

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 site of the Santo Tomas Watershed Rehabilitation Subproject is in Tuba, Benguet encompassing Barangays Poblacion, Tabaan Sur, and portion of Twin Peaks and Tabaan Norte. The major role of Santo Tomas Watershed is to supply the domestic water requirements of surrounding communities including Baguio City and the irrigation needs of agricultural farms in the lowlands. It is the home of the indigenous people, the Ibaloi and Kankana-ey tribes. The continuing degradation of the watershed area had to be addressed with appropriate interventions to sustain its uses.

The holistic approach covers development of both the resources and the inhabitants within the watershed. While the environment is being rehabilitated, inputs are also infused into the upland communities to make them effective forest managers and in the process to improve their social-economic status.

The Comprehensive Site Development (CSD) covers the rehabilitation of the site coverage through plantation establishment and reforestation activities. The target was 2,126 hectares, which the People's Organization, Tuba Ecological Area Management Center, Inc. or TEAMCI was able to establish plantation within the specified period at 83.56% survival rate. For this accomplishment TEAMCI was awarded an expansion area of 500 hectares.

Cost adjustments pursuant to DENR Memorandum Circular No. 2000-19 and increase in cost because of the additional area raised the CSD cost from PHP 15.119 to PHP 41.580. The CSD however brought about a number of positive developments.

In terms of employment, involvement in CSD activities and in infrastructure work of immediate beneficiaries and those of nearby communities had generated a total of 253, 100 man-days raising the average annual household income from PHP 27, 016.96, registered before Project implementation, to PHP 34, 581.

The implementation of CSD also paved the way for the introduction of a micro-lending scheme that in turn boosted agricultural production because of access to capital.

The Bulldozer Services Rental is another livelihood project that continues to benefit some 174 families within the Subproject area.

Increase in income borne out of the Subproject activities and livelihood projects enabled members of the communities to acquire pieces of land, farm animals and equipment, vehicles as well as send their children to school, among others.

Improvement in socio-economic status coupled with additional learning gained from trainings on various subjects gave the beneficiaries the much-needed self-assurance to manage the Subproject on their own.

On the other hand, infrastructure projects such as the Farm-to-Market Road covering 2.8 kms. and the Pump Irrigation System complement the livelihood projects. An agreement signed on January 21, 2004 with the local government unit guaranteed the maintenance of these infrastructures even after the expiration of the Subproject.