



Aggie Trends



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Barangay Bagsakan (Non-LGU)

Balligi, Sta. Ana, Cagayan

Established through the initiative of Sta. Ana, Cagayan Mayor Norberto Rodriguez in September last year, the Balligi Barangay Bagsakan now serves as a central drop-off for various products of Sta. Ana farmers and fishers. These include rice, fish, vegetables, fruits, corn, legumes and rootcrops which are all sold at affordable and reasonable prices, benefiting consumers.



To bankroll the project, the Municipal Government of Sta. Ana has provided P140,000, while the Department of Agriculture through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service (DA-AMAS) shared P100,000. The facility is managed by the Balligi Rural Improvement Club.

Today, the *bagsakan's* regular patrons enjoy P5 savings on meat products, and almost P6 from a kilo of veggies such as ampalaya and tomatoes. Cabbage, habichuelas, and other highland vegetables can be bought at P2 less than those sold in other markets, while garlic is sold P10 per kilo cheaper.

The Balligi BB takes pride on the freshness of their produce, as these are delivered regularly, or on a weekly basis.

Now, the *bagsakan* caters to a growing variety of consumers now totalling close to 4,800 households in Sta. Ana. Thus, it has likewise increased its assortment of goods to include frozen products, serving as a mini-grocery and fresh market.

Organic Farming Initiative Tupi Balangon/Bongulan Growers Association (TUBAGA)

Tupi, South Cotabato

In 2004, five farmers banded to form the Tupi Balangon/Bongulan Growers Association or TUBAGA. Their aim was to serve as producer and consolidator of Bongulan bananas, an indigenous variety that has been growing for decades in the forest of Tupi, South Cotabato.



Now, five years later, TUBAGA has 119 growers, tilling a total of 233 hectares and hires 426 farm workers. It ships an average of 1,200 boxes or 16,200 kilos of Bongulan bananas to Japan every week.

What sets it apart from other growers is that TUBAGA produces chemical-free, "organic Bongulan bananas". Likewise, the banana plants are intercropped with coconut groves and fruit orchards.

Through its efforts, the Bongulan variety has become the main product of Tupi, under the "One-Town, One-Product" (OTOP) program of the government.

With financial assistance from the DA-NAFC through the Kennedy Round 2 Productivity Enhancement project worth P980,000 and an additional P300,000 from the Provincial Government of South Cotabato, the TUBAGA implemented in 2007 the "Organic Bongulan Banana and Production Marketing project".

As a result of this initiative the Bongulan bananas were recently certified organic by the EcoCert SA of Europe. The fruits also passed the quality of the USDA National Organic Program, EU Regulation, and Japan Agricultural Standard.

formulation of the Catanduanes Unlad Abacamasa (CUA) Development Plan, which to date has benefited about 14,000 farm-families. The initiative has taught and trained farmers to produce quality abaca fibers, as well as high-value abaca-based products. The CUA also trains farmers to produce other profitable value-added abaca handicraft items.

The Council has also addressed the long-time predicament of local fishers, who are forced to sell crabs and crablets at low prices. Through the establishment of a seven-hectare crab center in Virac, the fisherfolk could now culture and sell regularly volumes of crabs that fetch higher prices. The center also provides employment to other residents.

Barangay Bagsakan (LGU)

Barangay Bagsakan of Poblacion B
M'lang, North Cotabato

A fledgling village, Barangay Poblacion B, in M'lang, North Cotabato, has proven that it could efficiently provide needed services to its constituents, among them sufficient supply of affordable basic food items through its Barangay Bagsakan (BB).



Established last May 2008, with an initial operating capital of about P47,000, the BB of Poblacion B now boasts of accumulated sales of close to P944,500, as of June 30, 2009.

As the barangay was newly-created, it did not yet receive its regular Internal Revenue Allotment. But this did not hinder the Barangay Council and its chairman to pursue its Barangay Bagsakan project, working tirelessly to qualify under the market linkage program of the DA through its Agribusiness and Marketing Assistance Service.

Its efforts were rewarded when during its launch, it was able to generate a gross sale of more than P51,600, 10 per cent more than its initial capital.

During the rice crisis last year, the BB diligently maintained the government's ceiling price on rice, thus establishing a good reputation and track record with the DA's National Food Authority in North Cotabato.

While it was also affected by a series of military bombings and skirmishes against MILF rebels, the BB continued its operation to provide needed basic food commodities to fellow villagers.

The Barangay Council also participated actively in the DA's 'Negosyo sa sakanan, Laban sa kahirapan' livelihood project, encouraging residents to plant various vegetables in their backyards and other vacant and idle lots. For its part, the BB provided the participants with the initial start-up seeds, fertilizers and other incidental expenses. They in turn are asked to sell their harvest of assorted vegetables back to the Barangay Bagsakan, for the benefit of other residents in Poblacion B and nearby villages in M'lang.

