



National Convergence Initiative for
Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD)



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Photo credit: RCI TWG Central Visayas

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CAROOD'S LASOVEGA TAKES OFF AMID PANDEMIC

By: RCI TWG Central Visayas



post-harvest equipment

A major success factor in any organization is the kind of leadership that is steering the organization. In the case of LASOVEGA, Ms. Helen Daguplo is the main driving force. Leading by example, she fulfills the organization's dream of expanding the group's resources and horizon. Initially, LASOVEGA thought that the agriculture, forestry and fisheries (AFF) enterprise clustering approach training led by the

National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) in 2019 would be like any other training they had attended. But the said training became a vehicle for LASOVEGA to new heights even during a pandemic.

The knowledge gained in the AFF enterprise clustering approach included partnership building, product selection to be promoted, market study chain, cluster commitment setting, AFF enterprise plan and mobilization, product supply organizing, and test marketing. The farmers' organizations were monitored throughout the implementation phase. This was done with the coordination and assistance of the Regional Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development Technical Working Group (RCI-SRD TWG Central Visayas) and the Carood Watershed Council.

A big factor in LASOVEGA's success is attributed to the officers' commitments and passion. Even with the challenges of the pandemic, the group pursued their dream to make their enterprise sustainable. The DA accreditation of LASOVEGA boosted its image as a good-standing farmers' association.

For many years, LASOVEGA had been longing for support from the government. The support poured in after the AFF enterprise training. The DA-RFO Central Visayas granted small equipment such as shredder, multi-cultivator, water pump, knapsack sprayer, and crates in 2020. The association expressed their gratitude for the small grant as it greatly helped them in facilitating the preparation of organic concoctions. The crates were useful in handling their products by reducing postharvest losses.

LASOVEGA's production was considered small scale from 2010 up to 2018. But after the AFF enterprise clustering training, the organization has set its goal to go commercial scale by expanding its production area from five (5) hectares in 2010 to 17.5 hectares in 2021. LASOVEGA aims to be one of the learning sites of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in 2022. It is the desire of the group to be able to share the applicable agricultural technologies and viable farm strategies with other farmer organizations that are newly organized. By 2024, the group aims to upscale into a farm school, which needs more investments. According to Daguplo, it is indeed an ambitious plan. However, it is needed because dreams are the driving force in any organization.

The market has always been a challenge for farmers in the time of the pandemic, but even that, was hurdled by the organization. They joined the KADIWA program of the DA in 2020, where they regularly sold their products and delivered their products to the neighboring barangays. The steady market at the height of the pandemic motivated them to produce even with the challenges of the time. Resolved to pursue their vision, the organization rented a space where the members could meet regularly.

In 2021, the LASOVEGA is a recipient of P150,000 seed capital to be used for purchasing farm seeds and fertilizers. The RCI TWG chaired by Regional Executive Director (RED) Atty. Salvador Diputado saw to it that the participants of the AFF enterprise training would be beneficiaries of DA grants. The proposed future projects of the organization are a delivery vehicle and a small farm reservoir.

DA Central Visayas RED Salvador Diputado hands over the small farm equipment and pieces of machinery to the LASOVEGA officers.

LASOVEGA's anecdote could also be a story for all organizations, only if the farmers' associations begin to take the obstacles as challenges that need to be overcome.

It's time for farmers' organizations to take off. ###



small equipment awarded to LASOVEGA farmers to assist them

PA CWG CONDUCTS SITE VALIDATION ON AUUF UNDER FLA

By: Ram Bernal, National Secretariat

The Policy and Advocacy Component Group (PA CWG) of the NCI-SRD conducted a field validation on the Abandoned, Undeveloped, and Underutilized Fishponds (AUUF) under the Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA) in Sta. Cruz and Masinloc, Zambales on 01 to 03 December 2021.



The field validation aims to obtain firsthand information on the canceled and abandoned fishponds under the Fishpond Lease Agreement (FLA) by meeting with the program implementers and stakeholders at the ground. The activity also aims to document the status of implementation of the abandoned AUUF and note the relevant issues and challenges.

In 2020, the PA CWG conducted a policy audit to surface the challenges and overlaps in the implementation of the DA-DENR-DILG JAO No. 01, series of 2008 (Defining/identifying the areas of cooperation and collaboration among the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) in the planning, management, and control of aquaculture development to mitigate impacts on the environment). As a result, an Inter-Agency Technical Working Group chaired by DA-BFAR and co-chaired by DENR was reactivated to address the issues affecting areas covered by FLAs which have been abandoned, underutilized and underdeveloped.



