessings.

And so the blessings came in the form of incentives that the gracious and amiable Mayor of the Municipality of Oras Hon. Viviane P. Alvarez committed two (2) piglets that will be given to each of the top three farmers who, upon harvest of the hogs they raised for the 2017 program implementation, obtained the highest gross weight. Evangeline C. Moscosa (Brgy. Sabang), Arnel T. Moscosa (Brgy. Nadacpan), and Romeo C. Caliba (Brgy. Pangudtan)—whose hogs weighed 91.0 kg, 90.0 kg, and 86.0 kg, respectively—could not contain their happiness upon learning that they would receive this unexpected present from the Local Chief Executive (LCE).

Three of the four quadrant barangays Sabang, Nadacpan, and Pangudtan are recipients of the Swine Production Project of SAAD Program, while the fourth – Brgy. Saurong, is a recipient of the Goat Production Project. These farmers from the interior barangays belong to the poorest of the poor; hence, they were chosen as

beneficiaries.

At their own initiative but with active support of the Office of the Municipal Agricultural Services, the recipients organized themselves, elected the officers of their respective associations, and held the induction ceremony.

According to Provincial Coordinator (PC) of SAAD-PPMSO Eastern Samar Ms. Jeanrose G. Basilan, among the program-covered areas, the event was the first that ever happened in the province. During her speech, PC Basilan commended them for their efforts to form an association, which means they are currently a notch above the rest.

With the guidance of the supportive and facilitative Agricultural Technologist (AT) Ms. Leonora B. Japzon, and Municipal Agriculturist (MA) Mr. Salvador Dalosa, the farmer-partners formulated a five-year Livestock Development Plan, detailing the joint plans of the associations until 2022, and how they could sustain the swine and goat projects to benefit other members of the communities who are not SAAD Program beneficiaries.

In their inspirational messages, Mayor Alvarez and Sangguniang Barangay (SB) Member Mr. Benito Colico urged all those present to love and cherish (higugmaon ngan ugopan) the project, and even make some personal



sacrifices, for in the end, their efforts will surely not be in vain. The activity ended on a happy note with the ubiquitous curacha (traditional native dance) that raised funds for the associations. ###

SAAD PROGRAM DISTRIBUTES 2,598 HEADS LAYERS TO 433 FARMER-PARTNERS



September 27, 2018

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2ND IT ASSESSMENT HELD BY DA-SAAD IN DAVAO CITY

October 2, 2018

DAVAO CITY – Following the first National IT Assessment and Action Planning Workshop held in Baguio City, the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area of Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program holds a follow-up Assessment and Action Planning Workshop for the DA-SAAD Information Technology (IT) Cluster at the Casa Leticia Business Inn, Ecoland, Davao City starting today,

18-21 September 2018.

SAAD Regional and Provincial IT Officers (from DA-SAAD RFOs CAR, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13) mainly comprised the attendees, together with some SAAD Focal/Planning Officers. The National Program Management Office (NPMO) is led for the said activity by the IT Cluster Head, Mr. Marvin P. Segovia. Also present from

the NPMO were Planning and Monitoring Group Head Mr. Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr. Planning and Budget Head Mr. Darwin A. Pamamat, and the Planning and Monitoring Teams.

Mr. Lustria, for his part, relayed the importance of the information being asked from the Regions, not just for the oversight agencies, but also for the monitoring and evaluation of the SAAD Program itself.

Mr. Segovia reminded the IT Officers on the IT Guidelines to be observed when conducting field profiling and geotagging. He emphasized on the completeness and correctness of the data being consolidated in the national office.

Efforts to efficiently cover information of the interventions being provided by the SAAD Program are being considered - including the introduction of the template for recording of interventions which was thoroughly explained by NPMO Planning Officer Mr. Justin Dela Rueda to the attendees. In turn, the body was welcomed to actively comment on the said form which is still in its draft stage.

A separate presentation for the finalization of the 2019 Budget Execution Documents (BEDs) per Region was done and led by Mr. Pamamat.

The SAAD Program is a locally-funded project under DA that aims to provide agricultural livelihood assistance to marginalized farmers and fishermen in the country. It is also a relatively new project that started in 2017 to last until 2022. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD NEGROS ORIENTAL CONDUCTS TRAINING ON URBAN ORGANIC GARDENING

October 2, 2018

DUMAGUETE CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) conducted a Capability Building and Skills Training on Urban Organic Gardening at Ms. Ann's Food town, Brgy. Bantayan, Dumaguete City on 5-7 September 2018.

Participants are farmer-partners from four (4) barangays of Dumaguete City namely, Poblacion 7, Poblacion 8, Tabuc-Tubig, and Bagacay. The Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) provided the Resource Speaker for the training.

The training aims to provide farmer-partners new knowledge, skills, technology, behavior and attitude—to build up and continue their competencies and carry out their task more efficiently and resourcefully. Farmers were also given farm interventions like seedling trays; pechay, pepper, eggplant, and tomato seedlings. They were also given

vermicast, as well as carbonized rice hull.

Capacity building and skills training were provided for the farmer-partners on crop production and protection, all to help raise their household income and improve their living standards.

SAAD Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) in Negros Oriental is headed by its Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee Soldivillo. The Local Government Unit (LGU) of Dumaguete City also supported the activity headed by acting City Agriculturist Mr. Albert Bael.

Following the said activity, the SAAD Area Coordinator (AC) will be monitoring the given interventions in each of the barangay stated. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

DA-SAAD NEGROS ORIENTAL DISPERSES LIVESTOCK IN VALLEHERMOSO

October 2, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Forty-seven (47) farmer-partners benefited from the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program's draft animal turnover held at Sitio Bomba, Bagawinis, Vallehermoso, Negros Oriental on 10 September 2018.

