



Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations

# FAO Philippines Newsletter

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**Climate-resilient tilapia farming seen to contribute to food security in the Philippines**

**Strategic framework to guide FAO initiatives in Mindanao through 2020**

**International delegation observes DRR approaches in the Philippines**

**FAO and DA work together to assist farmers affected by Typhoon Koppu**

**Early warning system helps Aklan LGUs address malnutrition and food insecurity**

**Two years after Typhoon Haiyan: Revisiting the road to recovery**



# WELCOME

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### OUR PRIORITIES

The FAO Strategic Objectives

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Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition
- 

Make agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable
- 

Reduce rural poverty
- 

Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems
- 

Increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters

**W**elcome to the fourth issue of the FAO Philippines Newsletter.

My team and I are pleased to highlight some of our many activities in the past quarter, particularly in improving the productivity, resilience and sustainability of the agriculture sector across the country.

Among our initiatives in Luzon is our collaboration with the Department of Agriculture's (DA) Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources to strengthen the climate-resilience of the tilapia aquaculture sub-sector in three pilot regions (Region 2-Cagayan Valley, Region 3-Central Luzon and Region 5-Bicol). Tilapia is the second most important fish for mass domestic consumption and accounts for about 12 percent of the protein intake of households across all socio-economic groups. By ensuring sustainable and resilient production systems in this sub-sector, we aim to help fish farmers become better equipped to contribute to ensuring affordable and nutritious food for the country's growing population.

In the Visayas, we are beginning to see the results of our assistance to local government units in the Province of Aklan in establishing early warning systems for food and nutrition security. The system now provides local chief executives of partner municipalities with the information they need to make evidence-based decisions that can help prevent impending food crises in their respective communities.

Our year-end activities in the Visayas and Luzon also included the concluding activities of our remaining Typhoon Haiyan emergency, recovery and rehabilitation programme. We are pleased to report that through our partnership with the DA and its attached agencies, and through the financial support of 14 international donor organizations, we have been able to deliver assistance to approximately 230 000 farming and fishing households in re-establishing their livelihoods and income streams.

In Mindanao, we are also working towards helping farmers and fishers bounce back from crises, become more resilient, and ultimately, to help them transition from subsistence farming to livelihoods that have a larger role in the value chain. We recently finalized the framework that will guide our programming in Mindanao through 2020 and an overview of this six-year strategy is presented in this newsletter.

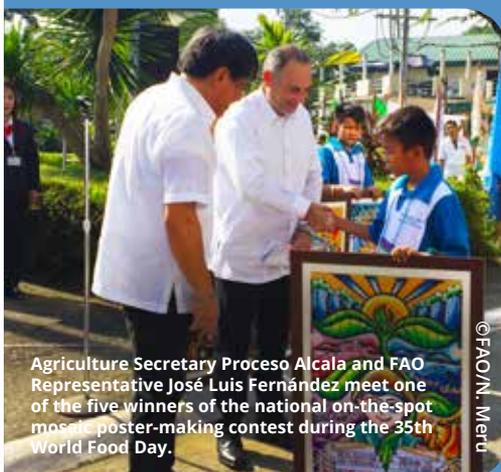
These initiatives to improve food security and enhance the resilience of the agriculture sector are good examples of how we, as an organization, can help build an inclusive and sustainable future. As you may be aware, FAO fully supports the United Nations new Sustainable Development Goals. In the Philippines, we are beginning to identify the areas of work in which our expertise, experience and partnerships would be of significant value.

In the last quarter of 2015, we were again reminded of the urgent need to improve the resilience of food systems and rural livelihoods when Typhoon Koppu damaged over 400 000 hectares of agricultural areas in about 26 provinces. As we support the DA by augmenting the agricultural inputs they are providing to affected farmers, we also recognize the fact that stronger typhoons and recurrent natural disasters such as drought may become more pronounced due to the effects of climate change. It is in view of this that FAO and DA are also working together to help mainstream disaster risk reduction (DRR). One of these joint efforts is our participation in consolidating the country's capacities for DRR with Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Laos. Recently, representatives from the ministries of agriculture of these countries attended a study tour in various regions of the Philippines through which they were able to observe the tools and best practice options in the country, as well as share their knowledge and experience with their counterparts.

As we look back to these stories and recount our accomplishments and lessons in 2015, we thank all of our partners and donors who have accorded us the opportunity and support to be able to contribute to building resilient and food secure agricultural communities in the country.

On behalf of FAO, I wish you the best of the season.

  
 José Luis Fernández  
 FAO Representative in the Philippines



Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala and FAO Representative José Luis Fernández meet one of the five winners of the national on-the-spot mosaic poster-making contest during the 35th World Food Day.

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## Climate-resilient tilapia farming seen to contribute to food security in the Philippines

Tilapia ranks second only to milkfish as the most important fish for mass domestic consumption.