The validating team

The field validation was participated by PA CWG members from DAR-PRS and DENR-BMB and the National Secretariat, in coordination with DA BFAR Region III, DENR CENRO Masinloc, DENR PAMO Masinloc, and the Provincial Fisheries Office of Zambales. ###

RCI CAGAYAN VALLEY COMPLETES ENVIRONMENTAL SCANNING

By: RCI TWG Cagayan Valley



DA RED Edillo gives his inputs

An environmental scanning for the municipalities of Claveria, Sta. Praxedes, Abulug and Pamplona was conducted.

According to DA RFO Cagayan Valley Regional Executive Director and RCI-SRD Chairperson Narciso A. Edillo, it is now time for the concerned national agencies and local government units to complement their resources and expertise for the realization of the approved Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) of the Agro-Forestry Abundance and Productivity Using Integrated Technologies thru Barangay Based Agricultural Ventures and Advancement (AGAPIT-BAVA).

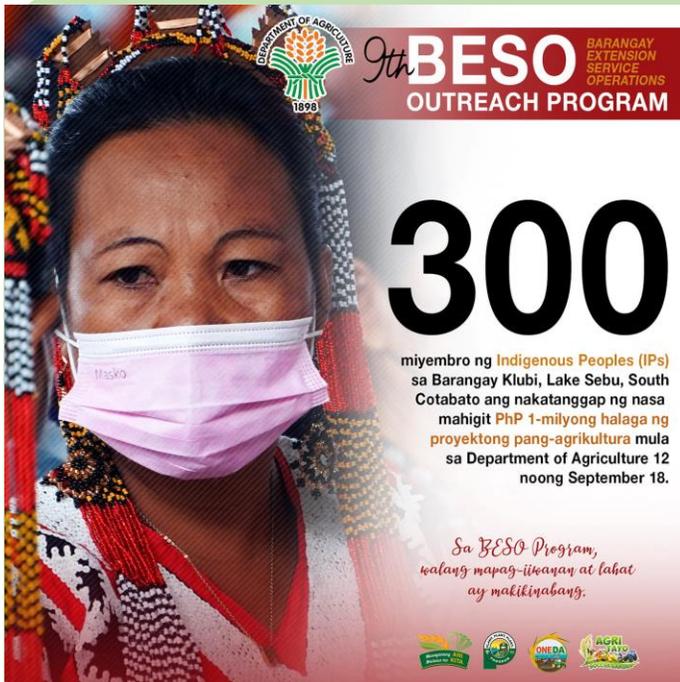
As discussed, each municipal LGU shall identify two (2) champion commodities and an area for the establishment of a hub that serves as their operation center. The said municipalities shall serve as the Rural Transformation Centers (RTC) that will support the central hub to be established in Cagayan State University (CSU), Sanchez Mira, Cagayan.

In her recorded inspirational message, Congresswoman Samantha Louise Vargas Alfonso of the second district of Cagayan thanked all the participating agencies and LGUs for their attendance and support for the realization of convergence initiatives.

The young legislator assured the full support of her office and willingness to help create opportunities for the farmers and fisherfolks through their resources. ###

P1 MILLION FARM INPUTS DISTRIBUTED BY DA RFO SOCCSKSARGEN TO LAKE SEBU IP COMMUNITIES

By: Justin Aquino, RCI TWG SOCCSKSARGEN



9th BESO Outreach Program

The pandemic is certainly not an excuse for DA RFO 12 to lounge around. During the trying times, the agency is doing its best to alleviate its stakeholders from economic hardships as more and more members of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) in SOCCSKSARGEN received farm inputs from the DA RFO 12.

On September 18, through the convergence efforts of the different national agencies, DA's Barangay Extension Service Operations (BESO) Outreach Program was held for the ninth time in the far-flung barangay of Klubi in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato.

DA SOCCSKSARGEN Regional Executive Director (RED) Arlan Mangelen spearheaded the distribution of agricultural inputs worth Php 1-million to the identified farmer-beneficiaries and farmers' associations.