President Arroyo, nation honor 2009 Gawad Saka achievers

Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo leads the nation in recognizing the exemplary efforts of 20 outstanding individuals and organizations in the field of agriculture and fishery production, processing, entrepreneurship, research and development, marketing and organic farming initiatives.



President Arroyo and Secretary Arthur Yap (center) with a rice farmer in Lubao, Pampanga.

MESSAGE



Isang maalab na pagbati at pasasalamat sa mga natatanging magsasaka, mangingisda, siyentista, samahan at iba pa nating katuwang sa kanayunan na nagtitipontipon para sa 2009 Gawad Saka.

Sa panahon ng maraming pagsubok sa pambansang sektor ng sakahan-kabilang ang hamon ng globalisasyon at banta ng pagbabagong klima- lalong tumitingkad ang mahahalagang ambag ng mga Pilipinong

magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pang kasama sa pambansang sektor ng agrikultura at pangisdaan sa ekonomiya.

Dahil sa kanilang kasipagan at pagpupunyagi, kasabay ng walang tigil at walang kapantay na pamumuhunan ng pamahalaan sa pambansang sektor ng agrikultura at pangisdaan sa pamamagitan ng programang F.I.E.L.D.S (Fertilizers, Irrigation, Extension and Research, Loans, Dryers and Other Postharvest Facilities and Seeds), tuloy-tuloy ang paglago ng sektor sa loob ng 34 quarters mula 2001 hanggang 2009. Ang paglago na ito ay nagging daan upang patuloy na matiyak na may pagkain sa bawat mesa ng pamilyang Pilipino at maibasan ang kahirapan at kagutuman sa kanayunan at iba pang dahop na pamayanan sa bansa.

Kaya, bilang isa sa masugid na tagasuporta nitong taunang parangal- na kumikilala sa husay at dedikasyon nilang mga itinuring nating mga bagong bayani ng bayan sa layunin natin upang maging sapat at abot kaya ang presyo ng pagkain sa hapag-kainan ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino- ako'y naniniwala sa ang mga "Gawad Saka awardees" ay patunay at bahagi ng pag-unlad ng pambansang agrikultura.

Gamit ang mga makabagong kaalaman at taglay na kasipagan, napalago nila ang kanilang ani at kita, napabuti ang buhay ng kanikanilang pamilya, at nakatulong din sa kapwa nilang magsasaka, mangingisda at kanayon. Nawa'y tularan sila ng mas marami pang magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pa nating kababayan mula Mindanao, Visayas at Luzon.

Nais ko rin bigyan ng pugay ang mga kawani ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka at iba pang mga katuwang mula sa mga local na pamahalaan, iba pang ahensiya ng pamahalaan at pribadong sektor na naglaan ng panahon upang matagumpay na maidaos ang Gawad Saka.

Sa lahat ng mga nagwagi ng 2009 Gawad Saka, hangad ko ang inyong patuloy na tagumpay!

Mabuhay ang mga magsasaka at mangingisdang Pilipino!

Gloria Arroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

The President, assisted by Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap, handed over to the winners their respective Presidential Citation, Gawad Saka trophies, and more than P2-million worth of cash prizes and project grants, in fitting ceremonies on October 15, 2009, at the Philippine International Convention Center, in Pasay City.

This year's roster of achievers is led by Outstanding Rice Farmer Bonifacio M. Corpuz, of Dalapang, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur. Last year, he planted his integrated five-hectare farm to hybrid and inbred varieties, and earned a gross of P2 million.

Another achiever is integrated corn farmer Maximo R. Rabanal, who hails from Pantay Daya, Vigan, Ilocos Sur. A "Magsasaka Siyentista" of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Rabanal manages a 1.2-hectare corn farm, from which he earned more than P120,000 last year.

He also grows organic vegetables like cabbage, ampalaya, upo, eggplant, and patola and raises swine.

Just like Corpuz and Rabanal, nine other individuals and a farm family received P100,000 cash prize, a Presidential citation and a Gawad Saka trophy.

Four organizations received P150,000-worth of project grant, while P250,000-worth of project grant was given to the Outstanding Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Council.

Winners of three new categories namely, Outstanding LGU-operated Barangay Bagsakan, Outstanding Non-LGU-operated Barangay Bagsakan, and Outstanding Organic Farming Initiative also received corresponding cash prizes, citations and trophies.

