

SAADventures

Apayao

Stories of empowering farmers and uplifting lives.



SNIPPETS FROM THE FIELD



RED Narciso A. Edillo
DA-RFO CAR

Dr. Narciso A. Edillo was designated as the new Regional Executive Director (RED) of DA-Cordillera by the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol, through Special Order 1551 dated November 6, 2017.

Taking over the Cordillera office on November 14 during a turnover ceremony, Edillo said that among the priorities that he would like to work on are the conduct of researches on the agro-climatic conditions and the region's high value crops.

"Let us not lose hope, we still have good leaders who are also willing to give even from their own resources"

Edillo said he hopes to achieve the region's goal of agricultural sustainability with the help of the Cordillerans.

Apayao Profile

Forming the northern tip of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) in Luzon is Apayao. It is bounded on the east by the province of Cagayan, on the west by Ilocos Norte and Abra, and on the south by Kalinga.

Apayao was formerly a part of the old province of Kalinga-Apayao. However, on February 14, 1995, Republic Act No. 7878 authored by Congressman Elias K. Bulut of the lone district of Kalinga-Apayao, was passed converting the province of Kalinga-Apayao into two separate and regular provinces: Kalinga and Apayao.

The province is almost equally mountainous/hilly (Upper Apayao) and flat (Lower Apayao) with intermittent patches of valleys and plateaus. Its total land area is 392,790 hectares (ha) covering up 21% of the whole region. The municipalities of Calanasan, Conner and Kabugao are in Upper Apayao while the municipalities of Flora, Luna, Pudtol and Sta. Marcela are located in Lower Apayao. The prevailing climate in the province falls under Corona's Type III Classification. It is characterized by not very pronounced dry and wet seasons, relatively dry from November to April and wet during the rest of the year. Heaviest rain occurs during December to February while the month of May is the warmest.

The province of Apayao boasts its own collection of natural wonders that are otherwise not found in the rest of the Cordilleras. Little wonder that it has been dubbed as "Cordillera's Last Frontier for Nature Richness." Here, underground rivers, majestic waterfalls, magnificent lakes hug a unique land that is replete with captivating caves, picture-pretty parks, and exotic wildlife.

The nature-rich province dubbed as the "Cordillera's Last Frontier of Nature Richness" has seven municipalities with 133 barangays. Its capital is the town of Kabugao. The folks in

Apayao use Ilocano as their dominant dialect spoken followed by Isneg and Tagalog. Updated records of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) Provincial Office reveal that existing industries in the province are furniture, garment craft, food processing, gifts and house wares, and agricultural support.

It has a population of 119,184, based on the 2015 Census of Population (PopCen) and a Poverty Incidence rate (among families) of 37.5 as per the 2015 survey of Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) thus making it one among the priority provinces of the Special Area for Agricultural Development Program for 2017. 🌱



*Apayao,
Ipasindayaw!*

("Apayao, Ipagmalaki!")

Fast Facts: Apayao

Area	4,413.35 km ²
Coordinates	18.0120° N, 121.1710° E
Population	119,184 (2015 census)
Groups	Isnags (Ymandaya, Imallod)
Languages	Ilocano, Isnag, Tagalog
Religion	Christianity, Animism
Climate	Tropical (monsoon, rainforest, savanna)
Municipalities	7
Barangays	133
Congressional district	1
Income class	3 rd class
Capital	Kabugao
Division	Luzon
Region	Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR)
Founded	14 February 1995



2017: SAAD OPERATIONS IN APAYAO

Among other identified provinces in 2016, Apayao is ranked as the second poorest in the country—catapulting it to one of the priority areas of the SAAD Program (Special Area for Agricultural Development), beginning its project operations in the area in year 2017.

Under the SAAD Program, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has allocated a hundred-million worth of livelihood programs to help improve the lives of the farmers in Apayao. There indeed is no holding DA back in keeping its commitments until they are able to address poverty in Apayao.

DA launched SAAD in Apayao on a Thursday, August 18, 2016, aiming to alleviate poverty through the provision of livelihood programs. 🌾



When a province becomes part of the SAAD program, it means a lot of families are considered poor in the particular area. **Apayao's** Poverty Incidence is at 37.5% based 2015 data on the clustering of First Semester Poverty Incidence among Families.

