Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO RESTORE FOOD SECURITY AND ENHANCE FOOD PRODUCTION AND RESILIENCE IN TYPHOON AFFECTED COMMUNITIES IN LANAO DEL NORTE (REGION X) AND LANAO DEL SUR (BARMM), MINDANAO

July 2019

SDGs:

Countries:	The Philippines
Project Codes:	TCP/PHI/3701
FAO Contribution:	USD 500 000
Duration:	18 July 2018 to 31 May 2019
Contact Info:	FAO Representation in The Philippines FAO-PH@fao.org

Implementing Partners

Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Agrarian Reform (MAFAR), Department of Agriculture (Region X) (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR).

Beneficiaries

Typhoon affected rice farming households; Farmer trainers; Government technicians, officials and representatives.

Country Programming Framework

Country Outcome 3 – Reduced vulnerabilities among individuals and families and just and lasting peace achieved.

BACKGROUND

The Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters. An average of 20 typhoons affect the country ever year, some of which result in significant damage. On 22 December 2017, Severe Tropical Storm (STS) Tembin made landfall in the Cateel municipality of the Davao Oriental province, and it proceeded to cross other provinces in Northern Mindanao and Palawan. The storm intensified into a typhoon the following day. Overall, it caused flooding in over 230 areas in various regions, as well as flash floods and landslides, and it displaced more than 300 000 individuals.

Most of the areas affected by STS Tembin were highly dependent on agriculture (various crops, poultry, livestock and fisheries). The storm destroyed crops and killed livestock, causing humanitarian and economic crises for 158 923 families. The DA reported a loss of USD 4.7 million (Philippine Peso [PHP] 234 907 912) in the agricultural sector. Rice and corn were the crops that were hit hardest, with rice accounting for 58 percent of the total loss and corn accounting for 39 percent.

Two of the areas affected by STS Tembin were Lanao del Norte, located in Region X, also known as Northern Mindanao, and Lanao del Sur, located in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM). These regions were home to many smallholder farmers whose livelihoods and food security were at risk. These areas also contained evacuation centres and host communities for displaced people who had been forced out of their homes by the Marawi conflict in 2017. The STS Tembin further aggravated the living conditions and jeopardized the livelihoods of these people.

The project provided emergency support to promote the restoration of the livelihoods of 1 970 farming households, or 9 850 people in the Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur provinces. Without this emergency support, farmers in those areas risked missing the cropping season, which is critical for both food security and ensuring seasonal income sources.

The emergency support consisted of the provision of seeds and fertilizers, as well as capacity building activities for local government officials and representatives. The topics of these training sessions focused on resilient rice-based farming systems, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM), Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) and cash-based transfers for vulnerability reduction and disaster response.

IMPACT

The distribution of seeds and fertilizers provided emergency support to smallholder farmers in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur, which supported the restoration of income-generating activities and the reduction of food insecurity. The capacity building sessions were expected to lead to improved disaster response preparedness by providing local stakeholders with knowledge on resilient farming systems and Disaster Risk and Reduction Management (DRRM) Plans of Action. These elements combined were expected to support the restoration of agricultural livelihoods and enhance food production and resilience in the Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur communities.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS

The project achieved the expected outputs in terms of the provision of emergency support and capacity building and in some areas, surpassed initial goals.

The original target of providing rice seeds and fertilizers to 9 000 people was surpassed by 750, meaning that the target number of beneficiaries was exceeded by 9 percent. Another successful element can be seen in the planting of rice. Originally, the project aimed to plant 1 800 ha of resilient rice varieties (800 in Lanao del Norte and 1 000 in Lanao del Sur) but in the end, 1 970 ha were planted (900 in Lanao del Norte and 1 070 in Lanao del Sur). The project also targeted training 45 Local Government Unit (LGU) personnel and other relevant government staff in DRRM, but was able to build the capacity of an additional participant, reaching a total of 46.

