

PCC Newsletter

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10 | Cascading a mass-based of vital resource in the valley

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The PCC Newsletter welcomes industry-related articles not exceeding 800 words, with photos and corresponding caption.

Success stories of farmers, cooperatives, and other beneficiaries and stakeholders of the Carabao Development Program are preferred.

PCC encourages reproduction of articles from this publication with proper acknowledgment. Topic suggestions and comments are also welcome.

Please send your articles and comments to email address pccnewsletter@ic@gmail.com or mail them to

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ABOUT THE COVER



The Llanera town, one of the champions of carabao development in Nueva Ecija, is engaged in a vermicomposting project using the carabao manure as the main substrate. The project benefits some 1,137 farmers to date. Shown in this cover photo are some of the key personalities who keep the carabao industry in this town vibrant and progressively moving forward. From left to right: SPO1 Froilan Balaba, vermicomposting model-entrepreneur; Jordan Sibuma, vermicomposting technician; Mayor Lorna Mae Vero; and Dr. Daniel Aquino of PCC.
(Photo By JGGoyagoy)

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Local and international delegates during the joint 9th annual conference of the ARBS and 49th Scientific Seminar and Annual Convention of PSAS held at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center in Mandaluyong City last October 23-28.

Efficient utilization and application of biotechnology hold promise of increased production, food security, improved human and animal health, conservation of animal genetic resources, and reduced negative environmental impact.

This was the key message brought out in the joint 9th Asian Reproductive Biotechnology Society (ARBS) Annual Conference and 49th Scientific Seminar and Annual Convention of the Philippine Society of Animal Science (PSAS) held last October 23-28 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Ortigas Center in Mandaluyong City.

Mr. Kazuyuki Tsurumi, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) representative to the Philippines, aptly said: "Application of new technologies, specifically biotechnology, is needed to address economic upturn locally and globally."

Supporting this statement, Dr. Libertado Cruz, executive director of the Philippine Carabao Center, reiterated that Assisted Reproductive Technologies (ART) in animals such as the widely-used artificial insemination (AI) and embryo transfer (ET) have become important tools for enhanced genetic improvement allowing production of productive and efficient farm animals. Dr. Cruz was one of the plenary speakers during the conference.

Other important biotechniques which Dr. Cruz pointed out in his talk were the use of semen cryopreservation and semen-sexing which are vital to the development of AI. On the other hand, he added, ET, aided by several techniques such as hormone manipulation of ovarian function, *in vitro*

Joint ARBS and PSAS convention underscore advantages of biotechnique applications; PH livestock industry seen to foster

By Joahna G. Goyagoy

embryo production and cryopreservation, ovum pick-up (OPU), and embryo micromanipulation, has become the platform of many other ART such as cloning (somatic cell nuclear transfer) and transgenesis.

It will be recalled that the Philippine Carabao Center, under Administrative Order No. 09 of the Department of Agriculture, was designated as the lead agency to hasten genetic improvement program in ruminants using reproductive and gene-based biotechniques. As such, it continuously carries out research endeavours with support from local governments and international partners.

As a result of the agency's research undertakings, the Philippines' efforts on improving livestock production, particularly carabao, have been constantly gaining headways thru the utilization of available biotechniques such as ET and AI for improved animal husbandry. They, in turn, result in improved livelihood of many rural farming families in the country.

Meanwhile, as a venue for interactive exchange of scientific interests of the reproductive biotechnology community

throughout Asia, the ARBS members presented their respective studies, both in human and animals, using biotechniques.

Among the studies presented were "Advances in mammalian egg activation and development", "Biomedical basis and regulation of sperm capacitation and motility *in vitro*", "Factors affecting meiotic arrest in mammalian oocytes", "Development of frozen buffalo semen production system in the Philippines", and many others. These researches were tackled thru the scientific sessions during the conference.

"With these significant research findings that can be applied in many developing countries, the challenge, therefore, is how to fully take advantage of the potentials of biotechnology in increasing domestic animal production and reduce importations while constantly mitigating climate change," Dr. Cruz concluded.

The other highlights in the joint conference were the presentation of technical papers and scientific posters, handing of awards for the ARBS best poster and PSAS best papers and posters, and the conferment of awards to outstanding local scientists and veterinarians.

World Food Day Celebration highlights role of agricultural cooperatives in ending hunger

By: Khrizie Evert Marcelo-Padre

The Department of Agriculture (DA), in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), affirms its support in eradicating hunger worldwide through achieving its mandate of increasing productivity and income of farmers and fisherfolks.

This was emphasized by assistant secretary for Fisheries/Agribusiness Marketing Salvador Salacup in his message during the opening ceremony of the 2012 World Food Day celebration at the DA's Central Office in Diliman, Quezon City.

The event which ran from October 15-18 was part of the annual observation of the World Food Day in commemoration of the founding anniversary of the FAO, organized 67 years ago.

The event adopted the theme, "Agricultural Cooperatives: Key to Feeding the World", highlighting the role of cooperatives in improving food security and its contribution in ending hunger.

"The implementation of our agricultural programs is more efficiently handled by our stakeholders who are mostly members of cooperatives. Through that, we build unity, gain strength and achieve efficiency of deliverables to attain our mandate of food security, food affordability, and nutritious food," Asec. Salacup said.

"If we have a good plan and sound roadmap of all agricultural commodities, then the implementation becomes easy," he added.

Asec. Salacup served as the chairperson of the national steering committee for the said



Agriculture Secretary Proceso J. Alcala (right) with Asst. Secretary for Fisheries/ Agribusiness Marketing Salvador Salacup (left), and Food and Agriculture Organization representative Kazuyuki Tsurumi (2nd from left) in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the opening of the 2012 World Food Day product exhibition at the Department of Agriculture Central Office in Diliman, Quezon City.

celebration.

The week-long celebration started with the ribbon-cutting of its products exhibit at the DA lobby. The ceremony was led by agriculture secretary Proceso Alcala, joined by FAO representative Kazuyuki Tsurumi and ASec. Salacup.

A photo-essay exhibit of DA-assisted farmers' groups and cooperatives and national commodity programs was also featured.

As part of the WFD celebration, the opening day of its mini-*tiangge* (bazaar) where partner-farmers' cooperatives showcased their respective products was also initiated.

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) was one of the product exhibitors. It featured dairy products from the Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (Nefedcco) and from its other partner cooperatives.

An on-the-spot poster making contest that depicted this year's theme commenced on the second day of the celebration at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management

(BSWM) in Quezon City. Seventeen regional winners participated in the event.

The winners were presented during the culminating program last October 18 at the Liwasang Aurora in Quezon City.

Along with the WFD celebration, the DA also spearheaded the celebration of the International World Rural Women's day in partnership with the Philippine Commission on Women and other institutions.

The conduct of the search for the outstanding rural women was the highlight of the celebration since 2003.

Alcala was joined by FAO representative Tsurumi and Luiza Carvalho, UN resident coordinator and United Nations Development Programme resident representative.

KC Concepcion was invited to give an inspirational message. She serves as the Philippine's Ambassador Against Hunger of the United Nation's World Food Programme.

The program was capped with a candle lighting ceremony and reading of the 2012 World Food Day Pledge and fireworks.

PCC joins XIII World Congress of Rural Sociology

By: Carla F. Padilla

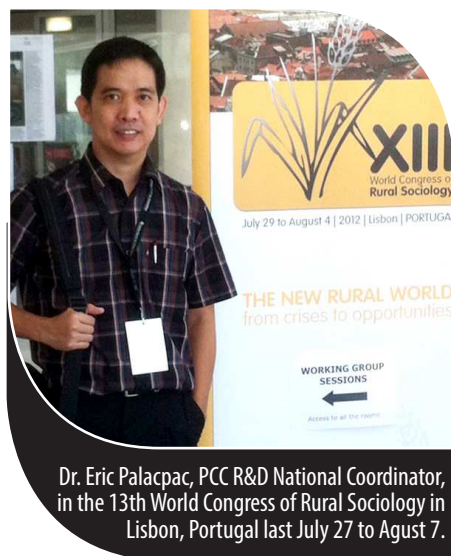
In communicating innovations, the size of the farmer's extent of personal network or connection with the personnel of Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) significantly influences the farmer to adopt more technologies that the agency offers.

This is the conclusion of the research on "Structural Features and Influence of Egocentric Networks of Dairy Buffalo Farmers in Nueva Ecija, Philippines on their Innovation Uptake" conducted by PCC's national R&D coordinator and Knowledge Resource Management Division (KRMD) chief Dr. Eric P. Palacpac. This was the same paper that he presented in the XIII World Congress of Rural

Sociology (WCRS) last July 27 to August 7 in Lisbon, Portugal.

"My participation and experience at the 13th WCRS was worth it. I met a lot of researchers and professors from various universities and R&D institutions from Europe, South America, and Asia. We exchanged ideas especially in the fields of agricultural extension, rural livelihoods, and social capital," said Dr. Palacpac.

The WCRS, which carried the theme



Dr. Eric Palacpac, PCC R&D National Coordinator, in the 13th World Congress of Rural Sociology in Lisbon, Portugal last July 27 to August 7.

"The New Rural World: From Crises to Opportunities" on its 13th congress, according to the United Nation's Human Rights Council, is mandated to contribute to relevant international conferences and events to promote the full realization of the human race on the right to food.

The host organization, the International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA), aimed to foster the development of rural sociology; further the application of sociological inquiry to the improvement of the quality of rural life; and provide a mechanism whereby rural sociologists can generate dialogue and useful exchange thru the event.

Over 1,000 participants mostly from European and South American countries attended the Congress and Dr. Palacpac was the only delegate from the Philippines.

The Congress featured plenary conferences and parallel (working group) sessions about various topics related to rural sociology.

Dr. Palacpac presented his research in one of the 77 working groups that focused on "The Social Capital Approach as a Methodological Tool to Analyze the Rural Development Processes".

San Agustin, Isabela showcases upgraded carabaos in 'Nuang Festival'

By: Rowena Galang-Bumanlag

Arnulfo Butac, 67, of Barangay Nemmatan in San Agustin Isabela, has been into crossbred buffalo production for 10 years now and considers his animals as his family's only means of livelihood.

Butac currently has six crossbreds. He harnesses these animals either for milk production or draft animal power during the harvesting of corn in the town. He earns an average income of about Php150,000 annually.

He is one of the hundreds of dairy buffalo farmers who paraded in the streets of San Agustin with their crossbred buffaloes during the town's celebration of the 8th Nuang Festival and in commemoration of its 63rd year of

township last September 28.

Butac's crossbred buffalo was also one of the animals that were used as canvas for the festival's newest come-on for tourists—the carabao painting contest.

The festival also highlighted various contests for the selection of the "Best Buffalo in Milk Production", "Best Dairy Buffalo", "Best Draft", and "Best Dressed Buffalo". A buffalo race was also staged to the delight of the spectators.

Municipal agriculturist Julio Lamug said about 300 crossbred buffaloes were paraded this year which were fewer than in previous years. The fewer number was due to the ongoing harvesting in the corn fields since most corn farmers in this



Hundreds of crossbred buffaloes paraded in the streets of San Agustin during the town's celebration of the 8th Nuang Festival and in commemoration of its 63rd year of township last September 28.

region still choose to use the carabao for hauling to save from high fuel cost, he said.

Each paraded crossbred was rewarded

Continued on page 6

PCC efforts showcased in KABISIG Expo

By: Khrizie Evert M. Padre

The Philippine Carabao Center, along with other government agencies took part in bringing the good news and help raise awareness on various government efforts during the KABISIG Government Expo and Trade Fair 2012 at the SM Fairview last September 17-20, in time for the celebration of the 112th Philippine Civil Service anniversary.

With the theme “Kapit-bisig sa Matuwid na Daan, Gabay sa Kaunlaran”, the expo was set to reach out to as many Filipinos as possible, giving the people the chance to know about the government and what it is doing for the people.

PCC featured its contributions in improving the lives of the rural farming communities thru its banner programs,

services and accomplishments such as the promotion of the carabao-based dairy enterprise development.

The PCC booth served as a one-stop information exhibit in promoting the Carabao Development Program and to acquaint the public of the services and assistance the agency can provide especially for the people who want to engage into a carabao-based enterprise.

Information materials such as PCC Newsletters and primers were given for free to the public. Books and instructional materials on buffalo farm management were also made available for sale at affordable prices.

Almost 300 individuals visited the PCC booth, among them was Feodor Baybay, 58, of Guinobatan, Albay. He shared his keen interest in engaging into carabao farming during his visit to the booth. He hopes to manage a small farm in his hometown after he retires.

Other visitors showed curiosity by making inquiries related to the agency's program on artificial insemination and bull loan.

“The four-day exposition aimed to bring together in one venue all the government

agencies and instrumentalities that will feature the various profile, service facilities, programs, projects, products and their accomplishments,” said Daniel Guillen, KABISIG chairman.

