



Coralline

Official Newsletter of the FishCORAL Project

/FishCORAL.BFAR



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PSCO Cascades Monitoring and Evaluation workshops in the regions



FishCORAL in CARAGA hosts 9th ACPoR in Butuan



FishCORAL and FoodSTART+ collaborate in developing community-based enterprises



FishCORAL in Bicol hosts 8th IFAD Gender Assembly in Legazpi



PSC Approves FishCORAL Year 2 Implementation Plans

FishCORAL Project is cleared to conduct planned activities on its second year of implementation. Its Project Steering Committee (PSC) through a meeting recently approved the project's Implementation Guidelines, Workplans, Budget and Procurement Plans for 2017. The PSC Meeting was held at Sundance Room in Icon Hotel-North Edsa on March 7, 2017.



Attendees were: Atty. Jonas R. Leones, PSC Member and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) Undersecretary; Director Esmeralda P.D Manalang of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR); and Regional Director Hadja Janice D. Musali, BFAR Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

Representatives of agencies such as the Department of Agriculture- Special Project Coordination and Management Assistance Division (SPCMAD), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Mindanao Development Authority (MINDA), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA) also attended along with observers from DENR, DILG, DA, and BFAR regional offices.

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Knowledge-sharing towards synergy:

FishCORAL Hosts 9th IFAD Annual Country Programme Review (ACPoR) in Butuan City

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) held its 9th Annual Country Programme Review (ACPoR) in Butuan City on January 25-28, 2017. The Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project and its Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) in Region XIII (Caraga) hosted the event.

Attendees were representatives from IFAD loan-assisted projects namely Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project (CHARMP2), Integrated Natural Resource and Environmental Management Project (INREMP), Convergence on Value Chain-Enhancement for Rural Growth and Empowerment (ConVERGE), and Irrigated Rice Production Enhancement Project (IRPEP), a subproject of Rapid Food Production Enhancement Programme (RafPEP).

Other participants are from IFAD grant-assisted projects including Consortium for Unfavorable Rice Environments (CURE), Climate Smart Tree Invest (SmartTree Invest), Medium Term Cooperation Programme 2 (MTCP2), the Root and Tuber Crops for Food Security in Asia-Pacific (FoodSTART+), Supporting Smallholder Farmers in Asia and Pacific-Islands Region through Strengthened Agricultural Advisory Services (SAAS) and Scaling up initiatives in Mobilizing Migrant Resources towards agriculture development in the Philippines by Atikha Overseas Workers and Communities Initiative, Inc. (ATIKHA). Also present were delegates from National Line Agencies specifically Office of the Cabinet Secretary (CabSec), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Department of Budget and Management.

The 2017 ACPoR adapted the theme **“Investments and Partnerships under a New Country Strategy”**. The theme was geared towards crafting the IFAD-Philippines’ 2017 Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) while aligning it with the government’s Philippine Development Program (PDP). Ms. Mags Maglana, assigned facilitator highlighted the importance of the 2017 ACPoR by mentioning *“the chance for the participants to help define the focus of the new COSOP... identify concerns and recommended actions.”*

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Left: Dr. Virginia Cardenas during the first day of workshop proper. She presented updates on SAAS-ASPIRAS, an IFAD grant-assisted project the next day. **Right:** Representatives from civil society groups (ATIKHA, AFA-PAKISAMA, and Asia- DHRRA) are working on their outputs for Workshop 1. After the group activity, selected participants shared what implementation issues should be addressed.

The pinnacle of the event were the workshops wherein participants discussed how the challenges, gaps, and practical solutions in implementing the country programme should be addressed. Prevalent themes that the participants deemed important are value chain completion, convergence among IFAD-assisted projects, and alignment of plans and budgets for project implementation.

The IFAD-PH Country Programme team and the participants visited a potential FishCORAL project beneficiary, the Sitio Tabigue Marginal Fisheries Association in Sitio Tabigue in Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. FishCORAL staff and barangay officials organized a short program for the participants to interact with members of the People's Organization (PO). During the site visit, PO members related concerns regarding livelihood sustainability and alternatives.

The short activity emphasized to IFAD project implementers the importance of going on ground to include stakeholders in the development process. Consequently, participants had an interactive discussion of their observations and recommendations for the FishCORAL Project implementers in relation to the potential livelihood beneficiary.

The host of the 10th ACPoR to be held in Bukidnon is Project CONVERGE



Ninth ACPoR attendees consult with fisherfolks regarding their organization and livelihood. After the consultation with the fisherfolks, participants gathered to discuss observations and recommendations for FishCORAL Project implementers.

PSC Approves FishCORAL's Year 2 Plans...

PSC members meet annually to provide policy guidelines and resolve project implementation issues at the national level. Ms. Jessica Muñoz, FishCORAL National Project Coordinator commenced this year's meeting by updating the attendees on the recent project accomplishments, status of implementation and procurement, and immediate issues and concerns. Mr. Raul dela Cruz, National Finance Officer presented the project's financial status and utilization as complement to FishCORAL's accomplishments.

During the meeting, the PSC Members were particularly interested on the challenges during FishCORAL's first implementation year so that lessons learned can be applied to the succeeding years of project implementation. They further discussed matters such as: FishCORAL's livelihood component as an essential part of the project; procurement bottlenecks; and project implementation in consideration to Institutions and Gender and Development (GAD) concerns.

As an epilogue to the meeting, Ms. Zenaida Silao, National Planning Officer presented the draft FishCORAL PSC Resolution number 2. PSC members declared that the draft is subject for approval once supporting documents are submitted.



BFAR- ARMM Director Janice Musali raises issues regarding convergence with other projects. Director Musali attended on behalf of the ARMM Regional Governor.

FishCORAL Bicol forms Ragay Gulf Management Council (RGMC) for gulf-wide collaboration



Ragay Gulf Management Council Members with FishCORAL team and BFAR regional officials gather to provide aid in Ragay Gulf's Coastal Resources Management. Pasacao Mayor Hon. Tayco mentioned that the RGMC should decide as one body to address issues. (Source: RPMO 5)

Another support for the Coastal Resources Management (CRM) component of the Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project has been established in the Bicol Region. The local chief executives with their agriculture and planning officers from Camarines Sur and Masbate met to establish the Ragay Gulf Management Council (RGMC) on January 30, 2017.

