



## Women's group leads in protecting marine resources in Matnog, Sorsogon

**Marine Protectors.** The resilient women of the Samahan ng Kababaihang Bantay Sanktuaryo ng Calintaan, Matnog (SKBCM) during their assembly meeting. (Photo by Hermito Antonio T. Privaldos, DA-PRDP Bicol InfoACE Unit)

As the nation recognizes the value of women in nation building March of every year, the Philippine Rural Development Project acknowledges their outstanding contributions in developing rural communities and effecting positive impact.

In Matnog, Sorsogon, a group led by women continues to be active players in protecting the environment and instituting growth.

"You have a very active and strong women group on the front line."

This was according to Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Natural Resources Management Officer Jim Hancock who applauded

the resiliency and passion of the members of the Samahan ng Kababaihang Bantay Sanktuaryo ng Calintaan, Matnog (SKBCM).

"The women, according to Hancock, were noted that they were active participants during the PRDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) community dialogue held in Matnog, Sorsogon during the World Bank Midterm Review Mission to the South Luzon Cluster.

SKBCM President Editha Friencillo led the community members in sharing their experience in conserving their Marine Protected Area (MPA). Together with the members of the Calintaan- Calayuan- Paghuliran-

Poropandan (CCPP) Fish Farmers Association, the women stated why they need to protect the marine resources, how the subproject will help their community, and their plans for sustainability.

Friencillo also told stories about how she and the other women put their lives in danger when they try to reprimand some illegal fishers who have spears and other weapons. She said that some illegal fishers threaten them, while others listen to them.

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## PRDP: Transforming backyard gardening to a veggie enterprise

Driven by the desire to stand on their own feet, 800 members of the Bohol Concerned Citizens Action for Progress, Inc. (BCCAP) are now looking forward to better harvest days and income after the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) approved the construction of the Greenhouse and Vermicompost pit in support to their Vegetable Production and Marketing Enterprise.

Aside from this, a temporary marketing center will be established as well as an area for vegetable segregation. Water system will also be improved. Similar demo farms

will also be established in Sevilla and Loboc where bitter melon and eggplants will be grown.

According to Annabelle Paler, BCCAP Chairwoman, the PRDP aid will not only help its members but also encourage and influence farming families to engage in expanded farming activities.

"Ang BCCAP maoy mupalit sa mga pananom, ug mubaligya niini ngadto sa supermarkets, hotels and resorts sama sa Panglao, mu-income jud ang farmer," said Paler. ("BCCAP will purchase the vegetables sown by farmers and will supply them to established supermarkets in Tagbilaran City, hotels and resorts in Panglao giving them income.")

Paler added that whatever income the organization generates in the future, 10% goes back to every individual member as net income. Once everything runs smoothly, the organization will promote BCCAP

