

Sugar Regulatory Administration
Extension Services Division



2014 & 2015
ANNUAL REPORT



APPROVED BY: _____
OFFICE OF THE MANAGER
Planning & Policy Department (PPD)

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EXTENSION EFFORTS

2014

<u>Client-focused</u>	No.	<u>Organization-focused</u>	No.
• <i>Operationalization of Block Farms</i>		• <i>Crop Estimation</i>	
SRA-DAR Block Farms monitored	18	Sampling Sites identified	855
SRA- Initiated Block Farms organized	10		
• <i>Technology Transfer</i>		• <i>Ecological Test Sites monitored</i>	4
OPSI trainings conducted	6		
No. of participants trained	198	• <i>Field Monitoring & Evaluation</i>	247
Mill District seminars conducted	161		
No. of participants trained	5911	• <i>Area Conference & Quarterly meetings conducted</i>	2
Demonstration Farms established	4		
Production of Mill District Balita	480	• <i>Trainings conducted for Junior Agriculturists, MDOs & staff</i>	3
Reproduction/Distribution of Comics	1316		
• <i>Farm Support & Advisory Services</i>			
Farm Visits conducted	17817		
Consultations/referrals attended	791		
MDDC projects, LGUs, Cooperatives, Planters' Assns., etc. assisted	202		
• <i>Production Support Services</i>			
Nursery Farms monitored/area	8/31		
Canepoints distributed (Iacsa)	-		
Soil Samples collected/analysed	84		
• <i>Special Assignments</i>			
Various meetings attended (AFEN, Gawad Saka, MDDC, DTC, RMC, NTECLUM, CRAL, etc.)	187		
Ocular Inspection conducted	35		
Certification issued	23		
Total Area Involved	419.21		
Gawad Saka Nominees evaluated	25		

EXTENSION EFFORTS

2018

<u>Client-focused</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>Organization-focused</u>	<u>No.</u>
• <i>Operationalization of Block Farms</i>		• <i>Crop Estimation</i>	
SRA-DAR Block Farms monitored	10	Field/Area Validation (Area)	
SRA- Initiated Block Farms organized	58	Luzon & Mindanao	110,812.57
			74% of the Total hectareage
• <i>Technology Transfer</i>			54% of the digitized area
OPSI trainings conducted	20		
No. of participants trained	973	Visayas	190,840.94
Mill District Seminars conducted	1059		71% of the Total hectareage
No. of participants trained	2422		62% of the digitized area
Demonstration Farms established	4		
Production of Mill District Balita	240	• Sampling Sites identified	855
Reproduction/Distribution of Comics	1903		
• <i>Farm Support & Advisory Services</i>		• <i>Ecological Test Sites monitored</i>	4
Farm Visits conducted	5200		
Consultations/referrals attended	910	• <i>Field Monitoring & Evaluation</i>	491
MDDC projects, LGUs, Cooperatives, Planters' Assns., etc. assisted	65		
• <i>Production Support Services</i>		• <i>Area Conference & Quarterly meetings conducted</i>	5
Nursery Farms monitored/area	7/31		
Canepoints distributed (Iacsa)	977.12	• <i>Trainings conducted for Junior Agriculturists, MDOs & staff</i>	2
Recipients	164		
Canepoints distributed (Iacsa) to BFs	184	• <i>Consultations with MDDC conduct-</i>	36
Recipients (BF members)	23		
Soil Samples collected/analysed	836	• <i>Campaign for Sugarcane Production</i>	14
• <i>Special Assignments</i>			
FMR & Irrigation meetings attended	47		
Ocular Inspection conducted	17		
Certification issued	20		
Total Area Involved	499.931		
Gawad Saka Nominees evaluated	14		

MESSAGE


I am pleased to present our accomplishments for 2014 and 2015. This report gives a glimpse on the various activities conducted by the Extension Officers/Agriculturists and Support staff together with our contractual employees in these periods. Foremost is the validation and dissemination of the Crop Estimation protocol where even the private sectors (crop technicians/inspectors of mills and coops) were prompted to adopt the scientific manner of doing it. As days went by, we've continuously discovered the usefulness of the gadgets, equipment and ICT under this project, and now we are offering farm mapping survey services to serve as a guide when it comes to deciding developmental works in the districts.

This report actually gives an overview of the many services we offered to meet the needs of our stakeholders. For one, the Outreach Program of the Sugarcane Industry (OPSI) taught planters how to farm efficiently and profitably. Meanwhile, in the On-farm trials or Demo Farms, farmers personally witnessed the performance of SRA's newly-released high yielding varieties. Moreover, the establishment of nursery farms in the local area made the HYV canepoints accessible and available to the farmers.

Our agency's banner program which is the Block Farming is moving fast. The 50 SRA-Initiated Block Farms were already accredited/validated and have received interventions such as seminars, OPSI and HYV canepoints. We are now looking at 80 Block Farms for 2016.