Aside from PCC, the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), Bureau of Immigration (BI), Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), Philpost, Philhealth, Pag-ibig Fund, and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) were among the 23 agencies who participated in the said event.

KABISIG Mindanao Foundation is a Non-Government Organization (NGO) whose main objective is to create public awareness on government accomplishments thru information exhibits. The KABISIG conducts government expo and trade fairs yearly across the country to place all government agencies under one roof for easy access to information and services.

In support of the KABISIG program, the Office of the President issued Memorandum Circular No. 12 last year encouraging government agencies, bureaus and offices to take part in the said expo.

SAN AGUSTIN, ISABELA SHOWCASES. . . (From page 5)

a cash incentive of Php200 from the LGU. Some of the town's barangays also gave a counterpart incentive of Php100 for each animal.

Mayor Virgilio Padilla was proud of what his town had so far achieved in terms of its contribution in the national carabao upgrading program which is implemented by the PCC.

“Through the concerted efforts of the PCC and our local government unit, San Agustin is now hailed as the ‘Crossbred Buffalo Capital of Isabela’. We have substantially placed all our efforts toward establishing a hefty base of dairy buffaloes on the ground and now we are into ensuring that the enterprise development aspect of the program will also be embraced by our farmers,” Mayor Padilla said.

He added that San Agustin is girding

to be a model town for dairy enterprise development and this lofty goal is not a far-fetched prospect because of the staunch support of the town's farmers to the program.

Governor Faustino Dy III and Vice Governor Rodolfo Albano III also graced the event.

In an exclusive interview with the PCC team, Gov. Dy III said the provincial government of Isabela, thru his stewardship, will not cease in pouring in investments in San Agustin for as long as its vision to becoming a full-pledged hub for carabao's milk production in the province is realized.

“We have witnessed the importance of the carabao to our farmers and in poverty alleviation in general. Our leadership is focused on maximizing the potential of our carabao resource in the province to

benefit our farmers,” Gov. Dy III said.

It can be recalled that the governor contributed Php5million last year for the strengthening of the carabao development program in San Agustin. The amount was used for the construction of four milk barns in the town.

Dy said he has committed to Mayor Padilla the establishment of more barns as more farmers showed great interest in the dairying business of San Agustin.

The provincial government also allocated some Php2 million to support the expanded artificial insemination program and animal health services not only in San Agustin but in other towns and cities in Isabela.

San Agustin currently has some 2,000 crossbred buffaloes in the hands of smallholder farmers. This big number is the tangible output of nearly three decades of carabao upgrading program in this part of Cagayan Valley region.

ACKNOWLEDGING PCC'S LOCAL PARTNERS IN CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF CARABAO-BASED RURAL DEVELOPMENT

By Eric P. Palacpac

The Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) is easily identified as the agency-in-charge of spearheading the development of rural communities through carabao-based enterprises. But like any other national government agencies, the PCC is not working in isolation in the pursuit of this mandate. Because the rural folks or smallholder-farmers are its target clientele, it is but logical that the entry point for introducing any development intervention in the countryside is the local government units (LGUs).

From the very start of its operations as an agency, this has been one of the important strategies of the PCC—link or collaborate with the LGUs at both the provincial and the municipal levels particularly in implementing its widescale carabao upgrading program or CUP (through artificial insemination and bull loan facility) and its dairy buffalo modules.

Linking with these LGUs have been both challenging and rewarding. On

one hand, there are LGUs that were not receptive in engaging with the PCC owing to issues of project prioritization or lack of support personnel and resources on their part. On the other hand, there are those that readily embraced the PCC programs as their own, thus, allocating regular budget and personnel for the purpose.


In this issue of the PCC Newsletter, we focused our feature articles on the latter category of LGU partners. That is not to say that we are completely abandoning our effort to link up with the former type of LGUs. But as the adage goes, we ought to “sow seeds on a more fertile ground”, in order to facilitate and eventually attain mutual development objectives.

Some of these exemplary partners that have already co-stewarded either a successful implementation of CUP (particularly via AI) or village-level dairy buffalo projects can be found in Talavera, San Jose City, and Llanera (all in Nueva Ecija), Urdaneta City (Pangasinan), San Fernando City and Bauang (La Union), Vigan City, (Ilocos Sur), Marcos, and Piddig (Ilocos Norte), Magalang (Pampanga), Solana, Amulung, Alcala,

and Tuguegarao City (all in Cagayan), San Agustin (Isabela), General Trias (Cavite), San Carlos City (Negros Occidental), Calinog (Iloilo), and Provincial Veterinary Offices of Nueva Ecija, Cagayan, Isabela, and Northern Samar.

Other relatively new LGU partners that are paving a promising future for their constituents as evidenced by their all-out commitment to the carabao-based development programs include Bago City (Negros Occidental), Rosario (Batangas), Magdalena (Laguna), Jala-Jala (Rizal), and Anda (Pangasinan).

Still others are partner-government entities such as the Malaybalay Stock Farm in Bukidnon or non-government organizations like the Columban Livelihood Association, Inc. in Negros Occidental.

There are still many of these partner-collaborators of PCC elsewhere in the country and we hope to feature their stories in the future. But for now, the more challenging task for PCC is nurturing further and sustaining such meaningful linkages . 

Dramatic changes have taken place in the 19 cities and municipalities in Nueva Ecija which was launched by the Philippine Carabao Center in 1998 as the “National Impact Zone (NIZ)”.

The NIZ is PCC’s showcase for dynamic and sustainable carabao-based enterprise on a wide scale.

Current animal inventory in the NIZ is 2,874 head of purebred dairy buffaloes and 12,947 crossbred buffaloes.

These animals are in the hands of some 2,016 empowered smallholder farmers.

The province has 55 farmers’ dairy cooperatives and associations.

Quite naturally, the benefits of the

Rising above the odds

Llanera has gradually risen from a town of subsistence agricultural endeavors to a town providing additional income thru dairy buffalo production.

The town has 274 purebred dairy buffaloes from the PCC’s dairy modules and boasts of 230 crossbred buffaloes produced out of the massive crossbreeding efforts thru artificial insemination (AI).

Mayor Lorna Mae Vero said she started

in Llanera then. Now, there are five, she added.

Dairy production, which is the One Town One Product (OTOP) of Llanera, gives a farmer an average additional income of Php40,000 according to Mayor Vero. This is a big boost, she said, to the farmers’ income of Php3,033 per household of two workers.

She added that aside from the milk and the extra income that is derived from selling male calves, the carabao manure is another source of livelihood.

Currently, the LGU is implementing an “Organic Fertilizer Production Project”,

PARTNERSHIPS THAT CREATE IMPACT IN THE NIZ

By Rowena Galang-Bumanlag

program extend to the coop members’ families whose average member per family is five.

The common goal of the NIZ program is achieved thru the organized efforts of farmers, field technicians, cooperatives, local government units (LGUs), policymakers, scientists and management personnel from the PCC, government agencies state universities and colleges, market players, and other private entities.

On the ground level, the support mechanism for the farmers’ empowerment that comes from the LGUs is a crucial factor that determines the success of the carabao development program (CDP).

In the NIZ, among the ardent advocates of the program are the municipalities of Llanera and Talavera and the city of San Jose.

championing the CDP in 2007. It was a social program that is seen to augment the incomes of rice farmers, which are practically in dearth during lean months when the cropping season is over, she said.

She added that a household of two workers in the town is only earning a measly Php3,033 per month and the average landholding per farmer is currently pegged at two hectares while 40 percent of the agrarian reform beneficiaries are now landless.

“When I assumed office, I knew it was an opportunity for me to help the Llaneranos. I immediately created the Cooperative and Entrepreneurship Office. I always believed in cooperativism and the impact that is achieved when we bind people of the same interests,” she said.

She said there were only three organized dairy farmers’ cooperatives

mainly vermicomposting, using carabao manure as the main substrate.

The town’s native carabao and buffalo population including cattle, Mayor Vero said, produces 3,516 tons of manure per year.

A kilogram of carabao manure is sold at Php20 per 40-kg bag.

She said this project earns for a household an additional Php19,200 per year at modal average of two 1 x 4 m beds with 4 kg of African night crawlers per bed. This income is generated every 45 days of production cycle, she said.

The project, assisted by a multi-agency funding amounting to a total of over Php5 million, helped generate income for 1,137 beneficiaries to date. Forty percent of the adopters are carabao raisers while 60 percent are farm laborers, housewives,



Mayor Lorna Mae Vero, Llanera

marginal farm land-owners, cooperatives, differently-abled, and schools.

"I look at myself as just a steward of change in our town. Everyone is giving his or her share of hardwork and now we are reaping the benefits of our collective efforts," Mayor Vero said.



Mayor Marivic
Belena, San Jose City



Mayor Nerito Santos,
Talavera

Institutionalizing the CDP

Talavera town, another exemplar of championing the farmers' cause thru the CDP, is in its decade-old partnership with PCC.

Mayor Nerito Santos said he readily saw the CDP as a development program that can really augment the income of farmers in his town.

"We want to keep this important resource so that it can bring our farmers sustainable source of income. We did this

by signing a resolution that prohibits the movement of animals from Talavera," he said.

Complementing this initiative was the passing of a Sangguniang Bayan resolution that allocated Php10 million to support the dairy farmers' cooperatives under the "Programang Balikatan Laban sa Kahirapan" and "Proyeklong Balik-Kalabaw".

The resolution aimed to protect and promote the carabao as an instrument to empower farmers and harness the full potential of the government's support thru the PCC.

From the fund allocation, the cooperative can apply for a loan to purchase crossbred buffaloes for milk and draft purposes.



I SEE A CLEAR DIRECTION OF OUR TOWN TOWARD DAIRYING. WE NOW HAVE A GOOD POPULATION OF CROSSBRED BUFFALOES TO START WITH.



While boosting milk production is the main goal of putting in place support mechanisms in the NIZ, the widescale use of the carabao as a work animal is not disregarded.

In fact, many farmers in Talavera earn from leasing their carabaos to transport farm produce during the harvest period or what is called as "karyada".

For almost a month's work during this period, a "karyador" brings home about Php7,000 or Php10-15 for every cavan of palay hauled.

"With the propagation of purebred and crossbred buffaloes in our town, we expect to see increased productivity among our farmers and thus more production of milk," Mayor Santos said.

As of latest animal inventory, Talavera

has some 230 purebred dairy buffaloes from the PCC's dairy buffalo entrustment program. These are distributed to six active dairy cooperatives.

"We commit our all-out support to the CDP as long as it is benefitting our farmers," he added.

Municipal cooperative development officer Benito Arma, Jr. attested to Mayor Santos' commitment to the program.

"He created the Municipal Cooperative Development Office in 2006 to uphold his commitment to the CDP," he said.

"We look at cooperativism as an important development modality to sustain productivity. Indeed, the program is helping improve the lives of many farming families in Talavera," he added.

This direction to empower farmers thru the development of cooperatives is affirmed by Mayor Santos.

"We will not halt in partnering with PCC to support the CDP. Definitely, this is going to be a continuing advocacy even with the change of leadership in this town," he said.

Leading farmers toward independence

In terms of "hardware" support as an important component of the development intervention in the NIZ, San Jose City has a sufficient number of purebred dairy buffaloes to fast track dairy development in the area.

Currently, six dairy cooperatives are benefitting from an aggregate total of 467 purebred dairy-type animals and 335 crossbred buffaloes.

Based on the milk record submitted to the NIZ's coordinating unit from January to September, five out of the six cooperatives were able to produce a total of 80,185.03 liters of milk. The bulk of this volume was sold to the Nueva Ecija Federation of Dairy Carabao Cooperatives (Nefedcco) at Php35, of which, Php1 per liter went to the cooperative for capital build-up.

Continued on page 26

CASCADING A MASS-BASED VITAL RESOURCE IN THE VALLEY

By Rowena Galang-Bumanlag

Rich in agricultural areas and grasslands, Cagayan Valley has positioned itself as one of the champions of the Carabao Development Program (CDP) in the north.

Dedicated leaders, in cooperation with the other movers of the program in this part of the country, are continuing their efforts in harnessing the carabao as an important resource for income and job generation and for rural transformation in the region.

Cagayan's 3rd district representative Randolph Ting, provincial veterinary officer Jaime Guillermo, Isabela governor Faustino Dy III and San Agustin (Isabela) mayor Virgilio Padilla exemplify the leaders that drive the CDP to its operational gear.

Their contributions in revving up the participation of farmers and institutions in the program cannot be underrated.

Toward a great future

Congressman Ting initiated his support to the CDP when he was still the Mayor of Tuguegarao City in 1998.

He credited Prof. Franklin Rellin, center director of PCC at Cagayan State University (PCC at CSU), for inspiring him to adopt the program when his support was sought to boost the dairy industry in the area.

"I started purchasing buffaloes with the help of PCC and I immediately saw the

benefits of the program," Rep. Ting, who readily advocated for the program as an economic development initiative for the people of his hometown, said.

"I bought 63 female buffaloes in Tuguegarao for dispersal to qualified beneficiaries," he added.