**T**ilapia is one of the major foodfish species in aquaculture and has been touted as the “world’s most important aquaculture product in the twenty-first century.” In the Philippines, it ranks second only to milkfish as the most important fish for mass domestic consumption. Owing to its affordability over meat and poultry, aquaculture products such as tilapia, which costs USD 2.31 per kilogram on average, account for 12 percent of the protein intake of households across all socio-economic groups.

Such is the potential of tilapia to contribute to the country’s food security, however, notwithstanding the technological advancements in recent years, present production trends fall short of even the low-growth scenario projected in the 2006 Comprehensive National Fisheries Industry Development Plan. The impacts of successive climate and environmental-related stress are reflected in this downward trend, with fishpond operations having the most significant decline and slower recovery.

To help improve tilapia production in the country, FAO is implementing a project that will strengthen the resilience of tilapia producers and local government agencies in pilot provinces in three regions: Isabela in Region 2 - Cagayan Valley, Pampanga in

Region 3 - Central Luzon and Camarines Sur in Region 5 - Bicol.

This effort, which is part of FAO’s Blue Growth Initiative in the Asia-Pacific Region, aims to facilitate the development of science-based and climate-smart tilapia farming technologies that are most appropriate for local conditions. This will be complemented by the establishment of viable farm-level weather advisories, tools and information systems for climate-resilient tilapia farming. Through the project, these disaster risks reduction and climate adaptation measures, among others, will be mainstreamed in the agro-aquaculture development plans of municipal local government units.

To help tilapia farmers prepare for and bounce back from the impacts of adverse climate conditions, their climate risks and vulnerability are also being assessed, while potential livelihood diversification options, crop insurance and financial systems are being identified to further increase their resilience to economic shocks.

“FAO emphasizes the urgency of strengthening the resilience of the fisheries and aquaculture sector in the Philippines, in view of the increasing climate change impacts that the country is continuing to experience. Only by doing this can

we help maximize its potential to further contribute to the production of the fish required to meet the demand for safe and highly nutritious food for a growing population,” said Aristeo Portugal, Assistance FAO Representative for Programme.

As FAO’s main partner in this project, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) of the Department of Agriculture is also being assisted in its preparation to supervise the widespread uptake of improved fish feed and feeding strategy, and to continue facilitating the development of feed for other key aquaculture species in the Philippines.

On the national level, FAO is working with BFAR and relevant institutions, including the Bureau of Soils and Water Management, Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration, Philippine Climate Change Commission, universities and research and development organizations. The project aims to help improve their capacities to formulate policies that will support climate-resilient aquaculture, adopt a better response and adaptation framework, integrate new scientific knowledge, and develop and disseminate climate-smart techniques and information and communications technology-based tools.



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## Strategic framework to guide FAO initiatives in Mindanao through 2020

FAO's Mindanao strategy focuses on the distinct needs and unique capacities of conflict-affected areas in ARMM and more progressive areas in other regions of Mindanao to contribute to inclusive economic growth.

**F**AO has recently completed a six-year strategic framework that envisions to harness the potential of Mindanao's agriculture sector to contribute to the reduction of poverty, improve food and nutrition security, resilience to natural disasters and climate change.

The Mindanao Strategic Programme for Agriculture and Agribusiness (MSPAA), which covers 2015 to 2020, serves as a blueprint of the priorities for technical cooperation in Mindanao between FAO and the Philippine Government.

"The programme has been carefully aligned with the Government's priorities identified in the Mindanao Strategic Development Framework 2010-2020, the Mindanao 2020 Peace and Development Framework, the Bangsamoro Development Plan and the Updated Philippine Development Plan," said José Luis Fernández, FAO Representative in the Philippines.

All interventions implemented under this platform will seek to increase production and productivity and promote appropriate technologies, including new crop varieties, better livestock breeds and fishery/aquaculture species. These projects will also integrate climate-smart technologies that can respond effectively to climate change

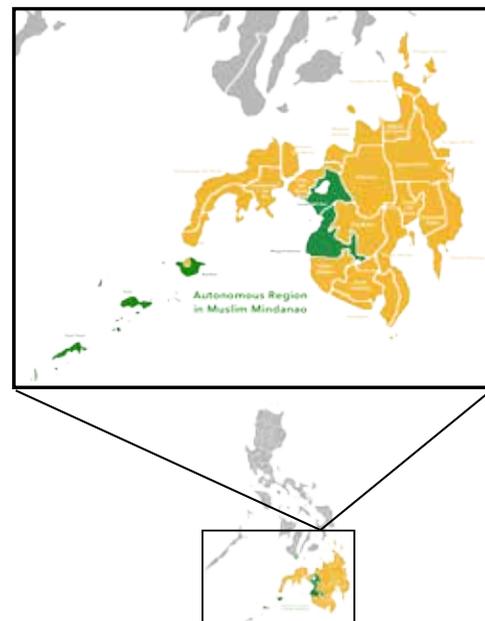
impacts and natural disasters. The competitiveness and profitability of small-scale agriculture will also be improved through, among others, enhancing diversification, value-adding on- and off-farm processing and intensifying post-harvest technologies. The MSPAA will also foster the improvement of governance and institutional frameworks for accessing technology, credit and markets, including tapping the private sector to link with small farmers under co-production or marketing arrangements.