"Gusto naming ipakita at iparamdam sa inyo ngayon na may gobyerno na handang tumulong sa

pangangailangan ninyo," RED Mangelen said in his speech. He also emphasized that the BESO Program was created to bring the programs and projects of the government closer to the grassroots communities. "Kinakailangan ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno na maabot at matulungan ang kanyang nasasakupan. Gumagawa dapat tayo ng mga programa para mailapit sa kanila ang ating mga programa," the director and the brainchild of the project said. "The DA RFO 12 is accessible, responsible, accountable and a working agency para makamit natin ang ating mithiing Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita," he added.

During the activity, the DA RFO SOCCSKSARGEN conducted a tree planting activity and RSBSA enrollment. On September 17, 2021, over 60 IPs also underwent various training on food processing and mushroom production. The products were displayed in Kadiwa ni Ani at Kita stalls in the venue. DA RFO SOCCSKSARGEN also provided them with tool kits as they have begun their entrepreneurship venture in agriculture. The Koronadal City Eagles Club and Philippine Coconut Authority 12 also distributed food packs and coconut planting materials to the farmer attendees.###

PCA CONDUCTS TRAINING ON COCONUT PROCESSING FOR SORSOGON RURAL WOMEN

By: Jayson Gonzales, RCI TWG Bicol

Sorsogon rural women were the target participants of the Philippine Coconut Authority's (PCA) training on vinegar and soy sauce-making from coconut. Twenty-five (25) members of the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) of Brgy. Maypangi in Sorsogon participated in the session led by PCA and was assisted by the Sorsogon Provincial Agriculture Office.

According to Castilla OIC-Municipal Agriculturist Manuel Marantal, the training aims to equip the RIC members with the necessary skills and knowledge in

processing coconut into vinegar and soy sauce. The coconut processing session also aims to give additional income and livelihood to the beneficiaries.

"Coconut is considered as the "tree of life" because almost all of its parts are useful. Also known as a superfood, coconut and coconut by-products are much in demand. Coconut juice can also be processed into vinegar and soy sauce," said Rineo Navarro of PCA and resource person in the training.
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RIC President and Maypangi Barangay Captain Floriña Balaquiao expressed her gratitude for the training and starter kits distributed by PCA. “The members are heavily affected by the pandemic in the economic sense. We thank the different agencies for their assistance during these difficult times,” Balaquiao said.

RIC-Maypangi received various livelihood training, farm inputs, and vegetable seeds from DA Bicol. ###

DENR BICOL TRAINS BARANGAYS IN THE PILI WATERSHED CONVERGENCE AREA

by: Jayson Gonzales, RCI TWG Bicol

Castilla, Sorsogon--- More than 35 barangay officials from the 13 barangays included in the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP), and representatives of Castilla Municipal Agriculture Office and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)-Sorsogon participated in the Training on Watershed Management for the Pili River Watershed held on 6-7 October 2021.



Dr. Edgar R. Madrid (left), RCI TWG Bicol Focal Person, encourages the participants to compare their present and traditional practices to the new technologies and innovations in watershed management of the DENR. While PENRO-Sorsogon Socrates Cabiles (right) underscores the importance of convergence for the success of watershed management.

The training was geared towards teaching the participants basic concepts and principles of the watershed management, ridge-to-reef approach and its legal basis. The activity also aims to guide the field implementers in the drafting of a holistic watershed characterization and vulnerability assessment of the Pili Watershed.

The training also presented the salient features of DMC 2008-05 and the Watershed Instrumentation to increase the awareness of the local communities on the importance and proper management of Pili Watershed.

According to Department of Agriculture Bicol Regional Technical Director for Research

and Regulations and Regional Convergence Initiative Bicol for Sustainable Rural Development Focal Person Dr. Edgar R. Madrid, this training will provide new technologies and innovations in watershed management in comparison to the traditional farmers’ practice and culture.

DENR Bicol Assistant Chief of the Conservation and Development Division Benjamin J. Meden hopes that the participants will apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in protecting and improving the quality of water and natural resources within the Pili Watershed by employing the ridge to reef approach.

The two-day training was facilitated by the Regional Community Based Forest

Management and the Protected Area Management and Biodiversity Conservation Section (PAMBCS) of DENR Bicol.

Castilla Administrative Officer Atty. Marilyn D. Valino urged the trainees to participate actively and apply their learnings in managing their Pili Watershed.