As added support, he allotted Php275,000 for the purchase of motorcycle, side car, and chiller for the farmers' dairy cooperative and later Php2 million for operational and postharvest activities of the increasing number of buffalo raisers.

Gradually, significant number of farmers responded positively for his CDP advocacy.

In 2010, when he was elected representative of the 3rd district of Cagayan, he at once thought of how to expand the benefits of the CDP to more farming families.

"I thought that the positive results of the program in Tuguegarao when I was the mayor should also happen in the whole of Cagayan," Ting said.

Upon assumption to office in the 15th Congress, and as a member of the committee on agriculture and food, Ting proceeded with actualizing the CDP thru

massive crossbreeding of the existing breedable swamp buffaloes with the dairy-types in his district.

"Our intention was to create a shift in the mindset of farmers that the carabao is not only for draft use but it can be a potential source of income thru milk production," Ting said.

He allotted Php1.5 million for the purchase of female crossbreds. Tuguegarao City and the six other municipalities in the 3rd district were selected as cooperator of the program which was implemented thru a counterparting scheme with the concerned LGUs. The six municipalities were Amulung, Solana, Iquig, Peña Blanca, Enrile, and Tuao.

To sustain the program and to ensure that more farmers will benefit from



Mayor Virgilio Padilla,
San Agustin, Isabela



Cong. Randolph Ting,
3rd District of Cagayan



Prov'l Veterinarian Jaime Guillermo, Cagayan



Mayor Delfin Ting, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan

Rep. Ting. He carried this out, he added, in cooperation with the local government of Tuguegarao City, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and the Department of Education.

Along these efforts, a dairy industry development plan was crafted for the city which is also the regional impact zone of PCC at CSU.

City mayor Delfin Ting, who is Rep. Ting's father, will establish a forage source that will sustain the feeds for dairy animals. In close collaboration with the PCC, he sets up massive artificial insemination (AI) activities for large ruminants to increase milk and meat production.

THOSE WHO SERIOUSLY EMBRACED THE PROGRAM ARE NOW REAPING THE BENEFITS. FARMERS CAN NOW AFFORD TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL AND EVEN SAVE EXTRA INCOME



With a funding of Php200,000 in the initial year, two hectares for forage production will be established and 320 animals are cued for AI.

"I want to see the day when our farmers are producing big volumes of milk in our area. It would mean that agro-industrialization in this part of Cagayan has arrived and that our farmers are benefitting from it," Rep. Ting said.

"Ultimately, this would mean transformation and empowerment in the countryside," he added.

Provincial veterinary officer Jaime Guillermo said that the support from public officials like that of Rep. Ting makes the CDP in Cagayan attain full momentum.

What is obtaining in the impact zones of PCC in Cagayan is now radiating in other areas of the province as well,

Guillermo said.

"It was a difficult task for us before to convince farmers to join the AI program. Now, farmers are competing for the attention of the busy AI technicians so that their carabaos can be serviced," Guillermo said.

Modeling successful crossbreeding in the north

In San Agustin, Isabela, about three hours' drive from Tuguegarao City, a mass base of dairy buffalo farmer-owners is doing wonders in the CDP.

In fact, entering the poblacion of San Agustin, a billboard proudly stands and announces: "The Crossbred Buffalo Capital of Isabela".

For the people of San Agustin, it is an assertion of their nearly three decades of committed and concerted efforts to see what is obtaining now in the town in terms of the carabao upgrading program.

The man at the helm then—and now—is mayor Virgilio Padilla. He started advocating the CDP in his town when he was elected mayor in 1994. He continued with vigor and enthusiasm in the second year of his second term as mayor. Mayor Padilla is now on his fifth term.

"I am a farmer so I know what the farmers really need. When the PCC came here, I readily agreed to participate in the AI program. I submitted my female carabaos for AI and when I saw the beautiful crossbred offspring, I knew I had to convince others," Mayor Padilla said.

To ensure that the CDP will be understood in all the 24 barangays of San Agustin, he strategized a tactic.

"For every barangay, I assigned a person who will act as the officer-of-the-day (OD). That individual monitors the peace and order in his area of responsibility including visitors who come in. I made sure that these ODs are diligent and good at reporting. But the real idea behind their function is to report to me the carabaos that are in-heat so I could

it, the farmer-cooperators were each required to turn over at least one calf to the government for dispersal to other farmers.

"Those who seriously embraced the program are now reaping the benefits. Farmers can now afford to send their children to school and even save extra income," he said.

Complementing his carabao dispersal program, he instituted a milk feeding program for school children. He allotted a budget of Php2.5 million for this specific purpose.

Prof. Rellin attested that milk feeding program is one of the strong advocacies of

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SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

By Joahna G. Goyagoy
Photos by Anna Reylene Montes, PCC at UPLB



Mayor Teresa Reodico,
Magdalena, Laguna



Mayor Luis Ferrer,
General Trias, Cavite



Mayor Manuel Alvarez,
Rosario, Batangas



THE CREATION OF A STRONG CARABAO-BASED ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT (CBED) PROGRAM IN THE TOWN GENERATED SEVERAL JOBS FOR THE SMALLHOLDER FARMERS, MILK PRODUCER, PROCESSORS, AND MILK DEALERS.



Partnership and commitment are two strategies, that when used together, are sure to result in success and sustainability of any program.

Evidently, the Philippine Carabao Center at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños (PCC at UPLB) in Laguna invested in having strong linkage and partnership with the local government units (LGU) in its areas of coverage. The LGUs, in return, committed their participation for the implementation of the carabao development program (CDP).

This strategy has proved to be not just a winning approach but also a step that puts the CDP's momentum into a constant forward stride.

"The LGUs, through their mayors and municipal agriculturists, play vital

roles in the success of CDP. They are our indispensable partners in ensuring the CDP to reach its intended clients," Director Arnel del Barrio said.

As proof, the LGUs of General Trias in Cavite, Rosario in Batangas, Magdalena in Laguna, and Jala-jala in Rizal shared accounts of their implementation of the CDP, a once seemingly impossible task that gradually turned into a beacon of hope for their people.

The General Trias experience

General Trias (GenTri), Cavite, one of PCC at UPLB's impact zones, is undoubtedly a symbol of CDP's

realization. With its carabao-based enterprise already in full swing, GenTri can now possibly stand independently from the stewardship of PCC at UPLB.

As Director del Barrio said, "GenTri has been very cooperative in carrying out the CDP. Not only it staunchly support the program but it also serves as a living proof that the CDP can indubitably make the lives of the people better."

Currently, there are about 900 carabaos in GenTri in which 645 are crossbreds. The crossbred buffaloes are the results of the continuous herd build-up activity of PCC at UPLB through animal infusion, massive AI services, and bull loan program.

The initiatives of the municipal agriculture office, on the other hand,

paved the way for the establishment of the General Trias Dairy Raisers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (GTDRMPC) in April 2005. The cooperative serves as the marketing arm of the dairy farmers in GenTri.

In 2011 alone, the coop produced 85,000 liters of carabao's milk grossing Php5.1 million. From this, the coop was able to generate a net income of Php786,659.49.

Currently, the coop has 146 members.

The operationalization of a strong carabao-based enterprise development (CBED) program in the town generated several jobs for the smallholder farmers, milk producers, processors, and milk dealers. This development, del Barrio added, improved the social status of GenTri farmers and others. He added that several stories have already been penned down about the solid successes of carabao raisers in GenTri.

A classic example is the story of Francisco "Ka Asis" Solis. He is the only dairy farmer in GenTri who delivers fresh carabao's milk and white cheese to his buyers using a Ford Everest. Ka Asis proudly said that his SUV was bought mainly from his income in carabao dairying.

Adding to the list of manifestations of the success of CDP in GenTri is the recent report by PCC at UPLB on malnutrition. It said that the malnutrition among children in GenTri dramatically plummeted from 12 percent to five percent in a five-year span.

Municipal Agriculturist Nerisa Marquez, on the other hand, said that the carabao dairy enterprise in GenTri has been prioritized because of the many native carabaos in the town. This is not to mention the fact, Nerisa adds, that many housewives in GenTri grew up in the tradition of *kasilyo* (white cheese) making which has been passed on to them by their ancestors.

Nerisa also said that had it not been for the enthusiasm of Mayor Luis Ferrer, who is serving his third and last term,

the CDP in GenTri could not have flourished.

"I grew up with having carabao's milk and *kasilyo* on our table every morning," Mayor Ferrer related. "I used to be with the carabao always, playing, and dancing with it, as if it was my best friend," he added as he fondly reminisced his childhood memories.

As memorable as it was, Mayor Ferrer said that all that he wanted was for the next generations to remember and appreciate how important (to the lives of the people and community) farming is. But more than this, he added, he hopes that the tradition of *kasilyo*-making out of carabao's milk in GenTri will prevail through the years.



MA Cecelia Sy,
Magdalena, Laguna



MA Eliner delos Santos,
Jala-jala, Rizal

Rosario, Batangas

The local government of the municipality of Rosario, through the Office for Agricultural Services, is continuously working with PCC at UPLB in sustaining the carabao development

program.

In fact, Rosario is the very first municipality in the whole province of Batangas to produce, process, and market carabao's milk.

As a concrete support to the program, the LGU of Rosario allotted Php200,000 to start a pilot project on CBED in Brgy. Mavalor. From this fund, the LGU purchased five crossbred buffaloes, constructed milking sheds for two farmer-cooperators, and acquired necessary materials for milk processing. The LGU also provided training on milk



MA Pablita Quizon,
Rosario, Batangas



MA Nerisa Marquez,
General Trias, Cavite

processing through PCC at UPLB for the farmers and sent the farmer-cooperators for an educational trip to General Trias to see how the GTDRMPC was able to launch a successful carabao-based enterprise.

With the positive results coming out of the program, the Rosario LGU increased its usual budget for CDP from

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PCC AND LGUs AS A TEAM

TRAILBLAZING TOWARD A COMMON GOAL

By Joahna G. Goyagoy

In Cagayan province, the carabao, besides its primary use for draft power, has also been used for dairying, a tradition embedded in its culture since time immemorial.

Accounts said many of the carabao owners milked their animals mostly for home consumption while some processed it into *kesong puti* (white cheese) or *pastillas* (milk candy) as a source of income.

With the introduction of farm machines, however, the population of the carabao plummeted and resulted in the gradual elimination of carabao dairying in the Cagayano's traditional lifestyle.

With the crucial need to retain the population of the carabao as well as to improve its breed and health, the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), through the PCC at Cagayan State University (PCC at CSU), implemented a national program on massive artificial insemination (AI) activities, bull loan program, and infusion of live animals in the province of Cagayan.

The massive AI activities, started by PCC, continue to be carried out by the LGUs themselves, working in tandem with PCC and other government line agencies. The ultimate objective of these initiatives is to produce more upgraded carabaos in order to establish village-based dairy enterprise.

Today, we can see certain municipalities in Cagayan where engagement in carabao-based enterprises became a renewed interest among the people.

"The efforts of the Philippine government in these areas could have been futile without the LGUs which readily accepted and supported the CDP," Franklin Rellin, PCC at CSU center director, said.

In Solana town, 349 km north-north-east of Manila, about 90 percent of its total population are farmers, of which, 60 percent have their own carabaos.

When Director Rellin and his team introduced the CDP in Solana, Mayor Meynard Carag openly accepted the program.

"There are many livelihood projects that we can offer to the townspeople but I saw CDP as the most feasible for Solana," Mayor Carag said.

Solana, he said, is largely an agricultural town. Its main produce includes corn, rice, vegetables, and tobacco.

But, he added, the farmers' income from carabao's milk is considered a lot

better than the measly income they get from their harvest from the agricultural crops.

To further support the program, the LGU of Solana allotted Php1million budget which was used for farmers' training and AI activities for the carabaos and other livestock.

Along with PCC, the LGU of Solana conducted massive information campaign about the CDP in all its barangays.

What Solana town has done, also happened in the towns of Amulung and Alcala.

Amulung Mayor Nicanor de Leon recalled that many of the carabaos in Amulung were sold and slaughtered when farm mechanization took over. Some of the farmers sold their animals to buy these machineries.

In 1995, Amulung refocused its



Mayor Josefina Te, Alcala, Cagayan



MAO Eusebio Manuel, Alcala, Cagayan



Mayor Nicanor de Leon,
Amulung, Cagayan



Mayor Meynard Carag,
Solana, Cagayan

another Teaño (Ms. Emma Teaño-Enrile) is based in Tuguegarao City.

The problem, Municipal Agricultural Officer Eusebio Manuel said, is that their town can't supply the raw milk needed by these two establishments. Thus, the Teaños had to get their supply from Nueva Ecija and other nearby towns.

"This is our frustration," MAO Eusebio said.

To resolve their "frustration", Alcala Mayor Josefina Te said they designated a technician mainly for the carabao upgrading program. She allotted an annual fund of Php100,000 for the CDP. The fund is used for regular vaccination and deworming activities as well as annual meetings and trainings of and among the farmers.

