



# SAAD ventures

C A R A G A

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INFOGRAPHICS & STORIES  
ON EMPOWERED FARMERS AND FISHERS

Culiram, Agusan Del Sur, Philippines

San Luis, Agusan Del Sur, Philippines

Tago, Surigao del Sur, Philippines



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The Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in Caraga (Region 13) is in its second year of implementation. Relatively young in comparison to the other regions which started in 2017, the food production and livelihood projects in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur show promising progress.

This SAADventures issue covers the stories of four associations. For the agriculture sector, one group is involved in chicken production, while the other is an association of abaca farmers. On the other hand, the stories for the fisheries are about two groups who were provided with aquaculture; one raises tilapia while the other breeds milkfish and siganids.

The enterprises that we aim for them to develop are needed now that food availability is a concern. Daily sustenance is primarily provided through these projects and once they are prepared to expand production, they can supply to their communities and to much larger markets.

Despite the challenges, the SAAD field implementers faithfully accomplished their tasks to support our fellow farmers. I would like to congratulate the Department of Agriculture and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources SAAD teams for completing this publication.

I would also like to acknowledge the involvement of the local government units, Municipal Agriculture Office, Provincial Fishery Office, and all the SAAD partners in the operations of the program.

Through the SAADventures, we become more inspired to persevere and to continuously deliver what we have promised to the farmers and fishers from the far-flung areas; helping them rise from poverty.

I hope you all enjoy the success stories from Caraga!  
*Padayon!*



**MYER G. MULA, PhD**

Director  
Special Area for Agricultural Development Program  
Department of Agriculture





Certainly, the year 2020 has been a very challenging year for humanity, as we are confronted by all means of adversities there may be—typhoons, volcanic eruptions, and a global health crisis. Unprepared as we all are, quitting is not an option, thus we are forced to fight these battles and conquer them. When the entire world momentarily stopped, the agriculture and fishery sector continuously worked to ensure a sufficient and unhampered supply of food. This is when the majority of us recognized the importance of agriculture and fishery.

True enough, the Department of Agriculture - Caraga relentlessly performed to achieve its vision of “A food-secure and the resilient Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.” And, it is with great privilege and approbation that I present to all of you the SAADventures. The magazine of the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program covering the Caraga Region. This issue showcases the implementation highlights of the SAAD Program in the Caraga Region for the Fiscal Year 2019.

The SAAD Program is a locally-funded project of the Department, which intends to aid in alleviating poverty among the marginalized sectors on agriculture and fishery. With the thrust of “Masaganang Ani, Mataas na Kita”, the SAAD Program has identified, on a national scope, 30 priority provinces with high poverty incidences, which the Department aims to empower and fortify for a better quality of living. These provinces are also covered by Executive Order No. 70, s-2018, or the Whole-of-Nation Approach to End Local Armed Conflict.

In the Caraga Region, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur are among those identified. Though these provinces are also beneficiaries of programs and projects from the regular banner programs of the Department, the recipient areas of the SAAD are those which we can consider as far-flung locations. It is a fact that the insurgency here in Caraga is quite prevailing, and undeniably, one of the main factors is poverty. Hence, with the SAAD Program, it is hoped that this can be addressed gradually.

In the coming years, I hope you all can continue to journey with us as we further develop and fortify the agriculture and fishery sectors through our collaborative efforts. And together, we shall witness a progressive Caraga Region.

*Larga Caraga!*



**ABEL JAMES I. MONTEAGUDO**

Regional Executive Director  
Department of Agriculture, Caraga Region





It is my honor to present to you the SAADventures of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources – Caraga Region. A publication that highlights the success stories from our fisherfolk as well as the progress of project implementation in two provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur.

Coined after the Visayan word “*saad*” which means promise, the SAAD Program is primarily designed to increase food production and alleviate poverty among the poorest provinces in the country.

In the Caraga region, Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur are among the poorest provinces with a high poverty incidence rate of 37.5% and 32.3%, respectively (PSA, 2015). In 2018, the PSA reported that the poverty incidences in both provinces went down to 30.6% and 19.2%, respectively. And I hope that these (poverty incidences) will continue to decrease as we implement the SAAD interventions.

The SAAD livelihood interventions in Agusan del Sur mainly focuses on freshwater aquaculture with tilapia as the main commodity, while in Surigao del Sur the aquaculture ventures focus on marine commodities such as milkfish, siganids, mudcrab, lobster, and seaweeds. The program also covers the provision of fishing boat & gears and post-harvest equipment, and capability building training.

Indeed, the SAAD Program has made a significant difference in the lives of our fisherfolk beneficiaries through the provision of alternative livelihood projects. With its promising vision, this program is paving the way to realize the Department’s “New Thinking” for Agriculture (*Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita*) which is geared towards a food-secure Philippines with prosperous farmers and fisherfolk.



## VISA TAN-DIMERIN, CESO V

Regional Director  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Caraga Region



Fishing Boat and Gears Package (non-motorized)  
*Sabang Adgawan, La Paz, Agusan Del Sur*





The implementation of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program for fisheries in the Caraga region covering the provinces of Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur is a remarkable feat that made the DA-BFAR in helping our poor and marginal fisherfolk in the region.

Several livelihood interventions for aquaculture projects and capture fisheries identified during the consultation process were provided to the beneficiaries. It covers 16 selected municipalities with high poverty incidence benefitting 40 groups of beneficiaries and 266 households. This assistance will serve as their seed capital that will eventually grow as we continually extend technical assistance to the beneficiaries to capacitate them and transform their outlook in life to become more productive and resilient individuals especially in the trying times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Though the SAAD Program in the region was implemented in the 2nd semester of 2019, lots of positive economic impact on the lives of these beneficiaries have already been observed as manifested by their testimonies. Indeed, it is very inspiring and noteworthy to see this development wherein some beneficiaries are expanding their production areas, while some were made to improve their houses as well as provide basic needs to their families using the income generated from the SAAD livelihood interventions.

As we envisioned better lives for our marginalized fisherfolk, hence the long road for reaching this goal is not over yet, through hard work, dedication, and commitment endorsed with the department's "New Thinking" for the agriculture and fisheries sector, we believe that success is within reach.



**EDGARDO P. BALAMBAO**  
Asst. Regional Director  
SAAD Focal Person  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources  
Caraga Region





## SAADventures

“SAAD” in Cebuano translates to *tuman*, which is synonymous with the word ‘promise’. In 2019, since the inception of the Department of Agriculture - Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program in the region, we have merged into our operations the promise of the program to its farmer-partners: to help alleviate poverty among the marginalized sectors in agriculture and fishery.

The implementation of the SAAD Program has been challenging by far. From conceptualizing agricultural projects fit for our farmer-partners up to the provision of inputs, materials, and facilities to aid the said crop and animal production projects, all require a holistic approach—sustained coordination and communication at a local level, and the participation of not only the farmer-partners but also the communities, the provinces, the municipalities, the cities, and the region as a whole.

Nonetheless, we have grown. As of 2020, we have been supporting 32 farmers' associations in the municipalities of San Luis, Talacogon, Rosario, and Veruela in Agusan del Sur; and the City of Bislig and the municipalities of Carmen, Bayabas, and Lingig in Surigao del Sur. All in all, we have provided start-up projects to 1,016 individuals, of which 358 are indigenous peoples.

Admittedly, the outbreak of CoViD-19 in the country has affected our operations. There have been delays in providing some of the inputs sourced outside the region. Capability-building training, as well, has been limited to online arrangements.

In response, we have adjusted as the situation required. We have since provided easy-growing and manageable inputs, such as vegetable seeds and upgraded native chickens, and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, on top of our existing deliverables. These initiatives are complementary to the call of the DA that is to ensure that our local farmers—our modern-day heroes—have enough food at the height of the pandemic.

As we welcome 2021, we are preparing ourselves to embark on a new set of challenges. True enough, the challenges are unprecedented, but we are backed by our ever-supportive Regional Executive Director Abel James I. Monteagudo and the hardworking personnel of the program both at the regional and provincial level. Despite what we have gone through, we are making progressive steps and these are enough to keep the SAAD Program’s promise relevant on the road.



**JEKEM D. SANCHEZ**

SAAD Deputy Focal Person  
Caraga Region







## SAADventures

The development of a region is usually defined by its unique features and characteristics. The Agusan del Sur is the only landlocked province in Caraga Region and it has only one fishing ground, the Agusan Marsh. This distinction has generally altered the nature of fishery-whether it be practices, livelihood and preferences.

Agusan del Sur is a nucleus of various cultural communities like the Manobos, Mamanwas and Higaonons which had a long history of revolts and alliances with other tribes and invaders. This event is commemorated in the annual week-long Naliyagan Festival. The celebration highlights the rich society and culture of these indigenous tribes that once occupied the great Agusan Valley. Somewhat influenced by culture and tradition, fish eaters in the province have this fondness of freshwater species such as tilapia, halo-an (mudfish) and pantat (catfish), and you may be surprised that the black or grey tilapia is a preferred fish commodity over the red tilapia.

Recognizing those factors, BFAR is embracing the endogenous approach towards fishery development in the province where interventions are introduced within the bounds of societal culture. In various instances the bureau introduced new technologies and attempted to disrupt old-aged fishing malpractices.

Recently, the SAAD program has gained foothold in capture and aquaculture fisheries. The once wooden boats are now replaced with fiberglass reinforced boats and aquaculture is seen as a potential alternative or complementary livelihood to rice farming. We have documented the testimonies as they described how SAAD Projects have helped their families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Truly, the rich and fertile land of Agusan del Sur has borne the fruit of economic prosperity as it is the only province in the region with 1st class income classification. While agriculture and forestry has been its main driver of growth, fisheries certainly supported the economic growth of the province as a whole.

As we further strengthen our stake in development, we are seeing the great potentials of fisheries in the province. As the people of Agusan del Sur look forward to the next Naliyagan festivities, the celebration is a call for more prosperity, and we firmly believe that a prosperous fishery was always a part of the province's rich culture and an ever-flowing source of bounty for its people. Thus, we are called *Agusanun*.



**BIMBO C. LAGARE**

OIC, Provincial Fisheries Office, Agusan del Sur  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Caraga Region











One of the identified poorest provinces, Surigao del Sur has coastal communities which have low to no accessibility to public services, better economic opportunities, education and most of all, livelihood. Oftentimes they become breeding grounds of lawless elements and insurgents. The advent of SAAD program is a great opportunity for them to avail such initiative by the government to uplift the socio-economic status of people from the marginalized areas in the province.

The implementation of various SAAD fisheries projects under the BFAR has been effective in working with the poor fisherfolk who are trying to improve their livelihood. With its goal to enhance production and income, the SAAD program provides support services to depressed coastal communities by giving production inputs, boats and gears, and post-harvest equipment to the beneficiary fishers.