The annual Gawad Saka Search started in 1970 to give honor and recognition to the contributions of outstanding farmers and fishers to Philippine agriculture and fishery sectors.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100
Quezon City, Philippines

Mainit na pagbati sa lahat ng mga magsasaka, mangingisda, prosesor, entrepreneur, siyentista, mga samahan at institusyong bahagi ng pambansang paligsahan sa larangan ng sakahan at pangisdaan nitong taon, ang **Gawad Saka 2009**.



Sa panahon ng matitinding pagsubok sa pambansang sektor ng sakahan at pangisdaan kabilang ang mga dalang epekto ng globalisasyon at nagbabagong klima sa mundo lalong nakikilala ang mahalagang ambag ng mga Pilipinong magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pa nitong kabahagi sa pagsulong ng pambansang ekonomiya at pamamayani ng bagong sigla sa kanayunan hanggang sa kalunsuran.

Dahil sa kanilang sipag, sakripisyo, determinasyon at paggamit ng makabagong kaalaman, natitiyak ang masaganang ani at huli sa sakahan at pangisdaan, sa gitna ng matitinding sungit ng panahon at paminsanang atake ng mga peste at sakit sa kanilang mga pananim, alagaing hayop at isda. At sa paglago ng kanilang produksyon, nadagdagan ang kanilang kita, umangat ang buhay ang kani-kanilang pamilya at nakatulong rin sa magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pang kanayon.

Sila ang pamantayan ng kahusayan sa pagsasaka at pagnenegosyo sa agrikultura. Kaya naman buo ang aking paniniwala na ang Gawad Saka awardees" ay patunay at bahagi ng patuloy na pag-unlad at modernisasyon ng pambansang agrikultura.

Naway magsilbi silang huwaran para sa iba pang magsasaka at mangingisda, upang dumami pa ang mahuhusay na katuwang ng Pangulong Arroyo sa dakilang adhikain na sugpuin ang kahirapan at kagutuman sa bawat sulok ng bansa.

Binibigyang-pugay rin natin ang mga kawani ng Kagawaran at iba pa nating mga katuwang mula sa mga lokal na pamahalaan, iba pang ahensya ng pamahalaan at pribadong sektor na naglaan ng panahon upang matagumpay na maidaos ang **Gawad Saka**.

Mabuhay ang mga magsasaka at mangingisdang Pilipino!

Atty. Arthur C. Yap
Secretary

What the Gawad Saka Search is all about...

The Gawad Saka Search is a yearly undertaking of the Department of Agriculture (DA) in cooperation with other government institutions, non-government offices and the private sector.

As a call to service, the Search is a tribute to farmers, fisherfolk, and institutions whose dedication and exemplary contributions to the agricultural development in the country serve as an inspiration to their fellowmen.

Gawad Saka started as an annual Search for the Outstanding Farmers of the Year (OFY) in 1970 through the collaborative efforts of the DA, the then National Food and Agriculture Council (NFAC) and the Philippine Jaycees. It covered only three categories: Outstanding Rice Farmer, Outstanding Corn Farmer and Outstanding Agricultural Scientist.



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Elliptical Road, Diliman 1100
Quezon City, Philippines

Ang Gawad Saka ay itinatag noong 1970 – tinatawag noon na "Search for the Outstanding Farmers of the Year" – upang magbigay-pangaral sa mga katangi-tanging magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pang indibiduwal at samahan na nagtagumpay sa larangan ng pagsasaka at pangisdaan.



Sa paglipas ng panahon, lumawak at lalong tumingkad ang kahalagahan ng patimpalak, at patunay dito ang pagkakaroon ng karagdagang katagaya ng mga pinakamahusay na siyentista at samahan sa kanayunan.

Ngayon taon, buong pagmamalaking pinangungunahan muli ng Kagawaran ng Pagsasaka – sa pakikipag-tulungan sa mga Lokal na Pamahalaan, pribadong sektor, at iba pang mga samahan at ahensya – ang pagkilala sa dalawampung pinakamahuhusay na magsasaka at mangingisda, kanilang mga samahan, siyentista at iba pang katuwang sa kanayunan.

Sila ang patuloy na nakikibaka sa hamon ng globalisasyon at nagbabagong klima ng mundo, kagaya ng paggamit ng mga makabagong pamamaraan at teknolohiya upang lalong palakihin ang produksyon at iangat ang uri ng mga produkto mula sa kanayunan. Hindi matatawaran ang kanilang mahalagang ambag sa pagsisikap na maabot ang pambansang kasapatan sa pagkain at sa paglago ng pambansang ekonomiya.

Kaya naman, ang tagumpay nila sa kani-kanilang larangan ay sumisimbolo sa galing at abilidad, katatagan ng loob at determinasyon ng isang Dakilang Pilipino.

