Transforming Communities through a Sustainable Organic Agriculture Industry

A Roadmap for Local Government Units
Transforming Communities through a Sustainable Organic Agriculture Industry

A Roadmap for Local Government Units
Abstract

The LGU Road Map for Organic Agriculture is a collaborative document of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Convergence Initiative (DA, DAR, DENR) with assistance from the Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED) and inputs from the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) and other stakeholders (Academe, CSOs and POs, Private Sector). This roadmap serves as a guide for the implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP) in the different local government units. It identifies the critical roles (lead and supportive) LGUs play in ensuring that the goals and objectives of the NOAP of 2012-2016 will be achieved.

With the agriculture service delivery devolved to Local Government Units, the development of a localized organic agriculture program is necessary for the promotion and sustainability of the organic industry. This roadmap prescribes a process that will allow LGUs and organic industry players to conduct short, medium, and long term planning towards a sustainable organic industry. It identifies the overall direction and strategic options that will guide LGUs in crafting specific projects and programs for organic agriculture.
Some of the rich experiences of the CSOs/NGOs/POs/CBOs in Sustainable Organic Agriculture for more than three decades are captured in this document. The lessons learned from LGU initiatives in the implementation of organic agriculture program as a strategy for local agriculture development, poverty reduction, and environmental protection has been made a major aspect of the roadmap. The passage of RA 10068 also known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 has paved the way for the Philippine Organic Agriculture Industry to gain momentum and eventually flourish. Although it is still a long way towards a vibrant and sustainable organic industry, the current policy environment favors the practice of organic farming and the manufacturing, trade and consumption of organic products.
### Acronyms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADB</td>
<td>Asian Development Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ATI</td>
<td>Agricultural Training Institute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AO</td>
<td>Administrative Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAFPS</td>
<td>Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAR</td>
<td>Bureau of Agricultural Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIGS</td>
<td>Bohol Internal Guarantee System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BISAD</td>
<td>Bohol Island Sustainable Agriculture and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOFA</td>
<td>Bohol Organic Farmers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSU</td>
<td>Benguet State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAC</td>
<td>Codex Alimentarius Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CBO</td>
<td>Church Based Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSU</td>
<td>Central Luzon State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COCD</td>
<td>Community Organizing Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil Society Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DA</td>
<td>Department of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAR</td>
<td>Department of Agrarian Reform</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENR</td>
<td>Department of Environment and Natural Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DepEd</td>
<td>Department of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DILG</td>
<td>Department of Interior and Local Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISOA</td>
<td>Dumingag Institute of Sustainable Organic Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DTI</td>
<td>Department of Trade and Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOFSPA</td>
<td>Dumingag Organic Farming System Practitioners Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DOST</td>
<td>Department of Science and Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EO</td>
<td>Executive Order</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Food and Agriculture Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FI</td>
<td>Financing Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FiBL</td>
<td>Research Institute of Organic Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GMO</td>
<td>Genetically Modified Organism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICS</td>
<td>Internal Control System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IEC</td>
<td>Information, Education and Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IFOAM</td>
<td>International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IRR</td>
<td>Implementing Rules and Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LCE</td>
<td>Local Chief Executive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Contents

**Executive Summary**  
10

**Overview**  
12

Background and Rationale  
12

The Global Organic Agriculture Situation  
13

The Organic Agriculture Movement in the Philippines  
15

17

**SECTION 1.**  
23

**Developing the LGU Organic Agriculture Program**  
23

**Stage 1. Institution Development and Strengthening**  
24

1. Organizing the Local Technical Committee  
24

2. Industry Profiling and Benchmarking  
25

3. Local OA Program Planning  
26

4. Policy Development  
27

**Stage 2. Service Delivery**  
28

5. Strengthening Service Delivery Mechanism  
28

6. Financing OA Program and Projects at Different Levels  
29

7. Convergence and Integration  
29
Stage 3. Assessment and Enhancement

- 8. Monitoring and Evaluation System
- 9. Improvement and Enhancement of OA programs
- 10. Management Information System
- 11. Communicating Program Results

SECTION 2

Lessons Learned in the Implementation of OA Programs

Key Factors and Basic Tools

- Strong Policy Support and Implementing Mechanism
- Strategic Planning
- Multi-stakeholder Partnership Building
- Capability Building and Learning Avenues
- Market Linkage and Development

Annexes
Executive Summary

The Organic Agriculture Roadmap for Local Government Units (LGUs) provides a framework for LGUs nationwide in developing proactive interventions in line with the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 (RA 10068) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) as well as the National Organic Agriculture Plan (NOAP) 2012-2016 of the National Government. This Roadmap is anchored on the goal of “promoting, propagating and further developing and implementing the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines towards a competitive and sustainable organic industry”. It aims to achieve (1) better farm income and sustainable livelihood; (2) improved health of farmers and consumers through the mitigation of hazards from conventional farming systems; (3) promote environmental protection, enhanced resiliency to disasters and climate change; and (4) advance social justice, equity and people empowerment.

This Roadmap describes the basic requirements LGUs should integrate in the local OA plan in the different stages of implementation (described in Section 1) and the basic tools that can be used and key factors that should be considered (described in Section 2) when designing, implementing and monitoring a successful OA program. This document took into account the initiatives of various groups such as Church-Based Organization (CBOs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) and People’s Organizations (POs) and the three case studies conducted by LGSP-LED on the LGU experience of implementing local OA programs in Dumingag (Zamboanga del Sur), Negros (Occidental and Oriental), and Bohol.
The Roadmap endeavors to facilitate the development and enhancement of local OA programs since LGUs play a critical role in the achievement of the overall goals of the NOAP. With agriculture service delivery devolved to the LGUs, they have the responsibility to bring down the national programs to the grassroots level. LGUs have different local situations, levels of capacity and stages of OA program implementation, and this document can guide them in identifying the entry point in starting the program (for LGUs without local OA program) and identifying the gaps in their existing OA programs. Section 1 outlines the basic requirements of program development from the preparatory stage (Institutional Development and Strengthening), actual service delivery and monitoring, evaluation and enhancement of the program. Section 2 documents and consolidates the lessons learned from the experiences of the three LGUs that have already initiated OA programs to provide other LGUs with basic tools and information on key factors in the process of program planning and implementation.

This Roadmap also aims to address the different issues and challenges of the organic agriculture sector and contribute to the national targets as indicated in the IRR, namely: a) total area of production for organic agriculture; b) population or volume of production and processing of organic products; c) market size or market reach; d) number of farms certified on first, second and third party certification system; and e) number of organic agriculture adopters.
Overview

Background and Rationale

The LGU Road Map for Organic Agriculture is a collaborative document of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the National Convergence Initiative (DA, DAR, DENR) with assistance from the Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED) and inputs from the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB) and other stakeholders (Academe, CSOs and POs, Private Sector). This Roadmap serves as a guide for the implementation of the National Organic Agriculture Program in the different local government units. It identifies the critical roles (lead and supportive roles) the LGUs play to ensure that the overall goals and objectives of the National Organic Agriculture Program of 2012-2016 will be achieved.

With the agriculture service delivery devolved to LGUs, the development of a localized organic agriculture program is necessary for the promotion and sustainability of the organic industry. This roadmap prescribes a process that will allow LGUs and organic industry playersto conduct short, medium and long term planning towards a sustainable organic industry. It identifies the overall direction and strategic options that will guide LGUs in crafting specific projects and programs for organic agriculture.

