VSU EXTENSION PROJECT
ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

CY 2022

I. Basic Information

1. Title of the Project *Participatory Eco-Farming Program for the Visayas*

2. Proponents (s)

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3. Implementing Agency

3.1 Lead Agency: Ecological Farm and Resource Management Institute (Eco-FARMI)

3.2 Collaborating Agency (s): LP Organic Farm, Brgy. Malazarte Matag-ob Kauswan Farmers Association Inc. (BMMMKFAI), MAO Merida, Leyte

4. Project Duration: January 2022 – December 2022
Project Location: Merida Leyte (Barangays: Calunasan, Mahayag, San Jose, Can-unzo, Lamanoc, Binabaye) Brgy. Malazarte, Matag-ob, Leyte, Baybay City and Bato, Leyte

5. Total Budget Requirement 190,000.00
   Budget Requested 300,000.00
   Agency Counterpart N/A
   Other Sources N/A

II. Technical Information

1. Brief Project Description

Participatory Eco-Farming for the Visayas is an extension program that aims to promote ecologically-based sustainable agriculture in the framework of organic and natural farming systems. There were several techniques and strategies that were utilized in order to achieve the goal of the program. It focuses on improving the target beneficiaries' knowledge, skills, and capacities in relation to various organic and natural farming strategies, techniques, and technologies that can help them boost their crop output and utilized through various hands-on and season-long trainings. The VSU-Ecological farm, which is an ATI-RTC 8 approved learning site and will be used for lectures/seminars, site visits, assessment and monitoring, and enhancement. This program also provides technical support to a variety of organizations (NGO's, GO's, PO's, and Farmers Associations) as well as students who are implementing and interested in organic and natural agricultural systems.

2. Brief rationale, objectives and methods used

Environmental degradation, genetic biodiversity loss, poor sustainability, and other challenges associated with the current conventional agricultural production system are all addressed by ecologically based sustainable agriculture. It considers problems such as the quality of life for individual farm families, the profitability of the whole farm system, and the rural community's resilience, as well as ecologically friendly methods. Instead than depending heavily on bought fertilizers, a farmer may produce most of the fertility that crops require through crop rotations and leguminous cover crops. The soil would not need to be mined in a perfect balance, but minerals would be replenished and the farm would remain in a productive nutritional balance throughout time. Herbicides would be used less (or never) for weed management, instead relying on rotations, planting dates and densities, and mechanical methods.

The organic sector requires a well-thought-out industry development strategy to chart its course for medium to long-term growth and define its coverage criteria. Thus, Expanding the local market's knowledge and acceptance of organic food is a critical prerequisite for sustained development. In the short to medium term, the organic industry must dramatically increase market knowledge of its products and enhance producers' capacity to provide certified organic and correctly packaged commodities to the market. There are numerous issues that an extension project should solve in order to accelerate the development of ecologically-based sustainable agriculture in the Philippines, notably in the Visayas area. On the production side, farmers have a low level of awareness about various ecologically based sustainable agricultural technology and the certification procedure that is required for a better farm product marketing system. The strategies listed should be considered in order to achieve and overcome the difficulties: 1) a market development program that includes commercial and social marketing; 2) organic production and processing research and development, as well as dissemination of R & D results; 3) Create a resource information and advocacy center that will preserve and improve the organic sector's knowledge-based assets and make them available for stakeholders' knowledge and advice; 4) Human resource development improves the competence of many stakeholders in key technical, marketing, and managerial tasks that are vital to organic production; and 5) The financial sustainability program will seek for and accumulate money for the sector's development.

Furthermore, additional methods and strategies employed for these three (3) different project components are the as follows: Courtesy calls/meeting/ Focused Group Discussion (FGD), farm planning, training and capacity development, Conduct on-site hands-on training, Project monitoring and farm visits, Cross-site visit, Inventory of existing farm tools and equipment, acquisition of needed farm tools and equipment for TESDA NC II compliance, rehabilitation and improvement of farm facilities and production areas, and preparation and submission of required documents for TESDA NC II certification.