“Ginibo na kan DA, DENR, DAR asin DILG an saindang mga parte para sa satuyang watershed. An satuyang partisipasyon asin pag-adaptar kan mga nanudan iyo man an satuyang suporta asin balos sainda (The DA, DENR, DAR and DILG already has done their parts for our watershed. Our participation and adoption of our learnings will be our support and repayment to them).” ###

NCI-SRD WRAPS UP FY 2021 WITH ANNUAL YEAR-END ASSESSMENT AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING

By: Nihaya Ariraya, National Secretariat



DA Undersecretary Waldo Carpio with the virtual participants

“..we assemble as one because all of us are geared towards the development and uplifting of the living condition of rural communities”

Cavite - Despite the rough road paved by the ongoing health crisis and the limitations on program implementation, the NCI-SRD continues to move forward and solidify its commitment towards stringent project execution without compromising protocols.

Last November 16 to 19, 2021, the NCI-SRD held its annual assessment to present, deliberate and finalize the FY 2021 Year-end Accomplishment, FY 2022 Operational Plans and FY 2023 Plans and Budget Proposals. The four-day workshop was held at The Bayleaf Hotel, General Trias, Cavite and was graced by the presence of the Permanent Alternate Chairperson of the NCI-SRD National Steering Committee (NSC) DA Undersecretary Waldo R. Carpio. “We may come from different government houses with different mandates but we assemble as one because all of us are geared towards the development and uplifting of the living condition of rural communities,” said Agriculture Undersecretary Carpio.

Messages of support were also delivered online by all members of the NSC including DAR Undersecretary Ranibai D. Dilangalen, DENR Undersecretary Jonas Leones and DILG Undersecretary Marlo Iringan. The NSC members impressed on the unrelenting efforts of the prime movers of the Convergence Strategy.

The year-end assessment intends to collate regional accomplishment, plans and forward budgets in order to conduct a nationwide progress review and to prune out points at issue that needs to be addressed immediately. This year, the focal point of discussion is on the involvement of other national government agencies and groups apart from the four member-agencies. The contributions of other agencies are deemed vital not just in the identification of further interventions but also in the development of cross-cutting measures and interconnectivity plans.

As it inches forward to another fiscal year, the NCI-SRD envisions achieving the One-Convergence-Area-Per-Region goal in 2022. All main factors considered, it shall continue to be steadfast in its aim to cater to the needs of rural areas and communities. ###

DA Undersecretary Waldo Carpio with RTD Marcos C. Aves, Sr. of DA-CALABARZON, Deputy Director Rowena Genete of DA-AMAS, Kim Joseph Medrana of DA-ATI, RCI TWG CALABARZON and MIMAROPA, and the National Secretariat



DA-DAR-DENR-DILG LAUNCHES THE TANAW DE RIZAL CONVERGENCE AREA

By: Reina Beatriz Peralta, RCI TWG CALABARZON



DAR Undersecretary Ranibai Dilangalen with Mayor Vener Munoz, DA RED Vilma Dimaculangan, representatives from the Office of the Undersecretary for Special Concerns, RCI TWG CALABARZON, and the National Secretariat

On October 19, 2021, the Departments of Agriculture (DA), Agrarian Reform (DAR), Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Interior and Local Government (DILG) launched the Tayak Adventure, Nature, and Wildlife (TANAW) de Rizal Convergence Area Development. It is a twenty-four (24) hectare agro-eco-tourism park project under the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD).

DAR Undersecretary for Mindanao Affairs and Rural Development, Atty. Ranibai D. Dilangalen, DENR IV-CALABARZON Regional Executive Director Nilo B. Tamoria, DA IV-CALABARZON OIC-Regional Executive Director Vilma M. Dimaculangan, and DILG IV-A Regional Director Ariel O. Iglesia, representatives from the DA Office of the Undersecretary for Special Concerns and the National Secretariat led the said activity.

In a recorded video message, DA Secretary Dar mentioned that “this project is very promising for the municipality of Rizal because of its agricultural and livelihood activity towards the area. This promotes development without compromising the environment.”

The main purpose of this project is to strengthen the agri-tourism of Rizal, Laguna through preserving the

organic agriculture and the environment.

“Ang programa pong ito ay simula pa lamang ng ating iisang layunin na magkaroon ng agro-eco tourist spot dito sa Rizal na mapapakinabangan ng nakakarami. Patuloy pong magtutulungan ang mga ahensya ng pamahalaan para rito,” DA-CALABARZON Director Dimaculangan said.