Ms. Melinda Mathers, RPMO-Bicol Coordinator facilitated the formation of the RGMC. She introduced the FishCORAL project and its aim to reduce poverty in the region through sustainable livelihood programs complemented with an ecosystem approach on fisheries management. Ms. Mathers also updated the participants on the recent efforts of FishCORAL in the region.

BFAR-Bicol Regional Director Dennis V. Del Socorro also attended the event. He stressed that the RGMC should support the Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) at all times. He also took the opportunity to encourage mayors to submit more proposals intended for the fisherfolks. Assistant Regional Director Ms. Marjurie P. Grutas supported RD Del Socorro's statement by saying that all participants should promote government plans and projects.

The Council elected Hon. Niño A. Tayco, Pasacao Mayor as the RGMC Chair. When asked to deliver a message, he assured his fellow council members that RGMC should decide as one and be committed to the fisherfolks.

Meanwhile, co-council members mentioned that the location of the watchtower and the Bay Management Multipurpose Building (BMMB) should be decided immediately. The Council also proposed to draft an ordinance for a dialogue between FishCORAL and the RGMC in the immediate future.



BFAR 5 Regional Director Dennis del Socorro reminds all attendees that RGMC and FARMC should act as support systems. He also mentioned that more programs for our fisherfolks should be submitted. (Source: RPMO 5)

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Attendees of the Management Council formation were:

BFAR – FishCORAL:

1. **DENNIS V. DEL SOCORRO**, Regional Director BFAR 05
2. **MARJURIE P. GRUTAS** Assistant Regional Director BFAR 05
3. **MELINDA A. MATHERS** Regional Project Coordinator BFAR 05 FishCORAL
4. **ROBERTA R. SAN AGUSTIN** Regional Finance Officer FishCORAL
5. **MICHAEL BONAYON** Rural Infrastructure Officer FishCORAL
6. **EDGAR JOSE LLORENS** Regional Information Management Officer, FishCORAL
7. **CORAZON D. REBELIN** Assistant Regional Finance Officer
8. **EDUARDO AZUELO** Gender and Development (GAD) Officer FishCORAL

Local Government Units:

1. **HON. ROGENOR G. ASTOR**, Mayor-Sipocot Camarines Sur
2. **HON. BERNARD P. BRIOSO**, Mayor-Libmanan Camarines Sur
3. **HON. ZACARINA A. LAZARO**, Mayor-San Pascual Masbate
4. **ALONA C. MORALES**, Municipal Agriculturist (MAO) 1-San Pascual Masbate
5. **HON. ROBERTO M. MATAMOROSA**, Mayor- Lupi Camarines Sur
6. **HON. LYDIA B. ABARIENTOS**, Mayor-Del Gallego Camarines Sur
7. **HON. NINO A. TAYCO**, Mayor- Pasacao Camarines Sur
8. **ISIDRO SABALLEGUE**, MAO-Pascao Camarines Sur
9. **HON. THADDEUS A. RAMOS**, Ragay Camarines Sur
10. **MERLE B. GORGONIA**, MAO- Balatan Camarines Sur
11. **JANICE B. BARIENTOS**, Agricultural Technician (AT)- Fisheries, Balatan Camarines Sur
12. **HECTOR LLAGAS**, MAO Officer-in-Charge (OIC) Bato, Camarines Sur
13. **HON. CHRISTOPHER R. LIZARDO**, Mayor-Minalabac Camarines Sur
14. **Engr. ELIAS DELA AUSTRIA**, MAO-Minalabac Camarines Sur
15. **MARY RUTH V. PARRO**, Municipal Planning and Development Officer (MPDO)- Bula Camarines Sur

ARMM FishCORAL organizes Regional Coordination and Steering Committee Meeting (RCSC) as venue for regional convergence

FishCORAL Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) provided a venue for regional convergence by organizing ARMM Regional Coordination and Support Committee (RCSC) meeting on January 31, 2017.

BFAR Regional Director (RD) Janice Desamito-Musali and representatives of ARMM Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF) , Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Office of the Regional Treasury (ORT), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Technical Management Service (TMS), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and, Regional Planning and Development Office (RPDO) attended the RCSC formation.

Ms. Jessica Muñoz, National Project Coordinator started the meeting by introducing the FishCORAL Project to all attendees. Mr. Terry Posadas of ARMM-FishCORAL presented the Annual Workplan and Budget (AWPB) and Annual Procurement Plan (APP) to the RCSC members. Both the AWPB and APP will guide the members on advising ARMM RPMO in project implementation.

During the RCSC convergence meeting, members were particularly interested on the project proposals that will be reviewed by the respective Bay Management Councils and the Community Facilitators and the Livelihood Officer. Members were also concerned on the sustainability of the project particularly the capacity building aspects of FishCORAL benefitting coastal communities. The RCSC unanimously emphasized the importance of LGU participation in FishCORAL Project implementation, especially the management of coastal resources in their respective municipal waters.

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To end the convergence meeting, RD Musali reminded that Secretaries or Directors of line agencies must issue a Special Order to formalize designation of permanent representatives. Future RCSC convergence meetings are yet to be scheduled.