Prior to the project implementation, capacitation of the fisherfolk through training is also one of the program's objectives. SAAD also intends to support these fishermen in upscaling their production from household consumption to enterprising.

Many of the projects have not lived up to expectations, as the SAAD in Caraga has just started in 2019, yet much has been learned in the operation of the program. There is much to be done, and we only hope that our enthusiasm will not falter as we continue to perform better to meet our goals of giving our fisherfolk improved quality of life and help the President attain his moral obligation to provide available and affordable food for every Filipino.



## NOEL C. PUGOY

OIC, Provincial Fishery Office, Surigao del Sur  
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Caraga Region







## REGIONAL OPERATION HIGHLIGHTS

Two of the Special Area for Agricultural Development (SAAD) Program's priority provinces are located in the Caraga Region. Since 2019, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) regional offices have been implementing the program in Agusan del Sur and Surigao del Sur. The SAAD Program aims to alleviate poverty in the marginalized areas by providing the farmers and fishers with livelihood projects.

To determine the gaps in the knowledge and practices of the beneficiaries, the selected farmers and fishers undergo a needs assessment workshop before receiving the interventions. The program also conducts training, seminars, and workshops to equip farmers and fishers in the proper care and management of the livelihood projects. Moreover, the associations also attend values formation seminars to provide them the proper mindset and promote cooperation between the members.

The DA allotted a comparatively small budget, compared to other government programs, for its implementation in each province. SAAD implements the program in the regions through the Regional Program Management Support Office (RPMSO) and the Provincial Program Management Support Office (PPMSO). They are also in charge of the operations, monitoring, and evaluation of the projects, reporting to the National Program Management Office (NPMO).

The bulk of the budget utilization for the program is allocated for the production and livelihood interventions. For DA Caraga, the projects in the covered provinces are related to rice production, high value crops (*cacao*, *abaca*, *ube*, and *camote*), corn, livestock (native goat), and poultry (native chicken). SAAD's counterpart in BFAR implements capture (fishing boat and gears package), aquaculture (*tilapia*, milkfish, *siganids*, seaweeds, crab, mudcrab, lobster, and shellfish), and postharvest-related interventions.

SAAD also assists the farmers and fishers' group in building a community enterprise. Through the enterprises, the beneficiaries can produce enough supply of food, not only for subsistence but also for the neighboring areas. They may also be sustainable sources of income, especially in the areas where food accessibility is a challenge.

SAAD operations were made possible through partnerships with other government agencies, the local government units (LGU), and other private organizations. They were greatly involved in the selection of the beneficiaries, providing support during deliveries of inputs, up to the management of the livelihood projects.





Table 1. SAAD Caraga Allocated Funds per Program Component (Php '000) based on the General Appropriations Act (GAA)

REGION 9	2019 (Php '000)	2020 (Php '000)
<b>DA</b>		
GRAND TOTAL	35,303.00	42,293.00
PMO <sup>1</sup>	3,038.00	7,866.00
SOCIAL PREPARATION <sup>2</sup>	456.00	405.00
LIVELIHOOD <sup>3</sup>	31,809.00	34,021.26
Agusan del Sur	15,049.16	19,900.90
Surigao del Sur	16,759.83	14,120.36
<b>BFAR</b>		
GRAND TOTAL	30,000.00	23,900.00
PMO <sup>1</sup>	2,000.00	2,000.00
SOCIAL PREPARATION <sup>2</sup>	2,000.00	937.00
Agusan del Sur	1,000.00	450.00
Surigao del Sur	1,000.00	487.00
LIVELIHOOD <sup>3</sup>	26,000.00	20,963.00
Agusan del Sur	13,000.00	10,500.00
Surigao del Sur	13,000.00	10,463.00

<sup>1</sup>Program Management Office (PMO) Component covers operations and preparations needed for efficient and effective program implementation; also includes monitoring and evaluation of projects

<sup>2</sup>The Social Preparation Component comprises of work and financial planning, workshop on financial proposals, needs assessment or consultation, and other training

<sup>3</sup>The Production and Livelihood Interventions (PLI) Component includes the agricultural interventions and packages given to the farmer-beneficiaries

**Tilapia Culture in Pond**  
*Doña Flavia, San Luis, Agusan del Sur*



# AGUSAN DEL SUR

In the 2018 estimates of the Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) on the 'poverty incidence among families' in the Philippines, Agusan del Sur scored 30.6%, which is the highest in the Caraga Region. This is an issue of great concern since it poses how much there is to fulfill in the province in terms of poverty alleviation. However, it also put us in a position to do better. We took the latter as a challenge.

Since the start of the SAAD Caraga program implementation in 2019, we secured a partnership with 341 Caraganon farmers in Agusan del Sur, which then grew to 476 in 2020. They all come from farmers' associations in the municipalities of Talacogon, San Luis, Veruela, and Rosario in Agusan del Sur.

The DA-SAAD Agusan del Sur invested mainly in crop production. This is an effort to build on suitable commodities such as rice, abaca, and cacao, while at the same time helping address poverty incidence in the province.

After two years of program implementation, we learned to not only sustain our coordination and communication with our farmer-partners but to seek the invaluable participation of the LGUs and MAOs.

True enough, we would not have come this far without the efforts of our stakeholders. If there is one lesson gained from the processes of the SAAD Program so far, it is that a holistic approach is important.

Our equally supportive and adaptive area coordinators have served as our links to our farmer-partners. They ensure that SAAD interventions arrive even in the far-flung areas and that our farmers are well-informed and updated on our instructions.

The year 2019 of the SAAD implementation in Agusan del Sur alone was triumphant. We not only proved that establishing start-up agricultural projects is attainable, but that we can overcome hurdles and prosper in our implementation.

It was triumphant in the sense that despite being a relatively young program, we made an early impression that we still cultivate today: that SAAD can help improve the lives of Caraganon farmers.





## SAADventures

Admittedly, we still cannot point exactly how much has changed since the SAAD Program rolled out in Agusan del Sur. Aside from agricultural inputs, there are other issues beyond the coverage of SAAD that we cannot address just yet. Such as the unavailability of farm-to-market roads, no telecommunications signal in far-flung areas, and inevitable pest infestation in the field, among other things.

In the face of it all, our farmer-partners remain dedicated to their projects. And if they have sustained their hope throughout the years, we are in no position to surrender and this encourages us to do better.

The word 'SAAD' in Visayan translates to "promise." If asked where the SAAD Program is now, we are in the process of fulfilling our promise. There is a lot of work to do from the ground up, but we are progressing, nonetheless. Maningkamot lang ta (We need to strive harder).

Prepared by:  
**Mellan A. Radia**  
*SAAD Provincial Coordinator*





## PHYSICAL PROFILE

The province of Agusan del Sur is located in Northeastern Mindanao, bounded on the North by Agusan del Norte, on the South Compostela Valley, on the west Misamis Oriental and Bukidnon, and on the east by Surigao del Sur.

The province is landlocked and can be reached only by land transportation through the Davao-Butuan National Highway.

Although Agusan River is a potential route towards the province, no existing ferry facilities regularly ply from Butuan City or Davao de Oro.

The province's approximate area is 896,550 hectares (ha) or 8,965.50 square kilometers (km<sup>2</sup>). It ranks as the fourth largest province in the country.

The population of Agusan del Sur in the 2015 census was 700,653 people, with a density of 70 inhabitants/km<sup>2</sup> or 180 inhabitants/square mile.

Five tribal groups are found in the province: Aeta, Mamanwa, Bagobo, Higaonon, and Manobo. The Manobos live along the national highway and river towns towards the boundary with the Compostela Valley. The Higaonons live mostly on the western side of Agusan River, generally in Esperanza towards the boundary with Bukidnon.

The Agusan del Sur population is predominantly composed of immigrants from the Visayas. Intermarriages between immigrants and natives have pulled down the

and natives have pulled down the percentage of the Lumad population. Cebuano is the most common language spoken in Agusan del Sur.

The province is composed of 13 municipalities and one city and is divided into two congressional districts.



## POVERTY PROFILE

Agusan del Sur had the highest poverty incidence in the region at 37% in 2015, which fell to 30.6% in 2018.

Despite the various interventions of the government to alleviate poverty, several setbacks have adversely affected the region's fight against poverty. This includes the displacement of some workers due to the closure of some mining and wood manufacturing companies among other establishments.

The occurrence of calamities in 2013 and 2014 also caused damage to agriculture, fishery, and manufacturing sectors thereby affecting income generation and employment based on the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) in the region.



# DEL SUR

# AGUSAN

## AGRICULTURE PROFILE

Agusan del Sur had the highest poverty incidence in the region at 37% in 2015, which fell to 30.6% in 2018.

Despite the various interventions of the government to alleviate poverty, several setbacks have adversely affected the region's fight against poverty. This includes the displacement of some workers due to the closure of some mining and wood manufacturing companies among other establishments.

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# agusan del sur

DA-SAAD AGUSAN DEL SUR  
Map of Interventions

2019



ABACA PRODUCTION



CACAO PRODUCTION



RICE PRODUCTION

SAN LUIS



SIBAGAT

BAYUGAN CITY

PROSPERIDAD

TALACOGON



ESPERANZA

SAN FRANCISCO

ROSARIO



LA PAZ

VERUELA



BUNAWAN

LORETO

TRENTO

SANTA JOSEFA



## SAAD AGRICULTURE SECTOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Agusan del Sur was selected for the SAAD Program implementation in 2019, based on PSA's 2015 data on poverty incidence.

Four municipalities in the province were identified based on the criteria set by the program. These are Talacogon, San Luis, Rosario, and Veruela.

Agricultural development projects are greatly needed to educate the farmers on such practices as crop rotation and the use of agricultural technologies. Training would not only enhance their efforts but also provide open doors for giving them a decent income.

The existence of insurgency in the four municipalities also became a major obstacle for development and the government's social and livelihood services.

In the first year of its implementation, SAAD in Agusan del Sur allocated a total of Php 15 million worth of projects to around 276 abaca farmers who are expected to have improved production through the farm machinery support provided by the program.

Aside from the planting materials and fertilizers, technical assistance was provided by DA Caraga in coordination with the DA-Philippine Fiber Industry and Development Authority (PhilFIDA) to empower the abaca farmers for their long-term goals.

The municipalities of Talacogon and Rosario are engaged in cacao production; the municipality of Rosario is also in rice production.

The recipients also underwent training to establish and enhance abaca farms through the introduction of better farm management practices. The same with the intervention for the rice and cacao production.



