

# National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development

# DIGEST

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# A PRIDE OF CENTRAL ANTIQUE: CONSOLIDATING THE GAINS IN KAMAPAT'S RICE VALUE CHAIN

By: Shiela Mae Toreno, DA RCI TWG Western Visayas



Members of the KAMAPAT Agricultural Cooperative | Photo by: Ann Marie S. Tabura, DA RCI TWG Western Visayas

With a heart for rural excellence and passion for collective action, the KAMAPAT Agricultural Cooperative, located within the Central Antique Convergence Area in Western Visayas, has progressed into one of the most efficient and productive cooperatives in the province. Rice production has increased over the previous years and this can be attributed to the adoption of modern techniques, government assistance, efficient clustering, and remarkable leadership.

Henry Michael Gonzalo Doliguez, chairman of the KAMAPAT Agricultural Cooperative who founded the group in 2019, considers the federation of the 36 barangay farmers' associations and seven irrigators' associations in Patnongon as a move to encourage collaborative efforts, safeguard farmers from unfair pricing and manipulation, and maintain affordable prices for agricultural commodities.

Farmers in the Municipality of Patnongon have since decried soaring prices of farm inputs, low availability

of free seeds and fertilizer, and the plunging farm-gate value of their hard-labored commodities. With the government's support and interventions, KAMAPAT transformed into a proficient farmers' organization, meeting the needs of various stakeholders.

The government's support has not only facilitated the creation of KAMAPAT but also helped promote farmers' interests and enhance cultivation practices. With the implementation of the Central Antique Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP), the complementation of resources from the DA, DAR, DENR, and DILG has provided technical support for the operations of the cooperative.

Through various financial grants from the Department of Agriculture, KAMAPAT increased its capacity to procure farm products from small and marginal farmers in Patnongon.

Continued on next page →

Agricultural supplies were also procured using the grant with the remaining for palay procurement and other commodities for a Kadiwa display.

“KAMAPAT solved farmers’ problem of the lack of capital and offered a guaranteed market for their produce, coupled with a commitment to fair pricing. Our goal is to buy palay and other commodities from farmers at a favorable farm gate price and provide them to consumers at an affordable rate,” said Doliguez.

The ingenuity and resourcefulness of the cooperative in all its services and operations prodded higher patronage and trust among farmer members.

With KAMAPAT’s outstanding track record, they have received attention from national government agencies for their initiatives in agriculture. As the cooperative continues to flourish and serve as a beacon of hope for other farmers in Central Antique, their success is a testament to the transformative power of progressive agricultural practices coupled with good leadership. ###



Henry Michael Gonzalo Doliguez, Chairman of the KAMAPAT Agricultural Cooperative | Photo by: Ann Marie S. Tabura, DA RCI TWG Western Visayas

## MMC VOWS TO PROTECT SUAWAN-KUAFU SUBWATERSHED

By: Evelyn Deligero, DA RCI TWG Davao

“We mean business while we are taking care of our natural resources, especially our watershed.”

*Teodoro Rudaje, Chairperson, Magsaysay Marketing Cooperative*

Guided by the ultimate goal of bringing farm inputs and household needs nearer to the farmers and their families, Magsaysay Marketing Cooperative (MMC), situated in Magsaysay, Marilog District, Davao City, thrives to keep their marketing business afloat amidst circumstances.

This coop is run by 63 farmer members founded in 2014. Through the contribution of all the members, the coop gathered enough capital to start their ‘buy and sell business’ specializing in fertilizers, rice, groceries,

Rudaje said that since barangay Magsaysay is situated in a far-flung area where the road network was not that accessible, making these items accessible to the farmers helps them save time, money and energy.

“The coop experienced ups and downs. We have gone through bankruptcy many times but never stop. we try and thrive and assuredly, we will never be defeated by any circumstances”, Rudaje said.