Sa ngalan ng National Steering Committee, muli akong sumasaludo sa mga nagwagi, at maging sa iba pang sumali sa taong ito. Nawa'y patuloy kayong magpakahusay nang sa ganoon ay magsilbi kayong huwaran para sa kapuwa ninyong magsasaka, mangingisda at iba pang kanayon.

Dalangin ko ang inyong patuloy na tagumpay!

Mabuhay ang mga magsasaka at mangingisdang Pilipino!

OIC Usec. Salvador S. Salacup
Usec. for Livestock & Fisheries
Chair, Gawad Saka 2009 National Steering Committee



canteen, serving nutritious and affordable food, and generating employment to members. The canteen doubles as a store selling vegetables like okra, eggplant, peanut and others high value crops mostly from the communal gardens maintained by the RIC members.

The club is also into handicraft making using corn husk, producing such items as flowers, jars, dolls, placemats and baskets, among others.

Moreover, the RIC is engaged in a "paiwi" hog-raising project and a goat dispersal project. The resulting offsprings are then disposed to other club members, until everyone has benefited from the program.

Small Farmers' Organization

Sto. Domingo Multi-Purpose Cooperative Poblacion, Baggao, Cagayan



The Sto. Domingo Multi-purpose Cooperative, Inc. (SDMPCI) was established in 1986 as a response against loan sharks and capitalists in Baggao, Cagayan, who took advantage of the small farmers. With 30 pioneering members and a meager P10,000 start-up capital - - the organization, initiated by two Catholic priests eventually grew and developed.

The Sto. Domingo MPC has since then benefitted Baggao farmers, providing them with accessible and low-interest as well as marketing, consumer and trucking services. It has also ventured on cassava production, and setting aside 12 hectares for the purpose. The cooperative also provides technical and financial assistance to members wanting to engage in other ventures such as livestock and fishery production.

From its modest beginning, the group now brags of 1,404 members and a net surplus of P3 Million. This income is a result of various ventures such as lending, consumer store, marketing and trading of various agricultural produce, fertilizers and poultry supplies, loan assistance, and rice processing, among others.

Because of its good track record and performance, it has received several assistance from the Department of Agriculture. These include a multi-purpose drying pavement, palay shed, flat bed dryers, among other production facilities.

Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC)

Pagbilao MAFC, Quezon



Since its organization in 1990, the Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC) of Pagbilao, Quezon, has continuously formulated and implemented various agricultural and fishery projects that have since benefited farmers, fishers and the Municipality of Pagbilao, as a whole.

The Pagbilao MAFC has been a staunch advocate of environmental preservation, which is crucial to agriculture sustainability. Thus, it has drafted and implemented major resolutions and initiatives, such as organic farming and the adoption of intercropping between *malapapaya* tree and coconut trees.

The *malapapaya*, a tree resembling the physical features of papaya has been given priority as it has been a source of alternative livelihood for Pagbilao-ans. Its food-grade timber can be used to make chopsticks, *bento* boxes, and ice cream spoons, which are exported to Japan.

The Council has been also tapped by the DA to serve as a conduit in the distribution of fertilizer coupons and certified seeds to Pagbilao farmers, in partnership with the Municipal Government.

Further, its collaboration with the local government and NGOs, a proper waste management system in Pagbilao was implemented. Wastes are now segregated and collected regularly, and these are sent for recycling at a recently-constructed "material recovery facility."

Other important undertakings of the Council include the organization of a Fishermens Association at Ibabang-Polo; implementation of a swine and cattle dispersal program; and provision of assistance to mango growers through seminar and technology demonstration.

Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC)

Catanduanes PAFC

Established in 1987, the Catanduanes Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC) has long served as a catalyst for agricultural and fishery development in the typhoon-prone island province in Eastern Bicol.

When Catanduanes was struck by "Typhoon Reming" in 2006, the PAFC has actively participated in rebuilding the livelihood of affected farmers, fishers, and other ruralfolk. For instance, it has implemented the Livelihood Assistance Program (LAP), providing P2,500 for each household to be used as capital micro-businesses such as swine fattening, veggie production, and food processing, among other ventures. A total of 285 households benefited from the LAP.

The Council has also been initiating projects to sustain the development of the province's abaca industry. These included a Business Plan Workshop for *abacaleros* conducted last year through the DA-NAFC. The 3-day event has resulted in the



enterprise. With five pairs of able hands working collectively, the Montañezes first agri venture became a big success.

Soon after, the family purchased three hectares of land in addition to the two-hectare family-owned property. The farm is now planted to various crops such as rice, corn, mango, pineapple, singkamas, watermelon, ampalaya, eggplant, string beans, monggo, squash, tomato, okra, upo, sweet pepper, and cucumber.