# 2019 SAAD-AGUSAN DEL SUR

Table 2. DA-SAAD Projects Implemented in Agusan del Sur FY 2019

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION (BARANGAY)	FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUAL)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
ROSARIO				
RICE PRODUCTION	Novele	OCAO Farmers Association (OFA)	30	170,400.00
CACAO PRODUCTION	Bayugan 3	Buenaswerte Cosep Farmers Association	10	275,590.00
ABACA PRODUCTION	Bayugan 3	Cosep People Organization (COPO)	25	1,279,046.42
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>65</b>	<b>1,725,036.42</b>
SAN LUIS				
ABACA PRODUCTION	Cecilia	Cecilia Abaca Corn Planters Association (CEAFCOFA)	100	3,578,203.41
ABACA PRODUCTION	Muritula	Muritula USAD Farmer Association (MUFA)	60	2,379,226.23
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>160</b>	<b>5,957,429.64</b>
TALACOGON				
CACAO PRODUCTION	Desamparados	Desamparados SAAD Cacao Farmers Association (DeSACFA)	25	859,451.42

ABACA PRODUCTION	Culiram	Culiram SAAD Abaca Farmers Association (CuSAFA)	41	1,864,383.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>66</b>	<b>2,723,834.42</b>
VERUELA				
ABACA PRODUCTION	Caigangan	Caigangan Abaca Farmers Association	50	2,116,721.42
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>50</b>	<b>2,116,721.42</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>341</b>	<b>12,523,021.90</b>



# FISHERY PROFILE

The province, although a landlocked area, has vast bodies of water where fishes like mudfish, catfish, and tilapia can be sourced. It is also home to one of the largest and most ecologically important marshlands in the country, the Agusan Marsh. Agusan Marsh has an area of 15,000ha and covers five municipalities namely; Loreto, Bunawan, La Paz, Talacogon, and Esperanza.

Lake Lumao, which is the tenth largest lake in the Philippines, can also be found in the province. It has an area of 1,600ha.

In Agusan del Sur, water areas are considered as major economic contributors to its growth and production. It supports farming, livestock-raising, and aquaculture aside from the fishing grounds which provide livelihood and source of income for local and tribal groups living herein.

In 2019, the total volume of fisheries production recorded is 993.54 metric tons (mt), where 951.52mt is for inland and 42.02mt for the aquaculture sector.

The total registered fisherfolk in the area is 7,885, while there are 91 registered boats as of October 2020.



## SAAD FISHERY SECTOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

The livelihood interventions consist of aquaculture projects, fishing boats and gears, and capability building training. The allotted budget for the said interventions was **Php 9.8 million, Php 3.2 million, and Php 2 million**, respectively, or a total of **Php 15 million** for BFAR-SAAD in 2019.

The program covers **7 municipalities** comprising **38 barangays**. These are Loreto, Veruela, Bunawan, La Paz, San Luis, Talacogon, and Esperanza.

The total number of fisherfolk who benefited from the program are **193 households and 10 groups**.



# agusan del sur

## BFAR-SAAD AGUSAN DEL SUR

Map of Interventions

### 2019



TILAPIA CULTURE IN  
CAGE



TILAPIA CULTURE IN  
POND



TILAPIA NURSERY



FISHING BOAT AND  
GEARS PACKAGE  
(NON-MOTORIZED)





# 2019 SAAD-AGUSAN DEL SUR

Table 3. BFAR-SAAD Projects Implemented in Agusan del Sur FY 2019

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION (BARANGAY)	FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUAL)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
ESPERANZA				
TILAPIA CULTURE IN CAGE	Nato	Himbang Fisherfolk Association	15	288,887.00
		Nato Rural Improvement Club	13	288,887.00
		Nato Fish Grower Association	15	288,887.00
		Nato Tilapia Producers Association	10	288,887.00
		Barangay Police Laban sa Krimen Fisherfolk Association	10	288,887.00
	Piglawigan	Isapa Fisherfolk Association	10	288,887.00
		Groupo ng Kababayan-an	13	288,887.00
		Dakong-Napo Fisherfolk Association	17	288,887.00
		Piglawigan Fisherfolk Association	10	288,887.00
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND				
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	Hawilian	2 HH	200,000.00	
	Catmonon	2 HH	200,000.00	
	Piglawigan	3 HH	300,000.00	
	Cebulan	1 HH	100,000.00	
	Concordia	2 HH	200,000.00	
	Guadalupe	1 HH	100,000.00	
	Labao	1 HH	100,000.00	
	Poblacion	1 HH	100,000.00	
	Sta. Fe	1 HH	100,000.00	
	TILAPIA NURSERY	Nato	2 HH	162,500.00
TOTAL	139 MEMBERS AND 18 HOUSEHOLDS		4,162,483.00	
LORETO				
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	San Vicente	6 HH	600,000.00	
	Poblacion	5 HH	500,000.00	
	Magaud	3 HH	300,000.00	
	Nueva Gracia	2 HH	200,000.00	
	San Mariano	1 HH	100,000.00	



# 2019 SAAD-AGUSAN DEL SUR

Table 3. BFAR-SAAD Projects Implemented in Agusan del Sur FY 2019

TILAPIA NURSERY	Poblacion	2 HH	162,500.00
	Magaud	1 HH	81,250.00
	Sto. Tomas	1 HH	81,250.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEAR PACKAGE (NON-MOTORIZED)	Poblacion	30 HH	812,490.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>51 HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>2,837,490.00</b>
<b>VERUELA</b>			
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	Sampaguita	2 HH	200,000.00
	Sinobong	2 HH	200,000.00
	Masayan	3 HH	300,000.00
	Sta. Emelia	1 HH	100,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8 HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>800,000.00</b>
<b>LA PAZ</b>			
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	Panagangan	3 HH	300,000.00
	Osmeña	1 HH	100,000.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEAR PACKAGE (NON-MOTORIZED)	Sabang Adgawan	30 HH	812,490.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34 households</b>		<b>1,212,490.00</b>

<b>BUNAWAN</b>			
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	Imelda	2 HH	200,000.00
	Mambalili	2 HH	200,000.00
	Consuelo	1 HH	100,000.00
	Bunawan Brook	1 HH	100,000.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEAR PACKAGE (NON-MOTORIZED)	Nueva era	27 HH	731,241.00
	San Marcos	3 HH	81,249.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36 HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>1,412,490.00</b>
<b>TALACOGON</b>			
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	Buena Gracia	2 HH	200,000.00
	San Nicolas	1 HH	100,000.00
	La Flora	10 HH	270,830.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEAR PACKAGE (NON-MOTORIZED)	Maharlika	10 HH	270,830.00
	Sabang Gibong	10 HH	270,830.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33 HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>1,112,490.00</b>



# 2019 SAAD-AGUSAN DEL SUR

Table 3. BFAR-SAAD Projects Implemented in Agusan del Sur FY 2019

SAN LUIS			
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	Doña Flavia	2 HH	200,000.00
	Doña Flavia	Doña Flavia Fisherfolk Association 14 members	100,000.00
	Don Alejandro	2 HH	200,000.00
	Baylo	2 HH	200,000.00
	Anislagan	2 HH	200,000.00
	Sta. Ines	1 HH	100,000.00
TILAPIA NURSERY	Coalition	1 HH	100,000.00
	Doña Flavia	1 HH	81,250.00
	Doña Maxima	1 HH	81,250.00
TOTAL	14 MEMBERS & 12 HOUSEHOLDS		1,262,500.00
GRAND TOTAL	153 FA MEMBERS AND 192 HOUSEHOLDS		12,799,943.00

HH- Households, or number of families benefited



# WHY MODERNIZE:

MANONG GIL'S  
QUEST  
TOWARD AGRI-  
MECHANIZATION





# GIL GABALES

## **FY 2019 ABACA PRODUCTION**

Culiram SAAD Farmers' Association (CuSAFA)  
Talacogon, Agusan del Sur  
41 Beneficiaries

### **BACKGROUND**

The 2nd class municipality of Talacogon is considerably the heart of Agusan del Sur. Surrounded by 8 municipalities and two adjacent cities, the town is highly advantageous for agricultural trade and commerce. Despite this, therein remains a substantial amount of land waiting to be maximized.

At Barangay Culiram, arable fields lie dormant. Its locals engage in subsistence farming of various crops and with little assurance of sustainability. It is on this premise that the SAAD Program has aided abaca production in the area.

Since 2019, the SAAD Program has partnered with 41 farmers to increase the *abaca* plantation at Culiram. Abaca, a commodity that proves to be competitive in the country and abroad, is not new to the locals in the area, but most of them strip their abaca fibers using the wide-strip method (*laguras*). With an emphasis on mechanizing their production, Culiram may well be producing competitive *abaca* fibers in the succeeding years.





## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

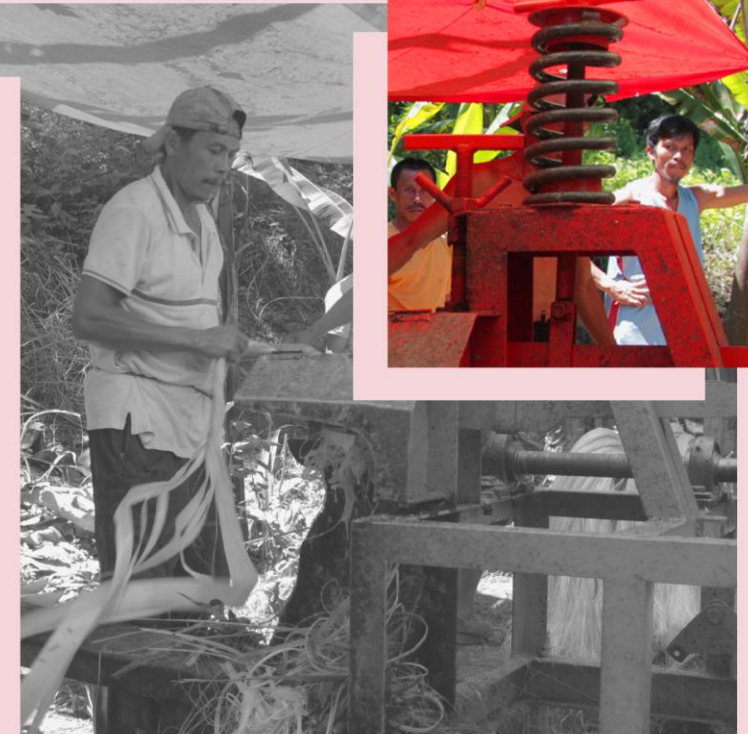
### The case of Manong Gil

The Culiram SAAD Farmers' Association (CuSAFA), a SAAD-funded farmers' association at Barangay Culiram, Talacogon, Agusan del Sur, is composed of both experienced and new abaca farmers. Gil Gabales, 43 years old, leads the association with 41 members.

The SAAD Program provided agricultural inputs that included abaca plantlets (suckers, seedlings, seeds), fertilizers, pesticides, draft animals, farm tools, abaca stripping machines, and production training, all amounting to Php 1.7 million in 2019.