The same efforts are also implemented both in Solana and Amulung.

In implementing the CDP, however, these three towns face the same challenge. They said the farmers have a scanty knowledge about the animal in terms of its breed and other uses besides draft power. This is not to mention the lack of knowledge among farmers about the proper care and management for the carabao.

The farmers, they said, are also afraid that the dam may encounter great difficulty in calving or that the animal may get weak and can no longer be used for draft if submitted under the upgrading program. In short, the farmers have negative perception on AI.

Virgilio Canseran, a model LGU AI technician covering Solana, said he had countless encounters of being ignored by farmers during his rounds of providing AI services. Nonetheless, when the farmers learned that one of his clients, Angelita Binayog, was able to sell her crossbred animals thrice the price of a native carabao, the farmers became excited to own a crossbred.

This unfounded fear prevails not only in Solana as it is present among the farmers in Amulung and Alcala, too.

To prove that their fear does not hold

water, these concerned LGUs initiated formation of cooperatives to model the CDP. They (farmers) soon realized that, indeed, there is money in having an upgraded breed of carabao.


As of press time, Amulung has six dairy associations, Solana has three, and Alcala has already established two from its six targets. The respective LGUs allotted regular fund for trainings and other technical aspects that the associations need to build their operations up.

In Solana, Mayor Carag said he also gave a seed fund amounting to Php10,000 for the dairy associations to jumpstart their operations while the PCC provided technical assistance among crossbred buffalo owners on proper management of dairy buffaloes, milk collection, and processing.

"We are very thankful that PCC never gets tired of helping us. It has been with us from the very start—from upgrading the animal's breed, to the formation of associations and up to marketing the farmers' produce. And I can say that because of this vigorous efforts, I see CDP as the most viable source of livelihood in Solana," Mayor Carag attested.

Truth be told, as the dairy associations continue to grow in number, so do the liters of milk collected in each of the farmer's pail. Interestingly, they come in big numbers now.

The agency's nationwide efforts to improve the quality of life of farmers though the carabao upgrading program is now being realized as attested by these three towns. Many farmers are now enjoying the benefits of CDP as their animals continue to produce milk which was once considered for home consumption only, but is now embraced by many Cagayanos as a commodity that offers many opportunities for income.

Slowly but surely, the efforts of PCC and the LGUs are now gaining more rewards as carabao dairying is proving to be an attractive livelihood activity for many farmers. 

priority on the CDP which was introduced by PCC at CSU.

As a first step, Mayor de Leon, designated a livestock technician whose major work is focused solely on CDP. The LGU also developed a scheme where the farmers can either request or borrow farm machines without having to sell their carabao in exchange.

"I grew up drinking carabao's milk. I also saw how many farmers depended on the carabao as their important help in farm works. And if the carabaos will continue to decrease in number, many of our people will surely suffer," Mayor de Leon said.

Similarly, the town of Alcala has a story to tell about the CDP.

A third class municipality, it is very well-known for its sought-after product "Teaño's Alcala Milk Candy" made from carabao's milk. A separate business venture (Alcala Sweets) managed by

CITIES OF BAGO AND SAN CARLOS IN NEW DRIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT

By: Rowena G. Bumanlag



Vice Mayor Nicholas Yulo,
Bago City, Negros Occidental



Rolando Luage, Agricultural Center
Chief II, San Carlos City, Negros
Occidental

“ I ALWAYS TELL OUR FARMERS THAT THERE IS NO OTHER LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM THAT CAN TRULY HELP THEM BEST BUT THOSE ENTERPRISES THAT ARE CARABAO-BASED. ”

Capitalizing on good relationship with its partner-local government units (LGUs) has been the key strategy of the Philippine Carabao Center at the La Carlota Stock Farm (PCC at LCSF) in Negros Occidental in hitting its artificial insemination (AI) services.

The center knew that with its chosen development approach, it will not falter.

Last year, its target was 3,000 services.

This year, the center hopes to deliver 5,000 services in its target impact areas in Negros Occidental.

For almost a decade, the PCC at LCSF delivered an aggregate total of 10,466 AI services in the villages in the whole province. This was complemented by 426 bull services from 2006 to 2012.

This dispensation of AI services was, no doubt, carved out with the support of the provincial government of Negros Occidental. The province, in its

development initiative as spelled out in its three-year development plan under the food sufficiency program, underscored its commitment “to support livestock and dairy production (among other commodities) not only for the table but for additional income as well.”

The massive upgrading of native swamp and crossbred buffaloes in the province is only one of the major programs of PCC at LCSF. Among others, the center is implementing a package of equally important programs that are envisioned to propel countryside development.

These development interventions are

captured in the Carabao Development Program (CDP) that focuses on genetic improvement, research and development, and establishment of sustainable carabao-based enterprises.

During the past years, the PCC at LCSF has established two strong champions of the CDP thru the LGUs of Bago City and San Carlos City.

These two cities, Director Ariel Abaquita of the PCC at LCSF said, have demonstrated deliberate efforts to actualize the benefits of the program among their respective constituents.

A new revolution in Bago City

The carabao is the official animal symbol of Bago City. But more than this symbol, the carabao has become an instrument of empowerment among the

Bagonhons thru their participation in the CDP.

Believing in the principle that the wealth of the city should be “shared by its empowered and self-reliant citizenry,” the LGU puts prime importance in creating a solid foundation of support for the CDP to maximize its benefits for its constituents.

Vice Mayor Nicholas Yulo affirmed this by saying that the CDP is an integral component of the city’s development agenda.

“I always tell our farmers that there is no other livelihood program that can truly help them best but those enterprises that are carabao-based,” he said.

He added that Bago City is the major rice producer of Negros Occidental therefore it has the areas favorable for carabao-raising as a source of income.

“Rice production and carabao complement each other. This makes it easier for us to implement the CDP,” he said.

From its extensive participation in the massive upgrading of native carabaos in the area thru the AI program, which received about 1,486 AI services since 2004, Bago City is now deep in its advocacy to promote carabao-based enterprises. Currently, the city has a total of 108 crossbred buffaloes.

“Bago City is definitely into carabao dairying now. We have already developed a model dairy cooperative that is owned by the LGU but directly managed by the farmers,” Vice Mayor Yulo explained.

This cooperative, he said, demonstrates the feasibility of generating income thru dairying.

“Value-adding in carabao’s milk is the future that we are headed to. The city will allocate a fund to buy the produce of our dairy farmers,” he said.

Relative to this statement of Vice Mayor Yulo, the city government has earmarked Php5 million in its 2013 budget for the CDP which covers dairy production and milk collection, among other related endeavors.



The city is on its fourth year of participation in the program. Despite the relatively new partnership with the PCC, the city has already made headways in proving its commitment to the CDP.

Only last February, the city launched the first festivity to honor the carabao as an important ally of the Bagonhons in farming—the “Karabag-O Festival”.

“The festival is meant to increase awareness among our people on the many uses of the carabao aside from its draft power. Thru this event, we aim to increase our people’s appreciation of the carabao as an important source of income for many smallholder farming families,” Vice Mayor Yulo said.

Launched as part of the LGU’s initiative to promote the CDP, the LGU also aims to recognize the active participation of farmer-beneficiaries in the program thru a farmers’ field day.

“When we first introduced the program, many farmers were reluctant about it. But when they started seeing their neighbors raise crossbred calves that are superior in appearance compared to the native carabao, they eventually signified their interest to participate in the program,” Vice Mayor Yulo explained.

Despite many challenges, which the

city government was able to hurdle thru the able leadership of Mayor Ramon Torres and Vice Mayor Yulo, the CDP is right on track and sustainably advancing toward dairy production.

“As far as public service is concerned,” Vice Mayor Yulo said, “We, the leaders of the city, know that we are indeed helping improve the lives of our constituents and our fellow men in general. That thought is what gives satisfaction in what we are doing.”

“We are satisfied with the benefits of the program and we intend to translate this by bringing a source of additional income to more farmers who will certainly feel empowered because of their active participation in the program,” he added.

From upgrading to dairying

San Carlos City, a formerly established political unit called “pueblo” and was originally a native settlement area during the Spanish era, started supporting the CDP actively in 1998 thru the leadership of its chief executive, then Mayor Rogelio Debulgado.

That was when the AI program set off to become one of the integral components

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A SERVICE WITH A SMILE TRAVERSES A THOUSAND MILE

By Joahna G. Goyagoy



MY ONLY DREAM IS FOR THE POOR FARMERS TO EAT SUFFICIENTLY EVERYDAY. I FOUND OUT THAT TO REALIZE THAT DREAM, THE CARABAO IS THE FARMER'S GATEWAY TO PRODUCE SUFFICIENT FOOD.



Using only crude tools and bare hands, the people in many remote areas in the southern part of Negros Occidental seem to move in slow motion in their agricultural pursuits. Remote as it is, their abodes are mostly at the foot of the mountain while the production areas are at its slope.

Such was the case in Barangay Dancalan, Ilog in Negros Occidental which is approximately 96 kilometers from Bacolod City. The village, though, is enveloped in productive land if cultivated well.

Nevertheless, the farmers didn't have the right tools for cultivation. Thus, it usually takes them several months before they can complete cultivating a hectare

of farmland. Because of this, some of the families can barely send their children to school. And some, if not all, still lived below the poverty line.

That was the situation when Fr. Patrick Hurley, a member of the Missionary Society of St. Columban (MSSC) whose homebase is in Ireland, visited the village. That visit inspired him to take chance in helping these people achieve a better life.

Seeing a farmer in Brgy. Dancalan in 1987 tending his land using only spades, he asked, "How long does it take you to finish cultivating your land with those tools?"

"It will take several months, Father," the farmer replied.

Father Hurley asked the farmer again



Bro. Pablito Gonzales





er-beneficiaries of the CLAI carabao
rsal program in Sipalay City,
os Occidental



Fr. Patrick Hurley

how he could be of help to make his work faster.

The farmer briefly replied, “A carabao is enough, Father.”

Since then, he started a carabao dispersal program which aimed at helping the poor farmers and less-privileged indigenous community members. He said, “My only dream is for the poor farmers to eat sufficiently everyday. I found out that to realize that dream, the carabao is the farmer’s gateway to produce sufficient food.”

With the help of Fr. Hurley’s friends in Ireland, he started the dispersal program. He received the fund assistance of his friends and, with the money, he purchased the animal and distributed it to the farmers.

Twenty years after, Fr. Hurley realized the need to institutionalize the dispersal program to help more farmers in Southern Negros. He convened and organized a core group of 18 people in Brgy. Binalbagan, Negros to help him in facilitating and institutionalizing the carabao dispersal program.

In 2007, the Columban Livelihood Association, Inc. (CLAI) was born. The CLAI acts as the central office in ensuring the sustainability of the program among the rural poor and indigenous people within the Diocese of Kabankalan, Negros Occidental. The association is composed of clergy, lay men, and lay women.

The group then began identifying more families who can benefit in the program via the parishes in certain barangays. The

parish then recommends an individual as a recipient. The parish, which oversees the sustainability of the program, helps the farmer find a carabao to take care of.

The old policy of the program entailed the farmer-recipient to give the first and third offspring of the animal to the association. The rest will go to the farmer. The dam, however, remains a property of the association. The animals which served as payback are then given to another group of recipients.

When the association was created, the policy was reformed to make the turn-over easier and give the recipient maximum benefit from the program. The new policy states that the recipient only gives back two offsprings to the association while the ownership of the dam and the rest of the offspring will go to the farmer.

For several years, after the CLAI was institutionalized in 2007, a total of 425 carabaos was dispersed benefitting about the same number of families.

“This data is only from 1997 up to the present. But between 1987 and 1996, we didn’t have a record since Fr. Hurley personally gave the animals to the farmers,” Pablito Gonzales, corporate secretary of CLAI, said.

“If we are to estimate the number of carabaos produced using the 20% productivity rate and if one parish was given four carabaos in 1987, then that number could have already reached at least 28 carabaos in 20 years,” he added.

Because the turn-over is very slow, Bro. Pablito conducted a research on assessing the impact of the carabao dispersal program in 25 years. The research was also part of his masteral degree on rural development.

From his research, it was found out that the animals reproduce very slowly, thus, the turn out for the program was sluggish. It was also found out that effective monitoring and evaluation system are essential strategies to keep

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THANKS TO PARTNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

CROSSBRED BUFFALOES MAKE A NEW HIGH FOR MAGALANG, PAMPANGA

By Carla F. Padilla

At the foot of the majestic and fabled Mount Arayat, on the western side, is a town known for many significance. The town, established in 1863, is Magalang, in the province of Pampanga.

Foremost is the fact that the residents are “respectful people”, a trait for which its name aptly describes. “Magalang” is a Tagalog word for “respectful”.

The town is host to Pampanga Agricultural College (PAC), one of the oldest institutions of learning in Central Luzon which is the center for agri-business education in the province. It is also home to a weather observatory established during the Spanish time and to a research station.