To augment their income, they constructed a fishpond near their house, where they raise tilapia and African hito. Ryan, the youngest Montañez who was awarded the "Outstanding Young Farmer" in the 2006 Gawad Saka, also maintains a poultry and quail business.

At present, the family also manages a number of enterprises, which include livestock, cutflower and cacti production, plant nursery, bakery, sari-sari store, and hollow-block production. From these enterprises, the family has earned P7.6 million in net income last year, more than P2 million of which came from sales of their organic ampalaya.

Agricultural Scientist

MARIE ANTONETTE JUINIO-MENEZ, Ph.D.
Marine Science Institute, University of the Philippines

Dr. Marie Antonette Junio-Menez is considered one of the country's leading marine biologists.

She pioneered in the development of environmentally-sound culture technologies for invertebrates, particularly species of sea urchin *Tripneustes gratilla* and sea cucumber *Holothia scabra*.

Born on October 12, 1959, Dr. Menez grew up with a passion for education as she kept on seeking knowledge on her field of interest by earning one degree after another. After she graduated *cum laude* in B.S. Marine Science from the University of the Philippines Diliman in 1981, she pursued another course in Marine Biology in 1986, and then finished her doctoral degree in Biological Sciences in 1991.

Her continuing efforts have resulted into the publication of guide manuals for good practices on coastal and environmental governance, fisheries and coastal ecosystem management. In all, she has written and co-written 51 scientific publications, 48 national scientific presentations, 28 regional/international research papers, 15 international and national coastal and fisheries management publications, and seven training manuals.

Her long-term work on sea urchins in Bolinao, Pangasinan, has shown encouraging results in the recovery of depleted stocks, and provision of livelihood to over 200 coastal families



dependent on sea urchin harvesting. Further, there are now at least 500 fishers in Ilocos and La Union who have been raising sea urchins in floating cages.

Dr. Menez is currently working on a research program, entitled "Development of sea culture and release strategies for the sea cucumber *Holothuria scabra*." It is aimed at improving the culture of said species and stock enhancement, and thus contribute to long-term sustainable ecological and economic benefits.

The project has to date increased the production of *H. scabra* at the UP-MSI Bolinao Marine Laboratory in Pangasinan, and has established the first pilot sea cucumber sea ranching sites, where over 10,000 hatchery-produced juveniles have been released at each site.

Young Farmers' Organization

BINAHAAN 4H CLUB
Pagbilao, Quezon Province



Aspiring as vanguards of sustainable agriculture in Pagbilao, Quezon, 20 youngsters in Barangay Binahaan banded together and formed in 1986 as the Binahaan 4-H Club to instill the spirit of voluntarism, cooperation and dignity of labor, and enable them to use their time, talents and energy wisely.

Since then the members have actively participated in community-service projects like the LGU-led mangrove reforestation, tree planting activity to preserve the Binahaan Watershed, coastal clean-up, "Sagip Kalikasan" program, anti-rabies vaccination, and the Agri-Aqua Trade Fair Exhibits in the municipal and provincial level.

Now, with 47 active members, the Binahaan 4H Club is also involved in income-generating projects such as production of corn and vegetables (pechay, mustard, string beans, squash, tomato, cucumber), wild pig domestication, and making and selling of native delicacies like *biko*, *mazapan* and *yema*.

As a result of their collaborative efforts as well as commendable performance, the group has established marketing agreement with SM Lucena, where they sell the various products from their 1,000 sq. m. vegetable farm. Last year, they earned a net income of more than P50,000.

Rural Improvement Club

NORTH POBLACION MARAMAG RIC
Maramag, Bukidnon

The Rural Improvement Club (RIC) of North Poblacion, Maramag, Bukidnon organized in 2003 with 30 rural women and a starting capital of P10,000 has now, grown into a 50-member organization with a net income of more than P250,000 last year.

In 2003, the RIC was a beneficiary of a P250,000-worth of building from then Congressman Miguel Zubiri. The facility was previously used for the groups monthly meetings, seminars, training, and other activities. In 2006, it was converted into a

2009 GAWAD SAKA National Winners

A. Individuals:

Rice

Bonifacio M. Corpuz
Dalapang, Labangan
Zamboanga del Sur,

Corn

Maximo R. Rabanal
Pantay Daya, Vigan
Ilocos Sur

Coconut

Marcos Dumandan
Baguio, Calinan
Davao City

Sugarcane

Rosendo S. Bancud
Warat, Piat, Cagayan

High Value Commercial Crop

William D. Banay
San Placido, Roxas,
Isabela

Agri-Entrepreneur

Lito M. Arenas
Matulong, Manaog,
Pangasinan

Fisherfolk (Fish Culture)