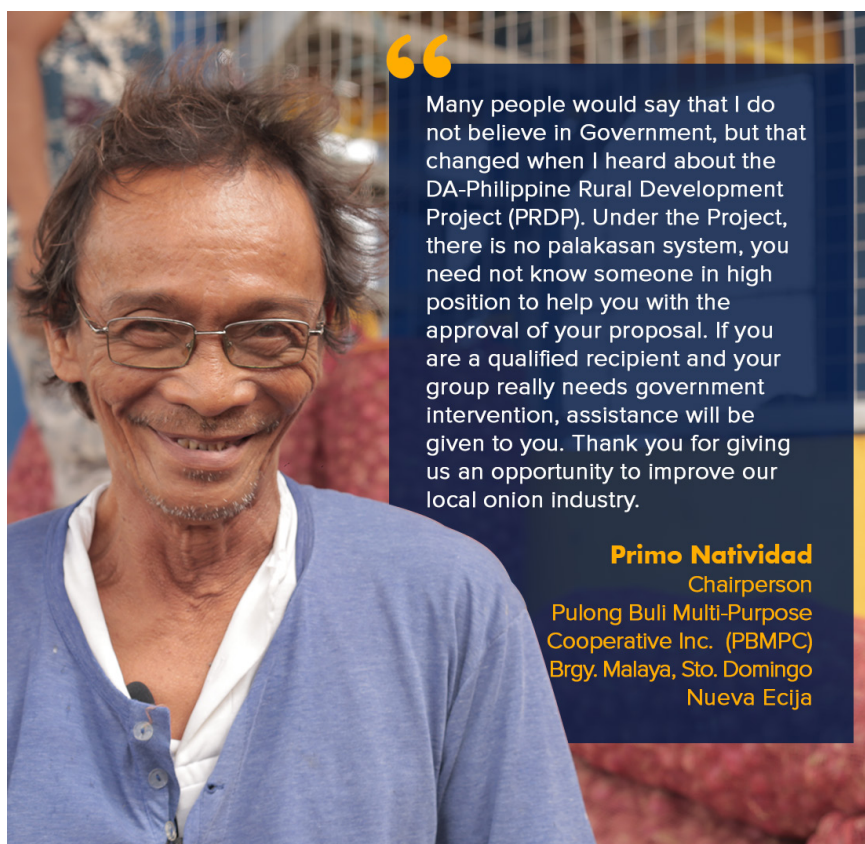
farm as an eco-tourism site, which is in line with the vision of the local government of Sikatuna.

### PRDP Experience

According to the group, learning the PRDP's procurement process is the most important part in the implementation phase of the project.

Paler noted, that as they learned to religiously follow the process, they appreciated the very reason for its existence as it commands responsibility, transparency, and proper management of funds.

"Nagpasalamat jud mi ug dako, kay nakita namo ang ka maayo sa proseso ubos sa PRDP, nga naglantaw sa kalambuan sa grupo," said Paler. ("We are greatly thankful, experiencing firsthand how good the PRDP project is that only looks at the betterment of the group.") ■



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Many people would say that I do not believe in Government, but that changed when I heard about the DA-Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP). Under the Project, there is no palakasan system, you need not know someone in high position to help you with the approval of your proposal. If you are a qualified recipient and your group really needs government intervention, assistance will be given to you. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to improve our local onion industry.

**Primo Natividad**  
Chairperson  
Pulong Buli Multi-Purpose  
Cooperative Inc. (PBMPIC)  
Brgy. Malaya, Sto. Domingo  
Nueva Ecija

This was the testimony of Primo Natividad, Chairperson of the Pulong Buli Multi Purpose Cooperative Inc. (PBMPIC). Members of Pulong Buli MPC and St. Dominic Farmers Cooperative are the direct beneficiaries of the Santo Domingo Onion Enterprise Consolidation and Marketing subproject undertaken via the PRDP.

Under the subproject, the associations were awarded an onion hanger facility established in Brgy. Malaya Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija. The two-storey facility, which measures 7,800 square meter, is being used for storing, consolidating, sorting and bagging of onions and other vegetables. It is also being used as trading center of various commodities such as squash, eggplant and string beans and other "pinakbet vegetables".

As this provides additional income to members of the cooperative, beneficiaries promise to maintain and take care of the facility so it will last longer.

"With this program, we will continue to reinforce the onion industry," Ka Primo said. (Kathrino V. Resurreccion, NPCO InfoACE Unit)

## Women's group leads..(from page 1)

"Ginagalang 'pag mga babae. May respeto (Women are treated well and respected.), she expressed when asked about the advantage of women in serving as guardians of the MPA.

The SKBCM members have undergone a series of organizational development trainings from USAID-ECOFISH, as well as capability building on wellness massage or "hilot" under the Technical Education

and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

The women's group currently operates a wellness center in Calintaan Island. According to USAID-ECOFISH, the social enterprise aims to "improve employment from fishing towards minimizing fishing pressure and sustaining healthy marine ecosystems."

