



ISEDI and ARCESS:
Providing Business Development Services to
Agrarian Reform Communities

ISEDI
April 2014

Off to a Good Start!

ISED I COMMENCES BDS ACTIVITIES IN ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA



It is now official! ISEDI has signed on as Department of Agrarian Reform - Region 9's (otherwise known as the Zamboanga Peninsula) new partner for the project: Agrarian Reform Community Connectivity and Economic Support Services (ARCESS). Last April 12-13, 2014, Ms. Jocelyn E. Cabo, together with the Field Team Leader (FTL) Ms. Mary D. Porquillo and four (4) Community-Based Enterprise Officers (CBEOs), visited the provincial offices of DAR in Region IX and formally signed the contracts.

This project becomes ISEDI's second engagement on the project ARCESS -- the first one is well on its mid-way mark, with ISEDI providing the Process and Progress Monitoring for the Davao Region.

Specific for DAR-9, ISEDI will be extending Business Development Services to 23 Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organizations (ARBOs),

engaged in cacao, coconut, rubber, abaca, and organic rice production.

The menu of interventions will vary per commodity but the methods of engagement will make use of the participatory and consultative processes, to include the focus group discussions, training, and coaching and mentoring. Apart from the FTL and the CBEOs, ISEDI will also tap subject matter specialists from its technical pool. The technical advice will be complemented with training manuals, enterprise plans, and other relevant documents so that the officers and key staff of the ARBOs will have something to refer to once the ISEDI exits from the project.

The teams in Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur and Zamboanga Sibugay have started establishing relationship with the ARBOs. This engagement will run from April 2014 to April 2015.



DAR-ARCESS PPM ACTIVITIES IN DAVAO REGION

DATE CONDUCTED	LOCATION	TRAINING ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING ARBOS
LOT A - Baba's Foundation, Inc.			
APRIL 2-5	COMPOSTELA VALLEY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mawab • Laak • Nabunturan • Maragusan • Compostela 	Learning Expedition at Phil Rice Research Institute in CMU, Bukidnon, PAGLAUM MPC in Plaridel, Misamis Occidental and Daku Gata MPC in Clarin, Misamis Occidental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFICO • MMPC • SANARCO-S • LIPRIMCO • NARCICO
	DAVAO DEL NORTE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tagum • New Corella • Talaingod • Carmen • Sto. Tomas • Asuncion • Panabo 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DARBDECO • SEARBEMCO • NECIDCO • NECOFARM • MARBCO • DMPC • AMSEFFCO • DAARBMCO • PAFIMCO • CFARBEMCO
	DAVAO ORIENTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manay • Caraga • Mati • San Isidro • Gov. Geneneroso 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SIFCO • CAFARMCO • CASIA Inc. • NAGMASID Coop • LUFARBENCO • ARSK • BSMPC • MAGREBCO • MEFCO
APRIL 15-16	COMPOSTELA VALLEY: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mawab • Laak • Nabunturan • Maragusan • Compostela 	Training on Delinquency Management and Customized MIS Financing Recording	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIFICO • SANARCOS • LAMPCO • LIPRIMCO • NARCICO
	DAVAO DEL NORTE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tagum • New Corella • Talaingod • Carmen • Sto. Tomas • Asuncion • Panabo 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MARBCO • ASAWA-MPC • PAFIMCO • NECIDCO • NECOFARM • DARBDECO
	DAVAO ORIENTAL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manay • Caraga • Mati • San Isidro • Gov. Geneneroso 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAFARMCO • LUFARBENCO

DATE CONDUCTED	LOCATION	TRAINING ACTIVITY	PARTICIPATING ARBOS
LOT B - Development Options and Social Entrepreneurship			
April 2, 2014	Kiblawan, Davao del Sur	Land Preparation Activity for Sugarcane Planting	PAFBUF
April 5, 2014	Brgy. Fatima, Paquibato District, Davao City	Coaching and Mentoring on Cacao Production Technology	LAFAMCO
	Brgy. Fatima, Paquibato District, Davao City	Meeting and Monitoring	FAMPC
April 7, 2014	Magsaysay and Matanao, Davao del Sur	Meeting on Pre-Business Planning	SMMPC and KIMFACO
April 11, 2014	Magsaysay and Matanao, Davao del Sur	Training on Business Planning	SMMPC and KIMFACO
April 28-29, 2014	Magsaysay and Matanao, Davao del Sur	Coaching and Mentoring on Vermi Culture	SMMPC and KIMFACO

ISEDI ATTENDANCE TO UCEAC ACTIVITY

Ma. Theresa F. Mates, ISEDI Project Staff, attended the UCEAC activity called "Meaningful Conversations: UCEAC Evaluation and Target Setting School Year 2014-2015". It was held last April 11 to 12 at the Hof Gorei Resort, Kaputian District, Island Garden City of Samal. The activity was facilitated by Ms. Starjoan Villanueva of the AFRIM.