All goals related to the coordination and organization of the distribution centres and the actual distribution of the agricultural inputs were achieved. This included the implementation, coordination and organization of a workshop which led to the establishment of a Project Management Office (PMO) at the World Food Programme (WFP) compound in Iligan City to facilitate close coordination with other project partners. A series of meetings was held with MAFAR-BARMM and provincial and municipal agriculture officers to create an implementation plan for the distribution of agricultural inputs and coordinate reporting. Site and selection criteria for the identification of beneficiaries and the validation of fields were finalized by MAFAR-BARMM, the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office (DA – RFO X) and DAR. There were no issues with the procurement of agricultural inputs, which included 1 970 bags of certified rice seeds, 1 800 bags of Urea fertilizers (50 kg each) and 1 800 bags of complete fertilizer (50 kg each).

The completion of the aforementioned activities led to the successful distribution of emergency supplies. One bag of certified rice was distributed to each of the 1 970 farming households identified as beneficiaries. Of these, 1 600 bags were for lowland and 370 bags for upland rice ecosystems. One bag of Urea fertilizer and one bag of complete fertilizer were delivered to 1 800 households (HHs), and the DA provided additional fertilizer assistance.

In order to support the adoption of resilient rice-based farming systems, a series of training sessions was held. Twenty-eight agricultural department staff from provincial and municipal offices, as well as farmer technicians, attended Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions. Of these, 19 were men and nine were women. The ToT sessions resulted in the training of 225 DA technicians and local farmer technicians. The topics of these sessions included cropping pattern adjustment, integrated pest management and fertilizer and nutrient management. At the village level, trainings on resilient rice-based farming systems were conducted for a total of 697 farmer beneficiaries. Community seed banks were also established for the resilient rice varieties. A total of 950 beneficiaries and government personnel were trained on resilient rice-based farming systems.

In addition to these training sessions, nine season long Climate Smart Farmer Field Schools (CS-FFS) were conducted to capacitate farmers further on resilient rice-based farming systems and the use of appropriate adaptation technologies given the vulnerability and risks posed by natural hazards. These season long training activities were completed by 299 farmers.

A total of 441 beneficiaries in nine municipalities in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur participated in capacity building activities on the preparation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture.

Forty-six government officers from provincial to *barangay* (village or neighborhood) level were trained on the formulation of these plans. Follow-up sessions were held in each province in order to allow National Government Agencies (NGA) to present their respective Projects/Programs/Activities (PPA) to generate support for the interventions identified in the DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture. Municipal level sessions were also held to allow stakeholders (especially farmers) to provide comments and technical feedback on the work and financial plans. A regional forum for stakeholders was conducted in each province as well, in which BARMM and Region X provincial, municipal and local government units and farmer group representatives participated. This activity allowed key stakeholders to provide feedback and generate technical and financial assistance for the implementation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture. The sessions led to the formulation of these plans for the nine municipalities.

Two provinces benefited from EWEA capacity building sessions. Municipal agriculture officers, DRRM officers, planning development officers and social work and development officers from focus municipalities and provincial government representatives attended the training workshop. A total of 38 officers attended, 15 of whom were men and 23 were women. These workshops succeeded in enhancing the capacities of local governments to address the impacts of natural and other hazards in order to further support the development of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture.

Integrated into the EWEA session was further training on cash-based transfer and social protection for vulnerability reduction and disaster response. This training provided technical knowledge on the principles of EWEA in fostering immediate interventions to safeguard agricultural livelihoods and mitigate the impacts of El Niño, which affected the provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur in the early part of 2019.

An End of Project Performance Assessment (EPPA) workshop was conducted to determine the project's effectiveness, efficiency and relevance. The total number of attendees was 62 and the original target number was 80. The workshop captured and documented good practices, key lessons learned, challenges, recommendations on preparedness and response to future shocks and other experiences that came out of the implementation of activities.

Implementation of Work Plan

Overall, the project was implemented within the planned time frame and allotted budget. MAFAR provided the oversight of project implementation.

The project team leader, in collaboration with the commodity coordinator of MAFAR-BARMM and provincial and municipal agriculturists prepared the project implementation plan, which was endorsed by the former MAFAR-BARMM Secretary. The project implementation plan included, among other things, a list of proposed priority sites and beneficiaries, the beneficiary selection criteria, agricultural inputs with technical specifications, a detailed work plan, sustainable rice production technologies training activities and DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture with implementation strategies and monitoring systems.