The facilities inside the nature park consist of fourteen (14) stations of the cross, mini zoo, adventure activity area, farmers’ training center to where capacity building training for the farmers’ will be held, agriculture products trading post and river rehabilitation, and soil erosion control facility. This park will also open additional livelihood opportunities for the farmers as well as the community in the convergence area. ###



Livestock intervention

DAR NORTHERN MINDANAO DISTRIBUTES LAND TITLES TO SELECTED ARBs in GINGOOG CITY

By: RCI TWG Northern Mindanao

Gingoog City, Misamis Oriental --- The Department of Agrarian Reform – Northern Mindanao, Province of Misamis Oriental distributed Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOAs) to selected ARBs in the City of Gingoog, Misamis Oriental. The land distributed covers 17 hectares of agricultural lands formerly owned by the Lugod landholdings.

“Make these lands richer and do not sell these properties because it is against the law. The government can reclaim it and give it to more qualified individuals,” Alcala said.

The land was awarded through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, the government’s social justice program to redistribute private and public agricultural



Distribution of land titles

Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer II (PARPO II) Maybelle Alcala, together with the Chief Agrarian Reform Program Officer (CARPO) Noel Supremo and the Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer (MARPO) Audie Sacote handed to 6 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) of Barangay 26, Poblacion their dreamed CLOAs.

In a simple ceremony, Alcala said the DAR is mandated to distribute lands to landless farmers and provide support services to ensure that the farmers will cultivate and make the lands given to them productively to improve their lives.

lands to advance the economic conditions of small farmers.

“Make these lands richer and do not sell these properties because it is against the law.”

Liezal Gutang, one of the ARBs, thanked the DAR for the properties that they received.

“I believe that what we have received will be a big help in improving our lives. We promise that we will take care of it,” Gutang said. ###

MAT-I FARMERS MPC IN MISAMIS ORIENTAL RECEIVE DELIVERY TRUCK FROM DAR

By: RCI TWG Northern Mindanao



Delivery truck intervention

The Mat-i Farmers MPC (MAFAMCO) in Claveria, Misamis Oriental received one (1) unit delivery truck from the Department of Agrarian Reform-10 (DAR-10). The ₱475,000.00-worth delivery truck was procured under the Linking SmallHolder Farmers to Markets with Microfinance (LinkSFarMM) Project implemented by the DAR. The project will benefit 100 LinkSFarMM project cluster members, mostly Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs).

DAR Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer (PARPO) II Maybelle T. Alcala said the Department continuously provides support services to members of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperatives (ARBOs) to help develop their agri-enterprise activities. She challenged the members of the ARBOs to increase their cluster membership and engage the members in production and collective marketing strategy.

Alcala and PARPO I Shirley Guan Hing Arquiza AI led the turn-over of the delivery truck which will be used to transport agricultural products from the farm to the market.

Claveria is a municipality within the Mt. Balatucan Range Convergence Area.###

DA HIGH-VALUE CROPS PROGRAM FUNDS P1.1M WATER SYSTEM PROJECT IN SUAWAN-KULAFU CONVERGENCE AREA

By: Evelyn Deligero, RCI TWG Davao



Spring development reservoir

In the absence of rain, farmers in the highlands of Davao City suffered agriculture productivity loss, high labor cost, and high mortality rate of their crops. To address this concern, the DA High-Value Commercial Crops Program (HVCDP) funded an agri-water system in Davao Region that benefits Mahalyang Salaysay Farmers' Association (MASFA). The project reportedly costs Php 1.1M.

DA Project Officer Rubylyn Gomez said that the project aims to provide enough water supply to the farms in the region. She added that the project

is in support of the Regional Convergence Initiative (RCI) programs in the Davao region under the CADP of Suawan-Kulafu Subwatershed.

Gomez said that the farmers of Sitio Mahalyang in Brgy. Salaysay are the primary beneficiary of this project. They are living in a place where water is like gold (rare and expensive). The farmers, whose roots come from the ova manubo tribe, are producing high-value crops such as banana, cacao, durian, coconut, coffee, and rubber among other crops.

"Farmers in the highlands depend solely on rainfall to water their crops. During the dry season and in the absence of rain, these farmers fetch water from the river using big containers, which is laborious and entails additional input expenses", Gomez said.

Samuel Maga, 54, one of the beneficiaries, said that he is grateful for the project in which he benefited not only for his crops but also for his household use.

