



The BEGINNING:

2017 SAAD News Compendium



Department of Agriculture
Special Area for Agricultural
Development (SAAD) Program
daan sa mawlad na kabuhayan

Editors
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Citation: Mula, Myer G, Lustria, Ulysses J, Jr., and Canlas, Jhomai S. 2020. The Beginning: 2017 SAAD News Compendium. Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, Department of Agriculture. 46 pp. ISSN 2719-0102 / 2719-0110.

This book entitled, The Beginning: 2017 SAAD News Compendium, is an annual publication of the Department of Agriculture.

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ISSN 2719-0102 (Print)
ISSN 2719-0110 (Online)

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About the Cover: Former Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, Sarangani Governor Steve Solon, and beneficiaries of the SAAD Program celebrated a Thanksgiving Day for their bountiful harvest in Barangay Upo, Maitum in Sarangani on October 23, 2017.



We want to reach more beneficiaries through SAAD, which is designed to cater to poor households and groups.

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

FOREWORD



In 2017, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program began its journey when former Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol brought to the national level, a local agricultural and fishery-related livelihood strategy he started in North Cotabato as a good practice for alleviating poverty to the poorest of the poor provinces.

When it started its implementation in 2017, the 10 poorest provinces of the country in 2012 were given assistance on agriculture and fisheries towards livelihood development. The provinces include Apayao, Negros Oriental, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sarangani.

As chairperson of the SAAD's Program Steering Committee, I am very much honored to share with you this book entitled 'The Beginning', a compendium of press releases, including public relations (PR) photographs, and feature articles in 2017.

The majority of the SAAD's undertakings in 2017 are orientations, consultative-meetings, needs assessments, training, and other social preparation activities that are key to a resilient partnership with our beneficiaries and stakeholders as well as effective implementation of livelihood projects.

Therefore, this book aims to showcase the program's effort in equipping its beneficiaries – the poor farmers and fisherfolk – with knowledge and skills to be fully aboard in the program's mission.



With this compilation of the program's activities, I hope you will grasp the true purpose of SAAD in helping Filipino farmers and fishermen be truly empowered.

Engr. Ariel T. Cayan
Undersecretary for Operations

MESSAGE



It is my pleasure to present to you the compilation of the press releases of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program for the year 2017.

2017 has been a challenging year as the program management office was just being assembled.

Though the implementation of the program took place in the latter part of the year, this did not hinder the effectiveness of our program as we have seen the first fruits of our intervention in the 10 priority provinces in the same year.

As we look back on the beginnings of SAAD, may we appreciate how the SAAD management and program implementers have been through to fulfill the promise to our farmer- and fisherfolk-beneficiaries.



Thank you for being with us through the SAAD journey!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. F. San Juan'.

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

MESSAGE



2017 was the first year of implementation of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program and thus, there were birth pains.

However, the SAAD managed to implement livelihood projects in its first ten covered provinces. The PR & Comms Cluster, of which I was the Head then, was able to document said projects and other SAAD activities.

Thus, we are proud to present to you the press releases of the SAAD Program for the year 2017.



We hope that this compendium will inspire you more to help in the war against poverty.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ulysses J. Lustria, Jr.'.

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

MESSAGE



It is an utmost honor to present to you the 2017 compendium of SAAD's press releases and other related articles!

We aim to relieve the challenges and celebrate the beginnings of the Special Area for Agricultural Development program through this publication.

This is also to appreciate the work of our fellow implementers who worked and went the extra mile to establish the integrity of the program.

It is a big responsibility for me to continue the supervision of SAAD which has proved to deliver its promise in helping the farmers and fisherfolks rise despite the poverty through the years.

Just like any successful story, we could always learn from the lessons of past experiences so we can improve the present. I hope that you enjoy this publication and you may be inspired to support this program.



I hope that you enjoy this publication and you may be inspired to support this program.



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

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THE BEGINNING



SAAD beneficiary Florita Abaratige
and her husband in Samar

is a compilation of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture's (DA) press releases and other articles, which were released in 2017. It provides readers the ease in reviewing the past activities of the program.

The SAAD Program was conceptualized through the initiative of former DA Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol, whom he founded in August 2016. Thus, all of the activities recorded in the program's press releases were intended efforts in empowering marginalized Filipinos, engaged in agriculture and fisheries, in prioritized areas to improve their farm and fishery production and help them alleviate from poverty.


The compendium covers the activities during the first official year of the implementation of the program; from consultation meetings, budget and project proposals, training of beneficiaries and program implementers, up until to the turnover of project interventions in the 10 priority provinces (Apayao, Northern Samar, Eastern Samar, Western Samar, Negros Oriental, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sarangani).

There are also articles on partnerships with other private organizations, programs, and government agencies for possible supplementary interventions for our farmers and fishers.

The social preparation is the highlight of the 2017 compendium. It is the second component of the program, which ensures that each beneficiary is equipped with knowledge and skill to handle the interventions delivered to them. This is composed of consultative meetings with the local government units and the organizations, needs assessments, capability building and other training programs, community organizing, and project orientations.

SAAD provides livelihood projects (3rd component of the program) in the form of agricultural and fishery inputs, tools, equipment, and facilities. Thus, it is necessary for the beneficiaries to have the proper knowledge to manage and sustain the livelihood projects provided to them.





400 beneficiaries gathered together
in a SAAD Program launching event
in Maguindanao held on May 2, 2020

The SAAD Program has eventually developed procedures on the conduct of its social preparation activities, which are carried out by the Regional and Provincial Management Support Offices and overseen by the National Program Management Office.

Most of the first 10 SAAD provinces conducted social preparation activities in late 2016 until the first months of 2017. Meanwhile, the 2018 provinces (Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Siquijor, Sulu, Compostela Valley, Sultan Kudarat, and Bukidnon) underwent the same activities in the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2017.

Despite delay in the delivery of interventions under the FY 2017 fund, there were still stories of SAAD provinces showcasing their beneficiaries with immediate impact from the program, such as the Thanksgiving Day to celebrate the bountiful upland rice harvest of beneficiaries in Maitum, Sarangani.



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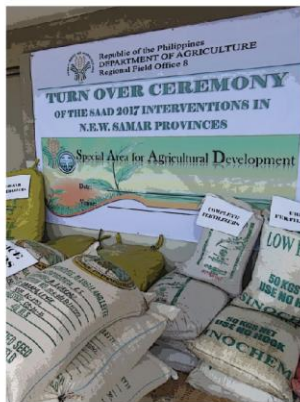
In total,

ARTICLES and

48

PR PHOTOGRAPHS

were recorded in 2017, which were published on both SAAD's website at www.saad.da.gov.ph and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/da.saadprogram.



DA DOWNLOADS THREE PHP 25M CHECKS TO THREE SAMAR PROVINCES UNDER SAAD



March 5, 2017

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 8 (DA-RFO8), led by DA Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Director Leroy Panes, handed over three Php 25 million checks to the Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs) of Northern, Eastern, and Western Samar (NEW Samar) last January 16, 2017 in Tacloban City.

The said checks are the first tranche to the Php 50 million allotted budget for each province under the FY 2015 continuing funds, which also include Apayao, North Cotabato, Maguindanao, and Sarangani.

The funds will suffice agricultural assistance in terms of production (seeds, fertilizers, training support, and technology demonstration), as well as the provision of irrigation support (pump and engine set) and other agri-

equipment & facilities.

The second tranche (Php 25 million) will be provided after the recipients have liquidated the initial fund given.

The Special Area for Agricultural Development is a local program of the Department of Agriculture that aims to alleviate poverty among marginalized farmers and fisherfolks through increased production and productivity.

Completing the list 2017 priority provinces this are Lanao Del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Negros Oriental. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

TOWARDS ALLEVIATING POVERTY: NORTH COTABATO, SARANGANI, MAGUINDANAO GATHER IN 2-DAY WORKSHOP ON SAAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2017-2018

March 5, 2017

SOUTH COTABATO – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development National Program Management Office (DA-SAAD NPMO) along with the DA-Regional Field Office 12 (DA-RFO 12) conducted a Planning Workshop on 2017-2018 SAAD Program Implementation at Agua Frio Garden Resort, Sta. Cruz Koronadal City, South Cotabato from February 13 to 14, 2017.

Several Provincial and Municipal Agriculturists, SAAD coordinators, as well as some representatives from the Provincial/Local Government Units of North Cotabato and Sarangani attended the said event, which aimed to introduce the SAAD program, to guide the provinces in drafting their SAAD budget & project proposals and action plans for the years 2017 and 2018, and to address their concerns and queries.

Cecilia Parcon, the Officer-in-Chief of the Planning Division of DA-RFO 12, started the two-day workshop by providing the objectives of the activity along with presenting their accomplishments. Following such is SAAD NPMO Program Coordinator Ulysses Lustria Jr.'s brief presentation on the SAAD overview and implementing guidelines for 2017.

An Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) representative also presented the Program for Unified Lending to Agriculture (PUNLA), a lending facility under the Agro-Industry Modernization Credit and Financing Program (AMCFP) which caters to marginal farmers and fishermen for affordable and convenient credit loans.

After the presentations, the participants were tasked to create their target SAAD activities for the year 2017. Each province presented their draft proposals before the panelists, who included Ulysses and Cecilia along with SAAD NPMO Budgeting and Planning head Darwin Pamatmat, SAAD NPMO Operations head Kristine Eusebio, DA-Project Development Services division officer Mariam Camaso, and SAAD NPMO Program Coordinator Mae Flor Gabunales-Barol.

Representatives from Maguindanao, however, attended the second day of the event to present their draft proposals as well as to join the group discussion regarding the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program in their respective areas.

DA-RFO 12 Chief for Operations Zaldy Boloron also graced the second half of the said workshop, stating the importance of some programs, like

SAAD, in improving the lives of agriculture sectors and of Philippine Agriculture as a whole.

The two-day seminar-workshop concluded with high hopes and zeal that with the help and joint effort of all the concerned parties, the Special Area for Agricultural Development will be able to bring necessary aid to the local farmers and fishermen thus alleviating poverty across the nation. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

DA RELEASES PHP 75M TO THREE PROVINCES UNDER SAAD PROGRAM



March 5, 2017

TACLOBAN CITY – The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 8 (DA-RFO8), led by DA Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Director Leroy Panes, handed over three Php 25 million checks to the Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs) of Northern, Eastern, and Western Samar (NEW Samar) last January 16, 2017 in Tacloban City.

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and Sarangani.

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The Special Area for Agricultural Development is a local program of the Department of Agriculture that aims to

alleviate poverty among marginalized farmers and fisherfolks through increased production and productivity.

Completing the list 2017 priority provinces this are Lanao Del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, and Negros Oriental. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

DA-SAAD SEEKS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN POST-HARVEST TECHNOLOGIES FROM PHILMECH

March 5, 2017

NUEVA ECIJA – Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) National Project Management Office (NPMO) staff visited the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) last February 6, 2017 to seek technical assistance and guidance for possible post-harvest facilities to be used in their flagship program.

Under President Rodrigo Duterte's administration and leadership of DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, the SAAD program was created to reduce the country's poverty incidence by focusing on ten priority provinces per year from 2017 until 2022.

PhilMech Director Dionisio Alvindia stressed the importance of post-harvest facilities, e.g. dryers, hullers, tractors, and the like, on making farming easier and more convenient thus the key to encouraging more people to indulge in the activity in the future.

PhilMech presented its projects and demonstrated its own-designed types of machinery, such as their Compact Corn Mill, Floating Tiller, Cassava

Digger, Coffee Huller, Tramline, and Solar Tunnel Dryer.

Bioprocess Engineering Division Chief Ofero Caparino also discussed their project on utilizing coconut water for market consumption, the process of extracting oil from ylang-ylang flowers, creating briquettes from cacao peel, and distilling ethanol for further use.

The SAAD team also toured the Central Luzon State University's livelihood projects, such as the Mushroom Center, Hydroponics, and Aquaponics Farm, and Small Ruminant Center, to gather necessary information and benchmarks for the SAAD interventions. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)



SAAD STRENGTHENS COORDINATION WITH PAFC IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE



March 10, 2017

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development Zamboanga del Norte (DA-SAAD ZANORTE) team joins the Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) ZANORTE's quarterly meeting for the first time last February 27 at Eco-park, Upper Turno, Dipolog City.

The conference aims to orient the PAFC members on the SAAD Program as well as to open up direct coordination between the SAAD team and the Municipal Agricultural Officers of the province.

SAAD ZANORTE Provincial Coordinator Roni Dusaban led the orientation on the Special Area for Agricultural Development program, in which he noted that the project is DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol's initiative when he was the Cotabato governor, wherein he was able to transform the province as one of the most

progressive in the country.

All proposals received by SAAD ZANORTE team from the initial phase of the program's implementation in August 2016 vary from vegetable production, lakatan banana production, native chicken raising, upland rice cultivation, corn production, as well as cattle and carabao dispersal, according to Dusaban. These proposals will be implemented by identified people or grassroots organizations.

Dusaban also discussed the role of Area Coordinators (ACs) as helpers in assisting recipients in identifying the training needs and in learning new technology innovations related to agricultural production. The ACs will be deployed per cluster to conduct institution building and capacity building activities for recipient people's organizations.

Dusaban also cited that the support to

the farmers will only come in the form of goods as no cash will be released directly to project beneficiaries.

The SAAD ZANORTE team is expected to conduct the same orientation in the towns of Sindangan and Polanco this month as per several Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council representatives' invitation. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

SAAD PARTNERS WITH AGRICULTURISTS IN THREE ZANORTE TOWNS THROUGH SERIES OF DIALOGUES

March 20, 2017

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) staff of Zamboanga del Norte met with agriculturists in Dipolog, Dapitan, and La Libertad through a series of consultation dialogues to finalize the project proposals of the SAAD Program identified beneficiaries.

