



PRDP implementation in Mindanao impresses foreign observers

Global Learning Model. PRDP Deputy Project Director Arnel de Mesa (right) explains to Joint Secretary to the Government of West Bengal Soumya Purkait (center) and Nilanjana Dasgupta of India (left) the processes and requirements in implementing farm-to-market road sub-projects under the PRDP during the learning exchange visit in Panabo City, Davao del Norte. (Photo by Kathrino Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

A 12-member learning exchange visit delegation from India and Mongolia were impressed by how the PRDP is implemented in Mindanao as they visited sub-projects in the Davao Region.

Together with the World Bank representatives, the delegation visited a farm-to-market road sub-project in Panabo City, Davao del Norte, and a cacao production and dry fermented beans marketing sub-project in Davao City.

World Bank Rural Development Specialist Carolina Figueroa-Geron said that these countries, which are also implementing World Bank-supported projects, have been requesting the World Bank to visit

PRDP sub-project sites to learn how processes are done within the project especially on the use of geotagging technology.

Bolor-Erdene Battsengel, monitoring and evaluation specialist of the Mongolia-based Livestock and Agricultural Marketing Project (LAMP) said that the Philippines and Mongolia have the same systems for their World Bank-supported projects, but the difference is how these systems are being implemented locally.

"One thing that I wanted to bring to Mongolia is planning. Your plans are very detailed and you track implementation very well," Battsengel said.

Soumya Purkait, project director of the Institutional Strengthening of Gram Panchayats Project (ISGPP) in India, said that like in the Philippines, they have also set up a geographic information system (GIS). He noted though that the Philippines has a more advanced system.

"I'm impressed with the activities of the PRDP because measures on accountability and transparency are put in place in implementing any activity within the timeframe," he said.

Read more on p.3 



Trail No More. Residents walk along a newly paved portion of the 3.6-kilometer Pamintayan-Bawang farm-to-market road (FMR) in Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay. The P46.9 million-worth FMR, which used to be a mere *dalan-dalan* or trail, is being upgraded under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP). (Photo by Ramil Sotto, RPCO 9 InfoACE Unit)

Road project brings multi benefits to Sibugay residents

A farm-to-market road (FMR) sub-project implemented under the PRDP has brought multiple benefits to the residents—majority of whom are Muslims—of two villages in Buug, Zamboanga Sibugay.

The 3.6-kilometer FMR worth P46.9 million traverses two barangays—Pamintayan and Bawang—where Muslim settlers have long established communities.

Lorena Ampuan of Pamintayan village recalled that what they had before was a mere foot trail, which could become muddy during the rainy season.

“We pitied our children when going to school—the school is quite far—especially when it was raining.

Their uniforms would get wet and their shoes soiled,” Lorena said.

Lorena added that when they heard that their road would be concreted over, they were doubtful at first since it took months before the construction started.

“Now [that the road is almost finished], walking to and from the school is no longer difficult for our children—they can attend school even when it’s raining. When going to the town proper, we no longer have to walk as vehicles can now reach our houses,” Lorena said.

Muslim elder Alim Ampuan said that the trail could not pass for a road—calling it a *dalan-dalan*—where only carabao- or

horse-driven sleds could pass through, not motorized vehicles.

The 82-year-old Islam leader added that they had sought for the concreting of the *dalan-dalan* 13 years ago but it is only now that their efforts have materialized.

Alim recalled that immediately before the project started, they used to pay as much as P25 per sack for the hauling of copra using carabao. It also took a carabao 30 minutes to haul copra to the highway crossing.

“But today, using motorcycle, it is now very easy for us to transport our copra. Sometimes, copra buyers would even come over here and get our products,” he said.

Alim added that besides the improvement in transporting their products to the market, the FMR has also catered to their other needs.

"It took us a long time erecting our mosque as bringing construction materials here would take some time.

As soon as the road concreting started we also erected our new mosque," he said.

Alim likewise shared that with the new road, they were able to solicit pipes and tap water from a nearby spring to their residence.

The road, currently 83 percent completed, also serves Barangays Pulog, Lantawan, Compostela and San Jose.

Among the commodities supported by the FMR are coconut and rubber, as well as seafood sourced from the nearby coastal communities.

The PRDP is a six-year World Bank-assisted project that aims to improve rural economy by operationalizing local-level convergence among agricultural stakeholders, synergizing programs and projects for modern, climate-smart and market-oriented agro-fishery sector. The Project also seeks to benefit the greater segment of farmers and fishers, including marginalized sub-sectors such as ethnic and religious minorities. ■

PRDP implementation... (from page 1)

The PRDP's Davao del Norte Project Management and Implementing Unit presented the planning process for their sub-projects using the tools such as geotagging which is utilized in validating, reviewing and monitoring sub-projects proposed and implemented under the PRDP.

Meanwhile, Davao del Norte Governor Rodolfo del Rosario thanked the World Bank and the PRDP, stressing that infrastructure projects are vital in laying foundations for economic growth.

"The PRDP's precursor—Mindanao Rural Development Program—has helped the province realize a dramatic turnaround through the provision of farm-to-market roads, postharvest facilities and more," del Rosario said.

The group also interviewed provincial and barangay officials on how they handle and monitor sub-projects implemented in the area.

"The visit to the FMR project is a sort of an eye-opener for us. They document each and every step from the start of the project

implementation. That was wonderful. We have learned a lot," Purkait said.

The group also visited the cacao enterprise development sub-project in Calinan, Davao City where the cooperative demonstrated the post-processing of fermented cacao beans.