Carabao (*Bubalus Bubalis*) is a commonly raised livestock. Farmers use carabao as draft in their farming system because it is an affordable and low-cost technology, and the investment can pay for itself in a short time period.

It is also available locally and maintenance can be conducted by the farmers. After a carabao can no longer serve as a draft animal, it can become a source of meat and meat by-products.

Heading team SAAD Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) is Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee Soldivillo. Co-organizing and facilitating the event is the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Vallehermoso headed by the Municipal Mayor Hon. Marianne S. Gustilo, along with the rest of the Sanggunian Bayan (SB) members. The Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) is also present, headed by Mr. Ronnie S. Gonzaga.

The fund for the said intervention is downloaded to the said LGU, while monitoring shall be done by the SAAD Area Coordinator in Vallehermoso, following the dispersal. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



CHICKEN OR EGG?

October 2, 2018

SAMAR – It's not what you're thinking. The article isn't about the universal enigma of what comes ahead: the chicken or the egg.

Rather, this is a story about how poor farmers, who do not even realize that they are poor because it has become a way of life for them, were helped by the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program to slowly rise from the sorry situation they are in.

Marilyn P. Bondocan, 45, Flor T. Ompad, 52, and Ronnie Avelino, 46, residents of Brgy. Anibongon, Sta. Rita, Samar, are among the six (6) recipients of the Poultry Production Project granted by SAAD Program to the locality. They were selected according to the 11-step process followed by the program and had undergone validation as belonging to the "poorest of the poor."

As is typical of rural inhabitants, they

reached grade school level or had graduated from elementary school, are married, landless, supporting families with children ranging from 2–10, unemployed, except for Ronnie who works as janitor of the local high school. Some work as farm hands during planting and harvest seasons.

They cultivate backyard gardens that grow sari-saring gulay (assorted vegetables). All are beneficiaries of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)'s Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps.

On 18 June 2018, each of them was provided with six (6) pullets and seven (7) sacks of layer feeds. Upon delivery of the inputs, geo-tagging and proper documentation were conducted. Being members of farmers' associations, namely, Anibongon Integrated Multi-Sectoral Farmers Association (AIMSFA) and Anibongon Farmers Association (AFA), they decided to merge their poultry production with an existing Sustainable Livelihood Project

(SLP) of DSWD that also raises chicken, and whose members also belong to the same organizations.

The primary reason given for this strategic move is convenience. From the time the chicken coop of these associations was constructed until the present, officers and members regularly conduct pintakasi, taking turns in tending to the chickens daily, maintaining the cleanliness and sanitary conditions of the immediate environment, looking after the safety of the animals every time the area and surrounding barangays are inundated, administering drugs and biologics, vending eggs, etc. Hence, they do not have to render service every day, but only on scheduled duty hours, so work at the project site does not come in conflict with household chores and personal obligations.

The recipients disclosed that the eggs they produce are sold on a per tray basis, and they are not even enough to

supply the needs of the barangay. Defective stocks and inventories are brought home to be cooked by mothers to supplement the nutritional requirements of their children. They hope to sustain their production for the duration of the egg-laying life of the chickens, which is about eighteen (18) months. Some of them plan to engage in swine production from the income they will earn from the project. Profit sharing, which they are so looking forward to, is done every three months.

So, it's not chicken OR egg, for both are considered invaluable by these farmers who would like to debunk the myth that they are disadvantaged due to their geographic and infrastructure limitations. With the interventions that SAAD Program provided them and for which they are grateful, the beneficiaries are optimistic that with proper management of their poultry production, they are gradually on their way to overcoming the hardships they face day by day. ### (Michael F. Dabuet and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



REGION 8 RANKED 1ST IN FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS FOR FY 2018 SAAD 1ST QUARTER ASSESSMENT

October 2, 2018

"What the mind can conceive, the body can achieve."

This was the inspirational quote that the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMO) 8 imparted in its presentation during the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program 2nd Quarter Physical and Financial Assessment held at Manuel's Resort, Piñan, Zamboanga del Norte on 6–10 August 2018.

The assessment was spearheaded by the National Program Management Office (NPMO) led by SAAD Program National Director Bernadette F. San Juan. The Monitoring and Evaluation Division (MED) of DA–Central Office (CO) was ably represented by two (2) staff. Eight (8) Regional Field Offices (RFOs), namely: CAR, RFOs 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 were likewise represented. RPMO 8 sent eight (8) participants to attend the activity.

Overall, SAAD Program has a total budget of Php 721,268,000.00 for FY 2018. As of June 30, it had obligated 57.03% of the amount. Versus the first semester target of Php 540,951,000.00, the program reached 76.04% obligation amounting to Php 411,357,930.00.

Region 8 ranked 1st in financial obligations reaching 87.79% of the

annual obligations, out of the Php 126,670,000.00 allocation. CAR followed with 86.92%, and Region 5, with 74.70%.

As against 1st semester targets, Region 8 still ranked 1st with actual percentage of 117.06%. In terms of disbursement, CAR ranked 1st with 180.56% rate based on BED 3. Region 8 ranked 4th with 58.62%.

In recognition for a job well done, RPMO 8 received a Plaque of Appreciation for being top performer in terms of financial obligations for the 2nd Quarter of FY 2018. Another plaque was given in appreciation for hosting the 1st Quarter National Assessment at Caluwayan Palm Island Resort and Restaurant, Marabut, Samar on 23–27 April 2018.