Friencillo said that even if she steps down as SKBCM president, she will continue sharing her experience and lessons learned with the members of the group. She added that she teaches the children in their community about the importance of the MPA and marine resources protection. (*Gumamela Celes Bejarin, DA-PRDP South Luzon PSO InfoACE Unit*) ■

***"March is a global event celebrated as Women's Month annually to honor the exemplary contributions of women in nation building."***

## PRDP sets out prioritization scheme for infrastructure projects

The Department of Agriculture Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) is conducting a nationwide information caravan to fast-track information dissemination on infrastructure development priority scheme with local government units (LGUs).

The prioritization scheme is a tool designed for the project to rationalize the selection of best subprojects from a long list of proposals from LGUs under the Intensive Building Up of Infrastructure and Logistics Development or IBUILD component.

"With the additional PRDP financing of P8.4 billion from the World Bank we need to identify

projects that will provide the highest social and economic benefits with technical and economic viability," PRDP Mindanao director Ricardo M. Oñate, Jr. said.

For Mindanao cluster, Region 10 recently completed the rounds in its five provinces which include Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental, and Misamis Oriental. The other five regions, Regions 9, 11, 12, 13 and ARMM, are scheduled to roll out on the second week of March.

"This prioritization scheme will increase diversity in our IBUILD projects where our focus will not only be more on farm-to-market road but also in other infrastructure development," Oñate.

The activity includes presentation of the prioritization scheme framework, different prioritization criteria and scoring system. Ranked priority is given to the projects that will reach 117 points with maximum of 233 points while automatic priority worth 300 points is given to LGU with no prior

involvement in PRDP; LGU having already submitted IBUILD proposals but yet to attain approval of any proposed subproject; and LGU with approved IREAP SP but no IBUILD SP. A bonus of 10 points is also given for climate resiliency plan.

DA-10 Regional Director Carlene C. Collado, during the info caravan in Bukidnon, encouraged all the participants from municipal and provincial LGUs to work on their proposals in order to implement more projects in rural areas of Northern Mindanao.

Region 10 currently has 50 IBUILD subprojects (SPs) with 37 farm-to-market-roads (FMRs), 3 FMRs with bridge, 1 irrigation system, 1 potable water system, and 8 other infrastructure projects.

"All infrastructure development subprojects must be in line with the Provincial Commodity Investment Plans (PCIPs)—except for potable water system—to maximize potential impacts of rural development projects in each region," Collado said. ■

## North Luzon

### PRDP CALABARZON approves potable water system, enterprise subprojects

The CALABARZON Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) approved P77.75 million-worth of new infrastructures and enterprises for Laguna and Quezon.

“With these new subprojects, we will be able to uplift the lives of residents in the countryside. Let us work hard to make this possible,” Department of Agriculture CALABARZON Regional Executive Director and RPAB Chairperson Arnel de Mesa said.

The Board approved the Level II Potable Water System subproject proposal of the Municipal Government of Pangil, Laguna, worth P55 million, which aims to rehabilitate and construct additional pipelines for the town’s existing water network that will benefit the community.

The banana growers of San Francisco, Quezon will soon have a production and trading business with the assistance of the Quezon Provincial Government. To be managed by the San Francisco Banana Growers Association, the “San Francisco Banana Production and Marketing” subproject worth P3.73 million will help the 35 proponent group members market their products in Metro Manila.

A cluster of five seaweed growers’ associations in the towns of Burdeos, Panukulan, and Polillo in Quezon will also establish a production and trading business. Led by the Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Bagong Silang of Burdeos, Quezon with the support of the provincial government, the “Seaweeds Production and Marketing” enterprise will help them market dried seaweeds to export processors. Worth P19 million, the enterprise will benefit 196 proponent group members. (*Lawrence Albert A. Bariring, DA-PRDP CALABARZON RPCO InfoACE Unit*)

## South Luzon

### Residents of Victoria, Oriental Mindoro share FMR emerging benefits

“Dati po dumaraan ako dito, rough road pa nga ito. Siguro kung papuntang bayan at dito dadaan sa lugar na ito, aabutin siguro mga dalawang oras. Pero ngayon po na concrete na ang kalsada, bale mga isang oras na lang ang byahe”.

