

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

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

The Laoag (Madongan) Watershed Subproject is located within two municipalities in Ilocos Norte: Marcos and Dingras covering Barangays Cacafean and San Marcelino in Marcos and Dingras, respectively.

The rehabilitation of the watershed is significant primarily because it supports an irrigation facility, the NIA Dam, that supplies the water requirements of agricultural lands of Marcos and Dingras, considered the rice granaries of Ilocos Norte. It is also important for the enhancement of ecological balance as well as the improvement of socio-economic status of the communities in the area through provision of employment and livelihood.

Of the targeted 2,447.00 hectares of open grasslands, brush lands and residual forests to be rehabilitated, only 1,869.56 hectares were accomplished by the Samarca Upland Farmers Association Inc. (SUFAl). Revision was made to consider this as the reduced target and accomplishment as well. Consequently, the comprehensive site development cost went down from PHP40,119,898.00 to PHP31,807,219.00 due to other unaccomplished activities.

Still, involvement in CSD and infrastructure activities provided employment to 114 members, 19 of whom are women and generated a total of 231,253 man days. The women were employed in the maintenance and protection of the plantations.

The Subproject definitely raised the income of its members. From an annual household income of PHP70,000.00 from off and on-farm activities, it increased to an average of PHP93,000.00.

The 2.5 km-farm-to-market road and the hanging bridge as Subproject infrastructures provided mobility for residents as well as ease in transporting their products during market days.

With the issuance of the CBFMA for the 2,699 hectares, hopes are high that the communities can very well manage the entire area having been empowered with development trainings on various aspects like administration, financial management, leadership among others.