Magalang is a prosperous town as confirmed by its classification as a first class municipality. Being an agricultural town provides bounties that agricultural pursuits can provide. It is currently teeming with poultry houses, piggeries, inland fishponds, and other businesses.

In recent years, the town embarked in a development effort that all but points to a direction that can give to Magalang a respectable new identification. It is

girding to be called “the Crossbred Carabao Capital in Central Luzon”.

Unofficially, Magalang could have already clinched that title. The sheer number of crossbred carabaos in the whole town can speak for that.

It has currently 2,047 crossbred buffaloes.

These crossbreds, already providing milk as the major ingredients for the sweets business by a number of entrepreneurs in the town, are certain to launch many carabao-based enterprises for the farmers as another source of livelihood.

Strong partners

In 2003, as the town learned about the artificial insemination (AI) technology being promoted by PAC which has a strong linkage with PCC, its leader did not hesitate to embrace it.

The then town’s mayor, Pastor Guiao,

was briefed about the importance of the technology in the production of crossbred buffaloes which can be used by the farmers for other pursuits. He readily saw that the resulting crossbreds can bring the farmers of his town into a new realm of many opportunities for economic advancement.

Mayor Guiao immediately hired an AI technician, Crisanto Muñoz, to strongly pursue carabao upgrading in Magalang.

Muñoz at once provided AI services, monitoring, pregnancy diagnosis and other related services to the breedable



Mayor Romulo Pecson,
Magalang, Pampanga

carabaos owned by farmers who believed and accepted the new technology. He also consistently provided information to the other farmers who are still hesitant to adopt the program. He carried out these activities for free since he was already hired as a permanent employee of the local government unit of Magalang.

Mayor Guiao, on his own, continued pitching for the importance of the carabao crossbreeding program. He called on the farmers to submit their breedable carabaos for AI services and enjoy later the benefit of having animals that are far better in size and weight than native carabaos.

In due time, many farmers who answered the mayor’s call formed themselves into dairy associations.

Leadership by example

When the incumbent Magalang town executive, Mayor Romulo Pecson, assumed office, he did not only pursue the CDP that former Mayor Guiao established. He himself personally participated in it.

"I need to continue this program which was started by the former mayor. We should uphold service to the people over political differences. I saw the benefits of the CDP to the farmers here that's why I support it and even improved on some aspects of it," Mayor Pecson said.

True to his words, he yearly allocated Php100,000 yearly to support the existing dairy associations in Sitio Mapiña and barangays Bucanan, San Vicente,

for those lactating ones, I collect the milk for consumption at home," beamed Mayor Pecson.

He said that he always says to his guests: "Have a taste of Magalang's pride, the carabao's milk."

Of the 2,047 crossbreds in Magalang, 1,343 are females.

The mayor also said that the production of milk owing to the abundance of female crossbreds, provides for successful businesses among two of their famous establishments, the Carreon's and the Pabalan's Sweets".

"Their products are certainly tops because they use carabao's milk as the main ingredient," Mayor Pecson said.

"Here in our town in Magalang, we want to promote our selected 'One


According to Milagros Suing, the Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO) of Magalang, the secret of the success of their CDP and dairy enterprise particularly in Mapiña is "good leadership", "partnerships, and "strong initiatives".

"Mapiña is just a small place but the beauty in it is that the residents stand as one and they are trying their best to improve their dairying enterprise. The members should also be empowered in their responsibilities, otherwise, coordination will be lost if they don't become responsible enough," MAO Suing said.

The CDP in Magalang, from all indications, is going on smoothly and strongly. Other agencies are just but too glad and willing to help the program.

Among those which have already provided assistance to Magalang's CDP were the Department of Labor and Employment, which gave Php500,000 grant for the purchase of ten purebred Murrah buffaloes; the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) for product packaging and for its donation of one unit of portable milking machine; the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) which gave a dairy processing equipment and for product analysis; the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) for products certification; the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for various assistance; and the Office of the Governor for the needed building materials for the dairy processing building.

With strong the leadership in Magalang, plus strong support from its partners in CDP and the willingness and untiring efforts of the farmers involved in the program, this town at the foot of Mount Arayat is brimming with yet another abundance, which is the English term for the ancient Kapampangan word "Magalang".

This abundance is in the form of milk brought about by the production of many crossbred carabaos in this town. 



Mayor Pecson together with MAO Milagros Suing during the regular meeting of LGU-Magalang with its farmer-leaders.

Sta. Maria, and Balitucan. He also sees to it that the logistics necessary for the conduct of AI services in the 27 barangays of the town are attended to.

As further proof of his full support to the CDP in his town, Mayor Pecson himself decided to become one of the ardent adherents of the program. He purchased one purebred Bulgarian Buffalo and three native carabaos. He then submitted his native carabaos for AI. As if following a Gospel truth embodied in the CDP, he soon has for himself a respectable number of crossbreds, 20.

"I used my crossbreds for farming and

Town, One Product' which is carabao's milk. That's why we are fully supporting dairying," he said.

Other strong partners

In 2009, the PCC formally started assisting Magalang in improving the technologies and services on product processing, animal breeding, health, and marketing.

Currently, a dairy association in Sitio Mapiña leads in milk production. Its average daily collection of 226 liters of milk is being supplied to the Carreon's and Pabalan's Sweets establishments.

IN PANGASINAN AND LA UNION

PARTNERSHIPS, LINKAGES INVIGORATE CARABAO DEVELOPMENT

By Carla F. Padilla

In Pangasinan, specifically in Barangay Tulong, Urdaneta town, the special gift that the dairy carabaos generously delivers to rural families is not a strange matter. The “gift”, of course, is milk which is equivalent to cash and on a daily basis at that.

As early as 1997, selected farmer-members of the Tulong Multi-purpose Cooperative were provided with a 25-cow dairy module. They were assisted by the Budhi ng Pilipinas Foundation (Budhi) of former Sen. Leticia Ramos Shahani.

Although that initial effort encountered problems that posed setbacks in the continuous operation, several lessons were learned that were used as basis for the establishment of numerous other 25-cow modules in the different parts of the country, particularly in Nueva Ecija. Also, the importance of the carabao for other purposes other than being a draft animal has not been lost among the farmers in Pangasinan but also in La Union which are the service areas of the PCC at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University (PCC

at DMMMSU). Carabao development and carabao-based enterprises are moving on steadily well.

“It’s a rather long and slow process that we have here. But we are moving on and gaining successes,” center director Gloria dela Cruz said.

She said convincing farmers to have their own crossbreds, thru artificial insemination and the bull loan program, and for acquisition of crossbreds and even purebreds, are processes that involved patience, persistence, a lot of convincing and employment of strategies to achieve the desired outputs.

Despite the odds, 13 dairy cooperatives and associations have been established in Pangasinan, La Union, and Benguet. Outside of this, hundreds of farmers are now owning crossbred buffaloes through



Mayor Aldrin Cerdan,
Anda, Pangasinan



Center Director Gloria dela Cruz,
PCC at DMMMSU (left) and Mayor
Pablo Ortega San Fernando City,
La Union

the artificial insemination and bull loan program efforts.

Approaches employed

“We are always visited by Director dela Cruz. She keeps on encouraging our farmers to submit their carabaos for artificial insemination,” Mayor Aldrin Cerdan said.

On their part, Mayor Cerdan said, they are enthusiastic about the offer of the PCC to help in improving the breed of the farmer’s native carabaos. He said they are sure that it will bring a lot of good for the farmers and their families to have improved breed of carabaos.

“We always call on our barangay captains to prod them to involve the farmers owning carabaos in the carabao development program and carabao-based enterprise,” Mayor Cerdan, said. “Our town has been in partnership with the PCC since 1997. We take pride in saying

that our town is a strong partner of PCC in the carabao development program,” he added.

Mayor Cerdan, a veterinarian, knew too well that transforming the native carabao landscape to become predominantly crossbreds takes a long time and a lot of efforts to achieve the goals.

“We are relentless in our drive to have as many crossbreds as we can in our town. Even purebreds, if possible, but we know it is difficult to purchase female purebreds,” Mayor Cerdan said.

Mayor Cerdan said that his townmates are aware of the importance of having dairy-type carabaos. He said they are always reminded about it due to the “monument of dairy carabaos” put up on the municipal hall compound. The “monument” shows a dairy carabao being milked by the father as the mother and their child look on.

“This is proof that carabao dairying is already in the consciousness of our local officials and farmers,” Mayor Cerdan said. “In fact, we now have an organization, the Anda Carabao Raisers Association, which is a showcase of the carabao development program here,” he added.

The association, it was learned, was formed only last March.

The Anda mayor, along with another town mayor of Pangasinan, visited recently the PCC headquarters and Gene Pool to observe and learn more about the program and its components.

Center initiatives

In her office, after accompanying the staffers of the **PCC Newsletter** in a visit and interview with officials of San Fernando City in La Union and the mayor of Anda, Pangasinan, Center Director dela Cruz bared her initiatives in providing impetus to the CDP in her service area.

“We always go out and visit the local government officials, non-government organizations, and others to encourage them to join in the bandwagon for the CDP,” she said.

“We are always in the look-out for partnerships and linkages. We know these strategies will work well in this kind of program,” she added.

She, of course, knows, where she speaks off. She was formerly an AI technician before she became the center director in 2009.

“I always bring with me copies of project proposal and memorandum of agreement whenever I visit local government officials. I tell them that they initially work these templates for the implementation of the CDP in their respective areas,” Director dela Cruz said.

Then she would say other officials used the models and worked wonders. She would then mention the experience in San Fernando City which adopted the



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project proposal, with some changes, and submitted to two senators and a representative. The officials, she said, responded by giving Mayor Jane Ortega Php1.7 million for the CDP in that city.

She also said that the program of Mayor Ortega that strongly supports the CDP provides funding for the purchase of crossbred carabaos. This effort with the assistance given by Rep. Victor Ortega is complemented by a purchase of another batch of ten crossbred carabaos.

She said part of the approach to promote the CDP is the presentation of its objectives and components for Bauang, La Union. She would then present the plan adopted by Bauang headed by Mayor Eulogio Clarence Martin de Guzman.

“They would surely welcome the proposal and after some studies, certain town mayors adopted it. Now, they have a well-planned CDP in cooperation with the PCC,” Director dela Cruz said.

She said she is adopting a new approach, this time targeting officials of the barangays.

“I approach the officials and encourage them to set aside certain amount from their internal revenue allotment for the purchase of crossbred carabaos. Of course, they like the idea. It is an income generating project for the barangay,” she said.

Director dela Cruz said with 18 village-based artificial insemination technicians (VBAITS), they are doing extra hours of work to reach their target of 5,000 AI services in their coverage.

Insofar as carabao-based enterprise is concerned, Director dela Cruz takes pride in having two milk processing plants that were recently established in her area. One is in Umingan, Pangasinan thru its dairy cooperative and another in Barangay Tulong thru the initiative of former Sen. Leticia Shahani. These facilities are set to operate soon.

Incidentally, the town of Umingan has signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) with PCC for the carrying out of a Municipal Livestock Development plant (with emphasis on carabao) in coordination with other agencies, that stipulates a continuing support to the program.

In Barangay Umingan, in the same town, the barangay officials signed a MOA with PCC for the implementation of a program titled “Upgrading of Native/Crossbred Female Carabao through Artificial Insemination and Loaned-Out Bulls”.

“The carabao development program is working well in our area. We are applying partnerships, linkages, and other strategies that can work. We need to apply different strokes in order to achieve our goal,” Director dela Cruz concluded. 

BREEDING DAIRY FARMERS IN THE ILOCOS

By: Khrizie Evert M. Padre



Mayor Eva Marie Medina,
Vigan City, Ilocos Sur



MAO Nerlyn Narciso,
Marcos, Ilocos Norte



Mayor Eduardo
Piddig, Ilocos Norte

From zero knowledge and experience in dairying, the Ilocano farmers can lay claim to being the new breed of dairy farmers in the Ilocos province.

For more than a decade, the organized efforts and commitment of PCC at Mariano Marcos State University (PCC at MMSU), in partnership with the local government units (LGUs) with regard to the implementation of the Carabao Development Program (CDP) in the Ilocos region have paid off.

The PCC at MMSU covers the provinces of Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur, and Abra in carrying out its assigned tasks.

With the aid of reproductive technologies, the native carabaos of Ilocos farmers have evolved from merely being a draft animal into what it is now—a good source of milk. As a result, it created additional income and provided better nutrition to many rural households in the province.

In Marcos town

The town of Marcos in Ilocos Norte, considered as one of the province's largest areas, is called the “*Promise Land*” by the inhabitants because of its vast area of contiguous and rich delta areas. Its main source of livelihood is rice farming.

The PCC at MMSU got the attention of the town's executives about the CDP. The LGU officials willingly adopted it and welcomed the artificial insemination (AI) and bull loan programs. In time, Barangay Santiago came out with the most number of upgraded buffaloes.