Here is the composition of RCSC- ARMM:

Chair:

JANICE DESAMITO-MUSALI -Regional Director ARMM-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)

Members:

ISKAK L. PAGUITAL- Chief of Staff ARMM-Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (DAF)

DR. ABUBACAR M. DATUMANONG- ASEC ARMM-Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)

AHMEROL M. CARIDAD- ARMM DTI
FAUZIAH A. TAMBAK -ARMM Technical Management Service(TMS)

NORSHA LAO- ARMM Regional Planning and Development Office (RPDO)

BAHARODIN S. BAULO- Environmental Management Specialist (EMS) I ARMM Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

GATOCOD M. RASCAL- EMS II ARMM DENR

ALICE D. GAMAS- Science Research Specialist (SRS) I ARMM Department of Science and Technology (DOST)

LUZMINDA HALUD- Local Government Operations Officer (LGOO) V ARMM DILG

RONNIE S. DATUKON- Assistant Regional Treasurer for Admini (ARTA) ARMM Office of the Regional Treasury (ORT)



BFAR ARMM Regional Director with FishCORAL RPMO staff and RCSC members gather during their quarterly meeting. RCSC members are encouraged to appoint permanent alternates to attend the meetings on behalf of the members. (Source: RPMO ARMM)

FishCORAL in ARMM establishes Bay Management Council (BMC) in Illana Bay to combat illegal fishing



Representatives of different offices from ARMM make up the Illana Bay Management Council. Together, they will collaborate towards strengthening coastal resources management in Illana Bay. (Source: RPMO-ARMM)

The Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project achieved yet another milestone as its Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) successfully formed a Bay Management Council for Illana Bay. On February 7, 2017, the FishCORAL ARMM, with representatives from the regional agencies of Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), the Local Government Units (LGUs) and Philippine Coast Guard, formally established the Illana Bay BMC to address coastal resources management issues in the bay.

The event formally started with Mr. Terry Posadas, the RPMO head, introducing FishCORAL Project's aim to reduce poverty in coastal communities while strengthening local food and nutrition security. He said that the BMC formation *"bring(s) us together, make(s) us feel that we are not alone in our endeavor to reach our goal... to help our fisherfolks who are majority of the poorest of the poor.. The sooner we create (a) coordination office in the Region, the better we implement the project without hesitation in the grassroots level"*. Mr. Terry Posadas underscored the need to form a BMC in bays/gulfs that will strengthen bay-wide interagency collaboration.

Issues raised during the BMC formation include the importance of clearly defining and delegating roles between and among project partners especially the LGUs. An important discussion centered on the BMC's importance to reduce illegal fishing activities in ARMM by strengthening the LGUs' and Bantay Dagat's mandates on penalizing fishermen practicing illegal fishing activities. It was evident that a values training for fishermen is needed for them to appreciate the importance of proper fishing towards sustainable coastal resources management.



Mr. Makaradat L. Uddin of the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) is reminding the attendees regarding the Safety, Security Numbering System, wherein all water crafts are required to register. (Source: RPMO-ARMM)

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In this light, the Illana Bay BMC, headed by Mr. Datun M. Nur (BMC chairman and Provincial Fisheries Officer-Maguindanao), will hopefully assess local fishing situations in relation to local regulations and national policies that will address the prevalent coastal resources management issues in the bay. This assessment will then be used to strengthen existing mandates and update obsolete ones. Mr. Posadas reiterated this by saying that *“As set of policies and/or guidelines (are) readied, it (will) become the implementors’ bible of implementation”*.

Below is the composition of the council:

Chairperson:

MR. DATUN NUR, Maguindanao Provincial Fishery Office (PFO)

Members:

MR. MANIOBA M. DOMAOT, Lanao del Sur PFO

MS. AMIYAH M. MACABANIDO, (rep)

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)

MS. WILDANAH MANALASAL, Forester, DENR-ARMM (rep)

ASMARIE M. LABAO, Forester, Planning/PIO, DENR-Lanao del Sur (LDS) (rep)

Regional Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (RFARMC)

MR. CABILI K. ABO

Municipal Agriculture Offices (MAOs)

MS. MARCELINA CORTEZ, Balabagan, LDS

MR. MAPIAMAMA S. MACABAGO, Kapatagan, LDS

MS. NANAYAON T. SANTICAN, Malabang LDS

MS. PISINGAYO A. MALAWANI, Picong, LDS

MR. GUIAPAR ESMAIL, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao

MS. DOLORES B. SEVILLA, Matanog, Maguindanao

Philippine National Police/ Philippine Navy/ Philippines Coast Guard (PNP/ PN/ PCG)

PSS JOHN RODERICK A. MORALES

PO1 KEN WINSTON GARPAO

LTJG MAKARADAT L. UDDIN PCG

SNZ JIM RUSSEL O. CHIO, PCG

The BMC formation bring(s) us together, make(s) us feel that we are not alone in our endeavor to reach our goal... to help our fisherfolks who are majority of the poorest of the poor...

-Mr. Terry Posadas, Head, FishCORAL RPMO-ARMM

Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Councils (MFARMCs)

MR. DIMA T. MAMA, Kapatagan, LDS

MR. MUSTAPHA B. ACOB, Sultan Mastura, Maguindanao

MR. OGKA SAMPIANO, Jr., Balabagan, LDS

MR. RUDY CABAUG, Parang, Mag.

MR. ZAINUDIN DAUD, MAFC Sultan Kud.

MR. ALEX IBRAHIM, MAFC DOS

In the immediate future, the recently-formed council will coordinate closely with project partners and stakeholders up to the municipal and barangay levels.



BFAR ARMM Regional Director Janice Musali speaks on behalf of BFAR-ARMM and FishCORAL ARMM RPMO. Regional Director Musali is also appointed Chair of ARMM FishCORAL Regional Support and Coordination Committee (RCSC). (Source: RPMO ARMM)

ARMM - FishCORAL spearheads Sulu Sea Bay Management Council (BMC) establishment for bay-wide collaboration and development

The Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) has recently completed its goal in establishing two Bay Management Councils in the region. On February 21, 2017, the Sulu Sea Bay Management Council was formed.

The FishCORAL ARMM and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO), Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), Philippine National Police/Philippine Navy/Philippine Coast Guard (PNP/PN/PCG) and Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (FARMC) officials gathered to form the Sulu Sea Bay Management Council.

Mr. Alihuddin said that the Sulu Sea BMC will play an important role insofar as the FishCORAL Project is concerned. *“Kasi nandito na ang IFAD, BFAR, LGU na tutulong sa mga stakeholders kung paano maayos ang karagatan nila,”* he added.



