



# SAAD ventures

CORDILLERA  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGION

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**INFOGRAPHICS & STORIES  
OF EMPOWERED FARMERS AND FISHERS**



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# MESSAGE from the DIRECTOR

It is our pleasure to welcome you to this revived issue of the SAADventures magazine which is a joint output of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) - Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). This publication is not only a compilation of testimonies of our beneficiaries (farmers and fisherfolk) who successfully implemented their livelihood projects beyond expectations but also knowing the profiles of the region and projects implemented.

Since 2017 till December 31, 2019, the Special Area for Agricultural Development SAAD Program in CAR has provided 56 agricultural livelihood projects benefitting 6,747 farmers and 6,286 fisherfolk.

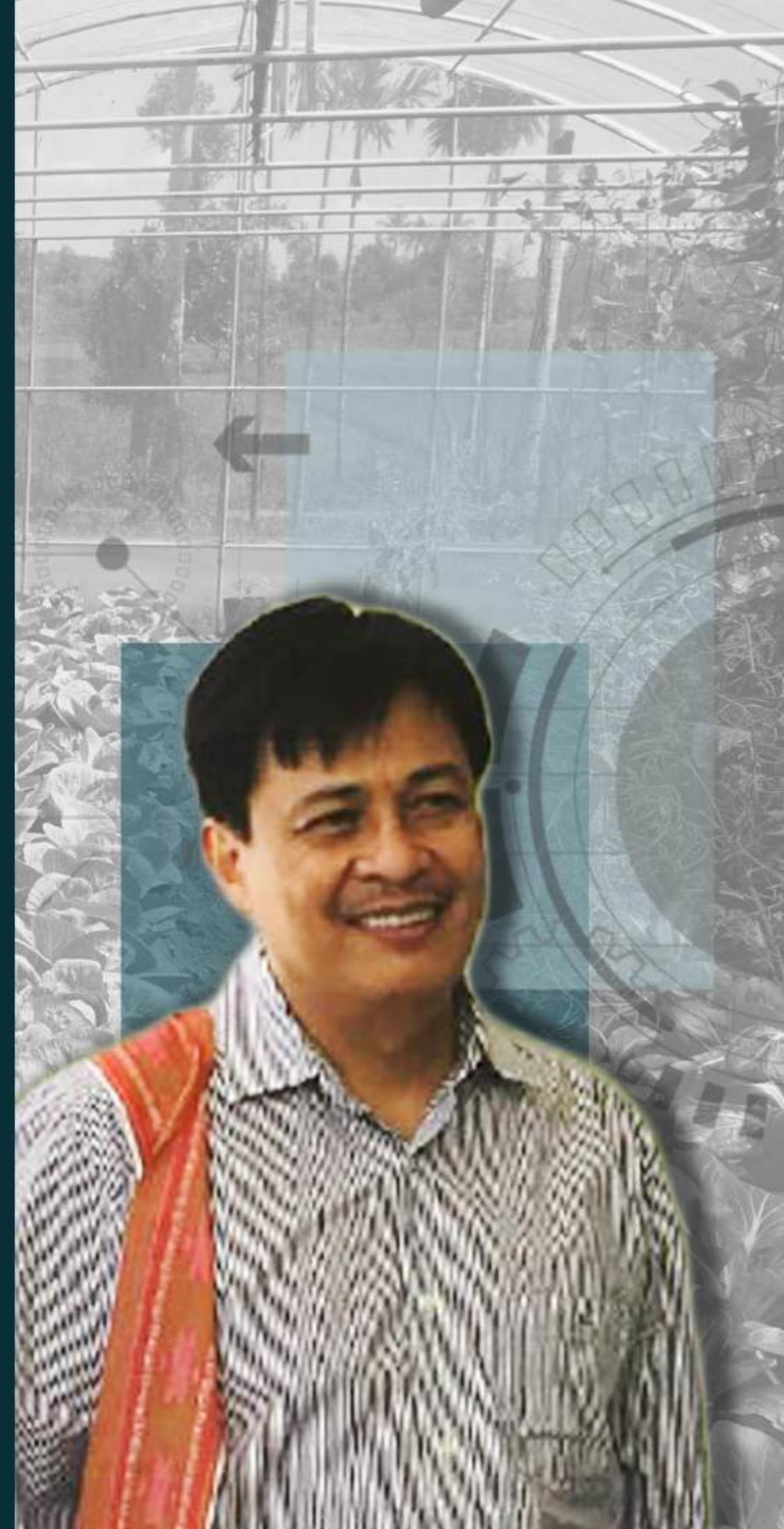
We value knowledge and social preparation in our program. Not only did we provide farm inputs and machinery, we also trained 2,459 farmers and 713 fisherfolk on various topics necessary for the sustainability and management of the projects.

SAADventures is a realization that the opportunities for making a difference to resource-poor farm communities is immense. Featuring the experiences and processes farmers and fisherfolk went through brings in the proof of concept of the program's advocacy specifically on the interventions it has implemented. This is also a form of tribute to the beneficiaries by highlighting their stories which can serve as a means to encourage and inspire others.

Our staff from the national, regional, and provincial office will continuously document activities, learnings and insights as inputs to a sustained production of publication of this nature. Kudos to everyone who have been part of this journey. In any which way, a big thank you.

**MYER G. MULA, Ph.D.**

Program Director, SAAD - NPMO





The beginning of a new year has a way of sneaking up on all of us. We have always gained significant strides and helpful perspectives in program implementation. We are grateful to our partners in the Local Government Units (LGUs), especially in the office of the provincial agriculturist, provincial veterinarian, and municipal agriculturist, who helped us in the identification of programs and projects in each of the communities.

Today, we welcome you all to this SAADventures publication of the Cordillera Administrative Region. It is enjoined with the efforts of our staff from the national program, regional staff, provincial staff, and the field implementers who were present during the conduct of the field monitoring activities in the province of Apayao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province. We are presenting you with the success stories of empowered farmers and fisherfolk laid out by the region.

In 2017, SAAD Program was implemented in the province of Apayao, one of the 10 poorest provinces at that time. We were in partnership with the LGUs because they were the ones who selected the beneficiaries, who are poor and untouched by the regular programs of the DA.

The problem in identifying who is poor is that we have provinces that are relatively better off overall but still have very poor communities in the barangays.

In any case, poor and remote communities are basically the same. They are poor because they lack opportunities, they have limited infrastructure, they get limited government assistance, and they have no or difficult road access. These are our target communities, and they are more or less the same in terms of status.

It is really a matter of prioritizing who should be selected and that is where the local government comes in because they know more of the communities that need the program. LGUs also know the communities that have people's organizations that are already ready to implement programs.

Well, SAAD was a great help because many of our highland and very poor communities do not meet the criteria under the regular programs and therefore there is really minimal assistance that goes to them. And it is SAAD, one of the programs, that are able to help them, otherwise, there is really not much we can do for them. SAAD is really of great contribution to what we are doing in this mountainous region of Cordillera.

I also believe that insurgency is high because of poverty. Communities, with a high insurgency in the region, will also be prioritized by the program.

Now, we are looking at how to improve the way we were operating SAAD. We had had some experiences in dealing with communities and implementing programs under our foreign-assisted projects and there are a lot of lessons learned that we can adapt, especially as far as social preparations are concerned. We are preparing the communities so that we can ensure the sustainability of the livelihood projects.

We are elated to continue the mission of SAAD and to hear the farmers and fisherfolk's stories.

**DR. CAMERON P. ODSEY**

OIC - Regional Executive Director, DA-CAR







It is my pleasure to present to you the SAADventures of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - Cordillera Administrative Region. A publication that highlights the success stories of our fisherfolk in the provinces of Apayao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province.

The SAAD Program aims to alleviate poverty and increase food production in the poorest of the poor provinces in the country. Apayao was ranked as 3rd of poorest province in the country in 2012 with a poverty incidence of 54.7%. In 2015, Mt. Province and Kalinga as additional SAAD provinces had 29.53% and 29.98% respectively. Based on the latest PSA data, poverty incidence in Apayao had decreased to 27.1% in 2018. The other two provinces will fully realize the results of the SAAD interventions this quarter.

The selection of SAAD Program beneficiaries was based on the Fisherfolk Registration (FishR) System. Together with the local government units as our partners in the implementation of the program, series of meetings, social preparation and capacity building activities were conducted to identify appropriate livelihood projects for individual fisherfolk and fisherfolk organizations.

Among the top five BFAR commodities (tilapia, milkfish, shrimp, seaweeds, and shells) for production, Cordillera can only contribute in the production of tilapia. Thus, the program's livelihood projects for aquaculture focused on the production of this species in ponds, rice paddies and fish cages situated in the communal bodies of water.

Fisherfolk organizations without aquaculture areas were given post-harvest equipment for fish processing and value-adding of fishery products to be sold at higher market prices. In addition, fisherfolk involved in capture fishing were provided with Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) boats and environment-friendly fishing gears such as gillnet, cast net, fish trap, hook and line among others.

The SAAD Program has made a big difference in the lives of our fisherfolk beneficiaries through the provision of alternative livelihood projects. This program is helping these provinces increase their fish sufficiency levels and fisherfolk income which strongly supports the Department's "New Thinking" for "Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita" among Cordilleran fisherfolk.

May this magazine serve as an informative medium to provide you a glimpse of what BFAR-SAAD Program is all about. With my team of motivated and hardworking field workers, we look forward to making SAADventures a marquee magazine to unfold the stories of our everyday heroes in the fisheries sector.

**LILIBETH L. SIGNEY, Ph.D., CESO V**  
Regional Director, BFAR - CAR







To our readers, please allow me to open this message with pride and honor at our brand of community participation.

Community participation is the gathering together of the locals to create sensible solutions and bring positive changes, initiating calls to action and ultimately, performing agreed actions. The highlight of the DA-SAAD Program implementation is the collective efforts of the whole community, working together to reach our common goal which is to alleviate poverty in the marginalized sectors.

Indeed, passion ignites movement, and movement should be navigated to productivity.

We in CAR remained faithful and sincere with the DA-SAAD's goal of poverty alleviation. This is why I dream about our beneficiaries to have an improved standard of living. A better kind of life, which they truly deserve – which every Filipino farmer deserves. I share the vision with the DA-SAAD, hence, we all work hard to support the new thinking of leading our farmers to Agripreneurship.

In this light, we introduced marketing and processing topics in our training modules with the hope of equipping our partner-farmers with not just modern farming machinery but also, sound knowledge about intervention sustainability.

I would like to commend the regional staff, the LGU's, and of course, our farmer-partners – not only for the untiring support and work but more importantly for having parallel aspirations for our provinces and our nation.

I look forward to sharing with you the SAAD Saga of Apayao which will happen in October, this year.

For now, I hope you all get inspiration from the narratives of the success of our farmers. Thank you very much.

**ENGR. DANILO P. DAGUIO, Ph.D.**  
Regional Technical Director, DA - CAR  
SAAD Focal Person







Feasibility and precision – these two concepts intersect at the heart of community development for the fisherfolk here in Cordillera Administrative Region.

We are putting a great deal of effort in implementing SAAD interventions based on fundamental considerations to create sound empowerment amongst our beneficiaries. For me, the rudiment of progress in the case of aquaculture in the provinces is simply the increase in fish production, reaching sufficiency. It is basic; it is attainable, measurable and specific for the whole community to take part into. I dream of seeing each family having enough food on their table, hopefully being able to allocate a portion for livelihood enterprises, build self-sufficient organizations and cooperatives, and ultimately, become prosperous.

Cordillera as a landlocked region, has limited fisheries production areas. Indeed, a challenge for the whole SAAD team, but with collaborative effort and partnerships among stakeholders, the productive capacity of these areas can be maximized. In three years, the program has provided livelihood interventions to more than 5,000 individual fisherfolk and organizations.

In this SAADventures issue, we celebrate the integrated efforts of our brothers and sisters involved in the implementation of the SAAD Program by retelling our success narratives. Equipped with the wisdom of experience, may our fisherfolk continue their ways forward towards sustainable fisheries development in the Cordillera.