“In 2001, Brgy. Santiago was identified to become the pilot site and impact zone of PCC at MMSU because of its interest to support the program and the proximity of the area to the regional center,” Grace Marjorie Recta, center director of PCC at MMSU, said.

The farmers, who are members of Timpuyog ti Santiago Farmers Association, were enticed to participate in the programs. Eighteen of them eventually became recipients of purebred buffalo heifers and the rest participated in the AI program.

Specific program interventions, personnel, and manpower and technical support from PCC at MMSU facilitated the smooth implementation of the program in Marcos town.

“The wide scale upgrading of the

carabaos in Marcos here increased the volume of milk production in our town. It inspired other barangays to actively participate in the implementation of the CDP,” Merlyn P. Narciso, municipal agricultural officer, said.

Currently, the barangays of Imelda, Mabuti, Lydia, Valdez, Daquioag, Fortuna, Pacifico, Escoda, Tabucbuc, Santiago, Ferdinand, and Elizabeth are active participants in the CDP.

Ordinances were passed to help sustain the program. One ordinance prescribed the mandatory ear tagging and issuance of records to all breeds of buffaloes within the town's jurisdiction.

Another ordinance regulated the moving out of female buffaloes from the municipality.

As of October this year, 452 upgraded carabaos were produced out of the AI and bull loan programs in Marcos.

Additional activities like animal vaccination against hemorrhagic septicemia, deworming, animal

treatment in cases of disease incursion, trainings on silage production, health care management, milking and processing are also provided thru collaborative efforts of the LGU, PCC at MMSU and the provincial government of Ilocos Norte on a cost-sharing scheme.

In Piddig town

The town of Piddig is quaintly spread on the peaks and slopes of rolling hills between the Guisit and Baramban rivers. Because of its composed, hilly terrain, the people called it “Pidipid” which means to compress or to compact. It was later changed to Piddig.

An agricultural town, Piddig produces rice, garlic, tobacco, sugarcane, and a variety of vegetables. Its chief cottage industry is weaving cloth for blankets, bathrobes, towels, bedsheets, pillows, and clothings which are highly saleable items.

The rice cropping season in the town is twice a year. In between, a work gap for three months makes farmers unproductive. In some areas of the town, there’s only single cropping which means a longer work gap for the farmers.

Engr. Eduardo Guillen, the town’s mayor, enthusiastically addressed the problem of the farmers by linking and collaborating with PCC at MMSU for the implementation of CDP in his town.

“It’s the ideal way of improving the productivity of farmers,” the Mayor said.

He said he allocated an initial amount of Php346,470 for the purchase of equipment and supplies for the AI project. A village-based artificial insemination technician (VBAIT) was also hired and an AI project coordinator was appointed.

Other interventions like providing a motorcycle to the AI technician and assignment of agricultural technologists in all the barangays were done.

A free massive animal deworming activity was also implemented as a veterinary support service to the farmers.

A total of 83 crossbreds have been produced so far thru the carabao

upgrading program. The program, he said, is viewed as a way to increase the animal population in the municipality ensuring the adequacy and sustainability of meat supply coming from the slaughtered unproductive animals.

In Vigan

The city of Vigan, from among its numerous recognitions, is listed as one of UNESCO’s World Heritage Sites and one of the few Hispanic towns left in the country. It is known for having cobblestone streets and buildings with unique architecture that fuses Philippine and Oriental designs and construction and inspired by colonial European architecture.

Vigan City, about 408 kilometers north of Manila, is the capital of Ilocos Sur.

City Mayor Eva Marie Medina saw the CDP as an effective tool for improving the quality of life of the rural farming families in her city.

She said an initial seed fund of Php885,000 was released for the purchase of dairy buffaloes for entrustment to qualified farmer-trustees. With assistance



THE CDP IS THE IDEAL
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from PCC, 25 head of dairy buffaloes were purchased in 2009.

“Our land area is small compared to other cities. The farmers here own mostly half-to one-hectare land areas. That’s why we are pushing this project to succeed,” she said.

Many farmers, Mayor Medina said, became interested in the program when they found out that they can earn more from dairy buffaloes than in rice farming.

The dairy buffaloes were given by PCC at MMSU in three batches. The first,

consisting of nine head, was given to Brgy. Rugsuanan.

The second and last were given to Brgys. Raois and Purok a Bassit with each receiving eight head of dairy animals.

The recipients who were given proper training in animal health and forage management, were required to turn-over the first female offspring to the LGU. The second and third female offspring will be the share of the farmer and the succeeding offsprings will be divided into a 50:50 sharing scheme. The collected offspring from the farmers will be transferred to new recipients of the program.

The stock will be entrusted to the farmer as long as it is productive.


Mayor Medina said that the initial milk production is purchased by the LGU for the milk feeding program for the malnourished children.

As her pet project, Mayor Medina looks forward to establishing a processing center for the city. This will be run by the LGU to ensure its quality and sustainability, she said.

“We are one of the poorest cities when it comes to Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA). Because of that, we are frugal in spending our income. We only put our money on programs that are mostly needed,” Mayor Medina said.

She said CDP is one of the programs that she thinks will help in providing additional income to her constituents.

“We want to make the program stronger and effective and eventually make dairy enterprise development as one of our economic interventions for the people to showcase that dairying is a viable industry in our city,” Mayor Medina added.

On the whole, the buffalo raisers in the Ilocos province have nothing but good words about the efforts of PCC at MMSU and its partners in uplifting their quality of life. 

PARTNERSHIPS ... (From page 9)

"With the current operations of our cooperatives, we can say that they have already gained their independence from the support of the LGU," Mayor Marivic Belena said.

She added that the coverage of the LGU's assistance to the cooperatives is on the provision of trainings and finding a market niche.

"The welfare of our dairy cooperatives are protected and enforced in the development thrusts of the city. We provide them with the necessary assistance. In fact, I personally find ways to present them to a very good market niche. For the meantime, the LGU is buying milk from a cooperative to sustain its milk feeding program," she said.

Mayor Belena was referring to the Eastern Multi-Purpose Cooperative (EMPC) in barangay Sibut. The coop was

one of the best milkers in San Jose City turning in a total of 26,829.25 liters this year.



WE LOOK AT OUR
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OUR YOUTHS AS WE
ENDEAVOR TO INCREASE
THE NUMBER OF DAIRY
FARMERS IN OUR CITY.



According to EMPC chairman Melchor Correa, the LGU, thru its "Agad Serbisong Bayan" project, buys an average of 300 to 500 packs, of 100 ml- to 150 ml-pack, of choco milk from them every week. This volume translates to an average income of Php20,000 per month for the coop, he said.

"We appreciate the LGUs' initiative to provide us continuing support. Its effort to expose us to different market opportunities has significantly helped our farmer-members to be all the more motivated," Chairman Correa said.

He added that the San Jose City LGU, thru its Cooperative Development Office, linked the coop to the Department of Science and Technology for a grant aid of Php115,000 worth of milk processing equipment such as a milk pasteurizer.

"We look at our continuing support to the dairy cooperatives as a way of providing our people with a sustainable source of healthy and nutritious food. We will also promote a culture of drinking

A SERVICE WITH A SMILE. ... (From page 19)

track of the number of animals that were dispersed since the program was initiated.

Partnership with PCC

In order to address some of the issues

TODAY, MANY OF THE FARMERS AND MEMBERS OF THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY WHO ARE BENEFITING FROM THE DISPERSAL PROGRAM STARTED BY FR. HURLEY ARE NOW BEAMING WITH HOPE FOR A BETTER LIFE.

especially the low reproduction rate of the animal, the CLAI strategized a plan to further help the families who were

given with carabaos. The CLAI started its partnership with the Philippine Carabao Center at La Carlota Stock Farm (PCC at LCSF) in 2010, right after they learned about the carabao upgrading program of the government.

The PCC then started facilitating artificial insemination (AI) services to the carabaos in Brgy. Dancalan. The following year, the CLAI sent two men for training at PCC at the University of the Philippines-Los Baños in Laguna to become village-based AI technicians.

To date, there are now 10 crossbreds in Brgy. Dancalan and 10 others that were given AI are pregnant.

With the carabao upgrading program and technical expertise from PCC, the mission of Fr. Hurley to help uplift the lives of poor farmers is being realized. The

reality is that the farmer will not only have an ally to work in his land but also an additional source of income once the animal starts to lactate.

"Working with the community is a continuing, tough process," Bro. Pablito, who has taken a vow to do missionary work, said.

"It entails a lot of groundwork to gain the confidence and trust of people to keep the project going. It's not easy but I believe that the love of Fr. Hurley to the poor people is real. And that inspires me to help him realize that dream," he added with his eyes glittering in tears.


Today, many of the farmers and members of the indigenous community who are benefiting from the dispersal program started by Fr. Hurley are beaming with hope. Not only do they have a daily food on their plate but they are now also capable of sending their children to school.

milk among our youths as we endeavor to increase the number of dairy farmers in our city,” Mayor Belena said.

She added she is also encouraging the youth to consider again agriculture as a better profession to tread on.


“Our economy is largely dependent on agriculture and many families, particularly in the countryside, depend on it,” she said.

Thru her leadership, Mayor Belena said, model farmers will be asked to point out to school children the importance of milk and in supporting the local dairy industry.

“Our children should hear more about our champion farmers’ success stories so that they will be inspired to drink carabao’s milk. With these stories, I’m sure they will also be enlightened on how well this venture can help many children like them earn higher education,” she declared. 

Bro. Pablito said that this task is a considerably gigantic task that will only push thru with the concerted efforts of the communities, local government units, government line agencies, parishes, and other private entities in making the program sustainable and equitably managed.

“PCC is helping us make that dream more possible in a very huge way,” he continued in a voice extending much hope.

As it is now, the goal of uplifting the lives of the poor people in Southern Negros is no longer that gigantic and daunting but indeed achievable. The strong partnership for the attainment of that goal—of using the carabao more than just a draft animal but as an animal that has been transformed into a “beast of fortune”, did just that. 

CALINOG STRIDES FORWARD WITH CDP

By Myrtle Alcazar

In Calinog, Iloilo, the town’s officials firmly believed that the carabao development program (CDP) will be their stepping stone toward a better future.

True enough, when the Calinognons (people of Calinog) learned about the program in September 2004, they, led by their town Mayor Alex Centena, consistently supported it. They selected three people to be artificial insemination (AI) technicians. The AI technicians became the torch bearers in the upgrading activities in the town.

Since then, a total of 139 crossbreds were produced though AI services. More are expected as there are 2,780 breedable carabaos in the area.

The program has placed Calinog to a big advantage in promoting agro-tourism in the town. Mayor Centena who is an agriculture enthusiast showcases the CDP especially during the week-long town’s feast day and other major celebrations.


Once a year, the Philippine Carabao Center at West Visayas State University (PCC at WVSU) awards top performing farmer-partners in Calinog who have relevant contributions in the program.

In regular meetings of local officials, their agenda always include the progress of information dissemination of the town’s CDP. Whenever guests are visiting the municipality, especially

the foreigners and *balikbayans*, they always take pride on introducing PCC as their strong partner. They are not allowed to leave without receiving carabao’s milk products as tokens of appreciation.

Many crossbred buffalo (CB) owners in Calinog are now engaged in carabao-based dairy enterprise, thanks to the Php6,000 fund granted by Alternative Learning System. This fund financed the purchase of milk processing materials and help crossbred owners to start their respective kitchen-type processing of milk products as a business venture within the locality.

All these efforts were carried out as Mayor Centena foresaw the steady increase of the population of CBs in Calinog. He is determined to establish Calinog as the center of dairy enterprise in Iloilo.

“As Gawad Saka for Agricultural Entrepreneurs awardee, I always believed that the CDP will provide endless opportunities for us, like generation of jobs and entrepreneurship that can somehow uplift the economic status of the Calinognon farmers,” Mayor Centena proudly said. 



Virgilio Canseran, an AI technician under the Provincial Government of Cagayan, is only but one of the many dedicated AI technicians in the province who serve as vital keys to the success of CDP in that area.

CASCADING A MASS-BASED... (From page 11)

immediately send in an AI technician. The tactic went well until it became a culture for us,” Mayor Padilla explained.

He said monitoring is an important key to successfully implement the CDP and that all the breedable female carabaos should be identified and inseminated at proper time.

That was how the population of the crossbreds in San Agustin rose to 1,599 to date, 89 of which are lactating. A good number of these animals are paraded every end of September in the town’s “Nuang Festival” and founding anniversary.

At present, Mayor Padilla said, their direction is to send more individuals to PCC to train on AI. Currently, San Agustin has three LGU- and village-based active AI technicians. They are complemented by 19 dairy-type bulls under the PCC’s bull loan program.

“Each barangay should have its own AI technician to cover all the breedable female native carabaos and crossbreds in the area,” he said.

This dedication earned San Agustin as one of the finalists in the “Galing Pook” award for crossbred buffalo production in 2010.

“I am challenged all the more,” Mayor Padilla said. “We have to surpass other people’s and even our own expectations. We can only do better if we keep our focus on sustaining the program as one-town and one-people.”