Together with research, we have been contributing our efforts in the accreditation of SRA to TESDA for its Training Centers, Sugarcane Production NCII course and Experts. We were also able to integrate in our OPSI seminars the campaign against Child Labor in the sugarcane industry as a commitment by our beloved Administrator Regina Bautista- Martin to the US.

The entire report highlights the details of the activities mentioned. I hope this makes a must-read. Thank you.


M. Dina Padilla-Fernandez, PhD
Chief Agriculturist

EXTENSION OFFICERS AND STAFF

Together with Mr. Fernando H. Corpuz, RDE Manager III &
Board Member Pablito "Ka Lito" Sandoval

Thank you to the dedicated Mill District Officers, Agriculturists and Support Staff....



Kudos Everybody!

BLOCK FARM PROJECT

Block Farming is the key to livelihood improvement for small farm holders and their transformation into commercially-oriented farm entrepreneurs. To counter the negative effects of land fragmentation on sugarcane production and productivity, Block Farming was introduced in pilot farms in 2012 by the Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) in collaboration with other government agencies such as the Dept. of Agrarian Reform (DAR). The Block Farm Program is the consolidation of small farms of less than 5 hectares, into a bigger but contiguous unit of at least 30 hectares for purpose of production cost efficiency.

The program envisions the conversion of the consolidated farms into agribusiness centers through professionalized farm management and mechanized farming; with provisions for logistical, financial, technical, marketing and production support services from various government agencies, banking and financial institutions, and private sectors.

Fifty-eight SRA-Initiated BFs were organized this year and based on the results of BF assessments in Luzon and Mindanao, the following are the difficulties or challenges faced by the majority of the BF members:

- ◆ Lack of access to technical knowledge and information;
- ◆ Lack of access to improved technologies e.g., farm equipment/implements, HYVs, mudpress-



Block farm meeting with DAR-Sukidnon



Signing of MOU among DA-DAR-SRA Sugar Block Farm Project under the Accelerated Sustainable Anti-Poverty Program (ASSAPP).

- ◆ based organic fertilizers;
- ◆ Lack of access to formal credit institutions;
- ◆ Lack of access to market information;
- ◆ Lack of opportunities to learn business and technical skills;
- ◆ Size- too small to access the very important services that are critical for developing their enterprises (inputs and finance); low volume of produce results in very weak bargaining position and limited market access; and as a result, their most likely "business" partners are the middlemen. They resort to them for market access and finance.

These BFs were immediately given interventions e.g., for capacity development, various seminars on values formation, Gender and Development, Farm Management Decision-Making Skills, AFTA & SIDA, and the 2-day OPSI on Sugarcane Production. For production support, some were given HYV planting materials, subsidized tractor services and soil analysis.



Farm Assessment meeting conducted in Cotabato on Aug. 22, 2015

SRA CROP ESTIMATION PROJECT

During the 1st Review which was held on April 12, 2013, the weather-based crop estimation method, the "Crop Scenario" was introduced (rainfall vs. productivity). To be able to come up with a better decision support tool, during the 2nd Review which was conducted on 23 July 2014, the "Hybrid Crop Forecasting" was formulated where the effects of agro-climatic fluctuations on crop growth and yield were considered. Sampling sites became part of the protocol, meaning, this turned into location-specific. The usual overall monitoring still applies in the proposed crop estimation protocol. Around 144 sites were established depending on the location in each mill district by the Agriculturists.

This is the physical observation and actual survey of sugarcane areas to validate the forecast. Sampling sites are identified per area or barangay that is based on the milling schedule (early, mid, late). The aim is to observe the growth and development of the sugarcane that will enhance the crop estimate. The fields are visited and growth data will be collected on (both PC and RC) at a specific period. These sampling areas will also be used for growth data measurements year after year.

For SRA, crop estimates play a vital role in the formulation of sugar allocation hence our estimations should be precise. The Extension Division tried to review the traditional way of conducting Crop Estimation. The 3rd Review was held on June 17-18, 2015 in LAREC. Here, the crop calendar procedures were developed. The crop growth stages are plotted with the calendar days in synch with the harvesting schedule/milling duration and tons cane milled and the average TC/ha. The crop stage vulnerabilities against Climate Change (either moisture stress or drought) are assessed and evaluated to increase the accuracy on crop forecast.

However, during the recent crop year, we experienced deviation in our crop estimate vs. the actual. Generally, this attributes to the changing weather patterns and extreme weather events. As we foresee it, abnormal weather will continuously

prevail and this poses a threat on the accuracy of our crop estimate. It is indeed high time to further enhance and define a more accurate way to analyze yield forecasts.

Project Development

The crop estimation system was proposed to provide sugarcane field spatial data and normalized vegetation difference index to calibrate and adjust crop estimate based on near real time satellite data. This project aims to develop a real-time crop monitoring system to provide fast and reliable data that will support agricultural, industrial decision-makers and other stakeholders to better plan for, recognize, deal with, and document year to year crop status.

The framework has three main phases: parcellary mapping/digitization of sugarcane fields, database build-up and data integration and processing.