According to Dipolog City Agriculturist Kerr Porlas, two associations are ready to implement a project in the area, dubbed as 'Sapat na Pagkain at Pangkabuhayan', which is designed to benefit 500 households. This will include the establishment of vegetable gardens in every home, cultivation of tropical fruits, and native chicken production.

In Dapitan City, team SAAD ZANORTE met with SAAD Focal Person Susan Empeynado and City Agriculturist Eugenio Endrina to refine some features of the proposals for the Cassava Production and Goat Raising Project for the beneficiaries in Barangay Dimpalan.

Empeynado suggested planting materials for cassava production shall



only be procured from Dapitan City to prevent the spread of the witches' broom disease. She is also optimistic that the projects will be a success as they have already established a market for cassava chips and goats. Currently, the City of Dapitan is operating a Negosyo Center as marketing support to farmers.

Meanwhile, the staff also had a dialogue with Municipal Agriculturist Abelita Baldero and Municipal Administrator Annabelle Pameron to talk about the proposed Integrated Farming Project with native chicken and sweet corn production.

The municipal government will assist the town's beneficiaries of the SAAD Program in renting land for growing sweet corn as most of them are landless farmers. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

BALANGIGA MAYOR GRAZA SUPPORTS DA-SAAD PROGRAM



March 21, 2017 | PR Photograph

Balangiga Mayor Randy Graza of Eastern Samar poses with Eastern Samar Area Coordinator Paulino Camartin, Jr. in a courtesy call on February 13, 2017.

Camartin, Jr. holds a Special Area for Agricultural Development Program orientation for the rice farmer-beneficiaries of Brgy Sta Rosa and corn farmer-beneficiaries of Brgy Cag-Olango, both in Balangiga. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD EASTERN SAMAR STAFF STARTS PROFILING BALANGIGA BENEFICIARIES



March 21, 2017 | PR Photograph

Eastern Samar Area Coordinator Paulino Camartin, Jr. (in green shirt) and staff interview Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program rice farmer-beneficiaries and validate their farm lands in Balangiga on February 14, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD EASTERN SAMAR STAFF EDUCATES GIPORLOS FARMERS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

March 21, 2017 | PR Photograph

Eastern Samar Area Coordinator Paulino Camartin, Jr. (in white shirt) orients farmer-beneficiaries about the Department of Agriculture's flagship program, Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD), in Brgy. San Miguel, Giporlos on February 22, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD EASTERN SAMAR TEAM MEETS WITH RICE FARMERS IN BIGA, GIPORLOS

March 21, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) of Eastern Samar staff meet with rice farmer-beneficiaries in Brgy Biga, Giporlos to discuss matters regarding their involvement in the SAAD program on February 23, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



LAWAAN MAYOR ALMEDA APPROVES DA-SAAD PROGRAM

March 21, 2017 | PR Photograph

Eastern Samar Area Coordinator Paulino Camartin, Jr. (in black and white top) pays a courtesy call visit with Lawaan Mayor Florencio Almeda, Jr. (in green polo shirt) and an SB Member, stating their support for the SAAD program. On the other photo, Camartin, Jr. meets with DA-SAAD farmer-beneficiaries for their profiling in Brgy Taguiter, Lawaan on March 1, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD EASTERN SAMAR STAFF HOLDS PROFILING AND GEOTAGGING IN QUINAPONDAN



March 21, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Eastern Samar staff meet with rice farmer-beneficiaries of Brgys. 01, 06, and 03, Quinapondan to orient, profile, and geotag their farm lands on March 8, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD EASTERN SAMAR TEAM HOLDS RICE LAND GEOTAGGING IN QUINAPONDAN

March 21, 2017 | PR Photograph

Brgy 07, Quinapondan rice farmers pose with the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Eastern Samar staff after briefing, profiling, and preparation for their rice land geotagging on March 9, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA SECRETARY PIÑOL DIRECTS TO FAST TRACK THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECTS UNDER THE SAAD PROGRAM

March 22, 2017

CATARMAN, N. SAMAR – Department of Agriculture Secretary Manny Piñol issued a directive to fast track the implementation of the projects under the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program.

This was learned from Dr. Elvira Torres, Assistant Regional Director for Research and Regulation and the Focal Person of the Regional SAAD Program Management Team, during the Discussion-Meeting with the Provincial SAAD Team conducted last week at the Governor's Conference Room of the Provincial Capitol in the municipality of Catarman.

Torres added that the initially downloaded fund to the provincial government amounting to Php 25 million is already allocated, which should prioritize farmers who are beneficiaries of the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps), Farmers' Organizations, and residents of areas that have high poverty incidences like those far-flung sitios of the Municipalities of Lope de Vega and Silvino Lobos.

Northern Samar Vice-Governor Gary Lavin assured the support of the Provincial Government to the various agriculture programs being implemented in the province, including SAAD.

He added that the provincial government is continually committed to increasing the livelihood opportunities of the people of Northern Samar.

Based on the data of the Community-Based Monitoring System or CBMS in Northern Samar, Silvino Lobos, Lope de Vega, Biri, Las Navas, Catubig, Lapinig, Mondragon, Pambujan, Mapanas, and Palapag are the municipalities that have a high rate of poverty incidence.

The three provinces of Eastern, Western, and Northern Samar are included in the priority provinces of the Department of Agriculture for SAAD for the next three years from 2017 to 2019.

The goal of the SAAD Program is to increase farm production and consequently decrease the poverty incidence in those areas. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)



BALANGIGA MAYOR GRAZA SUPPORTS DA-SAAD PROGRAM



March 28, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMISO) Sarangani staff, together with DA-Regional Field Office 12 SAAD Focal Person Cecilia Parcon, pay a courtesy call and coordination meeting with Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon on February 9, 2017. The said conference tackled the DA-SAAD project in Sarangani, the Diversified Upland Rice and OPV White Corn with Vegetable Gardening Component, which costs Php 50 million. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM DISTRIBUTES 50 SACKS OF HYBRID X5 CORN SEEDS

March 28, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) North Cotabato team, along with the Regional Field Office 12 (RFO 12) staff and Barangay Bagumbayan Captain Joel P. Ogario (in yellow shirt), distributes 50 sacks of hybrid X5 corn seeds to the beneficiaries from Brgy. Bagumbayan in Magpet, Cotabato on March 20, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM CONDUCTS HYBRID RICE TECHNO DEMO DERBY IN BINAY

March 28, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) North Cotabato team conducts the first ever Hybrid Rice Techno Demo Derby in Barangay Binay, Magpet, Cotabato on March 14, 2017. It was sponsored by SL Agritech, Syngenta, Bayer, and Seedworks, and was supervised by the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Municipal Local Government Unit of Magpet, and the Regional Field Office XII. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM VISITS THE PLGU



March 29, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) North Cotabato team pays an initial courtesy call to the Provincial Local Government Unit of the province as part of its work plan for SAAD 2017. In the conference, all the Area Coordinators of the mentioned province also met their respective Municipal Agriculturist together with their Local Executive counterpart. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM ATTENDS SOLAR POWER IRRIGATION SYSTEM LAUNCHING



March 30, 2017 | PR Photograph

Development of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) North Cotabato team attends the Launching of the Solar Power Irrigation System graced by President Rodrigo Duterte (in black shirt) and DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol (in blue polo shirt) on February 3, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM CONSOLIDATES PROJECT PROPOSALS

March 30, 2017 | PR Photograph

Development of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) North Cotabato team meets with farmer-beneficiaries to consolidate various project proposals from different areas in the said province on March 30, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM ATTENDS 4TH NATIONAL RICE TECHNOLOGY FORUM



March 30, 2017 | PR Photograph

Development of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) North Cotabato team present themselves in the 4th National Rice Technology Forum held in the municipal gymnasium of M'lang on March 30, 2017. The event was spearheaded by DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol and participated by farmers from different regions. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM ATTENDS SAAD PROGRAM'S STRATEGIC AND BUDGET PLANNING

March 30, 2017 | PR Photograph

Development of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) North Cotabato team had attended seminars and conferences for the SAAD program's Strategic and Budget Planning during the months of January and February 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURIST PRESENTS THE SAAD PROGRAM DURING THEIR MEETING

March 30, 2017 | PR Photograph

Provincial Agriculturist Deogracias Paano (in white polo shirt) discusses the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture during the Municipal Agriculturist Office's Management Conference Meeting (MANCOM) at the Provincial Governor's Conference Hall in Borongan, Eastern Samar on January 24, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



BALANGIGA MAYOR GRAZA SUPPORTS DA-SAAD PROGRAM

March 30, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Eastern Samar staff holds a weekly meeting with the Provincial Agriculturist at the Office of the Provincial Agricultural Services in Borongan City to discuss updates and matters regarding the flagship program on March 6, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SAAD TEAMS IN SARANGANI, NORTH COTABATO, AND MAGUINDANAO SHARE RESULTS OF GEO-TAGGING PILOT TEST IN MINDANAO



April 5, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program teams in Region 12 (Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sarangani) presented the results of the pilot testing of geo-tagging and farmer profiling interviews before the National Program Management Office (NPMO) and the DA-Information and Communication Technology Service

last March 31, 2017 at Hotel Micah, Kidapawan City, North Cotabato.

The said geo-tagging and farmer profiling were conducted last March 30, 2017 at Barangay Luanan, Municipality of Aleosan in North Cotabato.

Prior to the mentioned result-sharing, the DA-ICTS team briefly discussed and demonstrated the proper way on

how to consolidate the gathered data in geo-tagging using Basemap/Geosetter and Google Earth.

Fernando Jay Alforque, IT staff of SAAD North Cotabato, then led the presentation of the consolidated photos from the mentioned activity.

Following that is a discussion and a forum on the outcome of the interviews and profiling of farmers (held on the same day as the geo-tagging) using the form that the SAAD NPMO provided.

Comments and suggestions were gathered from the participants (Provincial/ Area Coordinators and SAAD Regional PMSO) for further improvements of the farmer and organization profile forms.

After the pilot testing and result-sharing, the participants are expected to pursue the geo-tagging of other areas, beneficiaries, and interventions in their respective provinces for the Special Area for Agricultural Development program. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD SARANGANI TEAM CONDUCTS COORDINATION MEETING WITH KIAMBA MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURIST

April 5, 2017 | PR Photograph



Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Sarangani team visits the Municipal Agriculturist of Kiamba, Sarangani as they conduct a courtesy call and coordination meeting for the project implementation of the Upland Rice and OPV White Corn with Vegetable Backyard Gardening Component for the B'Laan community on April 7, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD EMBARKS ON ITS 1ST QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT FOR 2017

April 19, 2017

QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) program

embarked on its first quarter of implementation assessment on April 18, 2017 with its first steps toward alleviating poverty across the



Philippines.

Since its kick off this year, the SAAD program reaches its first four months of implementation in the top ten priority provinces (2017) with the aim of providing agricultural and fishery assistance to the marginalized farmers and fisherfolk.

Participating regions (Cordillera Administrative Region, Negros Island Region, Eastern Visayas, Northern Mindanao, SOCCSKSARGEN, and Zamboanga Peninsula) attended the said assessment workshop graced by its Program Director Leroy Panes and the Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol. Representatives from various attached agencies and offices were as well present to share ideas and partake in the assessment.

Panes warmly welcomed all the people working on the SAAD program and shared passion and encouragement to carry on better service for the welfare of the local farmers and fishermen. Whereas Piñol urged everyone to deliver what is due to the mentioned sectors, which are in great need of government aid, particularly of agri-based interventions.

With his short message, Piñol reminded each participant to always think out of the box and work beyond the four corners of the office. He advised all SAAD personnel to be proactive in implementing the program as well as inspired them to never underestimate the power of unconventional and “crazy good ideas” for these might actually lead to greater results.

Following such are reports from the National Program Management Office (NPMO) on the SAAD’s general implementing guidelines as presented by Ulysses Lustria Jr., SAAD’s National Program Officer, and updates on the Operations and Monitoring and Evaluation, Information Technology, and Public Relations, Communications & Database clusters led by Maeflor Gabunales-Barol (National Program Officer), Kristine Eusebio (Operations and M&E head), Camilo Andi (IT Consultant), and Crystal Alviola (PR Officer).

This was immediately followed by the presentation of the quarterly reports of the regions started by the Eastern Visayas (Region VIII), which handles the provinces Northern, Eastern, and Western Samar respectively.

A forum was also conducted to clarify concerns and issues relative to the implementation of SAAD.

The 1st Quarterly Assessment of DA-SAAD, held at the DA New Building, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City, will proceed until April 19, 2017 with the rest of the regions’ quarterly reports and other related matters. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

ASEC PANES GRACES SAAD’S 1ST STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP IN MINDANAO

April 20, 2017

SOUTH COTABATO – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Director Leroy Panes graces the first Strategic Planning Workshop which took place in Mindanao last April 10-11, 2017 at The Farm @ Carpenter’s Hill, Koronadal City, South Cotabato. The said workshop was instigated to finalize the Program’s Mission and Vision, generate breakthrough goals from the participants as well as to clarify concerns on the implementation of the SAAD program.

The two-day event kicked off with an opening remark from Mila Casis, Regional Executive Director of Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) XII.

According to Casis, the SAAD is already in its progressive phase, a reason why everyone must keep on striving towards the common goal that is to provide necessary agricultural assistance to the needy. Casis also thanked everyone for their hard work and extended efforts in helping the secretary fulfill his objective to reduce poverty across the country through Agriculture.

Assistant Secretary Panes, on the other hand, shared his warm message of appreciation to all the SAAD personnel present (on the second day), encouraging each one to work practically and proactively especially in implementing the program in their respective areas. He also addressed



several matters concerning the overall operation of the SAAD program including the actual process of delivering the interventions.

As per Panes, everyone may contribute as to what they think is the best practice suitable to the needs of their target beneficiaries. Such good practices may then be suggested to other provinces as well.

