

North Luzon

Community Force Account, mode of procurement for Coffee Enterprise in MP

To speed up the process of implementing the approved Sagada Coffee Processing with Cupping Laboratory enterprise subproject funded under the DA's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP), the Community Force Account (CFA) mode of procurement was introduced as the mode to be used in purchasing goods during an orientation activity held in Sagada, Mountain Province, recently.

This orientation aimed to update the Provincial Project Management and Implementing Unit (PPMIU) of Mt. Province and concerned Provincial Local Government Unit (LGU) together with the officials of the Sagada Arabica Coffee Growers and Processors Organization (SACGPO) on the mechanics of this mode of procurement.

According to Lorna Panyo, PRDP enterprise consultant, the CFA method of procurement may be used for goods and works for whatever subproject approved by the DA-PRDP with cost of US\$20,000.00 or less per contract. This modality gives the proponent group (PG) the responsibility to manage the procurement of goods, works and services depending on the established procurement capacity of the PG.

"Main purchases made under this mode of procurement consists of construction materials for works, equipment and supplies indicated in the subproject," Panyo added.

The guidelines on procurement under the PRDP requires that the PG must have formed a bidding/procurement committee with members equipped with experience and knowledge on procurement or purchasing, and have attended the procurement training under the PRDP.

The activity also allowed for the crafting of a procurement guideline based from the allotted days given in each procurement milestone for the SACGPO to refer to.

Christian Aries Salgado, PDA of RPCO-CAR, said that the same activity shall be conducted for other provinces. "It is the dream of the project to provide the rural farmers an expanded opportunity in their community through subprojects that provides a faster and more innovative government procurement system," he added. (Mabel Zabala, RPCO-CAR InfoACE)

South Luzon

Cavinti PWS streams clean water, invigorates beneficiaries

Benefits in households and farm productivity

"Noon, masyadong maputik parang galing sa kanal. Nakakatakot din naman magkaroon pa ng ibang sakit. Ngayon doon na kami nagsasaing. Ang hugas ng plato namin okay na, wala nang amoy... Kumbaga malaki na ang improvement ng tubig dito, nakakatuwa na. Hindi ka na maghihintay ng hating gabi para makapag-apon ng tubig, makapaglaba, kasi marami na ang tubig (The water before was muddy just like from the canal. We used to be afraid to use the water for cooking but now, we use the water for cooking rice and washing dishes. We are glad the water system truly improved. We no longer wait for wee hours just to save water and do laundry. You can now do your chores because of ample water supply)," Octavio-Ramos gladly storied.

Seventy-two communal faucets were installed in the upland barangays of Sumucab and Layug for easier access decreasing 50% of the time for fetching water. Water supply in lowland barangays are sourced from the new pipe distribution network making the water 24 hours available to the households. Aside from the household benefits, the farm productivity of Cavinti will increase to an estimated P1.2 million per year due to the increased water availability. Farmers are also expected to be more productive as they save time from manually fetching water from distant places and also due to lesser incidence of water-borne diseases among their family. (Rio Christine Bustamante, PSO Luzon B InfoACE)

Visayas

CPSU receives P3M fund for Muscovado sugar research

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement with DA-PRDP, the Central Philippine State University (CPSU) receives three million pesos as part of the I-REAP (Enterprise) Component's 3.2 or Technology and Information for Enterprise and Market Development component.

The partnership covers the transfer of funds to CPSU to finance its operational expenses for workshop and training programs.

Given its mandate, experience and expertise, CPSU has been identified by the DA-PRDP as an appropriate partner agency in the delivery of the necessary technical assistance and services relative to Small-Scale Community Based Technology of Natural Muscovado Sugar. The CPSU is an educational institution which primarily provides both advanced instruction and research in agriculture and allied technological sciences including education, arts and related sciences. It is mandated to undertake extension and development programs, and provide the necessary instructional and research leadership in agricultural, environmental and technological development in the Visayas Region.

For its part, the DA-PRDP – PSO Visayas shall be responsible in monitoring and ensuring desired outputs as specified in the contract. In the province of Negros Occidental, Muscovado is one of the priority commodities of PRDP for enterprise development where potential segments of its value chain shall be provided with interventions and investments particularly on production, postharvest, processing and market linkages. (September Noon A. Macahilo, PSO Visayas InfoACE)

Mindanao

ZamboSur towns get P7.3-M seaweed enterprises

The 7.3-Million livelihood enterprise for seaweed farmers under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) is underway covering four towns of Zamboanga del Sur.

Benefiting 292 households, the Seaweeds Production and Marketing Enterprise project is implemented in the towns of Dumalinao, Dimataling, Labanga and Pitogo. It is jointly funded from World Bank with 60 percent of the funding; Government of the Philippines, 20 percent; Local Government Unit, 20 percent and another 20% equity from the PG for the enterprise cost.

