

## 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 watershed sites alongside the various inputs from the Subproject deepened their commitment to collaborate with other stakeholders in the implementation of these subprojects.

The Catubig Watershed Rehabilitation Subproject is located in the province of Northern Samar covering the municipalities of Catubig and Las Navas. It is a part of the large Catubig Watershed which supplies water to the major rice growing towns of the province.

The intensive awareness and technical trainings of the members of the Catubig Association for the Protection of Watershed Area Inc. (CAPWA) and the Hinaga River Environmental Development of Residents Association Inc. (HIREDERA), the People's Organizations contracted to do the Comprehensive Site Development (CSD), equipped them with skills to accomplish much for the Subproject. One indication of the strong commitment of the PO members was the establishment of 2,321 hectares of good quality plantations with 92.30% survival rate. The POs were able to acquire assets, to embark on capital buildup and to save community forestry development fund amounting to more than six million pesos.

In terms of employment, a total of 263,140 man days were generated out of the CSD activities and implementation of the infrastructure projects. As for manpower, 1,020 members of the POs were employed by the Subproject increasing their annual average household income by 46.44 % for CAPWA and 70.59% for HIREDERA. The annual average household income of CAPWA members increased from PHP 36,894 during the time of appraisal to PHP 54,027 during project implementation while those of HIREDERA members increased from PHP 30,471 before the project to PHP 51,979.72 during the project. With these, changes in the quality of life such as improvement of houses, purchase of household appliances, sending of children to school were noted.

The 4.81 kilometers concrete pathway on the other hand eased the mobility of the community members in the transport and marketing of products.

More importantly, the individual stakeholders through heightened understanding and developed capabilities have zealously accepted the responsibility to undertake the maintenance and protection of their plantations thus paving the way for the sustainable development of the watershed.