Members of different agencies gather to form the Sulu Sea Bay Management Council. They chose Mr. Alano Alihuddin (PFO-Basilan) as the BMC Chair. (Source: RPMO ARMM)



Mr. Terry Posadas, FishCORAL-ARMM Regional Coordinator explains the goal and objectives of FishCORAL. FishCORAL ARMM headed by Mr. Posadas organized the BMC formation. (Source: RPMO ARMM)

“Napakaganda nito dahil nabuo... ang samahan ng mga stakeholders,” Mr. Alano Alihuddin, Provincial Fisheries Officer (PFO) of Basilan and assigned BMC Chair said. He also stated that the BMC formation will mostly be utilized for the members to coordinate with one another towards bay-wide developments. *“Kasi mas madali ang coordination, madali ang collaboration with the stakeholders including LGUs, BFAR, and IFAD “* he added.

Through the BMC, issues such as the encroachment of commercial fishing vessels in the municipal waters will hopefully be addressed. The BMC Chair remarked, *“kung mapalakas natin ang plano para sa CRM ng bawat area, bawat municipality, bawat barangay ang tendency nito ay magkaron sila ng vigilance in terms of how they will protect the resources,”*

In the future, the BMC Chair related that they look forward to operate independently as a council and hold quarterly meetings. When asked if the stakeholders are receptive of the BMC formation, he answered *“We can really make sure that there is an enthusiasm insofar as the IFAD program (FishCORAL) is concerned. There are municipalities making resolutions that they wanted to be part of (the project). But we told them that the ... areas were already identified by IFAD itself. So anyway, you can still give resolutions addressed to PSCO and they will try to study what resolution you want,”*

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“kung mapalakas natin ang plano para sa CRM ng bawat area, bawat municipality, bawat barangay ang tendency nito ay magkaroon sila ng vigilance in terms of how they will protect the resources,”

*-Mr. Allano Alihuddin,
Sulu Sea BMC Chair and
Basilan PFO*

Other plans to be decided by the BMC include the formation of another BMC in Jolo, Sulu due to the vast area coverage of Sulu Sea. Lastly, they concurred to conduct BMC election biannually.

Here is the composition of the Sulu Sea BMC:

Chairperson:

MR. ALANO ALIHUDDIN, BASILAN PFO

Members:

MR. MACIANO M. DAMIH, Sulu PFO

Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO)

MR. LADJIMAN WYMBELL, CENRO,
DENR-ARMM Basilan

MR. PAO N. DAMBONG, PENRO, Jolo Sulu
NUR-PADZRI S. PHO, PENRO, Jolo Sulu

Regional/ Provincial Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (R/PFARMC)

ABDULNASSER B. AJIJON, Maluso,
Basilan

Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO)

MR. JUN M. AMMAK, Panamao, Sulu

MR. ABDULHALIM T. ALIH, Pangutaran,
Sulu

MR. JUL-RAHMAN GUIALI, Tongkil, Sulu

MR. TAIB ATALAD, Basilan

MR. ROGELYN SCHUCK, Patikul, Sulu

MR. ZALDY SARABI, Haji Panglima Tahil

MR. ABDULMALIK ABDULLAH, Tabuan
Lasa

Philippine National Police/ Philippine Navy/ Philippine Coast Guard (PNP/ PN/ PCG)

PCI JOEBERT DIMERES, OIC MPS, Siasi,
Sulu

PCI MOH. HUSSIN H. TAPSI, COP, Panglima
Tahil

SPO2 ALY-ZAHIER L. RASUL, Maimbung
MPS, Sulu (rep)

PO2 ALMUDZRIN M. HADJAPUDDIN, PNP
Staff, K. Kaluang

HASSAN AJINDI, PCR PNCO, PCR PPO
Basilan

TAIYAB MURPHY, PNCO, Omar MPS, Sulu

MERILYN AJINDI, PNCO, Tapui MPS

IBRAHIM HADJIULA JR., MESPO, Tapul
MPS

Municipal Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Management Council (MFARMC)

BERHAMIN H. RAJI, Panamao

WASIT I. OMAR, Capual, Omar, Sulu

FAIZAL P. DAWAMIE, Jolo, Sulu

JASHER AMIRUL, Pangutaran, Sulu

MARK EDISON GALANG, Taglibi, Patikul,
Sulu

JULBARRI TAHASSAM, Panglima Tahil,
Sulu

MAAD OMAR, Banguingui, Sulu

NASSER A. UTOH, Hadji Muhtamad

SAID B. AMPANG, Lantawan

MAALUM A. SOPHIAN, Sumisip, Basilan

FishCORAL Project Highlights



Launching



The FishCORAL Project under the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) was launched on January 19, 2016 through the collaboration of the Government of the Philippines and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Since its launching, it has garnered support from the Local Government Units (LGUs) and communities in the project regions 5, 8, 13, and ARMM.

Consultation with partners and stakeholders



After the establishment of Regional Project Management Offices (RPMOs) in Bicol, Eastern Visayas, Caraga, and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, consultation with local stakeholders, especially with LGUs and People's Organizations (POs), has been constant. With the help of BFAR organic staff and the guidance of the Project Support and Coordination Office (PSCO) at BFAR Central, RPMOs with Community Facilitators (CFs) conduct activities toward project goals and outputs for our fisherfolk.

Coastal Resource Management (CRM) and Livelihood Development (LD)



FishCORAL components Coastal Resources Management and Livelihood Development complement each other in rehabilitating coastal resources in the four project regions while augmenting the incomes of the coastal communities in the area through diversified livelihood enterprises.

Goal

All project partners and project implementers at the national, regional, and the local level are working together to contribute to project accomplishments. Through the Project Management and Coordination as well as the CRM and LD components, the FishCORAL Project aims to support the 1.098 coastal communities to sustainably manage their fishery and coastal resources generating livelihood benefits for fishing households.



Project Support and Coordination Office (PSCO) organizes workshop on FishCORAL Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System

The FishCORAL Project team conducted a series of workshops on the project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) system. The Regional Project Management Offices (RPMOs) of all project regions participated in the workshop. From Feb. 21 to March 31, the PSCO visited the sites to present the project's monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to all RPMO staff and Community Facilitators.

