



ISFI Report to ADDU PRESIDENT

July 2009

CordAid Visits CVEDS Partners and Beneficiaries

Mr. Klaas Atsma, a consultant affiliated with I/C Consult spent three days in Davao City and in Montevista, Davao del Norte to look into the local business development services (BDS) situation and practices. I/C Consult is the joint advisory unit of Netherlands-based Catholic Organisation for Relief and International Aid (CordAid) and Interchurch Organisation for Development Cooperation.

The Craft Village Enterprises Development and Strengthening (CVEDS), which assists a total of 21 micro and small medium enterprises improved their operational efficiency, provided Mr. Atsma a background on how entrepreneurs access support from different business support organizations in the region.

After a briefing on the project Catalysts for Enterprise Development (CED), Mr. Atsma discussed BDS issues with Executive Director Joy E. Cabo and ISFI Enterprise Consultant Norie Towanna. Also in attendance were the six Enterprise Coaches.

Mr. Atsma visited three beneficiaries: RER Designs which manufactures bamboo crafts, Apo ni Lola Durian Delicacies which produces candied durian, and San Isidro Livestock Raisers Multi-Purpose



Cooperative which produces fresh



milk, candies and ice cream from buffalo milk.

Accompanied by Ms. Gloria Penera, ISFI Project Manager for CVEDS, and the Enterprise Coaches, Mr. Atsma also met with the representatives of the Davao City Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the School of Business and Governance of the Ateneo de Davao University, Department of Trade and Industry - Region XI and other partners. These meetings focused on the services extended by

the said organizations.

The LGU of Montevista, Davao del Norte also sat with Mr. Atsma, where they shared the municipality's development thrusts as well as its involvement in the CED project.

In all of his meetings with the beneficiaries, partners and ISFI, Mr. Atsma emphasized CordAid's support to small producers in the areas of production, marketing and lobbying for supportive government measures.



Expression of Interest and Other Submitted Proposals

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

1. NPS - ENRMP Ligawasan Marsh Biodiversity Conservation Project - DENR XII
2. Community Organizations in Seven (7) Coastal Municipalities in Hinatuan and Lianga Bay, Surigao del Sur - BFAR
3. Assessment of the Community Institutions (CIs) and Gaps in the Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claims (CADC) Areas - DAR-IFAD
4. ARISP - III - DAR
5. Monitoring and Evaluation - Sustainable Upland Development - European Union

6. Business Development Services - IFC-World Bank

SUBMITTED PROPOSALS

1. Community-Based Agroforestry Project - Alsons/Conal Holdings
2. Baseline Survey Sulop - SMI
3. Productivity Enhancement through Alternative Community Enterprises - PEF
4. Support for Community Organizing and Livelihood Development - European Union
5. Credit Resource for Agriculture and Food Technologies - European Union

OTHER ISFI PROJECTS, TRAINING AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES

DENR Watershed Characterization Project

ISFI submitted the Letter of Undertaking to the DENR to officially start the project. Field Staff/Forester Joseph Sarile already paid a courtesy call to the officials of Barangay Lasang and Paquibato – barangays that have administrative mandate over the focused watershed. Similarly, Mr. Sarile also visited the office of the City Environment and Natural Resources Office prior to the conduct of the project activities.

ISFI sent letters to the offices of the DENR and the Bureau of Mines requesting for copies of thematic maps and other information on the watershed.

WB-CSF on Generating Baseline Info on Impact of Climate Change on Selected IP Communities

Initial meetings and other preparations were underway. ISFI formulated and refined the Guide Questions that will be used in the Focus Group Discussions, to be conducted the entire month of August.

PTFCF on Strengthening Governance in Mono-Alah Watershed

The project is slated to start on the first week of August. In the meantime, ISFI prepared the Memorandum of Agreement between ISFI and the Municipality of Bagumbayan, Sultan

Kudarat for the implementation of the project.

ISFI is scheduled to make the courtesy call second week of August.

IFC-WB on Mindanao Banana Value Chain Project

ISFI completed the revised Post-Project Evaluation Report on the one-year Mindanao Banana Value Chain.

The major findings of ISFI include:

- That the project was highly relevant, as noted by the three outgrowers cooperative and fixed farm owner, Consultant of the Rainforest Alliance who conducted the audit, and the Philippine Business for Social Progress who provided the training activities. The IFC rated the project "3.5" (highest score is "4"), while the lead firm, Unifruitti Services Incorporation who ultimately buys and market the fresh banana to export market gave a rating of "3" (average between two ratings of "4" for highland farms and "2" for lowland farms);

- That most of the project activities were considered to be effective – particularly the on-site farm advisory, provision of the RA Certification manual, pre-audit diagnostics, information sharing and provision of capital for infrastructure development;

- That the project is expected to be sustainable, if the project stakeholders follow certain conditions. These condition included strict and continuous compliance to the 10 principles and local indicators, strengthening of the linkages created,

maintenance of the systems and facilities that were introduced.

DFID-PHILSSA Housing Survey

The Project Team have completed the secondary data gathering and the tabulation of the 500 survey results. Report writing will commence on the first week of August.

ISFI Starts Mobilizing Resources for SMSNAI 12th Anniversary

A series of meetings were undertaken by ISFI staff with the College of Nursing, Father Ocampo and the SICO regarding preparations for the 12th Anniversary of the SMSNAI in October.

Medical and dental mission is being planned, and ISFI has coordinated with the Department of Health office to ask for services of doctors, nurses and dentists. ISFI has also started circulating a flyer to its partners and consultants, asking for resources (financial, goods, medicines and others) that will be used for the event.

Joy Cabo is on-call consultant of OIDCI and AVP of OIDCI on a flex-time arrangement. She however continues to render services to ISFI on output basis and especially focusing on resource generation and mobilization (RGM), monitoring and evaluation (M & E)/regular staff meeting, linkage building and reviewing quality of project reports and other deliverables.