The assessment incorporated a workshop evaluating the multi-year proposals for 2020–2022 during the 3rd day. The rating sheet was discussed and provided to the regional representatives for use in the evaluation. In addition, a template for farm recordkeeping was presented by NPMO for further deliberation by RPMOs, wherein valid suggestions/recommendations will be incorporated in the final version of the farm record.

Agreements were documented, and these will be furnished the regions in a form of memorandum highlighting the main points made during the event.

A field visit was conducted on the 4th day to SAAD Program beneficiaries of Poultry, Goat, and Corn Production Projects, specifically in the municipalities of Mutya and La

Libertad, Zamboanga del Norte.

At the early part of 2018, Dr. Andrew Rodolfo T. Oras, DA–RFO 8 Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Operations and SAAD RPMO 8 Focal Person, claimed that 2018 means Number 1, Region 8. Serendipitously, the claim is proving to be true. ### (Vilvic L. Ilo and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

EASTERN SAMAR ABACA FARMERS RECEIVE LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE FROM SAAD

October 2, 2018

Ever since, abaca has been a priority agricultural commodity of Eastern Samar, where the majority of poor farmers in the northern part of the province are engaged in hemp production and from which they derive enough income. However, production has declined in recent years largely due to Abaca Bunchy Top Virus that decimated almost half of the area planted to the crop. The situation was further aggravated when super Typhoon Yolanda struck and devastated abaca farms throughout Eastern Visayas region.

Hence, to massively rehabilitate abaca development in the province, the project entitled, "Livelihood Assistance for Abaca Farmers in Eastern Samar," was launched at the Provincial Capitol Lobby, Borongan City on 29 August 2018.

It is currently being implemented in a total area of 275 hectares in the abaca–producing municipalities of

Oras, Dolores, Arteche, Gen. MacArthur, Taft, Can–Avid, San Policarpo, Jipapad, and Maslog. A total of 1,100 poor farmers will be benefited by it through the provision of planting materials and fertilizers and training them on new abaca production technology.

The launching program was well attended. Present were the Local Chief Executives (LCEs) of Arteche, Oras, and Gen. MacArthur; heads or representatives of concerned line government agencies: (National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) 8, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)–Eastern Samar, Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) 8, Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA–SAAD) Program 8; Non-Government Organizations (NGOs): CECI Concern and ECOWEB, Inc.; Provincial and Municipal Local Government Unit (P/MLGU) staff; Regional and

Provincial Management Support Office (R/PPMSO) personnel of the SAAD Program; and the farmer-partners. Director Sem Cordial of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), in his Opening Message, highlighted the effectiveness of the convergence strategy in fighting poverty by citing the efforts of the Convergence for Poverty Reduction through Industry Development in Eastern Samar (C4PRIDES) so this project would materialize.

Provincial Agriculturist (PA) Mr. Deogracias C. Paano informed the audience that a tissue culture laboratory infrastructure project of the PLGU worth Php 6 million, that would offer free technical training on tissue culture to interested parties, is in the offing. This is in addition to the Provincial Government's provision of about Php 30 million as livelihood assistance to farmers and fisherfolk.

In his key message, Dr. Andrew Rodolfo T. Orais, DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) 8 Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Operations and SAAD RPMSO 8 Focal Person, underscored the event's significance as it marked a milestone for SAAD Program, as it has now expanded its coverage from projects involving rice, corn, high value crops (HVC), livestock, and root crops to abaca, whose production has a high earning potential due to the big demand for its fiber from the pulp industry sector here and abroad.

He said, "Eastern Samar is indeed very fortunate to receive funding from SAAD Program for this project because the province is the only area among all

SAAD Program areas in the country that will be implementing this type of project for the next two (2) years."

The ceremonial turnover of project funds in the amount of Php 6,680,000.00 immediately followed.

The cheque was received by PhilFIDA 8 Acting Director Wilardo Sinahon, whose agency will be in-charge of the overall implementation of the project.

Total funding for the project is Php 15 Million, which will be released in two tranches. For 2018, the amount turned over will be used for replanting of abaca with fertilization and conduct of abaca farmers' retooling. In 2019, the remaining amount of Php 8,320,000.00 will also be released for the same purpose upon liquidation of the 1st tranche. ###

SAAD ZANORTE TURNS OVER PHP 3.3M MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT TO 25 PAZRTNER-ASSOCIATIONS

October 4 2018

IPIL, ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY – The Department of Agriculture (DA) through its Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program turned over machinery and equipment worth Php 3.395 million to 25 SAAD partner farmers' associations for FY 2018.

It was held during the event called Mass Turn Over of Farm Machineries and Equipment in support of DA's Farm Mechanization Program on the 27th of September 2018 at the Universidad de Zamboanga Gymnasium, Ipil,

Zamboanga Sibugay.

Some 25 farmers' associations from 14 municipalities, covered under the SAAD Program in Zamboanga del Norte, received ceremonial certificates from DA RFO IX Director Constancio G. Alama and Assistant Regional Director for Operations Engr. Dennis H. Palabrica.

Among the machinery and equipment turned over were one hammer mill, two rice mills, one corn mill, two hermitic cocoons, one peanut grinder, 15 collapsible dryers, one hand tractor, two freezers, 12 incubators, 12 brush cutters, and eight water pumps.

The farm machineries and post-harvest facilities are expected to boost the production volume of the farmers. They will also ease the burden of farmers brought by traditional farming methods. Respective municipal agriculturists, and association presidents and their members attended the event.