Some of the rich experiences of the CSOs/NGOs/POs/CBOs in Sustainable Agriculture for more than three decades are captured in this document. The lessons learned from LGU initiatives in the implementation of organic agriculture program as a strategy for local agriculture development, poverty reduction, and environmental protection have been made as major aspect of the Roadmap. The passage of RA 10068 also known as the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010 has paved the way for the Philippine Organic Agriculture Industry to gain momentum and eventually flourish. Although it is still a long way towards a vibrant and sustainable organic industry, the current policy environment favors the practice of organic farming and the manufacture, trade and consumption of organic products.
The Global Organic Agriculture Situation

Before the upsurge in the awareness and spread of the organic agriculture practice here in the Philippines, other countries such as Japan, EU nations, and the US were already developing and implementing organic farming techniques creating favorable policy environments and developing markets for organic products.

The exact start or development of organic agriculture is not known, although its concept is said to have existed even before the use of agrochemicals. The global organic movement grew as the negative effects of Green Revolution on health and the environment became more evident during the 1970s to 1990s. Food safety scandals such as the mad cow disease, E. coli contamination and mercury contamination, among others made consumers more conscious of how their food is being produced. Land erosion, floods, water contamination and other environmental disasters caused by conventional methods of farming has led to the development of alternative measures and more sustainable farming systems. Organic agriculture is identified as one of the alternative systems to respond to environmental destruction and food safety issue. It is a sustainable agricultural production system as it strives for ecological balance, social justice and economic viability.

A guide on organic standards was developed to create an understanding and agreement within the organic sector about what an “organic” claim on a product means. It defines the minimum requirements and provides parameters on acceptable organic practices. The International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and Codex Alimentarius Commissions’ Basic Organic Standards became the framework for the development of organic standards worldwide by both private and government institutions. These standards are not used directly as basis for certification but rather used to unify understanding of the principles of organic agriculture and harmonize the different certification programs.

Certification systems were later established to determine and confirm if producers and products are complying with the agreed standards. Organic Certification also underwent a process of development. It first started as a voluntary activity where farmers inspected one another based on the agreed standards. However, it became mandatory when consumers and governments started to demand it for sales transactions.
and for regulation of labeling of organic products in the market. Presently, there are different systems of guaranteeing that the product is “organic”:

1. First party certification is a self-claim where the producer themselves guarantee that the product is organic;
2. Second party certification is where the buyer of the product, after inspecting the producers’ operation, guarantee that the product is organic;
3. Third party certification is where an independent body, after inspecting the producer’s operation, guarantee that the product is organic.

The organic certification system is continually being improved and enhanced to be accessible to as many producers as possible, big or small. In the previous years, for example, the third party certification scheme was not very “friendly” or accessible to the small farmers due to costs involved. Smallholder farmers sat together with certification bodies and developed the group certification scheme. This scheme balances the cost of certification and the control over the organic integrity of the product. By setting up an internal control system (ICS) within the group, the certification bodies were able to delegate 100% inspection to the group, thereby cutting down the cost. Certification bodies also look into the effective functioning and implementation of the ICS by the group to ensure that the organic integrity of the product is not compromised.

Another recent development in the organic certification system is the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). This system was developed as an alternative to third party certification where the quality assurance is localized and based on active participation of stakeholders (producers, consumers, etc.) in the definition of standards and development and implementation of the systems. However, it can also be complemented with a third party certification to provide additional guarantees and transparency. PGS is especially adapted to local markets and short supply chains.

The global organic agriculture movement is still continuously growing as more producers and consumers worldwide become conscious about climate change, sustainability, safety, wellness and responsible consumption. There are about 160 countries engaged in organic agriculture.

---

agriculture with 37.2 million hectares of organic agricultural land, based on the 2009 data of FiBL/IFOAM. In their 2010 data, there are about 74 countries with organic standards and regulations while 27 countries are in the process of drafting legislation. Parallel to this, quite a number of standards were developed by both the private sector and government institutions. The market where the producer would like to enter would dictate what organic standards, certification and regulation have to be complied with. This may mean multiple certifications should be obtained to be able to access multiple markets. There are efforts being done by governments and certification bodies for recognition and bilateral agreements. This would allow for acceptance of organic certification issued by a certification body to target importing countries. An example of this, is the US-Canada bilateral agreement where producers who are certified with the USDA-National Organic Program standards by a USDA-accredited certification body do not have to obtain another certification according to the Canada Organic Product Regulation for their product to be sold or labeled as organic in Canada, and vice versa.

The Organic Agriculture Movement in the Philippines

The birth of the Philippine Organic Movement started in the first half of the 1980s. Many NGOs, CSOs, POs, and private sector have advocated for the avoidance of chemical pesticides and fertilizers and opposed the green revolution program. The organic movement in the Philippines later (in the late 80s to early 90s) took on the call for sustainable development. Implementation of various Sustainable Agricultural programs, including Low External Input Sustainable Agriculture (LEISA) and Organic Agriculture (OA), became the strategy to reduce environmental degradation and ensure food safety. It has been recognized as an alternative poverty reduction and empowerment strategy among the rural poor. However, issues on marketing and product integrity later emerged. There came a need to distinguish LEISA from organic products since LEISA does not prohibit the use of synthetic inputs. It is a system that encourages the use of locally available inputs and reduces the use of external inputs like synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

A network of major organic practitioners and advocates in the country came together and formulated organic standards and developed a system

---

2Santos, Tony. Setting the Stage: The Philippine Experience Mainstreaming Organic Agriculture. Agroecology and Advocacy: Innovations in Asia. (Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) and Asian Farmers’ Association for Sustainable Rural Development (AFA), October 2011)
of checking the implementation of these standards. They anchored the Philippine organic standards on the international framework standards of IFOAM and CAC. This move aimed to unify producers and consumers on the definition and understanding of organic agriculture. By early 2000, an organic certification system was established by the same network to verify the integrity of organic products and compliance of producers and food manufacturers to the organic standards.

The prime movers in these early years of the organic movement in the Philippines were the CSOs, NGOs, private sector, small entrepreneurs and academic institutions. The government only started to become involved at the official level in mid-90s. Different government agencies provided support and established collaboration especially in the marketing and promotions of organic products. Organic industry players have lobbied for more serious engagement of the government by creating supportive policy environment and increased collaboration and synchronized promotion and development of the organic industry. A positive development started with the following actions by the government:

- Adoption by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standards of the Department of Agriculture (BAFPSDA) in 2003 of the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture and Processing (PNS/BAFPS 07:2003)


- Approval by the Office of the President of Executive Order 481 in 2005 which gave focus on the “Promotion And Development Of Organic Agriculture In The Philippines”.

- Ratification of the Republic Act 100068 also known as Organic Agriculture Act of 2010

These national efforts were complemented by several developments at the local level. There were declarations of organic zones in the LGUs of Baras (Rizal), Sibulan (Davao City), Negros Island, Alaminos (Pangasinan) and Samal (Bataan), among others. LGUs of Trento, Agusandel Sur and
Surallah, South Cotabato have received awards from the Department of Agriculture for Best LGU program on Organic Agriculture. Academic institutions such as Xavier University College of Agriculture, Xavier University South-East Asia Rural Social Leadership Institute (SEARSOLIN), and Central Luzon State University (CLSU) have integrated organic agriculture in their curricula while Benguet State University (BSU) offered a Bachelor’s degree course on Organic Agriculture.


The promotion of organic agriculture in the Philippines is facing several challenges from policy gaps, lack of production support, promotion and awareness activities; fragmented and inadequate research and development, extension and capability building activities; and poor market systems. RA 100068 and its IRR, and the NOAP aims to address these inadequacies in the organic sector and steer it towards a more competitive and sustainable organic industry.