This was how Vicente Malapitan, a farmer and resident of Brgy. Antonino, compared the before- and after-subproject scenario in Victoria, Oriental Mindoro. He is one of the beneficiaries of the PRDP-funded “Concreting of Bagong Silang–Macatoc Farm-to-Market Road (FMR),” which is projected to bring socio-economic benefits to the barangays of Antonino, Macatoc, San Gabriel, Loyal, and Bagong Silang.

The infrastructure development (I-BUILD) subproject in Victoria is the first PRDP subproject in the MIMAROPA Region and in the South Luzon Cluster. In support to the Oriental Mindoro’s calamansi industry, the FMR was strategically situated in Victoria.

“Malaking bagay na nakatulong ito dahil kung minsan ay taga-rito ang buyer [ng calamansi]. Galing Antonino, dinadala namin ang calamansi sa buyer na taga-rito,” Malapitan added, one year after the FMR’s completion.

In addition to the reduction in travel time, the new access road also reduced the hauling cost by 32 percent from P14.87 to P10.08 during the wet and dry seasons. The traffic count also increased by up to 180 percent, because of FMR. The residents now have improved access to vehicles (motorcycles, tricycles, jeepneys, and trucks). (*Leira Vic Colongan, DA-PRDP MIMAROPA RPCO InfoACE Unit*)

## Visayas

### RPAB approves P420 million infra subprojects for Region 8

More farmers will soon have easy road access and enjoy convenient transportation of agricultural goods to the market. This is the main objective of the Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) Meeting of the PRDP-RPCO 8 held in Tacloban City.

RPCO-8 Deputy Project Director, Dr. Jenny Lyn R. Almeria emphasized that the Re-RPAB meeting for Intensified Building up of Infrastructure and Logistics for Development (I-BUILD) subprojects was called for in order to re-prioritize projects that should be updated and endorsed.

“We need to concentrate on the Economic Sensitivity Analysis and increase in project cost in compliance with Department Order 197 of the Department of Public Works and Highways, taking into consideration Social and Environmental Safeguards (SES) concerns,” Dir. Almeria said.

Seven (7) I-BUILD subprojects worth Php567 million were deliberated in the said meeting, however only six (6) were approved and will be endorsed to the National Project Coordination Office (NPCO) for funding support. These projects include the following: Concreting of Abaca-Panda FMR in Dagami, Leyte; Concreting of Brgy. Concepcion-Bagumbayan-Hampang FMR in Hilongos, Leyte; Construction and Concreting of Brgy. Hantag-Laboon FMR in Maasin City; Improvement/Concreting of Brgy. Cogon thru Brgy. Canca-iyas to Brgy. Villa Aurora FMR in Basey, Samar; Concreting of Brgy. Kailingan to Salhag FMR in Rosario, Northern Samar; and Construction and Improvement of Camparanga-Manahaw-San Ramon-Canjumadal FMR in Pambujan, Northern Samar.

## Mindanao

### 46-IBUILD SPs undergo final joint technical review

Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP) Mindanao cluster held a joint technical review (JTR) for Mindanao’s proposed subprojects under the infrastructure development or IBUILD component.

A total of 46 subprojects had undergone the JTR from Region 11 with 10 IBUILD proposals; Region 9 having 6 SPs; Region 10 with 15 SPs; Region 12 with 4 SPs; Region 13 with 5SPs; and ARMM with 7 SPs.

A review team from NPCO, PSO, and RRPCO carefully reviewed all the submitted documents to ensure that all proposed SPs have completed documents and complied with all the Project’s requirement before the NPCO will issue the No Object Letter (NOL1).

The proposals included were farm-to-market-road (FMR), FMR with bridges, potable water system and other infrastructure development to be implemented in different regions in Mindanao. (*Joy Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao*)

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