Zamboanga del Norte is one of the 30 priority provinces of the SAAD Program. The program is being implemented in all of its municipalities. ### (Cecille A. La Plana and Jhomai S. Canlas)



SAAD CONDUCTS AWARDING AND TURNOVER CEREMONY IN CALANASAN, APAYAO

October 10, 2018

APAYAO – Six (6) units Multi-Purpose Thresher (MPT) and a unit of Sugar Cane Presser (SCP) were awarded by DA-SAAD to five (5) farmer groups in Calanasan, Apayao. The turnover is held at the LGU Balay Ymandaya Function Hall on 1 October 2018.

The farmer groups are Bayag Farmers Association of Barangay Poblacion (2 MPT units), FAST of Barangay Tubungan (1 MPT unit), Naguilian Pantawid Association of Barangay Naguilian (1 MPT unit), Eleazar Farmers Association of Barangay Sabangan (2 MPT units), and Kabugawan Farmers' Association of Barangay Kabugawan (1 SCP unit, with actual demo held at the LGU demo farm in Salacpat, Poblacion, Calanasan, Apayao).

The ceremony was done with the help of Mayor Martin Lucero B. Lawat,

Municipal Planning Development Office's Mr. Limuel Alday Abagao, Municipal Agriculturist Officer Ms. Luisa U. Magna, and Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU)-SAAD Focal Person Mr. Dan Sagli. ### (Malou D. Nikah and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD IMPLEMENTERS OF REGION XIII CRAFT PROJECT PROPOSALS FOR 2020-2022

October 12, 2018

BUTUAN CITY, AGUSAN DEL NORTE

– Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program implementers of the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) XIII along with the National Program Management Office (NPMO) crafted the project proposals of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur for FY 2020 to 2022. The multi-year planning (MYP) activity was held from 8 to 11 of October 2018 at Hotel Luciana, Butuan City, Agusan del Norte.

Aside from the implementers, municipal agriculturists of the said municipalities are also participating in the event. SAAD NPMO Planning and Budget Head Darwin Pamamatat discussed factors to consider when crafting the proposals. He also reminded them of the Department of Budget and Management's one-year cash-based budgeting system that will start next year.

Surigao del Sur's selected municipalities are Carmen, Bayabas, Bislig, and Lingig while Agusan del Sur's are Rosario, Talacogon, Veruela, and San Luis.

Eight barangays will be covered in Surigao del Sur with projects such as native chicken, native goat, corn, camote, and ube production. Meanwhile, projects proposed for Agusan del Sur are abaca, cacao, and rice production for 10 barangays.



DA RFO XIII will still finalize the proposals based on SAAD NPMO's comments during the MYP activity.

Surigao del Sur and Agusan del Sur are two of the 30 priority provinces of the SAAD Program. Both were chosen due to their high Philippine Statistics Authority poverty incidence rate among families in 2015, which are at 31.9% and 37% respectively.

Both provinces will start their SAAD implementation in 2019 with a Php 35.3 million General Appropriations Act (GAA) budget. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)

NEGROS ORIENTAL FARMERS RECEIVE LIVESTOCK UNDER DA-SAAD'S GOAT PRODUCTION PROJECT

October 15, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held a mass goat distribution held at Brgy. San Jose in the Municipality of La Libertad, Negros Oriental on 10 October 2018.

Aiming to increase the farmers' livelihood income, the activity is facilitated by SAAD Negros Oriental Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo, Area Coordinator (AC) Engr. Maria Angelina Cubalan, AC Ms. Marcelina Cabonelas, AC Mr. Jesarano Amarante, AC Mr. Ryan Maribojoc, Information Technologist (IT) Mr. Karl

Cabonelas, and IT Mr. Francis Ray Ozoa. There are 15 individual beneficiaries that received 75 heads of goat (with each beneficiary receiving 1 buck amounting to Php 6,000.00 each, and 4 does also amounting to Php 6,000.00 each) with a total cost of Php 450,000.00.

La Libertad Local Government Unit (LGU) staff supports the event with Hon. Mayor Emmanuel Iway and OIC-Municipal Agricultural Officer Mr. Marcelo Bulingot attending the distribution.

The ACs will monitor the intervention given, as the feeds are for delivery. Meanwhile, the goat shed materials are still in the bidding process. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SIAYAN FARMERS OF ZANORTE READY TO BE BANANA LAKATAN PRODUCERS

October 22, 2018

SIAYAN, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Sixty (60) farmers from Siayan, Zamboanga del Norte are now ready to be banana lakatan producers after receiving 15,000 tissue-cultured plantlets in October 2018.

Siayan Mayor Flora Villarosa envisions the municipality to be the top producer of banana lakatan in the province. The variety is currently sold at Php 25 per kilo in the area.

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSSO) in Region IX first delivered the banana plantlets to the Municipal Local Government Unit (MLGU) of Siayan on September 19, 2018.

The inputs will benefit 60 farmers from four villages, which are Balunokan, Datagan, Soguilon, and Moyo. Each beneficiary received 250 plantlets. The distribution of the plantlets started on October 11 and 12, 2018 for the farmer-partners of Barangays Soguilon and Datagan. Barangays Balunokan and Moyo farmers received their inputs on October 17 and 18, 2018.

SAAD Zamboanga del Norte Area Coordinator Roger Dave Gramatic led the distribution with the help of Siayan Municipal Agricultural Office (MAO) staff. Siayan MLGU provided the truck used for the delivery.

Agricultural technicians from the Siayan MAO will monitor the banana plantlets after two weeks from the distribution.

Aside from the plantlets, farmers will also receive complete fertilizers, urea, muriate of potash, agri lime, sprayer, desuckering tool, plastic crates, and ammonium sulfate.

The banana production project, integrated with layer chicken egg and upland rice production, is implemented under the SAAD Program in the province for FY 2018.