Barangay Magsaysay is one of the productive barangays in Marilog District, Davao City. It is blessed with fertile agricultural land. It is one of the seven barangays along Suawan-Kulafu Sub-watershed, which belongs to the protected areas under the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP). This barangay is one of the sources of different kinds of vegetables, corn, and high-value crops that supplies consumers in Davao City.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The NCI-SRD currently has 20 approved Convergence Area Development Plans (CADPs) all over the Philippines!



Continued on next page →





Board of Directors and officers of Magsaysay Marketing Cooperative | Photo by: DA RCI TWG Davao

Agriculture Regional Executive Director Abel James Monteagudo said that capacitating the dwellers along Suawan-Kulafu Subwatershed hits two targets at one time. “As stated in our blueprint, the Regional Convergence Initiative will continue to capacitate and assist all barangays along Suawan-Kulafu Watershed by providing them with programs and projects that can augment their income and production”, Monteagudo said.

MMC has been the recipient of the Department of Agriculture’s Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) project, corn seeds, assorted vegetable seeds, corn sheller, farm tools, fertilizers, water pump, among others. This barangay has also been one of the recipients of the 12.09-kilometer concrete farm to market road funded by DA.

Just like many other businesses, the coop experienced ups and down in their business ventures. In their way up, government agencies held their hands. Aside from the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) help them a lot as a beneficiary and counterpart of the National Greening Program. MMC was able to purchase their own hauling vehicle (elf) which they used as product consolidator.

At present, assets of the coop continue to grow with more than P1M worth of goods displayed in their store. It has become the biggest general merchandise in the



Mr. Teodoro Rudaje, Chairperson of MMC | Photo by: DA RCI TWG Davao

barangay where all kinds of goods are displayed and made available for the dwellers not only in Magsaysay but also in other nearby barangays.

“I am thankful to the government agencies especially the RCI members for all the assistance and for capacitating farmers in this area. Rest assured that members of the MMC will be one with you in protecting our natural resources, especially our water sources”, Rudaje concluded. ###



# LGU MANGATAREM EXPRESSES INTEREST IN SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONVERGENCE AREA

By: Roley Ann Dela Cruz, DA RCI TWG Ilocos



*Taken at the Municipal Agriculture Office of LGU Mangatarem, Pangasinan. Ms. Irene Tactac of the RCI-SRD Secretariat discussed the process and objectives of convergence to Mr. Benito Jazmin, the Municipal Agriculturist | Photo by: DA RCI TWG Ilocos*

With the active involvement of the Ilocos Region for convergence initiatives, LGU Mangatarem in Pangasinan has recently expressed keen interest in becoming a part of the convergence site for Sustainable Rural Development. In a formal letter request dated November 8, 2023, Municipal Agriculturist Benito Jazmin conveyed the municipality's intent to join the program.

This development came after the Philippine International Philanthropy for People and Environment (PHILIPPEN), Inc. sought for its members residing in Mangatarem. In response, the NCI-SRD requested the chairpersons of the Regional Convergence Initiative (RCI) to assess the qualification of LGU Mangatarem for the program.

Leading the consultation dialogue and site validation process last October 2023 was Ms. Irene Tactac, Planning Officer III of DA-RFO 1, adhering to the criteria outlined in the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) manual operations.

The validation confirmed that there were members of PHILIPPEN residing in Barangay Laoac-Langka, Mangatarem, and were identified as one of the Indigenous Peoples (IP) groups. Further emphasizing the importance of their inclusion in the program.

Additionally, LGU Mangatarem's feasibility as a convergence site was evaluated based on prioritization criteria, and it was found to be covered by the Agno River Basin, with the existence of upland, lowland and river/inland water ecosystems in the vicinity.

It further solidifies its potential as a suitable location for a convergence area after the assessment determined that it has maintained its good financial housekeeping. The LGU is set to be included in the list of proposed convergence areas for 2024 in Region 1.