Four regions from the south joined the activity facilitated by Mr. Rommel Serrano, SAAD’s program consultant along with the National Program Management Office (NPMO) Staff. Each of the participating regions (IX, X, XI, and XII) were tasked to provide their own breakthrough goals which will cater to the overall enterprise goal set by the NPMO that is to provide at least ten (10) actual livelihood projects implemented to contribute to poverty reduction per province for 2017-2022.

A breakthrough goal is a target activity of a specific group/cluster that is outside of their whirlwind or usual tasks. This is done in order to increase productivity and make work beyond better in a strategic manner of accomplishing tasks.

The four regions were subdivided into sub-groups according to their positions (Information and Technology, Budget and Planning, Provincial Coordinators, and Area Coordinators) to create their breakthrough goals and later on share it with their respective regions.

The participating regions are expected to fulfill their set commitments by the end of 2022. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

SAAD NORTH COTABATO TEAM BAGS 'BEST LOGO' AWARD

April 20, 2017

QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA – After a careful deliberation from the set panel of judges, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) team in North Cotabato bags the "Best Logo" award in the Logo-Making Contest given on the second day of the First Quarterly Assessment on April 19, 2017, at the Department of Agriculture (DA) New Building, Elliptical Road, Diliman Quezon City.

The SAAD's Logo-Making Contest was launched by the National Program Management Office (NPMO) on March 17, 2017, in search for the best symbol to represent the program. Participants who sent their entries include the Eastern Samar (Region VIII), Zamboanga del Norte (Region IX), and Maguindanao & North Cotabato, both with two entries. Each finalist was given enough time to present and expound their work before the panel of judges.

Each finalist was given enough time to present and expound their work before the panel of judges which include ASec

Lerey Panes, SAAD's Program Director and the representatives from SAAD's advisory committee (Field Operation Service, Information and Communication Technology Service, Project Development Service, Planning and Monitoring Service, and Financial and Management Service). Jerry Tingson, the Provincial Coordinator of North Cotabato Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO), presented their winning entry for the competition.

According to Tingson, they have crafted an icon that represents all the interventions provided by the program as well as the primary objective of SAAD to extend a helping hand to the marginalized and unrecognized farmers and fisherfolk.

Team North Cotabato also received a certificate of recognition and three thousand pesos (P3,000) in cash. Whereas, the winning logo will undergo final modification from the NPMO and shall then serve as the official logo of the SAAD program. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

SAAD VISITS MUSHROOM FACILITY PROSPECT CORN WAREHOUSE AREA IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE



April 21, 2017

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) team in Zamboanga del Norte spend their post holy week touring at the Mushroom Production Facility in the municipality of Sibutad back-to-back with an ocular survey for corn production warehouse in Labason on April 21, 2017.

Prior to such activity, the SAAD Zanoorte Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) through its Area Coordinator, Nadzmar Abdulatip, paid a courtesy call to Sibutad Mayor Eufacio Caidic and briefed the local executive on the SAAD program. Municipal Agriculturist Norma Lozada assisted the team in their tour at the mushroom facility shortly after.

The mentioned center will serve as the support mechanism for the implementation of a Mushroom Production Project, funded by the SAAD Program, which targets to help

five (5) associations with about a hundred (100) beneficiaries. The Sibutad is a fifth-class municipality in the Zamboanga del Norte. Meanwhile, another team led by AC Al-Anas Yusop, along with barangay Lawigan chairman Dominador Tiempo in Labason conducted an ocular survey of the area for corn production project warehouse of Labason Women's Association.

The project is worth Php 1.9 million to be funded by the SAAD Program. The land for the warehouse is donated to the Labason Women's Association by Rev. Fr. Asquirion Amora Santisas. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)





BRAND NEW IDENTITY: DA-SAAD LAUNCHES ITS OFFICIAL LOGO

April 24, 2017

QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA – A year after the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program has started; the National Program Management Office (NPMO) officially launches its new logo on April 24, 2017.

A logo is a symbol or emblem used by commercial enterprises, institutions, and organizations to promote public recognition.

The SAAD team in North Cotabato created the logo, which is a winning entry in the logo-making contest judged last April 19, 2017 during the program's 1st Quarterly Assessment for 2017.

According to North Cotabato Provincial Coordinator Jerry Tingson, the elements of animals and crops seen in the logo symbolize the livelihood interventions given in the SAAD program.

Meanwhile, other SAAD teams who also submitted their entries are Eastern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, and Maguindanao.

The logo above will be used as the accepted logo of the program until 2022.

The Special Area for Agricultural Development is a flagship program under the administration of President Rodrigo Duterte and an idea by the Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol to lessen the poverty incidence of ten priority provinces each year until 2022.

The ten provinces for the program in 2017 are Apayao, Negros Oriental, Eastern Samar, Northern Samar, Western Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sarangani. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD NORTH COTABATO DISTRIBUTES 120 SACKS OF CORN TO NEW LIFE FARMERS ASSOCIATION

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) in North Cotabato gives off 70 sacks of US Agriseeds Hybrid X5 Corn seeds and another 50 sacks of OPV Corn seeds to New Life Farmers Association through its president, Jovany J. Alopin (wearing yellow shirt) on April 25, 2017. The said interventions, from the DA National Corn Program, will be distributed to the beneficiaries (according to their land areas) in Barangay Tamped, Matalam, North Cotabato. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)



DA-SAAD SARANGANI TEAM ATTENDS SOCIAL WELFARE INDICATOR WORKSHOP

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Sarangani team attends a Social Welfare Indicator (SWI) workshop at the Sarangani Provincial Welfare Development Office to help them determine the social, economic, and health welfare of the partner-beneficiaries of the SAAD program on April 25, 2017.



The SWI is a profiling tool which is being used to monitor the beneficiaries' situations before, during, and after they were given livelihood projects. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD SARANGANI TEAM CONDUCTS VALUES ORIENTATION TRAINING FOR THE B'LAAN BENEFICIARIES

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Sarangani team conducts Values Orientation Training for the program's B'laan partner-beneficiaries of the Upland Rice Development Project at Barangay Kihan, Malapatan, Sarangani on April 26, 2017.

It was facilitated by the Haggai for Peace pastors and assisted by the DA-SAAD Area Coordinator Rodil Miranda, Admin Officer Junjun Fantin, and I.T. Officer Marlon Natividad. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD SARANGANI TEAM TRAINS T'BOLI BENEFICIARIES ON VALUES FORMATION

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Sarangani team holds Values Formation Training for the T'boli partner-beneficiaries of the Diversified Upland Rice Development Project from April 20 to 21, 2017 at Brgy. Tamadang, Kiamba, Sarangani. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SAAD SARANGANI TEAM MEETS GOVERNOR SOLON IN PREPARATION FOR THE PROJECT'S TURNOVER ACTIVITY

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Provincial Coordinator Jun Sayago (in green top) meets with Sarangani Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon (in blue polo shirt) for the planned turnover activity of the Diversified Upland Rice and OPV White Corn projects for the B'laan and T'boli Indigenous People Communities of the said province on April 25, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD ZANORTE TEAM CONSULTS DAMPALAN FARMERS' ASSOCIATION MEMBERS FOR THEIR PROJECTS

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Zamboanga del Norte (ZANORTE) team holds a consultation meeting with members of the Dampalan Farmers' Association in Dapitan City for their Cassava Production and Goat Breeding projects, funded by the SAAD program, on April 19, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



DA-SAAD ZANORTE TO COMPLEMENT THE LGU'S SAGIP PROGRAM IN LILOY

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph



The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Zamboanga del Norte (ZANORTE) staff meets with Lilo Mayor Felixberto Bolando (seated at the center) on April 22, 2017 as the program will complement the local government unit's Sustaining Agriculture through Government Intervention and Partnership (SAGIP) Program by providing fertilizer to 770 upland corn farmers for their 'Corn for Food' project. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

HAGGAI PASTORS, WITH DA-SAAD SARANGANI TEAM, FACILITATES VALUES FORMATION WORKSHOP IN ALABEL



April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Sarangani team, with the help of Haggai Group of Pastors, facilitates a Values Formation Workshop for the program's beneficiaries in Sitio Sofan, Brgy. Pag-Asa, Alabel, Sarangani on April 25, 2020 despite a challenging trip to the said venue. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

UPLAND RICE SEEDLINGS READY FOR DISTRIBUTION IN SARANGANI

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph



The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agriculture Development (DA-SAAD) Sarangani team purchases upland rice seedlings through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist on April 26, 2017. It will be ready in distribution for the partner-beneficiaries of the Diversified Upland Rice Development Project in Sitio Banlas, Kihan, Malapatan. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD SARANGANI TEAM HOLDS VALUES ORIENTATION WORKSHOP FOR B'LAAN BENEFICIARIES

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) conducts Values Orientation Workshop, facilitated by the Haggai for Peace pastors, for the B'laan partner-beneficiaries of the Diversified Upland Rice Development Project in Sitio Miasong, Brgy. New Aklan, Glan, Sarangani on April 27, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SARANGANI BENEFICIARY PREPARES HIS LAND FOR PLANTING

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph



One partner-beneficiary in Sitio Banlas, Brgy. Kihan, Malapatan, Sarangani prepares his land for planting on April 26, 2017 in line with the Upland Rice Development Project of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Sarangani, funded by the SAAD Program. On May 3, 2017, DA-SAAD Program Director Leroy Panes will attend the launching and turnover activity of the said project. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA-SAAD SARANGANI PROJECT'S UPLAND RICE SEEDLINGS READY FOR PURCHASE

April 27, 2017 | PR Photograph

Upland rice seedlings are ready for purchase at the the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist on April 27, 2017 for distribution to the B'laan partner-beneficiaries of Diversified Upland Rice Development Project, funded by the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, in Sitio Maisong, Brgy. New Aklan, Glan, Sarangani. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SAAD PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN MAGUINDANAO; GIVES HOPE TO FARMER-BENEFICIARIES



April 24, 2017

MAGUINDANAO – A brighter future awaits the local farmers of Maguindanao as the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program officially launches in the said province in BBGM Function Hall, Buluan on May 02, 2017, Tuesday. Under the program, 20 out of 36 municipalities in Maguindanao will benefit from various agricultural

interventions.

SAAD focal person for Region 12 (SOCCSKSARGEN), Cecilia Parcon, kicked-off the event with a brief orientation and presentation on the SAAD program, followed by the opening remarks of Maguindanao Governor Esmael Mangudadatu.

Gov. Mangudadatu welcomes all the participants in the special occasion that may change their current situation. He, however, reminds everyone to remain content with what they have and possess self-control. The ceremonial distribution of agri-inputs to the beneficiaries followed. This includes small farming equipment and tools, fertilizers (liquid and solid), tarpaulin, rice and corn seeds and others.

SAAD Program Director Leroy A. Panes along with Region 12 Executive Director Engr. Mila Casis and Hon. Mangudadatu, steered the ceremonial distribution of agri-inputs to the farmers of Maguindanao. The interventions, under the P25M first tranche of SAAD budget for the province, will be formally distributed through the Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) headed by Norma Piang, Provincial Coordinator for Maguindanao.

Following the ceremonial distribution, Engr. Casis gave her message of encouragement to the farmers as well as to the people behind the SAAD Program. In her speech, she said "development is transforming the lives of people, not just the economy" thus pushing the SAAD team to join in the fight against poverty in the country.

Asec. Panes also gave a piece of advice to the recipients of the SAAD program to change their mindset or consciousness in order to successfully alter their environment. To boot, "Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol, a pro-farmer, is ready to help the needy thus the establishment of the SAAD program." He also mentions that Mindanao is a "sleeping giant" with its



rich resources; hence, all farmers must work hand in hand to utilize and make the most out of it.

The program launching of the SAAD Program in Maguindanao closed in peace and high hopes for the betterment of the lives of the local farmers and of agriculture in the said province.

Deblaeag Utto, Officer-in-charge of the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) in Maguindanao officially closed the ceremony with his message of support for the SAAD Program.

Utto, Gov. Mangudadatu, Engr. Casis and Asec. Panes, along with Daud Legasi, OIC of Provincial Agricultural Office of Maguindanao and Mosibicak Guiabel, Provincial Agriculturist, signed the "Commitment of Support" for the implementation of the SAAD program in the area.