Not just plantlets, but also knowledge With the initiative of Siayan MAO, farmers didn't only receive inputs. They also gained knowledge from the Banana Production Training programs that the office conducted.

The Siayan MAO office also provided a policy agreement between the office and the SAAD partner-farmers for a better implementation of the mentioned SAAD projects. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas)



NEGROS ORIENTAL FARMERS RECEIVE LIVESTOCK UNDER DA-SAAD PROGRAM

October 31, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its 2nd batch of cattle distribution in the municipality of Dauin, Negros Oriental on 12 October 2018.

To increase the farmers' income, a total of 51 heads of cattle were given – 33 heads to 33 individual farmers, and 18 heads to the Dauin Vegetable Grower Association or DAVEGA. Present to receive the cattle are the 33 individual farmers along with DAVEGA President Mr. Diego Elman and association members.

The activity is led by SAAD Negros Oriental Staff Provincial Coordinator (PC) Mr. Jaypee S. Soldivillo, Area Coordinator (AC) Engr. Maria Angelina Cubalan, and Ms. Marcelina Cabonelas, assisted by Information Technologist (IT) Mr. Karl C. Cabonelas, and Mr. Francis Ray G. Ozoa. Meanwhile, Dauin LGU Staff is headed by Municipal Agriculturist Ms. Arlene K. Corsame and staff.

The assigned AC will continue to monitor the intervention provided to the listed beneficiaries in Dauin. ###
(Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD FARMERS OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FEATURED AT IFAD PH'S KNOWLEDGE LEARNING MARKET CONFERENCE



November 9, 2018

QUEZON CITY – "Kuwentong may kuwenta (Stories with worth)". This is what Asian Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in Rural Asia (AsiaDHRRA) Secretary General Marlene Ramirez emphasized as she complimented the inspiring featured case studies in the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Philippines' Knowledge Learning Market and Policy Engagement (KLMPE) Conference 2018.

The conference with a trade fair was held on 7 and 8 of November 2018 at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management Building in Quezon City

in celebration of the International Year of Family Farming. This year's theme is "Inclusive Agricultural and Rural Development: No One Left Behind".

The Special Area of Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, represented by Director Bernadette San Juan, participated in the conference with Liguac Farmers' Association's (LFA) Layer Chicken Egg Production of Salug, Zamboanga del Norte as the featured case study.

Dir. San Juan shared the inspiring story and the progressive enterprise of LFA in presence of various participants, such as leaders and representatives of farmer organizations, non-government organizations, academe and government agencies.



LFA's story entitled "The SAAD: A Promise Being Fulfilled" fell under KLMPE 2018's Agri-Governance thematic case, which is the management of rural enterprises and farmer organizations, facilitated by We Effect Program Coordinator Pedro Baclagon.

Salug townspeople's problem is spoiled table eggs since the majority of the products are being delivered from Cagayan de Oro. With the SAAD Program's assistance, the town now hopes to be the fresh egg basket of the province.

LFA from Barangay Liguac is just one of the organizations in Salug that was given support on egg production project. Barangays Pacuhan, Bacong, and Ramon Magsaysay with an overall P4.2 million General Appropriation Act budget for FY 2017-2018.

Along with DA SAAD's LFA, other case studies featured and discussed were the Davao Federation of Fishers and Farmers Cooperatives (Dacofarm), Pioneers and Christians and Muslims Alliance Network (PacMan), PATANOM Credit Cooperative, Goodyear Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative (Garbemco), and Panay Island Upland Sustainable Rural Development Project (PIU-SRDP).

KLMPE 2018 also has four other thematic cases, which are Asset Reforms, Climate Resiliency, Market Power, and Youth & Gender in Agriculture.

AsiaDHRR Ramirez hopes that special projects like the SAAD would become a regular program of the government. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD PROGRAM CONDUCTS BUSINESS PLAN TRAINING COURSE

November 9, 2018

ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL –

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its 2nd Project Management Workshop at Camp Holiday Resort and Recreation Area, Kinawitnon, Babak, Island Garden City of Samal on 16-19 October 2018. It was hosted by DA-Regional Field Office XI.

The activity, dubbed as Business Plan Training Course, aims to continuously assess and upgrade skills to meet ever-changing organizational demands of both DA-SAAD and its co-implementor, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR).

Specifically, the second batch of the participants for the said workshop are expected to understand what a business plan is, including its importance and purpose. This included gaining knowledge in its marketing, organizational, technical, and financial aspects through in-depth lectures and interactive workshops.

The Training Course brought together 94 participants from the different implementing regions of both DA and BFAR SAAD having Mr. Fernando Flores, Ms. Kristine Mercado, Mr. Roel del Rosario, and Mr. Alvin Paul Dirain from the DA Project Development Service (PDS) as resource speakers.

To further capacitate SAAD

implementers of DA and BFAR in helping the farmer-partners on building successful agri-enterprises, an even more intensive workshop focusing on the financial aspect is recommended to truly instill the aspect's learnings in the conduct or preparation of business plans. This can be applied by the SAAD Farmer Associations that will be formed with the assistance of the SAAD Program in its covered provinces. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD PROGRAM DISCUSS 3RD QUARTER PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

November 9, 2018

GENERAL SANTOS CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) held its 3rd Quarter National Assessment (3QA) at the Venue 88 Hotel in General Santos City on 22-26 October 2018.

Regional Field Office (RFO) XII hosted the said event as guests were welcomed by DA-Regional Field Office XII Operations Officer Mr. Roie Aguirre together with SAAD National Program Management Office (NPMO) Planning and Monitoring Group Head Mr. Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr.