In the coming months, various activities are planned for the new proposed convergence site in the region. These activities include an orientation for the municipalities of Vintar, Piddig, and Dingras in Ilocos Norte, Sinait, Cabugao, and Caoayan in Ilocos Sur, as well as Bacnotan, San Juan, and Santol for La Union, Balungao and San Quintin in Pangasinan, and Mangatarem will again undergo validation.###

## TRIVIA TIME!

*The NCI-SRD has its own scholarship program led by the Development Academy of the Philippines which aims to produce rural development managers. Get ready for Batch 5 in 2026!*



# RCI BICOL SUSTAINS INTERVENTIONS TO CADP AREAS IN CASTILLA, SORSOGON

*By: Jayson Gonzales, DA RCI TWG Bicol*



*DA Bicol Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations  
Dr. Edgar Madrid | Photo by: DA RCI TWG Bicol*



*RCI Bicol staff meeting on the implementation of Pili Watershed CADP  
Photo by: DA RCI TWG Bicol*

Good news to the residents of barangays Poblacion, Maypangi, La Union, Milagrosa, Libtong, Bagalayag, San Isidro, Monte Carmelo, Canjela, Maracabac, Oras and Dancalan in Castilla, Sorsogon!

The Regional Convergence Initiative in the Bicol Region (RCI-Bicol) will continue the implementation of the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) for Pili Watershed by virtue of the Joint Resolution Number 1 series of 2023 “Resolution to Continue the Implementation of Convergence Area for Development Plan (CADP) for Pili Watershed in Castilla, Sorsogon” dated February 8, 2023.

DA-5 Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations and RCI TWG Bicol Focal Person Dr. Edgar Madrid expressed the need to continue and sustain the interventions being given to the CADP areas despite the termination last year. He urged the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Interior and Local Government (DILG), and Agrarian Reform (DAR) to continue what was started in 2018.

The Pili Watershed Area is one of the watershed areas in the country that is considered in critical condition because of degradation and poverty. Through the convergence initiatives of the different government agencies, various opportunities and interventions will be cascaded to address the needs of the community from livelihood, health, peace and order.

By continuing the CADP, the DA-DAR-DENR-DILG in the Bicol Region will contribute to rural development through physical infrastructure, capacity building and the LGU’s initiative to promote public-private partnership.###



*Photo by: DA RCI TWG Bicol*



# RCI CENTRAL VISAYAS PROJECT BENEFICIARY BOUNCED BACK AFTER SEVERAL SETBACKS

By: Nicole Jimmy Ybañez, & Sherlane Baclay,  
DA RCI TWG Central Visayas



Fish Cage of PCPFA | Photo by: DA RCI TWG Central Visayas

With the abundance of fisheries in Cadijay, Bohol, several fisherfolk have strived to make a living in the municipality. The Panas, Cambuyao, Pangpang Fisherfolk Association (PCPFA) of Candijay, Bohol, is one of the well-known associations in the area that is engaged in fishing, seaweed culture production, and shellfish collection.

Organized in 2001 and duly registered with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in 2002, members of the association reside in Cadijay. There are currently 107 active members who depend on fisheries as their main source of livelihood.

Despite the multiple interventions provided by the convergence, members were faced with mismanagement, internal conflicts, natural phenomena including the passing of typhoon Odette and the ice-ice disease of seaweeds.

Under the leadership of Marina Olandria, the association bounced back and regained their losses post Odette devastation in 2021. The association found ways to supplement the support provided by the convergence by convincing the members to share for the capital build-up fund per harvest,

Additionally, as part of their sharing scheme during their seaweed production journey, income was shared among members of the association. With plans to keep the ball rolling, the association saved their income from selling their produce to buy new sets of fingerlings, fish nets, and other fishing inputs for the next season.

With the complementation of resources and technical assistance from the RCI-SRD Central Visayas, additional interventions maximized the sustainability and production of the fisheries under the PCPFA.

As they plan to further expand the nursery in 2024, more can be expected with the assistance provided by the convergence initiative. ###

## DID YOU KNOW?

Zamboanga Peninsula remains the topnotcher region with the most convergence areas to boast.





