



CARRD @ 29

Center for Agrarian Report and Rural Development
Annual report



CARRD@29

Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development 2017 annual report

CARRD, 2018

This annual report and other information products are available for download at www.carrd.org.ph

Cover photo: CARRD photo repository

Writing, book design and lay-out: Joe-Anna Marie Casidsid-Abelinde

Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
22 Matipid Street, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City
Philippines, 1101

Email: carrdinc@gmail.com

Phone: 632-7382651

Like us on Facebook: Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development-Pilipinas

Follow us on Twitter: @CARRD_Pilipinas

Follow us on Instagram: @carrdinc

Letter from the Executive Director

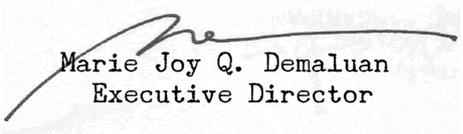
The most vulnerable among us have the most to lose. The poorest segments of the population bear the brunt of bad policies and natural calamities. Recovering can be difficult. Especially if you lose everything.

This is true for most of the farming families that we help. We see families who are still on the road of recovery from their experience in Typhoon Haiyan almost five years ago. We see farming families lose in a bad harvest, and they lose badly. Their inability to access productive resources such as land, working capital for inputs, farm service facilities like irrigation, and crop insurance worsen their socio-economic conditions.

But what is also true in these farming families - and in a lot of Filipino families is their high-level of resiliency. Armed with the knowledge about their rights, we see how farmers strive to become more than tillers of their land, and strive even harder to ensure that they are able to bring food on their table, send their children to school, and live up to their potential.

The year that was, 2017, marked the last year of our third decade. It was also a year of looking back to what was done, and looking forward to decide who we will be at the beginning of our third decade as an organization.

We will continue to educate farmers about their rights in the coming years, thanks to the generous support of our stakeholders and partners. All of these we do, so that the vulnerable will no longer be too vulnerable.



Marie Joy Q. Demaluan
Executive Director

2017 in numbers



1,154 farming families

provided with assistance to improve their land tenure conditions



2,825.64 hectares

farmland provided with land tenure support



587 farmers

Trained in sustainable agriculture practices

85 organic farms

Provided with monitoring and inspection support



3 partner-cooperatives

With a total membership of 1,283 benefitted from credit and other support services



Land access security through agrarian reform advocacy and mobilization



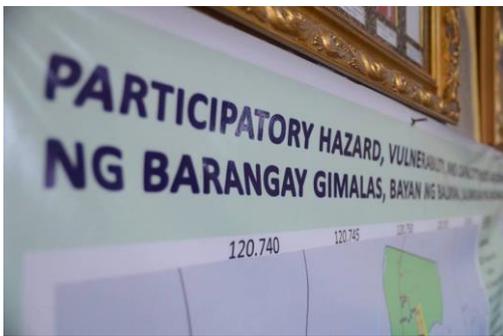
Recruitment, training and mobilization of volunteer farmer-paralegals, community education through agrarian reform beneficiaries' meetings, and conducting inter-agency dialogues (IADs) are among our tried and tested approaches in facilitating the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) in our service areas. Farmer-paralegals provide ARBs with necessary technical and social support in their respective landholdings; IADs are opportunities for the farmers to talk to government representatives in identifying solutions to resolve challenges in their cases; and ARB meetings help raise awareness on CARP and related laws.

As of 2017, we were able to capacitate 62 farmers (33 are women) on basic and advanced paralegal skills. Of these 21 paralegal volunteers (PLVs) (9 are women), were mobilized to provide assistance to 196 landholdings. This is equivalent to 93 percent of our target in our current project with Misereor.

Aside from these basic and advanced paralegal trainings, our PLVs go through clinicquing sessions with our technical staff from the field, Provincial Agrarian Reform Offices (PARO) and their respective Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officers (MARPOs). Peer meetings are also organized to allow PLVs share their strategies with one another. In 2017, we facilitated 6 clinicquing sessions and 73 PLV peer meetings.



Capiz PLV Coordinator Melania Conta gives the opening statement in one of the IADs conducted in the communities.



Maps are crucial tools to identify hazards, vulnerabilities and land claims.