Phase I, Sugarcane Field Mapping/ Digitization.

Establishment of an accurate area is a major key in enhancing accuracy of the crop estimate. Hence, the sugarcane field area is virtually surveyed using satellite imagery. Each parcel planted with sugarcane is identified and established. The areas bounded into a polygon are processed in a Geographic Information System (GIS). Hired farm surveyors validated the digitized cane fields and also collected data needed for the database.

To date, we still have around 60,000 hectares of digitized area that is to be validated in the whole of Mindanao. In order to hasten the said activity, "Participatory Mapping" was conceived. This involves mill personnel, planters' representatives and MDDC participants, together with our GIS encoders. The aim is to identify the sugarcane plantations and eliminate the areas without sugarcane using the digitized map overlaid on google earth that will be shown using an LCD projector and laptops.

Participatory mapping did not only intensify the field validation but also the involvement of the

Mill District	Digitized Area	Validated	% Validated	# of Surveyors
BALAYAN	25,052.64	11,554.77	46%	4
BUKIDNON	107,697.55	69,125.45	64%	22
CARSUMCO	6,004.42	2,202.12	37%	2
COTABATO	11,915.87	1,216.09	10%	2
DAVAO	9,930.64	1,280.83	13%	2
DON PEDRO	13,673.78	7,959.14	58%	4
PAMPANGA	10,691.55	6,875.99	64%	2
PENSUMIL	4,899.23	52.14	1%	1
TARLAC	14,297.89	10,546.04	74%	4
TOTAL	204,163.57	110,812.57	54%	43

calibration of the crop forecast.

Phase III. Data Integration and Analysis. Final output expected will be yield maps with the parcellary mapping, and the database info, each parcel will have a yield forecast. Recent development on the yield forecasting using remote sensing will also be employed to monitor and calibrate the forecast. NDVI (normalized difference vegetation

stakeholders opened an avenue for interaction and understanding of the project.

Phase II Database Build-up. The primary objective in actual field validation is to update the digitized sugarcane areas. This parcellary map will be used to gather field information in order to capture the details of each field. This would include the field elevation, field slope percentage, soil texture, climate type, fertility status (if with soil fertility map) and proximity to existing mill factory. This attribute data will facilitate a better analysis on the different factors that affect crop yield. Also, with the completion of the planters' profiling, cultural management can be extracted to enhance the yield analysis. To date, based from the development of the field validation, it is expected that within the coming months, field data will start to fill our database. And with an overwhelming amount of data for crop estimate (like planters' profile, field data, cost of production, weather data from AWS and other pertinent information), the preparation of data for database system will be done. With our encoders to check on the data, progress monitoring of Phase I is in place.

A framework automatic weather station using smart sensors and wireless telecommunication technology will be established and implemented to collect and analyze weather data for all the mill districts. Observation sites or sampling sites will also be established primarily to have a basis on the

index) is a simple graphical indicator that can be used to analyze remote sensing measurements, basically it detects and assesses whether the target being observed contains live green vegetation or not. Area harvested can also be monitored using the NDVI as well as the health index of sugarcane. Additional information using aerial survey through drone will also be used to collect data that will be used in crop estimate calibration.



THE MULTI-TASKING ATTP PROJECT

The Accelerated Technology Transfer Program (ATTP) was implemented on May 2014 and ended in December 2015. The 38 hired Junior Agriculturists were tasked to identify, connect and coach farmers on the adoption of the improved technology. To be able to capture all the farmers in the district, they were grouped or clustered and the strategy was coursed through barangays or planters' associations. At the end of the project, a total of 203 seminars were staged with 9,564 participants from all the Luzon and Mindanao mill districts.

On the seminars staged, initial topics revolved on the ASEAN Free Trade Agreement or AFTA and the probable scenario in 2015 when sugar tariff will be reduced to 5%. Farmer-participants were made to understand that, to be able to compete in the global scene, they (farmers) should implement some drastic changes in their farm operations to achieve production efficiency. They should organize unto blocks (economic-size) and operate like a plantation or corporate farm to achieve such efficiency.

Farmers were taught on how to compute their cost of production and relate it to the expected price of sugar in 2015 and check where they stand. They were also taught on how to maximize yield and profit.

Because of the timely presence of the Junior Agriculturists, the mill district offices were able to do the following field activities, notably the farm profiling which covered around 76% of the total sugarcane hectareage in Luzon and Mindanao.