# DA-10 LEADS FINAL REVIEW FOR MULETA CONVERGENCE AREA DEVELOPMENT PLAN

*By: Gabriel Andres, DA RCI TWG Northern Mindanao*

In a concerted effort to advance a clean and sustainable water resource for agriculture, industry, and the economy, the Regional Convergence Initiative - Technical Working Group (RCI-TWG) Northern Mindanao spearheaded the final review and critiquing of the Muleta Watershed Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) on August 24, 2023.

The meeting follows the CADP writeshop conducted by the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) in Dalwangan, Malaybalay City last May 16 to 19, 2023. Discussed during the meeting were salient points of the Muleta CADP, presented by Pangantucan Municipal Agriculturist Teodoro B. Quirante III, including the watershed profile, major goals and strategies of the CADP, and the budgetary requirements for implementation from 2023 until 2027.

Members of the RCI-TWG in attendance include the Department of Agriculture - 10 (DA-10) headed by Regional Executive Director Carlene C. Collado as lead convener, Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR-10), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-10), and officials of the local government unit (LGU) of Pangantucan.

DA-10 Executive Assistant III Joel S. Rudinas enjoined the RCI-TWG to continuously offer their inputs to improve the plan and underscored the potential benefits of the CADP for the community of Pangantucan when approved.

“Through this CADP, we hope to convey that this kind of investment is urgent, very important, and very necessary because we have a vision and an end in mind. We are more excited about this project on account of the fact that there is an opportunity where we can work together [to] build up development in these areas,” Rudinas said.

Pangantucan Municipal Administrator Ian Boy A. Garcenila thanked the support of the RCI-TWG in developing the said plan toward progress and the development of their community.

Comments and suggestions from members of the RCI-TWG will be incorporated into the final document before the final presentation to the National Steering Committee for review and approval in October this year. ###