Ms. Mercedita Tan, Officer-in-Charge of the Project Management Office (PMO) welcomed all participants. Ms. Jessica Muñoz, FishCORAL National Project Coordinator updated the participants on FishCORAL's overall status and accomplishments. Ms. Zenaida Silao, FishCORAL PSCO-Planning Officer presented the Project's Logical Framework (LF). Ms. Silao elaborated on the LF to the participants to better understand FishCORAL's objectives while indicating strategies which can be done to achieve these. She mentioned that reviewing the LF will guide all project staff in planning their activities toward project accomplishments.

Ms. Silao supplemented the discussion on LF by explaining the use of the Multi-year Plan and Indicative Budget (MYPIB) and Annual Workplan and Budget (AWPB), both derived from the expanded LF. She also stated that these are management tools outlining specific activities, outputs, timeline, and costs involved in project implementation. Mr. Allan Urtal, FishCORAL PSCO-Procurement Specialist supplemented the discussion on both MYPIB and AWPB by explaining the project's Annual Procurement Plan or APP. These were presented to give all RPMO staff and Community Facilitators a bird's eye view of FishCORAL's project planning, management and procurement procedures.

Consequently, Mr. Raymundo dela Cruz Jr. (National M&E Officer) compared monitoring and evaluation as the steering wheel towards the project's accomplishments. He emphasized that this component will *"Facilitate regular project implementation status review and assessment to determine necessary decisions and measures the project needs as it progresses,"*. He added that relevant information supplied in the system will aid implementers at all project levels. Therefore, timely submission of M&E reports is necessary.



Mr. Ruel Cabile introduces the concept of Gender and Development (GAD) to our CFs. He reiterated that GAD should always be considered during project activities.



Ms. Zenaida Silao, National Planning Officer expounded on what outputs FishCORAL aims to achieve. She said that the expanded logframe should be visited from time to time to be clear of the project objectives.

Encompassing these processes is FishCORAL's effort to mainstream gender and development issues in the project implementation. Mr. Ruel Cabile (FishCORAL-Institutions and Gender Specialist) introduced the participants on Gender and Development (GAD) guidelines. He said that although integrating GAD in all project activities and components is challenging, people are becoming receptive of GAD concepts nowadays

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Here are the highlights of the workshops per region:

Eastern Visayas (Region 8)

The PSCO staff facilitated the two-week workshop held at Ace Francis Hotel on February 21-24, 2017 for RPMO 8 staff and February 28-March 3, 2017 for the Community Facilitators (CFs). The 64 CFs attended the cascading workshops in two batches. The first batch was for Southern Leyte and Samar participants, next was for Leyte and Eastern Samar, so that RPMO 8 and the PSCO staff can accommodate all CFs' concerns.

During the workshop opening, BFAR Region 8 Director Visa Tan-Dimerin reiterated the importance of M&E in FishCORAL in that it systematizes the project implementation and measures accomplished outputs. Furthermore, she reminded all participants to *“Be passionate... Go beyond gender equality, go for equity (by addressing the burden of gender roles).”*

Field visit of three Tacloban-based People's Organizations (POs) preceded the workshop proper. Participants first visited the St. Vincent Women's Association in Brgy. Old Kawayan in the city. Women members are concerned about seaweed production and its value chain completion. Based on the discussion, FishCORAL can intervene by providing training for seaweed production, drying, packaging, and marketing. After the first visit, delegates consulted members of the KADIWA Fisherfolk Association in Brgy Magallanes. They focus on bangus rearing in fish cages as livelihood source. According to their Barangay Captain, they lack inputs for feeds.

Lastly, the PSCO and RPMO staff visited Brgy. Payapay (52) Fishermen Savings Group. Members mainly gather Blue Swimming Crabs in their area. In the dialogue, the PO member related that as a management technique, gravid blue swimming crabs when captured are put back into the water.



Mr. Raymundo dela Cruz, Jr. (National M&E Officer) supervises the RPMO 8 staff in crafting their monthly plan. The RPMO monthly plan was used as basis of CFs' individual workplan.

To close the workshop Ms. Remedios Lequin Fisheries Resources and Management Division (FMRED) Chief and the new FishCORAL Officer-in-Charge in Eastern Visayas gave the closing remarks. She complemented RD Dimerin's statement regarding the passion of the FishCORAL staff in accomplishing project objectives.

“Be passionate... Go beyond gender equality, go for equity (by addressing the burden of gender roles).”

*-Regional Director
Visa Tan-Dimerin,
BFAR 8*



Mr. Ruperto Sievert (RPMO 8 Coordinator) explains livelihood processes on how to submit livelihood proposals to KADIWA Fisherfolk Organization of Brgy. 52, Tacloban City. The organization is concerned on their lack of fish inputs.

Caraga (Region 13)

The PSCO and RPMO 13 conducted M&E workshop in Caraga on March 8-10, 2017. Both Regional Director (RD) Dr. Juan D. Albaladejo and Assistant Regional Director (ARD) Mr. Edgardo P. Balambao were present during the opening rites.

Director Albaladejo reminded the RPMO 13 staff as well as the CFs that BFAR and FishCORAL are here *'to bring prosperity to the fisherfolks'*. Furthermore, he said that the ecosystem approach of the project is important to Coastal Resources Management (CRM) because *"We cannot do conservation efforts kung kumakalam ang sikmura ng mga fisherfolks. We are not only talking about CRM but also the ecosystem approach."* On the other hand, Mr. Balambao cited that *"We need to implement the (FishCORAL) plans and programs, and it depends on the M&E mechanisms especially (to address) the sustainability issues,"*.

"We need to implement the (FishCORAL) plans and programs, and it depends on the M&E mechanisms especially (to address) the sustainability issues,"

*-Mr. Edgardo P. Balambao,
Assistant Regional
Director, BFAR 13*

After the two-day workshop participants visited Hinatuan for the POs consultation. Five organizations, focusing on seaweeds farming and bangus fish cage culture, were present during the meeting. These were Maowa Genuine Unity Seaweeds Organization (MAGUSO), Baculin Fisherfolks Association (BFFO), Tidman Fishermen Association (TIDFA), Ladies in Unity with Men Onward to Development (LUMOT-Dev't), and People in Unity to Guard Aquamarine Wealth (PUGAW).