The activity's main objectives were:

1. To celebrate the gains and achievement of SY 2013-2014
2. To capture the learning, opportunities and constraints in community engagement and advocacy
3. To move forward as one through its Priority Agency Setting and Planning SY 2014-2015.

The activity was geared towards achieving two results:

1. Come up with priority agency per thematic area on: (a) peace and inter-religious dialogues, (b) environment concerns, (c) human well-being and justice, (d) community development; and (e) disaster risk reduction management
2. Come up with a plan for SY 2014-2015
3. Agree on the monitoring and reporting schedule.

Community offices like ISEDI, ARRUPE and MINDANAWON were identified as organizations to collaborate the community engagement efforts under the thematic area: Community Development.

DIVERSIFIED FARMING SYSTEM REHABILITATION OF COMMUNITY FARMS

A validation activity jointly undertaken by ISEDI and the Indigenous People's Center for Development Services (IPCDSI) was undertaken for the entire month of April in two areas: (a) Brgy. Prosperidad, Montevista, and (b) Brgy. Casoon, Monkayo. The project aimed to achieve the rehabilitation of 20 hectares of community farms.

The results of the validation will guide the Project Staff of ISEDI and IPCDSI in fast-tracking activities or if there will be a need to change the strategies of engagement. Apart from validating the progress of the project (see table below), the staff interviewed 42 beneficiaries as part of the continuing baseline survey, representing 14% of the target households.

AREA	NO. OF BENEFICIARIES TO BE ASSISTED	ACTUAL NUMBER AS OF 21 APRIL 2014	BALANCE	NO. OF HECTARES TO BE PLANTED	ACTUAL HECTARES PLANTED AS OF 21 APRIL 2014	BALANCE
Prosperidad	195	76	119	12	2.4	9.6
Casoon	125	68	57	8	3.4	4.6
Total	320	144	176	20	5.8	14.2

BALIK-UMA CAMPAIGN IN COMPOSTELA VALLEY

A Project Re-direction Meeting was held at ISEDI Office last April 24, 2014. It was participated by UCEAC Chairman of ADDU, Executive Director of ISEDI-ADDU and ISEDI assigned project staff together with BALSAs representatives.

The main purpose of the meeting was to ensure that all the preparations for its 6-month extension phase must be in place prior to its full operation, slated to start on May 2014.

The project extension of **Balik Uma Campaign for Sustainable Agriculture and Forestry** is focused on the identified 150 assisted IP and small scale mining households. The interventions lined up include the following intervention:

1. Provision of second cycle of corn production for individual farms and communal farms
2. Continuation of the first cycle rice production farming
3. Advanced training on sustainable agriculture (DIFS Training and Exposure Visits & Food Always in the Home – FAITH gardening)
4. Continuation of the development and maintenance of community nursery (seed germination, gathering of seeds and seedlings from outside sources, seedlings production/propagation, planting and maintenance)

5. Distribution of natural pesticides sprayer
6. Continuation of the advocacy and education for climate justice and environment protection with the assisted beneficiaries
7. Employment of creative forms of coaching and mentoring to encourage communities to engage in sustainable agriculture
8. Project Assessment (assessing gains/ learning insights, opportunities and constraints)
9. Monthly Monitoring

In the same meeting, Atty. Romeo Cabarde, UCEAC Chairman emphasized that project partners must keep reminding the assisted farmers in the communities not to associate the name of ADDU in their involvement/participation to any public rallies. The beneficiaries should be able to differentiate the extent of ADDU's involvement in their communities, which is **to improve the lives of the people through sustainable agriculture and forest trees**. These communities were severely affected by Typhoon Pablo in December 2012.

For the month of April (preparation stage), the project partners have already achieved the following (please refer to table below):

ASSISTED SITIOS	RESULTS/REMARKS
Letter V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted 20 hectares for 2nd cycle comprising 18 hectares for individual farm and 2 hectares for communal farm • Planted 300 seedlings of jackfruit
Side 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readied 15 hectares to be planted with corn (2nd cycle) • Planted 50 seedlings of durian • With available 800 durian seedling and 400 jackfruit ready for planting
Bongkilaton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planted 7 hectares of corn for 2nd cycle comprising 6 hectares for individual farm and 1 hectare for communal farm • Planted 64 jackfruit seedlings
Mambosao	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readied 8 hectares to be planted with corn (2nd cycle) comprising of 2 hectares for communal farm and 6 hectares for individual farm
Bango	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readied 18 hectares to be planted with corn comprising 15 hectares for individual farm and 3 hectares for communal farm

PROJECT GENERATION

1. Philippine-Italy Debt for Development Swap Program - ISEDI was considered for financing and was qualified to undergo the post-qualification stage. Additional documents were requested by the funding agency.

2. ISEDI submitted a bid on ARCESS-Business Development Services for Region 12.