"Through consultations and dialogues with stakeholders, including small-scale farmers and fisherfolk, we were able to structure interventions that will be relevant to existing and future needs," said FAO Programme Development Specialist Syed Abdul Razak.

Recognizing the disparities in growth between ARMM's conflict-affected municipalities and the more progressive areas in other regions of Mindanao, FAO through the MSPAA, will adopt a differentiated approach that will address the distinct needs of the two focus areas and maximize their unique capacities to contribute to inclusive economic growth.

Conflict-affected areas, specifically in the ARMM, have historically registered about 15 percent higher poverty rates

than areas in Mindanao's growth centres. The displacement of small-scale farmers and fisherfolk due to the cycle of armed conflict in the last four decades, in addition to inadequate agriculture and market infrastructure, has compromised their production capacities and access to livelihoods. In recent years, this has been further aggravated by shifting weather patterns, drought and flooding. FAO's assistance in these areas will focus on helping smallholders to bounce back from shocks, emergencies



and natural disasters, while providing them with the means, technologies and skills, including agribusiness skills, to transition from subsistence farming to livelihoods that are linked to the value chain.

In non-ARMM areas, FAO will support the introduction of sustainable productivity-enhancing technologies and the acceleration of agrarian reform efforts to improve farmers' security of tenure and access to land resources. Projects under the MSPAA will also help increase forward linkage with the industry and services sectors through value-adding technologies, agribusiness development and value chain management activities. Additionally, it will encourage public-private sector partnerships and facilitate the development of rural infrastructure and facilities that will enhance production and link production areas to markets. These interventions will also involve resilience-building through disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation technologies such as livelihood diversification.

"To achieve inclusive growth and sustained peace in the region, ARMM must not be viewed in isolation of the overall context of Mindanao. The strategic framework of FAO covers the whole spectrum of agriculture and fisheries sector, linking the lagging areas of ARMM with the more progressive areas of Mindanao through investments in connective infrastructure, human and social capital. Smallholder agricultural producers in ARMM will be stimulated to engage in value-adding activities by networking them to the supply chain of major agribusiness firms in major urban regional centres that have the

means and access to provide capital, technology and consumer demand," said Virgilio Cabezon, FAO Senior Programme Development Expert.

FAO recently presented its Mindanao strategy to representatives of potential donor and development partners to seek funding support for its timely implementation.

### FAO's recent and on-going activities in Mindanao

FAO provided technical assistance to the Bangsamoro Development Agency in the formulation of the Bangsamoro Development Plan I and continues to provide similar support for the preparation of the Bangsamoro Development Plan II. It is also implementing four on-going projects in the region with financial support from FAO Technical Cooperation Programme funds, the Government of New Zealand, the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection and the Peace Building Fund of the United Nations.

### Six projects completed from 2005-2014

Between 2005 and 2014, FAO completed six projects in Mindanao through the funding provided by the governments of Australia, Japan, New Zealand and Spain and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund. These efforts supported more than 54 000 farming and fishing households in restoring their livelihoods affected by conflict and natural disasters, and helped improve their agriculture and fisheries practices, livelihood options and resilience to disasters.

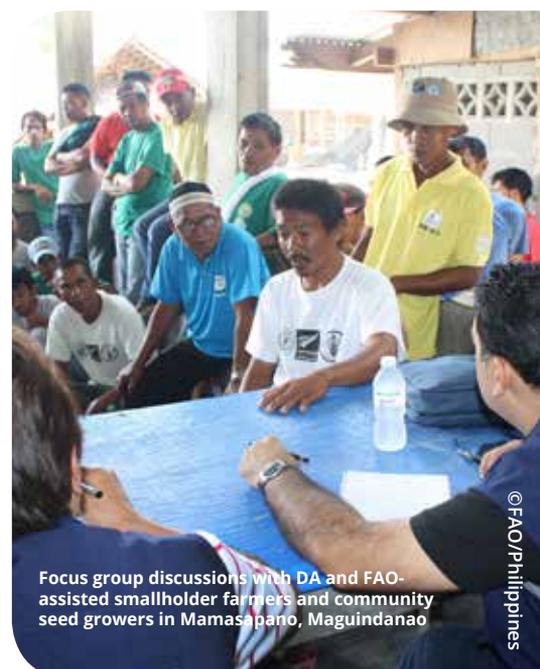
## The five key development pillars of FAO's Mindanao Strategic Programme for Agriculture and Agribusiness