The accountability to affected population framework was also embedded in the implementation design, particularly in various capacity building activities and in sourcing and delivering area appropriate inputs, using beneficiary sensitive distribution protocols, communicating guidelines and input information to affected farming communities.

A technical briefing about the quality, specifications and handling and use of the agricultural inputs was done through orientation meetings with staff from MAFAR-BARMM prior to the distribution of inputs to beneficiaries. Provincial and municipal agriculture personnel functioned as resource persons and, as government counterparts, rendered their services free of charge.

The establishment of the PMO at the WFP compound in Iligan City maximized complementation and sharing of resources, and fast tracked the smooth delivery of inputs and other interventions to the target areas, thanks to the close communication between implementing partners that it fostered.

A DRR specialist was engaged as project focal person tasked with the provision of technical support for the preparation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture in each of the nine project municipalities to strengthen LGU capacities in dealing with hazards and disasters. In addition, two project assistants were hired as support staff responsible for providing backstopping in the running of the season long CS-FFS and other activities, such as in profiling, the validation of the beneficiary list, the distribution of inputs, and monitoring and assessment of the project provisional outcomes.

One issue was with regards to the attendance of the EPPA workshop. Its target was 80 officials, but only 62 were able to attend. This was attributed to the fact that local elections had just concluded all over the country, and government workers were occupied for that reason. Some challenges were also faced in relation to logistical arrangements (i.e. mobility of facilities and support).

Follow-up for government attention

It is strongly recommended that LGUs mainstream the DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture in existing municipal plans, such as the Municipal DRRM Plan or the Municipal Agricultural Plan, to ensure food security and the resilience of agricultural livelihoods.

It is also advised that DA and LGU offices integrate continued monitoring of the project's impact as part of their regular programmes. Issues related to logistical arrangements for mobility of facilities and support should also be addressed by LGU counterparts to facilitate this regular monitoring.

It is further recommended that the DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture be treated as living documents. As such, they should be updated to respond to dynamic agricultural systems in the face of hazards and changing climate conditions.

The final recommendation is that the documentation compiled at the EPPA workshop be shared with other relevant agencies and organizations, because it contains valuable information on good practices, lessons learned, challenges and other experiences.

Sustainability

1. Capacity development

This project built the capacities of various stakeholders in the rural farming communities of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. The topics covered in the capacity building workshops included resilient rice-based farming systems, the formulation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture, EWEA training and cash-based transfer and social protection. Various ToT sessions were carried out successfully and repeated at local level in order to disseminate the information and build the capacities of as many stakeholders as possible. In this way, participating communities will be better prepared to deal with natural disasters and the changing climate.

In addition to these capacity development activities, FAO and its government counterparts established a monitoring and evaluation system during the inception phase of the project to monitor its impact and sustainability through focus group dialogues and interviews. The monitoring of project results and capacity building activities, such as the organization of CS-FFS and training on resilient rice-based farming systems, will be respectively integrated into the regular monitoring and evaluation and extension programme of the DA.

The DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture were co-crafted by FAO and LGU partners as an integral part of the municipal DRRM plans. The LGUs pledged to include interventions identified in the DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture in the forthcoming 2020 annual investment plan for implementation. This will ensure technical and financial support for the agricultural sector from both LGUs and NGA, in order for LGUs to better prepare for and respond to disasters and increase the resilience of livelihoods in farming communities.

Sustainable practices were put into place with regard to some of the agricultural inputs of the project as well. Beneficiaries and responsible LGU, Department of Agriculture (DA-LGU) staff will spearhead a roll-over scheme as part of the community seed banking initiatives. Under this arrangement, each farmer gives back one bag of seeds after harvest to DA municipal offices. The seeds are stored by DA-LGU offices, which are then made available to farmers in times of emergency.

Sustaining the milestones of the FAO response will be the responsibility of the monitoring and evaluation and extension units of agriculture offices at the regional, provincial and municipal levels.