Tomas J. Hautea
Bantud Fabrica,
Dumangas, Iloilo

Large Animal Raiser

Alexander A. Calucag
Nalasin, Solsona, Ilocos
Norte

Small Animal Raiser

Avelino F. Peralta
Dawis Norte, Carmen,
Cebu

Young Farmer

Romeo H. Yapit
Purag, Sinit, Ilocos Sur

Farm Family

Reynaldo P. Montanez and Family
Lower Pulacan, Labangan
Zamboanga del Sur

Agricultural Scientist

Dr. Marie Antoinette Juinio-Menez
Marine Science
Institute, University of the
Philippines Diliman,
Quezon City

B. Organizations:

Young Farmers' Organization

Binahaan 4-H Club
President: Erwin R.
Pomasoro
Binahaan, Pagbilao
Quezon Province

Rural Improvement Club (RIC)

North Poblacion RIC
President: Imelda D.
Mendoza Maramag,
Bukidnon

Small Farmers' Organization (OSFFO)

Sto. Domingo MPC
Chairman: Ernesto
Guzman
Baggao, Cagayan

Municipal Agricultural and Fishery Council (MAFC)

Pagbilao, Quezon MAFC
Chairperson: Edilberto
Marino Pagbilao,
Quezon Province

Provincial Agricultural and Fishery Council (PAFC)

Catanduanes PAFC
Chairperson: Ulysses Q.
Tabelin
Catanduanes

Barangay Bagsakan

a. LGU-Operated Category

Barangay Poblacion B
Chairman: Daniel C. Berja
M'lang, North Cotabato

b. Non-LGU Operated Category

Balligi Rural Improvement Club
Manager: Beniflor Guitap
Centro Sta. Ana, Cagayan

Organic Farming Initiatives

Tupi Bongulan Growers Association TUBAGA)

Manager: Morlito Apuzen
Sta. Teresita Multi-Purpose
Coop Building
National Highway,
Poblacion Tupi, South
Cotabato

Rice

BONIFACIO M. CORPUZ
Dalapang, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur

Fifty-eight-year old Bonifacio "Mang Pacio" Madamba Corpuz has grossed P2M in 2008 from his five-hectare rice-based integrated farming system.

Through the years, with his increasing income and savings, he was able to buy farm machineries like hand tractors, power tillers and threshers. He has also acquired cargo trucks for hauling, and a brand-new pick-up for family use.

Mang Pacio was born in Talavera, Nueva Ecija, but later moved to Zamboanga del Sur. There, he learned the complexities of agricultural management at a young age, because of the early demise of his father.

In 1977, when he married Eufemia, they used the P6,000 "aláp" or "parwad" (*money pinned on couples during their wedding dance*) to lease an additional 1-hectare farm. With a bigger farm, he was able to produce more and augment their income. With enough savings, he eventually bought some of the leased lands he farmed. Today, he owns a 5-hectare farm, 4 hectares of which is devoted to rice.

Mang Pacio produces vegetables and cutflowers. He also raises hogs, cattle, chicken and ducks to augment his income. Of these projects, he was able to employ and provide livelihood to his neighbors, particularly through a livestock dispersal program, where he has distributed 27 gilts and 5 heifers under a 50-50 scheme.

Corn

MAXIMO R. RABANAL
Pantay Daya, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur



As one of the pioneering farmers in Pantay Daya, Vigan, Ilocos Sur, fifty-year old Maximo Rabanal was able to convert an idle land into a productive and profitable corn-based integrated farm.

His continuous efforts to improving his farm - - such as acquiring modern

farm machineries, postharvest facilities, and employing innovative agricultural production technologies - - have produced outstanding results.

His farm has become a model and a showcase.

Further, he was conferred the title "*Magsasakang Siyentista*" by the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Of his two-hectare integrated farm, 1.2 hectares are devoted to corn, where he has grossed more than P120,000 last year, translated to a remarkable seven-fold return on investments.

The remaining patch of 8,000 square meters is planted to rice and vegetables such as cabbage, *amplaya*, upo, eggplant and patola. He also raises swine.

Mang Maximo is also a committed advocate of organic farming, producing organic fertilizers from animal manure and farm wastes.

Because of his innovative ideas, he was recognized by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD of DOST) as one of the country's farmer-scientists or "*Magsasakang Siyentista*".

As one of his prizes, he was awarded a bio-digester for his piggery project.

Coconut

MARCOS M. DUMANDAN
Baguio, Calinan, Davao City



After retiring as a marketing manager from Signa Trade Resources, Philippines, Marcos "Mark" Dumandan decided to concentrate in tending two coconut farms, each measuring one hectare, which he acquired in 1980 and 1984, respectively.

Now, his two-hectare coconut-based integrated farm grosses more than P340,000 a year.