**Table 4. CuSAFA – Received inputs from SAAD Program**

YEAR	PROJECT	UNIT OF MEASURE	QUANTITY	COST (Php)
2019	<b>ABACA PRODUCTION PROJECT</b>			
	Abaca suckers	piece	15,000	375,000.00
	Abaca corms	piece	15,000	225,000.00
	Abaca seedlings	piece	11,574	138,888.00
	Ammonium Sulfate	bag	246	196,800.00
	Complete fertilizer	bag	164	196,800.00
	Herbicide	gallon	41	65,600.00
	Fungicide	kilo	41	36,900.00
	Insecticide	liter	41	41,000.00
	Tara-tara	unit	41	20,500.00
	Abaca Stripping machine (Portable)	unit	1	148,000.00
	Draft Animal	head	2	90,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>1,534,488.00</b>



"Before the SAAD Program arrived at our barangay, we manually stripped our abaca fibers. I have experienced using mechanized stripping, but I opted for wide-stripping (manual) back then because renting a machine would cost me 25% off my income, plus another 10% for the machine operator."

Since the SAAD Program also provided training on operating the stripping machines, Manong Gil and some members of CuSAFA have mastered operating the machines already. This increased their income because they don't pay for rent anymore.

All 41 members of CuSAFA own at least a hectare of land dedicated for the abaca production. In support to their abaca production, CuSAFA also obtained supplementary materials such as fertilizers, pesticides and farm tools equally shared among themselves.

Aside from Manong Gil and a few members who have existing abaca, the rest of the members of CuSAFA participate in monthly meetings and in abaca stripping demonstrations held from time to time. All of these they do as they wait for their abacas' maturity by 2021.



# KEY RESULTS

As estimated, about 1,111 abaca plants can fit in 1ha area. From the said piece of land, Manong Gil harvests an estimate of 925kg of abaca fibers in one cropping season. His profit, however, varies on the quantity and quality of the abaca fibers, which are better with the use of mechanized machines.

“There is a huge difference in output and income between manual and mechanized stripping,” expressed Gil. “With the machines, an individual can strip around 30 to 40kg of abaca fibers, which is thrice the reach of manual labor in a day. Plus, machine-stripped fiber is 35% more in volume and almost twice the price of manually processed fiber.

Manong Gil’s profit per harvest runs around Php 70,000/ha. Under the same condition, his annual profit will amount to Php 280,000/ha because abaca trunks replenish themselves after 3 to 4 months.

From February to October 2020, CuSAFA collectively amassed a gross income of Php 489,026 from selling stripped abaca fibers. The major producer includes Manong Gil and a few members who have existing plantations.

While it is too early to tell the positive impacts the SAAD Program has made in the lives of the members of CuSAFA, the case of Manong Gil shows how mechanization aids farm productivity and improves the overall quality of products.

**Table 5. CuSAFA's Income from stripping machine from February to October 2020**

MONTH	NO. OF HA HARVESTED	STRIPPED ABACA OUTPUT	COST (kg)	TOTAL WEIGHT SOLD	TOTAL SALES (Php)
FEBRUARY	8	S-S2	88	650	57,200.00
		Binaba	45	182	8,190.00
MARCH	6	S-S2	85	336	28,560.00
		Binaba	40	95	3,800.00
APRIL	4	S-S2	85	235	19,975.00
		Binaba	40	58	2,320.00
MAY	6	S-S2	85	539	45,815.00
		Binaba	43	101	4,343.00
JUNE	10	S-S2	87	873	75,951.00
		Binaba	45	210	9,450.00
JULY	11	S-S2	89	520	46,280.00
		Binaba	45	102	4,590.00
AUGUST	11	S-S2	89	807	71,823.00
		Binaba	45	201	9,045.00
SEPTEMBER	10	S-S2	88	309	27,192.00
		Binaba	44	97	4,268.00
OCTOBER	12	S-S2	88	702	61,776.00
		Binaba	44	192	8,448.00
TOTAL					489,026.00

*S-S2- (Puti) White fiber strands, result of excellent stripping  
Binaba- (Segunda) white fiber strands mixed with red fiber*



# PLANS

With abaca fiber's worldwide consumption predicted to increase over the next few years and the Philippines being the top exporter, the potential for Filipino farmers to capitalize on the commodity has become more pressing.

Manong Gil recognizes this potential, thus emphasizing among his members the need to transition from the wide-stripping method to mechanized stripping.

"Abaca is a promising commodity. But for us farmers to succeed, we should try new ways even if it requires putting aside our long-established ways for better-yielding machines. This is the challenge we have to face. Nonetheless, we have to mechanize our production to keep up in the market," Manong Gil added.

True enough, there are still a few members of CuSAFA who haven't mastered operating the stripping machines. Manong Gil, on his end, commits to training all his members as soon as their abaca plantation matures and becomes ready for stripping.

For FY 2020, CuSAFA received on December the same year Php 1.06 million worth of additional inputs from the SAAD Program, alongside the inputs in conjunction with the Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat Laban sa CoViD-19 Program (ALPAS CoViD-19) campaign of the DA worth Php 444,692, which included native chickens intended for backyard farming.

Agricultural modernization that is among the DA's 8 paradigms to level up agriculture ensures that agricultural production is sustainable and sufficient such that farmers can move from subsistence farming to market-oriented farming. The case of Manong Gil shows that local farmers are capable of putting their best foot forward, provided they have adequate resources and knowledge.

PORTABLE ABACA  
STRIPPER MACHINE





# DOFFAS:

A RAY OF SUNSHINE  
TO ITS MEMBERS  
AND THE  
COMMUNITY





# DOÑA FLAVIA

## FARMERS & FISHERS ASSOCIATION

### *TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND*

Doña Flavia, San Luis, Agusan del Sur  
21 Beneficiaries

### BACKGROUND

Annaliza Cabantog, residing in barangay Doña Flavia, San Luis, Agusan del Sur, was once a rice farmer who had a lot of good and bad experiences in farming. The experiences became a turning point for her and her family to venture into aquaculture. Annaliza converted a portion of their 1ha family rice fields to a fishpond production area.

With her unselfish desire and care for her fellow farmers and neighbors, she encouraged them to form the Doña Flavia Farmers and Fisherfolk Association (DOFFAS) in February 2018. The primary goal of the organization is to help and inspire the members to engage in fish farming





since irrigated water, which is needed in fish production, is accessible to their community.

More so, it's their desire to expand the group and mentor others to start fishery-related business enterprises with the government's assistance.

To maintain their production area, they implemented the "pahina" system (volunteerism) every Saturday and Sunday and imposed rules with corresponding penalties to violating members. They used the collected amount as capital funds in case the group needed funds for specific development activity.

With the consent of Annaliza, the group utilized 1,000 square meters (m<sup>2</sup>) of her fish pond area and consulted the assigned technician for technical guidance.

As the chairperson of DOFFAS, Annaliza opened her doors to the BFAR 13 through the Provincial Fishery Office. After a thorough evaluation, their organization was selected as one of the SAAD project beneficiaries in 2019.

Currently, their membership has grown from 15 members to 21 active farmer-fisherfolk.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION AND MANAGEMENT

Through the collaboration of the PFO-Agusan del Sur and LGU of San Luis, the DOFFAS production area was thoroughly inspected and validated on its suitability for aquaculture production. Having passed all the requirements needed for the said project, the group was provided the necessary input

necessary input assistance such as feeds and fingerlings from the SAAD Program as well as seminars and lectures for capacity development in the field of aquaculture. Site instruction on pond preparation, fertilizer application, and pond management are some of the important lessons in technical training.

**Table 6. DOFFAS – Received inputs from SAAD Program**

YEAR	PROJECT/INPUTS	UNIT OF MEASURE	QUANTITY	COST (Php)
2019	TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND PROJECT			
	1st cycle: Fingerlings	pieces	3,500	2,100.00
	Feed inputs	bags	42	47,372.00
	2nd cycle: Fingerlings	pieces	3,500	2,100.00
	Feed inputs	bags	42	47,372.00
2020	3rd cycle: Fingerlings	pieces	3,500	2,100.00
	Feed inputs	bags	42	47,372.00
	Fish crate	pieces	2	3,000.00
	Weighing scale (20kg)	unit	1	2,198.00
	Styrofoam box (40kg)	unit	1	600.00

As the chairperson of the group, Annaliza emphasized that every member should be "hands-on" and goal-focused. Practicality and fairness are the shared values of the group.

With guidance from BFAR technical personnel, the group selected a key member as project caretaker responsible for the regular site inspection, monitoring and maintenance of the culture area. One important role is the regular feeding three times a day and facilitating water exchange 1 to 2 times a month depending on the condition of the water.

The said caretaker also assists the technical personnel in sampling activities. Among the members, the caretaker is allotted 15% share from the group's income. At harvest time, everyone was encouraged to participate in the "pahina" in order to dispose of the catch immediately.



# KEY RESULTS

The aquaculture livelihood was a significant source of income for the group. Fish farming helped them survive through the tough times of the CoViD-19 pandemic where local prices of agricultural products dived down.

The first cycle of the project was on August 7, 2019 where the tilapia fingerlings and other inputs were delivered. They harvested a total of 700kg of tilapia on December 12, 2019 which was sold at Php 120 for the wholesale price per kilo and Php 130 for the retail price. Everyone was elated and inspired when the record of sale reached Php 87,000 gross income.

Quoting a local idiom, Annaliza shared that their tilapia sold “just like a hot cake” and everyone was inspired to cultivate and develop their own fishpond.

The second stocking was undertaken on February 3, 2020 and harvested on June 18, 2020. Production was recorded at 458kg with gross income of Php 57,250.

The third stocking however did not fare well as the production area was flooded. Water overflow from rivers reached their site and the cultured stock escaped from the pond. Nonetheless, this event did not affect them or lost their interest as a group but rather motivated and challenged them to prepare for such circumstances.

As of this period, they are now on their fourth production cycle of which all inputs were shouldered by the group. The expected date of the harvest will be in February 2021.

With the help of their children, they were able to scale up their marketing through social media like Facebook. The DOFFAS' Facebook page has a number of follower-friends who are active members of their marketing network.

Annaliza considered her involvement in the project as a ray of sunshine as members' hopes were rekindled and their community realized that indeed the bayanihan spirit is still alive.



# PLANS

Annaliza envisions a successful DOFFAS in the years to come. According to her, a strong organization must have established rules and impose penalties on members. Also, accountability is very important to her in terms of financial matters. Every expense and income must be properly recorded and every output inventoried. She plans to establish good financial management practices and budget planning practices in the organization. She wants to institutionalize transparency on how she manages the group including the system of incentive sharing which depends on the level of one's participation and cooperation in the project activities. She looks forward to diligent cooperation among the members for its growth and success.