Through IADs, we were able to resolve bottlenecks in the implementation of CARP, including the conduct of land surveys



This year, we were able to secure commitments from other local CARP implementing agencies to participate in IADs

As of 2017, we have also organized a total of 51 local IADs with the Department of Agrarian Reform. This year, we've also secured memorandum of understanding with other CARP implementing agencies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Land Registration Authority (LRA) and Land Bank of the Philippines (LANDBANK) and secured their commitment to attend the IADs and provide advisory services to ARBs and PLVs. A total of 1,249 (619 are women) farmers attended these IADs and benefitted from discussions with DAR and other CARP implementing agencies. Aside from this, we organized 17 consultation meetings with DAR. These meetings were attended by 178 farmers (103 are women) needing technical support from DAR on the resolution of their respective cases. We also conducted community education sessions in the form of 69 ARB meetings, facilitated by our PLVs.

On the advocacy side, we make use of social media as a main platform to advance agrarian reform related advocacies. As of 2017, our Facebook page has a total of 2,062 followers, who are organic users, and were generated through network interactions with online parties. No marketing tools and sponsored ads were used to generate post likes and page visits. We have likewise started a Twitter and Instagram page to reach to a more diverse audience.

At the community level, we promote our advocacies through community radios. On September 2017, we partnered with farming and agrarian reform stakeholders to pilot-test a radio program for farmers in selected areas in the provinces of Capiz and Iloilo.

As a tool for research and advocacy, we initiated the mapping of agrarian lands in our service areas in Batangas. These maps will provide us with updated insights on land use, as well as information on existing and potential land use conflicts. As of 2017, we have secured and plotted 2,785 certificates of land ownership award (CLOAs) and land survey returns. These maps will then be collectively analyzed with other organization-members of AR Now! and will be the basis of our policies advocacies relating to agrarian reform and land use.

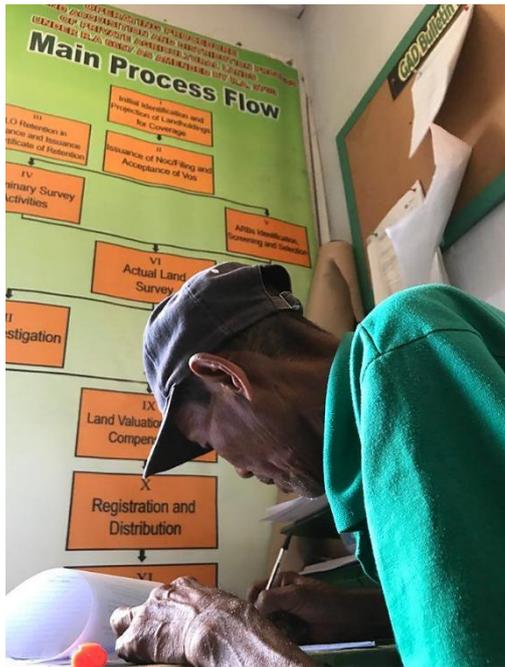
In 2017, we also conducted a study in Batangas, Capiz and Iloilo to identify agrarian reform related issues that can be our basis for interventions in the next five years. To



Study sessions were conducted to help us in strategizing ways forward for our core interventions.

support this, we organized three study sessions with CARRD's core staff, PLV team leaders and the Board of Trustees (BOT). We have also invited experts on climate change in agriculture, value-chain approach in organic production, social entrepreneurship, and cooperative development to provide insights on the relevant trends and prospects in rural development in the coming years.

We refined this study to focus on the identification of procedural and structural bottlenecks affecting the delays in the individualization of collective titles. We consulted with DAR, DENR, LANDBANK, LRA and local government units (LGUs), and our farmer-paralegals to identify gaps in the current processes and co-create strategies to address them.



Our study on collective CLOAs enabled us to understand bottlenecks in the process of individualizing collective titles

This year, we also participated in the conduct of a study that looked into the relationship of tenurial status of farmers to levels of food security. This study, which was conducted with other AR Now! members, confirmed our hypothesis that property rights insecurity contributes to rural poverty, as it limits households to gain access to basic commodities, such as food.

Partner-cooperatives' self-governance and sustainability



2017 has been a challenging and productive year for our partner-cooperatives. Nagkakaisang Mamamayan ng Kanlurang Batangas Multi-Purpose Cooperative (NAGKASAMA-MPC), our partner-cooperative in Batangas faced fiscal problems due to unresolved administrative issues and low loan repayment rates, while our partner-cooperatives in Capiz and Iloilo, President Roxas Agrarian Reform Cooperative (PROARC) and Katilingban sang Agraryo Padulong sa Pag-uswag sang Iloilo Agrarian Reform Cooperative (KASAPPI-ARC) had a huge membership expansion rate. Both PROARC and KASAPPI ARC are increasingly being recognized by government stakeholders in the provinces for their significant role in providing support to small-scale farmers in their respective communities.