The P26-million enterprise has recently received approval for funding from the PRDP.

Battsengel commended the proponent group, noting that the project implementation has just begun yet the group has already had many accomplishments.

"This shows how dedicated the people in the Philippines are," Battsengel said.

The ISGP Project in India intends to support high-performing *gram panchayats* (local self-government organization) to strengthen their institutional capacity and ability to deliver basic public services. Mongolia's LAMP, on the other hand, aims to improve rural livelihoods and food security in selected provinces and districts through investments in enhancing productivity, market access and diversification in livestock-based production systems. ■



Easing Commodity Movement with Adequate Rural Infrastructure

"Before, we used wagons pulled by carabaos; it was really hard. Now that we have our road, we are very glad because we can already bring our products to the market with ease. Now, we can meet [with buyers] halfway or sometimes, they are the ones who would come and haul products from our place."

Frederico Bulutaulo, 76, resident of Dapacan Bajo, Calamba, Misamis Occidental

Name of Sub-project: Rehabilitation/Reopening of Dapacan Bajo-Bunawan-D'Ban Farm-to-market Road with Spillway Bridge
Length: 3.5 kilometers

NEWS BRIEFS

LUZON A (North Luzon) Ilocos surveys more priority commodities for VCA prep

The Ilocos Region has conducted a survey for three additional priority commodities, namely, tomato, mungbean and bangus (milkfish), for the drafting of Value Chain Analysis (VCA) for each of these top regional products.

The region is the Philippine's top producer of bangus and one of the country's top producers of mungbean. Its tomato industry, on the other hand, has a good potential with Northern Foods Corporation alone requiring 500 tons of tomatoes per day for the production of tomato paste.

The PRDP uses the VCA approach to determine gaps, constraints and opportunities in the industry of a particular commodity. The VCA is also the basis of the provincial governments in crafting the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (*RPCO 1 InfoACE Unit*)

LUZON B (South Luzon) Bicol farmers, fishers to benefit from Typhoon Nona livelihood assistance

Bicol farming and fishing communities devastated by Typhoon Nona will be among the proposed beneficiaries of PRDP-funded small livelihood projects (SLPs).

According to Shandy Hubilla, director of the PRDP Luzon B (South Luzon) Project Support Office (PSO), they will formally request for financing assistance from the World Bank once the final damage figures are available.

These SLPs intend to capacitate targeted Bicol farmers and fisherfolk for them to recover from the damage caused by typhoon Nona that hit South Luzon particularly Albay, Sorsogon and Oriental Mindoro on December 14 and 15, 2015.

SLPs are agribusiness sub-projects that will serve as immediate sources of income for farmers and fishers in calamity-stricken areas. (*Annielyn Baleza, RPCO 5 InfoACE Unit*)

VISAYAS P16 M-worth livelihood sub-projects to aid rural associations in Eastern Visayas

Farmers and fisherfolk associations in Eastern Visayas are expected to benefit from the P16 M-worth enterprise development sub-projects recently approved for funding from the PRDP.

The newly approved 15 sub-projects

under the SLP were submitted by proponent groups from Tacloban City and the municipalities of Silago, Maasin and Malitbog in Southern Leyte; Basey, Calbiga and Sta. Rita in Samar; San Policarpo and Quinapondan in Eastern Samar; Allen and San Jose in Northern Samar; and Alang-alang and Isabel in Leyte.

These sub-projects include livestock and poultry, high-value crops, organic fertilizers and root crops production, as well as aquaculture and fisheries. (*Rodel Macapañas, RPCO 8 InfoACE Unit*)

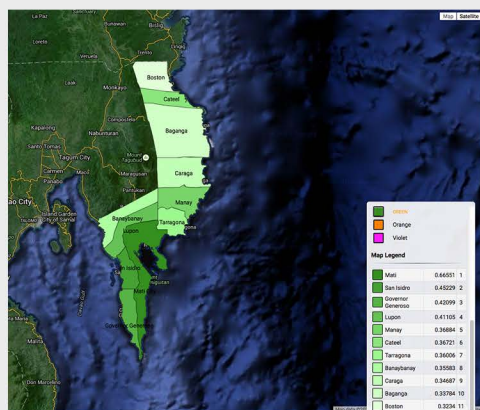
MINDANAO Davao cacao industry gets a boost with P26-M funding

Cacao production in the Davao Region has recently received support for development and expansion as the PRDP approved a P26-million enterprise development sub-project that aims to further boost one of the region's prime industries.

The enterprise sub-project dubbed as *Cacao Production and Marketing of Dry Fermented Beans* of Davao City will be implemented by the Subasta Integrated Farmers Multi-purpose Cooperative (SIFMPC) as the lead proponent group through a cluster-type operation.

The sub-project will cover the areas of Marilog, Baguio, Calinan and Tugbok districts, benefitting 15 other cooperatives with about 500 members who are cacao farmers. (*Jay Rosas, PSO Mindanao InfoACE*)

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THIS MONTH



E-VSA: Maximizing impact through evidence-based targeting

The Expanded Vulnerability and Suitability Assessment (E-VSA) is an online tool accessible through the PRDP website. The tool takes into account both agro-climatic data and socio-economic indicators (such as poverty magnitude, poverty incidence, farmer and fisher populations, and production area size) as bases in targeting interventions and formulating strategies for investments.

Through the E-VSA, sites for sub-projects funded under the PRDP are selected through a scientific and evidence-based tool—that is, without political intervention—hence, ensuring maximum impacts to areas needing interventions most.

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