For all of them, a DOFFAS gathering is a day of inspiration because they were able to celebrate their success by enduring those difficult times when their project failed but they were resilient and united to continue in spite of the odds.

DOFFAS survived and sustained the project provided by SAAD for three years. Truly, the trust given to them is already a ray of light and now it's time for them to share that light with others. “We'll let it shine more,” Annaliza heartfully says.



# SURIGAO DEL SUR

The SAAD Program in Surigao del Sur is in its infancy stage as the implementation just started in 2019. In spite of this, we already introduced 21 agriculture-related projects benefiting a total of 534 individuals from 20 associations in the municipalities of Carmen, Bayabas, Lingig, and the city of Bislig.

The SAAD Program's mission is to help alleviate our farmers and fishers from poverty. On our end, we invest in livelihood projects, such as livestock production, that are doable and sustainable provided commitment among all stakeholders is evident.

True to all areas covered by the SAAD Program, local farmers express delight for the opportunity extended to them. It is heart-warming and humbling all the same to be a part of this project that is already promising in its early stages.

One of the advantages of being a part of the DA-SAAD program is getting an up-close encounter with our farmers from far-flung communities who were rarely reached by government aid.

Our area coordinators have served as the important link between the program and the stakeholders, thereby ensuring that our rapport is sustained. Further, they promote and take charge of sustained participation, and ensure that the program directives are informed not only by the RPMSO and PPMSO but also by inputs from LGUs and, most importantly, our farmers.





# SAADventures

Admittedly, we have a long way to go in attaining our goal in Surigao del Sur. To add, maintaining close contact with our farmer-partners and, with their inputs, sustaining the production projects prove to be challenging. However, we always come back to the value of partnership among our stakeholders, in involving them in our dialogues and operations.

From all associations assisted by the SAAD Program in Surigao del Sur, the ones that are investing in crop production, such as corn and sweet potato production, and native chicken production already started generating income. Goat production projects, however, require more time to develop enough stocks for breeding and rolling.

With this, it is too early to reap nor assert economic and social rewards brought forth by the program. Nonetheless, we are optimistic that our farmers will eventually get there, and hopefully, by the time the SAAD Program culminates, we have moved a point less than our record in 2018. As for now, padayon lang ta (we persevere).

Prepared by:

**Gressa Mae L. Santisas**  
**SAAD Provincial Coordinator**





# SURIGAO

# DEL SUR

## PHYSICAL PROFILE

Surigao del Sur is a province located in the Caraga Region, with Tandag City as its capital.

It is bounded on the northwest by Surigao del Norte, by Davao Oriental on the southeast, by the Pacific Ocean on its eastern side, and the west and southwest by Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur. This strategic location enables the province to establish favorable economic linkages with other neighboring provinces.

Surigao del Sur comprises 17 municipalities and two cities, further subdivided into 309 barangays. Two congressional districts are encompassing all cities and towns.

The population of Surigao del Sur in the 2015 census was 592,250 people. The province is home to the Kamayo and Agusan people.

Surigaonon and Tandaganon are spoken in most parts of Surigao del Sur. Cebuano and Kamayo, a different language but distantly related to Surigaonon, are also spoken in some areas such as Bislig City and the towns of Barobo, Hinatuan, Lingig, and Tagbina.

## POVERTY PROFILE

Surigao del Sur ranked second to Agusan del Sur for being the province with the highest poverty incidence in the region. It displayed an increase in poverty incidence from 28.3% in 2012 to 32.0% in 2015, and dropped to 19.2% in 2018.

## AGRICULTURE PROFILE

Surigao del Sur has a total land area of 523,050ha (hectare) wherein 214,032ha is dedicated to agriculture. The major crops of Surigao del Sur are rice and corn, with cash crops such as coconut, banana, and cassava. Upland farms are usually intercropped with long-term crops like coconut.

On poultry, chicken dominated as the poultry raising activity in the province. For the livestock sector carabao top followed by goat, sheep, and cattle.





# surigao del sur

DA-SAAD AGUSAN DEL SUR  
Map of Interventions

2019



NATIVE CHICKEN  
PRODUCTION



NATIVE CHICKEN  
DEVELOPMENT



NATIVE GOAT  
PRODUCTION



GOAT PRODUCTION



UPLAND CORN  
PRODUCTION



OPV CORN  
PRODUCTION



CAMOTE  
PRODUCTION



UBE PRODUCTION

CARMEN



SIBAGAT

CANTILAN

MADRID

LANUZA

CORTES

TANDAG CITY

TAGO

SAN MIGUEL

CAGWAIT

MARIHATAG

SAN AGUSTIN

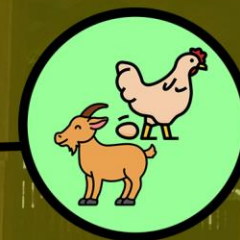
LIANGA

BAROBO

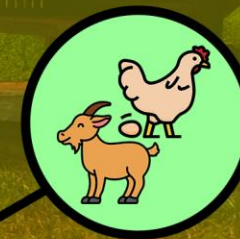
TAGBINA

HINATUAN

BAYABAS



BISLIG CITY



LINGIG





## SAAD AGRICULTURE SECTOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

Four municipalities were identified areas for the DA-SAAD implementation in Surigao del Sur in 2019. They are Bayabas, Carmen, Lingig, and Bislig City.

The selection of the beneficiaries was in the areas where the poorest of the poor generally reside and for those parts that are not reached by the regular DA programs.

Lingig has the greatest number of recipients. The existence of insurgency in the said municipality has become a major obstacle for development and the government's social and livelihood services.

The majority of the interventions in the province were poultry and livestock. The PPMSO and beneficiaries were involved in the identification, planning, and implementation of the projects.

Native chicken production was introduced to provide each group with an additional source of income and at the same time a good source of protein for each household. Chicken-raising is

a feasible livelihood for them because of the small investment and short time to earn.

On the other hand, goat rearing has distinct economic and managerial advantages over other livestock because of its less initial investment, low input requirement, higher prolificacy, early sexual maturity, and ease in marketing.

Other beneficiaries were engaged in corn production and root crops such as camote and ube production.

All of these implemented projects play a big role in supporting the livelihood system of men and women in rural areas.

GROWER  
SEED CLASS  
VARIETY



# 2019 SAAD-SURIGAO DEL SUR

Table 7. DA-SAAD Projects Implemented in Surigao del Sur FY 2019

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION (BARANGAY)	FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUAL)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
<b>BAYABAS</b>				
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION	Balete	Balete Chicken Growers Association (BACGA)	26	811,856.92
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION	Cabugo	Cabugo Chicken Production Association (CACPA)	20	828,056.92
NATIVE GOAT PRODUCTION	Panaosawon	Riverside Panaosawon Farmers Association (RIPAFA)	20	571,505.33
NATIVE GOAT PRODUCTION	Panaosawon	P-7 Panaosawon Farmers Association (PPAFA)	20	571,505.33
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>86</b>	<b>2,782,924.50</b>
<b>BISLIG</b>				
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION	Burbuanan	Chicken Raisers Association of Burbuanan (CRAB)	20	919,856.92
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION	Burbuanan	Burbuanan Native Chicken Association (BurNatChiCA)	20	829,856.92
NATIVE GOAT PRODUCTION	San Roque	Goat Raisers Association of Mabog (GRAM)	20	571,505.33

NATIVE GOAT PRODUCTION	San Roque	Goat Raisers Association of Sitio Sanyata (GRASS)	20	571,505.33
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>80</b>	<b>2,972,867.58</b>
<b>CARMEN</b>				
OPV CORN PRODUCTION	Hinapoyan	Gacub Agricultural Farmers' Association	48	335,326.20
OPV CORN PRODUCTION	Hinapoyan	Mag-uumang Manobo sa Hinapoyan Association (MAMASAH)	27	425,638.80
CAMOTE PRODUCTION	Hinapoyan	Mag-uumang Manobo sa Hinapoyan Association (MAMASAH)	50	425,105.00
UBE PRODUCTION	Hinapoyan	Nagkahiusang Katawhang Mag-uuma sa Tabinas	50	353,600.00
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION	Cancavan	Cancavan Corn Growers Association	20	493,695.42
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>195</b>	<b>2,033,365.42</b>



# 2019 SAAD-SURIGAO DEL SUR

Table 7. DA-SAAD Projects Implemented in Surigao del Sur FY 2019

LINGIG				
UPLAND CORN	Bogak	Pinanapatan Farmers Association	20	231,750.00
GOAT PRODUCTION	Bogak	Pinanapatan Farmers Association	20	569,705.33
GOAT PRODUCTION	Rajah Cabungsu	Napanapanan United Farmers Association	20	569,705.33
GOAT PRODUCTION	Rajah Cabungsu	North Mecaopee Farmers Association	19	569,705.33
GOAT PRODUCTION	Proper Bogak	Lumad sa Bogak Farmers Association	29	569,705.33
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION	Rajah Cabungsu	Mendizona United Farmers Association	17	1,049,279.84
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION	Proper	Rajah Cabungsu Farmers Association	20	1,049,279.84
NATIVE CHICKEN DEVELOPMENT	Bogak	Pamian Timberland Farmers Association	20	630,732.42
NATIVE CHICKEN DEVELOPMENT	Bogak	Tubod Upland Farmers Association	28	1,252,279.84
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>193</b>	<b>6,492,143.26</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>554</b>	<b>14,281,300.76</b>



# FISHERY PROFILE

The province is predominantly composed of coastal communities. Surigao del Sur has a coastline of 304,812km extending from the municipality of Carrascal to the municipality of Lingig. It has 14 coastal municipalities and two coastal cities. The total number of coastal barangays in the province is 145.

One of the primary sources of livelihood in the area is to capture fish and aquaculture. The province is well-known for producing seafood and sea by-products due to its vast marine resources.

In 2019, the province produced the total volume of fishery products amounted to 29,522.23mt, wherein 10,794.64mt is from aquaculture; 12,259.62mt from marine; 5,440.31mt from commercial fisheries; and 1,057.66mt from the inland municipal sector.

Surigao del Sur has also recorded 27,570 fisherfolk as of October 2020, the most number in the region. Meanwhile, a total of 4,016 registered fishing boats were recorded for the same period.



## SAAD FISHERY SECTOR PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

In 2019, SAAD Program allocated Php 13 million for Surigao del Sur fisheries livelihood projects in its 9 municipalities having the highest poverty incidence.