- 1  Increase production and productivity
- 2  Employ appropriate technologies, e.g. new crop varieties, better livestock breeds and fishery/aquaculture species
- 3  Adopt climate-smart technologies that can respond effectively to climate change impacts and natural disasters
- 4  Improve competitiveness and profitability of small-scale agriculture
  - Enhance diversification
  - Enhance value-adding (on- and off-farm processing)
  - Support intensification of post-harvest technologies
- 5  Improve governance and institutional frameworks for accessing technologies, credit and markets
  - Tap the private sector to link with small farmers under co-production/marketing arrangements



The FAO assessment team interviews a vendor at a barangay-level food terminal established under the Department of Agriculture's Food Staple Self-Sufficiency Programme in the outskirts of Barangay Manongkaling, Mamasapano, Maguindanao. In remote areas where market infrastructure is limited or non-existent, food terminals provide a viable platform for linking producers with consumers, traders and other demand-side actors.

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Focus group discussions with DA and FAO-assisted smallholder farmers and community seed growers in Mamasapano, Maguindanao

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## International delegation observes DRR approaches in the Philippines

Officials and representatives of the ministries of agriculture of Cambodia, Laos and Democratic People's Republic of Korea are briefed on the new climate information tools used by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) to help strengthen disaster risk reduction in the agriculture sector.

**F**our countries in SouthEast Asia – Cambodia, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Laos and the Philippines – are consolidating capacities for disaster risk reduction (DRR) in agriculture through the leadership of their respective ministries of agriculture, technical assistance of FAO and financial support from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection (ECHO).

The Philippines, which has been implementing DRR and climate change adaptation projects in agriculture, hosted a study tour for officials and representatives of the ministries of agriculture of the four participating governments from 9 to 15 August 2015. The week-long programme highlighted good practice options for agriculture and fisheries in the Bicol and CARAGA regions – areas that are considered to have high exposure to multiple hazards and challenging agro-ecological conditions.

“Building and improving disaster risk reduction capacities are becoming increasingly urgent, especially in the East Asia and Pacific region which is reported to be the most disaster-stricken region in the world. This ECHO-funded study tour, which is implemented as part of FAO's regional Disaster Preparedness ECHO II (DIPECHO II) Project, provides an opportunity to fast-track the exchange of knowledge, strategies, technologies and lessons learned in DRR,” said José Luis Fernández, FAO Representative in the Philippines.

The DIPECHO II Project seeks to enhance the resilience of farming families in target countries through the integration of DRR principles and practices in agriculture and related sub-sectors.

### Introduction of multi-stress tolerant rice lines/varieties and mainstreaming DRR in the Bicol Region

While in the Bicol Region, delegates visited demonstration farms in the municipalities of Canaman and Basud in Camarines Sur, where rice farmers have struggled with low yields as an effect of flooding, saltwater intrusion and drought. Through the leadership of the Department of Agriculture (DA) and local governments, and the assistance of FAO and ECHO, the project introduced multi-stress tolerant rice lines such as Green Super Rice. This DRR approach, combined with training on the efficient use of fertilizer and improved soil and water management practices, is expected to provide a 30 percent increase in the rice harvest of beneficiary farmers while at the same time reducing their susceptibility to multiple hazards.

Participants also met with counterparts from the regional office of the DA and experts from the Central Bicol State University of Agriculture with whom they engaged in discussions on the livestock DRR operational guidelines currently being developed, mainstreaming DRR in regional agricultural development, and the computerized post-disaster needs



Fisherfolk in the Municipality of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte, use fish pots to ensure fish catch and safety at sea during volatile weather and sea conditions.

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assessment tool that can contribute to significantly increasing the speed and accuracy of damage assessments and emergency response planning.

### Surigao del Norte demonstrates effective use of DRR principles in fisheries

To demonstrate the application of DRR principles in fisheries and its impact on food security, the study tour included a visit to the Municipality of Del Carmen, one of the most ecologically important sites in the Province of Surigao del Norte, Mindanao. Here, delegates witnessed how the application of DRR principles in mudcrab, lobster and fish culture technologies can help avoid or reduce risks and losses from extreme fluctuations in water temperature and salinity. They also saw how simple livelihood tools such as fish pots, which can be easily adopted by fishfolk, can help ensure fish catch while promoting safety at sea during volatile weather and sea conditions. A beneficiary fishfolk organization in the Siargao islands is now benefitting from these interventions and are continuing to prove that community mobilization is crucial to the achievement of DRR in agriculture and fisheries.



Study tour delegates observe how the introduction of stress-tolerant rice is helping farmers in Canaman, Camarines Sur to combat flooding, saltwater intrusion and drought.