The NOAP detailed the strategic course the organic industry players will take from 2012-2016 and has emphasized the critical role the LGU plays in the promotion and development of the organic agriculture sector. It has identified the LGU as a lead or support agency in the key components of RA 10068 and its IRR and the NOAP: (1) Institution Development and Strengthening, (2) Research and Development, (3) Production and Technology Support, (4) Extension and Capability Building, (5) Promotion, Advocacy and Education, (6) Market Development, and (7) Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation.
Below is a summary of the roles that LGUs play under these national policy issuances:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Lead Role</th>
<th>Supportive Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| (1) Institution Development and Strengthening | • Bring the program down to the grassroots utilizing available personnel and facilities at the local level  
• Form a local technical committee (provincial/municipal/city) for organic agriculture which will implement activities in line with the NOAP  
• Pass ordinances through the local technical committee and their sangguniangbayan/panlungsod/panlalawigan relating to the approval of the local organic agriculture plan and/or elaborating the NOAP as a strategy in addressing concerns on food security, environment, health and wellness, and poverty alleviation, and appropriating separate/distinct funds for organic agriculture  
• Provide incentives to organic input production either through reduction of amount of local taxes, fees and charges imposed or exemption on business taxes. The LGUs through its sanggunian shall determine the incentives, the amount and duration of exemption to be granted.  
• Ensure development and deployment of a minimum number of extension workers/service providers/farm technicians on organic agriculture in each town or province | • Ensure cooperation and mutual assistance with POs and NGOs as well as effective coordination and networking among appropriate national government agencies in order to:  
  o maximize people empowerment and  
  o apply participatory approaches to program formulation, implementation and monitoring  
• Coordinate with DA agencies, bureaus and departments, particularly DA-ATI in the alignment and development of standardized instructional materials and conduct of technology training on OA for focal persons, extension workers/service providers and farm technicians |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Lead Role</th>
<th>Supportive Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) Research and Development</td>
<td>• Integrate LGU research and extension programs with existing research and extension programs of the RDE centers of the DA, DOST, DENR, SUCs, and organic farming community based learning/training centers</td>
<td>• Participate in the organic agriculture RDE network to be organized by the BAR.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Collaborate and cooperate with ATI, RFUs, organic small farmer’s organizations and NGOs providing RDE services, in undertaking technology transfer and related extension activities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Component: Production and Technology Support

**Lead Role**

- Ensure that programs and projects for organic agriculture include efforts from the barangay to the provincial level, such as:
  - Collection and disposal of garbage and waste in such a way as to provide raw materials for the production of organic fertilizer and other farm inputs in accordance with the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act and the Sanitation Code of the Philippines.
  - Availability of genetic resources (i.e., seeds, breeds of poultry and livestock, and fishery resources) for production in the community seed banks and other breeding centers within the DA, DOST and other institutions like the SUCs and NGO facilities.
  - Protection, rehabilitation and maintenance of watershed areas, rivers and forest.

- In partnership with DA, NGOs and private groups, business groups, provide support to include among others:
  - Access to infrastructure (shredders, composting enhancers, etc.);
  - Information and capability building on appropriate technologies (i.e. formulation of inputs and feeds, and propagation of raw materials, pest and disease management, etc.) through training, demonstration, field visits, etc.;

- Allocate funds for the maintenance of infrastructures, particularly for farm to market roads to be continually passable and accessible at all times.

**Supportive Role**

- Cooperate with DA and DENR to ensure the mitigation of seepages and run-offs from dumpsites and mining activities.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Lead Role</th>
<th>Supportive Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(4) Extension and Capability</td>
<td>• Establish OA learning and resource centers in each province to house and at the same time showcase and/or demonstrate OA application using various modules in the areas of crop production, poultry, livestock and aquaculture</td>
<td>• Establish linkages with DA and NOAB member agencies, other concerned government agencies, NGOs, organic farmer’s organizations, media partners and other concerned stakeholders for a nationwide promotion, adoption and practice of organic agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(5) Promotion, Advocacy and</td>
<td>• Disseminate and communicate standards, programs, and accomplishments, among others through existing information system and Quad Media-Information Education and Communication (Quad-IEC) mechanism</td>
<td>• Actively participate in local and international trade fairs, market promotion and matching activities organized by DA and DTI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td>• Coordination and support to private groups/existing organic farms/institutions in agri-tourism ventures showcasing organic villages and areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(6) Market Development</td>
<td>• Establish dedicated stalls in the public markets/malls and organize a special market day for organic products</td>
<td>• Support timely information flow from the farmers to the LGU/TWG to DA-BAFPS/TWG and NOAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Establish, as far as practicable, at least one (1) trading post for organic inputs for every LGU in their area of jurisdiction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(7) Results-based Monitoring</td>
<td>• Implement monitoring protocols to track the promotion and delivery of OA support services and its implementation by the local chief executives (LCEs) at the provincial and city/municipal levels</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and Evaluation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
As recognized in the NOAP, “The success and/or failure of organic agriculture in the country is contingent upon the framing of continuous and appropriate policy, legal and institutional support from the government and through the interventions of the NGOs, POs, organic private business sectors and the farmers.”
SECTION 1.
Developing the LGU Organic Agriculture Program

In developing the localized OA plan, the LGU has to bear in mind its roles and functions as mandated in RA 10068 and its IRR and as defined in the NOAP (2012-2016). This road map describes the basic requirements the LGUs should integrate in the plan in the different stages of implementation.

Stage 1 is the preparatory stage and constitutes the Institutional Development and Strengthening activities. At this stage, the LGUs assess their current capacities (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) in rolling out the activities under the roadmap. The existence of government programs and service delivery mechanism for OA has to be analyzed side by side with the local agriculture situation in terms of livelihood sources, types of farming systems local farmers are engaged in, agricultural productivity, capacities of farmers and income situation, among others. This is where industry profiling and benchmarking comes in. The gaps in the (1) LGU capacity, (2) needs of local agricultural sector and (3) the requirements of the RA 10068 and its IRR, and NOAP should be highlighted and integrated into the road map. This stage of the planning process will ensure that the LGUs are adequately prepared for service delivery.

Stage 2 constitutes the implementation of the program and actual service delivery. At this stage, the LGU establishes mechanisms for delivering services including effective coordination, networking and partnership building with different government agencies, and private sector stakeholders to respond to the needs of the sector.

The third and final stage is the monitoring, evaluation, and enhancement of program implementation. This also includes the establishment of management information system to ensure program outputs and outcomes are properly documented and disseminated to aid in the improvement of the program and further policy development.
Stage 1 Institution Development and Strengthening

Basic Requirements:

1. Organizing the Local Technical Committee

The creation of the Provincial Technical Committee (PTC) on organic agriculture is mandated to be accomplished within the first two years of implementation of the NOAP. It is similar to the NOAB composition but may increase NGO/PO/CSO representation. A policy resolution from the Sangguniang Panlalawigan must be issued, authorizing the provincial governor to organize the PTC with defined membership and functions.

Proposed Provincial Technical Committee for Organic Agriculture Composition

1. The Provincial Governor as chair
2. The Provincial Agriculture Officer
3. The Provincial Director of the DILG or his representative
4. The DOST provincial representative
5. Representative from DepEd
6. Representative from DENR
7. Representative from DAR
8. Representative from DTI
9. Representative from NIA
10. Provincial Health Officer
11. Representatives (3-5 members) from the small farmers’ organization in the province who are implementing SOA programs.
12. At least three representative from the NGOs involved in sustainable agriculture for at least three (3) years;
13. Representative from agricultural colleges and universities;
14. Private sector representative working on organic agriculture
15. NIA farmer irrigators association president
16. Municipal agriculture officers representing different agri eco zones in the province
The newly organized PTC should be familiarized with the mandates, functions, and complementation of the various institutions involved in OA such as the DA, DTI, and DENR. A self-assessment on the LGU’s current capacities should identify its internal strengths and weaknesses as well as the opportunities and threats that can either facilitate or hamper achievement of its goal towards localized economic development through OA. This will be a critical input in the development of its local OA program. This process should carefully look into the following:

a. Existing LGU programs and service delivery mechanism for OA;
b. Technical and administrative capabilities of its agriculture technicians and political leaders from the provincial, municipal and barangay levels;
c. Units, structure and staffing to coordinate and manage the OA program; and
d. Availability of fund sources to implement and sustain OA programs.