Maguindanao is among the top ten priority provinces of the said program for 2017. Others include Apayao, Negros Oriental, Northern, Eastern and Western Samar, Lanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Sarangani and North Cotabato. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD IN NORTH COTABATO TURNS OVER CORN HUSKER SHELTER TO LOWER DATU CELO FARMERS ASSOCIATION

May 4, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in North Cotabato assisted the turn-over of Corn Husker Sheller from the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 12 Corn Program to Lower Datu Celo Farmers Association through its president, Glenn C. Porras (Polo shirt with stripe blue and white) along with Magpet Rice and Corn Coordinator Sir Henry S. Supena (green polo shirt) on April 26, 2017. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)



DA-SAAD PROVIDES ADDITIONAL SACKS OF FERTILIZERS TO NEW LIFE FARMERS ASSOCIATION

May 5, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in North Cotabato provides additional 100 sacks of Fertilizer to Jovany J. Alopin (orange shirt), President of New Life Farmers Association (NLFA). Also present in the event are the Technician of Rice (red shirt) – Mr. Alagano, Municipal Agriculturist (pink shirt) – Dr. Wilfredo Juloya and Matalam Area Coordinator of SAAD North Cotabato- Mr. Val Christopher Pungyan (white shirt). ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)



SAAD IN NORTH COTABATO DELIVERS INTERVENTION TO NEW LIFE FARMER ASSOCIATION ON LABOR DAY

May 4, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in North Cotabato spend their holiday distributing 200 sacks of Hybrid Corn Seeds, 100 sacks of fertilizer, and 20 bags of vegetable seeds from the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 12 Banner Programs to the beneficiaries of New Life Farmer Association (NLFA) on May 1, 2017 at Tamped, Matalam, Cotabato. DA-RFO 12 Regional Executive Director, Milagros Casis CE also shared a message to the beneficiaries and SAAD staff during the event. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)



FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK'S MONTH: SAAD IN NORTH COTABATO JOINS FARMER'S FORUM TO DISTRIBUTE FINGERLINGS

May 9, 2017 | PR Photograph

In celebration of the Farmers and Fisherfolk's Month, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in North Cotabato joins the launching of a farmers' forum in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato on May 5, 2017. Provincial Coordinator Jerry Tingson, along with the SAAD Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) of North Cotabato, guided the farmer beneficiaries in crafting project proposals and assisted in the distribution of Tilapia fingerlings to the recipients. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)



DA-SAAD MAGUINDANAO TEAM STRATEGIZES DISTRIBUTION OF CORN INPUTS

May 11, 2017 | PR Photograph



The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Maguindanao team attends a meeting with the Project Management Team of Buluan on Women Building on May 5, 2017 to strategize the distribution of corn inputs to different beneficiaries in the said province. The distribution of inputs will take place on May 10-12, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD IN NORTHERN SAMAR CONDUCTS SOCIAL PREPARATION TO FARMER BENEFICIARIES IN 12 CORN AREAS

May 11, 2017 | PR Photograph



The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Northern Samar conducted an Orientation on Season Long Farmers Field School (FFS) on Integrated Corn Production and Management (ICPM) to the farmer-beneficiaries in 12 identified corn areas of the province on April 24, 2017. This activity is part of the Social Preparation phase of the SAAD program to empower the recipients in farming and management of the interventions which will be provided thereafter. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

SAAD IN NORTH COTABATO JOINS SOLAR ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT INAUGURATION; DISPERSES FINGERLINGS FROM BFAR

May 16, 2017 | PR Photograph



The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in North Cotabato attended the inauguration of the Solar Electrification Project of Together Ensemble Foundation in Obiate Galilee Farm Multi-purpose Hall, Brgy. Malangag, Antipas on May 11, 2017. Region 12 Executive Director Engr. Mila Casis introduced the SAAD program to the attendees followed by the dispersion of 50,000 fingerlings from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) to the beneficiaries. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

SAAD PROGRAM ORIENTS FARMER-PARTNERS: CONDUCTS PLANNING WORKSHOP AND SITE VISIT IN EASTERN SAMAR



May 17, 2017

EASTERN SAMAR – Towards a better understanding and coordination, the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, through Director Bernadette San Juan, oriented its farmer-partners at PGO conference hall, Provincial Capitol Borongan Eastern Samar on May 9, 2017.

SAAD Region VIII Focal Person Dr. Andrew Orasis, Provincial Agriculturist Paano, and several Municipal Agriculturists and Agricultural Technicians along with numerous farmers from the municipalities of Jipapad, Artech, San Policarpo, Oras, Maslog, Dolores, Balangkayan, Hernani, and Quinapondan Gen. Macarthur gathered together in the said event.

Dir. San Juan delivered her message of appreciation to the participants,

encouraging them to further support the SAAD Program. After a short orientation and Program briefing, a planning workshop took place where the attendees enthusiastically identified their priority needs in their respective municipalities.

The leaders from each group (municipality) explained their output from the said workshop. The identified priority needs include tractors, water pumps, rice threshers, rice mill, corn sheller, fertilizers, vegetable seeds, corn seeds, and rice seeds, on livestock, swine, goat and native chicken. Such needs will be assessed as part of the realignment of projects for the said areas.

Dir. San Juan, together with SAAD's National Program Coordinator for Luzon and Visayas, Ulysses Lustria Jr. and Operations Head of National

Program Management Office, Kristine Eusebio paid a site visit and consultation with the Tabi Rice Planters Association in Balangkayan E. Samar later the same day. ###
(Crystal Jane Alviela)

SAAD PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN DAPITAN CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE



May 17, 2017

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Department of Agriculture -Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program has officially taken off at Dampalan, Dapitan City with the initial delivery of 1,200 bags of organic fertilizer and 46,000 cassava stalks for the Cassava Production Project of Dampalan Farmers Association.

The project is a collaborative effort of the City Government of Dapitan through its City Agriculture Office and the SAAD Program in Zamboanga del Norte. The Dampalan Farmers Association was identified by the City of Dapitan to be its initial farmers' group which will be the partner-beneficiaries of SAAD.

According to Ms. Susan Empeynado,

Senior Agriculturist of Dapitan City, they will strictly implement 100% organic cassava farm covering a total area of 100 hectares under the SAAD program. The project requires a total of 200,000 cassava stalks as planting material and 6,000 bags of organic fertilizer. Ms. Empeynado is the designated focal person of the City Government of Dapitan in the implementation of SAAD Program in the city.

The city government of Dapitan provided free plowing and harrowing services to all the beneficiaries of the Cassava Production, added Ms. Empeynado. She also designated one staff from the CAO to assist and monitor the project.

On the other hand, Mr. Samuel Pobadora, Dampalan Farmers Association President, vowed to do their best to succeed in the project. He as well mentioned that they have no reason to fail with the full support they now receive from the City of Dapitan and the DA through the SAAD Program.

The Cassava Project will have a sub-component five-module Goat Breeding Project that will be distributed in five strategic areas in the barangay. Each module consists of five does and one buck. This will serve as the goat breeding stations of the Dampalan

Farmers Association as they venture in the goat dispersal project for their members.

The farmer-beneficiaries shall then be obliged to plant "madre de agua" or trichantera, ipil-ipil and other forages to ensure food supply for the small ruminants. The Jose Rizal Memorial State University (JRMSU) Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte Campus committed to providing free planting materials for forages for the livestock projects as support for the SAAD Program in the Area. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

TEAM ZANORTE LAUNCHES SAAD CORN AND COFFEE PROJECTS IN SEBOD, ROXAS

May 24, 2017 | PR Photograph

Team Zamboanga Del Norte formally launches the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's Php 2 million corn and coffee production projects at Barangay Sebod, Roxas in the said province on May 19, 2017, where 150 farmer-beneficiaries attended the orientation conducted by Roxas Area Coordinator Cecille La Plana and SAAD ZANORTER Administrative Assistant Carlo Glenn Palacat.

About 90% of the beneficiaries are members of the Subanen Indigenous People tribe of Zamboanga del Norte. The projects will cover a total area of 14 hectares for coffee farms and 75 hectares for corn production, including three communal coffee seedling nurseries in Barangay Sebod. Other components of the project are two units of corn shellers.

Barangay Sebod is about 15 km away from Roxas town proper, which is accessible only by motorcycle. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SAAD SARANGANI TEAM TRAINS T'BOLI FARMERS ON RICE AND CORN PRODUCTION



May 24, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Sarangani team of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agriculture Development (DA-SAAD) Program holds technical training for the T'boli farmers on the Upland Rice and OPV White Corn Production in Brgy. Tamadang, Kiamba from May 22 to 23, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SALUG LGU COMMITS MARKETING SUPPORT TO SAAD BENEFICIARIES

May 24, 2017

SALUG, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The local government of the Municipality of Sagul, Zamboanga del Norte committed as the 'ready market' for all the eggs that the Pacuhan and Liguac Farmers' Association will produce. The two (2) farmers' associations will receive livelihood assistance from the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program for their Layer Chicken Project.

Dr. Roy Pogador, the Municipal Agricultural Officer of Sagul, in a meeting with the Pacuhan and Liguac Farmers' Association and the SAAD Program Provincial Coordinator assuaged the fear of the partner-beneficiaries that they will not be able to sell the eggs that will be produced from their respective livelihood projects. SAAD Program approved the request of the two farmers' associations for the

layer chicken project worth Php 2 million.

Pogador said that the local government of Salug commits to support the farmers' associations either as the bulk buyer of the eggs they will produce or provide market linkage in Zamboanga del Norte province.

He also said that Salug LGU fully supports the livelihood project and would like to be recognized as the "egg producing" town in the province. There is an acute shortage of chicken eggs in the province, he added.

Meanwhile, the two (2) farmers' associations agreed to hold a joint one-day Policy Formulation Workshop to prepare the draft of the policy in the implementation of the project including, among others, the profit-sharing scheme and establishment of project development fund. They also

requested the local government unit through the office of the Municipal Agriculturist to conduct technology and management training for efficient implementation of the egg production project. ### (Jhomai Canlas and Ronilo Dusaban)



SAAD PROGRAM HOLDS 2ND REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP FOR LUZON AND VISAYAS

May 24, 2017 | PR Photograph

"The SAAD Program is an example that not all promises are meant to be broken," said Esteban Conchas, Farmer Regional Executive Director for Eastern Visayas (Region VIII) in his remarks on the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program's 2nd Regional Strategic Planning Workshop for Luzon and Visayas held in Leyte Park Resort Hotel, Tacloban City, Leyte on May 24, 2017. The 2-day workshop aims to develop a strategic management plan for each province's implementation of the program. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SAAD PROGRAM HOLDS TURN OVER CEREMONY TO NORTHERN SAMAR FARMER-BENEFICIARIES

May 25, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program hands down agricultural interventions to the farmer-beneficiaries of Northern Samar at Leyte Park Resort Hotel, Tacloban City, Leyte on May 25, 2017. SAAD Program Director Lerey A. Panes (center) steered the ceremonial distribution of corn, rice and vegetable seeds and fertilizers to Diodulo Dolonzo (left side of Panes, in blue polo shirt) as the representative. The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) also took part in the said turnover ceremony. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)



SAAD ZANORTE TEAM VISITS PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATOR, ACQUIRES LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR SAAD PROGRAM

May 25, 2017

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Zanorte team, headed by Provincial Coordinator Ronilo Dusaban, paid a courtesy call to Dioniso Mandawe, acting provincial administrator, at Office of the Administrator in the said province on May 25, 2017.

The Provincial Program Management Support Office of Zamboanga del Norte presented therewith the SAAD Program to the acting administrator. Mandawe, on behalf of the local government of Zanorte appreciates the Department of Agriculture for establishing the SAAD program which extends livelihood assistance to the poorest of the poor in the province.

He also mentioned that in support of the program, they are willing to provide logistics assistance to the SAAD team in order to access the remote villages



in the area. Meanwhile, the Provincial Administrator and SAAD Team agreed to formally launch the DA-SAAD Program by the third week of July this year. He said he will invite all municipal agriculturists and representatives of people's organizations to witness the launching.

The team informed the Provincial Administrator that 43 projects are already in the pipeline for implementation in 25 Municipalities and two (2) cities in Zamboanga del Norte. The total project cost for 43 projects is Php 52 million which will cover a variety of livelihood projects like swine raising project, upland rice and corn production, broiler and layer chicken production, peanut production and processing projects among others. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

SAAD PROGRAM SEEKS POSSIBLE COLLABORATION WITH TURKISH AGENCY



May 31, 2017

ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE – The Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) opened its doors to the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program for a possible collaboration, in a meeting last May 29, 2017, at the Department of Agriculture, Elliptical Rd. Diliman, Quezon City.

In a short presentation, Marvin Segovia, SAAD National Program Coordinator for Mindanao, emphasized the objective of the DA to provide affordable and sustainable food for the Filipinos, hence the creation of the SAAD Program. He also briefed the TIKA representatives on how the SAAD aims to supplement the other existing DA-Banner Programs in providing agricultural assistance to the marginalized farmers and fisherfolk in ten (10) identified priority provinces from 2017-2022.

Burak Saritlarla, Country Director of

TIKA in the Philippines, expressed great appreciation for the efforts of the SAAD Program to extend the help to the grassroots level where other Agencies fail to access. Thus, he, along with Enes Dolukup, TIKA's Deputy Country Director, and Rahib Abdulah, TIKA's Program Development Officer, generously offered support to the SAAD beneficiaries.

The support will be in the form of agricultural interventions based on the identified needs of the beneficiaries in selected priority provinces.

TIKA is a Turkish agency operating since 1992. It aims to help its sister countries (Turkish-speaking nations) to regain social structures and economic, cultural and educational sustainability through the provision of aids. In 2015, the TIKA has extended their help to other neighboring countries in Africa, Latin America and Asia including the Philippines. ### (Jhomain Canlas)

SAAD PROGRAM LAUNCHES IN DIPOLOG CITY, ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE



June 14, 2017

DIPOLOG CITY – Smiles and laughter brightens the atmosphere as the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program launches in Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte on June 13, 2017 at Virginia Elementary School, Brgy. Diwan, Dipolog City. SAAD Program Director Leroy A. Panes graced the said event as well as steered the provision of agricultural assistance to the beneficiaries of SAAD in Diwan.

In his remarks, Panes emphasized the importance of the market for the sustainability of agriculture in the area. He then vowed to provide help to the marginalized farmers in Diwan through the SAAD Program. Panes delivered his message in their native language, Bisaya, which made the crowd feel even more connected to him.

A ceremonial distribution of interventions followed where Asec. Panes along with Dipolog City Mayor Dexter Darel Uy, City Agriculturist Engr.

Jose Kerr Porlas and SAAD Provincial Coordinator for Zamboanga del Norte, Ronillo Dusaban handed over Durian seedlings and vegetable seeds to 500 beneficiaries. Various activities including a dental mission and an information drive were as well carried out in the event.

Mayor Uy, on the other hand, expressed his support for the SAAD program in his acceptance and commitment message.

After the successful launch, Asec. Panes together with SAAD Provincial Program Management Office of Zamboanga del Norte and Mayor Uy visited the Diwan sitio proper for a communal garden planting. ###
(Crystal Jane Alviola)



SAAD NPMO VALIDATES PROJECT INTERVENTIONS IN SARANGANI

July 10, 2017

SARANGANI – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) National Program Management Office (NPMO) team went to Sarangani in SOCKSARGEN (Region XII) to field validate project interventions last June 27 to 30, 2017.

The team, led by SAAD Deputy Program Director Bernadette San Juan, visited Sitio Miasong, Barangay New Aklan, and Malapatan with the New Aklan Farmers Association president Olivia Yama. The said farmers' association has a total of 125 SAAD beneficiaries for rice and corn production. Completing the team are National Program Coordinator Marvin Segovia, Operation Officer Jacquelyn Rebusit, and IT Consultant Camilo Andi.