<i>Farm profiling</i>	
<i>No. of area (has.)</i>	116,086.16
<i>No. of farmers</i>	24,639
<i>Crop Estimation</i>	
<i>No. of sampling sites</i>	770
<i>Area sampled (has.)</i>	1,104.05
<i>Area validated (has.)</i>	495.18
<i>Block Farming</i>	
<i>GPS mapping</i>	72
<i>Soil sampling</i>	836
<i>Benchmarking</i>	1747
<i>Farm Validation & Assessment</i>	57
<i>Facilitated registration</i>	28
<i>No. of BFs that were given cane points</i>	23
<i>Farm Advisory</i>	41
<i>Facilitate- OPSI and</i>	19
<i>other agency-funded seminars</i>	41
<i>Geo-tagging of farm -to -mill road</i>	36
<i>Conducted cost of production survey</i>	568
<i>Muscovado Mill survey</i>	51
<i>Geo-tagging of FMR</i>	36



ATTP Seminar in Brgy. Lourdes, Bamban, Tarlac-
May 14, 2014



ATTP Seminar in Kibayao, Carmen, North Cotabato



ATTP seminar in Brgy. Kibogtok, Kadiyagan., Bukidnon



ATTP Seminar in Reparo, Nasugbu, Batangas

NURSERY FARMS

Old and deteriorating varieties of sugarcane can be seen in the country's small-scale farms because these plants are endlessly ratooned. One of the major reasons for this kind of practice is the high cost of tractor services and HYV cane points forcing farmers to resort to ratooning. Most often, ratoons are not given due attention. As a result, its productivity is less than the plant crop. This practice is causing low sugarcane production and productivity thus farm income.

Introduction of High -Yielding Varieties (HYVs) can improve the production and productivity of these small-scale farms. However, availability of good quality cane points is very limited due to the insufficient number of nursery farms established nationwide and this hinders the industry's developmental efforts.

Intensification of nursery farms in different strategic locations not only facilitates faster multiplication of cane points, but also enhances its availability and affordability in the area as transport cost is reduced. Moreover, it gives farmers the opportunity to use new high -yielding varieties of sugarcane.

To accelerate the propagation and distribution of good planting materials in the mill districts and increase the accessibility in the local area, SRA, through its Mill District Officers (MDOs), partnered with the Mill District Development Committees and some other

block farms in the establishment of seven (7) nursery farms in 2014. As funding agency, the MDOs, apart from giving technical assistance, also monitored and supervised the project. These nurseries now have a total area of 31 hectares and were able to produce around 977 lacsas. Albeit small, they were able to distribute the cane points to 164 recipients.

Establishment of nursery farms are expected to change the variety picture of the district from old to new ones. However, there are many risks in farming e.g., the dry weather condition. As such, some nursery farms milled their canes because there were no takers of cane points (Cotabato and Don Pedro) while other farms had low germination rate due to soil type hence, they have to relocate them first (Pampanga). There were also those which were accidentally burned (Cotabato).

However, for the Davao MDDC which was able to produce around 64 lacsas per hectare, a huge commendation for managing the farm well is just apt.

**Bravo Davao
MDDC!**



Sr. Agriculturist Adel Catuira teaching the Junior Agriculturists of Davao on how to estimate cut-backs production.



DEMO FARMS

This is one powerful decision-making tool for farmers as economic data can be included in the results and where useful cost-benefit analyses of different farming practices may be generated. The success stories of these farms can spread fast via word-of-mouth and once the news has spread, other farmers would take interest to visit the site and see for themselves. For farm advisors and SRA extension workers, these demo farms can be used as a basis for extending advice to other farms.

Four demo farms were established on the mill districts of Tarlac (1), Davao (2) and Bukidnon (2). Said undertakings focused on the utilization of recommended varieties of sugarcane in increasing cane and sugar production in the different mill districts in Luzon and Mindanao. Each demo farm was conducted on a one-hectare farm of selected co-operators and used varieties that proved to be productive and adaptable to the chosen district as the innovation for the demo against the farmer's chosen variety. Every demo farm has a total budget of Php 90,000. A MOA for these demo-farms was executed between the co-operators and SRA.

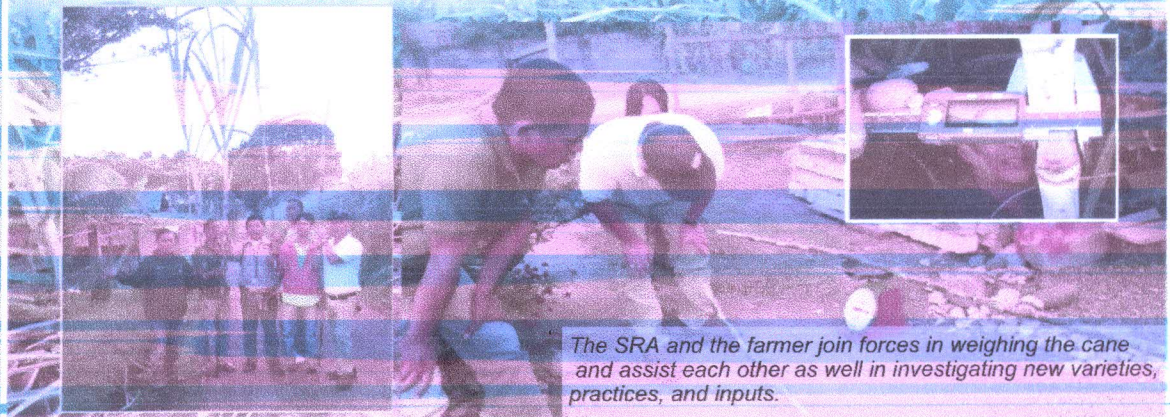
The project covered two cropping seasons (CY 2014-15 to CY 2015-16) to observe the ratooning potential of the varieties. Data on germination count, tiller count, number of millable stalks, stalk diameter, average plant/stalk height, weight/stalk in Kg, and the number of internodes were collected. Other observations including emergence of weed, insects/

pests damage, and soil and weather conditions, were also recorded and monitored for reference purposes.