2. Industry Profiling and Benchmarking

The LGU should define appropriate interventions based on the needs of the sector. This can be done by understanding the local agricultural situation through industry profiling and benchmarking. Below are some of the parameters that should be analyzed as it will have a bearing on prioritization and strategy formulation:

a. Livelihood sources and income situation;
b. Types of farming practices and capacities of farmers;
c. Agricultural productivity;
d. Industry players and actors in the value chain;
e. Service providers including LGUs, NGOs, POs, and private individual practitioners;
f. Presence of model farms for organic agricultural technologies;
g. Scale of organic production and productivity level (hectarage, volume and types of products, number of farms);
h. Availability of organic inputs;
  i. Inventory of infrastructure, processing and marketing facilities;
  j. Level of compliance to organic product certification; and
  k. Level of consumer awareness and consumption pattern of organic products.

This process can be undertaken through participatory rapid appraisal, rapid assessment, action research, and/or value chain analysis. LGUs should work from already available information from different sources like NGOs/POs/CBOs, Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Products Standard, among others. Data regarding organic industry profile is currently fragmented and lacking so it is critical for the LGU to document this process.

3. Local OA Program Planning

The targets and performance indicators of the local OA program must be clearly outlined. The roles LGUs were mandated to fulfill should be translated into targets and performance indicators. The gaps identified from the SWOT analysis of the LGU’s capacities and local industry analysis must be addressed by the OA program.

During the planning process, multi-stakeholder participation is required. All stakeholders involved should level-off on the understanding of different farming/production systems and how it compares with the Organic Agricultural System as defined in the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture and Processing (PNS 07:2003). This will ensure that the process start on the right footing and direct priorities and strategies in the right path.

The local OA should be anchored on the goal of “promoting, propagating and further developing and implementing the practice of organic agriculture in the Philippines toward a competitive and sustainable organic industry.” It should undertake activities that will translate into (1) better farm
income and sustainable livelihood; (2) improved health of farmers and consumers through the mitigation of hazards from conventional farming systems; (3) promotion of environmental protection, enhanced resiliency to disasters and climate change; and (4) advancement of social justice, equity and people empowerment.

The organic agriculture program should be integrated into the LGU Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP) and Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) and part of the over-all agricultural development plan and programs of the LGU.

**Key Components** of the OA Program should include at the minimum:

- a. Institution Development and Strengthening
- b. Promotion, Advocacy and Education
- c. Production and Technology Support
- d. Market Development
- e. Research and Development
- f. Extension and Capability Building
- g. Results-based Monitoring and Evaluation

The LGU has to define how it will contribute to the national targets in terms of: a) total area of production for organic agriculture; b) population or volume of production and processing of organic products; c) market size or market reach; d) number of farms certified on first, second and third party certification system; and e) number of organic agriculture adopters.

4. **Policy Development**

Policy instruments like *Sanggunian* resolutions and ordinances, executives orders, and memoranda of agreement are important in ensuring allocation of resources, creation of social, logistical and implementing structures, and as a demonstration of the LGUs commitment to implement OA programs. It should provide an enabling environment for the spread of OA practice by farmers and increased appreciation for organic products by the consumers.
As mandated in RA 100068 and its IRR, there should be LGU policy issuances pertaining to:

a. Creation of local technical committee;
b. Approval of the local OA program;
c. Elaborating the NOAP as a strategy in addressing concerns on food security, environment, health and wellness, and poverty alleviation;
d. Appropriation of separate/distinct funds for organic agriculture; and
e. Provision of incentives through reduction of local taxes, fees and charges imposed or exemption on business taxes including amount and duration.

Stage 2. Service Delivery

Basic Requirements:

5. Strengthening Service Delivery Mechanism

A good program has to be backed by a good delivery mechanism. LGUs have to continually develop the capacity of designated units and staff in the management and coordination of OA program to ensure that it effectively and efficiently responds to the needs and demands of the local farmers and organic industry players. The delivery mechanism consists of:

a. The unit and/or staff to take the lead in the OA program implementation (i.e. OPA, MAO, new separate unit);
b. Agricultural technicians to be deployed;
c. The organizational structure;
d. Agencies and organizations that will support and assist this unit and the scope of its authority or level of engagement (DA, DTI, DENR, DepEd, NGO networks, etc.); and,
e. The services that the LGU will focus on and how farmers and organic industry players can access these services.
6. Financing OA program and projects at different levels

The national government has allocated some funds for the implementation of OA programs and projects and LGUs are encouraged also to allocate distinct funds. The DA provides subsidies to OA Programs (5% of its national budget) aimed at enhancing organic productivity at the local level. Meanwhile, the local governments derives its revenues from IRA, local taxes and local revenues which can be allocated for financing local OA programs and projects.

Apart from these funds, there are various financing institutions and donor partners that offer loans and grants. Financing institutions (FIs) are now mandated to utilize 25% of their loan portfolio for agricultural programs (Agri-Agra Law) aimed at enhancing organic productions. LGUs together with Government FIs shall also be putting up and providing guarantee funds for small organic farmers, artisanal fisher folks and indigenous peoples while LBP is tasked to provide preferential rates and special window to organic producers. Official Development Assistance (ODA) providers and donor partners are institutions that can provide funding for projects such as climate change mitigation (EU, US, UNDP, FAO, ADB, etc.). There are other private organizations/companies that have financing arrangement which can provide direct financial support for the farmers and cooperatives who are into production, processing and marketing of organic products. LGUs should look into developing public-private investment arrangements and all possible avenues for the development of the organic industry.

7. Convergence and Integration

Integration and complementation of programs and initiatives are mechanisms for optimizing limited resources. It would allow for scaling up and enable the organic industry to meet growing demand for safe and quality organic products. Resources and capacities are limited and with the LGUs identified priorities and focus, it has to develop a system or mechanism for facilitating and/or linking organic players with other service providers,
existing development initiatives and/or key actors in the value chain to ensure that effective and sustainable support is provided. As much as possible, agreements and arrangements can be made or facilitated by the LGUs to ensure continuity, expansion and success of the program. It has to synergize and utilize the presence of different support groups when implementing programs. Information relevant to LGUs and industry players concerning program development, implementation, monitoring and communication must be on hand. Such information may include Government Agencies, NGOs, POs, CSOs, Academic Institutions and individual practitioners involved in:

a. Training and Consultancy  
b. Research and Technology Development  
c. Financing Institutions  
d. Model Farms  
e. Marketing and Sales  
f. Product Development  
g. Product Certification  
h. Input sources/suppliers

Stage 3. Assessment and Enhancement

8. Monitoring and Evaluation System

The results, outcomes, and impact of different OA programs at the local level have to be monitored and documented. A results-based monitoring and evaluation system covering the provincial, municipal, and barangay levels should be developed based on the identified key performance indicators. In coordination with DA-RFU, the PTC should ensure timely, regular monitoring and reporting of programs and projects status at different levels—from farmers to associations and cooperatives, municipal and provincial focal persons.

Evaluation should highlight innovations, deviations, problems encountered, and lessons learned including recommendation for improvement. It has to be documented and communicated
to LCEs, local partners, as well as those at the national level (BAFPS/ TWG/ NOAB). The evaluation process should be able to determine efficiency, effectiveness, impact, and sustainability.