The field validation and monitoring of project proposals were done to keep interventions available to those who worthily need them. The SAAD Program was created in 2016 under DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol's command to provide agricultural assistance to marginalized farmers and fisher folks.

The projects validated are part of the Php 25 million budget, which was given as the first tranche to the province last 2015.

Director San Juan also suggested constructing bolder terraces in the upland farm areas in the said towns to



conserve water and prevent soil erosion.

Meanwhile, the team also visited the office of North Cotabato Governor Lala Talino Mendoza, wherein they discussed the procurement of agricultural interventions to the province's beneficiaries.

The provinces of Sarangani and North Cotabato are one of the top 10 priority provinces in the SAAD Program for the year of 2017, along with Northern, Eastern, and Western Samar, Negros Oriental, Apayao, Maguindanao, Lanao del Sur, and Zamboanga del Norte. ###
(Crystal Jane Alviola)

SAAD PROFILES NEW FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN NORTH COTABATO



July 18, 2017 | PR Photograph

Courage is to serve others, for in service there is true life. Area Coordinator Ruth Agnes Yunque (in white and blue poloshirt) showed compassion as she conducted the profiling of the new farmer-beneficiaries of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program at Barangays Bitoka and Malaya in Midsayap, North Cotabato. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

SAAD PROGRAM MARKS ITS 2ND QUARTERLY ASSESSMENT FOR 2017

July 19, 2017

OLONGAPO CITY – With more fervor in delivering service to the marginalized farmers and fisherfolk, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program marked its 2nd Quarterly Assessment at Anne Raquel's Hillside Resort, New Cabalan, Olongapo City Zambales.

The SAAD National Program Management Office along with the Support Staff from all six (6) regions, which handle the current top ten priority

provinces of SAAD, and the SAAD advisory committee, which consist of different Department of Agriculture (DA) Offices, gathered together in a week-long assessment and action planning workshop last July 10-14, 2017.

Assistant Secretary for Planning, Project Development and Special Projects and SAAD Program Director Leroy A. Panes kicked off the said event with his remarks emphasizing on



the unavoidable instances which the personnel may face as they fulfill their callings. In this regard, Asec. Panes urged the participants to conquer whatever trial may come their way. He also reiterated the need to deliver the agricultural needs of the identified beneficiaries notwithstanding the hindrances, in order to help uplift their lives and help alleviate the poverty in the country.

This was followed by the assessment proper where each region presented their accomplishment reports before the panelists who included Asec. Panes, SAAD Deputy Program Director Bernadette F. San Juan, and the representatives from various DA Offices.

Dir. San Juan took the floor shortly after the assessment to talk about several matters concerning the identification of beneficiaries of the SAAD program.

Discussions on the planning and budget cycle were carried on on the second day of the assessment. Michael

Rei Carbungco from the DA-Budget Division and Reichelle Celorico from the Planning and Monitoring Service (PMS) shared some insights on the aforementioned topics.

Grace A. Ortiz, Chief Budget and Management Specialist of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) Regional Office III was also invited to talk on the government procurement process flow. Ortiz gladly answered some queries as she went on with her presentation on the Bidding Procedure of Goods and Infrastructure.

An action planning workshop was also held which targeted to draft a concrete and viable plan for the implementation of the SAAD Program in the remaining months of 2017.

The assessment week ended with higher hopes as the SAAD Program now takes the next big steps in providing further assistance to the target beneficiaries. ### (Crystal Jane Alviela)

SAAD PROGRAM IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE TRAINS BENEFICIARIES ON NATURAL FARMING SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY



July 24, 2017

DIPOLOG CITY – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in partnership with the Local Government Unit of Dipolog City held a two-day technical training on Natural Farming Systems for the SAPAT sa DIWAN Project last July 11-12, 2017 at Sitio Upper Diwan and Sungkilaw Falls, Bgy. Diwan, Dipolog City, Zamboanga del Norte.

The SAAD Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) of ZANORTE, through Area Coordinator Cecille La Plana, along with City Agriculturist Engr. Kerr Porlas, spearheaded the said activity. About 300 project beneficiaries, who were further subdivided into three batches, were oriented and trained in the various methods of natural farming.

With the use of a chalkboard and manila paper as a visual aid, the

trainers passionately shared some insights on the natural means of planting vegetables. Natural Farming, also called "Fukuoka Method," is a manner of growing plants without the use of any manufactured inputs and tools (including fertilizers and tillers).

Aside from lectures, a hands-on training/demonstration was made to fully educate the local farmers on natural farming technologies. This training aims to capacitate the SAAD Program beneficiaries in order for them to be more productive and skilled in preparation for their respective Vegetable Farming Projects.

Zamboanga del Norte is among the top ten Priority Provinces of the SAAD Program. The said flagship program of the Department of Agriculture was formally launched in Dipolog City in the said province last June 13, 2017. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

SAAD, ALONG WITH BFAR, TURNS OVER 80,000 TILAPIA FINGERLINGS TO BENEFICIARIES IN NORTH COTABATO

August 2, 2017 | PR Photograph

The Department of Agriculture-Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program in North Cotabato, through its Provincial Coordinator Jerry Tingson, led the distribution of 80,000 Tilapia fingerlings to 160 beneficiaries at City Pavillion, Kidapawan City on July 28, 2017. This project is a joint effort of Kidapawan City Mayor Joseph A. Evangelista & Vice Mayor Bernardo "Jun" Piñol in cooperation with the DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Director Usop D. Pandaliday and the SAAD Program. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)



DA SEC. PIÑOL CONDUCTS BYAHENG BUKID: SAAD DISTRIBUTES FINGERLINGS IN NORTH COTABATO

August 4, 2017 | PR Photograph

Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol welcomes the month of August with his Byaheng Bukid, a program that aims to draw the government closer to the local farmers, at the Municipal Gym of Libungan in North Cotabato on August 1, 2017. On the other hand, the DA-Special Area for Agricultural Development Program (SAAD) through its Provincial Coordinator in North Cot, Jerry Tingson, along with Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Regional Office 12 Director Usop P. Pandaliday, steered the distribution of 80,000 tilapia fingerlings to the SAAD Beneficiaries in the province. Both events coincided with the celebration of the "KaTambolLit Festival 2017" in the Municipality of Libungan. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)



UPLAND RICE IN SARANGANI, READY FOR HARVEST: FARMERS TO GAIN MORE PROFIT AND FOOD SECURITY

August 15, 2017

GLAN, SARANGANI – With a mission to provide food security and increase the productivity of the marginalized farmers and fisherfolks, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program penetrates to the remotest areas in the country, searching far and wide to lend a hand that would help lift those in the pit of poverty out of their current situation.

Sarangani, one of the top ten priority provinces of SAAD for 2017, is among the poorest provinces in SOCCSKSARGEN or Region XII. According to its Provincial Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon, the hard-to-reach parts of Sarangani, which are upland areas, are the ones pulling the poverty incidence of the whole province up to the ceiling. The lack of access to such areas is one of the main reasons why the local government could hardly infiltrate to the locals and indigenous people in the province.

The SAAD Program's implementation in the Sarangani province is therefore vital to those in dire need of the government's assistance, especially in agriculture, who are often unreachable by such.

In the mountainous areas of New Aklan, in Glan, Sarangani, where development could hardly stretch, there sprung a tiny community called Sitio Surang, with people coexisting with plants, trees, and animals, striving to make a living

and support their families with the little amount of money they earn from farming.

Jimmy Pondivilla is one of those upland farmers who struggle to live in this far-flung area. Born in Isulan, Sultan Kudarat, the 40-year-old farmer left his hometown to live with his wife in the highlands of Sarangani in 2003. Jimmy and his wife have three children, all of whom they are sending to school in town hours away from their home. Farming is the main source of livelihood of the Pondivillas alongside raising livestock and putting up a mini sari-sari store.

Jimmy plants upland rice, corn, banana and cacao in their 12-hectare land. Every day, he risks his life by taking the trail they engraved on the muddy and slippery mountainside of New Aklan just to maintain their farm.

Manual farming is evident in Sitio Surang since the farmers have no access to any form of machinery. Hence, with his sickle or bagging hook, rice sacks and a vessel made from an old plastic water container, Jimmy would manually harvest the upland rice he planted about four months ago to sell it in the market in the lowland areas as well as to his co-farmers in his community. He also used to hire farm laborers to assist him in harvesting which adds up to his expenditures.



Jimmy Pondivilla poses with his wife beside their harvested upland rice in Sarangani





Minda Dalama, wife of Rudy Dalama (SAAD beneficiary), takes charge of their backyard garden and farm while her spouse is making profit out of driving a habal-habal



The months of August-September are intended for harvesting their crops. However, even with the large farmland, Jimmy admitted the money they earn is still insufficient to support their expenses. Harvesting from his upland rice and corn doesn't necessarily guarantee him and his family a good fortune. Only when they were able to sell all their allotted harvests and save up from buying seeds to plant again and compensating the farmworkers, could they provide for their children's needs.

Selling their harvested milled rice is not easy because Jimmy had to travel the long and mud-covered roads of the mountain before reaching the markets. Farm-to-market roads (FMRs) have not yet been established in the area, causing difficulties in transporting their produced crops. Horses are still their number one friend on their way to the marketplace. This means more days of traveling back and forth just to sell their products, not mentioning the challenges they suffer from when even a little rain pours along the way.

Aside from the long and unpaved roads, pests are their main enemies in farming upland products. These little filches eat up most of Jimmy's crops causing a painful decrease in their earnings. Hence, pesticides are greatly needed. Post-harvest processes are also an obstacle to the absence of a well-functioning rice miller and corn sheller.

Rudy Dalama, on the other hand, is also a farmer residing in the mountains of New Aklan, Glan Sarangani. He and his wife, Minda Dalama, raised and

supported their four children with their upland farming in their four (4) hectares acquired farmland, backyard farming and livestock (two pigs) raising.

However, even with a vast land, Minda and his husband only earn a net worth of Php 20,000 for every harvest season. This will only give them Php 5,000 pesos for a month, which isn't enough to support his family's daily needs and the schooling of his two children. Hence, to add up to their profit, Rudy is driving a habal-habal, a service motorcycle, in which he seldom earns Php 300-P400. Just like Jimmy, Rudy also suffers greatly from the loss in farming and the costs of marketing their upland products, which in turn makes his profit even shorter as compared with his family's expenses.

Jimmy Pondivilla and Rudy Dalama are just two among the chosen beneficiaries of the SAAD Program, who face the same problem in their decades of farming in Sarangani. The irony of having large farm areas yet a very low income has long been haunting the local farmers of the said province. The New Aklan Farmers Association (NAFA), where both farmers along with 123 others are members of, was selected as the recipient of the program's agricultural intervention which aims to suffice the need of the local farmers and farmworkers in order for them to surpass the hindrances of a bountiful harvest.

Last May, NAFA received 80 kilograms of Upland Rice Seeds per farmer, which Jimmy, along with the other recipients, is now about to finish harvesting by the first week of September. About 91.28%

or 398 hectares of the total land area identified for the SAAD Program (436 has) have already been planted with Upland Rice while 70.52% or 134 hectares from the total land area for OPV White Corn (190 has) was planted as reported last June 2017.

These are expected to be reaped in August until September of this year. In fact, just as last August 8, 2017, Jimmy already harvested a total of 50 sacks of upland rice from the SAAD Program on the 10-12% of his total farm area, each sack costs approximately Php 2,700. He said he will be selling 30 sacks in the market and leave the remaining 20 for his community and his family.

On the same day, the SAAD Program Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) of Sarangani, with the assistance from the Provincial Government, provided knapsack sprayers to help the farmers get rid of pests without harming their plants and lands.

Prior to the provision of agri inputs, a series of social preparation training were also done which included Farmer's Assemblies, Production Technology training on Rice and OPV White Corn, Crop Protection, Vegetable Production and Postharvest Storage Training, Animal Healthcare Management and other farming methodologies.

These aimed to equip the farmers, particularly those who are new to having an organization like Rudy and Minda, on the proper methods of farming as well as to prepare them in managing the interventions they were

about to receive.

This, according to Minda, will be beneficial in protecting their lands from the damage of using inorganic fertilizers and other erroneous methods of planting. She as well shared how they could spare from paying for a separate sprayer now that they will be having their own knapsack sprayers. "This could mean a lot for us, for we will be able to save more and prevent our lands from further damages," she said in their native language in an interview.

Aside from Upland Rice and Corn Seeds and Knapsack Sprayers, the program is about to distribute vegetable seeds, farm tools such as sickles, bolos, hand trowel and grab hoes, garden tools, fertilizers, and livestock – goat, native chicken, ducks, horses and carabaos with feeds and veterinary supplies for the beneficiaries in the municipality of Glan. These and more interventions are expected to be distributed by the third and fourth quarter of 2017 as per DA-RFO XII Executive Director Milagros C. Casis. The towns of Alabel, Malapatan, Malungon, Maasim, Kiamba and Maitum will also be receiving training and agri-interventions under a total budget of Php 100 million for the province of Sarangani.

Both Pondavilla and Dalama were thankful for being selected as the SAAD Program's beneficiaries as well as for the effort of the government to reach out to farmers like them who are living in distant areas. With the assistance they have received, both are confident that they will be having more profit and enough food to leave on their plates.

Sarangani Gov. Solon likewise expressed his gratitude for the SAAD Program implementation in his beloved province. He also commended the effort of the DA in improving the upland rice industry in Sarangani. "We would like to say thank you to the Dept of Agriculture – Sec Piñol, salamat po na binigyan niyo kami ng [thank you for giving us a] chance to prove ourselves that we can make this project happen," said Solon in an interview.