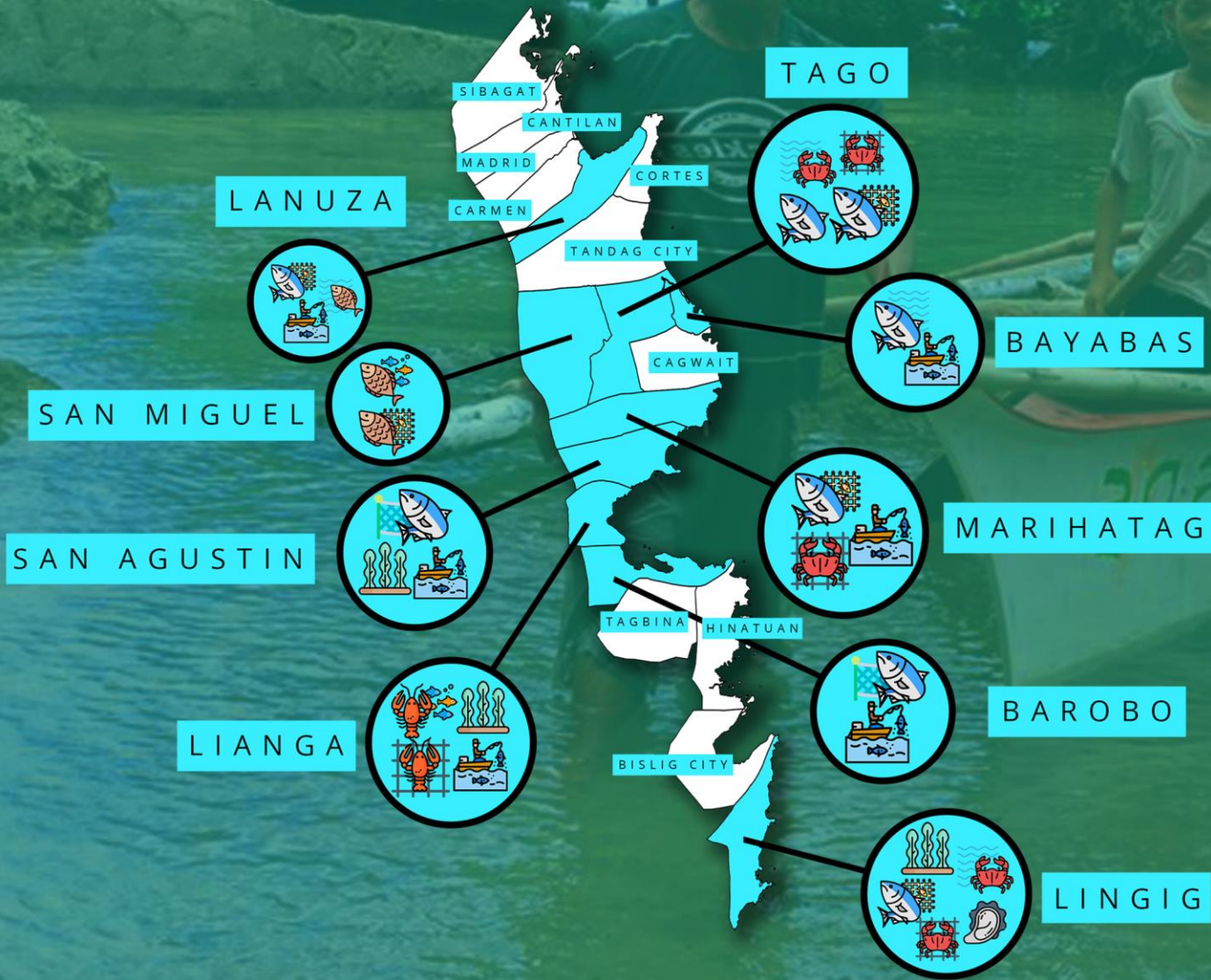
The total number of beneficiaries in Surigao del Sur for FY 2019 is 74 individuals and 31 fishers groups which are equivalent to 614 individual members.

Aquaculture projects implemented in the province include fish polyculture, tilapia culture in ponds or cages, and milkfish culture. On the other hand, capture fisheries projects include fiber reinforced plastic (FRP) boats, fishing gears, and fishing paraphernalia.

The municipality of Lianga has the greatest amount of allocation in the province which has projects like seaweed culture, lobster nursery, and grow-out culture.



# surigao del sur



## BFAR-SAAD SURIGAO DEL SUR

Map of Interventions

### 2019

-  FISH POLYCULTURE IN CAGE (MILKFISH AND SIGANIDS)
-  TILAPIA NURSERY
-  TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND
-  TILAPIA CULTURE IN CAGE
-  FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)
-  MUDCRAB CULTURE IN POND/ AQUASILVI
-  MUDCRAB FATTENING
-  MILKFISH "GARUNGAN" PRODUCTION
-  BANGUS CULTURE IN POND
-  BANGUS CULTURE IN PEN
-  SEaweeds CULTURE
-  LOBSTER NURSERY
-  LOBSTER GROW-OUT CULTURE
-  SHELLFISH CULTURE (OYSTER)



# 2019 SAAD-SURIGAO DEL SUR

Table 8. BFAR-SAAD Projects Implemented in Surigao del Sur FY 2019

PROJECT TITLE	LOCATION (BARANGAY)	FARMERS ASSOCIATIONS	NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES (INDIVIDUAL)	FINANCIAL ALLOCATION (Php)
LANUZA				
FISH POLYCULTURE IN CAGE (MILKFISH AND SIGANIDS)	Baybay	Ganga Baybay Association	21	506,740.00
TILAPIA CULTURE IN POND	Pakwan	Pakwan Farmers Bayanihan Association	28	90,825.00
	Zone 1		1 HH	70,482.00
	Zone 3		3 HH	211,446.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Habag		5 HH	352,410.00
	Nurcia		2 HH	140,964.00
	Cagmino		1 HH	70,482.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>49 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>1,443,349.00</b>

TAGO				
MUDCRAB CULTURE IN POND/ AQUASILVI	Purissima	Soong Fisherfolk Association 1	21	196,600.00
		SAAD King Crab Association	37	105,920.00
MUDCRAB FATTENING	Purissima	SAAD Crab Fatteners Association	22	105,920.00
		SAAD Fisherfolk Association	21	105,920.00
MILKFISH "GARUNGAN" PRODUCTION	Purissima	Tago Garungan Producers Association	21	299,310.00
FISH POLYCULTURE IN CAGE (MILKFISH AND SIGANIDS)	Purissima	Soong Fisherfolk Association 2	20	506,740.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>142 MEMBERS</b>	<b>1,320,410.00</b>
SAN MIGUEL				
TILAPIA NURSERY	Tina	BFARMC Tina Lagoon Association	20	81,705.00
	Sagbayan	Sagbayan Women Vendors Association	7	254,800.00
TILAPIA CULTURE IN CAGE	Baras	Baras Tago River Fisherfolk Association	11	254,800.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>59 MEMBERS</b>	<b>1,100,905.00</b>



# 2019 SAAD-SURIGAO DEL SUR

Table 8. BFAR-SAAD Projects Implemented in Surigao del Sur FY 2019

BAYABAS				
BANGUS CULTURE IN POND	Magobawok	Bayabas Marine Product Association	14	301,280.00
	Cagbaoto	Tugop Bangus Culture Association	19	301,280.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Cabugo		6 HH	422,892.00
	Magobawok		5 HH	352,410.00
	Poblacion		1 HH	70,482.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>33 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,448,344.00</b>
MARIHATAG				
FISH POLYCULTURE IN CAGE (MILKFISH AND SIGANIDS)	Alegria	Dagat Ampingan sa Gagmayng Mananagat Alang sa Kalambuan sa Tanan Ass.	14	506,740.00
MUDCRAB FATTENING	Amontay	Amontay Crab Fattening Fisherfolk Org.	20	105,920.00
	Amontay		4 HH	281,928.00
	Antipolo		3 HH	211,446.00
	Alegria		2 HH	140,964.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Sta. Cruz		1 HH	70,482.00
	Arorogan		1 HH	70,482.00
	Poblacion		1 HH	70,482.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>34 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,458,444.00</b>

BAROBO				
BANGUS CULTURE IN PEN	Cabacungan	Maapud Fishermen Organization	20	421,501.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Sua		12 HH	845,784.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>20 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,267,285.00</b>
SAN AGUSTIN				
BANGUS CULTURE IN PEN	Hornasan	Hornasan Farmers and Fisherfolk Organization	28	421,501.00
	Gata	Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Gata	19	421,501.00
SEAWEEDS CULTURE	Bretania	Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Bretania	13	142,770.00
	Hornasan		5 HH	352,410.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Kauswagan		2 HH	140,964.00
	Salvacion		2 HH	140,964.00
	Gata		1 HH	70,482.00
	Bretania		1 HH	70,482.00
	Pongtud		1 HH	70,482.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>60 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,831,556.00</b>



# 2019 SAAD-SURIGAO DEL SUR

Table 8. BFAR-SAAD Projects Implemented in Surigao del Sur FY 2019

BAYABAS				
BANGUS CULTURE IN POND	Magobawok	Bayabas Marine Product Association	14	301,280.00
	Cagbaoto	Tugop Bangus Culture Association	19	301,280.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Cabugo		6 HH	422,892.00
	Magobawok		5 HH	352,410.00
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<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>33 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,448,344.00</b>
MARIHATAG				
FISH POLYCULTURE IN CAGE (MILKFISH AND SIGANIDS)	Alegria	Dagat Ampingan sa Gagmayng Mananagat Alang sa Kalambuan sa Tanan Ass.	14	506,740.00
MUDCRAB FATTENING	Amontay	Amontay Crab Fattening Fisherfolk Org.	20	105,920.00
	Amontay		4 HH	281,928.00
	Antipolo		3 HH	211,446.00
	Alegria		2 HH	140,964.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Sta. Cruz		1 HH	70,482.00
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	Poblacion		1 HH	70,482.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>34 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,458,444.00</b>

BAROBO				
BANGUS CULTURE IN PEN	Cabacungan	Maapud Fishermen Organization	20	421,501.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Sua		12 HH	845,784.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>20 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,267,285.00</b>
SAN AGUSTIN				
BANGUS CULTURE IN PEN	Hornasan	Hornasan Farmers and Fisherfolk Organization	28	421,501.00
	Gata	Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Gata	19	421,501.00
SEAWEEDS CULTURE	Bretania	Nagkahiusang Mananagat sa Bretania	13	142,770.00
	Hornasan		5 HH	352,410.00
FISHING BOAT AND GEARS PACKAGE (MOTORIZED)	Kauswagan		2 HH	140,964.00
	Salvacion		2 HH	140,964.00
	Gata		1 HH	70,482.00
	Bretania		1 HH	70,482.00
	Pongtud		1 HH	70,482.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>60 MEMBERS &amp; 12 HOUSEHOLDS</b>	<b>1,831,556.00</b>