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### DA and PAGASA provide a national perspective for strengthening DRR in agriculture

On their return to Manila, delegates visited the DA central office where they gained a national perspective of the Philippine Government's DRR approaches, policies and programmes. They were also able to observe the agriculture-related products and services of the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA), including a new product that enables nine-day weather forecasts up to the municipal level.

"Through this study tour, we were able to show the things that we have learned and accomplished related to the different aspects of DRR in agriculture. We hope that our esteemed delegates would learn a few things that may be applicable to their specific country contexts," said Lorenzo Alvina, focal person of DA - Bicol Region.

*As part of the DIPECHO II Project, FAO is currently assisting the DA in the formulation of a national DRR strategy for agriculture and fisheries. The project is also supporting the DA in the replication of good practice options in select areas and in increasing the capacities of local governments and farmers in community-based DRR planning and management, and post-disaster needs assessment.*

## FAO and DA work together to assist farmers affected by Typhoon Koppu

On 18 October 2015, Typhoon Koppu (local name Lando) made landfall in Casiguran, Aurora Province in Central Luzon. The Category 3 typhoon brought maximum sustained winds of 175 kph, gusts of up to 210 kph and heavy to intense rainfall that triggered flash floods, landslides and intense flooding.

Agricultural areas within a 650-kilometer radius suffered the brunt of the storm. Initial reports released by the Department of Agriculture (DA) on 3 November indicated that 26 provinces in the Cordillera Autonomous Region, Ilocos (Region I), Cagayan Valley (Region II), Central Luzon (Region III) and CALABARZON (Region IV-A) sustained a total of USD 215.9 million in damage to agriculture, primarily in crop loss.

Over 461 748 hectares of rice, corn and high value crop areas were affected, with a combined production loss of some 587 174 metric tonnes. Rice, a staple crop in the Philippines, constitutes 86 percent of the crop production loss.

In response to a request from the DA to augment the farm inputs that it is providing to affected farmers, FAO is planning to deliver certified rice seeds and fertilizer to at least 5 900 affected households.



A farmer in Nueva Ecija province attempts to salvage what remained of her rice crop.

©FAO/A. Aduna

This USD 540 000 assistance effort, which is implemented in close coordination with the DA, is financed through FAO's Special Fund for Emergency and Rehabilitation Activities and reprogrammed savings from Typhoon Haiyan rehabilitation funds provided by the governments of Ireland, New Zealand and Norway.

Additional assistance is being discussed to support the early livelihood recovery of an

additional 13 000 farming households.

"This time-critical intervention will help affected farmers recommence farming activities within the small remaining window of the current planting season ending in December," said FAO Representative in the Philippines José Luis Fernández.



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## Early warning system helps Aklan LGUs address malnutrition and food insecurity

The Municipality of Malinao, Aklan, led by Mayor Wilbert Ariel I. Igoy (fourth from left) receives a computer and peripherals that will support the establishment of an early warning system for food and nutrition security.

With access to timely and relevant information, local government units (LGUs) of the four municipalities in the Province of Aklan are now able to plan interventions that can more effectively tackle malnutrition and food insecurity in targeted areas. These municipalities have historically registered high poverty and malnutrition rates.

Through an initiative called “Project InFoRM: An Information System for Food and Nutrition Security and Resilience in the Municipality,” FAO, in partnership with the Department of Health’s National Nutrition Council (NNC) and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), has been assisting the municipalities of Altavas, Batan, Malinao and Tangalan in establishing early warning systems for food and nutrition security (EWS-FNS). This simplified approach to quarterly data collection and analysis aids LGUs in forecasting and making evidence-based decisions to address or prevent impending crises.

“Eliminating hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition is among FAO’s strategic objectives. We fulfil this mandate in the Philippines by forging and strengthening partnerships that will enable us to ensure the

availability and accessibility of up-to-date information about hunger and nutrition challenges and solutions,” said FAO’s Senior Food Security Assessment and Early Warning System Specialist Demetria Bongga, Ph.D.

At the first Project InFoRM Programme Management Committee meeting held in Aklan on 21 October 2015, participating LGUs reported that they are now able to correlate the factors affecting food security and time their interventions when needs are greatest. For instance, survey results revealed that malnutrition rates rise in agriculture-dependent communities during the third quarter of the year when production is lean. This correlates with the decrease in the income of farmers who have no alternative means of livelihood between cropping seasons. LGUs responded by recommending that existing feeding programmes be timed in these critical periods. They are also in the process of planning and prioritising livelihood projects that will fill income gaps and provide farming families with the means to purchase food.

### The EWS-FNS process

Quarterly surveys are conducted both at the municipal and household levels

to determine trends and patterns in food production, weather, commodity prices, household food consumption and access, dietary diversity and nutritional status of young children, among others. The data then feeds into the EWS-FNS system to be analysed by municipal health, agriculture and planning officers. The results and recommendations are presented directly to local chief executives.