Meanwhile, the Provincial Government of Sarangani and the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) XII are now preparing for the SAAD Program's harvest festival in the province to be held in September. With this, beneficiary farmers like Jimmy and Rudy from Barangay New Aklan in Glan are expected to attend and sell their harvests fresh from their upland farms to the public. ###
(Jhomal Canlas)



ASEC. PANES CONDUCTS CONSULTATION ON SAAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION FOR 2018 IN SULTAN KUDARAT

September 7, 2017

SULTAN KUDARAT – The Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program conducted a consultation at Kings Hall, New Capitol Building in the province on September 7, 2017 in preparation for its implementation in 2018.

DA-Assistant Secretary for Planning, Project Development and Special Projects and SAAD Program Director Lerey A. Panes spearheaded the said

activity, oriented the participants on the policies and guidelines of SAAD and answered queries relative to its program implementation.

The Municipal Agriculturists, Mun. Planning and Development Officers, Sangguniang Panlalawigan (SP) members, Provincial Agricultural and Fisheries Council (PAFC) representatives from the 12 municipalities and one (1) city in Sultan Kudarat and the division heads in the province participated in the mentioned gathering.



Provincial Governor Sultan Pax S. Mangudadatu, Al Haj and Provincial Vice Governor Raden C. Sakaluran, Al Haj also graced the consultation and showed their support for the program.

Sultan Kudarat was chosen as one of the Top 10 Priority Provinces of the SAAD Program along with Catanduanes, Masbate, Bukidnon, Leyte, Southern Leyte, Siquijor, Sulu, Compostella Valey, and Sorsogon. ###

DA SEC. PIÑOL CONDUCTS BYAHENG BUKID: SAAD DISTRIBUTES FINGERLINGS IN NORTH COTABATO



September 7, 2017 |
PR Photograph

The DA-SAAD Program distributes OPV Corn Seeds to the beneficiaries – Lawigan Farmers Association in Labason, Zamboanga del Norte on September 6, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD BENEFICIARIES EXHIBIT UPLAND FARMING HARVESTS IN SARANGANI



September 25, 2017 | PR Photograph

FRUIT OF LABOR. The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program beneficiaries showcased their harvested upland rice, corn, and vegetables in celebration of the Agricultural Day in Barangay Tamban, Sarangani Province on September 25, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD DISTRIBUTES OPV CORN SEEDS TO BENEFICIARIES IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE

September 29, 2017 | PR Photograph

"PUTTING HAPPINESS INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS." The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program delivered OPV White Corn Seeds and organic fertilizers to the beneficiaries, the Lubukanan Farmers Association, in Barangay Daniel, Maing Kalawit, Zamboanga del Norte on September 28, 2017. Dubbed as "Corn for Food," this project aims to develop and increase the food production thus ensuring food security in every household in the mentioned area. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)



SAAD PROGRAM HOLDS CONSULTATIVE MEETING IN COMVAL FOR 2018

October 11, 2017 | PR Photograph

Assistant Secretary and DA-SAAD Program Director, Leroy A. Panes, spearheaded the consultative meeting on October 10, 2017 at Cabidianan, Nabunturan, Compostela Valley relative to the SAAD Program's implementation in the said province for the year 2018.

The Provincial and Municipal Local Government Officials, Barangay Councils, partner agencies, such as Cooperative Development Authority, Agricultural Training Institute, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Alpha Company, and 71IB, 25IB, & 101D Philippine Army participated in the said activity. These are key persons for better delivery of agricultural service to the poor farmers and fishermen in Compostela Valley. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)



SAAD PROGRAM HOLDS THANKSGIVING DAY IN GLAN & MALAPATAN, SARANGANI

October 12, 2017

SARANGANI – A blissful yet meaningful Thanksgiving Day celebration was held in two (2) different municipalities of Sarangani last October 10-11, 2017. Farmer-beneficiaries from Barangay New Aklan in Glan and from Brgy. Kihan in Malapatan shared a delightful moment as they gathered to give thanks for the interventions of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the said province.

Sarangani Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon graced both celebrations and likewise gave an inspiring message to each event. In one of his remarks Gov. Solon reiterated the significance of sharing the blessings that one receives. He as well inspired the farmers to never forget to look up and thank God by giving back 10% or a portion of their harvest to the church. He also encouraged the farmers to manage their harvest accordingly and avoid selling everything at once.

According to Gov. Solon, farmers should divide their harvest into three: first is to give back to the church, second is to provide seeds for the community and keep some for their own consumption until the next harvest season and lastly is to market and share their products to others. In this way, they will be able to maximize their produced crops thus gaining food security, additional income and helping their whole community strive out of

poverty, as per Gov. Solon. He also thanked the Local Government Units of both Glan and Malapatan for being supportive of the projects, the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 12 headed by Director Milagros Casis and the SAAD Program for providing interventions to their local farmers.

Other inspirational talks about giving, farming mentoring and mindset transformation were also given to the participants to further their knowledge and capabilities in farming. Lectures and presentations on food production, marketing and enterprise were also provided by the SAAD- Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) of Sarangani.

A prayer of thanksgiving was also a highlight of both events which was followed by a sumptuous lunch. Meanwhile, another thanksgiving day celebration is set to be held in Brgy. Pag-Asa in Alabel on October 13, 2017 (Friday).

In conclusion, everyone is hopeful that this will not be the end, instead just the beginning of a more fruitful and bountiful harvest in the lands of Sarangani which will bring food security and sustainability to the local farmers of the province with the help of the SAAD Program. ### (Crystal Jane Alviola)

SARANGANI FARMERS CELEBRATE A BOUNTIFUL HARVEST

October 24, 2017

SARANGANI – The Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol graced the Thanksgiving Day in Barangay Upo, Maitum in Sarangani last October 23, 2017. The said event, organized by the Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, along with the Provincial Government of Sarangani, aimed to celebrate the bountiful harvest of the SAAD farmer-beneficiaries.

The said activity is an initiative of Sarangani Governor Steve Chiongbian Solon under the project called Sarangani Diversified Upland Rice Development Project, which was made into reality through the SAAD Program.

Through the event, SAAD farmer-beneficiaries had the chance to share their blessings to others and to thank God for their bountiful harvest.

DA-Regional Field Office XII, Reg. Executive Director Milagros Casis, SAAD Reg. Focal Person Cecile Parcon and other key officials also attended the Thanksgiving Day.

SAAD Sarangani also had its Thanksgiving Days in Glan, Malapatan, and Alabel recently where Gov. Solon encouraged the farmers to give back to the church and to their communities, save some for their personal consumption and finally market their remaining harvest. In that way, they will be able to manage their produced crops while securing food on their own plates



and sharing their blessings.

Sec Piñol also announced that DA plans to establish a Php 120 million rice and corn complex in a bid to boost the production of the said plants' varieties in the area. It will also serve as the marketing center for local traders, who will buy from the local farmers' produce.

Meanwhile, checks amounting to Php 75 million were also turned over to the

Sarangani PLGU on the same day for the continuation of their implementation of the SAAD Program. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SAAD NORTHERN SAMAR DISTRIBUTES HUNDRED SETS OF FARM EQUIPMENT



October 25, 2017

NORTHERN SAMAR – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office VIII held a ceremonial distribution of farm equipment to its farmer group beneficiaries from ten (10) municipalities last October 23, 2017 at the Capitol Grounds, Provincial Capitol, Catarman, Northern Samar.

Seventy-six (76) sets of hand tractors and 35 units of irrigation pumps were given to farmers' associations from Bobon, Catubig, Catarman, Las Navas, Pambujan, Laoang, San Roque, Mapanas, Mondragon, and Palapag. All of them are beneficiaries of the Northern Samar's FY 2016 SAAD Rice Program.

The event was attended by Northern Samar Governor Jose L. Ong, Jr., 2nd

District Congressman Edwin Ong, Provincial Administrator Efren Sabong, Northern Samar SAAD Focal Person Belen G. De Pedro, Provincial Agriculturist Leonia P. Laodenio, and Northern Samar SAAD Provincial Coordinator Ferdinand Q. Ultra.

Right after the turn-over ceremony, PI Farm Products, Inc. conducted training for the given tractors and water pumps to ensure farmers will be equipped in the operation and maintenance of the machinery.

Northern Samar is one of the ten priority provinces of the SAAD Program for the year 2017 with a 43.5% poverty incidence per family based on the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD REGION 7 TEAM PREPARES NEGROS ORIENTAL FOR 2018 IMPLEMENTATION

October 27, 2017

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMO) VII conducted a consultative meeting for their 2018 SAAD Program implementation in the province of Negros Oriental held in Dumaguete City last October 26, 2017.



SAAD RPMO Focal Engr. Eugene Cahiles spearheaded the meeting and attended by the SAAD Negros Oriental staff, APCO representative Virgilio Awayan, and municipal & city agriculturists from ten areas that are beneficiaries of Negros Oriental for FY 2018, which are Ayungon, Basay, Bindoy, Canlaon, Jimalalud, La Libertad, Mabinay, Siaton, Sta. Catalina, and Tayasan.

Discussed in the meeting are SAAD's implementing guidelines for 2018-2022 and the finalization of interventions that will be given to Negros Oriental's ten beneficiaries for FY 2018.

An addition of two municipalities – La Libertad and Tayasan – was added in their Rice Production Project, along with Mabinay, Canlaon City, Jimalalud, and Siaton.

It has been agreed that local government units shall validate their farmer-beneficiaries and interventions to be procured as soon as possible for a



quick delivery of agricultural help.

Negros Oriental, a 2017 SAAD priority province, will still be providing agricultural assistance to farmers in 2018 until 2019.

Meanwhile, the province of Siquijor will also be part of SAAD Program's 2018 implementation, which DA-RPMO VII will be handling as well.

A second meeting is set for the month of November 2017 in La Libertad to discuss the progress of the project proposals for SAAD Program FY 2018. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SARANGANI LAUNCHED ORGANICALLY GROWN UPLAND RICE PRODUCTS



November 9, 2017

SARANGANI – SARANGANI – The province of Sarangani just launched its organically grown upland rice products produced by farmers, who are beneficiaries of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program, last 7th of November 2017.

The different varieties of rice, packaged in a classy gold branding, were cultivated by Indigenous people (B'laan, Tagakaolo, and T'boli) of Barangay Upo, Maitum, Sarangani through traditional methods of agriculture.

More than 180 farmers, who were targeted as beneficiaries of the SAAD Sarangani program for FY2016, contributed to the product launch as they had just recently harvested more than 100 metric tons at the end of October.

In DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol's



recent visit to the area during their Thanksgiving celebration, he remarked how he wants Sarangani to be the model area of the SAAD Program as it is the most successful due to its streamlined and efficient implementation. He also lauded Sarangani Governor Steve Solon and the farmer-beneficiaries for their fruitful yield of organic brown rice and other varieties of upland rice.

In the said event, the DA chief also handed out a check worth Php 75m, which is the Php 25m second tranche of the FY 2016 Continuing Funds and the Php 50m FY 2017 Current Funds, to the provincial government of

Sarangani.

For the coming years to come, Sarangani expects to expand its SAAD upland rice and be known as a major supplier of organically grown produce.

Sarangani's best organically grown upland rice can be bought at Php 60 per kilo.

SAAD Sarangani, with the initiative of the provincial government, implemented a project called Sarangani Upland Rice Diversified Farming under the SAAD Program to provide enough food among farmers, who are mostly IPs and belong to the poorest of the poor, and to its locals. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD NEW SAMAR DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN 3,000 BAGS OF CERTIFIED RICE SEEDS



November 10, 2017

SAMAR – The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) VIII, through its Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program, just provided 3,373 bags of certified rice seeds to Northern, Eastern & Western Samar to enhance the rice industry to various identified

Local Government Units (LGUs).

The SAAD team first began its distribution to nine municipalities in Western Samar, which are Basey, Jiabong, Motiong, Pinabacdao, Sta. Rita, San Jorge, Gandara, Sta. Margarita, and Calbayog, by positioning the seeds at designated drop-off points that started on



September 25 to October 5, 2017. Each of the areas received 90 bags of certified rice seeds.

From west, the team went to east to deliver seeds to drop-off points of Eastern Samar, which are Quinapondan (86 bags), Gen. MacArthur (84 bags), Maslog (84 bags), Hernani (84 bags), Balangkayan (84 bags), Dolores (86 bags), Oras (85 bags), San Policarpo (84 bags), Arteche (84 bags) and Jipapad (84 bags).

Meanwhile, a total of 860 bags of certified rice seeds were provided to Northern Samar and dropped off in areas, which are Allen (225 bags), Lapinig (70 bags), Gamay (70 bags), Capul (75 bags), Lavezares (210 bags), Rosario (70 bags) and San Jose (140 bags).

Prior to the distribution, all certified rice seeds were proven viable through the Bureau of Plant Industry – National Seed Quality Control Services' (BPI-NSQCS) seed germination test, headed by its Regional Chief, Mr. Uldarico C. Amihan.

NEW Samar SAAD team delivered the certified rice seeds ahead of their scheduled date of October 18, 2017. The team completed the distribution on the 10th of October 2017 for the farmer-beneficiaries' November to March cropping season.

Northern, Eastern & Western Samar are all included in the 2017 priority provinces of the SAAD Program due to their low poverty incidence per family rate based from the 2012 records of the Philippines Statistics Authority (PSA).
(Jhomai Canlas)



MORE THAN 1400 FARMERS GRADUATE IN SAAD EASTERN SAMAR FARMERS' FIELD SCHOOL

November 16, 2017

EASTERN SAMAR – A total of 1,490 farmers from various municipalities in Eastern Samar recently graduated from the province's 2016 Farmers' Field School through the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

The Farmers' Field School Program of the SAAD Eastern Samar aims to equip the farmers with the newest technology that agriculture could offer.

On 7th of November 2017, 400 rice beneficiaries and 30 high-value crops beneficiaries from Jipapad, Arteche, San Policarpo, Oras, Dolores, and Maslog were awarded certificates during their graduation ceremony at Oras Municipal Gym. They were also given 12 hand tractors and five pump engine sets.