III. Highlights of Accomplishment (brief description of the previous year accomplishments)

Project 1. Capability Building and Provision of Technical Assistance on Organic Farming

"To sufficiently cater the skills and knowledge needed by farmers, numerous hands-on training on different farm practices or technologies were conducted, which include training on Organic Bio-Fertilizers, Vermi-composting, Natural Farming Inputs (Fish Amino Acid, Oriental Herb, Indigenous Microorganism, Fermented Plant Juice, Fermented Fruit Juice, Indigenous Calcium), and Organic livestock production/organic feed formulation."

a. Training on Bio-Fertilizer (IMO6) Production

Bio-fertilizer Production and Natural Farming Inputs training was successfully conducted in six (6) different Farmers Associations in Leyte, and this includes: ***Tubod Lamanoc and Canaya*** on April 6, 2022 with a total of 30 participants (*Figure 1 & 2*), ***San Jose and Calunasan*** on May 19, 2022 with 25 participants *(Figure 3 & 4),* ***Mahayag*** on June 29, 2022 with 30 participants *(Figure 5)*, and Brgy. Anahawan, Sitio Bakwit, Bato, Leyte on August 5, 2022 with a total of 16 participants *(Figure 6)*. These trainings were made possible through the collaboration efforts of Merida's Municipal Agriculturist Mr. Francis Abarre, Mr. George Misa, Farmers Associations, and the Eco-FARMI VSU.

The training was composed of five (5) sessions like over a month period. Every session, lecture was firstly conducted before the hands-on activity. Assessments like pre-test and post-test, training evaluation, and resource person's evaluation were also performed to determine the effectivity and improvement of the training. Lastly, the culmination activity was held and allow the participants to give their take-aways from the training, and received certificate of participation.

Figure 1. TUBOD LAMANOC FARMERS ASSOCIATION, Merida, Leyte

Figure 2. CANAYA FARMERS ASSOCIATION, Merida, Leyte

Figure 3. SAN JOSE FARMERS ASSOCIATION, Merida, Leyte

Figure 4. MAHAYAG FARMERS ASSOCIATION, Merida, Leyte

Figure 6. KAPUNUNGAN SA INAHAN SA KANUNAYNG PANABANG, Bato, Leyte

b. Hands-on Training on Natural Farming Inputs

A total of 6 separate hands-on trainings on NFI's were conducted with a total of 94 participants from Merida and Bato, Leyte. These trainings discussed about the organic farming, natural farming system and simple procedures on how to make different concoctions such as Indigenous Micro-organism (IMO2), Fermented Plant Juice (FPJ), Fermented Fruit Juice (FFJ), Fish Amino Acid (FAA), Oriental Herb Nutrients (OHN), Indigenous Calcium (IC), Natural Insect Attractant (NIA), as well as the application. There were two (2) parts of the training, lecture in the morning, while hands-on in the afternoon.

To assess the effectiveness of training, the following training evaluation tools like pre and post-Test, overall training evaluation and individual resource person evaluation were conducted. The pre-test was conducted before the training while the post-test, overall training and resource person evaluations were done after the training.

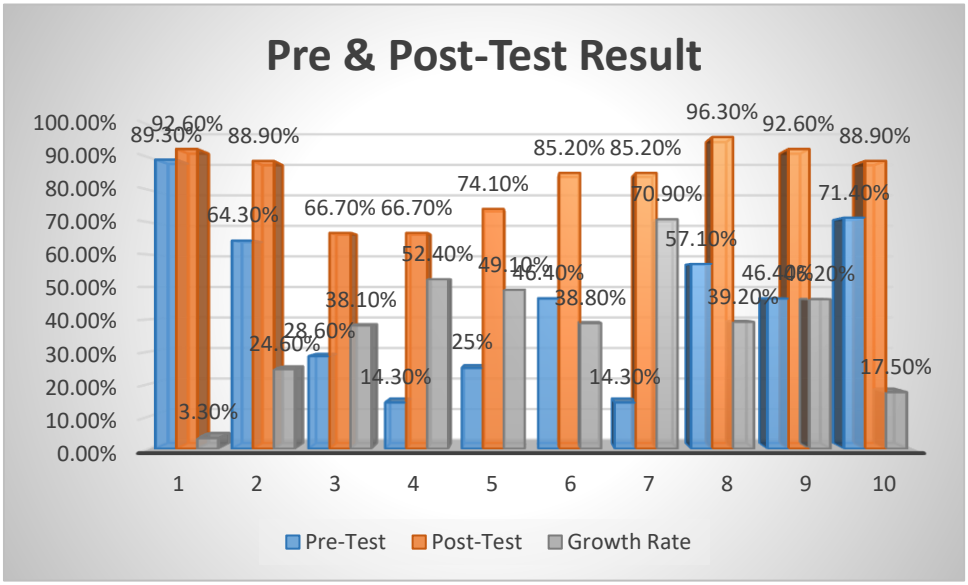
c. Training on Vermicomposting/Vermiculture