Successful implementation of programs must also produce the actual intended result.\(^3\) In developing an M&E system, it is essential to:

- Formulate goals and intended outcomes;
- Set key performance indicators to monitor progress with respect to inputs, activities, outputs, outcomes and impact;
- Gather baseline information on the current condition or status of the program- qualitative and quantitative;
- Set specific targets to reach and dates for reaching them;
- Regularly collect data to assess whether the targets are being met;
- Analyze and report the results; and
- Use evaluation information in generating and sharing knowledge and learning

Sustaining M&E involves clarifying roles, responsibilities, accountabilities and ensuring credibility of information generated.

9. Improvement and Enhancement of OA programs

In the implementation of any program, there is bound to be bumps along the road. M&E information must be generated utilized regularly for continued improvement of programs and projects.

10. Management Information System

A sound baseline data on results of program implementation is important in aiding monitoring, evaluation, and enhancement of an OA program. A management information system must be installed that allow easy consolidation and retrieval of real-time information on status and performance updates.

Information or data gathered during monitoring activities should be consolidated in a databank/database. It should include, at the minimum, information on:

a. Number of practitioners according to crops, poultry, livestock, aquaculture, etc.
b. Number of heads or volume of production.
c. Covered area in hectarage
d. Price trends
e. Yield per hectare
f. Income
g. Improvement of the environment/ecology

11. Communicating Program Results

The flow of management information as described in the NOAP should be adopted. Timely communication of relevant results of the program is important for management and decision-making.

Performance data/information have to be communicated and documented clearly to the targeted audience: (a) Farmers and partners in implementation and (b) Policy makers (members of the Sangguniang Bayan/Panlalawigan, LCEs, members of Congress). Specific strategies for sharing information should be designed accordingly. Quad media (i.e. radio, TV, broadsheet, and internet-based social network) and IEC materials have to be utilized, as much as practicable, to disseminate information. Existing LGU information mechanism should also be maximized to promote and advocate OA especially to report the accomplishments and status of program implementation.

Effective communication of reliable and valid results is critical to:

- Enable policy makers and to formulate enabling policies to support OA;
- Aid the LCEs in timely decision-making;
- Allow continued support from FIs, donor organizations and partners in implementation;
- Help motivate personnel and partners in continuously improving the program; and,
- Build public trust.
Section 2
Lessons Learned in the Implementation of OA Programs
Key Factors and Basic Tools

LGUs have started initiating local OA programs in various forms and stages. This section takes off from the experiences and sustainability considerations of the LGUs of Negros Island, Bohol and Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur. It summarizes the key factors and basic tools all other LGUs can refer to in ensuring smooth program implementation (Refer to annex A.1 to A.3). There were, however, some other pioneering LGUs that have also worked with the CSOs and private sector that can be studied for best practices. Industry or commodity specific master plans were developed by LGUs such as Valencia, Bukidnon for organic rice; Pres. Quirino, Sultan Kudarat for muscovado; and Antique province for muscovado.

Strong Policy Support and Implementing Mechanism

It was clear from the experience of the three LGUs that strong policy support is a key factor in sustaining OA programs initiated by both the private sector and local government. They had recognized efforts and decades of experience of CSOs, CBOs, NGOs, POs in OA program implementation. They had drawn from the positive gains of these initiatives and integrated it in the overall socio-economic-political agenda and local development plan.

To further sustain and enhance the growth of the organic agriculture industry, policy instruments like Sanggunian resolutions and ordinances, executive orders, memoranda of agreement, were put in place. These facilitated the allocation of resources, creation of implementing structures, and provided a favorable environment for adoption of OA on a wider scale.
The three LGUs studied have passed the following policies that institutionalized their support for OA:

1. Memorandum of Agreement between Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental signed by the two governors for a Negros Island-wide program with a vision of making the island the Organic Food Bowl of Asia (refer to annex B.1). This paved the way for the creation of the Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (NISARD) Foundation that leads the implementation of OA programs in Negros.

2. Provincial ordinances approved by the governors of Negros Occidental and Bohol as well as the Executive Order issued by the Mayor of Dumingag have indicated the local government’s commitment to mainstream OA and defined the LGUs’ programs, strategies, implementation structures and funding support (Annex B.2, B.5 and B.6).

3. Negros Occidental, further demonstrated its commitment by banning the entry of Living Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) through a provincial ordinance (Annex B.3) while a parallel city ordinance was made by Bacolod City (Annex B.4). This policy ensures that the biodiversity of the province is protected and that organic farms and products of the province will not be contaminated by GMO.

Implementing structures were identified to ensure achievement of goals and programs on OA. The LGU of Dumingag and Negros created separate units with the institutional capacity to deliver results. They hired managers and staff that have background and experience in OA, as in the case of Negros, while Dumingag chose a team of committed and motivated individuals who have not been ingrained on conventional production system and are open and willing to push the OA program of the LGU.

The LGU of Bohol, on the other hand, had utilized its existing unit—the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA)—to lead in program implementation but had collaborated with OA network’s Bohol Organic Farmers Association (BOFA) and Bohol Initiators for Sustainable Agriculture
and Development (BISAD) to assisted OPA in information dissemination, technology development, market development, and network building, among others.

**Strategic Planning**

The vision of the three LGUs was very clear; they wanted to respond to economic health and environmental issues in their localities and create an impact on reducing poverty and improving food security for the community. The LGUs were inspired and influenced by CSOs, POs, and NGOs in the area that have demonstrated that organic agriculture is an effective approach to poverty reduction and people empowerment. They had carefully looked into the local situation (income situation, agricultural productivity, local initiatives, etc.) capacities and resources both internal and external to the LGU.

The Community Organizing and Community Development (COCD) approach used by Dumingag created ownership of the program by the people thereby ensuring its sustainability. Immersion of the technicians and different stakeholders including the political leaders in the community facilitated the integration of what the people need in the overall program and helped build trust and confidence in the program.

The value chain approach was also an effective strategy for addressing constraints and take advantage of opportunities by linking the key actors in the agricultural supply chain from production to market. It helped identify coordination and collaboration mechanisms to make the organic industry more competitive in the local as well as in the wider market.

**Multi-Stakeholder Partnership Building**

Multi-stakeholder involvement and partnership have contributed to the strong service delivery mechanism of the LGUs. Organic industry players (producers/farmers, processors, traders) and supporters in the value chain were involved in different aspects of program planning, implementation, and monitoring. This created a sense of ownership of the program and collaboration among stakeholders, scaled and demonstrated the products’ visible impacts.
Farmers/producers were organized into associations and cooperatives which generated a scale of production and facilitated marketing: the Dumingag Organic Farming System Practitioners Association (DOFSPA), One Negros Organic Producers and Retailers Association (ONOPRA), and Organic Fertilizer Producers Association in Negros. Producers of organic products and inputs were able to pool together and consolidate their products and enable them to meet the volume demands of the market. Dumingag further went into organizing the communities into “neighborhood cells” (group of up to 8 neighbors) which created a support system within the group. Each cell is encouraged to help each other in the practice of organic farming through a system of “Bayanihan.”

Industry experts were tapped to provide inputs and complement the LGU OA plan. CSOs, CBOs, POs, and NGOs became valuable partners in the promotion, implementation, and expansion of OA practitioners through the conversion of thousands of hectares of agricultural lands into organic farms. Academic institutions became partners in research and advocacy.

**Capability Building and Learning Avenues**

Capability building activities were undertaken and different learning avenues were set up to ensure farmers, technicians, and LGUs are able to deliver results: participatory technology development, farmer dialogues and information exchanges, hands-on learning, and research and development.