A total of 50 rice beneficiaries and 75 corn beneficiaries from Guiuan, Mercedes, Salcedo, and General McArthur also graduated from the Farmers' Field School Program on the same day at Guiuan Municipal Gym. They were awarded two hand tractors and two pump engine sets.

Meanwhile, a graduation ceremony was also held at Balangiga Municipal Gym for 300 rice beneficiaries and 75 corn beneficiaries of Lawaan, Balangiga,



Giporlos, and Quinapondan on November 7, 2017. SAAD Eastern Samar also awarded eight hand tractors and three pump engine sets.

In 9th of November 2017, 450 rice beneficiaries and 60 high-value crops beneficiaries from the municipalities of Hernani, Llorente, Balangkayan, and Maydolong advanced from the program, as well, held at Borongan City Provincial Gymnasium. They were also given 16 hand tractors and seven pump engine sets.

SAAD Eastern Samar team is now set to monitor the distributed farm machinery and the farmer-beneficiaries' production output. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD TEAM IN APAYAO DELIVERS MORE THAN 30 GOATS TO BENEFICIARIES

October 25, 2017

APAYAO – The Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program team in the province of Apayao delivered a total of 33 F2 cross-breed goats to their beneficiaries in two municipalities last November 13, 2017.

Two bucks and 19 does were distributed in Barangay Aga, Pudtol while one buck and 11 does were given to beneficiaries in Panay, Sta. Marcela. The small ruminants amounted to Php 465,000.

The team is still set to deliver more goats to its farmer-beneficiaries in various municipalities.

Based on the data profiling and income survey conducted by the team in the first quarter of 2017, the beneficiaries

were identified to raise the animals for production and livelihood purposes.

To ensure the sustainability of the project, the first-line beneficiaries shall give five offspring to next-in-line beneficiaries every year for a period of three years from the time the goats have started breeding. The next-in-line beneficiaries, in return, shall give one female kid to the other next-in-line beneficiaries. This is according to the rolling out scheme of the SAAD Program Provincial Management Support Office (PPMSO) in Apayao.

The province of Apayao, one of the ten priority SAAD provinces for the year 2017, has a 54.7% poverty incidence rate per family according to the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



SAAD TEAM IN SULU FINALIZES BENEFICIARIES IN BARANGAY LEVEL



November 23, 2017

SULU – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program Director Bernadette San Juan and other National Program Management Office (NPMO) staff visited the province of Sulu last 20th of November 2017 to meet with the representatives of four identified municipalities – Maimbung, Old Panamao, Talipao, and Parang – and finalize the barangays that will be covered for 2018.

Barangays Laum Maimbung and Matalal of Maimbung, Barangays Tubig Jati and Tinah of Panamao, Barangays Tiis and Liban of Talipao, and Barangays Laum Suah, Lupah Abuh, and Kaha of Parang are the selected barangays. The interventions that are set to be given for each municipality are cassava, corn, peanut, backyard fruit, vegetable, egg, goat, and native chicken production. The four municipalities were chosen based from the Department of Social and Welfare Development's (DSWD)

National Household Targeting System (NHTS) data of poor household in the

area, with Maimbung at 80.84%, Old Panamao at 80.21%, Talipao at 77.62%, and Parang at 72.90%.

SAAD Program Director San Juan also visited Sulu Governor Abdusakur A. Tan II and Provincial Agriculturist Mercyan A. Aspi's offices.

Gov Tan remarked that the SAAD team will have no problem implementing the program in the selected municipalities. Sulu is one of the 2018 priority provinces of the SAAD program along with Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Siquijor, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Compostela Valley, Sultan Kudarat, and Bukidnon.

It was selected as SAAD program's 2018 priority province due to its high poverty incidence rate per family, having a percentage of 49.6% based on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority.

The SAAD Program in Sulu will be implemented by the DA – Regional Field Office (RFO) IX. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

DA SEC PIÑOL TURNS OVER SAAD INTERVENTIONS IN NORTH COTABATO



November 23, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – Department of Agriculture Secretary Emmanuel Piñol turned over various interventions under the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program to the local government of North Cotabato and to the farmers' associations during the municipality of Midsayap's 81st Founding Anniversary on November 20, 2017.

A four-wheel drive mini tractor, worth Php 1 million, was given to Golden Fields Multi-Purpose. Farmers of Baliki Farmers' Association, Upper Labas Farmers' Association, Palongoguen Farmers' Association, Villarica Farmers' Association, Bagumba Farmers' Association, Kimangango Rural Improvement Club, Poblacion 8 Rural Improvement Club, and Kisag (Kiwanan) were given interventions worth Php 1.05 million for cattle production.

Farmer-beneficiaries from Sadaan Rural Improvement Club, Poblacion 8 Rural Improvement Club, and Kisag (Kiwanan) received various interventions for hog production worth Php 1,002,500. Central Bulunan Farm Workers Association, Indigenous People of Bitoka, Indigenous People of Milaya, Asosasyon Sang Mamumuo sa San Isidro, and Central Katingawan Rural Improvement Club were given agricultural assistance for chicken layer production worth Php 1,227,200. A total of Php 2.9 million interventions on organic vegetable production and Php 251,950 small infrastructure projects were also turned over to several farmers' associations and rural improvement clubs.

DA chief Piñol said he will continue helping farmers and fishermen in curbing their agricultural problems such as lack of farming technologies,

inaccessible financing facilities, and marketing of their produce.

He also committed a Php 20 million Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) Program budget for the farmer groups in Midsayap. With that, farmers can avail loans with a minimal interest of 6% annually.

He also promised them that all Farm-to-Market Roads will be accomplished in their area before his leadership ends.

The event was also attended by

DA-RFO XII Regional Director Milagros Casis, Bureau of Fisheries and Agrarian Reform XII Regional Director Usop Pentaliday, Midsayap Mayor Romeo Araña and local councilors, and SAAD North Cotabato Provincial Coordinator Jerry Tingson and his team.

The province of North Cotabato, one of the ten priority provinces of SAAD for the year 2017, has a 44.8% poverty incidence rate per family according to the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Jhomain Canlas)

SIQUIJOR PLGU IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE SAAD PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

November 24, 2017

SIQUIJOR – Vice Governor Mei Ling Quezon, representing the Provincial Government of Siquijor, said they are in full support of the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program's implementation in the area for the year 2018.



DA-SAAD Regional Program Management Support Office VII staff as well as SAAD Program National Program Management Office (NPMO) staff led by Ms. Fe Ybanez and Mr. Marvin Segovia conducted a SAAD Orientation in the province last 23rd of November 2017 at SB Session Hall, Larena, Siquijor. The final proposed interventions and the target beneficiaries were presented at the meeting.

The orientation aims to prepare the

concerned Siquijor officials, such as Provincial Agriculturist Ramon Taroc, for the SAAD operations in all municipalities – Maria, Lazo, Siquijor, San Juan, Larena, and Enrique Villanueva.

A total number of 3,435 farmer individuals and 29 farmer groups, who will benefit from the SAAD Program's agricultural assistance, will be identified in Siquijor. They will receive interventions on corn, vegetable,

dragon fruit, peanut, goat, and cattle production. Various training will also be conducted for the beneficiaries.

Siquijor is one of the 2018 SAAD priority provinces, along with Catanduanes, Sorsogon, Masbate, Southern Leyte, Leyte, Sulu, Compostela Valley, Sultan Kudarat, and Bukidnon. It has a 48.87% poverty incidence rate per family according to the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

FARMERS IN APAYAO GRADUATED IN SAAD'S TRAINING ON SWINE PRODUCTION

December 1, 2017

APAYAO – Twenty (20) farmers from Sitio Asao, Barangay Butao in Calanasan, Apayao were recognized in a graduation ceremony held on the 22nd of November 2017 for their commendable participation during the 16-week Farmer Livestock School Training (FLST) under the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

The training aims to prepare and equip farmers with the fundamental know-how of handling the pigs before their delivery.

The activity was done in partnership with the Calanasan Office for Agricultural Services, with resource speakers Municipal Agriculturist Luisa U. Magna, Veterinarian I Reah Vivian M. Piagan, and Agricultural Technologist Dan M. Sagli.

The same training was also recently conducted in Conner and Kabugao, each with 20 participating farmer-beneficiaries. A graduation ceremony is also set to be conducted in both

municipalities.

All beneficiaries will receive a total of 60 gilts and boars, 20 for each municipality. The first-in-line beneficiaries of gilt will be given breeders, feeds for at least one production cycle, and a simple piggery house. All of these are already under procurement in the provincial local government unit of Apayao.

Apayao, one of SAAD's 2017 priority provinces, has a 54.7% poverty incidence rate per family based on the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



BUKIDNON GOV SAYS SAAD'S ARRIVAL IN HIS PROVINCE IS TIMELY

December 1, 2017

BUKIDNON – Bukidnon Governor Jose Maria Zubiri Jr. shared to Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program Director Bernadette San Juan that SAAD's arrival in the area is very timely during the program orientation in his government office last November 27, 2017.

The province of Bukidnon was chosen as of the SAAD Program's 2018 priority provinces due to its high poverty incidence rate per family, which is at 46.96%, based on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority.

Gov Zubiri said he welcomes SAAD's aim in providing agricultural interventions to marginalized farmers and fisherfolk since he is aware of the staggering number of poor families in the province.

He also shared that the Provincial Local Government Office (PLGU) of Bukidnon is set to implement two agricultural programs, one for 30,000 corn farmers and another for more than 2,000 IP members.

Meanwhile, the SAAD Program under the DA – Regional Field Office 10, with



more than Php 54 million fund proposed under the FY 2018 DA budget, will complement Bukidnon PLGU-led projects with the provision of agricultural livelihood interventions to the 13 poorest municipalities of the province – Talakag, Malitbog, Impasugong, Kadingilan, Kitaotao, San Fernando, Damulog, Cabanglasan, Baungon, Kibawe, Kalilangan, Quezon, Pangantucan.

Bukidnon PLGU hopes to eradicate poverty in the province or at least significantly reduce it in five years. The SAAD Program, in its implementation in the province, may contribute a lot to that objective. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

VARIOUS POST-HARVEST EQUIPMENT TO BENEFIT 200 FARMERS IN NORTH COTABATO

December 12, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – Various post-harvest equipment were recently turned over for the benefit of 200 farmers in the municipalities of Tulan, Pikit, and Midsayap in North Cotabato under the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agriculture Development (DA-SAAD) Program.

Seventy corn farmers of the Bituan Farmers Association received a corn sheller with complete accessories last 5th of December 2017 in a turnover ceremony held in Barangay Bituan, Tulan.

The 12.5 horsepower corn sheller, worth Php 128, 000, can save farmers from the additional expense they used to incur from private shellers. What Bituan farmers would only need to worry about is a Php 20 fee as a contingency fund.

In the program led by SAAD North Cotabato, together with the Office of Provincial Agriculturist staff Engr. Elena Regonton, Karen Resentes, and Elvira Mendoza, a social preparation training was also conducted to teach farmers how to operate the machine and to lay out rules for the members' utilization of



the equipment.

The Bitoan farmers said they are thankful enough for the corn sheller and the fact that more interventions will be distributed to them would be a great contribution to their livelihood. They are still expecting to get corn seeds, fertilizers, and livestock (such as pigs and chicken) from SAAD.

In the municipality of Pikit, one unit of corn sheller, one unit of rice thresher, and one unit of trailer with transmission were also given to 50 farmers of Muslim Christian Lumad Free Farmers Association and Gli-Gli Farmers Association last 6th of December 2017 at the Municipal Plaza of Pikit, North Cotabato.

The equipment aims to help Pikit-farmer beneficiaries incur lesser costs in post-harvest activities, thus resulting in increased income.

In Midsayap, one unit of 36 HP four-wheel drive tractor with complete accessories was also turned over to Golden Field Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Salunayan last December 8, 2017. The equipment will help 80 farmers in their farm operations.

Meanwhile, certificates of commitment were given to 15 registered farmers' associations in Kidapawan City during its 9th Kawayan Festival held in the Municipal Plaza Band Stand last December 8, 2017.

The following groups received their certificates with these committed projects: Brgy Ugpay Farmers Association with Goat Raising Production worth Php 173,300; Brgy Katipunan Integrated Farmers Association with Goat Raising Production worth Php 173,300; Brgy Luz Village Farmers Association with Organic Chicken Production worth Php



307,995; Poblacion A Mlang Savers Association with High Breed Gilt Production worth Php 500,000; Mlang Agri-business Association with Organic Chicken Production worth Php 1,067,375; Lepaga United Farmers Association with Mallard Duck Raising Production worth Php 500,000; Dalipe Farmers Agri-business Association with Mallard Duck Raising worth Php

699,000; Tibao Farmers Dreamers Association with Free Range Chicken Hatchery worth Php 500,000; Bialong Agri-business Association with Native Pig Raising worth Php 500,000; Nuestra Senora De Salvacion Cooperative with Native Pig Raising worth Php 500,000; Notre Dame Mlang Class 1975 Jubilee with Free Range Chicken Hatchery worth Php 500,000; New Rizal Social Action Farmers Association with Free Range Chicken Production worth Php 500,000; Tibao San Vincente Ferrer Multi-Purpose Cooperative with Swine Fattening Production worth Php 425,000; and Mlang Multi-Sustainable Agri-Venture Association with Swine Fattening Production worth Php 425,000.

North Cotabato, one of the 2017 priority provinces of the SAAD Program, has a 44.8% poverty incidence rate per family according to the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Jhomaí Canlas)

NEGROS ORIENTAL HOLDS CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS FOR THE SAAD PROGRAM

December 13, 2017

NEGROS ORIENTAL – A series of consultative meetings for the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program was held in Negros Oriental on October 26, and November 15, 2017.

The activities were headed by the SAAD-NPMO Operations Cluster Head Fe Ybañez and SAAD-RPMO Engr.