# 2019 SAAD-SURIGAO DEL SUR

Table 8. BFAR-SAAD Projects Implemented in Surigao del Sur FY 2019

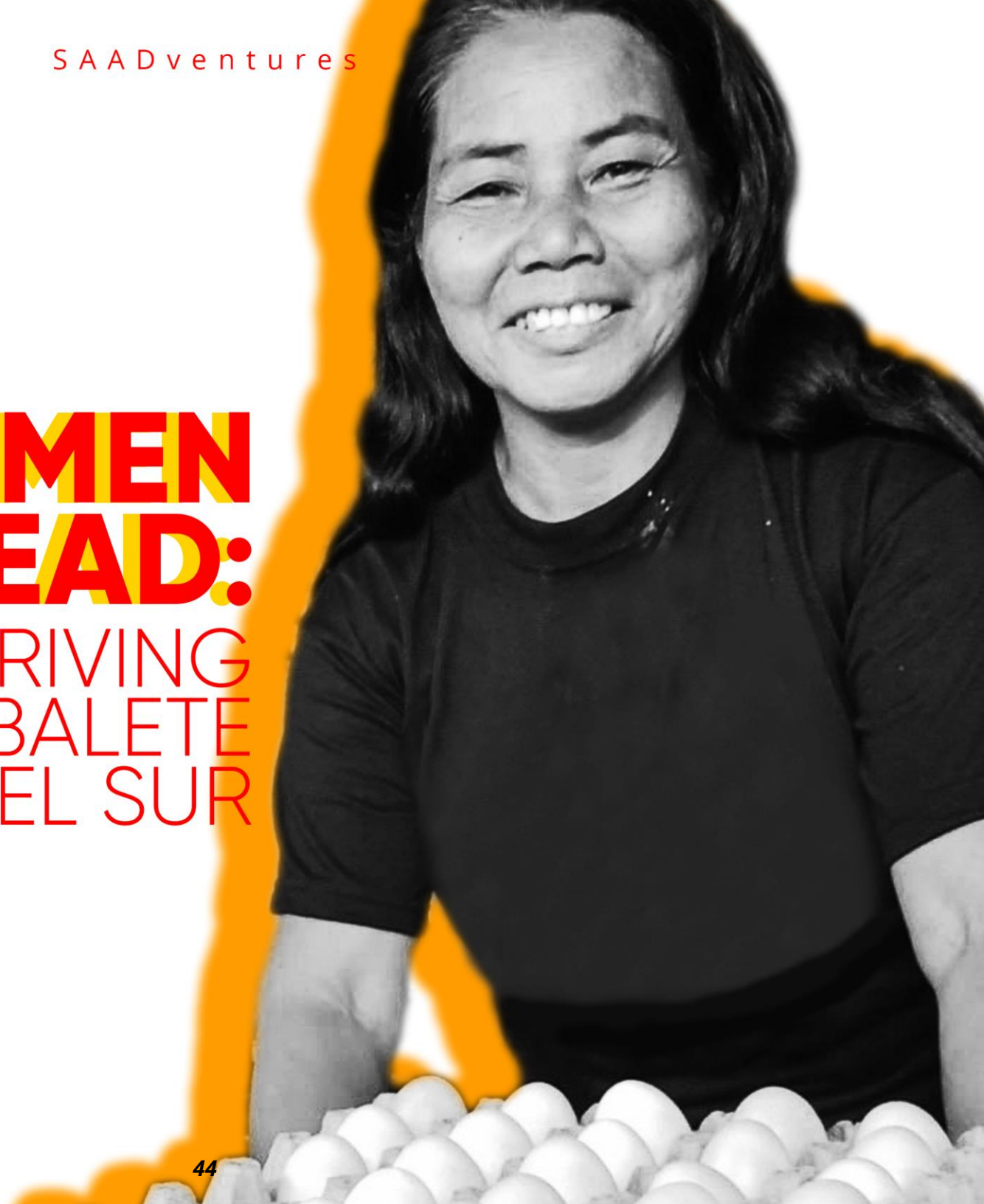
LINGIG				
SEAWEEDS CULTURE	Maribojoc	Maribojoc Valencia Seaweeds Planters	20	142,770.00
		Maribojoc Seaweeds Planters	20	142,770.00
FISH POLYCULTURE IN CAGE (MILKFISH AND SIGANIDS)	Barcelona	Barcelona Fisherfolk Association	28	506,740.00
CRAB CULTURE IN POND / AQUASILVI	Bongan	Bongan Fisherfolk Association	10	196,600.00
MUDCRAB FATTENING	Mansailao	Mansailao Fisherfolk Association	10	105,920.00
SHELLFISH CULTURE (OYSTER)	Mandus		2 HH	54,620.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>88 MEMBERS &amp; 2 HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>1,149,420.00</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>549 FA MEMBERS &amp; 62 HOUSEHOLDS</b>		<b>13,000,007.00</b>

HH- Households, or number of families benefited



# **WOMEN IN THE LEAD:**

THE THRIVING  
POULTRY IN BALETE  
SURIGAO DEL SUR





## BACKGROUND

The 2nd class municipality of Talacogon is considerably the heart of In the 5th class municipality of Bayabas in Surigao del Sur exists Barangay Balete, a community whose locals rely on occasional fishing and manual labor for a living. Aside from being remote, the long-established livelihoods are not enough to sustain a comfortable living for its residents. For a community in which the population is less than a thousand, start-up interventions are far more sustainable.

In 2019, the DA-SAAD Program started its implementation in Caraga. One of the projects introduced to its beneficiaries is the Chicken Production Project

The project was found fitting by the Balete Corn Growers' Association (BACGA). The group took shape with the start of the SAAD Program in the region.

Composed of 20 women and five men, BACGA's members are relatively new to native chicken production. At least three of its officers are barangay health workers, including the association president Nenita Dalayan, while the rest of the members are housewives and on-call laborers.

BACGA's members readily joined the project as the project given by SAAD was seen to have good potential for an additional source of income. According to Nenita their chicken production project is up for a promising and profitable leap.

The eggs, chicks, and chicken were not only used for their consumption but are currently being sold in their community. Through this project, poultry products became available in the local market, gaining buyers in the nearby barangays, as well as consumers from Tandag City.

Moreover, it provides a stable source of income for its farmer-beneficiaries at the height of the pandemic.

# BALETE

## CORN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

**FY 2019 CHICKEN PRODUCTION PROJECT**

Bayabas, Surigao del Sur

25 Beneficiaries



# PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

In 2019, the SAAD Program allotted Php 833,136 for the first phase of BACGA's project. The package included two poultry houses, feeds, drugs and biologics, water plastic drums, an incubator, and training on chicken production. In partnership with the DA-Tagbina Research and Experiment Station, 180 native chickens arrived in March 2020; and by this time, BACGA was more than ready for action.

The native chickens started laying eggs by April, but it was only in May when they started marketing their products in the nearby barangays. Production of chicks, on the other hand, kicked off in August, which they limited selling to increase their stocks.

Seven months after their production started, BACGA is considerably thriving. As of November 11, the association amassed a gross income of Php 47,335.

**Table 9. BACGA – Received inputs from SAAD Program**

YEAR	PROJECT	UNIT OF MEASURE	QUANTITY	COST (Php)
<b>2019</b>	<b>CHICKEN PRODUCTION PROJECT</b>			
	Poultry House w/ Perimeter Fence	building	2	625,375.00
	Feeds	kilo/bag	89	134,859.92
	Incubator (300 setter)	unit	1	37,000.00
	Drugs and Biologics	box	24	11,022.00
	Water Plastic Drum	number	2	3,600.00





The management of the project would not have been made possible without the groundwork they laid out collectively. President Nenita, with Vice President Maria Fe Maguiling, Secretary Maricel Caputol, and Treasurer Irenia Jamisola, led BACGA into a profitable livelihood.

According to Nenita, their first challenge as a start-up association had to be uniting the already preoccupied members to engage wholeheartedly. It took Nenita and her fellow officials some time to convince some members to give their commitment to the project.

Nenita employed a few strategies that proved to help keep the association intact. "Without these strategies, BACGA would have fallen out," added Nenita.

The following are the management strategies BACGA has carried out routinely:



# PROJECT MANAGEMENT

1. **Delegate tasks.** Considering their personal endeavors, BACGA equally divided the workload in the poultry site among its members.

*"When the native chickens arrived, we grouped ourselves into 5 groups, with one group assigned every day. All groups are free to devise their strategies provided the site is guarded at all times," Nenita said.*

2. **Keep an inclusive recording system.** Even with limited knowledge in project management, BACGA's members are all aware of how transparency builds and guarantees trust. As soon as income started coming in, they kept a recording system and a physical and financial report for recordkeeping.

*"We have developed a recording sheet for our sales, with details including the name of the buyer, the quantity sold, and the amount paid. We never miss filling out those forms because they are important," Nenita shared.*







Meanwhile, the SAAD Program provided another Php 1.1 million worth of livelihood interventions for the expansion of BACGA's production in 2020. The package was delivered in 2019, which includes additional feeds, drugs and biologics, and an additional poultry house.

The new poultry house is the third one, which will shelter the 160 native chickens scheduled to be delivered in 2021.

3. **Carry out immediate solutions.** In sustaining any project, there is no room for delayed actions. *"Any immediate concern we address right away,"* said Maria Fe. *"This is crucial because any delay, say, in repairing torn nets or treating ill chickens, would definitely affect our production as a whole."*
4. **Seek community support.** Livelihood programs, while directly impacting the farmer-partners, need as much community support. BACGA, before their poultry houses were completed, sought the help of their barangay council in constructing additional facilities on the site, such as the comfort room and the hut where they sleep.

*"Our community, especially our barangay captain, is overjoyed with the poultry in the community. His administration contributed some materials for the construction of on-site facilities,"* Nenita shared.

5. **Be innovative.** Aside from producing eggs, BACGA aims to supply chickens to local buyers and food establishments in Bayabas. As a preparation, they decided to limit selling their chicks to increase their stocks.

*"Sure, eggs are marketable, but if we want to progress financially, we need to invest more in increasing our stocks,"* said Nenita.





# KEY RESULTS

For its 25 members, poultry production has been a big help socioeconomically. To Irenia Jamisola, a full-time housewife, the project not only provides her a promising income in the succeeding years but has also become an avenue for her to hone her management skills. She currently serves as the association treasurer.

"We had our first sharing in July this year. Each of us received Php 500, just enough as a reward for the time and efforts we invested in the project. We plan to have our sharing by December in time for Christmas," shared Irenia.

More than the steady flow of income, BACGA is becoming an established local supplier of eggs and chicks in their community. They sell their eggs at Php 7 each and chicks at Php 35. They accept orders in bulk and deliver the trays with a motorcycle. They also occasionally sell liveweight chickens for Php 200/kg.