The Bohol province pointed out in its OA program that for research initiatives to bring about empowerment to the farmers and the communities, they have to be allowed to participate and even lead in all aspects of the program – from designing to analysis. It suggested that learning had to be undertaken in the actual farms of farmers/producers to create ripple effects in the surrounding farms and exemplify farmer to farmer knowledge transfer. In Dumingag, it also involved the teachers from both private and public schools to echo and advocate OA to students and their parents.

Seminar and trainings were organized relating to different OA technologies. Demonstration farms and model farms were set-up and/or identified to showcase best practices in organic farming. Hands-on
learning centers such as the Dumingag Institute of Sustainable Organic Agriculture (DISOA) were established to allow farmers to observe and learn firsthand the different systems and approaches to OA. Apart from engaging in the education of farmers on farming technologies, the LGU of Dumingag also embarked on organizational development activities (i.e. team building) to strengthen organizational capacities of farmer groups. The sustainability of the organic sector is also contingent upon sustaining the organized group of farmers, producers and even consumers. Transforming hearts and mindsets is a big challenge that the LGUs also considered in developing the OA program.

**Market Linkage and Development**

Knowing the market of organic products is a primary concern of LGUs and local partners in implementing OA programs. Market research provides information on the market need, market size, supply and demand situation, prices, among others. What the LGUs did was establish organic markets to introduce organic products produced in the area and create local demand for it. By linking producers to consumers and markets, it created systematic behavioral change among consumers on consumption of organic products. With the right market, producers were also able to enjoy premium prices for their organic products.

In Negros, its organic market started from being open only two days a week until it turned into a six-day market day. Accredited farmer-members can get as much as 10% -30% higher price compared to conventional markets. The Bohol province developed a marketing program to facilitate the marketing of organic products to different hotels and resorts in the province.

All three LGUs recognized that certification of organic products is necessary for market acceptance, growth, and sustainability. Increasing value of organic products can be attained through organic certification. They worked on installing appropriate systems to ensure the integrity of its organic products and guarantee its compliance with the Philippine organic standards (PNS 07:2003).

The Negros Island Certification System (NICERT) was established and it worked towards getting accredited by the Bureau of Agriculture and
Fishery Products Standards of the Department of Agriculture (BAFPS-DA). It was given accreditation to certify operations within the Visayas region and their certification is recognized by law so labeling products as “organic” or “organic certified” is allowed.

The Bohol Internal Guarantee System (BIGS) was activated to set standards for organic product certification and fair pricing while a similar system is also being established in Dumingag. This system of certification, however, does not allow marketing of products labeled as organic.”
References


Annexes

A. Case studies on Local OA Programs

C.1. Negros Occidental
C.2. Bohol
C.3. Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur

B. Sample Policy Instruments developed and used by LGUs

B.1. MOA on Declaration of One Negros Island and Organic Food Island, 2005

B.2. Province of Negros Occidental Ordinance No. 007 Series of 2011 “Ordinance Institutionalizing, Promoting and Developing Organic Agriculture In Negros Occidental, Providing Funds Therefor, and for Other Purposes”

B.3. Province of Negros Occidental Ordinance No. 007 Series of 2007 “Instituting Stringent Measures Towards Protection of Biodiversity and the Attainment of the Status of Negros as Organic Food Island by Banning the Entry, Importation, Introduction, Planting, Growing, Selling and Trading of Genetically Modified Plants and Animals within the Territorial Jurisdiction of the Province of Negros Occidental, Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, and for Other Purposes”

B.4. Bacolod City Ordinance No. 485 Series of 2009 “Ordinance Banning and Prohibiting Entry of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in the City of Bacolod and for such other Purposes”


Annex A.1

NEGROS ISLAND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: A Case Study on Organic Agriculture Program of Negros Provinces
The Local Situation

The Negros island is predominantly agricultural with rich marine and upland resources. Its two provinces, Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental, have a combined agricultural land area of 531,016.99 hectares; 195,000 hectares of which is planted sugarcane and 9,333.14 hectares devoted to inland fishery/fish ponds. The island is traditionally known as the “sugar bowl” of the Philippines. There are about 15 sugar centrals in Negros Occidental and five sugar centrals in Negros Oriental that serve the vast sugar cane plantations in the two provinces.

Negros Island has an estimated population of 3.7 million with an average growth rate of 1.5%. It has a labor force of 2.6 million, and agricultural employment of 51.7%. The Negros’ economy and labor force have been highly dependent on the sugar industry for more than a century. When the world sugar prices dropped to its lowest in the mid-80s, the crisis brought about famine, hunger and widespread poverty in the province, especially in the rural areas.

Several sectors in the province took action of mitigating the situation. Church-based organizations, NGOs, and peoples’ organizations, in cooperation with the local and international government agencies and groups, became actively involved in giving aid to the hungry and later on developed programs and projects on sustainable systems of food production. Advocacy for and implementation of Sustainable Agriculture and Organic Agriculture programs by these groups have shown that Sustainable Agriculture (SA) and Organic Agriculture (OA) are effective strategies for poverty alleviation and community empowerment.
This situation prompted the leaders of the two provinces in the island to seek unified solutions to their economic and social problems. In August 2005, inspired by the experience of a successful enterprise like Alter Trade that assisted agrarian reform communities and smallholder farmers improve their livelihood by producing organic muscovado sugar and Balangon banana and exporting it to countries in Europe and Japan. The two incumbent governors, Gov. Joseph Marañon of Negros Occidental and Gov. George Arnaiz of Negros Oriental mutually agreed to achieve a unified sustainable agricultural rural development for the entire island through a Memorandum of Understanding (Annex B.1 MOA) with the goal of creating a “One Negros Island Region” and becoming the “Food Basket of Organic Products in Asia.” The MOU covered areas of cooperation for: (1) A joint venture in the establishment of an Export Processing Zone; (2) legislation banning the entry of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO); (3) commitment to increase to 10% agricultural lands under organic production; and (4) cooperate and coordinate with the private sector in the implementation of the programs.

Description of the Organic Agriculture (OA) Program

The key mechanism in the realization of the two governor’s vision is the creation of the Negros Island Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (NISARD) Foundation. With the mandate given to the Foundation, both provincial governments allocated Php 10 million each as the seed fund to support programs and activities. The Provincial Legislative Council, in a resolution, also allocated Php 5 million annual budget for NISARD.

The Development Plan of NISARD (2007-2012) focused on local OA programs, projects, and activities in the areas of (1) policy development
and support, (2) extension and training, (3) research and development, (4) production and (5) organic guarantee system. Full time staff and managers were assigned to oversee the operations and implementation of the program. The institutional capacity to deliver results was facilitated by seasoned persons that have previous knowledge and experience in OA.

Since the start of the project in 2006, NISARD has accomplished the following:

- **Approval of the ordinance** on banning the entry of GMO in 2007 for the Province of Negros Occidental and later adopted by the Bacolod City Government in 2009. This was sustained despite the strong lobbying of multinational chemical companies. (Refer to Annex B.3: Negros Province of Negros Occidental Ordinance No. 007 Series of 2007 “Instituting Stringent Measures Towards Protection of Biodiversity and the Attainment of the Status of Negros as Organic Food Island by Banning the Entry, Importation, Introduction, Planting, Growing, Selling and Trading of Genetically Modified Plants and Animals within the Territorial and Jurisdiction of the Province of Negros Occidental, Providing Penalties for Violations Thereof, and for Other Purposes” and Annex B.4: Bacolod City Ordinance No. 485 Series of 2009 “Ordinance Banning and Prohibiting Entry of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) in the City of Bacolod and for such other Purposes”)

- **Mobilized, accessed and secured additional funding** in the amount of Php 6.5 million from the Province and Php 5 million from the Department of Agriculture. These funds were allocated for projects on organic cattle production (P5 million); organic peanut production (P1 million); establishment of a laboratory (P1.5 million); organic livestock production e.g. goat, swine; bio-intensive gardening; banana plantlets production; chamber for composting; and, institutional development. It leveraged the initial seed capital of P20 million for funding sources either from grant funding mechanism or commercial financing institutions under the Public-Private Partnership from bilateral or multi-lateral organizations.
• Built the **institutional capacities to better plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate Sustainable Agriculture program**. NISARD Foundation found value in assisting the Municipal Agriculture Offices in formulating its Organic Agriculture program, projects, and activities, and allocating resources. It assisted municipalities in implementing the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program of the Governor. The Foundation provided organic inputs and mobilized the Municipal Agriculture Offices to manage (plan, implement, monitor) the program. Another vehicle was the district projects on organic farming funded by the Congresspersons.