2. Gender equality

The participation of men and women beneficiaries and government counterparts was encouraged in all stages of project implementation. Part of the agreed beneficiary selection criteria was to give priority to vulnerable groups, such as indigenous peoples (IPs), widows, female-headed households, single parent households and unemployed and unskilled youth.

Thirty-four percent of the project beneficiaries in Lanao del Norte province were women, and the capacity building activities prioritized the participation of women. For example, the EWEA training session was attended by 23 women and 15 men.

3. Environmental sustainability

The project contributed to environmental sustainability by enhancing local knowledge on resilient rice-based farming systems. The recommended practices were the product of years of field testing and validation conducted by the Philippine Rice Research Center (PhilRice), which emphasized the adaptation to and mitigation of the effects of climate change through crop diversification.

4. Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) – in particular Right to Food and Decent Work

The project objectives were to ensure food security and enhance food production and resilience in typhoon affected farming communities in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. With the agricultural inputs provided, farming families were able to recommence their farming activities, thereby supporting food security and the nutrition of their family members. Incomes of local families are expected to increase through crop diversification and the adoption of climate smart farming technologies.

5. Technological sustainability

The resilient rice-based farming systems emphasized crop diversification and increased farming efficiency through the combination of crops and livestock. This will not only allow for the diversification of income sources, but it will also maximize the utilization of farm waste, which could lead to less dependence on external agricultural inputs.

The newly acquired technical skills from the ToT capacity building sessions on the use of climate smart varieties, crop establishment and water management, *palayaman* (diversified rice farming), integrated pest management and fertilizer and nutrient management were integrated into the regular extension programmes of government agriculture departments. In addition, the lessons learned from the FAO response will be adopted by national and local agriculture departments in the implementation of similar emergency responses in the future.

The capacity building activities of the project were also integrated into the regular extension programmes of the DA-LGUs. These LGUs have their own staff development programmes that further build and strengthen the technical capabilities of farmers at local level.

6. Economic sustainability

The agricultural inputs provided, particularly the planting materials (lowland and upland resilient rice seeds), were of open pollinated varieties, which will allow farmers to select seeds they could use for future cropping seasons. As a result, farmers will not have to spend their own money to purchase new seeds. The community seed banks established will also provide the opportunity for farmers with no access to cash to acquire ready-to-plant seeds from local government agricultural offices.

- ❑ DRRM Plan of Action for Agriculture for each of the nine project municipalities.
- ❑ End of Project Performance Assessment report.
- ❑ Report of training on resilient rice-based farming systems.

