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KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING FAIR – INNOVATION CASE

Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Fisheries, Coastal Resources, and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project & Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Integrated Natural Resources and Environmental Management Project (INREMP)

FBS and ABS: Innovations for Farmer-fisherfolk entrepreneurship

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Brief description of the innovation and case presentation

Farmer Business School (FBS) is a participatory action learning approach to build the entrepreneurial capacities of farmer-fisherfolk groups to successfully participate in agricultural value chains. It is an innovation introduced by the International Potato Center (CIP) through the FoodSTART+ project, adapted by INREMP and further revised by FishCORAL into Aqua-based Business School (ABS). As part of the capacity strengthening, FBS and ABS are comprised of a series of group-based experiential learning activities over a production-marketing cycle while facilitating interaction among chain actors and stakeholders. Value chain analysis and guidance on entrepreneurship building is new to most of both projects' beneficiaries and staff.

The case presented by INREMP and FishCORAL focuses on the innovative features of the approach, lessons learned, and recommendations based on actual experiences of all stakeholders. especially the FBS/ABS facilitators and enrollees during the implementation of the approach.

Innovative features and relevance to climate change

- The FBS and ABS implementation is in collaboration/ partnership with FoodSTART+ who shares the same vision of ***providing additional livelihood to the rural communities***
- A learning process based on "out of the classroom" approach
- **Flexible curriculum;** although FBS was originally design for root and tuber crop (RTC) products, it can be also used for non-RTC products.

Most of the products from INREMP's FBS are RTC-based: studies conducted in the Philippines and in other Asian countries found that RTCs are more climate resilient than above-ground crops. With this, RTCs are considered as key contributors to food security and project's goal. FishCORAL supports activities of fishing communities and local government units to manage fishing efforts and provide alternative marine and land-based livelihood opportunities to contribute to the reduction in overfishing. The project found that RTCs are important crops for fisherfolks, particularly during the rainy season and at times of calamities.

Most farmers and fisherfolks are not aware of the contribution of RTCs to climate change resilience since they are not fully informed or educated about what climate change is. The FBS and ABS do not only capacitate farmers and fisherfolks into becoming entrepreneurs but also expose and inform them on the risks of climate change and measures to mitigate its impact on their livelihoods.