



# Report to the President

## Institute for Socio Economic Development Initiatives

MAY 2017

### Sugarcane Block Farming

*Updates on the Sugarcane Block Farming Project Implementation in Region XI, XII and the Negros Island Region*

#### Negros Island Region (NIR)

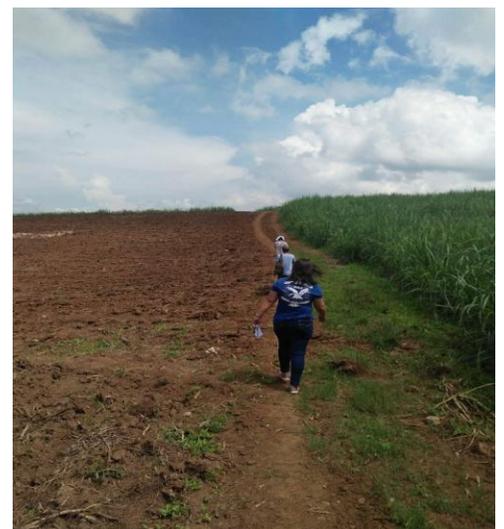
The month of May signals the end of the second quarter for the SBF implementation in the Negros Island Region (NIR). As such, an assessment of the quarter's activity was conducted on June 2 in Bacolod City. It was attended by representatives from DAR, the ARBOs, other service providers, and ISEDI.

During the assessment, ISEDI reported its accomplishments for the second quarter in terms of trainings, irrigation services provided, techno demo farms and nursery farms established. For the trainings, the ARBOs of Lot 1, 11 and 12 have all been trained in Soil Sampling (Module 1), Land Preparation (Module 2), Planting and Planting Materials (Module 3), and High Yielding Varieties (Module 4).

For the irrigation services, a total of 22 sets of water pumps have been provided to the ARBOs. ISEDI needs only to deliver 4 more to reach the expected number of water pumps.

Currently, we have established a total of twenty two (22) hectares of techno demo farms in all the lot areas. Most of these techno demo farms have already finished planting their cane points, with the exception of LARBEMCO and MAFFACO who are currently undergoing land preparation and planting, respectively.

The sites for the Nursery Farms are currently in various stages of formation. KASFARBEMCO, for instance, have already planted one hectare worth of cane points. However, most of the ARBOs are still in the process of either land preparation or planting. Other sites have not yet started because they are either still waiting for the current plants to be harvested or are waiting for the resolution and DAR approval of the land issues.



## Region XI and XII

Region XI and XII's progress in the implementation of the SBF project during May closely mirrors each other. In both regions, ISEDI has purchased farm inputs such as cane points and fertilizers. We have also facilitated the planting of cane points in the techno demo farms. Planting in the nurseries for both regions are expected to start on June.

The first dose of fertilizer has also been applied to demo farms in the two regions. The next dosage will be applied after three months.

For the Farmer Field School, participants from the two Regions have already undergone Modules 1 – 4 and skipped to Module 8: Fertilization, as they have already done the first dose of fertilization. Module 5: Germination is expected to continue normally as soon as the cane points have started growing.

The only difference between the two regions is when it comes to irrigation system and other project activities. Region XI has purchased the irrigation facilities needed for the area and conducted meetings with DAR and the ARBOs. Project Assessment with DAR 11 was conducted on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May wherein the Work Plan VS Deliverables was examined. We also called for a Production Meeting with ARBOs on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May to update them of the current status of the project implementation as well as schedule the remaining modules for the Farmers' Field School and Farm Planning.



## Balik Uma Project

### *Updates on the "Upscaling the Balik-Uma Project: A Sustainable Agriculture Production Program and Reforestation for Food and Community Resilience"*

The implementation of the Balik Uma Project in Compostela Valley has been mostly "business as usual" for the month of May. Our field people, Rolando Monteroyo and Gerlyn Soliza, along with our partners from Balsa, have continued their farm monitoring activities. Communal work has also continued for all five areas. During the course of their communal work, farmers have gathered a total of thirty banana suckers that are to be planted in their communal farms.

Farmers from Mambusao and Quarry have also managed to clear five (5) and one (1) hectare of land for their

communal farms, respectively. Three farmers in Mambusao also received three hundred (300) tilapia fingerlings.

In Sitio Quarry, farmers have started planting corn after harvesting last season's corn. Some farmers have also started their own vegetable gardens for market and for their own consumption.

In Side 4, 10 out 38 farmers have also planted corn. However, they were not able to harvest rice because of insect infestation.



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