"Sa una sa wala pa ning water system, didto mi nagakuha ug tubig sa sapa para among gamiton sa balay. Layo kini, dilikado, ug langan sa trabaho (before this project, we fetch water that we use for household from the river, which is very far, risky, and laborious)", Maga said. He added that since this project is completed now, clean water is just flowing from the water source down in front of his house.

MASFA Chair Ronald Resumadero said that since the Suawan-Kulafu Subwatershed was launched as a convergence area, their livelihood became more productive. They now have greater access to the market because of the farm-to-market roads. Their yield improved vastly through the provision of planting materials like cacao and other crops.

He mentioned that almost all of his constituents in MASFA received cacao and rubber seedlings, attended seminars, and received assistance from different government agencies. Some other agencies like the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Agrarian Reform, and Interior and Local Government, and the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP) of Davao City also enjoined to increase the community's production and income.

"We are hoping that all government projects that will be implemented in our area will anchor to this Agri-water system given by DA", Resumadero concluded. ###

MIMAROPA TO LAUNCH MAG-ASAWANG TUBIG WATERSHED AS PILOT CONVERGENCE AREA

By: RCI TWG MIMAROPA

The Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (RCI TWG) MIMAROPA will launch the Mag-asawang Tubig Watershed Convergence Area as its pilot convergence area in the region.

In a CADP workshop conducted with the NCI-SRD National Secretariat on 21-24 September 2021, the RCI TWG MIMAROPA unveiled that the proposed CADP will cover the Municipality of Victoria, with its barangays Villa Cerveza, Alcate and Bagong Buhay.



DA RED Gerundio giving his message

“It took us a while to find a suitable area to establish the convergence initiative. Coordination with the local chief executives is a problem in a region like IV-B because provinces are literally separated by bodies of water. But with the dedication of our staff and the continuous support of Secretary Dar and Usec. Carpio, we are now at step 1 of establishing the CADP in our region,” said DA RFO IV-B Regional Executive Director Antonio Gerundio.

“We need all the support and funding we can get. The CADP will cover one municipality but we are targeting more. I am happy that our colleagues from DAR, DENR, and DILG are proactive and supportive. This is the spirit of convergence,” Dir. Gerundio reiterated.

The NCI-SRD is a joint project of the Departments of Agriculture, Agrarian Reform, Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Interior and Local Government. It aims to establish one convergence area per region by 2022.###

NEGROS OCCIDENTAL LOOKS FORWARD TO A NEW CONVERGENCE AREA

By: RCI TWG Western Visayas

The four rural development agencies and six municipalities and cities in Negros Occidental convened in Bacolod City on 26-29 October 2021 to strategize mechanisms and craft the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) for Imbang-Malogo Watershed.

The four-day blended workshop gathered regional chief executives and provincial officials from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agricultural Reform (DAR), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG). The provincial government of Negros Occidental was also represented by the Provincial Planning and Development Office (PPDO) and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA).

“The RCI TWG Central Visayas and the NCI-SRD National Secretariat have always worked in unison when it comes to rural development in the Central Visayas.



RCI TWG Western Visayas, M/CCI TWG, and the National Secretariat

We always coordinate and reach out to the local government units because we see the accomplishments of the NCI-SRD. *Hindi sapat na isa lang o dalawa ang convergence area rito sa atin. Mas marami, mas maganda,”* Dr. Sobrevega said.

The municipalities and cities of Talisay, Manapla, Victorias, E.B. Magallona, Silay, and Cadiz expressed their excitement in the endeavor since they are covered by the proposed CADP. ###

RCI TWG BICOL PROMOTES ORGANIC AGRICULTURE THROUGH COMMUNITY CONTEST

By: Jayson Gonzales, RCI TWG Bicol

The RCI TWG Bicol never runs out of ideas to improve the lives of the communities within their reach. Through the Progresibong Gulayan sa Barangay Project launched on August 2021, RCI TWG Bicol aims to promote organic agriculture in the municipality of Sorsogon.

“..ensure food sustainability and availability amidst the pandemic”

kangkong, eggplants, string beans, okra, upo, and lettuce.

“We will be using concoctions made from animal manure, vinegar, binurong kangkong and madre de cacao, IMO, and molasses,” said Lazar.

Department of Agriculture (DA) Bicol Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations and Regional Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (RCI-SRD) Focal Person, Dr. Edgar R. Madrid, underscored the important role of community gardens and the cooperation of stakeholders as primary movers in the food production industry.

