



# ISEDI Report

April 2016

## ISEDI in Thailand

The staff of ISEDI went on a six-day Learning Expedition trip to Thailand on April 7 to 13, 2016. During the trip, the staff were inspired by the Thai government's support for their Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The Thai government plays a major role in the development of their MSMEs by assisting them in the acquisition of Food Safety and Quality Standards, providing them with a link to International Partners, and setting up of Credit Banks. This level of support comes as no surprise, as MSMEs play a significant role in Thailand's economy.

MSMEs enjoy the Thai government's assistance in developing the quality of the community's products through the "One Tambon, One Product (OTOP)" program and the involvement of Thai Industrial Standard Institute (TISI) in obtaining the necessary certifications. OTOP is patterned from Japan's One Village One Product (OVOP) and delivered with a Thai twist- Tambon means "sub-district." It started on 2002 and aims to increase the income of the communities and make them self-reliant. Nowadays, OTOP centers are present in various key establishments – airports, shopping centers, and malls, to name a few.

TISI, on the other hand, is in charge of setting the product per tambon category to be certified – food, beverage, herbs, garments and household and souvenirs. To obtain a certification, manufacturing premises must pass an assessment while their products must meet the Community Product Standard requirements. The certification is valid for three (3) years and the renewal or extension is treated as a new application to ensure the quality of the OTOP products. Aside from certification, TISI is also in charge of Standards Development, Manufacturer Development, and Promotion and Public Relations.

Motivated by Thailand's success, ISEDI plans to assimilate the learnings from OTOP, and the TISI to its own programs and projects. Aside from this, the ISEDI staff also made some observations regarding the efficiency of having all government offices in one place. People can easily obtain whatever legal documents that they needed because they only have to go to one area. Another observation that was noted is how the Thai people made extreme efforts to restore their ancestral structures to serve as a constant reminder of their rich cultural history and identity.



## DARRO XI PPM 3 Updates

April 2016 was a flurry of activities for the Development Options for Social Entrepreneurship (DOSE) Inc., and the Babas Foundation Incorporated (BFI). Both professional service providers (PSP) were commissioned by the Department of Agrarian Reform Region XI Office to provide Agri-Extension (AES) and Business Development Services (BDS), respectively, to their ARBOs covered by the Batch 3 of the ARCESS Program. ISEDI, as the PSP for the Progress and Process Monitoring (PPM), monitored the activities for AES and BDS.

BFI started the month with the conduct of various BDS activities like: April 7 - Training Needs Assessment/Organization Development (TNA/OD); April 15 - Presentation and validation of the results of the TNA/OD; and on April 26 – Business Planning Workshop Part 1 (Consultation and Gathering of Data) on Squash Pancit Canton. All of the activities conducted were attended by the PHMPC BOD together with the Management Staff held at PHMPC Coop, Purok 5, Sitio Baracayo, Toril District, Davao City.

DOSE, on the other hand, ended the month of April with a series of Cacao Production and Management Trainings that were held at Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley. The two day training was first held at the IFMPC Multipurpose Center in Brgy. Igangon, San Isidro, Davao del Norte. From April 26-27, twenty seven (27) participants from five (5) ARBOs were trained on how to properly do the Grafting, Budding, and Pruning of the Cacao plant. The farmer technicians (FT) were also coached on how to do a Three Year Farm



Production and Management Plan and by the end of the training, every individual FT were able to formulate one for themselves.

The same training was also conducted for the farmers of ComVal on April 28-29, 2016. It was attended by a total of twenty five (25) participants from five different ARBOs.

Overall, a total of ten (10) ARBOs were served from both provinces, namely:

### Davao del Norte:

- SSISCFA
- IFMPC
- KIFASPA
- KFA
- NJKCFO

### Compostela Valley

- KMPC
- LAMPCO
- TCBC
- CASCOFACO
- MAMPCO

Dr. Carlito R. Solera, the farm manager and owner of Santo Niño Cacao-Based Agroforestry in Kidapawan City, served as the resource speaker for the trainings.



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# Balik Uma Updates

ISEDI and BALSAs, attended a series of meetings for the PHILS-ITALY project. The objectives of these meetings is to inform key personnel of the requirements of the project, and to obtain the certification of support for the implementation of the project. The first meeting was with the Municipal Agricultural Officer of Monkayo, Dr. Christopher Edjic, on April 1, 2016. The second meeting was between the two implementing agencies and the Kaimonan Lumad sa Compostela (KLC) on April 2, 2016 while the third was with the Barangay Officers of Brgy. Mangayon. Another meeting was made on April 30 between the implementing team and the KLC.

During these meetings, the ISEDI and BALSAs personnel presented once again the project profile of the Upscaling the Balik Uma Project: A Sustainable Agriculture Production Program and Rain Forestation for Food Security and Community Resilience. Special attention was given to the project's four major components which are; a) Capacity Development, b) Production of Farm and Planting Inputs, c) Food Security and Livelihood, and d) Environment Protection.

From these meetings, ISEDI and BALSAs were able to obtain the MAO's support but the certification that was asked from them will have to wait until the MOA is signed by the Mayor's office, and after another meeting where all three agencies will lay down all the proposed activities together and present it the beneficiaries of the project. ISEDI and BALSAs are also planning to invite other departments to prevent duplication and overlapping of activities.

However, the team suffered a setback during their meeting with the KLC. The tribal council questioned the presence of ISEDI and BALSAs and the team's delay in asking for the council's permission. The tribal council also refused to give a certification on the grounds that the implementing team is not from the area. However, this has been resolved during the discussions on April 30.

In Barangay Mangayon, the implementing team was informed that the Barangay Captain cannot give out a certification required by the Phils-Italy Secretariat as the area in question is under Ancestral Domain.