As of 2017, our partner-cooperatives have a combined membership of 1,283 and a total asset amounting to more than PhP 34 million. All of them have expanded their scope to adjacent municipalities: NAGKASAMA-MPC in two municipalities (Balayan and Tuy, Batangas); PROARC in three municipalities (President Roxas, Pilar and Pontevedra); and KASAPPI in three municipalities and one city (Passi City, San Enrique, Pototan and Duenas).

PROARC's and NAGKASAMA's main clients are sugarcane farmers. They provide production loans, and tractor and hauling services. NAGKASAMA further offers microfinance services to its farming and non-farming members.



sugarcane vinegar as a livelihood recovery measure for sugarcane farmers in Batangas.

On the other hand, KASAPPI's constituency is mainly composed of rice-producing farming households. KASAPPI provides production loans, marketing of quedan for some of its sugarcane farmer-members, organic rice marketing and training support, and organic fertilizer production and marketing assistance.

All three cooperatives conducted six general assemblies, with a total attendance of 521 members (329 are women). They have likewise integrated planning and evaluation sessions in their programming to ensure that learnings and strategies are well integrated in their operations. With our support, they have updated their policies, systems and procedures (PSP) to better respond to the growing needs of their clientele. Each project has a corresponding PSP or operational manual to ensure efficient implementation. As of 2017, we supported the updating of seven PSPs and development of three new PSPs for new projects.

For 2017, we have organized seven mentoring sessions with the cooperatives' officers to provide periodic technical support in their enterprise operations and governance. In Iloilo, we conducted a two-day workshop with KASAPPI ARC to assess the operations of their organic rice facility. The assessment covered four cropping seasons (from 2015 to 2017).



We see to it that our partner-cooperatives improve their business management skills so that they can provide responsive services to their constituencies.

In Batangas, we facilitated a grant amounting to Php 268,000 to NAGKASAMA-MPC through the Philippine Partnership for the Development of Human Resources in the Rural Areas (PhilDHRRA)-Luzon for the establishment of a small-scale sugarcane vinegar production facility. The facility is providing employment to 17 women members of NAGKASAMA-MPC, and is serving as an alternative source of income for sugarcane farmers in Balayan and Tuy, Batangas.



Our organic rice complex in Salngan is a proof that we can cultivate viable livelihoods and improve incomes without hurting the environment

This project with PhilDHRRA-Luzon also led to the pilot-testing of a barangay disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) plan, which activated the DRRM barangay council to respond to needs in the event of disasters.

Sustainable farming to increase resilience



The first few years of implementing a program for sustainable agriculture proved to be a challenge for us. It was not easy to convince farmers to shift to sustainable farming practices, in spite of available support for post-harvest, processing and marketing.

In 2017, we've made significant gains in the promotion of sustainable agriculture to our constituencies. We facilitated the OCCP¹ certification of 10.3 hectares of riceland, while 28.9 hectares were already in the process of shifting to organic farming. This means that we were able to convince 53 farming households to adopt recommended organic farming practices in 2017.

This year, we trained 587 farmers (358 are women) on sustainable agriculture, conducted 34 mentoring sessions with 305 farmers (174 are women) and reviewed 11 internal quality control systems (IQCS) to ensure that farmers' feedbacks are integrated in the process.

¹ Organic Certification Center of the Philippines



For 2017, KASAPPI was able to procure 24,409 kg of black and red varieties of palay, with total gross income of PhP 658,748.50. About 95 percent were marketed by Global Organic and Wellness Corporation (GLOWCORP) in Metro Manila while the rest were sold in Passi City.

One of our pioneer farmer-cooperators and KASAPPI-ARC were recognized for their contributions in the advancement of organic farming in Passi City. As a result, the LGU of Passi funded the building of an organic fertilizer processing facility worth PhP 1 million. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) likewise provided technical support to determine the nutrient content of the fertilizers that we produce. This resulted to a significant increase in the volume of organic fertilizers produced and sold.