ACHIEVEMENT OF RESULTS - LOGICAL FRAMEWORK

Expected Impact	**Resilience of agriculture-based livelihoods of typhoon and flood affected communities enhanced**	
Outcome	Agriculture based livelihoods of typhoon and flash flood affected farmers in target provinces restored and improved	
	Indicator	– Area planted with rice. – Number of LGU municipal agriculture personnel and other relevant personnel capacitated on the preparation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture.
	Baseline	– 0 – 0
	End Target	– 1 800 ha of rice lands planted with more resilient rice varieties (800 in Lanao del Norte and 1 000 ha in Lanao del Sur). – Forty-five key LGU municipal agriculture officers and other relevant personnel capacitated in the preparation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture.
	Comments and follow-up action to be taken	– 1 970 ha of rice lands were planted with more resilient rice varieties (900 in Lanao del Norte and 1 000 ha in Lanao del Sur). During the inception phase, the project initially targeted supporting 1 800 farming households. Thanks to the internal reprogramming of funds, which was done in close consultation with local government counterparts, the number of households reached was increased by nine percent, totalling 1 970 households. – Forty-six key LGU personnel and other relevant government staff were capacitated in the preparation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture. This number was slightly higher than the target of 45 participants.
Output 1	1 800 ha of rice lands planted with more resilient rice varieties to support typhoon and flash flood affected farmers to restore and improve livelihoods	
	Indicators	Target / Achieved
	The provision of certified rice seeds and fertilizers to target beneficiaries.	1 800 ha of resilient rice varieties planted / Yes
Baseline	0	
Comments	– 1 970 HH (9 850 individuals) were provided with rice seeds and fertilizers (1 970 bags of certified rice and upland rice seeds, 1 800 bags of complete fertilizer and 1 800 bags of Urea fertilizer). – 1 970 ha were planted with resilient rice seeds. The project reached nine percent more beneficiaries than initially targeted.	
Activity 1.1	Establish implementation and coordination arrangements and organize inception planning workshop	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– A PMO was established at the WFP premises. – Necessary implementation, coordination and monitoring arrangements were made with MAFAR-BARMM and provincial and municipal agriculture offices through a series of meetings with the Project Coordination Committee. – An inception planning workshop was organized with the participation of relevant MAFAR-BARMM, DA, DAR and regional officers and provincial and municipal agricultural officers. The planning events served as a basis for the validation of inputs and training needed, as well as the implementation arrangement plan and reporting.
Activity 1.2	Identification, validation and profiling of sites and beneficiaries	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– A set of site and selection criteria was finalized with counterparts (MAFAR-BARMM, DA-RFO X and DAR) during the inception phase of the project. – Provincial and municipal agriculture offices identified a list of beneficiaries and distribution centres for agricultural inputs. – Project assistants and DA-LGU counterparts conducted field validation of the list of beneficiaries provided by project counterparts.
Activity 1.3	Procurement of agricultural inputs	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– The project procured the required agricultural inputs necessary for restoring rice production, which were certified rice seeds and two different types of fertilizer.

Activity 1.4	Mobilization and organization of distribution centres and inputs distribution	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The municipal LGUs, through the municipal agriculture offices and officials from *barangays* covered by the project mobilized and organized farmer beneficiaries at designated centres and facilitated the distribution of inputs. FAO was responsible for verifying the selection of beneficiaries and for overseeing the distribution. The following inputs were distributed: – Certified rice seeds (inbred variety) – each of the 1 970 rice farming households was provided with one bag of certified rice seeds (40 kg per bag). Of these, 1 600 bags were for lowland rice ecosystems and 370 bags were for upland rice ecosystems. – Urea fertilizer – each of the 1 800 HHs received one bag of Urea fertilizer (50 kg per bag). – Complete fertilizer – each of the 1 800 HHs received one bag of complete fertilizer (50 kg per bag). – The DA provided additional fertilizer assistance.
Activity 1.5	Provincial training on resilient rice-based farming systems (ToT) and follow-up field level trainings	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– A ToT was organized for 28 agricultural staff from provincial and municipal offices including local farmer technicians. Nineteen participants were men and nine of them were women. – At the municipal level, re-echo trainings were conducted by FAO staff and LGU personnel for an additional 225 technicians and local farmer technicians with topics that included, among others, cropping pattern adjustment, integrated pest management and fertilizer and nutrient management. – At the village level, trainings on resilient rice-based farming systems were conducted for a total of 697 farmer beneficiaries. – Community seed banks for resilient rice varieties were established as part of resilient rice-based farming system activities. – Beneficiaries and government personnel were trained on resilient rice-based farming systems. Follow-up action is recommended for DA-LGU offices to integrate continued monitoring of the project's impact as part of their regular programmes.
Activity 1.6	Conduct season long Climate Smart Farmer Field Schools (CS-FFS)	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	The project, with support from MAFAR-BARMM, DA-RFO X and DAR in Lanao del Sur conducted nine season long CS-FFS to capacitate farmers on resilient rice-based farming systems and the use of good adaptation technologies, given the vulnerability and risks posed by natural hazards. A total of 229 farmers completed the season long training activities in nine municipalities.