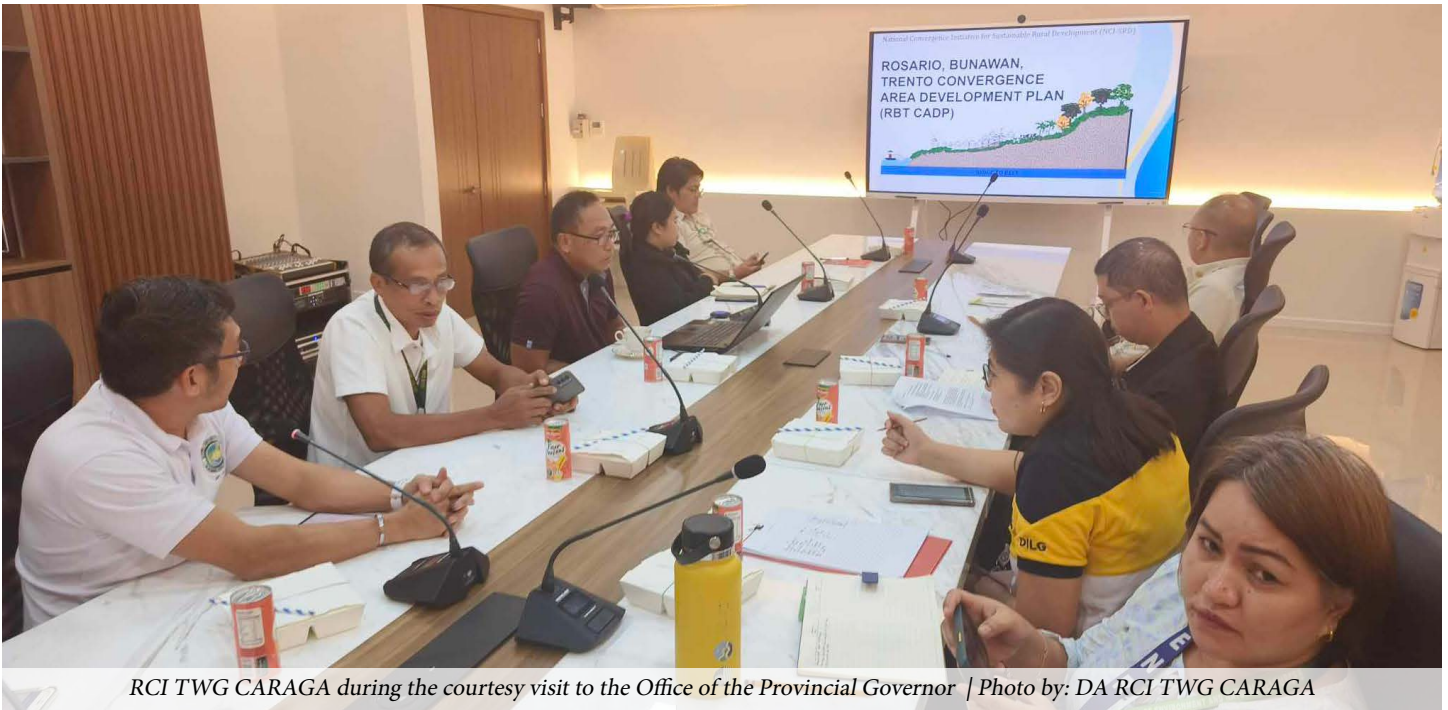


*The RCI-TWG conducted a final review and critiquing of the Muleta Watershed CADP to jointly help in achieving clean and sustainable water resource for agriculture, industry, and economy. | Photo by: DA RCI TWG Northern Mindanao*



# COLLABORATION OF RCI TWG CARAGA AND AGUSAN DEL SUR LGUS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SIMULAO WATERSHED

By: Aurelius Parido Arais, DA RCI TWG CARAGA



RCI TWG CARAGA during the courtesy visit to the Office of the Provincial Governor | Photo by: DA RCI TWG CARAGA

The Regional Convergence Initiative-Technical Working Group (RCI-TWG) in Caraga Region is now closely working with the respective local government units of the Province of Agusan del Sur for the crafting of the Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP).

This comes after the RCI-TWG received a copy of Resolution No. 10, series of 2023 from the National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD), directing RCI TWG Caraga to proceed with the preparation and formulation of the CADP of Simulao Watershed Convergence Area.

The Simulao Watershed Convergence Area covers the towns of Rosario, Bunawan, and Trento in the Province of Agusan del Sur, encompassing around 27 barangays with a total land area of 72,654 hectares.

On October 23, 2023, RCI TWG Caraga paid a courtesy visit to the Office of the Provincial Governor, Honorable Santiago B. Cane, Jr., and presented the profile of the Simulao Convergence Area and the plans ahead. The briefing was also attended by the department heads of the provincial government offices.

As a result of the meeting, RCI TWG Caraga was enjoined to attend the upcoming Provincial Development Council (PDC) meeting in the first semester of next year to brief the council members on the characteristics of the convergence area, the steps to come up with the CADP, and its importance.

Abel F. Wagas, the Regional Technical Director (RTD) for Research and Regulations of DA-Caraga, stated that government interventions and services would be strengthened with the creation of the CADP, benefiting the population residing within the convergence area.

“Members of the RCI have existing programs in the area, but with the CADP, those programs will be integrated into a holistic ridge-to reef approach covering upstream, midstream, and downstream communities,” said Wagas, who is also the Permanent Alternate RCI TWG Chairperson.

Members of the RCI TWG and the respective local government units of Agusan del Sur are working closely towards the realization of the plan to uplift the lives of the Agusanons while ensuring the protection of the watershed area. ###





Members of the NCI-SRD during the FY 2023 Year-End Assessment and FY 2025 Operational Planning Workshop in Bacolod City  
Photo by: National Secretariat

## NCI-SRD IN NEGROS OCCIDENTAL: A YEAR-END ASSESSMENT AND OPERATIONAL PLANNING WORKSHOP

*By: Marineh Ambrosio, NCI-SRD National Secretariat*

In a bid to reflect the accomplishments and targets of each Regional Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group (RCI TWG), the NCI-SRD held its major Year-End Assessment and Operational Planning Workshop in Nature's Garden Village Resort, Bacolod, Western Visayas.