**MICHELLE A. PERALTA**  
SAAD-BFAR CAR Focal Person





We are now seeing the result of our hard work, with that, we can attest to the validity of our harvests.

From the year 2017, the SAAD Program is an affirmation and continues to resound the enthusiasm of the DA in advancing its mandate of uplifting the socio-economic situation of our farmers. Correspondingly, SAAD committed to its purpose as a supplemental aid by tapping into the remote areas that are not covered with the regular programs of the DA.

There were seven municipalities covered by the livelihood projects of SAAD in the province of Apayao. Thirty-three (33) farmer's associations were registered in the Department of Labor and Employment and accredited by the DA.

I am humbled to announce the progress of the SAAD program in my beloved area, Apayao. The process started with the profiling of prospective beneficiaries, registration, acquiring access to the DA's banner programs such as rice and corn seeds, livestock, planting materials, infrastructures and machinery like harvesters and reapers, and undergoing capability building activities.

To demonstrate its significance, 2018 has made an increase of 50% on creating a group of farmers.

We also encountered problems during the program implementation but we were able to resolve them through efficient communication and cooperation. The most difficult ones are those that are beyond human control such as natural calamities and livestock-disease occurrences.

The exemplary efforts of the focal person, regional staff, provincial staff, municipal and provincial local government unit officers were totally paid off. Their enthusiasm for getting as far as the remotest areas in Apayao to conduct monitoring activities are commendable.

For now, we are focused on the simultaneous distribution of interventions such as seeds, planting materials, livestock, and machinery. We are geared towards a thorough validation of the farmer-beneficiaries. We are also giving more training on record keeping and financial management.

In my upcoming retirement, I hope to witness the SAAD Saga in Apayao. We will showcase the vegetable produce and processed meat products of SAAD.

Lastly, I dreamed that the farmers will be given a chance to speak their hearts out on how SAAD improved their living and that in a way will contribute to the development of other target communities.

**DIGNA D. VILLANUEVA**

Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer  
APAYAO



*Barangay Lenneng, Kabugao, Apayao, Philippines*



# APAYAO

## PROVINCIAL PROFILE

### PHYSICAL PROFILE

The Province of Apayao is one of the six provinces of CAR. It is located in the northwestern part of Luzon. It is bounded on the East and North by the Province of Cagayan, on the West by the Province of Ilocos Norte and Abra, and on the South by the Province of Kalinga.

The province is composed of seven (7) municipalities and 134 barangays and geographically subdivided into two separate regions the Upper and Lower Apayao. Upper Apayao is composed of the upland municipalities of Calanasan, Conner, and Kabugao. Lower Apayao is composed of the lowland municipalities of Luna, Pudtol, Flora, and Sta. Marcela. With an approximate land area of 5,113 square kilometers, Apayao has the largest land area in the entire Region sharing almost 26 percent of the Region's total land area of 19,748.85 square kilometers.

Calanasan shares the largest land area in the province with a total land area of 1,692.27 square kilometers or 33.10% of the total land area. Meanwhile, Sta. Marcela is the smallest municipality in terms of land area with only 196.10 square kilometers or 3.84% of the total land area.



The background of the entire page is a photograph of a lush green agricultural field, possibly a rice paddy, with a dense line of trees and palm trees in the distance under a bright sky. In the top left corner, there is a close-up of a green leaf. The title 'AGRICULTURAL PROFILE' is written in white, uppercase letters on a dark, textured, brush-stroke-like background in the upper right quadrant.

## AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

The province of Apayao produced 11,815 metric tons (MT) of crops during the first semester of 2018. Crop production of the province increased by 8.7% or 944 MT compared to the 10,871 MT produced in first semester of 2017.

The top three crops of the province are cassava with 76.3% (9,020.5 MT) contribution to the total production in Apayao, followed by banana with 7.9% or 933.4 MT, and squash fruit with 6.5% or 766.4 MT.

Apayao is the top producer of cassava with 61.1% of the regional cassava production; second top producer of squash fruit with 22.2%; and third top producer of banana with 9.10%.

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a lush green agricultural field, possibly a rice paddy, with a dense line of trees and palm trees in the distance under a bright sky. In the top left corner, there is a close-up of a green leaf. The title 'AGRICULTURAL PROFILE' is written in white, uppercase letters on a dark, textured, brush-stroke-like background in the upper right quadrant.

## POVERTY SITUATION

In the recent poverty trends released by the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) for 2018, the province of Apayao recorded a decrease in its poverty rate (poverty incidence among families) from 38.1% in 2015 to 16%.

The poverty threshold of the province in 2018 was estimated at Php 23,135 per capita per annum. This translates to a minimum of Php 9,636 monthly take-home income for a family of five to meet both basic food and non-food needs and be considered not poor in 2018.

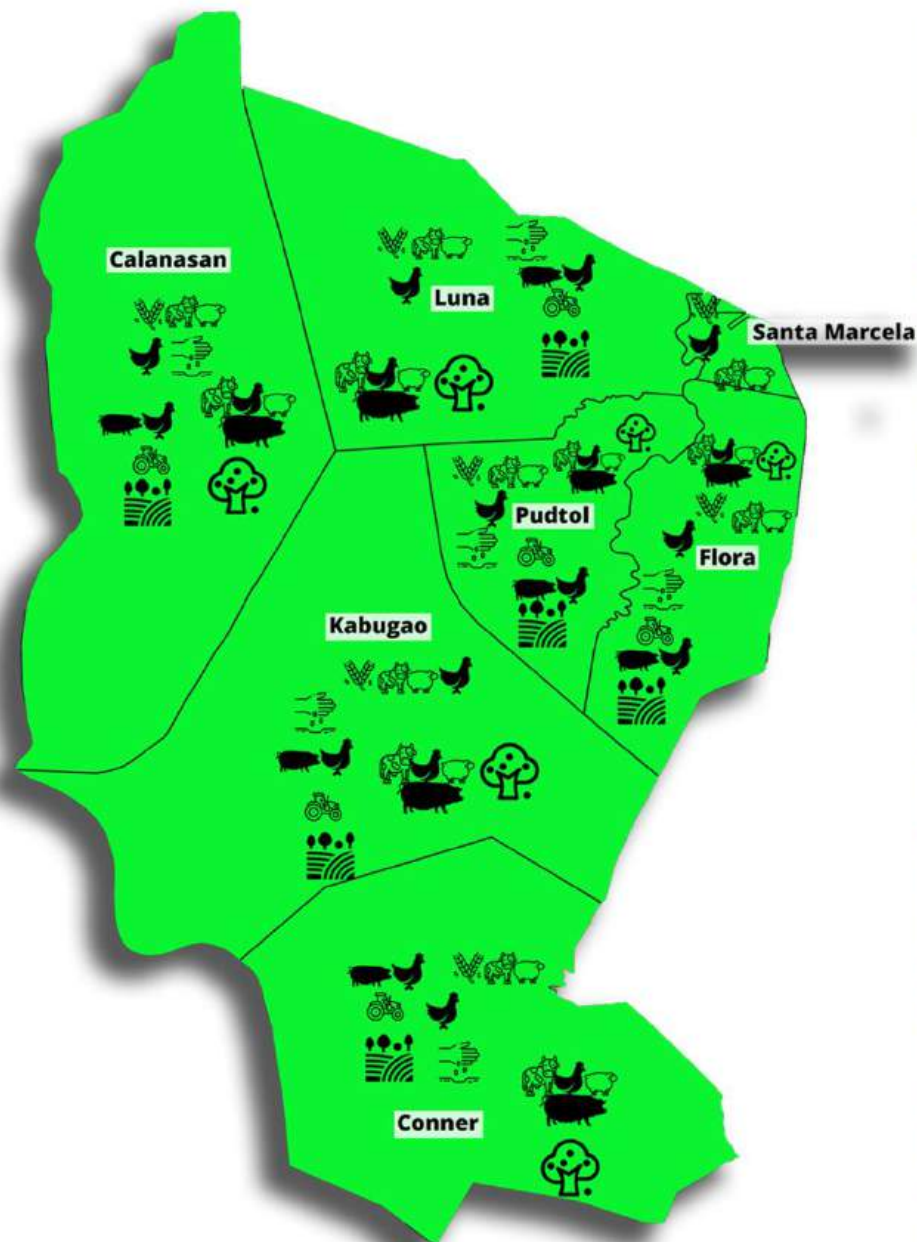
Apayao recorded a percentage change of (0.8) from Php 23,310 per capita per annum in 2015. It also has the lowest food threshold per capita per annum with Php 16,155.

Thereby, the insufficiency of alternative livelihood opportunities to most families has been pointed out as the primary cause of poverty in Apayao.



# DA-SAAD APAYAO: Map of Intervention

Vegetable Farm, Bacsay, Luna, Apayao, Philippines



## 2017

- Integrated Crop Production
- Large & Small Ruminant Production
- Poultry Production

## 2018

- Provisions of Seeds/Seedlings
- Provisions of Livestock and Poultry
- Agri-Machinery
- SALT

## 2019

- Provision of Draft Animal
- Fruit Trees Production







## AGRICULTURE SECTOR

The DA-SAAD Program of CAR received a budget fund of Php 66,164,000 in 2017 for the four livelihood projects in Apayao, covering 2,017 farmers and 35 associations. The fund was downloaded to the local government unit of Apayao.

For 2018, the released fund is Php 57,009,000 (Php 8,884,000 of the total is for Program Management and Php 3,016,000 for Social Preparation). A total of 2,484 individuals and 19 associations were given assistance for rice, corn, vegetable, fruit, livestock, and poultry production as well as projects for machinery and Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) (Table 1).





**Table 1. DA-SAAD Apayao FY 2017-2018**

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	MUNICIPALITIES COVERED	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUALS)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (GROUPS)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<b>FY 2017</b>				
<i>Integrated Crop Production</i>	Calanasan, Conner, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, Sta. Marcela	1,788	28	50,000,000.00 Downloaded to PLGU-Apayao
<i>Large &amp; Small Ruminant Production</i>	Calanasan, Conner, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, Sta. Marcela	127		
<i>Poultry Production</i>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol & Sta. Marcela	102	7	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>2,017</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>50,000,000</b>
<b>FY 2018</b>				
<i>Rice Production</i>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol & Sta. Marcela	485		3,560,000
<i>Corn Production</i>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol and Sta. Marcela	601		8,927,000
<i>Vegetable Production</i>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol and Sta. Marcela	677		6,063,000
<i>Fruit Tree Production</i>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol & Sta. Marcela	147		2,430,000
<i>Livestock Production</i>	Conner, Calanasan & Kabugao	42		5,750,000
<i>Poultry Production</i>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, & Sta. Marcela	47		1,939,000





**Table 1 (continued)**

<b>Agri-Machinery</b>				
<b>Standard- Multi Crop Thresher</b>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, & Sta. Marcela		3	6,050,000
<b>Compact tiller</b>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, & Sta. Marcela		3	1,000,000
<b>Multipurpose drying pavement</b>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, & Sta. Marcela		2	1,960,000
<b>HDPE pipes w/ Fittings (Rice Production)</b>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol & Sta. Marcela	485		2,991,000
<b>Sugarcane Presser</b>	Calanasan		1	350,000
<b>Coffee Depulper</b>	Conner, Calanasan, Flora, Kabugao, & Luna			189,000
<b>Rain shelter</b>	Pudtol & Sta. Marcela		2	400,000
<b>SALT</b>	Conner, Calanasan, Kabugao, Luna, & Pudtol		8	3,500,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,484</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>45,109,000</b>





# SAAD

For FY 2019, fruit trees production and provision of draft animals were implemented with a total budget of **Php 40,193,000** benefiting **23** associations and **1,016** individuals (Table 2).