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Output 2</td><td colspan="3">Nine municipalities in provinces of Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur enhanced capacities for DRRM and resilience building in agriculture</td></tr>
<tr><td>Indicators</td><td>Target</td><td>Achieved</td></tr>
<tr><td>Create DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture.</td><td>9</td><td>Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>Baseline</td><td colspan="3">0</td></tr>
<tr><td>Comments</td><td colspan="3">Nine DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture, one per project site, were presented to BARMM and Region X, provincial and municipal LGUs for support and integration in LGU DRRM plans. The formulation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture involved a series of capacity building activities, including DRRM training, EWEA, follow-up DRRM sessions, municipal presentation and validation and a forum for stakeholders. Based on the attendance list, a total of 441 counterparts participated in the training and consultation activities. This series allowed LGUs to fine tune their DRRM plans for agriculture.
As a follow-up action, the DRRM plans should be considered living documents to be updated to respond to the dynamic agricultural systems in the face of hazards and changing climate conditions.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Activity 2.1</td><td colspan="3">Conduct capacity building on the preparation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture</td></tr>
<tr><td>Achieved</td><td colspan="2">Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>Comments</td><td colspan="2">– A DRRM Plan of Action for Agriculture training workshop with the participation of 46 government officers from provincial to barangay level was conducted. The workshop provided LGUs with the technical guidance in the formulation of robust DRRM plans.
– Follow-up sessions on DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture were organized per province. NGA were invited to present their PPA to generate support for identified DRRM related interventions included in the Plans of Action.
– Municipal level presentations and validation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture were organized in each of the nine focus municipalities to allow opportunity for stakeholders, especially farmers, to provide comments and technical feedback on the work and financial plans.
– A regional forum for stakeholders was conducted for each province with the participation of regional (BARMM and Region X), provincial and municipal local government units and farmer group representatives. The activity also allowed key stakeholders to share feedback, as well as to generate technical and financial assistance for the implementation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture.
– A total of nine municipalities formulated DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture with support from the project.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Activity 2.2</td><td colspan="3">Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) capacity building for two provinces</td></tr>
<tr><td>Achieved</td><td colspan="2">Yes</td></tr>
<tr><td>Comments</td><td colspan="2">– FAO, in partnership with MAFAR-BARMM, DA, DAR and academia facilitated a training workshop on EWEA as an integral input in the preparation of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture of focus municipalities in the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. A total of 38 officers from focus municipalities and provincial government representatives attended the training workshop. Of these, 15 were men and 23 were women.
– The EWEA training workshop (including modalities on social protection), an innovative approach pilot tested by FAO to enhance local governments' capacities in addressing the impacts of natural and other hazards, was organized to support the development of DRRM Plans of Action for Agriculture. Local government staff (municipal agriculture officers, DRRM officers, planning development offices and social workers and development officers) were trained in developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for El Niño, which affected the provinces of Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte during the first half of 2019.</td></tr>
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Activity 2.3	Training on cash-based transfer and use of social protection for vulnerability reduction and disaster response	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	– Social protection through cash-based transfer was introduced as an option for vulnerability reduction and disaster response, thereby protecting the livelihoods of the affected population, and it was integrated into the EWEA training for synergy and complementation. – The training was considered relevant in the face of El Niño, whose impacts were felt in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur in early 2019. The EWEA and social protection training provided government officers with technical knowledge on the principles of EWEA in fostering immediate interventions to safeguard agricultural livelihoods and mitigate the impacts of El Niño on crop production and food security.
Activity 2.4	End of Project Performance Assessment (EPPA), lessons learned and recommendations	
	Achieved	Yes
	Comments	An EPPA was conducted to ascertain the project's effectiveness, efficiency and relevance. The EPPA provided the opportunity to share lessons learned and recommendations on preparedness and response to future issues. Sixty-two out of the targeted 80 BARMM, and DAR officials and provincial and municipal agricultural extension staff and local farmer technicians from two provinces attended the EPPA workshop. The recently concluded local elections held nationwide meant that government officials were busy, which caused the lower turnout. The EPPA workshop captured and documented good practices, key lessons learned, challenges and other experiences that came out of the implementation activities. A full report is available here: https://unfao-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/aura_barcarseescobar_fao_org/ET-hUoJ2OHhLg7wpHD5RnZ4BiLbu0G7uTgJqNBuVDiUFhQ?rtime=ciy6gMT91kg As a follow-up action, it is recommended that the documentation from the EPPA workshop be shared with other relevant agencies and organizations.

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