• **Provided extension and training on different OA technologies** including (a) organic fertilizer production (vermicomposting, trichoderma, natural farming technologies, etc); (b) organic crop production (vegetables, rice, and banana); (c) organic livestock production (piggery, cattle-breeding); and, (e) organic aquaculture (tilapia hatchery, prawn production). These province-wide seminars include practical farming and monitoring of adopters numbering 500 participants.

• **Collaborated with institutions** such as the Central Queensland University in a research to measure the impact of biodiversity on conservation efforts, social issues and others; and the Australian Northern Territory Government for cattle handling training and application for Management Investment Scheme.

• **Established learning avenues** by setting up of a 3-hectare natural farming demonstration farm in Bago City; and hosting of the 2nd National Vermicomposting Congress. NISARD established different showcases on organic farming systems at different levels – farmer’s groups and individuals, private sectors, processors, and...
entrepreneurs. Part of the strategic plan is the establishment of different OA farming models across different geographical locations at the farmer’s level in Negros that allows the development of innovations and best practices on organic farming.

- **Consolidated the work of more than 1,000 farmers** into organic livestock, poultry and vegetables to increase scale of production: 500 hectares of organic coffee in Kanlaon, with a total target of 1 million coffee trees to be planted in 3 years; 400 hectares of organic sugarcane for organic muscovado sugar; operationalization of muscovado processing plant with a capacity of 5,000 metric tons per day; more than 100 tons of organic inputs production per month (bio fertilizers, vermi fertilizers and many forms of natural farming systems) operated by individual farmers and other industry players in Negros;

- **Conducted seminars** on internal quality control system (IQCS) to identify Certification requirements and help growers prepare for local and export certification and marketing; organized organic producers and established Internal Quality System of Accreditation at the farmer’s level.

- **Organized the different stakeholders** actively involved in production, processing and marketing of organic products into the One Negros Organic Producers and Retailers Association (ONOPRA) composed of Sugarcane Producers, Rice Producers and Organic Fertilizers Producers Associations. The officers and members were encouraged to attend training programs and other capacity building activities on organic agriculture. The process was slow but effective because most of the stakeholders participated in policy and decision making.
• **Developed local market** through the establishment of a central market place for organic products in Bacolod including the organic restaurants that caters organic food. The organic farmers market initially started with a two-day market day (every Thursday and Friday) and has now become a six-day market days. This is the venue for facilitating value-adding of organic products and linking the right markets and consumers.

The organic marketplace includes fast-food restaurants that offer different types of organic food preparation. Farmers who are accredited and are members of the organic network sell their products in the market place at a 10%-30% higher price compared to conventional markets. An Organic Festival is also held every six months, alternately hosted by the two provinces. The markets, organized with the producers and processors, allow linkage and cooperation among different organic industry players.

• **Established the Negros Island Certification System (NICERT)**, a certifying body accredited by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fishery Products Standards of the Department of Agriculture (BAFPS-DA) to ensure integrity of the organic products in the market. It has a separate staffing and inspector working hand in hand with NISARD and other organic producers in the country.
Success Factors and Replicability

Key to the success of the local OA program in Negros is the strong political and policy support. The passion for environmental protection of the local political leaders (members of congress, provincial and municipal legislators, governors and vice governors, and others) was translated into policies that are geared towards achieving the vision for Negros Island. The political leaders allotted resources through the NISARD Foundation to achieve sustainability and food security through organic agriculture programs. The ordinances enacted created a favorable environment for the growth of organic agriculture. The bold move of banning the entry of GMOs in the island helped ensure the preservation of the integrity of organic farms and products. Experts and strong advocates of organic agriculture (UPLB experts, Greenpeace) were mobilized during the public hearings to counter the attempts by chemical companies to stop the passage of the ordinance.

The private sector became an important partner in program implementation. The strategy of consolidating the different sustainable agriculture and OA advocates and practitioners in the two provinces ensured that programs and projects start from what has already been done, taking off from the experiences of CSOs/POs/NGOs. Organizing the sector and mobilizing the key actors in the value-chain facilitated agri-enterprise development.

The strengthening of institutional capacity in the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the local OA program has contributed greatly to its success. Communicating the results of the program to the provincial policy makers resulted in government support, terms of policies and resources needed to move the program forward. NISARD leadership believes that they need to innovate and design a good program to get local governments to buy-in. The LGU is willing to allocate resources as long as there is a good plan and program. There is no need to wait for funding from the national government to implement organic
Annex A.2

GROWING IN RHYTHM WITH ECOLOGICALLY VIBRANT ECONOMY, NOURISHED BY LIFE-CENTERED, INTEGRAL FARMLANDS AND ECOSYSTEMS (GREEN LIFE): A Case Study on Organic Agriculture Program of Bohol
The Local Situation

The Province of Bohol is the 10th largest island in the Philippines covering a total land area of 4,117.3 square kilometers. It has rich land and marine biodiversity with the province’s economy largely agriculture-based. Forty six percent (46%) of the land area is devoted to agriculture, 38% of which is planted with coconuts, 32% with rice (both irrigated and rain-fed), 10% with corn and 7% with root crops. Forests makes up the remaining 1,012.71 sq. km. (25%) of land in the province.

Bohol has a population of 1,230,110 (2007 NSO Population Census) with an annual growth rate of 1.06%. 54% of the population’s livelihood is dependent on farming while 33% are living through fishery. Many problems in the province revolve around agricultural productivity and the capacity to support the local population and increase farmers’ incomes. Cost of production are high, especially inputs. Farmers are indebted as they acquire loans even as early as planting season. There is a significant decrease of production in almost all crops due to loss of fertility, soil depletion, siltation, erosion, soil compaction, water scarcity, among others. To date, there is no comprehensive scientific research conducted to determine the full extent of environmental degradation in the province’s agricultural lands.

Different sustainability programs and projects were initiated by church-based organizations, NGOs/CSOs, and POs during the last three decades with funding support from international and national organizations. The Bohol Initiators for Sustainable Agriculture and Development, (BISAD), is a network of around 45 members composed of NGOs, GOs, POs, NGAs, private farm operators, and cooperatives that took the challenge of reversing the pattern of conventional farming brought about by the Green Revolution in the 60s. The Bohol Organic Farmers Association (BOFA) is
a parallel movement from the small organic farmers group. The groups have established strong collaboration with government entities and civil society groups in introducing sustainable agriculture technologies to farming communities in the province.

These partnerships created a more open and frequent dialogues and issue resolutions. Among the local legislations on organic agriculture enacted through the efforts by both BISAD and BOFA are the following:

- Bohol GMO-FREE Ordinance (2003)
- Provincial Executive Order 27 creating PWG for BOS; released the 117 OA standards (2003)
- Bohol GREENLIFE Program (2009)
- Provincial Executive Order 20 creating BOAMC (2009)

Research organizations such as SEARICE, SWCF, FARDEC, and Project Seahorse Foundation, constantly provided vital information for educational activities, advocacies, and projects that supported OA.