*Table 2. DA-SAAD Apayao FY 2019*

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	GROUP (FARMER'S ASSOCIATION)	LOCATION (BARANGAY)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<i><b>Fruit Trees Production in Calanasan</b></i>	Cadaclan Pantawid Special Program Farmer's Association; Sustainable Tubongan DRAS Farmer's Association; Naguillian Pantawid Association Ninoy Aquino Indigenous Farmer's Association	Butao, Cadaclan, Dras, Eleazar, Ferdinand, Kabugao, Naguillian, Namaltugan, Ninoy Aquino Jr., Poblacion, Tubungan	185	6,832,750
<i><b>Fruit Trees Production in Conner</b></i>	Calaoan Farmer's Association; Baren Farmer's Association; Nabuangan Farmer's Association	Guinaang, Ili, Manag, Mawigue, Ripang	165	6,409,750
<i><b>Fruit Trees Production in Pudtol</b></i>	SLD Farmer's Association; CASS Farmer's Association; MULA DUR-AS Farmer's Association; ECASAN Farmer's Association; PIAS Farmer's Association	Amado, Aurora, Cacalaggan, Capannikian, Dona Loreta, Emelia, Lower Maton, Lydia, Malibang, Mataguisi, San Jose, San Luis, San Mariano, Swan	125	5,563,750
<i><b>Fruit Trees Production in Luna</b></i>	Upstream Livelihood Farmers Association; Midstream Livelihood Farmers Association; Marag Valley Livelihood Farmers Association	Bacsay, Cagandungan, Calabigan, Dagupan, Lappa, San Francisco, San Gregorio, San Jose, Shalom	100	3,436,000
<i><b>Fruit Trees Production in Flora</b></i>	SSAMBA Farmer's Association; ABUWEB Farmer's Association; MAST Farmer's Association	Anninipan, Atok, Bagutong, Mallig, San Jose	105	4,315,750
<i><b>Fruit Trees Production in Kabugao</b></i>	Lucky 7 Farmer's Association; Blessed SAAD Farmer's Association; Productive SAAD Farmer's Association	Bulo Paco, Dibagat, Madatag, Madduang, Musimut	190	6,938,500
<i><b>Fruit Trees Production in Sta. Marcela</b></i>	MESS Farmers Association; PACUMARNUSAN Farmers Association; BISS Farmers Association	Consuelo, Imelda, Marcela, San Juan, Sipa	96	3,351,400



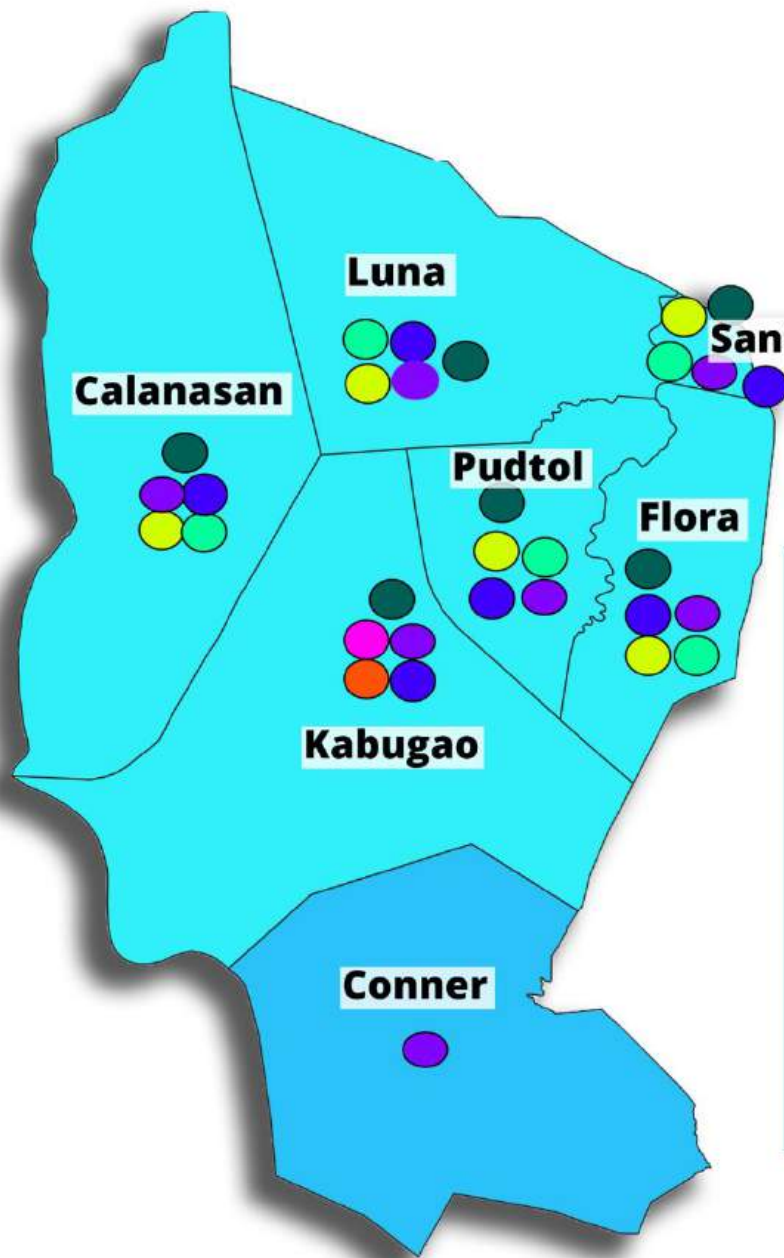
Table 2. (continued)

<i>Provision of Draft Animal in Calanasan</i>		Butao, Cadaclan, Dras, Eleazar, Ferdinand, Kabugao, Naguilian, Namaltugan, Ninoy Aquino Jr., Poblacion, Tubungan	10	525,000.00
<i>Provision of Draft Animal in Conner</i>		Guinaang, Ili, Manag, Mawigue, Ripang	8	436,000
<i>Provision of Draft Animal in Pudtol</i>		Amado, Aurora, Cacalaggan, Capannikian, Dona Loreta, Emelia, Lower Maton, Lydia, Malibang, Mataguisi, San Jose, San Luis, San Mariano, Swan	6	347,000
<i>Provision of Draft Animal in Luna</i>		Bacsay, Cagandungan, Calabigan, Dagupan, Lappa, San Francisco, San Gregorio, San Jose, Shalom	5	302,500
<i>Provision of Draft Animal in Flora</i>		Anninipan, Atok, Bagutong, Mallig, San Jose	6	347,000
<i>Provision of Draft Animal in Sta. Marcela</i>		Consuelo, Imelda, Marcela, San Juan, Sipa	5	302,500
<i>Provision of Draft Animal in Kabugao</i>		Bulo Paco, Dibagat, Madatag, Madduang, Musimut	10	525,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>1,016</b>	<b>39,632,900</b>



# BFAR-SAAD APAYAO: Map of Intervention

Bacsay, Luna, Apayao, Philippines



## Municipality Covered

- 2018 - 2019
- 2018

## 2019

- Aqua (Pond Culture)
- Capture (Fishing Gears)
- Aqua-technical Assistance

## 2018 - 2019

- Aqua (Pond Culture)
- Capture (Fishing Gears)

## 2018

- FRP (Fibre Reinforced Plastic) Boats
- Post-harvest Paraphernalia



# Fishery Sector

The BFAR-SAAD Program of the Cordillera Administrative Region received a budget of **Php 15,127,000** in 2017. Two types of livelihood projects were implemented covering 1,295 fisherfolk. For **Php 12,000,000** fund in 2018, four types of projects were implemented to five municipalities supporting 1,084 fisherfolk. For 2019, 1,849 fisherfolk benefited from three types of projects worth **Php 8,000,000** (Table 3).

In 2019, Kalinga and Mountain Province were included in the program implementation. The total fund released for the three (3) covered provinces is **Php 40,000,000**. The breakdown is as follows: Php 10,000,000 for Apayao, Php 15,000,000 for Kalinga, and Php 15,000,000 for Mountain Province.

From the budget released in the province per year, the management allocated **Php 2,000,000** for administrative and training costs.



*Bacsay, Luna, Apayao, Philippines*



Table 3. BFAR-SAAD Apayao FYs 2017-2019

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	MUNICIPALITIES COVERED	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUALS)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<b>FY 2017</b>			
<i>Aqua (Pond Culture)</i>	Conner, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, Flora, Sta. Marcela, Calanasan	856	15,127,000 (budget downloaded to LGUs)
<i>Capture (Fishing Gears)</i>		439	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,295</b>	<b>15,127,000</b>
<b>FY 2018</b>			
<i>Aqua (Pond Culture)</i>	Luna, Pudtol, Flora, Sta. Marcela, and Calanasan	941	7,500,000
<i>Capture (Fishing Gears)</i>	Luna, Pudtol, Flora, Sta. Marcela, and Calanasan	103	500,000
<i>FRP (Fibre Reinforced Plastic) Boats</i>	Luna, Pudtol, Flora, Sta. Marcela, and Calanasan, Kabugao	24	500,000
<i>Post-harvest Paraphernalia</i>	Conner, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, Flora, Sta. Marcela, and Calanasan	16	1,000,000
<i>2 concrete ponds</i>	AUFF, Luna, Apayao		500,000
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,084</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>



Table 3. (continued)

FY 2019			
<b>Aqua (Pond Culture)</b>	Conner, Kabugao, Luna, Pudtol, Flora, Sta, Marcela, and Calanasan	728	4,610,040
<b>Capture (Fishing Gears)</b>		120	850,160
<b>Aqua-technical assistance</b>		1,001	2,539,800
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		<b>1,849</b>	<b>8,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>4,228</b>	<b>33,127,000</b>



Bacsay, Luna, Apayao, Philippines





# APAYAO SUCCESS STORIES



## BACKGROUND

Sixty-year-old Edna Casibang is a Swine Raising beneficiary from Sitio Paddig, Apayao. A mother of three with an ailing husband, she makes ends meet by performing farm work and household work at the same time.

Nanay Edna cultivates upland rice to feed her family. She has 3 children - Flordeliza, Shoji, and Grace Ann.

Her eldest Flordeliza, is a Social Work graduate but has yet to take her licensure exam due to financial incapacity. Shoji is a criminology graduate while Grace Ann is a graduating grade 12 student.

Nanay Edna and her husband, Pedro Casibang, are tenants of a 600-square-meter upland rice farm. They are able to harvest eight (8) cavans of palay from which, three (3) cavans go to the landowner leaving her five (5) cavans for their consumption.

While waiting for the harvest season, Edna works as a farm laborer. She earns Php 200 a day, which supports the medical needs of her husband.

In 2018, the DA-SAAD Program reached out to Nabuangan Region Farmers' Association (NRFA) for livelihood interventions. The group which had twenty (20) members underwent a series of meetings, orientations and training to prepare its members for swine raising. In January 2019, Nanay Edna became a member of the said group and after demonstrating active participation, she became the SAAD focal person for Brgy. Paddig in Apayao (Table 4).

# EDNA CASIBANG

60 years old  
Nabuangan Region Farmers'  
Association  
Sitio Paddig, Apayao  
**Swine Raising**

**TABLE 4: NRFA List of Members**

Leon Federico	Elsie Asperela
Prudencio Asuncion	Marina Danao
Johnny Duque	Juleto Bayed
Julia Manganip	Romeo Barles
Ceferina Danao	James Assistores
Jane Layugan	Jovelyn Bawag
Angel Bayaua	Elsie Asperela
Kerony Castaway	Vilma Legman
Luisa Bulagao	Rosalyn Bataliones
Norma Asuncion	

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

As beneficiaries of the Program, the NFRA received a six-month training at the Farmer Field School. The said training is a prerequisite to the members in order to gain access to the SAAD Program intervention, according to Conner Municipal Agriculturist, Ms. Corazon Gasmena.

In January 2019, after the training, Nanay Edna and each of the members of the NFRA received a four-month-old piglet and a swine housing. She took care of it during reproduction and was able to maintain its housing in good condition. In August 2019, she was able to produce 9 piglets from the intervention and turned-over three (3) piglets to the association for reproduction. This system is called the *roll-over scheme*. Once the pigs give birth, the members shall abide by the said obligation.

## CHALLENGES

The African Swine Fever (ASF) virus threat is the biggest challenge of the group as DA confirmed cases [of infected swine] in some areas of the Cordillera, especially in Kalinga and Benguet, on February 9, 2020.

Despite the risk, Nanay Edna continued to maintain the hogs. Fortunately, there were no reported cases of infected swine in her municipality, and the manner that the piglets were acquired was safe from the period of occurrence of the disease.