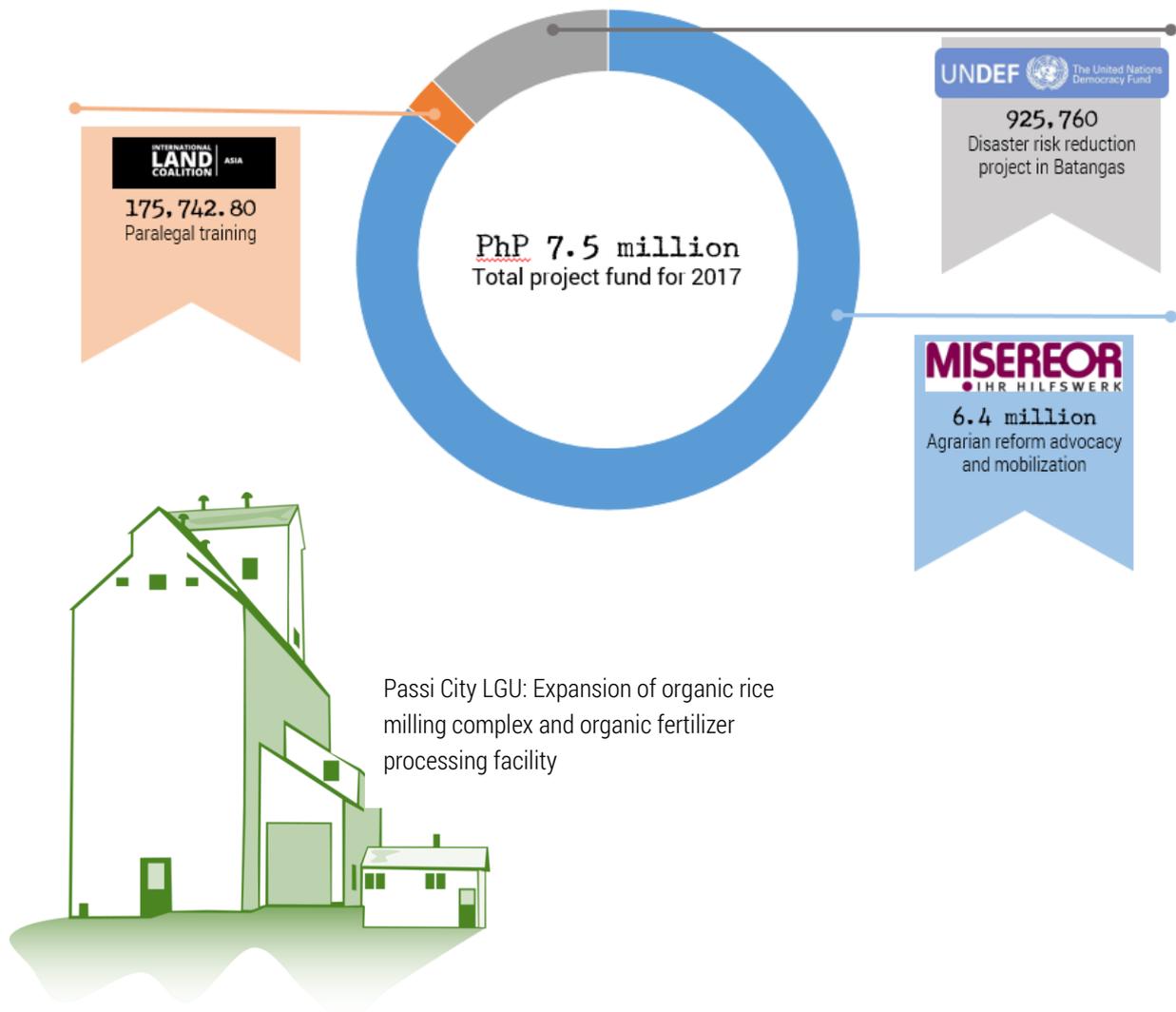
We have also started with the production of liquid fertilizers and bio-pesticides. A total of 19 bottles of fermented fruit juice, 42 bottles of fermented plant juice, and 67 bottles of oriental herbal nutrient were also produced in Brgy. Magdungao, Passi City. These concoctions are used to supplement or as substitute for fertilizer.

We have started producing liquid fertilizers and bio-pesticides.



Our partners are increasingly being recognized for their contribution in organic farming in the region.

Funds and donations





Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development
22 Matipid Street, Sikatuna Village, Quezon City
Philippines, 1101