The PSCO with RPMO and assigned CF also had a dialogue with Hinatuan local officials regarding the issues on municipal water delineation as well as the location for the watchtowers in the municipality.

Right: Ms. Loida Arreglado, FishCORAL RPMO 13 head, presents their monthly workplan. Their crafted workplan will be the CFs' basis on planning their monthly activities.



Left: PSCO and RPMO 13 staff confers with PO members about livelihood concerns. The PO members specified seaweed farming as their main livelihood. **Right:** Hinatuan officials with PSCO personnel raise issues on municipal water delineation. The LGU officials mentioned that they need to meet with neighboring municipalities to resolve this issue.

Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)

The M&E workshop for RPMO-ARMM and their CFs was conducted on March 14-17, 2017. As an introduction, BFAR- ARMM Director Janice Musali reminded the community facilitators that they are essential to the FishCORAL Project implementation by saying *“you are important because you are the legwork of the project... you must be dedicated... ipasok sa puso ang serbisyo,”*

CFs from Maguindanao, Basilan, and Sulu attended the workshop. Their main output was the individual monthly workplan that will guide them to efficiently work towards accomplishing project targets in their respective sites. Likewise with all M&E system cascading, representatives from each province presented their crafted workplan which were critiqued by the RPMO and PSCO staff present.

Before the actual workshop, PSCO and RPMO staff visited a fish cages site in Parang, Maguindanao. Two POs met with FishCORAL personnel during the on-field experience. The first PO, Sitio Lozano Alanis Seaweeds Planters' Cooperative, is a woman-led association. On the other hand, the Lozano Alanis Night Divers' Association (LANDAS) cultivates lobsters and catfishes, among others, in fish cages as source of livelihood.

“ You (CFs) are important because you are the legwork of the project... You must be dedicated... ipasok sa puso ang serbisyo.”

*- Regional Director
Janice Musali,
BFAR ARMM*



BFAR ARMM Regional Director Janice Musali address the CFs during the opening rites of the workshop. She reminded them to work hard for our fisherfolks.



Left: CFs from Basilan gather to help each other craft their Individual Monthly Workplan. A representative later presented their output during the workshop. **Right:** Ms. Jessica Munoz (FishCORAL National Coordinator), Mr. Eduardo Arboleda (FishCORAL-ARMM CRM Focal Person), and Mr. Terry Posadas (FishCORAL-ARMM Coordinator) talk about the sustainability of fish cage rearing in Maguindanao. Fish cages visited belongs to Lozano Alanis Night Divers' Association (LANDAS), a PO based in Parang, Maguindanao.

Bicol (Region 5)

FishCORAL PSCO and RPMO 5 staff attended the M& E cascading in Naga City on March 28-31, 2017. Assistant Regional Director Marjurie Grutas welcomed all participants and committed that through FishCORAL M&E mechanisms, the CFs will be closely monitored to ensure efficient project implementation.

Mr. Melchor Deramas, Chief of Admin and Finance Division of BFAR Region 5 attended the closing rites of the workshop. He reminded all the RPMO staff and CFs to work hard and conduct all activities toward the livelihood of the fisherfolks in the region. He also encouraged the RPMO to work closely with BFAR organic to expedite all necessary processes and contribute to project accomplishments.

For the field visit, the national and regional project staff visited two baranggays in Bula, Camarines Sur namely Itangon and Kaurasan. PO members mainly practice fish processing, fish drying of sardines as their livelihood. Upon observation, the FishCORAL Project can possibly intervene by providing the POs fish drying and post-harvest technologies. CRM improvements through dialogue with LGU officials and CRM plan validations can also be done.



Upper left: PSCO and RPMO staff confers on topics such as procurement, monitoring and evaluation, and gender and development. **Upper right:** Mr. Cesar Lanzuela, Livelihood Officer of RPMO 5 presents his monthly workplan. Mr. Lanzuela is the newest RPMO staff hired by FishCORAL Bicol. **Lower left:** FishCORAL- Bicol CFs use their fellow CF's workplan as basis for their workplan. PSCO staff reiterated that they can consult each other for more coherent outputs. **Lower right:** Mr. Melchor Deramas delivers his closing remarks by advising the FishCORAL staff to work hard for the fisherfolks.

Eastern Visayas FishCORAL organizes Fishery Law Enforcement Team (FLET) Training to support Coastal Resources Management

FishCORAL Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) in Eastern Visayas recently organized FLET trainings in several municipalities in Samar, Eastern Samar, and Leyte between March and April 2017 to support FishCORAL's effort to apply the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM).

FishCORAL RPMO 8 conducted capacity building for FLETs or Bantay Dagat to equip them with the knowledge to better assist the Local Government Units (LGUs) and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) in enforcing fishery laws, rules, and regulations in their respective municipal waters. Representatives from the BFAR 8 Regional Office, Provincial Fisheries Office (PFO), LGUs, and Philippine National Police (PNP) and Philippine Coastguard attended the series of trainings facilitated by RPMO 8.

The facilitators conducted an expectations setting and provided an overview with the participants before the training proper. Since one of the training objectives was to heighten awareness on environmental issues and coastal ecosystem processes as a whole, the speakers introduced concepts on Environmental Awareness and the Coastal Ecosystem.

Training highlights include the discussion of Law Enforcement concepts especially the Fisheries Code of 1998 or RA 8550 which mandates the development, management, and conservation of fisheries and aquatic resources. RA 8550 is now amended by R.A 10654 which focuses on combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.

The resource speakers proceeded with the lectures on explosive dynamites, fish commonly caught through explosives, and detecting fish caught through explosives. They also provided hands-on exercises on detection of fish caught by explosives and map reading and plotting to supplement all lectures on the topics involving fishery law enforcement.