The training was conducted in Santa Fe, Leyte and participated with 15 farmer individuals. Mr. Reynante G. Macapas was served as the resource person and highlighted the following during his discussion: overview, procedures, materials to be used, importance and benefits. After the training, evaluation form was distributed among participants in order to assess the effectiveness of the training.

d. Training on Free-range chicken Production

The training was conducted in Brgy. Anahawan, Sitio Bakwit, Bato, Leyte *(Figure 7)* and participated with 26 members of farmers association from Kapunungan sa Inahan sa Kanunayng Panabang and now Bato Growers Association. During the training, Mr. Jerome O. Arribado, the resource person emphasized the significance and benefits of raising Free-range chicken Production.

The bar chart below shows the percentage of Pre - Post Tests results with its augmentation. The chart shows the significant increase in the growth rate between the pre and post-test result that participants gained more knowledge after the training.



Pre and Post test Result with augmentation

e. Opportunity for Student on-the-Job Training and Method Demonstration

The delivery of technical assistance on Organic Farming is not only limited to our farmers but also to our students. This program helps them to establish their skills and learn more about organic agriculture. There were ten (10) students who conducted their internship at the Eco-FARMI particularly, two (2) students from Department of Agricultural Education and Extension (DAEEx), Six (6) students from Department of Agricultural and Biosystem Engineering (DABE), two (2) students from Department of Development Communication (DDC). These students were involved in different relevant activities in the Institute where they can enhance and apply their knowledge and skills acquired from their class.

The Eco-FARMI also participated the Baybay City Agri-Aqua Fair 2022 and conducted technology method demonstration on IMO6 Production and Vermicomposting. The demonstration was held at Zone 14, Baybay City with 18 participants.




f. Benchmarking Activity

The Bato Growers Association has conducted their benchmarking activity at the Eco-FARMI on November 23, 2022. They have visited the Eco-FARMI demonstration farm and GAP-ACIAR project.


Project 2. Improvement of FAITH-based Ecological Farm in Matag-ob, Leyte and Merida Leyte

a. Farm visits/Consultation

Regular farm visit and frequent consultation with the officials and members with Eco-FARMI Staff to kept up to date the improvement and challenges encountered by the farmers as well as the farm owners of LP Farm in Merida and Casa Cornelio Farm-Tech in Baybay City.

Figure 2. LP Organic Farm, Merida, Leyte (Drone Mapping)

Figure 2. Casa Cornelio Farm-Tech, Brgy. Bubon, Baybay City, Leyte (Vermicomposting)

Project 3. Enhancement of the Ecological Demonstration Farm for the readiness as NC II in Organic Production as Assessment Center

a. Continued Production of Fresh Water Tilapia

b. Production of Naturally Grown Vegetables










c. Production of Bio-fertilizer and Natural Farming Inputs as well as production and distribution of IEC materials

d. Rehabilitation of Protective Structure, Hand-Washing Facility and Room Facility



e. Establishment of Pasture Area


f. Reproduction of Poultry and Livestock Farm Animals


IV. Problems met and recommendations

Problems Met	Recommendations
Delayed Farm site monitoring due to vehicle/service problem	❖ Purchase the needed spare parts for vehicle/service repair
Delayed Procurement of materials to be used for extension training and farm operations	❖ Early processing of materials in PPMP and follow-up
Unable to purchase materials needed in compliance for TESDA NC II application	❖ Request additional budget from extension office
Some planned activities were not conducted due to limited budget, and weather problem	❖ Not accomplished activities should be completed in the year 2023.