However, they remained vigilant and studied ways to prevent the virus from entering their area.





## RESULTS

As of now, Nanay Edna's mother-sow is scheduled to give birth in April 2020. To date, she has seven (7) piglets in her pig pens. Two of which were bought by her children, who are also planning to enter the swine production business. They also bought her a boar for breeding.

Since the program implementation in 2019, Nanay Edna is able to save Php 15,000 from the livelihood program, whereas the group acquired Php 6,000 savings as of January 31, 2020.

For Nanay Edna, pig farming significantly aided her financial capacity to support her children's education. "Dahil sa Swine Production Project na bigay ng SAAD, nakakapagbayad po ako ng tuition fees ng pinapa-aral kong isang anak (Because of the SAAD's Swine Production Project, I can pay for my daughter's tuition fees)," she shared.

Before the SAAD Program, life was very challenging for Nanay Edna as she juggles to maintain the rice farm, works extra as farm laborer while waiting for almost six (6) months until the harvest season. She also pushed her frail body to do farm labor just to sustain her family's needs, especially her husband's medicines and Grace Ann's education.

Fortunately, the program equipped her with the right knowledge and enough means to supplement her livelihood resources.

## PLANS

As the focal person of the SAAD Program within Sitio Paddig, Nanay Edna shared to the SAAD team that the group already acquired training on food and meat processing. They look forward to establishing a meat processing business, with barangay Malama as their target market.

As of now, Nanay Edna is looking for buyers of her two (2) pigs in preparation for her youngest daughter's entry to tertiary education.

**LORNA**  
**A Y A L A**

**General Manager**  
45 years old  
**SIBES Agrarian Reform**  
**Multi-purpose Cooperative**  
Baroboc, Sta. Marcela Apayao  
**Tilapia Pond Culture**

## BACKGROUND

SIBES Agrarian Reform Multipurpose Cooperative was founded on March 3, 2009, however, it has only been registered on September 29 of the same year. Their name is based on five (5) barangays of the municipality of Sta. Marcela, Apayao, namely; Sipa, Imelda, Barocboc, Emiliana, and San Mariano. The association started with farm inputs lending service.

On September 30, 2010, under the Republic Act 9520, which encourages the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle of promoting self-reliance, the SIBES has been registered again. This RA attempts to harness people's agency to attain economic development and social justice.

One of the challenges the cooperative had to endure was the lack of resources to provide its members enough means for agricultural production and other livelihood activities.

The cooperative had 91 members in its initial formation, 28 of which were Agrarian Reform Beneficiary (ARB) members. Currently, SIBES has 35 members who are producers of rice, corn, and vegetables. Since majority of them belong to the low-income families whose livelihood depend mainly on farming, the SAAD Program selected their cooperative for possible intervention and support.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

In 2016, former DA Secretary Emmanuel Piñol promoted the SAAD Program in the province and the group was chosen as a beneficiary of the Tilapia Pond Culture Project under BFAR. In December 2018, they received 1,000 tilapia fingerlings and eight bags of feeds.

Meanwhile, the BFAR-SAAD representatives shared that the fisherfolk beneficiaries who performed well in the project implementation will be awarded with another aquaculture package. Because of their consistency, the group received the same package in December 2019.

Most of the members of the cooperative have their own small pond area with an average area of 400 sqm. During the tilapia harvest, the members inform the officers of the cooperative to pick up the tilapia on-site. The cooperative buys it at Php 110 per kilo and sells them for Php 130.

However, the group wants more than just selling live tilapia. They also aim to learn processing to add more value to their products.

"Gusto naming mag-training ng post-harvest, 'yung sa smoked fish (We want post-harvest training for smoked fish)," SIBES Agrarian Reform Multi-Purpose Cooperative General Manager Lorna Ayala said.

Ms Ayala believes that offering processed fish will give the cooperative a market advantage through expanding the choices of consumers on their products.

The group is also registered at the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System for catering services. Now and then, they serve food at government agencies' events and activities.

SAAD's Tilapia Pond Culture Project contributes to the catering services of the cooperative.

"Dito sa cooperative, nagbebenta kami ng live tilapia at kung may mga catering services kami, 'saka namin harvest nang fresh (In our cooperative, we sell live tilapia; and if we have catering services, we harvest them fresh)," said Ms Ayala.

Ms Ayala believes that they owe their accomplishments to the sacrifices made by the officers and members, who rendered their free time to participate during meetings and other activities. Acquiring knowledge from continued training and seminars contributed to the prosperity of the group.

"The cooperative is guided by its vision of becoming a progressive and model cooperative among others, by maintaining the strong capability of the business-minded members in using their own resources to have the progressive way of living," Ms Ayala added.



## RESULTS

Among members of the cooperative, 10 were SAAD beneficiaries namely; Jonel Padilla, Ariel Labbao, Roger Rabanal, Rafael Ayala, Dionisio Subagan, Efraim Sagay, Freddie Denus, Lorna Obispo, Rudy Balitnang, and Sonny Agpulto.

The first stocking of the pond areas of Denus, Obispo, Balitnang, and Agpulto was devastated by the storm Quiel and Ramon in November 2019. The tilapia fingerlings were replaced and expected to be harvested from April to May 2020.

On December 5, 2019, they harvested a total of 815 kilograms kgs of tilapia and earned Php 16,300 (Table 5).

## PLANS

Ms Ayala requested for motorcycle units from BFAR-CAR to speed up the shipment of tilapia from the beneficiaries' ponds to the cooperative's location at barangay Barocboc. In the meantime, the group uses a bicycle, which creates a 2-hour difference compared to a motor-powered transport. However, if BFAR-SAAD will not be able to provide the vehicle, the group plans to save money to avail a unit.

Ms Ayala also shared that the group will focus on the accomplishment of their mission, vision, and goals.

She added; "dapat naka-concentrate kung ano talaga yung target niyo in the future. At hindi lang sa pang-personal na benepisyo ng bawat opisyal o kaya miyembro (We should concentrate on our targets. Each of the officers and members should not think of personal benefits)."

**Table 5. SIBES Agrarian Reform Multi-Purpose Cooperative Production Yield and Income**

NAME	POND AREA (sqm)	PRODUCTION YIELD	INCOME (Php)	GROUP NET INCOME (Php)
Leoan Federico	450	150	16,500	3,000
Prudencio Asuncion	200	100	11,000	2,000
Johnny Duque	300	120	13,200	2,400
Julia Manganip	225	225	24,750	4,500
Ceferina Danao	336	120	13,200	2,400
Jane Layugan	300	100	11,000	2,000
Angel Bayaua	300	-	-	-
Kerony Castaway	600	-	-	-
Luisa Bulagao	180	-	-	-
Norma Asuncion	1,019	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,982</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>89,650</b>	<b>16,300</b>



As I can remember, the implementation of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) program in the province of Kalinga started in the early part of 2018, while I as an APCO, started to be involved around October of 2018.

I had to adjust since two of my staff are new and had to undergo orientation and understanding of the government procedures. Secondly, I was also confused about the guidelines that were issued.

In 2019, the implementation of the program in Kalinga went smoothly but at the same time faced minor distractions brought about by the issues related to procurement and implementation arrangements especially with the LGUs and regional structure.

It was quite hard at first but despite all the hardships that we have faced, the bond between the implementers became stronger for the sake of the beneficiaries of Kalinga. This program also helped the beneficiaries expand their knowledge of the new technologies for farming, raising poultry, and livestock animals.

Also, the interventions were based on the menu given. The 2019 projects were identified by the LGUs concerned while procurement was facilitated by the regional office.

The swine interventions were good but unfortunately, the problem on the African Swine Fever (ASF) came. Due to this, some areas were not given and we had to re-adjust the interventions.

With that, the beneficiaries from the three (3) SAAD covered municipalities were given crops such as pineapple, native ginger, banana, and turmeric. Aside from that, they were also given free-range chickens and pigs. Luckily, the beneficiaries also received farm inputs and tools as an aid for the other interventions that were given. These interventions were of great help to the beneficiaries as it serves as their source of income and at the same time, a source of their food.

Now, I believe that for a program to be successful, there should be proper coordination with the concerned people and group; timely delivery of interventions; the communities should be socially prepared and the projects should be implemented by the Peoples Organization (PO) as it will lead to inciting their sense of responsibility.

In the coming years, we will be preparing more activities on sustainability such as how to link our farmers and their products to possible markets. As we are also preparing to expand in the other areas, we have to assess the interventions given.

**BALAG-EY A. CLAVER JR.**

Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer  
KALINGA



*Rice-fish Field in Dupligan, Tanudan, Kalinga, Philippines*





## PHYSICAL PROFILE

Kalinga is derived from the Ibanag and Gaddang noun “kalinga” which means “enemy”, “fighter”, or “headtaker.”

It is a landlocked province in the Philippines situated within the Cordillera. Its capital is Tabuk City and borders Mountain Province to the south, Abra to the west, Isabela to the east, Cagayan to the northeast, and Apayao to the north. Kalinga and Apayao are the result of the 1995 partitioning of the former province of Kalinga-Apayao which was seen to better service the respective needs of the various indigenous peoples in the area.

The province covers a total area of 3,231.5 square kilometers occupying the central section of the CAR region. Its topography is rugged and sloping, with mountain peaks ranging from 1,500 to 2,500 meters above sea level (m.a.s.l.). The province's western side is characterized by sharp, crested, interlinking peaks of steep slopes, isolate flatlands, plateaus and valleys. The eastern lands are mainly of rolling and gradually sloping foothills.

# KALINGA

## PROVINCIAL PROFILE

## AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

Kalinga produced a total of 30,986.2 MT of crops during the first semester of 2018. Production increased by 21% or 5,371.2 MT compared with the 25,615.0 MT crop production of the province in same period in 2017.

The top three crops produced by the province were sugarcane with 28,107.0 MT or 90.7% contribution to the total production of the province, followed by banana with 2.9% or 888.5 MT and coffee with 2.6% or 801.2 MT.

Kalinga was the top producer of the region in sugarcane with 97.6% of the total regional sugarcane production.



## POVERTY SITUATION

In the data released by PSA for 2018, the province of Kalinga has decreased its poverty incidence among families from 34.5% in 2015 to 9.3%.

In CAR, Kalinga incurred the biggest reduction on poverty incidence among families with 25.2 %; followed by Ifugao and Apayao with 25.1% and 22.1%, respectively.

The poverty threshold of the province in 2018 was estimated at Php 24,193 per capita per annum. This translates to a minimum of Php 10,080 monthly take-home income for a family of five to meet both basic food and non-food needs and be considered not poor in 2018.

Kalinga recorded a percentage change of 13.3 from Php 21,348 per capita per annum in 2015. The food threshold per capita per annum is Php 16,862.



## AGRICULTURE SECTOR

In 2019, the province of Kalinga was included in the DA-SAAD Program. The budget released was Php 39,481,000. It covers the crop diversification projects implemented in the province such as: banana, calamansi, pineapple, ginger, turmeric, swine, native pigs, and free-range chicken production wherein **710 individual beneficiaries were benefited** (Table 6).