SAAD COVERED MUNICIPALITIES IN APAYAO:

Calanasan
Conner
Flora
Kabugao
Luna
Pudtol
Sta. Marcela

2017 BUDGET ALLOCATION:
PHP 66,154,000

2018 BUDGET ALLOCATION:
PHP 57,009,000



2018 PROJECTS

Livelihood for Enhanced Rice-Related Activities
Individuals - 300

Livelihood for Enhanced Corn-Related Activities
Individuals - 530

High Value Crops
Individuals - 350

Livestock
Groups - 13



2017 PROJECTS

Integrated Crop Production (rice, corn, assorted vegetables)

Individuals - 1,588

Large and Small Ruminant Production

Individuals - 50

Hogstel Project / Swine Production

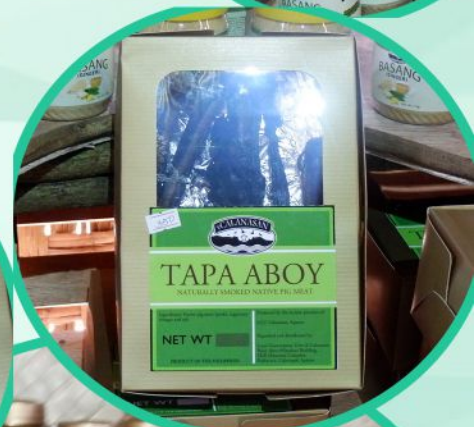
Individuals - 25

Poultry Production

Individuals - 90

Market Support Project

Groups - 3



LIVELIHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

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

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



ABOVE. Full support was given to the SAAD Program as the distribution was attended by representatives from the local government.

The event, graced with a fair weather, was led by Apayao Provincial Governor Hon. Elias "Butz" C. Bulut, Jr. and Congresswoman Hon. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang. Also present were Municipal Mayors Hon. Rolly U. Guiang (Sta. Marcela) with his wife Mrs. Rizza Tesalona-Guiang, Hon. Hector Revel Pascua (Pudtol), Hon. Rodolfo B. Juan (Flora), and Hon. Martin Lucero Lawat (Calanasan). Providing support was Provincial Agriculturist (PA) Prudencio G. Bosing, and the DA, namely: SAAD-NPMO Operations Cluster Head, Ms. Fe E. Ybanez; Regional Executive Director (RED) for CAR

Narciso A. Edillo, Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer (APCO) Ms. Digna Villanueva, Provincial Coordinator (PC) Warlito C. Madamba, and other SAAD NPMO, RPMSO, and PPMO staff. Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 interventions costing a grand total of Php



ABOVE. These tractors form part of the SAAD commitment to the Yapayaos (photo taken during the actual major event on February 11).

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

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

Also, to her, the vast lands of Apayao is its treasure.

According to RED Edillo, the average age of farmers is 58 years old. Ms. Ybanez, on the other hand, stressed in her speech to encourage the youth [that] there is money in farming.

RED Edillo further inspires that "we should not forget [to do] research in order to develop a technology that is suitable in Apayao." Governor Butz encourages the farmers towards 'Market Tourism' and develop a product that tourists can bring home while Hon. Rodolfo B. Juan suggests a sense of ownership on the part of the farmers.



ABOVE. Apayao celebrates its 23rd Founding Anniversary with colorful festivities.

Say-am (*Isnag** for 'Fiesta') Apayao commemorates the province's founding anniversary in 1995. The festivities (which includes boot, product presentations, cook fest, float, talent competitions, among other rich and colorful activities) last half a month each year from February 1-14.

*Isnag - (also called Isneg) is a language spoken by around 40,000 Isnag people of Apayao Province in the Cordillera Administrative Region in the northern Philippines (wikipedia.org).

LIVELIHOOD HIGHLIGHTS

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

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 PaCoMarNuSan Farmers Association from the fourth (4th) class municipality of Sta. Marcela in Apayao.



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).

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.