“Nagpapasalamat kami sa pagtanggap ng mga taga-Sorsogon sa inisyatibang ito ng mga agencies. Mahalaga ang kanilang kooperasyon upang magtagumpay ang proyektong ito,” Dr. Madrid added.

Poblacion Organic Vegetable Growers member and Barangay Poblacion councilor on Agriculture Carlito E. Estuaria cited that the harvest of vegetables in the communal garden would be shared with the community and the excess would be sold to the market.

The Progresibong Gulayan sa Barangay Project is led by the Department of Agriculture-Bicol and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The best community garden will receive P10,000 based on landscaping, use of organic fertilizer and pesticides, and cooperation of the participating members. ###



Poblacion Organic Vegetable Growers member and currently Barangay Poblacion councilor on Agriculture, Carlito E. Estuaria, checks the communal garden.

Seven barangays included in the Convergence Area of Development Plan (CADP) for Pili River Watershed started to lay out their 20-sq.m-community garden as their entry for the contest. Rural Improvement Clubs (RICs) and community organizations in the barangays of Maypangi, San Isidro, San Rafael, Monte Carmelo, Oras, Dancalan, and Poblacion participated in the two-day training on Organic Agriculture to learn the necessary skills and knowledge on the preparation of organic fertilizers and pesticides.

According to Castilla OIC-Municipal Agriculturist Manuel Marantal, this project is one way to ensure food sustainability and availability amidst the pandemic.

RIC-President and Maypangi Barangay Captain Floriña Balaquiao shared that the group has planted cassava, okra, string beans, pechay, pineapple, radish, and eggplants in their communal garden. They utilized plastic bottles to create plots in different shapes and sizes.

“The training and its application to the communal garden will capacitate us to produce safe vegetables for our community and will eventually boost the economy of the barangay,” added Balaquiao.

San Isidro Organikong Gulayan sa Barangay member Antonia Lazar related that their communal garden is planted with sili, pechay,

CAROOD WATERSHED CONVERGENCE AREA REMAINS RELEVANT AMIDST COVID-19

By: RCI TWG Central Visayas



mangrove planting

The Regional Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (RCI-SRD) Central Visayas collaborated with the Carood Watershed Model Forest Management Council (CWFMC), Deutsche Gesellschaft für International Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), and Zoological Society of London (ZSL) to fund, train and provide technical support to the people's organizations in the region. Series of training and workshops in organizational management, planning, and updating the Integrated Coastal Resources Management (ICRM) were carried out to establish sustainable coastal protection in the areas affected by typhoons in the Carood Watershed.

To address the effects of climate change in the Carood Watershed, DENR Central Visayas supported the efforts of people's organizations through the National Greening Program (NGP). The project aims to reforest the denuded portions of Carood Watershed Convergence and maintain the existing plantation in the area.

Organization Management and Capability Development Training

Reorganization and Management Planning Workshops were conducted to organize and

strengthen the Suba MPA Management Council in Anda, Puntod Dako MPA Management Council in Mabini, and Guintaboan MPA Management Council in Ubay.

Mangrove Nursery Establishment Seminar

GIZ-Philippines and Zoological Society of London conducted a seminar on Mangrove Nursery Establishment attended by the Talisay Fishermen Association and Suba Fishermen Association of Anda. The participants' basic knowledge of the uses and importance of mangroves was refreshed. The participants also underwent technical hands-on training, nursery establishment, outplanting, and care and maintenance.

Training on Mangrove Outplanting

The Mangrove Outplanting Approach was based on the Mangrove Rehabilitation Manual developed by ZSL. It aims to capacitate the people's organizations on mangrove outplanting strategy, including the site selection for possible planting or outplanting, working rows distance for staking and making holes, leveling soil surface, and tying seedlings to stake to improve mangrove restoration. Cogtong Active Fisherfolk Association (COAFA) in Candijay, Bohol, and Del Mar Fishermen Association (DELFIASA) in Mabini, Bohol were selected to implement mangrove outplanting strategies. The project was funded by the GIZ. ###



National Steering Committee

Usec. Waldo R. Carpio, DA
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Layout Artist:
Justine Devela

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information, you may reach us through the following:

Website: <https://ncisrd.da.gov.ph>

Facebook: [fb.com/nationalconvergence](https://www.facebook.com/nationalconvergence)

Email: ncisrd@da.gov.ph

Phone: +632-8-929-4927

Address: 2nd floor, Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Visayas Avenue cor. Elliptical Rd., Quezon City

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