# DA-SAAD KALINGA: Map of Intervention

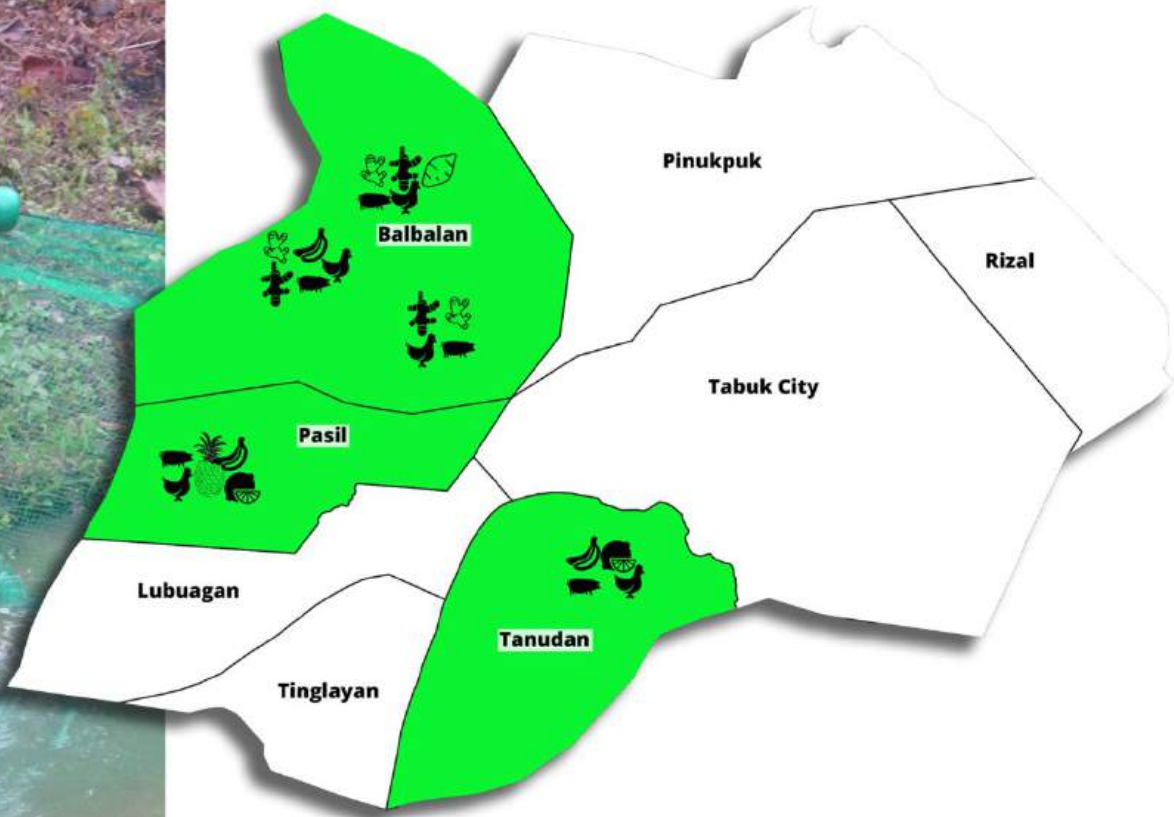


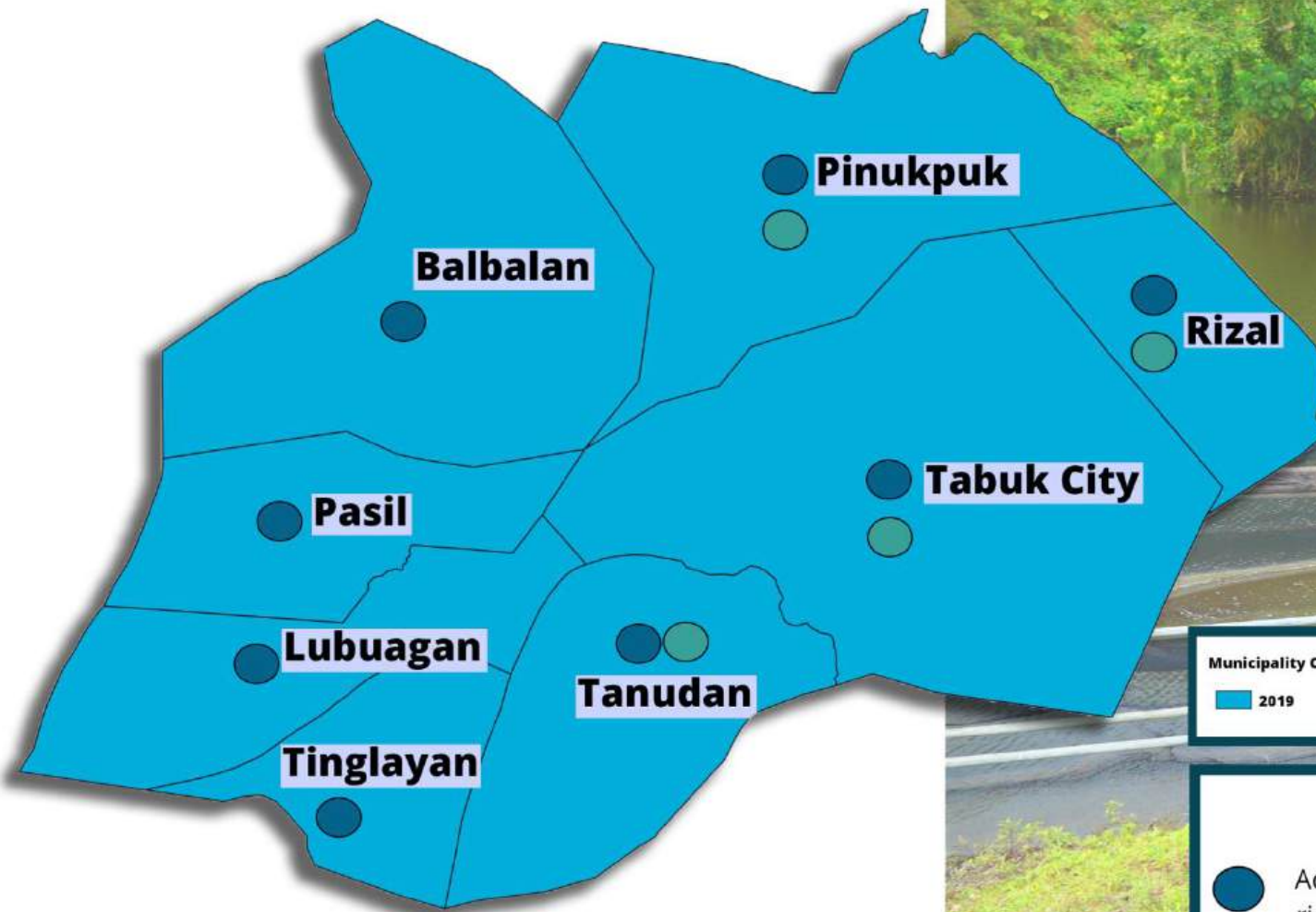


Table 6. DA-SAAD Kalinga FY 2019

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	LOCATION (BARANGAY)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUALS)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<i>Integrated Banana, Calamansi, Pineapple, Ginger, Free-range Chicken &amp; Native Pig Production in Pasil</i>	Pugong, Malucsan, Ableg, Cagaluan	220	11,684,250
<i>Integrated Ginger, Turmeric, Swine &amp; Free-range Chicken Production in Balbalan Site 1</i>	Maling	72	4,005,250
<i>Integrated Banana, Ginger, Turmeric, Swine &amp; Free-range Chicken Production in Balbalan Site 2</i>	Dao-angan	72	4,019,950
<i>Integrated Ginger, Turmeric, Gabi, Native Pig &amp; Free-range Chicken Production in Balbalan Site 3</i>	Balbalan Proper	107	5,438,600
<i>Integrated Banana, Calamansi, Native Pig, &amp; Free-range Chicken Production in Tanudan</i>	Dupligan, Pangol, Mabaca	239	12,972,450
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>710</b>	<b>38,120,500</b>



# BFAR-SAAD KALINGA: Map of Intervention



Municipality Covered  
2019

2019

- Aqua (pond culture and rice-fish culture)
- Aqua (fish culture)

Dupligan, Tanudan, Kalinga, Philippines



# Fishery Sector

The SAAD program implementation in the province of Kalinga started in 2019. The allocated budget fund is **Php 15,000,000**. Php 2,000,000 is for administrative and training costs and Php 13,000,000 for the livelihood projects.

The projects include pond culture, rice-fish culture, fish cage culture, and the capture of fishing gears benefiting **1,359 individuals and 7 groups** (Table 7).

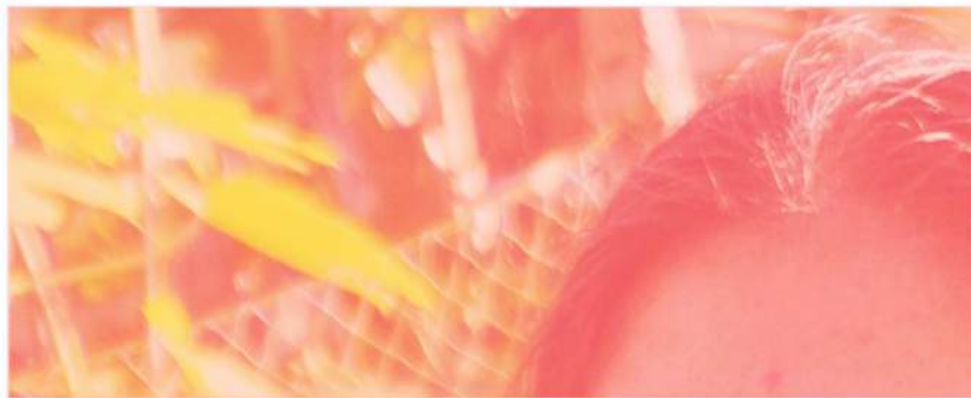




Table 7. BFAR-SAAD Kalinga FY 2019

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	MUNICIPALITIES COVERED	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUALS)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (GROUPS)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<b><i>Aqua (pond culture and rice-fish culture)</i></b>	Tinglayan, Lubuagan, Pasil, Balbalan, Tanudan, Pinukpuk, Rizal, Tabuk	1,128		11,505,000
<b><i>Aqua (fish cage)</i></b>	Rizal, Pinukpuk, Tabuk, Tanudan	4	7	495,000
<b><i>Capture Fishing Gears (set of fishing gears)</i></b>	Tinglayan, Lubuagan, Pasil, Balbalan, Tanudan, Pinukpuk, Rizal, Tabuk	227		1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,359</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>13,000,000</b>





# KALINGA SUCCESS STORIES





## BACKGROUND

Joseph Fantuyaw, a father of four and a small farmer from Pugong, Pasil, Kalinga, is venturing on Livestock and Crop Diversification Project provided by the SAAD Program.

Before being an animal raiser, he used to be a backyard vegetable gardener in less than a hectare of land where he earns at least Php 3,000 per month that is used to pay for his children's formal education.

With his hard work, his eldest, Novie Ann, graduated Bachelor of Science (BS) in Information Technology. His son, Glen, on the other hand currently works in the municipal government while Jomarie and Gerwin are finishing their tertiary education taking up BS Criminology and Public Administration.

There is no doubt that Mr. Fantuyaw is one-of-a-kind, the epitome of a determined father and farmer. That is why when the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program was introduced in his community on July 19, 2019, he grabbed the opportunity without hesitation.

On the same day, he joined the Pugong Farmers Association and paid a registration fee of Php 100. The association received an orientation and training on swine feeding management, budgeting, and financial management which is sponsored by the Program.

Before the SAAD interventions, farmers in the area have limited knowledge on how to raise pig. They also have limited access to extension services and training programs offered by the government agencies.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The association has ninety-six (96) members, all of them are beneficiaries of the program. Mr. Fantuyaw was elected as the Secretary of the group.

As part of the intervention, a six-month-old female native pig were distributed to each member in July 2019, while the association received ten (10) male native pigs.

Additionally, in September 2019, each of the members received the following: calamansi seedlings (10), banana seedlings (20), chicken (1 male: 5 female), and garden tools.

To date, the group is raising the native pigs in different areas. The boars were distributed to the members including Mr. Fantuyaw.

Native pigs are characterized by having black complexion, small ears and an elongated snout. To the farmers, raising native pigs is relatively easy, not only due to the low capital required as they are being fed with organic feeds (excess table food, vegetable scraps, plant leaves) but also, their adaptable trait making it easy to maintain them with simple practices.

## NATIVE PIG MANAGEMENT

According to Mr. Fantuyaw, it does not require much effort to maintain the native pigs. However, the good practices listed below are being exercised by the group.

1. Clean the pig pen first before feeding in the morning and afternoon;
2. Give abundant water especially in the afternoon; and
3. "Ngilin" or if the beneficiary is from an interment, they are not allowed to come near their pets because there is a possibility that they will die.

## KEY RESULTS

As beneficiaries of the SAAD Program, each member is obligated to share 1% of their total sales. As of February 2020, the group hasn't sold any pigs yet. Their total inventory of pigs is 109.