Results showed that all morphological characters gathered were in favor of Phil 2003-1389 yet VMC 2000-34 outperformed the former in both demo farms in Bukidnon particularly. This could be due to the effect of the El Niño which disturbed the growth and development of the varieties. The case of the demo farm in Tarlac is not conclusive due to cane burning, delayed harvesting and milling as well.

In Bukidnon, the farmer's choice which is VMC 2000-34 obtained the highest yield of 81.84 TC/HA and 192.45LKg/HA. Even in the other demo farm, VMC 2000-34 surpassed Phil 2003-1389 but only in tonnage as the latter obtained higher sugar recovery (2.8 LKg/TC). Meanwhile in Tarlac, Phil 99-1973 outshined the farmer's choice- Indonesian variety, but only in tonnage. Likewise in Davao, Phil 99-1973 outperformed Phil 8013 as it reached 150 TC/HA.

For now, on the basis of ROI and high mean performance for cane yield and sugar content, it may be concluded that VMC 2000-34, Phil 2003-1389 and Phil 99-1973 have good adaptation potential both under favorable and unfavorable environments. The potential of Phil 2003-1389, which came out to produce high yield in terms of LKg/Ha, should be further tested especially its performance to other agro-climatic zones to determine its adaptability and stability.



The SRA and the farmer join forces in weighing the cane and assist each other as well in investigating new varieties, practices, and inputs.

SRA AND TESDA:

Working Hand-in-Hand for a More Sustainable Sugarcane Industry

With its commitment to work towards a globally competitive and sustainable sugarcane industry, the Sugar Regulatory Administration forged a partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) to jointly come up with a skills development program whose main goal is to improve the competency of sugarcane industry farmers and farm workers.

The two reputable institutions merged forces in the development of training regulations, competency-based curriculum and assessment tools that are specific or exact to the needs of the sugarcane industry. The Training Regulation (TR) actually defines the knowledge, skills and attitudes/values required for competent performance in the workplace while the competency standards (as defined in the TR) would be the basis for the curriculum, assessment and certification of sugarcane industry workers.

To develop the Training Regulations in sugarcane production, a series of workshops were conducted together with the research people. Initially, a Workshop on the Functional Analysis was conducted on March 4, 2015 at LAREC to identify the priority skills/competencies required in sugarcane production. At the end of the workshop, four competencies were identified namely: a) Nursery Establishment; b) Sugarcane Planting; c) Care and Maintenance of Ratoon Plant; and d) Harvesting and Post-Harvest Practices.

As a follow-up activity, another workshop was held on April 15-16, 2015 this time at LGAREC, Negros Occidental. Here, the competency standards were formulated together with six practitioners /farmers and four Trainers/Academe. In this event, contextual learning materials were also developed.

To validate the Training Regulations with the stakeholders, a National Consultation was staged on August 31-September 4, 2015 which was again held at LGAREC. At least 15 practitioners/farmers from other industry stakeholders nationwide were tapped.



The Training Regulations were then refined by the original pool of experts/practitioners /farmers and Trainers/Academe.

On October 5-9, 2015, another workshop was conducted to develop the assessment tools for Sugarcane Production NCII. After a few months, these Competency Assessment Tools (CATs) were validated in an actual workplace (LGAREC) and were later finalized.

The next stage is the Curriculum Development. A workshop is being scheduled and finalized to be participated in by the original pool of experts/practitioners. This is the most important phase before everything gets launched.

Interestingly, this training program can be pilot-tested with the help of SUCs (relating to the K-12 programs) to promote sugar production to the young generation.

With all these in consideration, it is hoped that this training program will be a great vessel for sugarcane farmers and farm workers to stay afloat even in the midst of AFTA. With this training program, they will be equipped to have better access to opportunities and decent work through education, skills training, capacity-building and technical assistance. Eventually, this training program will be another crowning glory for SRA since it is geared towards sustainability, improved productivity and competitiveness of the sugarcane industry through the help of TESDA.

OPSI FOR BLOCK FARMS

The Outreach Program of the Sugarcane Industry (OPSI) aims to enhance the knowledge of farmers in sugarcane farming in order for them to produce efficiently and profitably. Launched in 1988, the Luzon Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Pampanga designed the 5-day training course by giving emphasis on the proper way of planting sugarcane through research and lessons in modern farming methods and technologies. Center-based training always catered to bigger planters, farm managers/workers sent by the big landowners, members of the different planters coops/associations and trainers. In 2014, farmer leaders in the Pampanga, Tarlac, Bicol and Cagayan mill districts were trained during the last quarter of the year.

