

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 Sisay-Datu Tumanggong Watershed Subproject covers Barangays Sisay and Datu Tumanggong of Tungawan Municipality, Province of Zamboanga del Sur. It serves the irrigation requirements of the southern barangays of Tungawan Municipality as well as supports the Sto. Nino and Gulinan Dams for agricultural and domestic needs of downstream communities.

Implementation of the Subproject was weighed down by troubles right from the start, ranging from natural ones like prolonged rains and the El Nino; to operational problems of contractors; technical problems of the people's organization as well as forest fires.

All of these however were surmounted especially with the installation of the Subproject Site Management Office and its personnel who provided assistance in all aspects of project implementation.

The goal to rehabilitate the Subproject's brushland and grassland areas and develop certain portions of its residual forest was successfully accomplished with its target area of 2,000 hectares exceeded by 10.88 hectares or a total of 2,010.88 hectares with an average survival rate of 84.68%.

Involvement in Comprehensive Site Development activities, road rehabilitation as well as other project activities provided income to the people generating a total of 212, 325 man days or a total of 170 full-time jobs each year.

Employment in the Subproject and involvement in business ventures through livelihood activities of the PO raised the earnings of the people and their socio-economic status.

Before the start of the project, the communities had an average annual gross income of PHP 22,335.00 including off-farm, on-farm, and non-farm activities which was raised to PHP 33,000.00 or approximately 48% increase during implementation of the project.

The rehabilitation of the 3.8 kilometers farm-to-market road on the other hand will help ensure the sustainability of the established livelihood projects of the communities as it provides mobility for its residents.

The trainings availed of by the members among others, were on management skills and specific ones on plantation management and business skills, and have boosted their morale and confidence considerably.

A bonus benefit of the Subproject is the goodwill and the harmony it has fostered among the Muslims and the Christians in the area.