“The existing planning process of LGUs only involves annual data collection. Now that we have started doing it quarterly, the LGU can make better-informed choices because we can



Health, agriculture and planning officers of four municipalities in Aklan present the results of their quarterly surveys on food and nutrition security during the first Project InFoRM Programme Management Committee meeting.

©FAO/N. Meru

really see the status of the community. We can now focus on households that need assistance the most," explained Malinao Mayor Wilbert Ariel I. Igoy.

"This is the kind of analysis we want to encourage at the LGU level. The EWS offers a very important input in the nutrition assessment, which becomes the basis for planning interventions. If we are able to establish EWS in more areas in the Philippines then we will have this quality of assessment for nutrition planning," said NNC Nutrition Surveillance Division Chief Hygeia Ceres Catalina Gawe.

### Learning from the experience of pilot LGUs

To facilitate the sharing of best practices, Project InFoRM is also bridging Aklan LGUs with representatives from Ragay, Camarines Sur, where the EWS-FNS effort was piloted in 2009 through the United Nations Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund.

"We realized the fact that families, if left on their own, cannot solve malnutrition. EWS shows us when there is a problem and how we can

relate it to a household's economic situation. In our municipality, in terms of productivity, food is available and prices are okay. The problem is the buying capacity of families. Our livelihood projects are anchored on that: the inability of about 60 percent of families to purchase adequate food," said Jojo Tipay Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator of Ragay, Camarines Sur. "This has been our longer-term solution. Our short-term solutions include supplemental feeding and providing seeds [agriculture inputs] to address immediate food needs."

### Moving towards concrete actions

FAO is training partner LGUs in formulating proposals to generate funding for nutrition and food security projects. They are also being provided with computers and software or tools that will help them organize, store and access data to be able to present more accurate and timely information by 2016.

"They provided us with a system and sustaining it will be easy for the LGU when it is integrated or mainstreamed in our local programmes. It is already

there. We just need to work on mainstreaming it," Mayor Igoy added.

Altavas, Batan, Malinao and Tangalan in Aklan are among the nine municipalities in Typhoon Haiyan-hit Western Visayas region that are now in the process of institutionalising their EWS-FNS through the FAO-UNICEF-NNC partnership. The other five municipalities are Dao, Dumarao, Ivisan, Jamindan and Tapaz in the Province of Capiz.



Dr. Maria Mailla Bernabe, Development Management Officer of the Department of Health-Aklan, commends LGUs on the quality of their analyses and recommendations to address the nutrition and food security issues identified through the EWS-FNS.

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## Telefood project improves nutrition and food security of households in Canaman Municipality

Through the early warning system for food and nutrition security established by FAO, UNICEF and NNC in Canaman, Camarines Sur, the local government learned of the protein deficiency among children in five barangays. The results of a survey on the diet diversity of households in the second quarter of 2013 indicated that this deficiency could be attributed to insufficient consumption of eggs. Following consultation with community members, the LGU immediately applied for a grant with FAO's Telefood Project to fund a backyard duck-raising initiative.

Based on the criteria set by the LGU, 35 households initially qualified to receive support from the project. These households are composed of at least five family members; have children 0-23 months old; have a history of child malnutrition; earn incomes below the poverty threshold; and have experienced food insecurity in the past year.

Women, particularly mothers, actively participated in implementation, which commenced in January 2014. A year from the project's inception, beneficiaries have produced more than 30 000 duck eggs, which have been integrated into their diet. The sale of surplus eggs also allowed



Rosita Nidea, mother of 12 children, inspects the ducks she is raising in her backyard through the support of the Municipal Government of Canaman and FAO's Telefood Project.

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women to contribute to the household income.

"Our family now has ready access to food and we are able to earn additional income through the ducks and eggs that we sell. We also sometimes trade these for other food items," said Rosita Nidea who has 12 children. She plans to venture into making salted eggs and *balut*, a local delicacy, to further increase her income.

Among the 19 households that registered with underweight members at the start of the project, 17 households or 89 percent improved from being food insecure to being food secure. The number of beneficiary households with underweight members between 0 to 23 years old was

also reduced by 34 percent.

To expand the gains of the project, beneficiaries are encouraged to give back by raising 20 ducks each that will be turned over to new beneficiaries. To date, 12 additional households have received support through this arrangement.

"My children seem to have better health because they have been able to eat better food. The money that I earn from duck-raising also allows me to support my children's schooling needs. I worked on repaying [giving back 20 ducks] as early as possible so that others will also enjoy the benefits that my family has experienced from duck-raising," Rosita added.



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## Two years after Typhoon Haiyan: Revisiting the road to recovery

With a larger role in the value chain, Marife Jalbay and other members of the Abejao Farmers Association in Salcedo, Eastern Samar, now enjoy improved incomes from producing cassava chips..

**T**he road to recovery was not easy for farmers and fisherfolk who lost almost everything they had when Typhoon Haiyan struck on 8 November 2013. Many of them were already hard-pressed to make ends meet even before the disaster and the will to rebuild their lives had almost faded.