He harvests 168 nuts per tree every year from 128 coconut trees, providing him a gross income of about P265,000. In addition, he earns P75,000 from various intercrops such as cacao, durian, lanzones, and banana.

Since 1980, he has developed his passion for agriculture, particularly coconut production, by attending seminars and trainings.

Now, 71-year old Mark practices balanced plant nutrition in his farm and conducts researches. Through his initiative, he has formulated a mixture of organic and inorganic nutrients that serve as odor neutralizer as well as a wound antiseptic.

In 2008, the Department of Science and Technology has conferred on him the title, "*Most Outstanding Magsasaka Siyentista of the Philippines*".

Mr. Dumandan has become a mentor and a farm broadcaster. He regularly conducts trainings, seminars, farm tours and "*lakbay aral*". Further, he co-hosts two agricultural radio programs - - the "*Bahandi sa Kaumahan ug Kadagatan*" and "*Go Modern Agriculture*" - - aired over DXAB ABS-CBN and sponsored by the DA, respectively.

Sugarcane

ROSENDO BANCUD
Warat, Piat, Cagayan

Juggling different duties at the same time has not been an arduous task for 44-year old Rosendo Bancud.

He profitably manages a 6.5-hectare sugarcane farm in Warat, Piat, Cagayan, while serving as the Barangay Captain of Warat, and as a part-time vocational instructor.



Last year, Mang Rosendo posted a record harvest of 69 tons of cane per hectare--double the district average of 37-ton/ha. Such feat gave him a gross income of more than P118,000.

He attributes his remarkable sugarcane yield to applying the right amount of organic fertilizers from farm wastes.

He also keeps the cleanliness of his farm and nearby areas to prevent rodent infestation.

Aside from sugarcane, he has also embarked on other projects, such as rice production, backyard gardening and hog raising.

He also regards maintaining a dedicated pool of workers as an important factor to a successful and profitable farm operation.

To date, he keeps seven regular farm helpers, and hires 80 workers more during planting and harvesting seasons. All of them are provided with competitive incomes and incentives.

High Value Commercial Crops

WILLIAM D. BANAY
San Placido, Roxas, Isabela

Immediately after high school, William Banay, of San Placido, Roxas, Isabela, worked as his father's assistant in tilling their small farm (3,000 square meters).

Now, he considers himself a confident and lucrative farmer, with his own 1.2-hectare vegetable farm that gave him last year a net income of more than P980,000 — ten-fold greater than his income when he first ventured in agriculture in 2004.

Before he shifted to vegetable farming, William has practiced traditional mono-cropping, planting only corn.

Thus, his production and profit was minimal.

Five years ago, he decided to plant various vegetables like tomato, eggplant, *pechay* and *ampalaya*.

To maximize the use of his farm, William, now 35 years old, practices different cropping patterns and technologies.

He plants string beans after *ampalaya* and *upo*. He also raises *pechay* underneath the trellis area when the *ampalaya* and *upo* plants are still young. He produces veggies during off-season, which he said is more profitable.



Agri-Entrepreneur

LITO M. ARENAS
Matulong, Manaoag, Pangasinan

With faith and perseverance, a major career move can unlock the door to one's destiny and prosperity.

This holds true for 53-year old Lito M. Arenas, a nursing graduate, from Matulong, Manaoag, Pangasinan, whose path as an agri-entrepreneur started from mango picking, to trading, to growing, and finally to processing--catapulting him as the "mango king" of Pangasinan. To date, he also manufactures organic fertilizers, trades other high value crops, grows certified seeds, and operates a nursery.

In 1980, he started a modest mango buy-and-sell business, with an initial capital of only P2,500. From trading, he decided to grow mangoes himself, and went all the way to Batac, Ilocos Norte, in search of the best mango planting materials for his three-hectare farm in Manaoag.

In April 2006, he started his mango processing business, establishing the Pangasinan Tropical Fruits Processing Plant to minimize postharvest losses due to over production, and provide livelihood to residents in their locality.

That same year, he started operating his nursery by establishing a greenhouse for his planting materials. Mang Lito is now known as the only BPI-certified producer of grafted mango seedlings, producing a total of 65,000 seedlings annually.

Because of his outstanding performance, he was granted two units of drying machines by the DA-Bureau of Agricultural Research, enabling him to export processed mangoes to Guam and Dubai. In addition, he was provided an "Extended Hot Water Treatment" (EHWT) facility by the GMA-HVCC Program of the DA, enabling him to comply with the phytosanitary requirement imposed by the Chinese government for the export of mangoes to Hongkong and mainland China.