Special Area for Agricultural
Development (SAAD)
Provincial Report

SAADventures: Apayao

Credits:

<http://saad.da.gov.ph/cordillera-administrative-region/kalinga-apayao/>
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apayao>
<http://www.tourism.gov.ph/SitePages/InteractiveSitesPage.aspx?siteID=79>
http://car.da.gov.ph/images/LogoProvinces/Ph_sea_Lapayao.png
<https://www.icbe.eu/accordion-a-4/2013-06-09-15-51-21/310-apayao-rituals-their-features-and-significance>
<https://en.climate-data.org/region/1865/>
<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/helping-ot>
<http://car.da.gov.ph/index.php/news-and-events/16-saad-introduced-to-key-officials-and-formers-in-apayao>
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/14-fun-facts-about-chickens-65848556/>
<http://www.sunstar.com.ph/baguio/local-news/2016/08/18/da-launches-saad-apayao-492319>
<http://www.baguiomidlandcourier.com.ph/region.asp?mode=archives/2017/november/11-19-2017/region2-Edillo-is-new-DA-CAR-director.txt>
2017 SAAD Annual Report
Apayao Provincial Folder

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RPMSO, & PPMISO

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FARMVENTURES

APAYAO HANDLES SEVEN (7) MUNICIPALITIES FOR 2019 SAAD IMPLEMENTATION



SAAD steadies in Apayao. Participants are keen on delivering interventions to covered municipalities continuously and realistically (photos were taken during the Multi-Year Plan/MYP activity on January of this year).

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

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

All seven (7) municipalities in Apayao are identified in terms of their PI. Ranging from 1 to 7 (1 having the highest PI), they are Kabugao, Calanasan, Conner, Pudtol, Flora, Luna, and Sta. Marcela, respectively.

Attendees were aiming to have improved crop yield and production, reduced or minimal post-harvest losses, improved marketing system, and available alternative sources of income for the SAAD-covered barangays in the said municipalities.

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

Apayao Provincial Agriculturist, Prudencio Bosing shared that the governor will spearhead the ceremony for the awarding of agricultural machineries (including 4WD tractors and combine harvesters) to SAAD farmer-beneficiaries which will be held in Apayao on the 11th of February this year. 🌾



A DAY WITH THE FARMERS OF APAYAO

"There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up."
— John Holmes



"Masaya kaming lakat kasi alam namin na yung nailigay ng SAAD ay makakatulong sa amin balang araw. Nagpapasalamat kaming lakat sa inyo."

—Irene Purisima

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT. Our team visited Irene Purisima, Esmenia Rosario, Rofu Alibuyog, Jr., and Emmelyn Mabbun (featured on the background), all SAAD poultry farmers from Malubibit Sur, Flora, Apayao. They look forward for the hens to lay eggs after receiving the interventions late last year.

FARMVENTURES

DID YOU KNOW?

Chickens are omnivores. They'll eat seeds and insects but also larger prey like small mice and lizards.

Counting the chickens before they lay to hatch. Happy poultry farmers in Apayao provide a shelter to their additional source of income.



Esmenia Rosario



Rofu Alibuyog, Jr.



Women of Pudtol, Apayao. Meanwhile, goat head recipients in the municipality of Pudtol share the experience they had upon the arrival of the interventions from SAAD.



SAADventures is a monthly publication by the PR & Communications Cluster of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD). This provincial report aims to provide updates and information on program interventions and successes in every province that SAAD covers for 2017 -2022.

Other artworks and researches included are cited while photos are taken by our photographers, unless otherwise stated. Moreover, the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints expressed by the contributing authors in this publication do not necessarily reflect the opinions, beliefs and viewpoints of the **SAADventures** or official policies of the **SAAD Program**.

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About the cover

There are two important rituals that bind the Isnag. Say-am is a feast celebrated by an affluent Isnag family, usually accompanied by wining, eating, and dancing. In contrast, pildap is celebrated by the poorer members of the tribe when a family transfers to another place or when someone seeks healing.

The people significantly perform the say-am or pildap, to acknowledge the Almighty for their health, their resources, and their life as they share food and resources. Say-am or pildap is adhered to among the Isnags as a venue to bind the community people in sickness or in health, in good times or bad times. With the say-am and pildap, it is an opportunity to rekindle friendship, unity and cooperation among the people as they dance, dine, and pray together.



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