

## **KAMICYDI INITIATIVES ON CONSERVATION-POVERTY-CLIMATE LINKAGES**

KAMICYDI since 1984 to present had been actively working for poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation and contributes to combat climate change. Indigenous peoples are futuristic by nature and had been practicing sustainable development perspectives as part of their cultural norms and life. KAMICYDI being founded and managed by indigenous peoples themselves commit herself for sustainable future for Kalinga indigenous peoples in the Philippines. In this connection, we practiced and implemented programs that reduce poverty conserve biodiversity that directly contributes to mitigate climate change. We also actively involved ourselves in Policy Advocacy that resulted to the passage of national laws. Below is our abovementioned initiative:

### **Sustainable Indigenous Peoples Agricultural Technology (SIPAT) and Policy Advocacy**

#### **CONTEXT/BACKGROUND:**

In the late 1970's and early 1980's the Philippine situation was at the high level of economic crisis due to the Dictatorship government under former President Ferdinand Marcos. Violation of human rights and development aggressions were common. In the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) where the Province of Kalinga was located, imposed government and private projects were being implemented that destroy the environment and lives of the people. I am referring to the destructive Chico River Dam Project and Batong Buhay Gold Mines, Inc. If implemented, the Chico River Dam Project will submerge sacred places, livelihoods such as rice terraces, and 1,800 local and indigenous communities located in the Provinces of Kalinga and Mt. Province. On the other hand, the Batong Buhay Gold Mines, Inc. dumped their toxic waste along the Pasil River that flows to the Chico River that irrigated and destroyed the 207,000 hectares of agricultural rice land within the valley of Tabuk and Region II. The above situation led to arms struggle and local revolution that led to massive poverty and emergence of human rights and environmental activists which we students' leaders were among them.

Massive poverty was further aggravated due to commercial kaingin or slash & burn because of cash crops, loss of culture or acculturation, high rate of illiteracy and high rate of unemployment. Changes in land use, massive deforestation and loss of biodiversity became evident as a result of poverty that led to change in our climate. Change in climate also contributed to massive poverty and loss of biodiversity among local and indigenous communities.

#### **CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE AND CULTURE/GENDER SENSITIVE RESPONSE:**

The issues of massive poverty and environment degradation became the center of human rights and environment activism during that period which led to the organizing of DSO in 1984 which was re-organized into CAPU in 1986 and now finally re-organized into KAMICYDI in 1990. The questions of best local solutions to a local-global problems were raised which led to the revival and implementation of the culturally appropriate & culture/gender sensitive initiatives called **Sustainable Indigenous Peoples Agricultural Technology (SIPAT)** best practice by **KAMICYDI**.

## SIPAT



### Sustainable Indigenous Peoples Agricultural Technology (SIPAT)

was proven effective in reducing massive poverty, conserving mountain biodiversity, and directly contributes to climate change mitigation. **SIPAT** is an environment and peoples friendly proven successful IP technology since time immemorial that had been effective in providing enough food for the Kalinga indigenous peoples & other IPs in the Cordillera and at the same time promoting mountain biodiversity. The goal of the project was to uplift the poverty living condition of Kalinga Indigenous Peoples and at the same time conserves mountain biodiversity.

The objective of the project is to revive indigenous sustainable agricultural methods to improve management of forests, watershed, rice fields and promote multi-stakeholders partnership.

Under this program, we implemented 5 major components which are: (1) FITU Technology an Indigenous Peoples way of forest management where they make a hole as trap for wild animals for food and protect, preserve the forest; (2) PINAGWA System an indigenous way of watershed management where families owned, maintain, manage, protect and conserve the forest within the watershed; (3) ARA or Indigenous Communal Irrigation Systems (ICIS) an indigenous constructed irrigation systems that connects the water from the watershed to the rice terraces; (4) Rice Terraces-Vegetables-Fish Integration an indigenous way of constructing rice fields to grow rice for food, then integrate fish and vegetables; and (5) Policy Advocacy & Multi-Stakeholders Partnership where we network with the IPs themselves, government especially LGUs, NGOs local & international & the Private or Business Sectors.