Present in the event are SAAD officials and selected staff from all 2017-2022 DA-SAAD implementing regions (Regions IV-B, V, VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, and XIII, and CAR); NPMO focal persons for Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao A and B; Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); and Planning and Monitoring Service (PMS) represented by its Monitoring Evaluation Division (MED) and Planning and Programming Division (PPD).

Expectations were levelled on the first day during the presentation of the assessment mechanics by NPMO Planning and Budget Cluster Head Mr. Darwin A. Pamatmat. Updates on the agreements during the previous

assessment is delivered by NPMO Planning Officer Ms. Karla Ivanah D. Borromeo.

Mr. Lustria, discussed the revised structure and hiring guidelines while NPMO Lead Focal for Mindanao B Mr. Justin B. dela Rueda followed-up on the record of interventions and farm record keeping. Mr. Pamatmat also discussed about the honorarium requirements. First day of the 3rd Quarter Assessment ends with the post-IT Assessment items echoed by NPMO IT Cluster Head Mr. Marvin P. Segovia.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette "SJ" F. San Juan arrived on the second day in time for the presentation of the FY 2018 overall physical and financial accomplishments as of the third quarter, that were presented per region.

During her part, Director SJ stating that our tool against our own 'war against poverty' are the SAAD interventions that we provide our farmer-partners.

On the same day, DA RFO XII Regional Executive Director (RED) Milagros Casis also urged field workers to continue doing good, stating the gratitude that the Juan Magsasaka and Juan Mangingisda is expressing now that SAAD is here [in Region 12], persevering to deliver in areas never been reached before.



'Quotable quotes' at the end of each presentation stirred the imagination of the present SAAD staff, with the host region itself quoting with "Farmers don't just work [un]til the sun goes down.

They work [un]til the job gets done," as shown in the event tarpaulins. Sultan Kudarat Provincial Governor Datu Pax Mangudadatu graced the event, giving the participants his official message. Governor Pax states his first-hand taste of 'transparency governance,' saying in jest that it is the first time during his thirty (30) years as a politician that the money is being given even without them asking for it.

BFAR-SAAD Central Office also proceeded to present its Overall Physical and Financial Accomplishments as of the third quarter. NPMO Lead Focal for Mindanao A Ms. Marie Abigail de la Cruz presented the details of Negotiated Procurement – Community

Participation afterwards.

Later in the evening, a Video Making Contest is commenced, welcoming six (6) regional entries wherein RFO X's emerged victorious. Top three (3) performers with regards to physical accomplishments, obligations, and disbursements, were also recognized with DA-SAAD CAR taking the lead, followed by Regions 5, and 8, respectively. The host region was also given a certificate of appreciation.

On the third day, Dela Rueda facilitated the consultation workshop and breakout sessions regarding the working document of the DA-SAAD Field Implementation Manual, opening it to various comments from the regions for consideration in the revised draft.

The program is formally closed by Mr. Lustria after Mr. Pamatmat has presented the 3QA agreements. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

SEVENTY-FIVE (75) GOATS BENEFIT DA-SAAD FARMERS IN NEGROS ORIENTAL

November 12, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – A mass distribution of livestock under the Goat Production Project of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program is held in the municipality of Santa Catalina on 26 October 2018.

The activity, which aims to increase the farmers' livelihood income, is facilitated by SAAD Negros Oriental Area Coordinators (ACs) Mr. Andro Shalom Ramirez, and Mr. Jesanro Amarante together with Provincial Agriculture Technology Coordinating Office (PATCO) livestock inspector Mr. Andro Vendiola and Santa Catalina Local Government Unit (LGU) staff headed by Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO) Ms. Rizalina Muñoz.

A total of 15 individual beneficiaries received 75 heads of goat amounting to Php 450,000. Each beneficiary received one (1) buck and four (4) does.



The ACs will be monitoring the intervention given. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

NEGROS ORIENTAL FAS RECEIVE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT AND MACHINERIES FROM DA-SAAD



November 12, 2018

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Two (2) units of corn mill and four (4) units of multi-cultivator hand tractor (Php 2,000,000 worth of agricultural equipment and machineries) were turned-over to Sibulan at the Municipality Multi-Purpose Covered Court, Negros Oriental on 26 October 2018.

Balugo Farmers Association (President: Mr. Teojines Banaybanay) and San Antonio Farmers Association (President: Mr. Ernesto J. Eramas) each received one (1) unit of corn mill. On the other hand, three (3) units of multi-cultivator hand tractor was given to Enrique Villanueva United Farmers Association (President Aproniano G. Maquero) and one (1) unit to the San

Antonio Farmers Association.

Present to facilitate the distribution are SAAD Negros Oriental Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Marcelina Cabonelas together with Sibulan Local Government Unit (LGU) staff headed by Municipal Mayor Hon. Jose A. Abiera and Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO) Mr. Godfrey D. Grefaldia.

Actual demonstration in using the multi-cultivator hand tractor in the area of SAAD beneficiaries is to be scheduled, while the corn mill shed house is still under an on-going construction. ### (Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

FOUR ZANORTE FARMER ASSOCIATIONS RECEIVE 126 GOATS UNDER SAAD PROGRAM

November 15, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – Four farmer associations from Siocon and Sirawai, Zamboanga del Norte (ZaNorte) received 126 goats under the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) this 29th and 30th of October 2018.

120 farmers from D. Riconalla Farmers Association, Makiang Farmers Association, Lubok Farmers Association, and Culasian Farmers Association are the beneficiaries of SAAD ZaNorte's Communal Goat Raising Project, implemented in FY 2018.

Siocon and Sirawai are neighboring towns in the southern part of the province. Their economy solely depends on rice, corn, rubber, and vegetable farming.

Philippine Statistics Authority shows that both have a record of at least 40% poverty incidence rate among population in 2012.