From years of the massive upgrading

program, San Agustin has organized farmers’ dairy cooperatives to hasten efforts, this time, on dairying. Currently, in cooperation with PCC, the San Agustin LGU is assisting 14 dairy cooperatives.

“I see a clear direction of our town toward dairying. We now have a good population of crossbreds to start with. As long as the government, thru PCC, never ceases to support us, we depend on the Carabao Development Program as our people’s means for empowerment,” Mayor Padilla said.

Provincial support

Looking at the same direction for countryside development, the provincial government of Isabela gives its all-out support to fuel efforts that will bring the benefits of the CDP to more farming families.

Governor Faustino Dy III, thru the provincial veterinary office headed by Dr. Angelo Naic, has made notable interventions to boost the development of the dairy industry in San Agustin.

The provincial government allotted Php5 million for the construction of four milk barns in barangays Mapalad, Virgoneza, Dabubu Grande, and Santos. These facilities were inaugurated last September during the town’s foundation day celebration.

An additional Php1.5 million was allotted for the establishment and maintenance of the Isabela Animal Center in Cauayan City which is seen as an


important infrastructure support for the government’s expanded AI program.

Complementing these initiatives, an additional funding of Php628,000 was earmarked for the conduct of massive AI in 17 municipalities and cities in Isabela according to provincial AI coordinator

I WANT TO SEE THE DAY WHEN OUR FARMERS ARE PRODUCING BIG VOLUMES OF MILK IN OUR AREA. IT WOULD MEAN THAT AGRO-INDUSTRIALIZATION IN THIS PART OF CAGAYAN HAS ARRIVED AND THAT OUR FARMERS ARE BENEFITTING FROM IT.

Sergio Galamgam.

He added that animal health services, such as vaccination, vitamin supplementation, and deworming, are supported by the fund.

“We recognize the necessity of our support in the CDP. We are sustaining our support because we have already established a good number of crossbred buffaloes in the area. We expect soon to see the tangible output of our collaborative efforts, which is high production of carabao’s milk,” Gov. Dy said. 

SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT...

(From page 13)

Php200,000 to Php400,000 this year.

This fund was used to purchase additional buffaloes for the three barangays of Putingkahoy, Itlutan, and Bagong Pook. Another 20 buffaloes, recently purchased by the LGU, were distributed to several other barangays thru the *paiwi* system.

Municipal Agriculturist Pablita Quizon said the farmers in Rosario, surprisingly, were able to produce 25 to 30 liters of milk daily. This amount of milk has even surpassed the daily target of the LGU of only 10 liters a day.

With enough supply of milk, the Rosario Dairy Raisers Association is now processing several milk products labelled "Rosario Dairy".

As a turn-out, many of the farmers in Rosario are now excited to savour the financial rewards of having dairy animals.

Pablita said that because the CDP is unfolding into a very viable source of living in Rosario, Mayor Manuel Alvarez himself ventured in purchasing carabaos which he lent to the farmers through the *paiwi* system.

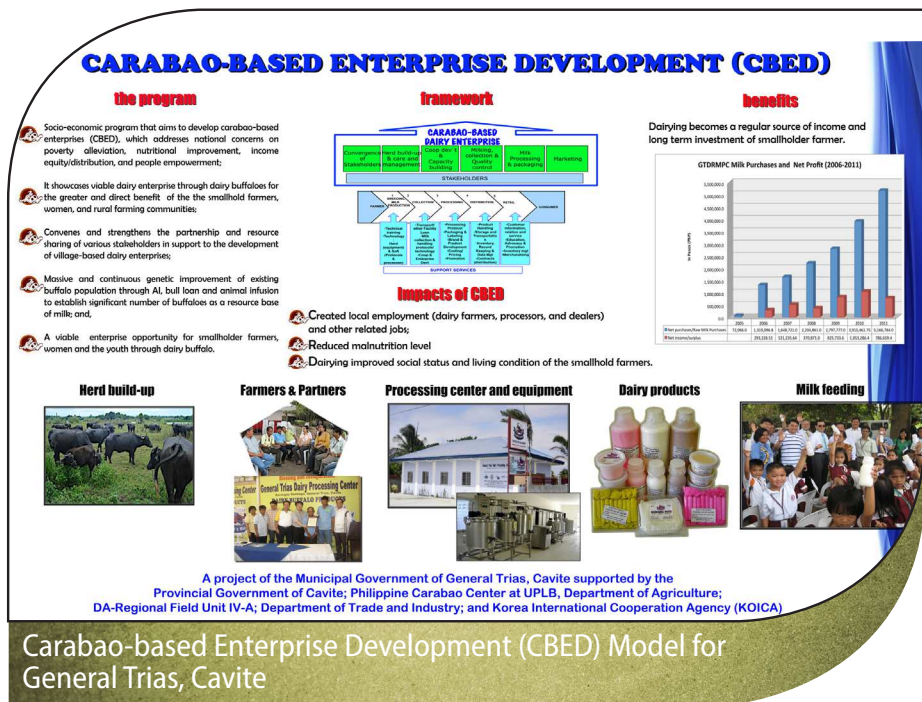
Recognizing the vital role of the CDP that it now plays in the lives of many farmers in Rosario, the CDP and other programs related to it are deliberately included in the 2013 Annual Investment Plan of the Rosario LGU.

"We believe that thru the continuous support of PCC at UPLB, more and more farmers will definitely have better means of living," Mayor Alvarez said.

The LGU of Rosario is also positive that it can finally have a regular milk feeding program to address the malnutrition concerns among the children in that town.

LGU-Magdalena

The town of Magdalena in Laguna has been regarded as the "Hollywood of the Philippines". This is particularly true



because of its beguiling, well-preserved rustic beauty. It has become a favourite place for shooting for local movies. Other than that, it is also home to the famous St. Mary Magdalene Church, a historical church built between 1851 and 1871. Its municipal hall, too, has been featured in many local films because of its Spanish architecture plus the fact that it is still mightily standing despite being century-old.

Like its municipal hall that withstood time, Magdalena town also strove hard to make the CDP embraced by the farmers.

"It took five years of constant estrus synchronization and AI activities before the farmers started to request AI services on their own," Mayor Teresa Nieva Reodica related.

The partnership between the LGU-Magdalena and PCC at UPLB started in 1997 when the town was chosen as one of the impact zones of the regional center.

With deliberate efforts, the LGU of Magdalena made provisions for carabao upgrading thru sending of technician for AI training, for the purchase of field nitrogen tank, and for the continuous estrus synchronization and artificial insemination activities. Its collaboration with PCC at UPLB also allowed the acquisition of the regional center's

services on bull loan program and the modified *paiwi* program that lent out four purebred calves, six crossbreds, and nine Island-born Brazilian purebreds.

The LGU soon took initiative in forming a dairy association which is the Magdalena Dairy Raiser Association (MaDRA). The association was formalized in 2009. Along with this, the LGU also embarked in providing regular dewormer and vitamin A,D, and E for the animals.

To ensure that the program works effectively, the LGU initiated regular activities including monitoring of animals, meeting with and continuous assistance for MaDRA, provision of kitchen-type processing facility, and assisting the dairy association for its market linkage where they were able to establish a direct market with the white cheese makers in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Currently, the LGU of Magdalena is establishing four markets for the milk and milk products of MaDRA and other dairy farmers. These markets are for raw milk for white cheese producers, raw milk for Indian nationals, processed milk for schools, and processed milk for locals. This way, according to Mayor Reodica, it ensures that the dairy farmers won't have

Continued on page 31

IN REGION 10

ESTABLISHING RAPPORT SUSTAINS CARABAO DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

By Joahna G. Goyagoy

More than its extraordinary draft power that small machines cannot match up for certain farm works, the carabao has emerged as the farmer's source of daily cash.



Catalino Soriano, OIC,
Malaybalay Stock Farm,
Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

“

WE JOIN HANDS TO
IMPROVE FURTHER
THE CARABAO
DEVELOPMENT
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WE BOTH AIM TO HELP
THE FARMERS HAVE A
BETTER LIFE THRU THE
IMPROVED BREEDS OF
ANIMALS.

”

This newfound role of the carabao is very much in the consciousness of the Malaybalay Stock Farm (MSF) in Dalwangan, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon. Thus, this entity embarked in supporting the carabao development program (CDP) as it works in a big complementary way with the Philippine Carabao Center at Central Mindanao University (PCC at CMU).

The Malaybalay Stock Farm is under the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Unit X. It serves as the agricultural research center in Northern Mindanao, particularly in region 10.

Its main function deals with intensifying production of genetically superior breeding animals particularly cattle, horse, goat, and sheep, and the production of improved forage and

pasture grasses. It also conducts, in a great deal, livestock researches.

Founded in 1938. It was first known as “Dalwangan Stock Farm”. It stopped its operations during the World War II and a few years after resumed its formal operation only in 1950. Its central focus then was on cattle production in the whole of Region 10.

The MSF functions soon expanded and evolved into horse breeding, liquid nitrogen (LN₂) production and distribution, forage and pasture grass production and distribution, artificial insemination services (AI) and pregnancy diagnosis (PD), animal care, consultation, and treatment; livestock dispersal program to LGUs and multipliers, and on-the-job or industry trainings for students and farmers.

The PCC at CMU and MSF, both as research centers, work together in the implementation of the CDP. The MSF regularly supplies LN₂ to PCC at CMU and also to PCC at Mindanao State University and PCC at University of Southern Mindanao.

Aside from this, MSF also serves as a training area of PCC at CMU for AI and PD for buffaloes.

When MSF received the requested two bulls from PCC at CMU, it started its frozen buffalo semen collection last March. This initiative was meant to address scarcity of available buffalo semen in region 10.

The collection is twice a week producing 25 to 30 straws of frozen semen.


“Our facility for buffalo semen collection is still limited at the moment. And we hope to expand this activity to facilitate intensified semen collection and frozen buffalo semen production in the whole of region . With this, we hope to reach more farmers who need the program most,” says Catalino Soriano, OIC of the farm.

He added that the farmers in Region 10 are now getting used to having an upgraded carabao breed.

“This is because they already witnessed how a crossbred or even a purebred carabao can make their work faster and easier. Much more than that, they have doubled income as they start milking their animals,” he added.

Catalino said that as long as the PCC needs their help, they will selflessly offer their services.

In response, Center Director Lowell Paraguas said that the Malaybalay Stock Farm has indeed become a partner in intensifying the government’s efforts on the carabao upgrading program.



“This effort of MSF, which is beyond their mandate, may seem very minute but it has a rippling effect among the farmer-beneficiaries in region 10 who look up to an upgraded breed of carabao as a means for having a better life.” 

SUSTAINING DEVELOPMENT. . . (From page 29)

to worry whenever their milk collection increases.

Municipal Agriculturist Cecelia Sy also shared that they already have a dairy farmer who earns Php8,000 per month from milk alone while another dairy farmer was also able to collect a total of Php20,000 from dairying.

As early as this time, the LGU-Magdalena is identifying the second batch of dairy farmers association while it continuously support the development of MaDRA.

 THE CDP, MAYOR REODICA SAID, IS GIVING THE FARMERS A RENEWED HOPE FOR A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE AS THEIR INCOME FROM THEIR BUFFALOES RELIEVES THEM FROM THEIR MOUNTING FINANCIAL DEBTS. 

LGU-Jala-jala

Jala-jala town was once a top producer of milk, circa 1687. Its rich vegetative area was found suitable for livestock raising, hence, the natives engaged in it to increase the milk and meat that they supplied to their customers. Accounts said that the supplies were used to support a hospital at Los Baños in Laguna.

With the passing of time, however, the dairy cattle industry slowly faded in the picture.

In 1998, the town of Jala-jala felt the urgent need to revive its dairy industry.

“Dairying is very important in Jala-jala’s over-all economic development. This town once engaged in dairying and many locals depended on this kind of livelihood passed on to them by their ancestors,” Eliner delos Santos, municipal

agriculturist, said.

This, Eliner further said, was the premium reason why they needed to revive their dairy industry.

“This time, though,” he added, “we needed to increase the animal’s milk production to give the farmers more income. This is where the important role of PCC came in.”

Eliner, together with PCC staff members and AI technicians, went from one barangay to another in Jala-jala and started their massive information campaign about CUP and performed the ensuing AI services.

It took several painstaking years, however, before the people of Jala-jala were convinced. It was all worth the hard work, though, Eliner said.


The initiatives and the staunch support of the LGU to the CDP has resulted in forming the Llano Farmers Multi-purpose Dairy Cooperative and the putting up of a dairy plant with 200-liter capacity.

Today, there are now about 500 carabaos in Jala-jala. From this number, about 300 are crossbreds, majority of which are now being milked by the farmers.

“Developing our dairy industry is a very big challenge to us especially now that we will need more animals to sustain the growing demand for milk supply from nearby towns and cities,” Eliner said.