Left: Participants intently listen to a member of the Philippine Coastguard during the training proper. Thirty participants attended the FLET training in Paranas, Samar held on March 28-30, 2017. **Right:** Resource speakers provide hands-on training to the participants. The hands-on training served as supplement to the lectures on Law Enforcement during the FLET Training held in Talalora on April 25, 2017. (Source: RPMO 8)

Mr. Ruperto Sievert, RPMO 8 Project Coordinator introduced FishCORAL to all participants. He then related all lectures and hands-on exercises to FishCORAL's goals and objectives so that the FLETs can work with BFAR and RPMO towards better coastal resource management, specifically better law enforcement to combat illegal fishing.

RPMO 8 is yet to schedule FLET trainings in Southern Leyte municipalities for the Law Enforcement capacity building.

FishCORAL partners with Food Resilience Through Roots and Tuber Crops (FoodSTART+) in training facilitators in developing community-based enterprises in Eastern Visayas

The FishCORAL Eastern Visayas Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) hosted a Facilitators' Training facilitated by FoodSTART+ of the International Potato Center (CIP) on April 3-7, 2017. The Foodstart+ is a grant project of IFAD focusing on food resilience through roots and tubers crops (RTCs) in upland and coastal communities. The FishCORAL project sites in the Eastern Visayas were devastated by Typhoon Haiyan and the coastal communities subsisted on RTCs for survival and livelihood, hence, the training.

The training adopted CIP's Farmer Business School (FBS) Approach. It served as ground for preparation of the pilot Farmer/ Fishermen Business School training in selected sites in the region. The FishCORAL Project and FoodSTART+ collaborated to help coastal communities strengthen their enterprise capacity while taking climate change and gender considerations in all value chain aspects.

Forty-three participants including RPMO staff, agricultural technicians from Local Government Units (LGUs), and representatives from People's Organizations (POs) from FishCORAL project sites in the region attended the event. Dr. Julieta Roa, Head of Extension and Socio-economics Division of PhilRootcrops-Visayas State University (VSU) with Ms. Arma Bertuso, Senior Research Associate- CIP were the resource speakers and training moderators.



Dr. Julieta Roa introduces the representatives from organizations that underwent Farmers' Business School Training. The representatives interacted with FishCORAL participants regarding enterprise start-ups.

As a primer for the Training of Facilitators (TOF), the participants interacted with community based-microenterprise groups based in Salcedo, Eastern Samar. Representatives from these groups related their lessons learned before, during, and after undergoing the Farmers' Business School (FBS) Training. They also described the challenges they experienced on the start-up of their chosen root crop-based enterprises.

Moderators provided the participants an overview of how the conduct of pilot Farmer/Fishermen Business School will be. They also gave the would-be facilitators an abridged version of the seven modules that comprise the FBS curriculum. To strengthen the participants' know-how on enterprise and value-chain processes, the resource speakers delivered lectures introducing basic concepts on business and marketing, integrating them with climate change and gender considerations.

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Dr. Roa and the participants observe in the processing facility of Farmers Entrepreneur Association (FEA) based in Salcedo. FEA is only one of the organizations that were trained by CIP-FoodSTART.

The lecturers focused on more specific aspects such as market chain assessment, targeting and testing of potential innovations and business planning. As supplement to the lectures participants conducted actual market visits, beneficiary consultation, and value chain assessment after which learnings were processed during workshops.

Representatives from service providers such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) also attended as panelists during the last day of the training. Each representative explained how POs can avail their services and ask for technical assistance regarding micro and small enterprises development.

The Final Event entailed participants to simulate a business pitch which they presented to their fellow trainees. This served as a training for the attendees on how to market their products. Lastly, the moderators added the technical knowledge of the participants with tips on facilitation which they can use to facilitate the actual pilot Farmer/ Fishermen Business School in the region.



Left: TOF participants introduce FishCORAL to an organization based in Tanauan. After the introduction, the PO members identified which commodity they want to develop for enterprise. **Right:** Participants assess their outputs and learnings on the field visits. After the workshops, representatives from each group presented their outputs.

Eastern Visayas conducts first batch of Gender Sensitivity Training to Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) staff and Community Facilitators (CFs)



Mr. Ruel Cabile, FishCORAL Institutions and Gender Specialist (IGS) explains the importance of incorporating Gender and Development (GAD) in project implementation. He later introduced Ms. Paulina Lawsin, independent GAD consultant accredited by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) as the resource speaker.

As part of FishCORAL's effort to mainstream gender and development (GAD) in all levels of project implementation, the Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) in Eastern Visayas organized the first batch of Gender Sensitivity Training (GST) for RPMO staff and Community Facilitators (CFs) on May 4-5, 2017 at Hotel Consuelo in Tacloban City.

Mr. Ruel Cabile, Institutions and Gender Specialist (IGS) moderated the event with Ms. Rhine Joy Lesigues, Institutions and Gender Officer (IGO) of FishCORAL Eastern Visayas. They invited Ms. Paulina Lawsin, a Certified GAD Trainer accredited by the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW), as the resource speaker.

On the first day, the moderators situated GAD in FishCORAL project implementation. They emphasized that all gender concepts should be integrated in all workplans for project implementation.

Mr. Cabile added that “ (the) GAD perspective in FishCORAL project implementation is crucial because... women and men should be given greater opportunities and access. Gender concerns should form part of the development process where social, political, and cultural contexts are considered in ... a gender intervention that would eliminate gender stereotyping, biases, (and) discrimination. GAD is not anti-male but should be treated as (an) element in development planning”

“ GAD is not anti-male but should be treated as (an) element in development planning”

*-Mr. Ruel Cabile,
FishCORAL-PSCO
Institutions and Gender
Specialist*

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Ms. Lawsin proceeded to the lectures to sensitize the participants to the whole gender concept. She divided the topics into sessions throughout the two-day training. Topics include the difference of sex and gender; gender roles and gender roles socialization; and gender analysis and gender analysis tools including the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG).

