

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community-based Forest Management Program (CBFMP) revolutionized forest development and rehabilitation efforts of the government when it was institutionalized by Executive Order No. 263 in 1995.

Before the adoption of CBFM approach, the sole motivating factor of contract reforestation awardees was primarily financial gains. With the implementation of the Forestry Sector Project (FSP) using the CBFM as its main strategy to rehabilitate the fragile mangrove ecosystems, it empowered the beneficiary communities economically, socially, technically and politically while transforming them into environmentally responsible managers. The tenurial right to manage subproject sites alongside the various inputs from the Subproject deepened their commitment to collaborate with other stakeholders in the implementation of these subprojects.

Liangá-San Agustin Mangrove Rehabilitation Subproject is located in the coastal barangays of the municipalities of Lianga and San Agustin, Surigao del Sur. The subproject covers parcels of inadequate stocked mangrove lands and open or denuded areas interspersed along the coast.

Three peoples organizations namely: Britania Pebbles Cooperative, Liatimco Seaweeds Planters Multipurpose Cooperative and NAKASAKI Development Cooperative were organized by the Surigao Sur Organization for Human Development, Inc. Under the Comprehensive Site Development contract, the PO's rehabilitated a total of 598 hectares of mangrove and mudflats which were planted with bacauan or *Rhizophora* spp. The CSD contract was implemented from December 2000 to July 2003 with a total cost of Php 7.487 million. To assess the quality of established plantations and the socio-economic impacts of the project, Propagenus Foundation Inc. was contracted to undertake Physical Validation and Institutional Project Benefit Assessment on the area.

To improve the accessibility of the fishermen and residents a causeway was established by the three PO's and two (2) units of drying yards were constructed. The structures were very useful in the drying of seaweeds.

In just 2 years existence of the PO's, they were able to generate enough funds for their five (5) livelihood projects particularly their sea weeds production and trading.

The project has provided regular employment not only to its members but also to non-members of the PO's. A total of 228 households benefited on the jobs created during the subproject implementation. A total of 63,606 work mandays was generated from the project. They participated in plantation establishment,

construction of infrastructure and livelihood projects. Prior to the subproject implementation, the average annual household income of community members in the subproject area was PhP 25,927.00 which is below the poverty line. Because of the project, the average household income increased to PhP 59,076 or 127 % higher. This was brought out of the employment opportunities created by the Project.

Besides the skills and knowledge the PO have obtained from the Project, they have developed a sense of responsibility towards others and their environment and developed a healthy outlook towards government projects.