



PRDP water system to reduce water-borne diseases in Banaue



Clean Water. Schoolchildren wash their hands at a communal tap stand in Barangay Cambulo, Banaue, Ifugao. With assistance from the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), the village will be provided with additional tap stands to serve other households who have yet to enjoy convenient access to adequate and safe water supply. (Photo by Darrell A. Sunga, North Luzon PSO InfoACE Unit)

Water-borne diseases is common in Cambulo village in Banaue, Ifugao but residents expect that the construction of a new communal potable water system (PWS) under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) would soon end their woes.

Community midwife Florence Binohlan said that she has encountered residents getting diarrhea especially during the rainy season. Data from the barangay's health center reveal that in 2016, diarrhea, which may be attributed to contaminated drinking water, ranked third among the most common reported illnesses in the community.

Residents say that some households that are far from existing communal tap stands have connected PVC pipes directly from the water source or from the nearest tap stands. Binohlan said that these are prone to contamination as these are only sealed by cut tire interior.

The proposed Cambulo Level II PWS—one of the five PWS subprojects in Banaue—includes the construction of two reservoirs and 32 tap stands that will supply those who currently rely on makeshift water piping.

Binohlan said that having more tap stands would also encourage households to build their water-sealed toilets, hence improving sanitation.

"Some residents are not keen on putting up their own toilets because of inadequate water supply," the midwife said.

Amielyn Beniahan, whose house is located near a spot where a tap stand will be installed said that a water source nearer to their home would be of great help to them.

"Our neighbors already have access to nearby tap stands. We hope to also have that as it is difficult for us to fetch water. We have to walk for several meters," Beniahan said.

With the new PWS, the community also expects that their medical expenses will be reduced and as a tourist destination, their tourism productivity will be increased as sanitation coverage is improved.

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Mechanization boosts Cagayan Valley farm efficiency

Farmer cooperatives in the provinces of Cagayan and Isabela have noted increased efficiency in their farms with the land preparation machineries they received through the PRDP.

William Bacuyag of the Naguillian Christian Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NCMPC) in Lallo, Cagayan said that using small hand tractors (kuliglig), they have to spend a total of six days for a hectare of land—three days for plowing and another three days for pulverizing.

The cooperative received one unit of land tractor with accessories worth P1 million through the PRDP's enterprise development (I-REAP) component.

"With the [bigger] tractor, land preparation is now much faster as it can rotavate two to three hectares in a day," Bacuyag said.

"Using our new tractor, our members would only pay P2,500 per hectare. So this means a savings of [a minimum of] P1,000 per hectare," Bacuyag explained.

The cooperative, which has about 950 members tilling 1,000 hectares of farmlands, expects that their land preparation costs will be significantly reduced with the use of the tractor.

Bacuyag shared that with the kuliglig, farmers have to pay for P600–P700 per day, for a total of at least P3,500 per hectare. He also said that farmers who cannot afford to immediately pay the tractor's charge have the option to settle these after their harvest.

The cooperative leader added that the tractor, with its accessories, also helps them in hauling harvests.

"It's more expensive to hire haulers. With the tractor, products can be transported in bulk from the farm to their house," he said.

From their current tractor's proceeds, the NCMPC plans to buy one more tractor to cater to non-members, as well as farms in neighboring towns.

Meanwhile in Isabela, Felix Ancheta of the La Suerte Irrigators' Association Marketing Cooperative (LSIAMC) said that the machinery they acquired through the PRDP has enabled their members synchronize planting with neighboring farms.

Ancheta shared that La Suerte is on the periphery of the irrigation system, meaning, water would reach their farms last. This makes them prepare their land for planting behind usual schedule.

"But now, even if irrigation water has not yet reached our farmers but it had already rained, we can now cultivate our ricefields," Ancheta said. Ancheta explained that the tractor digs deeper, hence, distributing soil moisture better, compared when using small plowing implements.

The Cauayan City-based cooperative also received one unit of land tractor with accessories worth P1 million from the PRDP.

"Now that we use harvesters, straws are just scattered on the field. This is not a problem anymore as the tractor crushes and mixes these in the soil, making these as organic fertilizer," Ancheta added, explaining that using the bigger tractor pulverizes the soil better.

The two tractors were among the 12 completed subprojects worth P11.73 million under the PRDP's enterprise development component.

Ten of these subprojects are on palay production enterprise with emphasis on land preparation in various areas in Isabela and Cagayan, including those of the NCMPC and LSIAMC. The other two are the hog fattening and trading project in San Jose, Northern Samar, and the farm mechanization service facility in Mapandan, Pangasinan. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■



Mechanized Land Prep The Isabela-based La Suerte Irrigators' Association Marketing Cooperative now uses the land tractor they acquired through the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) in preparing their ricefields for planting. As the machinery comes with accessories, the group also uses this in other farm activities such as harvesting and hauling. (Photo by Kevin Dwayne Natividad, RPCO-2 InfoACE Unit)

PRDP water system... (from page 1)

Potable water and rural development

While the PRDP's main focus is ensuring the development of priority value chain segments with relevant infrastructures and enterprises, the Project also recognizes the complementing role of healthy communities to make these investments more sustainable.

The Project targets to provide safe drinking water to at least 58,710 households with construction or rehabilitation of PWSs in targeted areas in the country.