On the brighter side, he added, the program enables many of the townspeople to earn a livelihood without having to work outside their own town.

As the LGU of Jala-jala continuously supports and strengthens its CDP, it feels positive that in two to three years from now, Jala-jala will be enthroned in the pedestal of being the “Milk Capital of the Province of Rizal”.

These stories derived from these four towns only proved that teamwork spells success; hence, with LGU collaborative works, the CDP has no other direction to go to but forward. 

CITIES OF BAGO. . . (From page 17)

of the economic agenda of the city for livestock development.

One of the pioneering AI technicians in the city also began his journey in wanting to contribute to the national program for upgrading the native swamp buffaloes to become high producers of milk and meat.

He knew then that his work will lead to a bigger goal of transforming the carabao to become a commodity that can usher in additional incomes for smallholder farmers.

He is Rolando Luage, now the agricultural center chief of San Carlos City's Agriculture Office.

"Our city government gave full support to the operations with the ultimate intention of pursuing enterprises that are

are focused on showcasing carabao-based enterprise in its impact barangay called Codcod.

This barangay, Luage said, is a remote area located about 1.9 km from the city proper.

"Whenever we serviced that barangay, we had to commute and negotiate a rough and steep terrain. We also had to stay in the barangay for three nights so that we can cover a sufficient number of carabaos," he added.

Codcod has some 9,000 head of native carabaos. About half of this number, Luage said, are breedable females. Currently, the LGU has a multi-purpose cooperative in this impact zone for carabao-based enterprise development.

Since 2004, the joint undertaking of

trust in the program. When these farmers were already raising crossbred buffalo calves, the others followed suit," Luage said.

Now, he further said, crossbred buffalo owners are very satisfied because they can sell their one-year old carabao up to Php55,000.

As it is committed to the government's carabao upgrading program thru AI, the city government established an Agricultural Breeding Center.

The facility was built to showcase through continuous upgrading of the carabao crossbreeding and backcrossing. It also included related activities such as breeding, milk collection, and handling.

To date, the center has 19 crossbred buffaloes. Some of these were acquired



San Carlos City Agricultural Center Chief Rolando Luage shows here the San Carlos City's breeding stock farm as part of the LGU's effort to boost the carabao upgrading program.

carabao-based," Luage said.

He added that the LGU allotted some Php280,000 this year for the conduct of AI "to ensure that the potential of the carabao will be harnessed to provide improved incomes for its raisers."

Aside from this budget, another Php400,000 was allotted for milk feeding of school children and out-of-school youths.

He said that majority of the development efforts of San Carlos City

the PCC and the LGU resulted in 1,153 AI services.

"The initial years of the program were grueling. We had to deal with the farmers' apprehensions about AI because of the animal's difficulty in pregnancy," Luage recalled.

Other than that, he said, there were no other negative feedbacks about the program.

"We started by enjoining the participation of farmers who have high

from farmers thru the LGU's buy-back program.

Despite the hurdles that almost dampened their enthusiasm in realizing the program's benefits for the farmers, Luage has only the best things to say about his works.

"Patience and hard work are indeed the virtues that the actors in implementing the CDP should possess. We will sustain our efforts and continue on convincing the farmers to engage in carabao dairying.

PCC'S OUTSTANDING VBAIT IS 2012 GAWAD SAKA AWARDEE

By Anselmo S. Roque

This year's Gawad-Saka awardee for large animal raising is not only raising his quality animals or sharing his animal through paiwi system (trusteeship) but also helps others in Region I in order to own quality dairy carabaos.

Francisco Alex Dani Pasion, 44, of Marcos, Ilocos Norte, is a "barefoot technician" or a village-based artificial insemination technician (VBAIT) and is president of a VBAIT cooperative, which he was instrumental in organizing.

Pasion, one of this year's 23 outstanding organization and individual "Gawad Saka" awardees of the Department of Agriculture, received his award from Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala. The ceremony was held at the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) here.

A graduate of a vocational course in refrigeration, Pasion used to work as refrigeration technician in his hometown and nearby towns. When he learned that the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) was looking for prospective VBAITs in 1996, he did not hesitate to volunteer. When he returned home after the training and having been accredited by PCC as a VBAIT, he started offering his services for free to fellow members of "Timpuyog Farmers Association".

They found them to be reluctant in entrusting the fate of their precious animal for breeding using a technology offered to them by a fellow farmer who trained for only 21 days.

To overcome the "diak pati diak kita" (wait and see) attitude, he used the technology to their family-owned native carabao. The good results made other farmers to come forward and request for AI services for their respective carabaos.

He also bought a native carabao of his own which he subjected to AI to produce dairy carabao crossbreds.

From 2005 to 2011, records provided by the PCC at Mariano Marcos State University in Batac, Ilocos Norte showed that Pasion posted an initial 25 AI services in 2005 that ballooned to 459 in 2011. In seven years, he rendered a total of 1,312 AI services in his assigned area in the regional impact zone and in some areas in Claveria, Cagayan and Abra. For the services he rendered, he was paid a total of Php656,000.

A VBAIT, it was learned, is paid Php500 when the animal becomes pregnant. The semen from quality dairy buffalo bull, which is used for insemination to native carabaos to produce crossbreds which yields more milk than the native carabaos, is given free by the PCC.

His practices as a VBAIT earned for him the "Outstanding Village-based AI Technician" recognition given by PCC during its anniversary celebration in March 2012. His documented practices included 100 per cent monitoring of the serviced animal, assigning identification numbers to the dams he provided AI service and to the newly-born female calves. He also helped the farmers in the issuance of individual animal records and in animal registration.

From his earnings, he was able to acquire a three-hectare riceland, a four-wheel tractor, a hand-tractor, a thresher, a motorcycle, an eight-seater jeepney, a laptop, and several appliances.

But on top of all of these, Pasion helped in strengthening the ties among his fellow VBAITs and in preparing

themselves toward full privatization.

In 2008, with him making a strong pitch, the Association of Ilocano Inseminators (ASIN) was formed. He became its president. As a move further forward, the association was elevated to "Ilocano Artificial Inseminators Credit Cooperative".


"We now have 30 members that include ten personnel from the PCC. With Php2,000 each member as capital share, we now have Php50,500 capital share and a fund collection of Php224,725," Pasion said.



Alex Pasion with his Plaques of Recognition from the Malacañan and the Department of Agriculture.

"We have become cohesive. We do not compete with one another and we improve our system to be of big help to the carabao development program in our areas," Pasion said.

On his own, he has six crossbred carabaos, two of which are lactating and has seven animals given to farmers in the neighborhood under the "paiwi" system. Under the system, they share in the offspring and the milk harvest.

"I am very, very happy," Pasion said after receiving his award. "With my cash award, I will buy more quality female carabaos. There's big opportunity to earn money by raising dairy carabaos and on a daily basis at that," he added. 



WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO HAVE ACCESSED THE AI TECHNOLOGY AND WILL CONTINUE USING IT. WE PLAN TO ENGAGE OUR FARMERS IN DAIRYING BECAUSE MILK PRODUCTION WOULD BE VERY HELPFUL IN ALLEVIATING MALNUTRITION IN OUR MUNICIPALITY.



Hewing close to the Chinese adage “a journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step”, the partners of carabao development in Northern Samar did just that. They started with the initial small step and later embraced bigger steps for their journey in what they consider as pivotal undertaking in their province.

The undertaking is relevant and significant as it strikes deep directly to the life of *Nortehanons* (people from Northern Samar), particularly the farmers. Theirs is a practice that requires the steps of their carabao. They prepare the land preparation for lowland rice production thru *payatak*.

Payatak is a system of land preparation in rainfed lowland farmland that makes no use of the plow such as those seen in other rice farming practice. Rather, the carabao is harnessed to walk on soil

NEED FOR MORE, HEAVIER LEGS SPURS CARABAO DEVELOPMENT IN NORTHERN SAMAR

By Ivy Fe Lopez

over and over until it is puddled enough for transplanting the rice seedlings. Understandably, more and heavier carabaos have an added value in the system.

Nortehanon carabao development champions are in the process of demonstrating such principle in their journey towards increasing the contribution of the carabao in the local economy. The Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) has started accelerating their efforts towards this end by playing a very active lead role in carabao development advocacy and activities on the ground. These include recruitment and mentoring of artificial insemination (AI) technicians, bull loan beneficiaries as well as starting the augmentation of carabao milk processing. Working hand in hand with the PVO are the municipal Local Government Units (LGUs) and Village-Based AI Technicians (VBAITs).

Acceleration of carabao development activities begun in 2010 when the provincial government became one of the sites of a convergence project undertaken by the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and the Department of Environment

and Natural Resources (DENR). Realizing the importance of carabaos in the local economy, the province included carabao development as one of the activities of the convergence project.

The provincial government, led by Governor Paul Daza, has designated the PVO to take the lead in the carabao development activities. Provincial veterinarian Dr. Jose Luis Acompañado then assigned PVO's Breeding Section as Coordinating Unit in the province. Two additional staff previously trained on AI were assigned into the section. One of them, Dr. Joselito Lluz, was designated as Unified National Artificial Insemination Program's (UNAIP) Provincial AI Coordinator. Another staff, Dr. Casiano B. Tejero was sent for training on Basic AI and Pregnancy Diagnosis at PCC at Ubay Stock Farm (PCC at USF). Breeding section chief Dr. Elvi Abelardo Asis, then proceeded with advocacy activities to the municipal local government units. These included recruitment of AI technicians and scheduling of AI activities.

Starting in the month of August 2011, estrus synchronization followed by AI was conducted in Catarman, Catubig, Lavesares, Capul and Las Navas. ES-AI

was done mostly by the PVO and PCC technicians. However, in Capul and Las Navas, PVO and PCC technicians took another role: serving as mentors for newly-trained AI technicians, Dr. Vincent Catucod (Capul) and Dr. Salvacion Dianito (Las Navas). Such activities resulted in a remarkable increase in AI services provision; from less than 50 services annually in the previous years, the total number of services increased to more than 300.

of them are already capable of doing AI themselves.

Early in 2012, LGU-Catarman jumped into the bandwagon. Mayor Rolando Carpio sent the Municipal Veterinarian (Dr. Loreta Lawas) and her staff (Dr. Vivencio Moreno) to the Basic AI and PD Training in PCC at USF. At the same time, the LGU recruited five (5) VBAIT aspirants to the five-day preparatory training at PCC at Visayas State University. The group then conducted

nutrition in the municipality.”

“Many farmers are already submitting their carabaos for AI; however, there are still some who are hesitant. There is still a need for more dissemination activities; however this may change quickly when they see the offspring produced from our AI activities,” commented Marlon Legarce, a VBAIT aspirant from Barangay Caligang, Catarman.

In July 2012, three more LGUs adopted the AI activities: San Roque, Laoang and



Payatak is a system of land preparation in rainfed lowland farmland that makes no use of the plow. Instead, the carabao is harnessed to walk on soil over and over until it is puddled enough for transplanting the rice seedlings.

During these activities, the AI team realized the need to recruit more technicians in order to be of better service to carabao owners. Scheduling of follow-up AI services is difficult and most of the areas to be served were far. Recruitment of new technicians was then undertaken, both during the AI activities and in other provincial-level fora. To add up to the basic AI and PD training participants, five-day preparatory trainings followed by mentoring through actual AI in the field were also done for VBAIT aspirants (3 from Capul and 2 from Las Navas). They then assisted the PVO, PCC and LGU technicians in conducting AI as part of the mentoring process; lately some


ES-AI with PVO and PCC mentors. Since then, the group has provided ES-AI services monthly; as of August 2012 they have already provided 180 services in Catarman.

“We are very happy to have accessed the AI technology and will continue using it. We plan to engage our farmers in dairying because milk production would be very helpful in alleviating malnutrition in our municipality”, says Mayor Carpio. Dr. Lawas expressed her appreciation in being able to access the AI technology for improving the carabaos in Catarman, saying “In Catarman alone, 1 to 3 carabaos are slaughtered for meat daily, indicating its important contribution to

Pambujan. The ES-AI and mentoring activities have already resulted in the provision of more than 100 AI services in these municipalities.

In addition to the AI activities, there were also farmers who applied to PCC’s Bull Loan Program. A total of ten bulls is due for release in the province for 2012.

The PVO was also able to facilitate training on sanitation in milk processing for farmers in San Francisco, Catubig at PCC at VSU. These farmers are traditionally processing soft white cheese (kesiyo) from carabao’s milk.

Much still has to be done in Northern Samar. However, the journey has already begun and more legs are stepping in. 



Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy III (1st from left) and Vice Gov. Rodolfo Albanao III (2nd from right), together with PCC at CSU Center Director Franklin Rellin (next to Gov. Dy), with San Agustin Mayor Virgilio Padilla of Isabela, lead the ceremonial inauguration of the four milk barns constructed in four barangays in San Agustin, Isabela. These dedicated leaders, in cooperation with the other movers of the Carabao Development Program, make the program realize its full benefits in uplifting the lives of smallholder farmers in the rural communities.