For Block farms, the "Outreach" actually became "Reach Out." SRA rendered OPSI to the 58 Initiated

Block Farms which were all conducted in their area. The original 5-day course was squeezed just into 2 days, hence the topics discussed were compressed and only the most relevant and applicable technology in the area were tackled. The training modules were developed based on the need assessments conducted at the onset of the training. As for the training materials, the manuals were replaced with comics types titled "Ang Tamang Pagtutubuhan" and "MyT Cane Checks," both 30-page pamphlets that guide farmers on what to do in every farm operations.

The "Trading Game", where the participants have to trade their goods on time and manage their business is sometimes conducted to enhance the entrepreneurship skills of the farmers and of the Block farm as a whole.



CHILD LABOR TOPIC SUCCESSFULLY INTEGRATED IN THE OPSI MODULE

Voluntary Code of Conduct aimed at reducing child labor in sugarcane farms. The crafting of the Code was done through a series of consultations with planter federations CONFED, UNIFED and NFSP, agrarian reform beneficiaries, and other sugar industry stakeholders. It was supported by the provincial government, partner government agencies DOLE, DepEd, DILG and DSWD, and ABK3 LEAP project partners SIFI and World Vision. The Code was adopted by sugarcane planters in Negros, Bukidnon and Batangas.



It all started in one of Adm. Regina Bautista-Martin's US trips in which she admitted to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) that Child Labor is present in the Philippine sugarcane industry setting. This proved to be a positive move as the latter gave \$ 15 M to implement projects that could help eliminate Child Labor eventually in the Philippine sugarcane industry field. Said grant was awarded to World Vision, touted as the world's largest international children's charity.

This is the reason why World Vision collaborated with SRA in the campaign against Child Labor starting with a Trainers' Training involving RDE personnel on September 3-4, 2014 held at the nature-themed Balay Indang in Cavite. With the main goal of obtaining a broader and deeper understanding on the timely and relevant topic of Child Labor that would be incorporated in the Outreach Program of the Sugarcane Industry (OPSI), the participants really learned a lot from the modules presented by the speakers/facilitators coming from ABK 3 LEAP at World Vision Development Foundation, Inc.

There was an active discussion on the Voluntary Code of Conduct (VCC) that highlighted the provinces which have VCC namely, Bukidnon, Batangas and Negros Occidental. In line with this, participants agreed that there ought to be a VCC per mill district and that there should be a section in the VCC which says that any violation may be prosecuted under RA 7610.

The follow-up activity was a "Write-shop" for select Extension personnel from both SRA Quezon City and Bacolod on February 2-4, 2015 whose main agenda was for the development of a module on Child Labor which would be integrated in the existing modules the Extension Division uses in its conduct of OPSI. The participants were given enough time to discuss, evaluate and decide on what techniques they can incorporate to introduce Child Labor to their old modules. Actually, the write-shop was a preparation to the grand Child Labor Training World Vision was readying on April 21-25, 2015 for RDE personnel which was held in Palawan.

There were five modules developed for Child Labor, namely: "The Rights of Women and Children", "Child Labor in Sugarcane Farms: Children's Work Environment", "Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Concerns of Working Children in Sugarcane Farms", "The Policies for the Elimination of Hazardous Child Labor" and "Taking Action against Hazardous Child Labor."

When the series of OPSI's were staged in all nine districts in Luzon and Mindanao last year, the topic on Child Labor was successfully integrated.

Participants became aware of the impact of such in the development of a child's life. A lot were moved and vowed to stop the practice of tapping the services of children in their sugarcane farms.

SRA & THE PRIVATE SECTORS: WORKING TOGETHER TO EDUCATE SUGARCANE FARMERS

Helping farmers to increase their farm productivity is a long process as it requires a new viewpoint and attitude by the farmers towards their present practices. But the private sectors such as the BUSCO, Davao and Cotabato MDDCs together with SRA, never stop extending knowledge to their farmers.

Good agricultural education ensures that farmers would be knowledgeable enough to avoid risks and losses, especially the small ones whose main source of livelihood is solely derived from farming.

For 2015, the Bukidnon Sugar Company, Sweet Crystal Sugar Company and the Sugar Industry Foundation Inc. sponsored a total number of 39