“When the typhoon hit, our rice was almost ready and we were expecting a good harvest,” narrated Susan Gaspay of Burauen, Leyte. “We lost everything - our ready-to-harvest rice, our stored seeds, and our rented tractor, not to mention our house.”

Fast-forward to two years later, Susan, along with hundreds of thousands of other farmers and fishers are now role models of recovery in their communities. Through the support of FAO in collaboration with the Government, the concept “building back better” has become a reality for the agriculture and fisheries sector of the four severely affected regions of Western Visayas (Region VI), Central Visayas (Region VII), Eastern Visayas (Region VIII) and MIMAROPA (Region IV-B), including far-flung remote islands and upland indigenous communities. This was made possible by the financial contributions of 14 international donor agencies, which reached nearly USD 40 million.

“This has been a unique emergency and rehabilitation response for us. It was not only the first Level 3 crisis declared by FAO (the highest level of emergency) but also one of the largest programs directly implemented by FAO in collaboration with the Government,” said José Luis Fernández, FAO Representative in the Philippines.

Through its two-year Typhoon Haiyan emergency, recovery and rehabilitation programme, FAO’s 22 projects covered interventions in rice and corn farming, coconut-based farming systems, fisheries and coastal communities and coastal/mangrove forest rehabilitation.

### Stories of recovery

“A notable aspect of FAO’s Haiyan response is the mainstreaming of Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) principles into all the elements of the programme. This is a core tenet of FAO operations, which ensures the highest levels of program accountability in terms of participation, governance, transparency and addressing complaints by programme beneficiaries. AAP principles were integrated into the design, implementation and evaluation of projects, and communities were engaged since the beginning to ensure



Aerial view of a Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) site near Palompon, Leyte

©FAO/ R. Cabrera

that both the process and what was being delivered addressed their needs, especially for the most vulnerable,” explained Cristina Graziani, FAO’s Emergency Operations Manager for the Typhoon Haiyan programme.

Marife Jalbay, a member of the Abejao Farmers Association in Salcedo, Eastern Samar, recalls how their group was selected to undertake value-addition training through an assessment conducted by FAO. This has led them to expand their farm business by producing cassava chips. With a larger role in the value chain, they are able to earn significantly higher returns compared to selling raw cassava to nearby markets, which fetched an average of Php 120 (USD 2.50) per barrel. For that equivalent weight of cassava turned into chips, they now make Php 3 250 pesos (USD 69.60).

For Marcelina Calvez of Palompon, Leyte who lost her coconut trees to the typhoon, growing vegetables and other cash crops, as well as learning how to integrate these in land that would otherwise be idle, has helped her gain a stable source of alternative livelihood. As newly-planted coconut trees take six to eight years to bear fruit, FAO helped farmers establish diversified coconut-based farming systems that would address both immediate and long-term food and income needs. This also included the introduction of climate-smart farming technologies, specifically sloping agricultural land technology or contour farming, which would help them maximize the use of their limited farm area by utilizing land under coconut plantations or on hilly terrains.

“It’s hard work but it’s much better than our traditional way of farming. I’m now planting pineapples and I’m using the method I learnt from the training to plant madre de cacao as hedgerows because these plants are good for maintaining the fertility of the soil,” says Marcelina.

In many of the beneficiary communities, recovery was achieved by equipping farmers to establish and manage nurseries that will provide them with seeds and seedlings to rehabilitate their typhoon-damaged and disease-affected farms more efficiently.

“We usually buy seeds from the agricultural supply office here, but now we have the means to do it ourselves. This brings immense pride to our community,” said Laurence Palmes Barotac of Viejo, Iloilo.

**FAO’s Typhoon Haiyan Emergency, Recovery and Rehabilitation Programme was made possible through the support of**



Marife, Marcelina and Laurence are among the 230 000 farming and fishing households or over 1 million individuals who are now well on their way to recovery through the support of FAO and its partners.

**Strong partnership**

“The cooperation we had with FAO has been there since the beginning. We were collaborating every step of the way especially in identifying the beneficiaries. The presence of FAO was very crucial in demonstrating to these people that help is there when it is needed,” said Leo Cañeda, Regional Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

At the 35th World Food Day Celebration, Agriculture Secretary Proceso Alcala also highlighted the DA’s partnership with FAO in delivering support to farmers in the immediate aftermath of Haiyan and in ensuring the recovery and rehabilitation of the agriculture sector in affected areas.

From emergency to recovery, FAO, DA and its attached agencies took every opportunity to not only replace

what the typhoon had taken. More importantly, the consensus and strong partnership placed affected communities and local governments in a good position to ensure longer-term food security, better agricultural livelihood opportunities, sustainable income streams that will lift them out of poverty and improved capacities to adapt to and mitigate future disasters.