Since most of the two municipalities' areas are hilly and mountainous, the farmers proposed goat-raising as a potential alternative livelihood project in

increasing their income and improving their lives.

SAAD ZaNorte Livestock Coordinator Jailyn Gamutan, Property Officer Betty Llamel, Area Coordinators (AC) Jill Sazon and Marisol Opinio led the distribution of the goats. Siocon Municipal Agriculturist Christita Micubo was also present.

The assigned ACs will continue monitoring the projects provided to Sirawai and Siocon beneficiaries. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas and Marisol Opinio)



2018 FUNDS PROVIDE FARMERS GARDEN TOOLS AND KNAPSACK SPRAYERS IN APAYAO

November 19, 2018

APAYAO – It was raining hard on the 12th of August 2018 as the farmer-partners in Luna, Apayao who are members of the Marag Valley Livelihood Farmers Association happily received the interventions from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD).

The association is composed of Barangays Bucao, Cagandungan, and Calabigan, however, the farmer-partners present are from Calabigan, and Cagandungan only. They have received 37 sets of garden tools (grab hoe, bolo, shovel, and rake). Fifteen (15) farmer-partners from Calabigan shared 10 sets of garden tools, while there

were 31 farmer-partners in Cagandungan that shared 27 sets of garden tools.

The remaining sets of farm tools will be distributed to Barangay Bucao [wherein 27 farmer-partners are sharing 23 sets]; Luyon [with 13 farmer-partners sharing 10 sets]; and Salvacion [with two (2) farmer-partners sharing two (2) sets of garden tools]. Both Barangays Luyon and Salvacion belong to other Farmer Associations—Midstream Livelihood Farmers Association, and Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association, respectively.

On the other hand, there were 72 sets of garden tools and 32 units of



knapsack sprayers allocated for the municipality of Luna. Ninety-three (93) SAAD farmer-partners under the Rice Project shared 32 units of the said intervention.

The distribution is led by the SAAD Area Coordinator as assisted by SAAD Agriculture Technician (AT) of Luna Mr. Roniel Dugay, SAAD AT of Sta. Marcela Mr. Roldan Orteza, and SAAD Training Officer Ms. Meliza Feliciano. ### (Ruby Ann B. Vicerra and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

DA-SAAD ESTABLISHES SALT PROJECT WORTH PHP 1M IN APAYAO

November 21, 2018

LUNA AND PUDTOL, APAYAO – Assorted planting materials worth one million pesos were delivered in two (2) municipalities of Apayao through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR).

Said interventions are under the Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) project. Pudtol and Luna caters two barangays each, eight (8) hectares (has.) all in all—Aurora (2 has.), and Lower Maton (2 has.); and Salvacion (2 has.), and Cagandungan (2 has.), respectively (Php 250, 000 per 2-ha. site/barangay).

Thirty-five (35) farmer-partners in the municipality of Pudtol were provided with planting materials on 7 November 2018. Eighteen (18) of these are farmer-partners in Barangay Aurora, and 17 in Lower Maton. They were given the planting fruit trees (mangosteen, rambutan, cacao, durian, and calamansi) along with assorted farm tools (43 bolos, 43 hand rakes, 43 grab hoes, 8 shovels, and 8 spading forks). They were also assisted in the demo by the wife of Aurora Barangay Captain Mrs. Clarina Pilig, alongside Citizen Armed Force Geographical Unit (CAFGU) assigned in the area.

Meanwhile, 27 farmer-partners are also recipients of the fruit trees in Luna on 14 November 2018. Pudtol and Luna received 380 assorted fruit trees each.

The activities in Pudtol were facilitated by the SAAD staff including Area Coordinator (AC) for Pudtol Ms. Ruby Ann Vicerra, Information Technologist (IT) Ms. Le Ann Aguirre, Administrative Assistant (AAIII) Ms. Meliza Feliciano, and Agriculture Technicians (ATs) Mr.

Jeffrey Calizo and Mr. Roniel Dugay. An upcoming demo for Luna is lined-up to be done in late November 2018.

This communal-based project will also cover other municipalities aside from Pudtol and Luna, such as Calanasan, Conner, and Kabugao, with 760 fruit trees each. ### (Marjorie A. Tangliben, Ruby Ann B. Vicerra, Le Ann A. Aguirre, and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



DA-SAAD CONDUCTS 4-DAY SALT TRAINING IN APAYAO

November 26, 2018

APAYAO – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural (DA-SAAD) Program conducted a four (4)-day training on Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) Production in Barangay Tubongan, Calanasan, Apayao on 20-23 November 2018.

The said project, worth Php 1 Million, is funded by the DA-SAAD Program. Three (3) SALT sites are Sitio Magday (2 hectares), Sitio Bassin (1 ha.), and Sitio Barad (1 ha.).

The activity is facilitated by Area Coordinator (AC) Ms. Marilou Marjalino, with Resource Speaker Ms. Jovelyn Jereos. They are also assisted by SAAD Apayao Information Technologist (IT) Ms. Le Ann Aguirre, and Brgy. Captain Mr. Romeo Ruping. Namaltugan, Tubongan, Butao, Kabugawan (NaTuBuKa) Cluster Head Ms. Aida Batil was also present, along with Tubongan Farmers' Association Vice President Mr. Arsenio Paus, who attended on behalf of their President Mr. Felcito Gawayen.