The group is also working on their association's registration with the Department of Labor and Employment and accreditation from the Department of Agriculture.

## PLANS

The group plans to venture into native pig "lechon" business if the project turns out well in the area. Mr. Fantuyaw said that native pigs are sought after for its distinct taste, which makes delicious lechon. This comes from the nutrients they get from their diet. It is also believed that the pigs have a smaller amount of fat compared to those of commercial breed. Aside from this, native pig raising is environment-friendly.

The group also plans to engage in native pig meat processing to add varieties to their output such as: longganisa, bacon, ham, and other processed pork products. They will use the knowledge they have acquired during the training conducted by the SAAD Program.

In case of unfavorable market value, the pigs are slaughtered and traded locally within the neighborhood. The processed pork products are being sold to Tabuk City where there is higher probability of demand.

"Ang SAAD ay magandang programa ng DA. Nakakatulong at makakatulong sa kabuhatan katulad naming walang-wala talaga. So, it helped a lot," said Mr. Fantuyaw.

# JOSEPH FANTUYAW

55 years' old  
Pugong Farmer's Association  
(PuSAAD)  
Barangay Pugong, Pasil, Kalinga  
*Livestock and Crop Diversification*





# MAXIMO WALLIS

66 years old

Dupligan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DUFAMCO)

Barangay Dupligan, Tanudan, Kalinga

*Aqua Pond Culture and Fish-Cage Culture Projects*



## BACKGROUND

Maximo Wallis is a sixty-six-year-old rice farmer from Brgy. Dupligan, Tanudan, Kalinga. A secondary education undergraduate, his only source of income depends on cultivating rice on a 500 sqm field to support his family. He has a wife and three children, two of whom are college graduates while the other one has special needs.

As a rice farmer, he is able to yield about 6 cavans of paddy rice (50-60 kgs/cavan) or 29 kg/cavan of milled rice.

He is also the General Manager of the Dupligan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (DUFAMCO), which was established in 1988.

In 2019, the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) introduced the Aqua Pond Culture Project in the Province of Apayao. Maximo saw this as an opportunity to expand the livelihood of the underprivileged farmers like him.

Meanwhile, the group also became a beneficiary of the BFAR-SAAD Fish-Cage Culture Project in the same year.

Here are the stories of the implementation of Maximo and the cooperative's projects.

## MAXIMO'S PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION: RICE-FISH CULTURE

Maximo actively participated in all SAAD meetings, orientations, and series of training. He was then chosen to be a fisherfolk beneficiary of the program. Despite having limited area to accommodate the project, he did not hesitate to integrate tilapia culture with his rice area.

Under the SAAD Program, Maximo accepted 1,000 tilapia fingerlings, two bags of feeds, and fish harvesting tools. The next step is transforming the rice field area to accommodate the fingerlings.

Last August 2019, he planted C18 rice variety, which matured in 120 days (four months). After a month of transplanting (a technique of moving the rice plant to another location), tilapia fingerlings were stocked on September 14, 2019.

In November 2019, he was able to harvest six (6) cavans (50-60 kgs per cavan) or 35 kg milled rice per cavan, which is six (6) kilograms more than his previous harvests. The fishes were left in the paddy fields until they reached the marketable sizes.

On February 6, 2020, Maximo harvested a total of 120 kgs tilapia with a market price of Php 130 – 150/kg. More than 800 fishes were captured in his pond area, which is an 80% recovery rate of tilapia fingerlings.

The fishes were then sold to the DUFAMCO. For that, Maximo is now eager to convert his rice field into a total pond culture area. Guided with the learnings and the initial outcome, he now wants to go full-time in fish farming.

## DUFAMCO'S PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The group's core value is the "badang" system, which means "one-for-all, all-for-one" and "greater good for a greater number." This system is also adapted by many communities in the Cordillera Administrative Region because it has, in many ways, helped families and households face difficulties in life.

This principle of collectivity is practiced by the group to balance biases between the rich and the poor in the province. The cooperative's present members are 710.

From its humble beginning of purchasing post-harvest facility in 1988, the cooperative now offers services, such as lending (agri-input service, fertilizer for members, rice-milling), coffee milling, Barangay Food Terminal (BFT), tractor rental, and fish cages.

In June 2019, the group received two (2) units of 50 sqm fish cage, 40 pieces of whole length bamboos, 6,000 tilapia fingerlings, and 24 bags of feeds.

On October 15, 2019, the group harvested 129 kgs of tilapia, sold at Php 90/kg.

During their second harvest on October 30, 2019, the group acquired 170 kilograms of tilapia, sold at a retail price of Php 130 pesos per kilogram.

They were able to improve their BFT store using the profit from the fish-cage cultured tilapia.

"Itong project na nagmula sa SAAD, nagpapasalamat kami na ipinarating ng DA sa pamamagitan ng BFAR na programa. Ngayon itong naibigay sa amin na fish cage project, na harvest na namin itong naunang dalawa. Ito namang isa ay susunod sa March (2020)."

[We are very grateful to the Department of Agriculture for bringing the SAAD project to us through BFAR-SAAD Program. We are done with the first two harvests from this fish-cage project. The next one will be on March.]

In January 2020, DUFAMCO stocked 1,500 tilapia fingerlings on the steel frame fish cages. They are expected to mature in four to five months.

## RESULTS

Mr. Wallis as beneficiary of Rice-Fish Project earned a total of Php 16,000 from his first harvest of tilapia on February 6, 2020. This project serves as his additional source of income and food consumption for his family.

As DUFAMCO's manager, Mr. Wallis is also grateful for the BFAR-SAAD's Fish-Cage Culture Project that benefited in the growth of the cooperative and the lives of the fishers, who receive annual dividends depending on the earnings of the cooperative.



The members are also given discounts if they buy for food consumption from the group. They call it a patronage refund.

"Malaking pasasalamat namin sa DA dahil itong programa ang isa sa mga nag-aambag para sa pagsulong nitong kooperatiba at ng mga miyembro ang malaki ang napapakinabangan dito sa programa," said Mr. Wallis. [We are very grateful to the Department of Agriculture for having this kind of program which aids to advancing the cooperative and the members have a lot to benefit from this.]

"Mabuti ang programang ito, kaya nais ko sana sa mga miyembro na huwag sana silang magsawang sumuporta sa kooperatiba dahil narito ang DA na laging sumusuporta. Lahat ng pwedeng maibunga nitong programang ito o itong programa ng BFAR ay para sa ikabubuti ng lahat ng miyembro ng kooperatiba," he added.

[The program is good, that is why, I want all the members to continue supporting the cooperative, because the Department of Agriculture is always here to support us. All the good things that will come out of this program, is for the benefit of all the members of the cooperative.]

As of February 7, 2020, the cooperative earned a total Php 33,710 from the project.

### PLANS

The cooperative plans to purchase a chest freezer unit for long-lasting storage of fish meat.

"To manage an enterprise, we will do market matching under the SAAD Program and BFAR CAR will help us in managing private traders in the community to patronize harvest of the locals," said Mr Wallis.

The group's market matching strategies include:

1. Chatting with consumers
2. Selling through barangay food terminal and in the cooperative
3. Providing information about the products
4. Implementing reform of the products





The communicative intent of the people and the state can form a habit, and a well-collaborated habit can transform a community.

The SAAD Program's interventions and community mobilization are strengthened by the efficient and consistent horizontal efforts of the whole organization. We are grateful to the efforts of the focal persons, regional staff, provincial staff, municipal staff and coordinators, and farmer-partners who are in joint alliance to attain the best outcome of the program. This is what we take pride in the course of SAAD project implementation in Mountain Province.

During the initial implementation, the province was able to partner with 10 municipalities with one participating barangay each. We are planning to take it further and accommodate 20 more barangays in the coming years. To me, social preparation is crucial and that it is ordered to be aligned in poverty incidence, capability building and public consultation to the farmer-beneficiaries interest for the interventions to effectively work. The outcome of this preparation will help the organization identify specific cultural, socio-economic, interpersonal approaches in advancing the welfare of the beneficiaries.

I would like to commend all of the staff who, despite frailties, have put the farmers' best interests as top priority. The Igorots of the Mountain Province are pork-eating communities, hence the prevalence of swine production. Aside from piglet, vegetables and feeds distribution, machinery such as the *etag* chamber as a dedicated space to process the *etag* is expected to yield efficiency in food processing.

Our trajectory is geared towards improving organizational aspects of implementation and social mobilization through educational trainings. This includes maintaining 'school-on-air' introducing them to financial and clerical management. This approach will strengthen the basics of community organizing, social preparation up to when the beneficiaries are able to acquire expected outcomes.

In addition to that, we continually engage to the communities by leading them to agencies that will not just protect but are tasked to improve their craft. We are now on the process of preparing them to launch and endorse their products to the market.

I can say with pride that we are not just rich in culture but our value in upholding inclusivity holds our community together. As intricate as *etag's* curing process, we are working very hard to advance SAAD's mission in sustainable livelihood and improving the welfare of our farmers.

BEVERLY T. PEKAS

Agricultural Program Coordinating Officer  
MOUNTAIN PROVINCE



# SNIPPETS FROM THE FIELD

Amolang, Poblacion, Paracelis, Mountain Province, Philippines





## PHYSICAL PROFILE

Mountain Province is a landlocked province in Cordillera. It is bounded in the North by Kalinga and Abra, east by Isabela and Ifugao, south by Ifugao and Benguet, and west by Ilocos Sur. It has a total land area of 2,157.38 square kilometers. It is known for its hilly land and deep narrow gorge with steep sides. Stones are visible along river banks, waterfalls, narrow valleys, and caves. The angle of elevation went as high as 2,714 meters to the top of the mountain.

The province is a lone district comprised of 10 municipalities and 144 barangays. The municipalities are Sadanga, Natonin, Paracelis, Barlig, Bontoc, Besao, Sagada, Bauko, Tadian, and Sabangan. Its capital is Bontoc.

## AGRICULTURAL PROFILE

PROVINCIAL  
PROFILE

Mountain Province produced 10,712.6 MT of crops during first semester of 2018. This was 4.6% of the regional crop production. The province's crop production increased by 2.5% (259.0 MT) compared to the 10,453.6 MT during the first semester of 2017.

The top three crops produced by the province were white potato with 28.9% or 3,101.1 MT, followed by cabbage with 24.4% or 2,610.6 MT, and carrots with 8.3% or 893.1 MT.

Mountain Province was the second top producer of the region for the following crops: white potato with 9.8% of the regional white potato production, cabbage with 6.25%, and carrots with 4.6% (PSA, 2018).

Paracelis and Bauko are the two top commercial producers of crops in the province. Bauko produces 47,796 MT of highland vegetables and Paracelis produces 33,109 MT of rice and corn. A total of 80,905 MT of major crops can be produced by the two municipalities and rest were produced by the eight municipalities.

The cool climate in the western municipalities of the province is an advantage in the production of highland vegetables over the lowland provinces. In like manner, Paracelis is also appropriate in the production of corn that supplies feed mills in Cagayan Valley.

For highland vegetable production in Bauko and some parts of the western municipalities, the market outlets are Baguio City and Santiago City in Isabela. The inputs for commercial fertilizers and pesticides, likewise, are imported from these market outlets for those who can afford. But for some farmers, the needed inputs are provided by middlemen who buy the produce during harvest and subtracting the cost of fertilizers and other incidental expenses. This scheme makes the farmer vulnerable to the dictates of middlemen.



For rice and corn produced in Paracelis, these are marketed to Santiago City since the city is the nearest market outlet in the municipality. The same pattern is observed for some farmers who depend on the middlemen for the cost of fertilizers and paying them from the produce afterwards.

These are the factors that despite the province's comparative advantages as a vegetable producer due to its cool climate, most farmers remain poor and live at subsistence level.

On livestock production (which include cattle, swine, and free-range chicken), Paracelis produced the highest number of 2,199.12 MT of livestock followed by Bontoc (1,246.17 MT) and the least producer is Barlig (132.82 MT). Livestock are marketed within the province and outside like Buguias and Mankayan in Benguet. Minimal fish production is observed in all the municipalities considering that these areas are raised in rice paddies, small number of fishponds and along rivers or streams.