PRDP's Investments in Rural Enterprises and Agriculture and Fisheries Productivity (I-REAP) component has clustered Barangay Pantad Women's Fisherfolk Association with 103 member-beneficiaries (Dumalinao), Bacayawan Women Rural Improvement Club with 106 (Dimataling), Balongbalong Fisherfolk Association with 43 (Pitogo) and Barangay Bulanit Seaweeds Farmers Association with 40 beneficiaries (Labanga) to lead the project implementation.

Barangay Pantad Women FA launched recently their project amounting to P2,754,558. Bacayawan Women RIC will implement a total of P2,488,528 worth of project. Balongbalong FA gets P1,108,058 and Bulanit Seaweeds FA with P952,708 will begin their respective projects soon.

As part of their sustainability mechanism, Business Development Officer Agustin Wagas said every beneficiary gives P1,300 cash equity for them to receive P25,000 worth of seaweeds planting materials and supplies. Beneficiaries are expected to have net income of P16,000, after a 45-day cropping period.

Dumalinao Mayor Junaflor Cerilles has emphasized the importance of good quality raw dried seaweeds (RDS). "Unclean RDS, being sandy with other particles and low carrageenan content reduces quality and value. Let's make sure we maintain good quality produce," she said.

"PRDP beneficiaries will be provided with portable stilt dryer to ensure clean RDS and they only sell it through the association," Wagas said. (Remai S. Alejado/RPCO9)

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FMR beneficiaries to monitor project implementation



Tandubas, Tawi-tawi Province – Residents here are expecting better outcome of the ongoing construction of farm-to-market road as they are now part of the monitoring team.

The Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (RPCO-ARMM) headed by Engr. Jheyhan Campong, with Project Support Office-Mindanao headed by Joseph Rico, recently conducted the Citizens' Monitoring Training participated in by representatives from barangay local government units, school principals, residents, and farmer beneficiaries.

The training included an overview and discussion of the citizen monitoring framework, monitoring instrument, applied geo-tagging of subprojects, and guidelines in social and environmental safeguard compliance monitoring.

The concreting of Kepeng-Ungus Matata FMR which started last April 2018 has 14.65% accomplishment as of August.

According to RPCO IBUILD head, Engr. Mhohiden Acoymo, continuous strict monitoring of the project implementation is vital in ensuring the quality result of the project.

"We are very thankful for the training especially on the very interesting lecture on I-BUILD component checklist and Social Environmental Safety. Before, we had no idea about monitoring the road project but thanks to PRDP, we can now help in

monitoring," said Principal Madsaib Sabbaha of Kepeng Elementary School.

"I think this is a good project and the best project we have so far. There's transparency because of the monitoring team," added Sabbaha.

Aside from the lecture, participants had a project site visit, bunk house inspection and field testing of the monitoring instrument. The observations they noted during the field trip were consolidated and presented at the end of the training.

The 3.6 kilometer road will directly benefit the 4,317 individual farmers and residents in Barangay Kepeng and Tangnangh Ungus Matata whose main source of income are farming cassava, coconut, fishing, and seaweeds.

"Before the road construction here, it was really difficult for us especially when we have to go home from farm bringing all our harvest. We usually carry our produce on the back since the path is really small and difficult to traverse. We used our body to transport our harvest," said farmer Timhar A. Jawali.

The usual mode of transportation among farmers in delivering their farm produce is by walking or by using a wood wagon.

"If ever this project will be completed, we might not only use this wood wagon but maybe we can hire jeepneys to bring our harvest from farm to market," he added. (Joy M. Montecalvo, PSO Mindanao) ■

Timhar A. Jawali poses happily with his wife as they enjoy the PRDP farm-to-market road in their community. (Photo by Gian Enrique)

Revitalizing Kalinga's coffee industry with PRDP – a legacy worth keeping

Out of happiness, Jerry Donga of Balawag, Tabuk City, Kalinga expressed his gratefulness for the improvement of the Bulanao to Amlao Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) alongside Chico River as a legacy that is worth keeping.

Dubbed as the rice granary of the Cordillera Administrative Region, Kalinga is also home to the Region's best coffee blend businesses as it was once known for its lush coffee plantations because its weather conditions and humus-laden soils are ideal for cultivating coffee.

Coffee has always been the all-time favorite drink of the local populace and in the Cordillera as a whole. However, reports show that coffee production in Kalinga seemed to have dropped due to several factors.

The value chain analysis for coffee in Kalinga indicates that low productivity is the major constraint that hampers the coffee enterprise development. This can be attributed to high transportation cost of agricultural inputs to the farmers and outputs to the market due to poor access road condition.

As a result, farmers abandon their coffee plantations and focus more on producing other cash crops such as

rice and corn. They are discouraged to maintain their coffee areas and develop potential areas to increase coffee harvests.

As most of these coffee plantations are located along the mountain and forest areas, it will also be a lot harder for farmers to tend to their coffee plantations due to lack of good access roads.

These occurrences may have prompted the provincial government and coffee stakeholders to readily accept the selection of coffee as the priority commodity for Kalinga to be supported under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

As Cordillera's second city, Tabuk holds so much promise for agro development, given its fertile lowlands watered by the Chico River that serve as steady source of water for its production areas according to Cordillera Almanac.