### WHAT WE CURRENTLY ACHIEVED THROUGH SIPAT:

1. Under the FITU Technology an Indigenous Peoples way of forest management component

- On site forest protection, forest enhancement and maintenance were undertaken which resulted to enhancement/reforestation with endemic trees of 180,000 hectares of old growth forest that led to the intact 81% of Kalinga old growth forest and 72% of Cordillera old growth forest
- Mitigate climate change and improved livelihood

2. Under this component, PINAGWA System an indigenous way of watershed management where families owned, maintain, manage, protect and conserve the forest within the watershed.

- Watershed reforestation and family agroforestry maintained which resulted to 108 Watershed maintained continuously watering the rice terraces and reforestation of 207,000 hectares of grassland
- Mitigate climate change and improved livelihood

3. Under this component, ARA or Indigenous Communal Irrigation Systems (ICIS) an indigenous constructed irrigation systems that connects the water from the watershed to the rice terraces

- Construction & Rehabilitation of ARA or Indigenous Communal Irrigation System (ICIS) undertaken
- 108 ICIS repaired & rehabilitated and 27 ICIS newly constructed
- Increased income of direct beneficiaries by 36% annually and reduced poverty incidence by 18% over base

4. Rice Terraces-Vegetables-Fish Integration an indigenous way of constructing rice fields to grow rice for food, then integrate fish and vegetables.

- Repair, rehabilitation and construction of new rice terraces were undertaken
- 126 hectares of rice terraces repaired and 36 hectares newly created.
- Increased income of direct beneficiaries by 36% annually and reduced poverty incidence by 18% over base

5. Policy Advocacy & Multi-Stakeholders Partnership where we network with the LGUs, NGOs local & international & the IPs themselves.

- Networked with other IPs for replication of benefits particularly in Ifugao & Mt. Province
- Networked with 18 Local Government Units
- Network with NGOs: KAPODON, UNDP GEF SGP, IUCN ASIA, Equator Initiative, Ecoagriculture Partners, Partnership for Clean Air, DONORS/FUNDERS, etc.
- Policy advocacy which resulted to the passage of Banaue Rice Terraces Commission; Indigenous Peoples Rights Act of 1997; Clean Air Act of 1999; Biofuel Act of 2007 and termination of environmentally destructive project such as Chico River Dam Project and Batong Buhay Gold Mines, Inc.;

#### **HOW MANY BENEFITED FROM SIPAT:**

- A total of 9,071 household benefited from this SIPAT project from 1990-1996.
- 9,324 households benefited from 1997-2002
- 154 households benefited in 2003
- With the replication supported by UNDP GEF SGP Philippines, a total of 1,178 households benefited in 2005-2006.
- Currently serving 900 households

#### **HOW THIS SIPAT SUSTAINED:**

- Each ILI or Indigenous community whom we worked with sustained the SIPAT Program
- SIPAT is their own technology, they own it, made it worked and sustained it.
- SIPAT had become their way of life.

#### **HOW TO MOVE SIPAT FORWARD FOR SHARING OF BENEFITS: (Partnership Opportunities)**

- Currently, we received a lot of REQUESTS FOR REPLICATION AND UP SCALING AND TRANSFER OF SIPAT within the Philippines and from other countries in Asia
- To be able to do replication, up scaling and transfer SIPAT; we urgently need PARTNERS & RESOURCES
- Please BE ONE OF OUR VALUABLE PARTNERS...

Finally, it is of interest to note that - in the eyes of the local and indigenous peoples, we strongly believe that conservation-poverty-climate linkages can not be separated but rather seen as directly intertwined. For us land is life; water is life; air is life; climate is life; and nature or mother earth is life.

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