Eugene C. Cahiles (RFO VII), together with SAAD Negros Oriental Staff. The other participants were Negros Oriental APCO (representing the Provincial Agriculture Technology Coordinating Office or PATCO), and Municipal and City Agriculturists from 10 municipality-beneficiaries which are Ayungon, Basay, Bindoy, Canlaon City, Jimalalud, La Libertad, Mabinay, Siaton, Sta. Catalina, and Tayasan.

Interventions to be given to the 10 municipalities within the SAAD Program FY 2018 were discussed, as well as the existing guidelines. It was agreed that the funds for the interventions should be obligated as soon as possible in order to implement the project the soonest possible time as well. ### (Pamela Ruth Arciaga)



SAAD CATANDUANES PROVINCIAL ORIENTATION KICKS OFF

December 14, 2017

VIRAC, CATANDUANES – Dubbed as the “Land of the Howling Winds” due to the fact that it is one of the most typhoon-stricken provinces in the Philippines, Catanduanes started its first leg of the series of provincial orientations for the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program last December 4, 2017.

The SAAD Program aims to help the poorest provinces of the country through the social preparation of farmers and provision of agricultural inputs.

Engr. Teodoro Eleda, Superintendent of Catanduanes Hilly Upland Development Station, said that the program will be piloted in six municipalities – Gigmoto, Baras, Bato, San Miguel, Bagamanoc, and Pangasinan – which were chosen due to their high number of poor families.

SAAD based its selection on the 2015 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority, which reported the 43.4%

poverty incidence among the population in Catanduanes in that year. In comparison, poverty incidence among the population of the country is 21.6% and 36% in the entire Bicol region. Approximately 130,000 people in Catanduanes are living below the poverty threshold. These people do not meet the minimum P21,660 annual per capita poverty threshold to meet the basic food and non-food needs such as clothing, housing, transportation, health, and education expenses.

The Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office V is optimistic that the identified initial interventions, such as upland rice seeds, fertilizers, garden tools, equipment, goat, native pig, native chicken, and ducks, will boost the agricultural landscape of Catanduanes, which is presently dominated by abaca, coconut, rice, root crops, and banana aside from aquaculture.

Provincial Administrator Lemuel Sortida, representing Governor Joseph

Cua, extended his appreciation to the national SAAD directorate and DA Bicol regional executive director Elena B. delos Santos for the numerous projects poured in Catanduanes. He also encouraged the municipal agriculturists present in the orientation to actively take part in the SAAD program.

Meanwhile, OIC Provincial Agriculturist Nelia Teves said the provincial LGU commits in helping achieve the thrusts of the national government on food security and poverty alleviation. "The presence of the Municipal Agriculturists of the six municipalities is a great expression of their strong conviction to really develop the local agriculture and fishery sectors being the most

vulnerable sectors," she added. Also present during the orientation were Mayor Leo Rodriguez of Bato, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Edgar Ollet, and the hired area coordinators who will officially start their jobs in January 2018. The SAAD team of Catanduanes will hold office at the Catanduanes Hilly Upland Development Station (CHUDS) in Casooacan, Virac, Catanduanes.

Catanduanes is one of the three Bicol provinces included in the 10 SAAD priority provinces for the year 2018. The other two provinces are Masbate and Sorsogon. ### (Lovella Guarin and Jhomai Canlas)

SORSOGON AGRICULTURISTS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVES EMBRACE SAAD PROGRAM

December 15, 2017

SORSOGON CITY – The Special Area for Agriculture Development (SAAD) national and regional staff convened the municipal agriculturists and local chief executives of the priority municipalities in Sorsogon to orient them in the program's implementation in the province for the year 2018 last December 6, 2017.

SAAD Program Director Bernadette San Juan said that the program, which is a strategy of Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel Piñol in alleviating poverty and achieving food security, aims to reach the poorest of the poor in far-flung areas who have not received any help from DA regular programs.

Sorsogon Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) Chief Dominador O. Jardin said the SAAD program will boost the province's poorest municipalities in many aspects, such as economic growth and agriculture productivity. He added that the province's top commodities are pili, seaweeds, abaca, coconut, and cacao.

The municipality of Matnog, with the highest poverty incidence rate among population at 45.2% according to 2015 Philippine Statistics Authority, is one of the priority municipalities to be covered under the SAAD Program of the province along with Donsol at 44.1%, Magallanes at 44.1%, Pilar at 42.5%, Juban at 37.3%, and Sta. Magdalena at 35.5%.



Director San Juan said SAAD targets the poorest of the poor, with agriculture-related experience or willingness to engage in agriculture. "Kahit yung mga nakiki-ani lang sa mga sakahan. Hindi kailangang may lupa. Maari ding i-organize ang mga out-of-school youths," she stressed.

DA Bicol OIC Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension Rodel P. Tornilla shared that Sorsogon farmer-beneficiaries will first undergo training on crops and livestock production, value-adding activities, and enterprise development before receiving the program interventions in the form of upland rice seeds, fertilizers, garden tools and equipment, goat, native pig, native chicken and ducks. He also added that they will adopt the multiplier farm strategy, where next-in-line beneficiaries will ensure that the project interventions will reach them as well.

Also present during the orientation were Mayor Benito Doma of Prieto

Diaz, Regional Dairy Production and Technology Center (RDPTC) station superintendent Dolores Ricafranca, and the area coordinators who will officially start on their jobs in January 2018. The SAAD team of Sorsogon will hold office at the RDPTC in Cabid-an, Sorsogon City.

Sorsogon is one of the three Bicol provinces that is included in the 2018 priority provinces of the SAAD Program, along with Catanduanes and Masbate. ### (Lovella Guarin and Jhomai Canlas)

NORTHERN SAMAR BROADENS FARMERS' KNOWLEDGE ON RICE PRODUCTION



December 20, 2017

NORTHERN SAMAR – “The only source of knowledge is experience.” With the Department of Agriculture – Special Area for Agricultural Development (DA-SAAD) Program’s aim to socially prepare farmers on various aspects in agriculture, SAAD team in Northern Samar started training 140 farmers on rice production last November 29 to 30, 2017.

The Training on Enhanced Rice Production cum Technology Demonstration was conducted simultaneously in the municipalities of Gamay and Lapinig.

The participants, 70 farmers each from the said municipalities, are the province’s identified beneficiaries for the year 2017.

With the help of the University of Eastern Philippines through its University Extension Services and the College of Agriculture, Fisheries and

Natural Resources, the farmers were able to learn seed quality, land preparation, crop establishment, nutrient and water management, pest management, harvest and post-harvest management, farm bookkeeping and accounting, among others.

Meanwhile, 70 farmers from Gamay were also given a total of 210 bags of complete fertilizer, 140 bags of urea, and 70 bags of muriate of potash under SAAD Northern Samar’s Enhanced Rice Production Project for the year 2017 last December 5, 2017.

Each beneficiary received three (3) bags of complete fertilizer, two (2) bags of urea, and one (1) bag of muriate of potash. In addition, six (6) bags of organic fertilizer were also given to each beneficiary. ### (Jhomai Canlas)

SAAD ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE DELIVERS MORE THAN 300 SACKS ORGANIC FERTILIZER

December 21, 2017 |
PR Photograph

Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) team in Zamboanga del Norte delivered 385 sacks of organic fertilizer in the municipality of Kalawit under the area’s SAAD Corn Production Project for the year 2017 on December 20, 2017. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



45 FARMERS IN EASTERN SAMAR RECEIVE 135 SWINE

December 21, 2017 |
PR Photograph

Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Eastern Samar team delivered 135 heads of swine to 45 CY2017 SAAD farmer-beneficiaries under the province’s Swine Fattening Project in barangays Pob #06, San Pedro, and Rizal in the municipality of Quinapondan on December 20, 2017. Each farmer received three (3) heads of swine. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



NORTH COTABATO FARMER-BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE DUCKS AND CORN SEEDS



December 21, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO) in North Cotabato recently delivered agricultural inputs, such as ducks and corn seeds, to its FY 2017 farmer-beneficiaries in Magpet and Pigcawayan.

A total of 488 farmers in Magpet received one bag each of hybrid corn seeds last December 14, 2017 at the Magpet Municipal Gym. They were also given vegetable seeds with the initiative of Isaac Bangcaya, Regional Technical Director of Research in Kidapawan City.

Rice farmer-beneficiaries in the municipality will also receive a total of 880 hybrid rice seeds and fertilizers when supplies arrive.

Meanwhile, in the municipality of Pigcawayan, the Pigcawayan Skylab Operators and Drivers Association and the Samahan ng mga Indibidwal na May Kapansanan sa Pigcawayan were given 200 heads each of mallard ducks last December 15, 2017. A total of 100 sacks of layer feeds and 35 sacks of grower feeds were also distributed to the said associations.

Pinamulaan Farmers Association and Bagong Pag-Asa Cooperative will also receive mallard ducks and feeds upon the arrival of supplies.

According to the SAAD North Cotabato team, many farmers expressed their gratitude because of the growing presence of the Department of Agriculture and its sincerity to reach out to every farmer.

The province of North Cotabato was chosen as one of the FY 2017 priority provinces of the SAAD Program due to its high poverty incidence rate among families which is at 44.8% based on the 2012 data of the Philippine Statistics Authority. ### (Jhomai Canlas)



THREE (3) STA. MARCELA SAAD ASSOCIATIONS OBTAIN BIR RECEIPTS

December 25, 2017

STA. MARCELA, APAYAO – Three (3) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Associations in Apayao have been officially registered at the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on December 15, 2017. These are MESS Farmers Association, BISS Farmers Association, and PaCoMarNu-San Farmers Association from the fourth (4th) class municipality of Sta. Marcela in Apayao.

Having the official receipts from BIR, they are now recognized as legal business entities which enables the SAAD farmer-members of the mentioned associations to gain a wider reach in terms of patrons of their agricultural produce that includes rice, corn, goat, and poultry among others.

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 ten (10) provinces where the poverty incidence is high. In 2018, additional ten (10) more provinces were included in the Program.

Apayao is the first of the three (3) current provinces being taken care of by the SAAD Program in the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). ### (Pamela Ruth Arciaga)



SAAD DELIVERS VERMICAST AND MALLARD DUCKS TO NORTH COTABATO BENEFICIARIES



December 28, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program delivered 260 bags of vermicast (organic compost) to the Banana Growers Association on December 27, 2017. This intervention aims to aid in the local farmers' banana production.

The activity, a part of SAAD 2016 projects, was attended by OPAG headed by Engr. Arlene Cordero, James Dulay, MLGU Arakan appointed Municipal Agriculturist, and SAAD coordinators Rafael Porras, Jerome Tacadao, and Arthur Jimena. Expected distribution and social preparation are on January 9, 2018 targeting 100 beneficiaries.

Meanwhile, on the same day, the SAAD North Cotabato team distributed 600 heads of mallard ducks to President Roxas Integrated Farmers Association

in Poblacion, President Roxas, Cotabato.

Along with the mallard ducks, twenty (20) rolls of net and feeds were also given to the beneficiaries. ###
(Jemiema Arro and Pamela Ruth Arciaga)



CHRISTMAS IS MERRIER FOR SAAD EASTERN SAMAR FARMERS

December 28, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program delivered 260 bags of vermicast (organic compost) to the Banana Growers Association on December 27, 2017. This intervention aims to aid in the local farmers' banana production.

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(Pamela Ruth Arciaga)



KATUMAAN SA MGA SAAD FOR NORTH COTABATO FARMERS



December 28, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – “Katumanan sa mga SAAD” (The fulfillment of promises). Promised agricultural interventions to Luanan farmers in North Cotabato was fulfilled as the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program of the North Cotabato team distributed 140 bags of hybrid corn seeds in Barangay Luanan, Aleosan last December 27, 2017.

Engr. Milagros C. Casis, DA-RFO XII Regional Executive Director, spearheaded the mass distribution together with Cecilia A. Parcon, the DA-RFO XII SAAD Focal Person, and Jerry W. Tingson, SAAD North Cotabato Provincial Coordinator.

Brgy. Luanan is the poorest barangay in Aleosan. Given this situation and committing the “katumanan sa mga

SAAD”, the Department of Agriculture made sure that this barangay receives interventions that help uplift the living condition of the people. In addition to the hybrid corn seeds, Director Casis also committed to giving more livelihood interventions.

The barangay captain of Luanan, Abdulsaid B. Atan, recounted his experiences with their former governor and now Secretary Emmanuel Piñol. Atan thanked Secretary Piñol for the road project that was materialized through the Secretary's leadership during his term as governor.

Since the Secretary assumed the post, the people of Luanan are hopeful that their needs will be addressed and yes, they were right! They can expect to receive more interventions from the Department of Agriculture. ###
(Jemiema Arro)

SAAD NORTH COTABATO IN ACTION BEFORE THE YEAR ENDS

December 28, 2017

NORTH COTABATO – The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program in North Cotabato recently delivered 6,577 bags of fertilizer components for rice and corn production. Before the end of 2017, SAAD Coordinators Wenie Gonzales and Rafael Porras, together with OPAG personnel headed by Engr. Arlene Cordero, MLGU-DA, Magpet Rice and Corn Coordinator Henry Supena, facilitated the municipal-wide deliveries.



DATE	FERTILIZER	BAGS
December 20, 2017	Urea	1,200 bags
December 21, 2017	14-14-14 Complete	600 bags
	18-46-0 Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP)	440 bags
	46-0-0 Urea	680 bags
December 22, 2017	14-14-14 Complete	600 bags
December 27, 2017	14-14-14 Complete	358 bags
	0-0-60 Potash	880 bags
	14-14-14 Complete	1,558 bags

The beneficiaries are rice and corn farmers in Magpet Municipality. ###
(Jemiema Arro)



“

The SAAD program will not stop with mere production, rather it will be market-driven with community enterprises to be established and farmer and fisherfolk as entrepreneurs because I see the program as DAs' armor in poverty reduction.

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



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ISSN 2719-0102 (Print)
ISSN 2719-0110 (PDF)