According to the PRDP's Infrastructure Development Component, close to 3 million (M) or 18% of the total number of households in the country have yet to enjoy adequate access to potable water.

With an allocation of P790M across the Project's six-year implementation, these water systems are expected to reduce by at least 65% the water-fetching time in subproject areas. Likewise, the Project sees at least 70% reduction of household affected by water-borne diseases.

Two potable water systems, located in Tampakan, South Cotabato and Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat, have already been

completed in the country. The P4.27 M Lampitak PWS in Tampakan town now benefits at least 250 households while the P9.8 M Numo–Dukay PWS established in Esperanza municipality serves at least 1,000 households.

The PRDP's biggest PWS subproject in the country is also now under construction. With a budget of P73.71 M, the PWS in Luisiana, Laguna targets to benefit 4,735 households in 21 barangays.

Meanwhile, 26 other PWS subprojects are under various stages of procurement, including the five subprojects in Banaue. (Jan P. Dacumos, NPCO InfoACE Unit) ■



Guided by an herder, a raft of Philippine mallard ducks (itik) walk along the newly concreted Pinuyak–Simpak–Maranding FMR in Lala, Lanao del Norte, ready to roost for the night after spending the whole day feeding on the ricefields. According to the locals, the ducks are now easier to guide on the paved road.

This is a typical afternoon scene on the FMR when farmers and students go home and retire for the day. Students can now comfortably walk from school after a whole day of classes. Other residents meanwhile would just ride their motorbikes and head back to their families after performing myriad of daily activities. (Alladin S. Diega; Photo by Kathrino V. Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

LUZON A (North Luzon)

PRDP okays road rehab in Mountain Province's top Robusta coffee-producing town

More than 14,000 residents as well as coffee producers of Paracelis, Mountain Province will soon benefit from the concreting of the Poblacion-Bantay farm-to-market road (FMR) which the municipality has proposed for funding under the PRDP.

The P143 million-worth rehabilitation of the 12.64-kilometer FMR passing through three of the nine major producing barangays of Robusta coffee in Paracelis is seen to solve the problem on the poor road condition hindering market competitiveness.

The Expanded Vulnerability and Suitability Assessment map for Mountain Province showed that the municipality of Paracelis is the top producer of Robusta Coffee in the province contributing almost 80 percent of the total provincial output averaged at 60 tons. (Mabel Zabala, RPCO-CAR InfoACE Unit)

LUZON B (South Luzon)

Tayabas City: Aguyod for Change

Three PRDP subprojects in Tayabas City, Quezon that aim to allow farmers recover from the damage brought by Typhoon Lando in 2015 exemplify Aguyod, which means "walking towards one direction."

First is the organic native pig production business, slated for lechoneros in the region by the Tayabas Federation of Rural Improvement Clubs, an all-women group. Their P0.93-million (M) subproject proposal requires the proponent group to practice native and traditional methods of rearing pigs.

Another subproject is the P0.86 M-worth guyabano puree processing by the Mangosteen Producers of Tayabas Association which aims to expand their health products.

Lastly, the P3.48 M "plant now, pay for corn production later scheme" by the Calumpang Corn Growers Association is expected to cater to animal feed producers. (Lawrence Albert A. Bariring, RPCO-CALABARZON InfoACE Unit)

VISAYAS

PRDP funds projects by Negros Occidental hog raisers, silk farmers

Happy smiles are etched on the faces of hog raisers and silk farmers in northern Negros Occidental after the release of the P1.084 million-worth of livelihood assistance to their associations.

Representatives of the Bayabas-Proper Hog Raisers Association, which is based in Cadiz City and the Calatrava Sericulture Farmers Association received checks worth P703,296 and P381,452, respectively, in a turnover ceremony attended by the provincial governor and other officials.

Both subprojects aim to enable the farmers recover from the destruction in livelihood sources caused by Typhoon Yolanda. (September Noon A. Macahilo, PSO-Visayas InfoACE Unit)

MINDANAO

New DA roads in SK town ease farmers of hauling costs

Four farm-to-market road (FMR) subprojects implemented under the PRDP in Lambayong, Sultan Kudarat have reduced hauling costs for agricultural commodities in an influence area of at least 1,600 hectares.

"We used to spend a lot for hauling cost just to even bring the produce to the portion of the road where vehicles can collect it," farmer Ronnie Sudio recalled.

The 1.8-kilometer L. Aserto-Rodrigo FMR, 1.5-kilometer Masculado Abellera-ARC 2 FMR, 1.3-kilometer E. Peralta-Asuncion FMR and the 1.2-kilometer Lambay-Sambilan FMRs that cost P54.5 million is among the seven completed FMR subprojects in Sultan Kudarat. The other three are in Isulan town. (Jay M. Rosas, PSO-Mindanao InfoACE Unit)



Mainstreaming the PCIPs into PDPFPs

Integrating the Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs) into the Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plans (PDPFPs) is a concrete step to ensure that results of evidence-based commodity prioritization and value chain analyses are maximized, even outside and after the PRDP. Further, this will help harmonize provincial with regional as well as national priorities in agricultural development investments.

Provincial Commodity Investment Plan

Entry Points of Mainstreaming PCIP Strategies

Country

- Philippine Development Plan
- National Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan

Region

- Regional Development Plan
- Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization Plan

Province

- Provincial Development and Physical Framework Plan

City/Municipality

- Comprehensive Land Use Plan
- Comprehensive Development Plan

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