At present, Mang Lito's processing plant is capable of processing one ton of dried mangoes monthly for export to Japan and the United Arab Emirates. He has also started producing pickled mangoes, papaya, pineapple, and tamangoes (mangoes in tamarind syrup).



Fish Farmer (Fish culture)

TOMAS J. HAUTEA
Bantud Fabrica, Dumangas, Ilo-Ilo

Tomas J. Hautea, 65, of Lopez, Iloilo has been a businessman almost all his life.

While in high school, he sold transistor radios, blankets, and other dry goods.

In college, while taking up mechanical engineering, he paid his way by assembling jeeps, an enterprise which later became a family-owned jeepney-conversion and auto-repair shop.

In early 2000, he decided to venture into aquaculture, leasing fishponds in Dumangas, Iloilo.

Today, he owns one of the best bangus hatcheries in the country which earned for him more than half a million pesos last year.

The five-hectare hatchery, established in 2003, is now one of the main sources of milkfish fry in Panay and neighboring provinces and also other bangus raisers in Luzon and Mindanao.

For all of these, he acknowledges the Department of Agricultures Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR) and the Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC) for the technical aid, as well as financial assistance from the DAs Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) and Land Bank of the Philippines.

Hautea continues to employ innovations in improving the operations of his hatchery.

For instance, he recycles used cooking oil as fuel for air blowers, paddle wheels, and water pumps. He also uses automatic feeders. He provides the bangus breeders and fry with natural food.



Large Animal Raiser

ALEXANDER A. CALUCAG
Nalasin, Solsona, Ilocos Norte

Alexander "Alex" Calucag, of Solsona, Ilocos Norte, gave up a job in Manila to manage the family farm when his father got sick.

Sacrificing a career in the city, Alex took charge of managing their farm, where they grow vegetables and raise livestock.

With his ingenuity and hard work, 35-year old Alex earns roughly P40,000 monthly from cattle fattening and marketing business. In fact, last year, his net income from various farm enterprises totaled more than P415,000.

Alex could have worked abroad, as opportunity came his way twice.

However, he chose to stay in his farm, providing livelihood and employment to fellow Solsonans.

Early on, Alex has established networks with government and non-government organizations and agricultural extension workers to learn farm management technologies and improve further his agricultural projects.

No sooner did he realize that livestock raising, particularly cattle fattening, could provide him and his family sufficient and sustainable income.



Small Animal Raiser

AVELINO F. PERALTA
Dawis Norte, Carmen, Cebu

Retired police officer Avelino "Billy" Peralta, known to most of his friends as "Major P", grew up raising goats.

As a young boy, he was trained to rear and care for the horned animals as it was the Peralta family's means of livelihood.

Last year, from goat raising alone, he was able to earn more than P260,000, and close to half a million pesos from his piggery and other fruit crops.

Fresh from the academy, Major P entered the police service in 1969 and rose from the ranks - - from patrolman to Captain to Carmen, Cebu 's Chief of Police.

To augment his meager policeman's salary, he managed a goat farm. During this time, he sought advice from experienced goat farmers and Carmen s municipal agriculture officer and farm management technicians.

Upon retirement, he dedicated most of his time tending his one-hectare goat farm. In addition, he also raises swine and poultry, and grows various crops like banana, papaya, jack fruit, mango and coconut.



Young Farmer

ROMEO H. YAPIT
Purag, Sinaít, Ilocos Norte

With his perseverance, skills and positive attitude, 28-year old Romeo or "Romy" Yapit of Barangay Purag, Sinaít, Ilocos Sur was able to transform his 8,000-square meter farm into a productive agricultural enterprise planted to rice, corn, and assorted vegetables such as pole sitao, tomato, onion and watermelons.

Romy has earned a gross income of more than P340,000 last year from his various farm ventures.

He also raises hogs, goats, native chickens and ducks for additional income.

As an organic farming advocate, Romy takes part in the campaign for organic farming. As a model, he makes his own organic fertilizers and fungicides and use them in his farm. He also uses carbonized rice hull as soil conditioner, and makes pesticides from neem tree leaves and *kakawate* extract, and improvises several pest attractants and traps.

Further, Romy regularly practices Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques to rid his farm of harmful crop pests and diseases. He continues to update himself on the new and appropriate crop and livestock technologies by attending seminars and training, particularly those sponsored by the Department of Agriculture.

Farm Family

MR. and MRS. REYNALDO P. MONTAÑEZ AND FAMILY
Lower Pulacan, Labangan, Zamboanga del Sur

It has been said time and again that the family that prays together stays together.

As for the Montañez Family of Zamboanga del Sur, the family that works together succeeds together.

With dedication, unity, and faith in God, couple Reynaldo and Anita together with their children Daisy, Marites, and Ryan started their rags-to-riches story via a small swine raising