The workshop provided an avenue for RCI TWG members and representatives to assess their achievements, identify gaps for improvement, and present their targets for 2024 and 2025.

Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations, DA Western Visayas and RCI TWG Focal Person Zarlina Cuello highlighted the importance of revisiting the gaps and the assessment of existing Convergence Area Development Plans (CADPs). She also urged all regions to support the NCI-SRD as it aims to promote the complementation of resources and interventions.

Participants had the opportunity to be cognizant of the NCI-SRD FY 2023 accomplishments and raise their queries on the FY 2024-2025 plans and targets of the National Steering Committee (NSC), National Technical Working Group (NTWG), and four component working groups (CWG) which were presented.

It was highlighted that the NCI-SRD had achieved its targets for the year by approving the convergence areas of MACABAT in Tarlac and Simulao Watershed in Agusan del Norte. The Simulao Watershed Convergence

Area serves as the first convergence area of the CARAGA region.

Additionally, the NCI-SRD Social Media Guidelines, Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on the Revised Guidelines for the Masters in Public Management Major in Rural Development (MPM-RD) Scholarship Program, Position paper for the National Convergence Strategy for Sustainable Rural Development (NCS-SRD) Bill, and Quality Management System for the Creation and Approval of a Convergence Area Development Plan (CADP) were also approved.

The workshop was graced by the presence of Director Jason Collado of DAR Clientele Relations Office, Director Ronald Gareza of DAR Bureau of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Development, Director Karen Roscom of DA Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards and Head of the National Secretariat, and representatives from DENR Office of the Undersecretary for PPIA, DA Agricultural Training Institute, DENR Policy and Planning Service, DILG Bureau of Local Government and Development.

Members of RCI TWG Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Eastern Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Northern Mindanao and SOCCSKSARGEN, and the Provincial/Municipal Convergence Initiative Technical Working Group members of Tarlac, Negros Occidental and Bohol were also present. ###





Members of the NCI-SRD during the RBME Manual writeshop in Cagayan de Oro City | Photo by: National Secretariat

## CONVERGENCE INITIATIVE PUSHES FOR IMPROVED RESULTS-BASED M&E

*By: Gabriel Andres, DA RCI TWG Northern Mindanao*

The National Convergence Initiative for Sustainable Rural Development (NCI-SRD) conducted a writeshop for the initial drafting of the Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation (RBME) System Manual on August 29 to 31, 2023, in Cagayan de Oro City.

The RBME tool, developed by the NCI-SRD, is intended for use by its stakeholders, primarily on the M&E of convergence areas. It emphasizes the use of results statements and indicators to evaluate outcomes.

The said event was attended by members of the National Technical Working Group (TWG), Knowledge Management Component Working Group, and the Regional Convergence Initiative – TWG composed of the Department of Agriculture-10 (DA-10), DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources 10 (DA-BFAR 10), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR-10), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR-10) and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG-10).

DA-10 Regional Technical Director for Operations and RCI-TWG focal person Carlota S. Madriaga underscored the importance of the workshop in assessing the impact of the NCI-SRD's interventions

through the attainment of its short-, medium-, and long-term goals. Further, she reiterated the directive of the current administration which is the convergence of existing programs, projects, and activities of the different rural development agencies to increase its collective impact and benefit for the public.

The three-day writeshop focused on drafting and establishing the rationale, legal bases, and purpose of the manual, the history of the NCI-SRD Strategy Framework, the NCI-SRD Theory of Change Model, as well as the short-, medium-, and long-term results indicators for the RBME system.

DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) Director Karen Kristine A. Roscom, PFT, PhD who leads the NCI-SRD National Secretariat thanked the members present for their active participation in drafting the said document.

She added that the exchange and discussion of technical information on monitoring and evaluation by the participants provided insight into the development of the Manual which is set to be implemented in the following year. ###





## CONVERGENCE WORKS!

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complementation of efforts between and among  
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academe and organizations