## POVERTY SITUATION

Most of the provinces in CAR has decreased its poverty rate (poverty incidence among families). Mountain Province in 2015 has 33.1% rate of its poverty incidence among families. Now, in the latest data of PSA 2018, the province has only 17.2%. However, in CAR, this 17.2% is the highest poverty incidence among families.

Mountain Province had the highest poverty threshold among the provinces in CAR with Php 27,726 per capita per annum for 2018 (this poverty threshold is above the CAR poverty threshold by 11.5%). This translates to a minimum of Php 11,552 monthly take home income for a family of five to meet both basic food and non-food needs and be considered not poor in 2018.

Mountain Province recorded a percentage change of 13.0 from Php 24,536 per capita per annum in 2015.

The province also had the highest food threshold with Php 19,373 per capita per annum.



# DA-SAAD MT. PROVINCE: Map of Intervention

- Tiger Grass Production
- Swamp Gabi Production
- Fruit Trees Production Intercrop with soybean
- Brown Egg & Vegetables Production
- Integrated Farming on Swine, Lemon, and Vegetables Production
- Integrated Farming on Swine and Rambutan Production in Besao
- Quail Egg and Banana Production
- Table Egg and Banana Production
- Swine and Vegetable Production
- Swine and Rambutan Production
- Cattle Production
- Muscovado Production
- Mango Production
- Free range Chicken Production
- Legume, Swine and Free range chicken production







## AGRICULTURE SECTOR

For 2019, Mountain Province was included in the DA-SAAD Program. It has a total budget of Php 47,260,000 for 15 projects implemented benefiting 860 individuals and four (4) groups (Table 8).

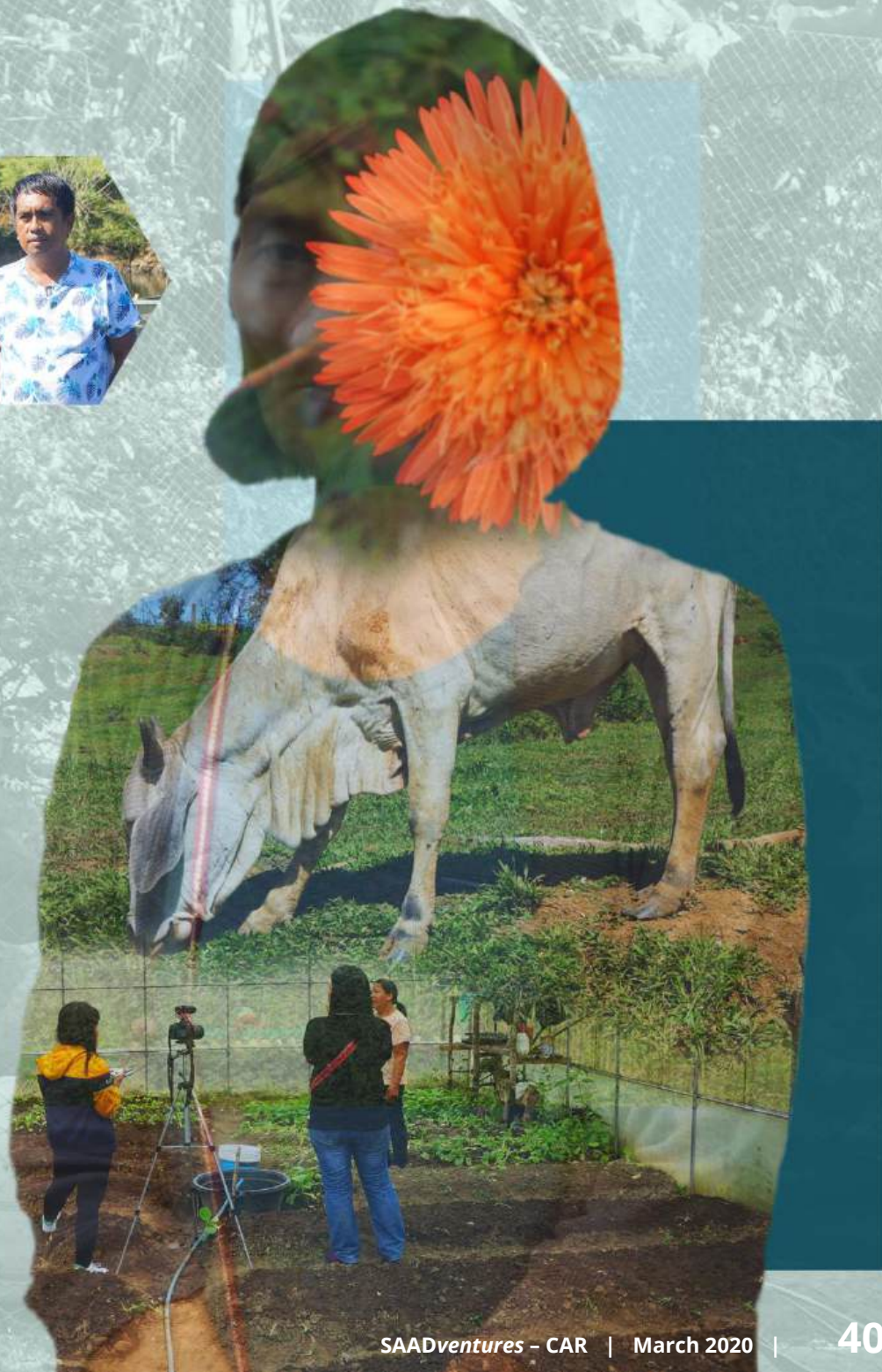






Table 8. DA-SAAD Mountain Province FY 2019

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	GROUP (FARMER'S ASSOCIATION)	LOCATION (BARANGAY)	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUALS)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<i>Tiger Grass Production in Natonin</i>		Pudo	110	1,243,000
<i>Swamp Gabi Production in Natonin</i>		Pudo	40	2,448,000
<i>Fruit Trees Production intercrop with soybean Paracelis</i>	Bunot Integrated Agricultural Development Farmer's Association	Bunot	190	5,687,800
<i>Brown Egg &amp; Vegetables Production in Bauko</i>		Lesseb	125	5,010,900
<i>Integrated Farming on Swine, Lemon, and Vegetables Production in Barlig</i>	Latang Association for Agricultural Development	Latang	60	4,387,550
<i>Integrated Farming on Swine and Rambutan Production in Besao</i>	Catengan-Bunga Farmer's Rise Up Association	Catengan	30	4,998,750
<i>Quail Egg and Banana Production in Bontoc</i>		Dalican	20	1,403,100
<i>Table Egg and Banana Production in Bontoc</i>		Dalican	50	3,245,100

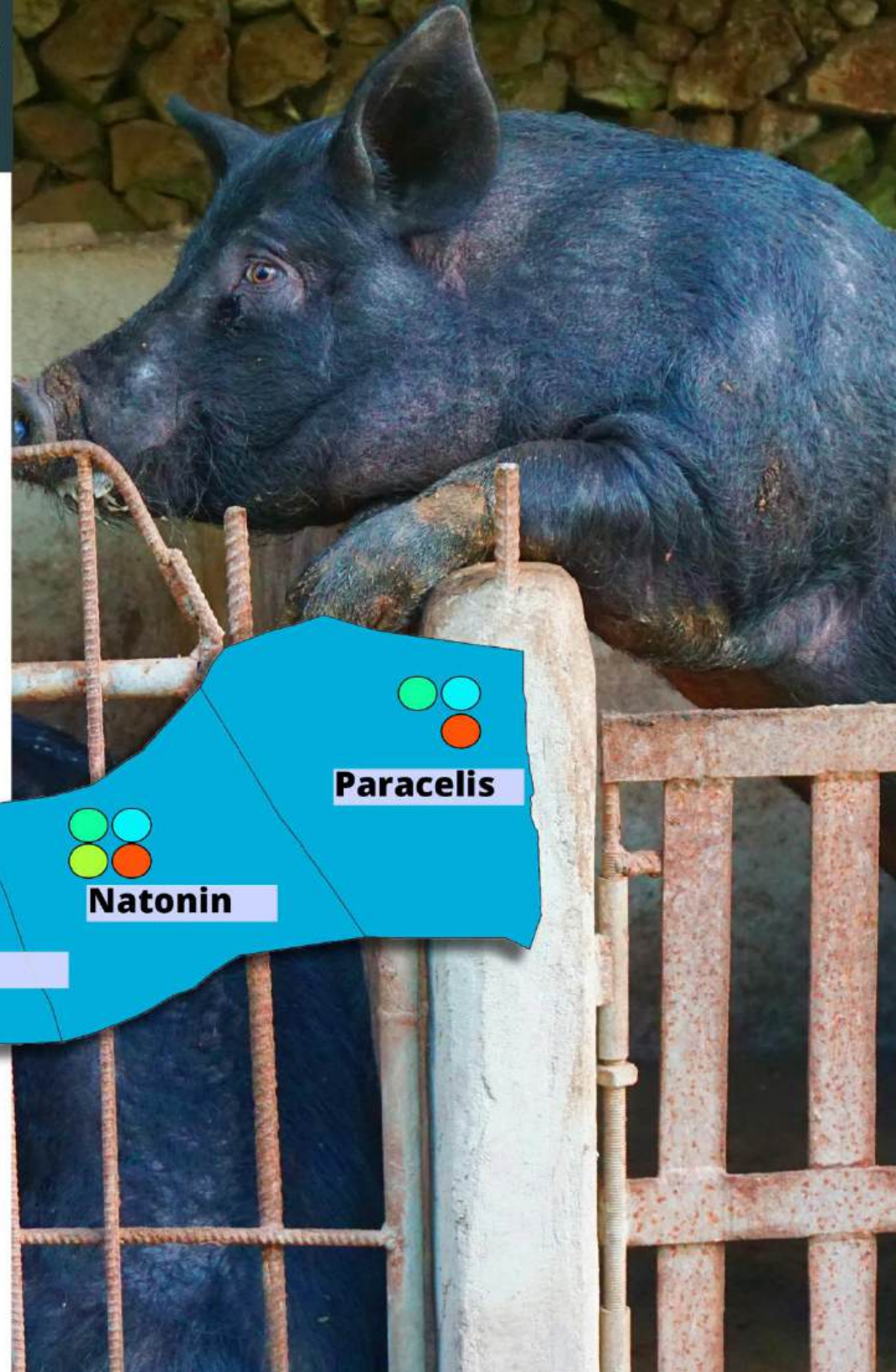
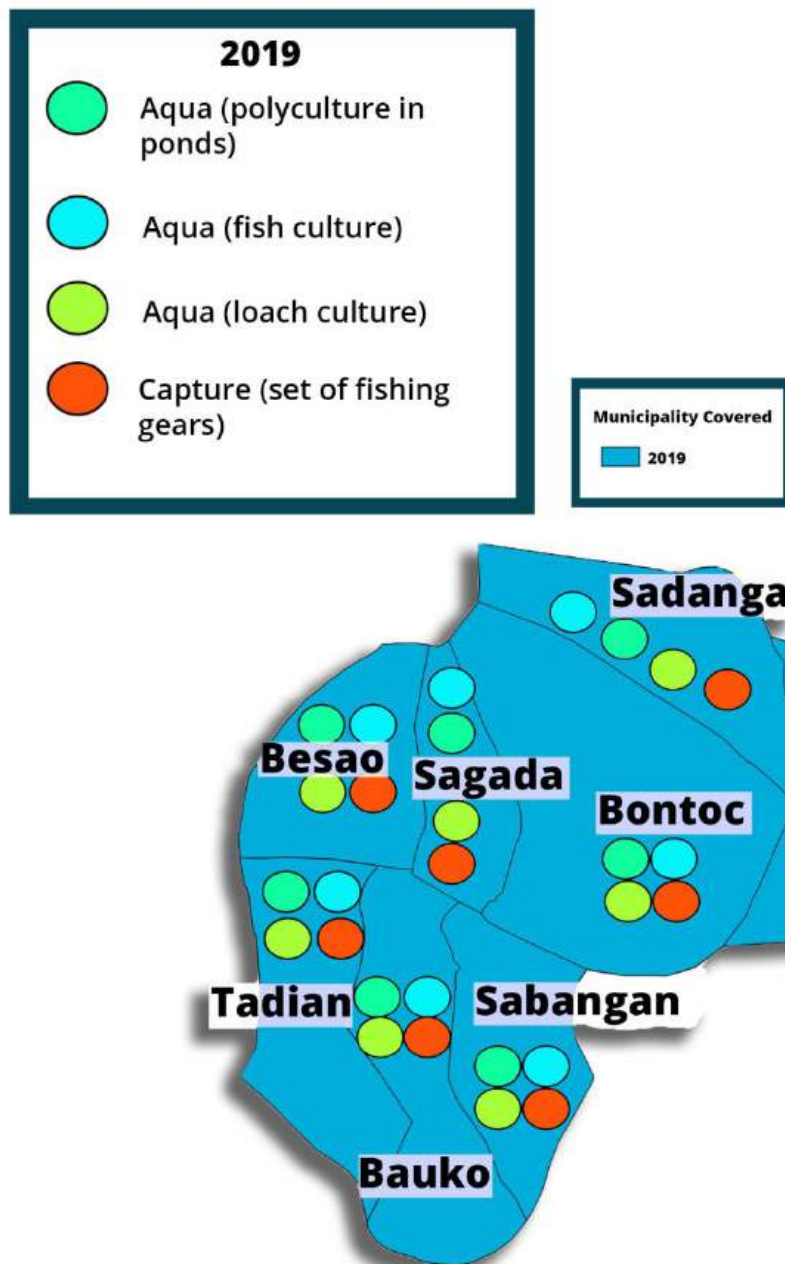


