

# REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT

## AUGUST 2017



*Institute for Socio-Economic Development Initiatives*

## Farm Support and Extension Services of the Sugarcane Block Farm Project – DAR

### *Highlights from the Sugarcane Block Farming (SBF) Project Implementation in Region XI, XII and the Negros Island Region*

The Institute for Socio Economic Development Initiatives is currently implementing the Sugarcane Block Farming (SBF) Project in three regions, Region XI, XII and the Negros Island Region (NIR). The project aims to introduce better and cost-efficient sugarcane farming practices, improve farm productivities of block farm enrollees and enhance the skills of ARBOs in agricultural entrepreneurship.



## Negros Island Region (NIR)

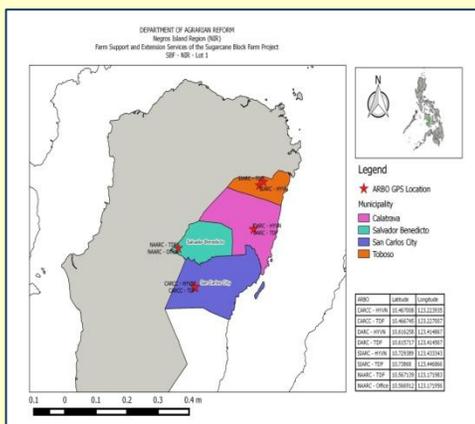


Figure 1 SBF Lot 1 Areas

ISED, as the service provider for the SBF in the NIR, has continuously monitored the progress of the techno demo and nursery farms that were established.

In Lot 1, the techno demo farms boast of a 90-97% germination rate (GR). In general, the varieties that were planted are growing at a remarkable pace. However, in Calatrava, Negros Occidental, leaf scorch was observed in some of the plants. Their nurseries, on the other hand, report a 60-90% germination rate. The low GR in Nieves Agro Agrarian Reform Cooperative (NAARC)'s 1.4 hectare nursery is attributed to the rainy weather conditions during planting.

The accomplishments per individual ARBO are as follows:

Codcod Agrarian Reform Community Cooperative (CARCC) completed the drainage canal for their techno demo farm on August 7. For their nursery farms, off-barring, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fertilization using inorganic fertilizers, side dressing of organic fertilizers (OF), and replanting were also done in August.

For Dolis Agrarian Reform Cooperative (DARC), the activities conducted in August were the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose fertilization and hilling-up of their techno demo farms. They also completed the 1<sup>st</sup> fertilization, liming, OF side dressing, open barring, and replanting for their nurseries.

Nieves Agro Agrarian Reform Cooperative (NARCC) have also completed on-barring, replanting, open barring, OF application, side clearing, rouging, OF side dressing, and second weeding for their nurseries. Their TDF is similarly done with the second weeding, liming, open-barring, side clearing and rouging.

Rounding up the Lot 1 supported ARBOs is San isidro Agrarian Reform Cooperative (SIARC). Their TDF have also undergone weeding, hilling up, and second fertilization. Their nurseries, on the other hand, have also gone through weeding, hilling up, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> fertilization.

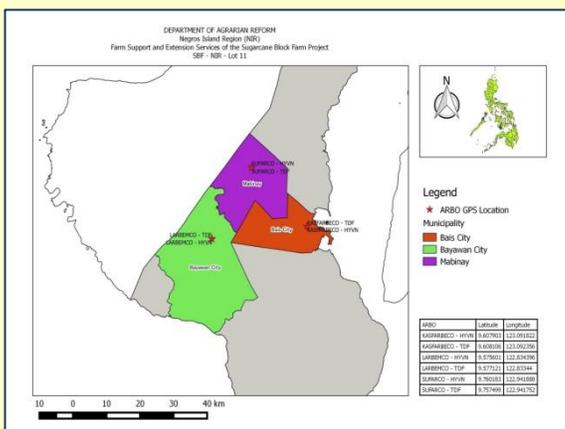


Figure 2 Lot 11 Areas

The TDFs in Lot 11 are also enjoying a high germination rate that ranges between 90-95%. Like in Lot 1, the varieties that were planted were fast growing and are very suitable for the areas. The nurseries are also experiencing decent germination rates that range between 60-95%. LABREMCO, the assisted ARBO that registered the lowest germination rates at 60% and 75% for their 00-2569 and 04-1011 varieties, have already been replanted to ensure a good harvest.

Lot 11 has two assisted ARBOs, Samac United Multi-Purpose Coop (SUFARCO) and Lapay Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Coop (LARBEMCO). SUFARCO has already completed side clearing, hilling up, and second fertilization for their TDF. Their nursery have also undergone first fertilization and open barring.

LABREMCO, on the other hand, has only finished planting their nursery in the first week of August. However, they made up for this by conducting a continuous stream of activities during the following weeks. As of the time this report was made, LABREMCO has already conducted the first dose of fertilization, drainage canal construction, organic fertilization, transplanting, replanting, and second weeding for their nursery. Their TFG have already gone through 2<sup>nd</sup> weeding, 2<sup>nd</sup> dose of fertilization, and transplanting.