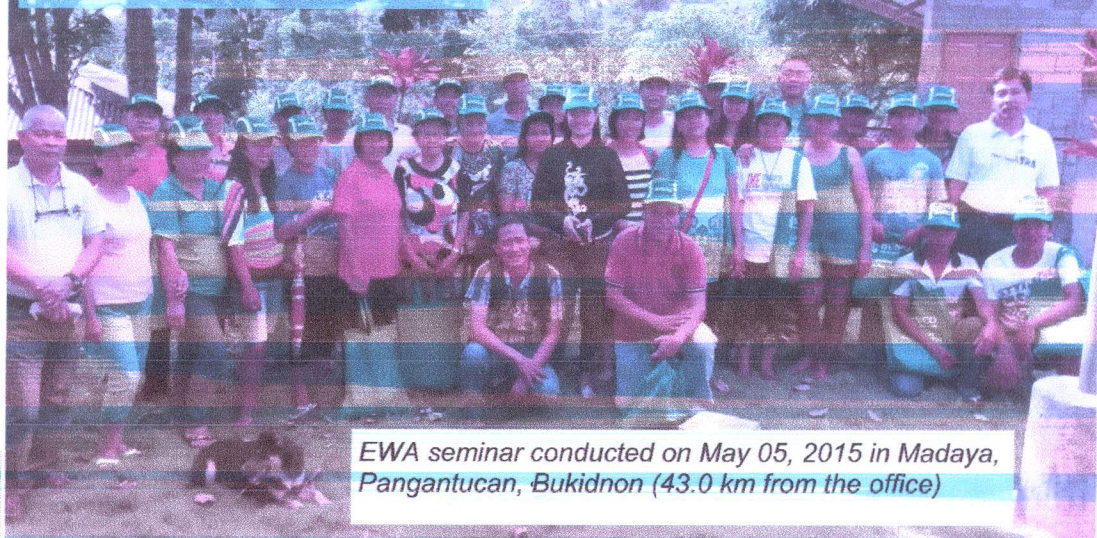
technology seminars with 1,485 participants (17 seminars and 899 participants in 2014). The Davao MDDC funded 10 seminars (25 seminars with 976 participants) while its Cotabato counterpart, 11 seminars with a total of 291 participants (26 seminars with 774 participants in 2014).

During the seminars conducted in Davao, the small farmers were given HYV planting materials to increase their farm production. Some small farmers were also organized into groups so that information could be easily disseminated to them. Likewise in Cotabato, the MDDC was able to campaign for sugarcane farm expansion to increase the production in the district. In addition, ten (10) planter associations were organized which would later be registered with the Bureau of Rural Workers- Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

After the seminars, it was hoped that farmers would understand why farm productivity is mainly a matter of taking good care of the soil and the sugarcane plant and why their present practice should be improved to gain profit from farming.



Natutungan, Matalam, N. Cotabato



EWA seminar conducted on May 05, 2015 in Madaya, Pangantucan, Bukidnon (43.0 km from the office)

THE EXTENSION DIVISION & THE GAWAD SAKA SEARCH AWARDS

The annual Gawad Saka Awards is an essential agriculture event being looked forward to in the industry. This prestigious search honors the best in various categories where sugarcane is one of the hotly-contested.

In this prestigious search, the Extension Division plays an important part. Mill District Officers (MDO) tap potential nominees in their respective areas and coordinate with the Gawad Saka regional committee regarding this. If the farmer nominee makes it to the list and wins in the regional level, then, the MDO concerned along with DA Regional personnel will help the winner complete the requirements for the national level like their profile and other pertinent documents. Looking back, adjudged winners were simply the "cream of the crop" who were able to register impressive production in spite of the odds. Overcoming the stumbling blocks with determination, hard work and positive disposition, they prove to be worthy of the citation.

The Extension Division takes pride in its participation in the annual Gawad Saka search which is simply "involving and meticulous" as all selected nominees get screened, interviewed and visited in their actual farms. Definitely not an easy task, it requires strength not only on the physical but mental and emotional as well considering the long travels, safety and weather conditions to be faced in line with the evaluation. Their dedication, flexibility and perseverance are just note-worthy.

The Gawad Saka Awards actually sets the bar for sugarcane farmers to maximize all their potentialities and resources to obtain only the best results in their production. Some of its notable winners like Mr. Pablito Sandoval (initial awardee from Batangas) who is also one of SRA's Board members as well as Engr. Raul Carreras (from Pensumil) and Rural Bank Manager Nestor Bautista (Carsumco) are very good role models for aspiring planters. They are so generous to share their success formula, a way of

paying it forward to other sugarcane farmers especially the small ones.

Last year's winner, Ms. Gerlie Adug from Marbel, Matalam, North Cotabato exhibited that nothing beats drive, focus, action and determination to pursue one's dream. These are core factors for victory which she used to full advantage.

Originally, their family owned an area of just 0.75 has. This served as their nucleus for cane points for future expansion. At that time, sugarcane was a very popular crop in their Barangay since it is near the sugar mill. As years went by, their interest to invest for more expansions materialized and in the following year, they expanded and tilled a total of 2 has in the next and 5 hectares the year after.

Their production on said area was good and they were able to acquire a hauler truck for their produce. These days, they till a total of 20 hectares and own several equipment such as: forward truck, elf truck, tractor and service pick-ups. It's really a sweet fruit for all their labor. What's good about Gerlie and her family, despite their leap in status, they still continue to find ways on how to improve their productivity.

Interestingly, as COSUCECO extends crop loan assistance, Gerlie plans of availing loan packages for future expansions.

Clearly, she has foresight.