**Table 10. BACGA's Sales from May to November 2020**

MONTH	NO. OF EGGS	SALES FROM EGGS (Php)	NO. OF CHICKS	SALES FROM CHICKS	TOTAL WEIGHT SOLD (KG)	SALES FROM LIVELWEIGHT CHICKENS (Php)	TOTAL SALES (Php)
MAY	810	5,940.00					5,940.00
JUNE	810	5,940.00					5,940.00
JULY	870	6,380.00			25.4	5,080.00	11,460.00
AUGUST	540	3,960.00	72	2,520.00	9	1,800.00	8,280.00
SEPTEMBER	330	2,420.00			4	800.00	3,220.00
OCTOBER	150	1,100.00	270	9,450.00			10,550.00
NOVEMBER	390	2,860.00	206	7,220.00			10,080.00
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>55,470.00</b>

*As of November 11, 2020*

Beginning October 2020, BACGA opted to shelve their harvested eggs for the purpose of incubation. Maricel said they "found investing in chicks more profitable in the long run, hence, we are saving enough eggs for mass incubation."

## PLANS

"We are more than blessed to have been funded by the SAAD Program with a project complete with the necessary inputs. On our end, we will sustain our production by increasing our stocks and selling more eggs and chicks. This will be challenging but with the ever-growing demand, it is possible," Nenita said.

BACGA has a long way to go. Other than the agricultural inputs, the association will undergo preparatory training on poultry management, entrepreneurial mind-setting, and more scheduled early 2021. But for now, they are taking their time establishing a reputable name in the local poultry industry. "We're taking things slowly. Soon enough, we'll get there."





# SAAD FULFILLED:

PROPELS THE  
GROWTH OF  
SOFAS-2 AMIDST  
PANDEMIC





# SOONG

## FISHERFOLK ASSOCIATION 2

**FISH POLYCULTURE IN CAGE**

Tago, Surigao del Sur  
22 Beneficiaries

52

### BACKGROUND

Tago, Surigao del Sur is a 2nd class municipality in Surigao del Sur (2015 census) and one of the municipalities under Peace Development Zone (PDZ) where selected barangays are priority of National Task Force to End Local Communist Armed Conflict (NTF-ELCAC). It is also one of the municipalities with a high percentage of impoverished marginal fisherfolk in the province, hence, the qualified beneficiary for the SAAD Program of the DA and BFAR.

Prior to the selection of sites and target beneficiaries, assessment and validation have been conducted. Sitio Soong, Purok Mangga-2, Barangay Purisima, Tago was identified as one of the areas for the SAAD aquaculture livelihood project.

A poor community was also found in the area who willingly showed their intent to avail the program. The said community is the Soong Fisherfolk Association 2 (SOFAS 2). It was organized in November 2019 with the assistance of BFAR-PFO in Surigao del Sur in collaboration with the LGU of Tago.

Mr. Ferdinand A. Montero, a farmer-fisherfolk has been elected and took the challenge of being the president of the organization. It is composed of 22 members and is duly registered by DOLE.

Its primary objective is to increase productivity and income among members and neighborhood, thus, reduce poverty in the community. The members of the group are marginalized farmers and fisherfolk, some members are tenants of coconut farms, some are caretakers of fishponds and fish cages on a percentage basis wage, some are fishers and laborers for fishpond construction.

According to Mr. Montero, their income is not enough for the basic needs and daily expenses of their families, especially during the height of the CoViD-19 pandemic. "We have no owned fishponds nor agricultural lands, we are just tenants for many years," Mr. Montero said.

Mr. Montero was focused and determined to reach their goal and help members to overcome poverty through his good leadership to the association, hard work, and dedication for the success of the project entitled, "Fish Polyculture in Cage".



The SOFAS-2 as a qualified beneficiary based on the implementing guidelines of the program received an aquaculture livelihood project in the last quarter of 2019. Prior to the implementation, a hands-on training was conducted to equip the beneficiary with the technical know-how on fish polyculture on cages (milkfish and siganids).

Site assessment and selection of the area were also conducted to ensure the suitability and profitability of the project. Materials and inputs were provided to the association (PE nets, bamboo poles, monofilament nylon, ropes, plastic drums, and sinkers for the construction of 1-unit 10m x 10m floating fish cage, 266 bags of feeds, and 10,000pc of milkfish “garungan” for one cropping period).



**Table 11. SOFAS 2 – Received inputs from SAAD Program**

YEAR	PROJECT	UNIT OF MEASURE	QUANTITY	COST (Php)
2019	<b>Fish Polyculture In Cage</b>			
	B-Net (Double width)	bundle	1	7,000.00
	Bamboo Poles (5-6 diameter) Full Length	piece	100	10,000.00
	P.E Net 400/12 14k, 100 md	roll	4	36,000.00
	P.E Rope no. 40/20mm	roll	1	11,000.00
	P.E Rope no. 20/10mm	rolls	4	12,000.00
	Mono nylon 40 lbs. test	kilo	5	1,750.00
	Mono nylon 300 lbs. test	kilo	10	5,000.00
	Mono nylon 200 lbs. test	kilo	10	5,000.00
	Netting Needle (Medium)	piece	10	150.00
	Plastic Drum Floater (200L cap)	piece	12	18,000.00
	Lumber 2"x 2" x 12ft	piece	20	5,200.00
	Marine Epoxy	quart	1	460.00
	Steel Drum (empty)	piece	1	500.00
	Cement	bags	2	560.00
	Bangus garungan (juveniles)	piece	12,000	72,000.00
	Siganids Fingerlings	piece	4,000	14,000.00
	Feeds: 42 bags Starter Crumble @ 1,195/bags 145 bags Grower Feeds (Floater) 79 bags Finisher Feeds (Floater)	bag	266	50,190.00 167,475.00 90,455.00
	<b>Total Cost of Intervention</b>			<b>506,740.00</b>



The construction and installation of the fish cage were completed by the SOFAS-2 members with the technical assistance of BFAR-PFO. The 10,000pc milkfish “garungan” were stocked and reared in a floating cage for 120 days.

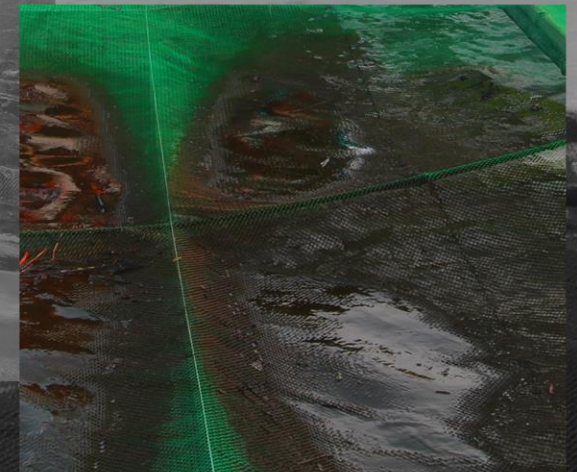
Two members of the association were tasked as caretakers of the project provided with salaries given on a monthly basis. The group unanimously agreed with this scheme for consistent feeding and management of the stock. Other members were responsible to conduct monitoring and maintenance of the culture medium.

The project was managed properly, thus, a good harvest was observed. However, very low market demand was a problem at that time because of restrictions due to the CoViD-19 pandemic in which implementation of lockdowns to neighboring municipalities and provinces halted big brokers and buyers to buy fish supplies from other areas.

Mr. Montero prompted to call for an emergency meeting with the members and agreed that only partial harvest be done because of the unstable market demand and low farm gate price of milkfish. Harvest was done three times to offset orders from the locals and demand higher prices.

Due to lack of post-harvest equipment, the organization rented a boat for the transport of harvest and borrowed plastic drums used as a chilling tank.

At present, SOFAS-2 was able to stock 5,000pc milkfish “garungan” for the second cycle, with average body weight (ABW) of 200 grams (g) and expected to harvest in the last week of December 2020. The expected/target volume of harvest is 1.5 tons (t) and will be sold at Php 110/kg.





# PLANS

Aside from the milkfish culture business for each household, the group plans to expand its aquaculture venture and engage in the culture of caranx, crab, and “garungan”.

SOFAS-2 plans to collaborate with other agencies first by requesting DOLE for training and seminars in strengthening their association including policy aspects. They also want to invite the Cooperative Development Authority to conduct an orientation and seminar in establishing a Cooperative because the association is planning to expand its membership. Chairman Montero added that they are very much willing to accept fisherfolk who are interested and willing to join the SOFAS-2 to increase its members for a bigger impact.

Furthermore, the association hopes to establish an agri-supply enterprise once they become a cooperative. This will cater to farm and fishery inputs demand in the area and neighboring municipalities. The group also plans to have a rice buying station and will acquire fishpond areas once the savings of their dreamed cooperative is enough.

Mr. Montero humbly expressed “We hope BFAR will never leave us and will always assist and guide us, and continue its unwavering support to the association in spite of this pandemic that we suffer.” He was very delighted with the given SAAD livelihood project and kept a promise to sustain it for the sake of their families, farmer-fisherfolk members, and the whole community.

## KEY RESULTS

During the first cropping, SOFAS-2 harvested a total of 3.152mt of milkfish last September 2020 with a gross sale of Php 279,363. This is a large sum of money for a newly organized fisherfolk organization and indeed this livelihood aquaculture project has increased their productivity and income amid this CoVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Montero shared that one of the positive results of this SAAD livelihood intervention was some members were able to shift from illegal gathering of crablets in Tago River to an aquaculture venture. Also, members are empowered and equipped with the technical know-how on fish farming. Mr. Montero added that some members were able to put-up a small “sari-sari” store and able to support their families in daily needs.

SOFAS-2 established linkages and partnerships in local vendors, brokers, and buyers in Tandag City Public market and other municipalities which plays a vital role in the aquaculture business. They procured a 1-unit wooden paddle boat worth Php 7,000 for transportation. With a staggering 3.152t of milkfish for the first cycle, indeed SOFAS-2 contributed to food security to the community.





**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
SPECIAL AREA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
CARAGA REGION**

Organizational Structure 2020

**REGIONAL PROGRAM MANAGEMENT  
SUPPORT OFFICE**

**ABEL JAMES I. MONTEAGUDO**

Regional Executive Director - RFO 13  
SAAD Program Focal Person

**JEKEM D. SANCHEZ**

Agriculturist II/Livestock Program Coordinator  
SAAD Deputy Focal Person

**JUNABELLE C. CASIO**

SAAD Planning Officer

**ÑINA JANE A. VILLAGONZA**

SAAD Monitoring Officer

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## SAADventures past issues

SAADventures magazine features each regional and provincial Special Area for Agricultural Development Program implementation, accomplishments, as well as infographics and stories of empowered farmers and fishers (individual or association).



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