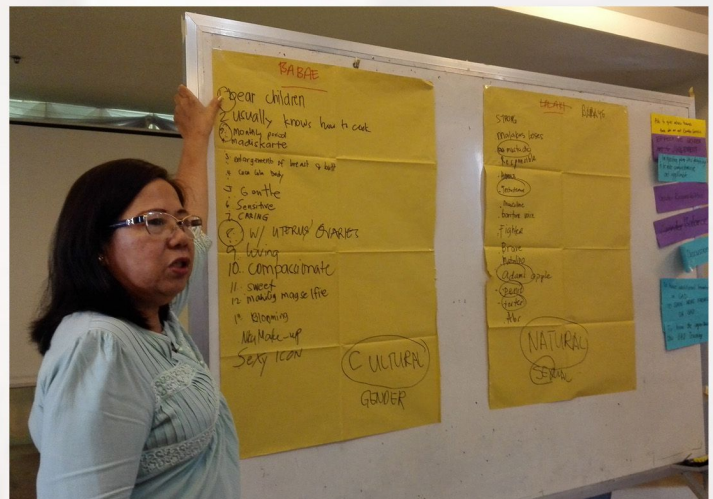
For the participants to appreciate gender mainstreaming in FishCORAL, Ms. Lawsin facilitated exercises based on real-life activities and related these to the lectures she delivered. Ms. Lawsin also instructed the CFs to envision what they think is a 'gender fair society' for the fishing communities through drawings. Through the exercises, the CFs can hopefully adjust their strategies in promoting GAD especially during their community visits to the People's Organizations (POs) and Local Government Units (LGUs). Mr. Cabile emphasized this since "The challenge in promoting GAD is more on the LGU and community level. Most LGUs are not fully aware of how to utilize the 5% budget allocation for gender programs and projects that would address gender gaps and concerns of the women and men sector,"

"The challenge in promoting GAD is more on the LGU and community level. Most LGUs are not aware of how to utilize the 5% budget allocation for gender programs and projects that would address gender gaps and concerns of the women and men sector."

*-Mr. Ruel Cabile
FishCORAL PSCO IGS*

As parting words, Ms. Lawsin encouraged the RPMO staff and CFs to partner with other entities such as the academe and non-government organizations in conducting GAD-related activities. She reminded the participants to view gender holistically yet with consideration to people, policies, and abling mechanisms.

Lastly, the moderators directed the CFs to craft their individual monthly workplan with GAD concerns in mind. The CFs can use their crafted workplan to efficiently deliver their outputs while sensitizing project partners on gender concerns. According Mr. Cabile, gender sensitivity trainings for other RPMOs and CFs will be scheduled once GAD is incorporated in the conceptual framework in the livelihood and coastal resources management components. He added that the frameworks will define the process and steps in integrating GAD in component activities.



The resource speaker, Ms. Paulina Lawsin from PCW explains the difference of sex and gender to the participants. Before the lecture, she divided the participants into two groups for an exercise related to sex and gender.

FishCORAL Bicol hosts 8th IFAD Philippines Gender Network (IPGN) Assembly to champion gender mainstreaming in project implementation

The Regional Project Management Office (RPMO) of FishCORAL Bicol hosted the 8th IFAD Philippines Gender Network (IPGN) Assembly on April 18-20, 2017 at Hotel Venezia in Legazpi City, Albay. Representatives from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)-investment projects namely Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project (CHARMP2), Integrated Natural Resource and Environmental Management Project (INREMP), Convergence on Value Chain-Enhancement for Rural Growth (ConVERGE), and Irrigated Rice Production Enhancement Programme (RafPEP), and Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood Project (FishCORAL) attended the event. Also present were representatives from grant-assisted projects Consortium for Unfavorable Rice Environments (CURE), Medium Term Cooperation Programme 2 (MTCP2), and Food Resilience Through Roots and Tuber Crops (FoodSTART+).

This year's IPGN assembly, with the aim to incorporate gender in all aspects of project implementation adapted the theme *"IPGN Partnership: Harvesting Gains in Women Empowerment and Contributing to Gender Mainstreaming"*.

During the event, participants updated other projects on their gender-related activities, challenges, and plans for 2017 to 2018. Commissioner Cristita Triunfante from the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) also attended the event.

She presented the Philippine government's thrusts on gender and development (GAD) that the participants can anchor on during the workshops on what GAD-related concerns should be included in IFADs Country Strategic Opportunities Programme (COSOP) for 2017-2022.



Ms. Cristita Triunfante of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) presents the Philippine government's gender-related thrusts and plans. The participants based their plans and activities in gender mainstreaming on the presentation.



Participants write what their expectations of the workshops are during the opening rites. During the first day, participants also updated other projects on their GAD efforts.

The participants divided into three workshop groups to confer on what GAD issues should be addressed and what government thrusts should be prioritized in the next COSOP. Participants emphasized that youth participation, gender mainstreaming in education, and enforcement of the Magna Carta of Women (MCW) at the barangay level should be focused on.



Left: Participants from IFAD grant-assisted projects confer on what topics should the next COSOP address. The members of the workshop groups are from MTCP2, CURE, and FoodSTART+. **Right:** The results of the discussions during the workshop were later presented by a representative. The grant group chose Ms. Joyce Luis of CURE as their representative.

To supply the discussions, the participants also visited women members of three (3) People's Organizations (POs) around Legazpi. Through the visit, the participants encouraged women members to be more assertive and to participate more during organizational activities.

Highlights of the event were the crafting of the whole IPGN Gender Action Plan and the election of the 9th IPGN Chair and Vice Chair. The network elected Ms. Virginia "Badeene" Verora as the new IPGN Chair. As discussed, the 9th IPGN will be held in Bislig, Surigao del Sur to be hosted by ConVERGE.



Left: Ms. Marjurie Grutas, BFAR 5 Assistant Regional Director talks with PO members based in Brgy. Baybay in Legazpi. Major topics discussed during the field visit include the sustainability of the proposed livelihood sub-projects of the POs. **Right:** Ms. Badeene Verora of ConVERGE leads the meeting for the 9th IPGN. She was elected Chair for the 9th IPGN with a representative from INREMP as Vice-Chair.