Though the DA-SAAD SALT project in Calanasan only has seventy (70) beneficiaries, there were 95 interested locals who were able to attend the orientation, discussion and open forum done on the first day of the training. On

DA-SAAD TURNS OVER CARABAOS TO BENEFICIARIES IN MASBATE AND SORSOGON



November 26, 2018

MASBATE – If dog is man's best friend, the carabao is the small farmer's best buddy as it helps ease farm works and also helps transport farm produce through all kinds of terrain. Thus, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA) granted the requests of some of the farmer-partners of the program to have their own draft animal.

As of October 30, 2018, the SAAD Program has distributed a total of forty (40) carabaos (native carabeifers) to forty (40) individual farmer-partners in the municipalities of Balud, Mandaon, Esperanza, and Pio V. Corpuz—all in Masbate. Meanwhile, in Sorsogon, 10 carabaos were distributed to 10 interested farmer-partners.

The farmer-partners of SAAD in Masbate were very grateful for the carabaos they received as they really need draft animals in cultivating their lands especially now that they could scarcely afford the petroleum necessary in operating a tractor.

Most of the beneficiaries are living in remote areas which are not passable to public utility vehicles. Transporting goods from their farms to the market centers have long been a problem. With the carabao's heavy built, it can travel in all kinds of terrain and can carry their produce, sometimes their children, if they wish to.

Other interventions were already distributed to the farmer-partners in the provinces of Masbate, Catanduanes, and Sorsogon. These included native



goats, native pigs, native chicken, and ducks; white corn seeds and upland rice seeds with complete fertilizer; and packets of vegetable seeds such as okra, pechay, bush and pole sitao, as well as ampalaya, organic fertilizers, drums, garden tools, plastic trays, wheelbarrows, UV treated plastic for greenhouse, and high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipes.

A number of trainings have been conducted in coordination with the DA – Regional Field Office (RFO) 5 banner programs to prepare the mindset of the beneficiaries and equip them with the necessary skills to sustain the project. ### (Lovella P. Guarin and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)

the next day, the SALT farmer-partners received the planting materials. As part of the workshop on the following day, the farmer-partners went to the production site for the actual demonstration, which was a river and mountain away, being the second farthest barangay of Calanasan, Apayao. Jereos discussed about the uses of A Frame and T Frame while Engr. Benedicto Tiggangay taught the attendees a simple technique on how to measure the length of A Frame and T Frame without aid of any measuring apparatus.

After the instructions were given, the participants began to prepare their A & T Frames, used to measure the distances in planting fruit trees. They were guided by Agricultural Technicians (ATs) Mr. Dan Ruel Peralta, Mr. Jaysan Banggay, Mr. Mark Dondon Budod, and Mr. Jhon-Jhon Taccalan.

The attendees, after being trained well, planted the farm inputs using the apparatus they have made during the fourth and last day of training. ### (Le Ann A. Aguirre and Pamela Ruth P. Arciaga)



SAAD ZANORTE DISTRIBUTES SEEDS, FERTILIZERS, AND GARDEN TOOLS FOR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION

December 8, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The municipalities of Sergio Osmeña and Baliguian in Zamboanga del Norte recently received vegetable seeds, fertilizers, and garden tools from the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

On the 21st of November 2018, five (5) vegetable growers' associations of Sergio Osmeña, Zamboanga del Norte got 20 bags of urea, 10 bags of ammonium phosphate, 10 bags of muriate of potash, and 10 bags of chicken dung.

Each group also received 20 units of plastic crate, 2 units of knapsack sprayer: 10 pieces of trowel; 10 pieces of gona, 10 pieces of seedling tray, 10 pieces of water sprinkler, and a 60-kg capacity weighing scale.

The associations are from Barangays Bagong Baguio, Buenavista, Don Eleno, Tinindugan, and Tuburan. The local government unit of Sergio Osmeña facilitated the turn-over ceremony at the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist.

SAAD Zamboanga del Norte also conducted mass distribution of vegetable seeds, garden tools, and fertilizers this November 2018 for the farmers of Baliguian.

The farmer-partners expressed their sincerest gratitude to President Rodrigo Duterte and DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol for providing help to hard-to-reach barangays through the SAAD Program.

They said that once they produce vegetables, they will invite Secretary Piñol to witness their harvest festival. Meanwhile, Secretary Piñol shared that SAAD was distinguished by the Philippine Statistics Authority as one of the two programs of DA which showed positive results in addressing rural poverty and productivity. ### (Jhomai S. Canlas and Ronilo Dusaban)



100 SINDANGAN FARMERS RECEIVED INPUTS FOR UPLAND RICE PRODUCTION

December 8, 2018

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture (DA) through its Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) in Zamboanga del Norte conducted a ceremonial turnover of inputs for Upland Rice Production to 100 farmer-partners of the municipality of Sindangan on December 7, 2018.

The Upland Rice Production project in Sindangan for 2018, covering 100 hectares, aims to establish an agricultural community by providing capability-building and new technologies in the production of upland rice for the province.

Each farmer-partner received 2 bags of upland rice seeds, 2 bags urea, 2 bags complete fertilizer, and 20 bags of vermicast. These inputs will be used during the first cropping season for 2019.

The farmer-partners are expected to start the upland rice planting in March 2019 while the harvesting is in July 2019.

Also present at the event are the following: Sindangan Mayor Nilo Florentino Sy, SAAD Region IX Alternate Focal Person Reynaldo Campomanes, SAAD Region IX Action Officer Ralph Alan Ceniza, SAAD



Zamboanga del Norte Provincial Coordinator Ronillo Dusaban, Sindangan Agriculturist Technician Edelisa Jamisola, and Sindangan Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) representative Luz Dela Cruz.

Close coordination with the Sindangan MAO and farmer-partners will be done to ensure the project's maximum potential success. ### (Roger Dave F. Gramatica and Jhomai S. Canlas)







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