V. Logical framework of Each Component

Narrative Summary	**Objectively Verifiable Indicators of achievement**	**Sources and means of verification**	**Assumptions (if Applicable)**
PROJECT 1: Capability Building and Provision of Technical Assistance on Organic Farming			
Goal: Increased income of farmers in organic farming	• 10% increase in income/year	*Impact evaluation report	
Purpose: Improved Organic Crop Production	*organic crop production increase by 15-20% after 4 years	*Monitoring and evaluation report	
Outcome: Improved knowledge, skills and abilities on the production of organic inputs Increased adoption of Organic Agriculture practices	* 6 farmers association adopting organic farming technologies * Conducted 10 hands-on training on organic farming technologies	* Terminal reports * Documentation reports * Quarterly report	

Activities: 1. Conduct training on Organic fertilizers 2. Conduct training on VERMI Composting 3. Training on Natural Farming Inputs(FAA, OHN, IMO2, FPJ, FFJ, IC) 4. Training on Organic Livestock production/Organic Feed Formulation 5. Conduct cross-visit on existing organic farms	Inputs: *Training supplies and materials *Trainors/facilitators *Fuel & Oil	Vouchers, acknowledgement receipts, brochures on organic agriculture production, photo documentation, and progress reports	
PROJECT 2. Improvement of FAITH-based ecological farm in Matag-ob and Merida Leyte			
Goal: Sustainable ecological farm income	10% increase in income/year	*Impact evaluation report	
Purpose: Increased farmers income	Increase organic farm production	*Monitoring and evaluation report	
Outcome: 1. Increased farmers adopting Organic Agriculture Practices	* 2 farm adopting organic farming technologies * Conducted 10 hands-on training on organic farming technologies	* Terminal reports *Documentation reports * Quarterly report	
Activities: 1. Conducted Focused Group Discussion 2. Conducted monitoring	Inputs: *Fuel and Oil *Technician	Vouchers, acknowledgement receipts, brochures on organic agriculture production, photo documents, and progress reports	

PROJECT 3. Enhancement of the Ecological Demonstration Farm for the readiness as NC II in Organic Production as Assessment Center			
Goal: Improve the facilities of ECO-FARMI Demonstration Farm	Increased production potential of organic forage grasses and legumes and vegetables	Impact evaluation report	
Purpose: Organic Agriculture Production NC II ready facility	Improvement of farm storage facilities and enhanced production and harvest potential of organic farm produce	Photodoc, reports, and farm organic agriculture production financial report	
Outcome: 1.Improve farm facilities as well as farm produce 2.Organic Agriculture Production NC II holder	*Well-established and maintained plots planted with different combination of legumes, forage grasses and vegetables Increased vegetable production; *Expanded and improved farm storage facility *Brochures, leaflets, and flyers on different Natural Farming System	Photo documents, progress reports, R and D highlights	
Activities: 1. Establish pasture legumes and forage grasses, organic vegetable and herb garden 2. Improve farm storage facility 3. Attend training and seminars on Organic Agriculture production (NC II) 4. Lay outing/Editing of materials 5. Reproduction and Dissemination of IEC materials	Inputs: *Supplies and Materials *Laborer/Mason/Helper *Ink for Epson *Glossy Papers *Bond paper *Gasoline	Vouchers, acknowledgement receipts, brochures on organic agriculture production, photo document, and progress reports	

IV. Project Summary

Participatory Eco-Farming for the Visayas is a program that aims to promote ecologically-based sustainable agriculture in the context of organic and natural farming system through participatory approach. This program comprises of 3 component projects such as: 1. Capability Building and Provision of Technical Assistance on Organic Farming, 2. Improvement of FAITH-based ecological farm in Matag-ob and Merida Leyte, 3. Enhancement of the Ecological Demonstration Farm for the readiness as NC II in Organic Production as Assessment Center.

For the year 2022, there were only six (6) Farmers Associations who benefited the training on Bio-fertilizer production and natural farming inputs, two (2) Farmers Association participated the training on vermicomposting and one (1) Farmers Association joined the training on Free-range chicken production. These trainings were conducted in the following Associations: Tubod Lamanoc, Canaya, San Jose, Calunasan, Mahayag in Merida, Leyte and Kapunungan sa inahan sa kanunayng panabang, Sitio Bakwit, Bato, Leyte. All of these trainings were successfully conducted through the collaborative efforts of Eco-FARMI, Municipal Agriculture Office of Merida, and Farmers Associations in Bato, Leyte. This extension program of Eco-FARMI continued in producing fresh water tilapia, naturally grown of various vegetables, forages, concoctions, and reproducing of IEC materials, poultry and livestock farm animals, and also in providing technical assistance to different organization (NGO's, GO's, PO's, and Farmers Associations) who are interested and willing to adopt sustainable agriculture through organic and natural farming system.

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