TRAINING ON BASIC AGROFORESTRY SYSTEM CONCEPTS AND ESTABLISHMENT

Project: Resilience-Building Among Smallholder Farmers of Selected Upland Farming Communities in the Province of Isabela, Philippines (CBA2021-01MY-Ocampo)

10 August 2022: Brgy. Masipi East, Cabagan, Isabela
11 August 2022: Brgy. Limbauan, San Pablo, Isabela
12 August 2022: Brgy. Dy-Abra, Tumauini, Isabela

RATIONALE

The smallholder upland farmers in Isabela, Philippines are one of the most vulnerable sectors to external shocks such as pandemic, climate change and natural calamities particularly typhoon. As external shocks are inevitable, there is need to build the resilience of agricultural sector specially in developing nations such as the Philippines particularly the vulnerable farmers in the uplands farming communities in the country through redesigning of their agricultural production systems that are based on the sustainable use of natural resources such as agroforestry system.

In the Philippines, there are various types agroforestry system that exist. The type of agroforestry system adopted by the farmers depend generally on the primary intentions of the farmers, capability of the land and the farmers, and institutional influences as well. Corn-based agroforestry system is one variant where corn serve as the dominant crop component of an agroforestry system. Primarily, the corn crop serve as the cash crops of the farmer while the perennial component provide ecological services.

This module is designed to enhance the knowledge and attitude of the upland smallholder farmers on potentials of agroforestry in promoting sustainable farming system. As an introductory, this module will highlight the basic concepts and principles of agroforestry; classification of various agroforestry systems, the agroforestry system ecosystem services, introduce ALCAMS as methodology for assessing the land capability for agroforestry; agroforestry system design; soil and water conservation strategies and good agricultural practices of coconut as component of corn-based agroforestry system.

OBJECTIVES

The training on basic agroforestry system concepts and establishment generally aims to enhance the knowledge and attitude of the upland smallholder farmers on potentials of agroforestry in promoting sustainable farming system. Specifically the training aims to:

1. Explain the basic concepts and principles of agroforestry;
2. Discuss the different classifications of agroforestry systems;
3. Discuss the agroecosystem services of agroforestry systems;

4. Introduce ALCAMS as a tool for assessment of land resources for agroforestry development;
5. Discuss the basic guiding principles/considerations in the design of agroforestry system;
6. Discuss the soil and water conservation strategies in agroforestry; and
7. Discuss the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for coconut as component of corn-based agroforestry system.

Three (3) on-site trainings on basic agroforestry concepts and establishment conducted was attended by 71 representatives from government agency, provincial, municipal and barangay Local Government Units (LGUs) and farmer organizations. The training in Masipi East, Cabagan was attended by 23 representatives from City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) and Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Offices of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), Environment and Natural Resources (ENRO) and Provincial Planning Department (PPDO) of the Provincial LGU, representative from various Offices of the Municipal LGU, Barangay LGU and Masipi East Upland Farmer Organization officers and members (**Figure 1**). Meanwhile, the on-site training in Limbauan, San Pablo was participated by representatives from Municipal LGU, Barangay LGU, Officers and members of Ambavi Greeners Farmers Association with a total of 28 participants (**Figure 2**). Lastly, 20 participants attended the on-site training in Dy-Abra, Tumauini on August 12, 2022 with representatives from Municipal LGU, Barangay LGU, Officers and members of Sierra Madre Greeners Association (**Figure 3**).

The topics on agroforestry concepts and principles, soil and water conservation strategies (SWCs) in agroforestry and agroforestry system design, establishment, management and documentation were handled by Dr. Jose Nestor M. Garcia, one of the project collaborator and the Director of Institute of Agroforestry, College of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of the Philippines Los Baños (IAF-CFRN, UPLB). On the other hand, agroforestry systems classification and existing agroforestry systems in the Philippines and other countries was discussed by For. Adona Joanna Urmeneta from the College of Forestry and Environmental Management, Isabela State University (CFEM, ISU) Cagaban Campus. For. Ma. Armie Janica P. Ramirez, IAF-CFRN, UPLB provided a lecture and hands-on on ALCAMS as a tool for assessment of land resources for agroforestry development while Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for coconut as a component of corn-based agroforestry systems was handled by Dr. Chricept T. Villoria, Project Development Officer IV of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA).

Figure 1. Training on basic agroforestry system concepts and establishment in Masipi East, Cabagan, Isabela on 10 August 2022

Figure 2. Training on basic agroforestry system concepts and establishment in Limbauan, San Pablo, Isabela on 12 August 2022

Figure 3. Training on basic agroforestry system concepts and establishment in Dy-Abra, Tumauini, Isabela on 12 August 2022


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