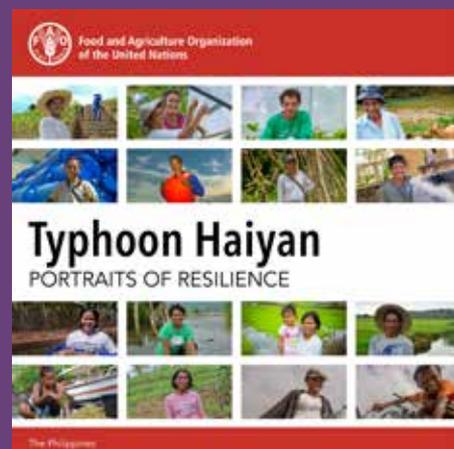
“In commemoration of the second anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan, we pay tribute to all who made this effort a success - our donors and partners, the Government and the communities who welcomed this opportunity to build back better in spite of the challenges,” added FAO Representative José Luis Fernández.

**FAO’s Typhoon Haiyan response programme was implemented with financial support from the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund and the governments of Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.**

## Typhoon Haiyan: Portraits of Resilience

FAO Philippines marks the second anniversary of Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest storm to have made landfall in recorded history, by documenting the journey to recovery of farmers and fisherfolk in the four most affected regions of the Philippines. These inspiring stories are featured in Typhoon Haiyan: Portraits of Resilience.

The electronic edition of the book is available for download at <http://www.fao.org/philippines/en/>



## World Food Day Social Protection and Agriculture: Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty

To commemorate the 35th World Food Day, which also marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of FAO, the Department of Agriculture (DA), in close collaboration with FAO, organized a series of public events from 10 to 16 October 2015 to draw national awareness to the theme "Social Protection and Agriculture: breaking the cycle of rural poverty."

The week-long celebration opened with a national on-the-spot mosaic poster-making contest for elementary students on 10 October, which was followed by the launch of the National World Food Day Photo and Product Exhibits on 12 October at the DA compound in Quezon City.



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"Providing farmers and fishers with social protection is crucial as this is one way to ensure the continuity of their livelihoods and the stable supply of food on the table of every Filipino family," said FAO Representative José Luis Fernández during the World Food Day opening rites.

World Food Day festivities culminated with a ceremony on 16 October at the Quezon City Memorial Circle where officials and employees of the DA and all its attached agencies lit candles as they pledged to uphold the objectives of World Food Day and to find long-term solutions towards strengthening cooperation and partnerships that will address the needs of the agriculture sector.

"The UN's support to the expansion of social protection is articulated as one of its priority areas in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework or UNDAF 2012-2018," said UN Resident Coordinator ad interim Lotta Sylwander who attended the culminating event on behalf of UN Resident Coordinator Ola Almgren.

The FAO Representation in the Philippines also held a two-week exhibit in RCBC Plaza, Makati City, featuring World Food Day and FAO 70th anniversary videos, and winning entries to the World Food Day mosaic poster-making contest.



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## APEC Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology in Higher Education

José Luis Fernández, FAO Representative in the Philippines, delivered a presentation on ensuring the relevance, utilization and contribution of science and technology and higher education to economic development in the Philippines, particularly in the agriculture sector, during the APEC Policy Dialogue on Science and Technology in Higher Education.

FAO's presentation touched on the role of higher education and science and technology in increasing the country's resilience to threats and crises through risk and crisis governance, early warning systems, risk and vulnerability reduction measures and emergency preparedness and response.

The dialogue, which was held at the Philippine International Convention Center in Pasay City from 13 to 14 August 2015, was participated in by senior government officials, leading scientists and researchers, senior university officials, business and industry leaders and approximately 700 participants from 21 APEC member countries.



Photo credit: 2015 APEC Secretariat

## FAO's Donor Briefing on Mindanao Strategy

On 28 September 2015, FAO presented its Mindanao Strategic Programme for Agriculture/Agribusiness (MSPAA) to international donor organizations and partners.

The briefing, which was held in RCBC Plaza, Makati City, was attended by representatives of the Asian Development Bank, the European Commission, Japan International Cooperation Agency, United States Agency for International Development, World Bank, embassies of Australia, Canada, Italy, Japan and Spain.

The MSPAA, which covers 2015 through 2020, defines priorities for technical cooperation in Mindanao between FAO and the Philippine Government.

"Efforts to address development challenges and prospects in the agriculture and fisheries sector in the envisaged Bangsamoro areas will have to be viewed within the overall context of Mindanao," said FAO Representative José Luis Fernández during his welcome address.



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**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations**

**FAO Representation in the Philippines**  
29<sup>th</sup> Floor, Yuchengco Tower 1, RCBC Plaza  
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines  
Email: [FAO-PH@fao.org](mailto:FAO-PH@fao.org)  
Website: [www.fao.org/philippines](http://www.fao.org/philippines)