Out of all the lots, Lot 12 registered the best range in terms of germination rate with 93-97%. Like Lot 11, Lot 12 only has two assisted ARBOs: Sycip Plantation Farmers Workers Agrarian Cooperative (SPFWAC) and Masulog Farmers Agrarian Community Cooperative (MAFACCO).

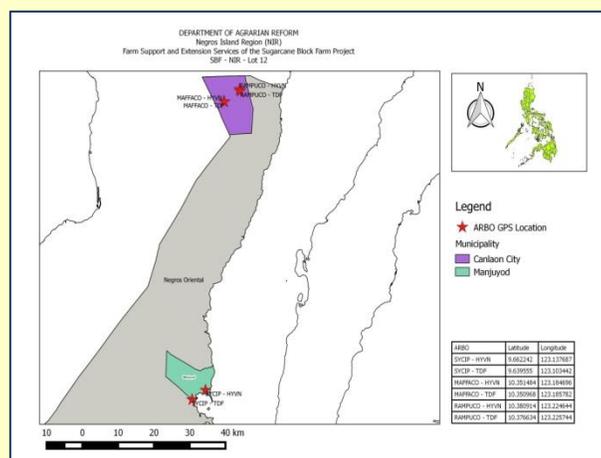


Figure 3 Lot 12 Areas Plotted using GIS

SPFWAC already finished the second weeding, and second dose application of inorganic fertilizers for their TDF; and soil analysis and cane points selection for their nursery.

MAFACCO, on the other hand, has already applied lime to their nursery and conducted first weeding and first dose application of inorganic fertilizer for their TDF.

## Region XI

August was another productive month for Region XI. August 4, in particular, was a very busy day as the ISEDI Field Team met with representatives of DARRO XI, DARPO Davao del Sur, and the ARBOs. During the one day activity, ISEDI presented the updates regarding the project to the other stakeholders. Afterwards, there was a follow up and finalization of the Farm Planning and Budgeting. It was also during this activity that the formulated PSPs were signed by the officers of the respective ARBOs and witnessed by the representatives of the DARPO and ISEDI-AddU.

Aside from these, the team also produced tarpaulins showcasing the agronomic characteristics of the high

yielding varieties planted in the farms, the schedule of activities, and the individual farm profiles. These were then distributed and displayed in their respective ARBO offices, and farms.

The team is currently working on the Techno Guide in the Establishment of High Yielding Varieties (HYV) Nursery with the assisted ARBOs. The techno guide will contain the various activities undertaken by ISEDI AddU Team in the implementation of the SBF Project. Other ongoing activities include: cultivation, weeding, and fertilization.

## Region XII

Region XII is nearly finished with all its preparatory activities. Most of the areas have already completed planting for all their techno demo and nursery farms. Kibudtungan Sugarcane Farmers Planters Association (KSFPA) was the first to complete their TDFs and nurseries, having finished planting of the farms in May and June 2017, respectively. In August, Onica Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association, Kidama Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (KARBA), and New Bugasong ARB Association, completed the establishment of their respective TDFs and nurseries last month. At the moment, Palma Perez Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi Purpose Cooperative (PPARBMP) is still waiting for favorable weather conditions to complete the planting in their nursery farms.

Over the course of eight months, various trainings have already been conducted for the farmer cooperators. For the month of August, KARBA and

KSFPA have already trained their farmer cooperators in PSP Formulation and Farm Planning.

The canvass for the irrigation facilities of each area is nearly complete as well. Only two ARBOs, PPARBMPC and KARBA, are still waiting for a canvass for their irrigation facilities although the ISEDI team have already sent out requests for quotations to various traders. KSFPA, on the other hand, is only waiting for the contractor to visit the site.



## ARBO Spotlight

*A look at our supported Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations*

### PARBUFMPC of Davao del Sur

Pasig Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and Upland Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative, better known as PARBUFMPC, is certainly not a new name for ISEDI. The Kiblawan-based cooperative has already partnered with ISEDI in the Department of Agrarian Reform's Agrarian Reform Community Connectivity and Economic Support Services (ARCESS) project. Back then, ISEDI served as the Progress and Process Monitoring team. These days however, ISEDI and PARBUFMPC have a more direct relationship as ISEDI was tapped by DAR to deliver its Farm Support and Extension Services of the Sugarcane Block Farm Project.

The cooperative currently has a total of 114 members, 59 of which are ARBs. Aside from DAR and ISEDI, PARBUFMPC is also supported by DA, DOLE, SMI, DTI, PCU, CDA, and the LGU in terms of trainings that were attended by its officers and management staff in the last two years. These trainings have helped them in the day to management of their sari sari store and their dealings with DASUSECO. Their main products are sugarcane, coconut, mango, corn, and banana.

PARBUFMPC is very receptive towards the SBF project being implemented in their area. During the launching ceremony for the project, Josephine Barsalote, the current chairperson, expressed her thanks to DAR for once again choosing their cooperative as one of the beneficiaries of the project. She also encouraged her fellow farmer members to do their best and focus on planting and producing quality sugarcane.