The city ranked second next to Tanudan which is the top coffee producing municipality in the province. This was based from the criteria set by the PRDP which included the consideration of coffee production area and volume of production, poverty incidence among

others.

With the formulation of the province's Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP), the improvement of Banneng to Gombowoy FMR in Tanudan was the first subproject to be implemented being the top coffee producing municipality in Kalinga. It was followed by the improvement of Bulanao to Amlao FMR in Tabuk City. The former was opened in February of this year and was officially turned over a month later.

The Bulanao to Amlao FMR was finally opened in a ceremony held on July 18, 2018, two years after its groundbreaking ceremony.

A farmer from barangay Amlao said before, that it was difficult for them to transport their products to the market area in Bulanao due to the poor road condition.

Especially for the people residing towards the end of the subproject, they had to endure long walks through the muddy road until they reach the area where the road is accessible and transportation is available. During rainy season, residents would even cross over the Chico River to go back and forth their homes.

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Revitalizing Kalinga's...(from page 2)

Tribal Council Elder Ignacio Baglingit, recalled in his message during the ceremonial opening for the Bulanao-Amlao FMR, the difficulty of their lives in barangay Amlao before the road even existed. He fervently described how the residents in the riverside lived with their situation way back in the 70s, 80s, and 90s as the road gets rerouted from one course to another.

The Bulanao to Amlao FMR is a 15.8-kilometer rural access road covering barangays Malin-awa, Balawag, Amlao, Suyang, and Lucog.

Rice, corn, coffee, banana, root crops, and other vegetables thrive along the area and at the end of the subproject sits a coffee forested hillside.

The concreting of the road has improved the situation before and has opened opportunities for business

establishments and traders as well. Residents have claimed that various retailers who have not gone to their places before have now reached them. The travel time was also lessened and there is no longer hassle in bringing their agricultural produce to the center market area.

The FMR has a total project cost of P213, 041, 140.19 shared by the World Bank (80%), the Government of the Philippines through the DA (10%), and the LGU (10%).

In connection to the FMR, an enterprise development subproject was also initiated to boost the Kalinga coffee industry. This is the Kalinga Integrated Coffee Processing and Marketing Enterprise that is managed by the Kalinga Coffee Cluster Agricultural Cooperative (KCCAC).

It was conceptualized in response to the need for alternative

buyers and market expansion that will give higher income to coffee grower members and Kalinga Coffee Cluster affiliates.

The Coffee Enterprise has a total investment cost of P14, 804,033.33 including the construction of the Kalinga Coffee Trading Center (KCTC) that was also inaugurated last July 18.

Aside from these, Kalinga has two more FMR subprojects in support to the coffee industry in the province.

Connectivity remains a challenge to community development and to the coffee enterprise in Kalinga. But with the interventions of the PRDP, the socio economic conditions in the community it serves will progress and eventually will lead to the revival of the coffee industry in the locality and in the Cordillera. (Elvy S. Taquio, RPCO-CAR InfoACE) ■

PRDP-funded ice plant in Mariveles starts operations

Fisherfolk and fish processors in Batangas II, Mariveles, Bataan can now avail of accessible, cheaper and adequate supply of block ice with the Ice Plant and Cold Storage subproject under the Department of Agriculture's Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP).

Managed by Kaizen Multipurpose Cooperative, the project targets block ice retailers and members of Batangas II Small Fisherfolks Association (BASFA), Batangas II Fishermen Association (BAFA) and DUGSO Fisherfolk Cooperative.

Dolores Magpantay, Chairperson of Kaizen said that before the intervention of PRDP, the cooperative was only engaged in lending and catering businesses.

"Now that this PRDP subproject has started, there are more fishermen, farmers and fish processors who were



encouraged to be members of our cooperative," said Magpantay.

"They used to buy ice in small stores for 3 pesos per piece. Now, they can save more through the block ice that they will buy from us."

About 60% of the produced ice will be sold to fisherfolk while 40% will be sold to block ice retailers.

A cold storage has also completed construction and is now open for rent to prolong the freshness of fishermen's produce, particularly sardines.

Last May 28, World Bank delegates along with heads and technical staff from PRDP's national, cluster and regional offices visited the ice plant and gave generally positive comments about the project.

"There were a lot of people who



helped us during the World Bank visit. We took note of all their comments and recommendations," recalled Magpantay. She added, "One comment was about our source of expansion. We were asked how we will expand our business without PRDP intervention."

In response to this, Magpantay said that they will encourage their members to increase their capital share for the expansion of their business.

"We will not rely on lending or bank loans. We will maximize our members' finances as additional capital share until our cooperative continues to progress."

The Establishment of Ice Plant and Cold Storage is an I-REAP subproject with an enterprise cost of P9,300,928 and civil works cost of P8,776,204.98. (Kayla Arceo, PSO InfoACE) ■