Table 8. (continued)

<b>Swine and Vegetable Production in Sabangan</b>		Napua	30	4,672,250
<b>Legume, Swine and Free range chicken production in Sadanga</b>		Bekigan	50	2,206,750
<b>Swine and Rambutan Production in Sagada</b>		Ankileng	30	4,879,250
<b>Cattle Production in Tadian</b>		Mabalite	30	1,951,650
<b>Muscovado Production in Tadian</b>	E-Mabalite Tadian Farmer's Association Incorporation	Mabalite	25	697,500
<b>Mango Production in Tadian</b>		Mabalite	20	175,000
<b>Free-range Chicken Production in Tadian</b>		Mabalite	50	1,264,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>860</b>	<b>44,270,600</b>



# BFAR-SAAD MT. PROVINCE: Map of Intervention





# Fishery Sector

For FY 2019, Mountain Province was included in the program implementation of BFAR-SAAD Program. **Php 15,000,000** worth of projects was allocated to the province.

From that budget, **Php 2,000,000** was set aside for administrative and training costs.

There were **2,548** fisherfolk who benefited the four aquaculture projects in the province. These are: polyculture in ponds, rice-fish culture, loach culture, and capture of fishing gears (Table 9).



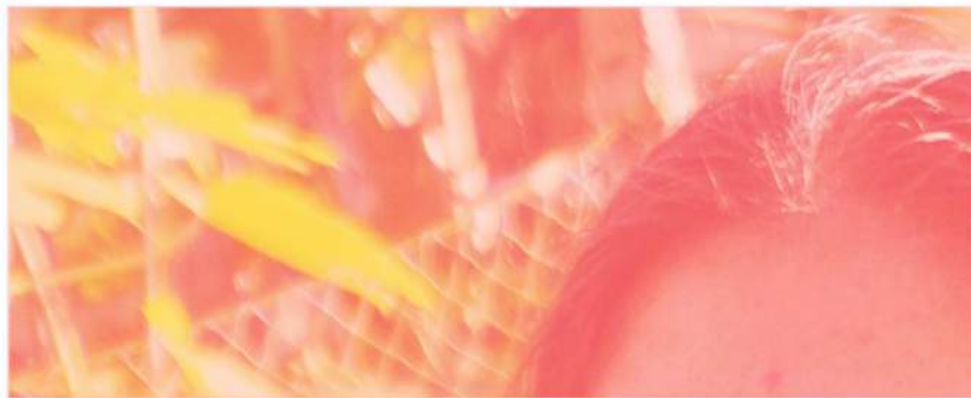




Table 9. BFAR-SAAD Mountain Province FY 2019

PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED	MUNICIPALITIES COVERED	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUALS)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<i>Aqua (polyculture in ponds)</i>	Barlig, Bauko, Besao, Bontoc, Natonin, Paracelis, Sabangan, Sadanga, Sagada, Tadian	884	5,369,400
<i>Aqua (rice-fish culture)</i>		1,451	6,433,000
<i>Aqua (loach culture)</i>	Barlig, Bauko, Besao, Bontoc, Natonin, Sabangan, Sadanga, Sagada, Tadian	29	197,600
<i>Capture (set of fishing gears)</i>	Barlig, Bauko, Besao, Bontoc, Natonin, Paracelis, Paracelis, Sabangan, Sadanga, Sagada, Tadian	184	1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,548</b>	<b>13,000,000</b>





# MT. PROVINCE SUCCESS STORIES





# ROBERT GASSINGGA

59 years old

Lic-am Fisherfolk Organization

Paracelis, Mountain Province

*Tilapia Pond Culture*

## BACKGROUND

Robert Gassingga is a father of five; three (3) girls and two (2) boys. He is married to Rosdal A. Gassingga. Mr. Gassingga will be turning sixty years old this year and sees himself enjoying his hatchery of tilapia fingerlings.

Mr. Gassingga is an Agriculture graduate who owns a one-hectare banana plantation with an estimated annual income of Php 50,000. In addition, he recently also ventured into aquaculture having an area of 1,000 square meters.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Mrs. Rosdal Gassingga, Robert's wife is the original beneficiary of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program. However, it is her husband who implemented the tilapia pond culture.

In September 2019, Mr. Gassingga, along with the rest of the members of Lic-am Fisherfolk Organization, received 1500 pieces of tilapia fingerlings, 500 pieces of giant freshwater prawn, and 10 bags of feeds from BFAR-SAAD.

The group were trained on Aquaculture, Feeding Management, and Tilapia Harvesting.

## RESULTS

In December 2019, Mr. Gassingga harvested a total of 150 kgs of tilapia. He sold them fresh and alive for Php 130.00/kg, from which he earned Php 20,000 and was able to buy tires for his vehicle.

He was able to sell the live tilapia by accepting orders from within and beyond the neighborhood. It is essential to sell the fish immediately because the customers have little or no access to refrigeration.

As a result, Mr. Gassingga realized that tilapia is really the most popular fish to cultivate. He said that it can possibly change one's fate.

## COST AND RETURN ANALYSIS

The program distributed 1,500 pieces of tilapia fingerlings to Mr. Gassingga, and since he has a wide pond area, he invested another 3,500 fingerlings to make a total of 5,000. Total expenditure for operation and maintenance was pegged at Php 55,288.22 (Table 10).

**Table 10. Cost and Return Analysis: Pond Culture Technology of Lic-am Fisherfolk Organization**

BASIC INFORMATION	OPERATING COST (Php)	FIXED COST* (Php)
<b>Name of Cooperator: Rosdal A. Gassingga</b>	Pond Preparation: 8 person days x 300 = 2,400.00	Siene Net: 100
<b>Area: 1,000 square meters</b>	Fertilizer: 13 kgs x 24 = 312.00	Scoop Net: 10
<b>Stocking Density: 5</b>	Screen: 80.00	Cast Net: 100
<b>Total Stocks: 5,000</b>	Fingerlings: 5,000 pcs x 35 = 1,750.00	Weighing Scale: 35
<b>Water Source: Natural Spring</b>	Plastics: 10 pieces x 10 = 100.00	
<b>Date of Stocking: September 4 and September 10, 2019</b>	Oxygen: 10 pieces x 3 = 30.00	
<b>Survival Rate: 80%</b>	Hauling: 6 pieces x 50 = 300.00	
	Salary of caretaker: 5 months x 2,000 = Php 10,000.00	
	Labor for harvesting: 3 person days x 20 days x 150 = 9,000.00	
	Plastic bags: 80.00	
	Feeds consumed	
	- fry mash: 2.72 bags x 903.00/bag = 2,463.18	
	- pre-starter: 6.14 bags x 910.00/bag = 5,589.68	
	- starter: 8.96 bags x 70.00/bag = 8,157.24	
	- Grower: 9.17 bags x 890.00/bag = 8,159.52	
	- Finisher: 7.44 bags x 890.00/bag = 6,621.60	
<b>Sub-total</b>	55,043.22	245.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	55,288.22	

Note: \*annual depreciation cost





## HARVEST DATA

Mr. Gassingga cultivated a total of 5,000 tilapia fingerlings which will have an 80% survival rate after four to five months with varying sizes. The larger the size, the higher the price.

Mr. Gassingga will likely harvest a total of 808 kilograms of fish that will generate gross sales of Php 84,384.64 (Table 11).

*Table 11. Gross Sale of Robert Gassingga*

CLASSIFICATIONS	PIECES/KG	NO. OF KGS	NO. OF PCS	Price/kg (Php)	Gross Sales (Php)
Large	4	203	810	110.00	22,275.00
Medium	5	446	2,228	105.00	46,777.50
Small	6	101	608	100.00	10,125.00
Reject	7	58	405	90.00	5,207.14
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>84,384.64</b>

## ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

By deducting the total expense from the gross sale, it will generate a net income of Php 29,096.42 or a Return of Investment (ROI) of 52.63%. This means that Mr. Gassingga has gained more than 50% from its expenditure (Table 12).

*Table 12. Economic Analysis*

Net Income (Gross Sale – Total Expense)	ROI (%) (Net Income ÷ Total Expense) x 100
84,384.64 (–) 55,288.22 = Php 29,096.42	(Php 29,096.42 ÷ 55,288.22) x 100 = 52.63

## PLANS

Based on ROI, Mr. Gassingga made a plan to expand his area and develop a hatchery for tilapia fingerlings in an area of 500 square meters.





## IMPLEMENTERS

**\*Photo taken after the 4th Quarter SAAD Mountain Province General Staff Meeting in Baguio City.**

SAAD Staff: Top; Left to Right: *Engracia Chugsayan, Laureen Puyongan, Beverly Nimer, Jessica Guibong, Isabel Baniaga, Mitchie Gay Nicolas, Eileen Layag*. From Bottom; Left to Right: *Noel Ananey, Lloyd Celo, Beverly Pekas (APCO), Jasmin Agbuya, Ashley Cate Fagyan*



**\*Photo taken after the 4th Quarter SAAD Mountain Province General Staff Meeting at Baguio City.**

Top Left: *Laureen Puyongan, Mirand Adchang, April Cyprene Potpoten, Dom-an Macagne, Dinah Ay-yango, Lloyd Celo, Beverly Nimer, Noel Ananey, Jessica Guibong, Isabel Baniaga, Edgar Pandosen, Engracia Chugsayan, Rylene Dacwag, Charlene Acyapat, Kris Floribel Baniasen, Jasmine Agbuya, Eileen Layag, Mitchie Gay Nicolas*

Bottom Left: *Genevieve Angitag, Abigail Tudlong, Beverly Pekas (APCO MP), Ms. Consuelo Aligo (Former ROS Luna Manager), Ashley Cate Fagyan*



**\*DA SAAD Mountain Province staff participate at the DA RFO CAR Year-End Assessment.**





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\*SAAD Mountain Province staff together with OMAG staff of Bekigan, Sadanga assist Ms. Jennifer Valcobero of SAAD-NPMO and Mr. Herman Danis of DA CAR-RAFIS during the interview and documentation of SAAD farmers in Sadanga, Mountain Province.

# IMPLEMENTERS



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\*RPMSO staff meeting with Director Myer Mula.

From Left: Richelle Guindangan, Askley Dale Reyes, April Pascua, Jovy Jereos, Aaron Dumaguig, Dr. Jesus Aspuria (Baguio-BPI Center Chief), Daisy Yogyog, SAAD Dir. Myer Mula, Danilo Daguio (RTD), Beverly Pekas (APCO MP), Edna Cabaoig (Regional Budget Officer), Faye Dulag and Charles Botengan





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RPMSO**

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