She knows how to spend the amount wisely for their future benefit. Crop Year 2013-2014 gave them the chance to acquire newer varieties, like PSR 2000-171 which now serves as their nucleus seed pieces for their newly-rehabilitated farms.

The Adug family is hopeful that the sugarcane industry will continue to give them more income in the years to come.



GERLIE C. ADUG
2015 GAWAD SAKA Award Winner

GEARING TOWARDS THE CHALLENGES OF SIDA



Class picture of SRA's successful National Extension Conference for 2015

The 2015 National Extension Conference and Evaluation was successfully staged at the National Power Corporation Training Center in Bagac, Bataan on April 27-30. The event's theme, "Working for a stronger sugar industry through unity, hard work and dedication!" proved to be apt considering the latest developments in the field, particularly the official signing of the Sugarcane Act of 2015.

Mr. Fernando Corpuz (Manager III, RDE) discussed how RDE would revolve into the Sugarcane Act. He stressed its implications to RDE, which are: additional funding, more work and more opportunities.

Meanwhile, SRA Board Member Atty. Jesus Barrera inspired the participants by pointing out that the sugar industry is not just about regulation but contributed greatly by RDE (Research, Development & Extension). He further stated that Extension Personnel play an integral role in the picture because they perform the developmental functions of the agency through the various forms of assistance they extend to both farmers and the mills. He said that the key policies of SRA are the output of its Extension personnel. As an ender, Atty. Barrera encouraged everybody to take advantage of the Sugarcane Act in harnessing their skills.

In her inspirational message, Adm. Regina Bautista-Martin averred that: "P-Noy signed the Sugarcane Industry Development Act of 2015 with conviction!"

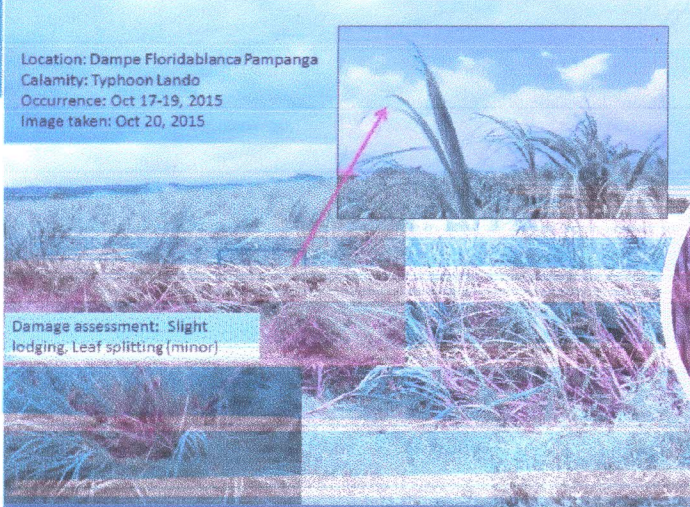
She stressed that this law is needed to answer the persistent question on how to increase productivity at a low cost. She emphasized that the Sugarcane Act will put money into RDE to be able to achieve sustainability of sugarcane supply.

Asked if we are ready for the SIDA— YES! A mini-workshop was staged. The body was divided into three groups to conceptualize and develop plans for the following projects under SIDA, namely: 1) establishment of 1000 HYV nursery farms; 2) adaptability trials; and 3) capability-building for small farmers. SRA, RDE and SUC's.



ESD in Action!

Location: Dampé Floridablanca Pampanga
Calamity: Typhoon Lando
Occurrence: Oct 17-19, 2015
Image taken: Oct 20, 2015



El Mark JAKosalem • Sugarcane Mappers
1 min · 🌐

6 months sugarcane „parang harvest stage na,,, dahil sa walang ulan...# failure ..@san carlos valencia city..



Field Monitoring and Evaluation

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💬 Comment





1. Fernando H. Corpuz Manager III, RDE
2. M. Dina Padilla-Fernandez Chief Agriculturist
3. Maximo Pelle Suv. Agriculturist
4. Adel Catuira Sr. Agriculturist
5. Evelyn Estanislao Sr. Sc. Res. Specialist
6. Zyrus Oliver Montiel Agriculturist II
7. Joseph Peter Gonzales Training Specialist II
8. Marissa Tiu Clerk III
9. Lito Caranguian MDO Carsumco
10. Joel Ronario MDO Tarlac
11. Laverne Olalia MDO Pampanga
12. Celso Ersando MDO Don Pedro
13. Lucio Santiago MDO Balayan
14. Salvador Ocampo MDO Penumil
15. Teresa Caballero Agriculturist II, Penumil
16. Wilfredo Mapano MDO Bukidnon
17. Ismael Braga Agriculturist II, Bukidnon
18. Allan Buque Agriculturist II, Bukidnon
19. Arthur Saludes Agriculturist II, Bukidnon
20. Josephine Mapano Chemist II
21. Edgar Adao MDO Davao
22. Joylene Bernardo Chemist I
23. Ireneo Nuñez MDO Cotabato

Camaraderie on Display...