The LGSP-LED project for PROMOTE-Rice program was operated in eight municipalities of Bohol under BIAD V cluster. The LGSP-LED project was able to upscale vermi production and provided support for more than 500 organic farmers. Bohol also embarked on the project Bohol Organic Agriculture Technology Center (BOATech) to meet the demand for alternative inputs for plant and animal growth (fertilizers, growth enhancers, etc.) for organic farmers.

The provincial government of Bohol through the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) has also been actively involved in OA programs through its membership in BISAD. It has captured the experiences at the ground level and took off from the efforts of the network to mainstream the OA program and embarked on the Green Life Program. Overall, the OA program in Bohol introduced sustainable agriculture technologies, developed indigenous knowledge, and improved farmers’ skills in organic farming systems.
The OA Program Description and Mechanism of Implementation

The provincial government of Bohol, through the Sanggunian Panlalawigan, passed and approved the Provincial Ordinance known as “BOHOL GREENLIFE(Growing in Rhythm with Ecologically Vibrant Economy, Nourished by Life-Centered, Integral Farmlands and Ecosystems)” in 2011. This program envisions the Province of Bohol as a major producer of organic agriculture products led by entrepreneurial farming communities. It aims to promote production of healthy foods and transforming people towards a sustainable future by:

- Converting at least 10% (18,487.20 has.) of prime agricultural lands of the province to organic farms by 2015;
- Producing at least 5% of local meat, eggs and inland fisheries organically for consumption in the province;
- Establishing a provincial marketing network exclusive for raw and processed organic products; and
- Institutionalizing provincial organic certification systems based on tested farmer-led internal quality control mechanisms

The GREENLIFE Program has five components, namely:

1) Production Enhancement. This component covers crops, livestock, inland fishery, and poultry production. There is an increasing trend on organic consumption due to the growing consciousness towards healthy foods—thus increasing the demand for organic products. However, despite the increased number of farmers converted to organic farming in Bohol, volume and market of organic products is still unstable. This component attempts to stabilize production by looking at various aspects of the production cycle and bridge gaps in the marketing of organic products.
2) **Research and Development.** This component is based on the “hand-over-the-stick” learning method. This means all research initiatives intend to bring about empowerment to the farmers and the communities by allowing them to participate and even lead in all aspects of the program—from designing to analysis. It highlights learning to be undertaken in the actual farms of farmers/producers to create ripple effects in the surrounding farms and exemplify farmer to farmer knowledge transfer. Cooperation and collaboration will be established with DA, DOST, SCUs, and other appropriate agencies such as, but not limited to, scientific/professional organizations and research institutions to develop, enhance, support and consolidate activities and related technologies to protect the environment and improve organic matter depleted agricultural soils, reduce cost of production, improve product quality and increase value-added for global competitiveness of organic produce.

3) **Market Development.** This component is aimed towards developing a “niche market” for organic products that involve fair trading systems as an alternative to the mainstream marketing and trading system. It looks into defining and organizing the interaction between three parties: the producers (organized farmers), the traders (with systematic and fair trading system), and the consumers (informed public). The fair trading system seeks to create an environment that is not oppressive to the parties involved, ensuring better trading conditions for the farmers producing organic products, to the traders delivering organic products to the market and the consumers buying organic products.

4) **Policy Advocacy/Stakeholders Development.** The first three components of this program focus on organic farm production, marketing/trading, and capability building of individual farmers and farmer organizations. This component provides the technical and advocacy support to ensure the sustainability of program implementation. Foremost is the institutionalization of the province’s program by passing the ordinance making Bohol an organic zone. Part of the program is also the building of a strong constituency of organic farmers, producers, consumers, and advocates who will collaborate and coordinate in the promotion
of organic agriculture. Multi-stakeholders’ participation on regular celebrations such as World Food Day, Earth Day, Environment Month, Nutrition Month, Sandugo Festival, Ubi Festival, among others; shall be maintained.

5) Organic Certification System. The Bohol Internal Guarantee System (BIGS) was activated to set standards for organic product certification and fair pricing. The approved standards was based on the standards of the Green Net Cooperative, an internationally acclaimed organic cooperative based in Thailand accredited by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), and the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP), a certification body accredited by the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Product Standards of the Department of Agriculture. Additional standards have been added to cater to livestock and poultry, including aspects of processing. BIGS Certification procedures involves different steps:
   1. Farmers Level,
   2. Inspectors Level (Municipal Level), and
   3. Certifiers Level (Provincial Level), and
   4. Third Party Certifiers.

The program has achieved the following:

- The Bohol Organic Agriculture Board was established and a Bohol Organic Agriculture Committee was also organized to ensure that the programs and action plans on OA are implemented.

- The provincial government, through an appropriation ordinance of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, allocated some funds for the initial implementation of the program. Five million pesos was allocated in 2011 and another 5 million for 2012. Budget allocation can be augmented after and shall be taken from the 20% Development Fund, the OPA annual budget, or from any possible sources of funds pursuant to existing guidelines of the Department of Budget and Management or Official Development Assistance.
- **Identified three major social institutions** that share accountability for program implementation:
  
a. **Office of the Provincial Agriculturist**: Being the lead institution for implementation, the OPA is responsible for: 1) facilitating avenues for dialogues and interactions with different stakeholders towards harmonization of understanding about organic production systems; 2) facilitating institutionalization of support-based at the barangay and municipal LGU levels by tapping different mandated governance bodies, such as the Barangay Poverty Reduction Action Teams (BPRATs) and/or the Municipal Poverty Reduction Action Teams (MPRATs); 3) improving network and collaboration with the Municipal Agriculturists ensuring that organic agriculture becomes a major thrust in all municipalities; 4) providing opportunities for broad networks and linkages at local, national, and international levels and 5) managing an effective and efficient secretariat.

b. **BISAD**: is accountable for effective information dissemination, technology development and adaptation, marketing systems opportunities, consumer promotions, advocacies, and campaigns. These are intended to result in a viable market development for organic products that will eventually provide income to the farming communities.

c. **BOFA**: It takes the lead role over all other provincial farmers’ alliances in terms of the theory and practice of organic agriculture. Specifically, BOFA sets the political direction of the Bohol organic movement; b) determines and increases production and production areas; c) takes the lead in research, technology development and adaptation; d) institutes campaigns and expand membership among its rank; e) establishes broad networks and alliances; f) learns and exercises effective skills and knowledge management; and, g) design and control the market with minimal cost.
• Passage of a **Municipal Ordinance on the first ever community seed registry** and the Declaration of Bilar as Bohol’s “Rice Sanctuary” as a result of Bilar’s group of farmers who were successful in actual rice breeding and seed collection of healthy and productive organic rice seeds. Many of the seeds were deposited in a seed bank inside the Central Visayas State College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Technology (CVSCAFT) Main Campus in Bilar and managed by competent CVSCAFT personnel.

• **Increased collaboration** between government entities and civil society groups

• **Market consolidation** with different reputable retailers and cooperative organizations was done for the different Organic Agriculture products. The provincial government provided them with financial assistance to engage in organic product consolidation and marketing from the producers group.

• A marketing program on organic products for organic vegetable was recently created to facilitate the marketing of organic products to the different resorts and hotels in the province.

• Organic products like the organic rice are now available at the different organic outlets in Tagbilaran city.

• **Organized consolidators** for organic market in Tagbilaran City.

• **Produced and distributed information materials and techno guides on the different organic farming technologies** to farmers during the regular purok-based consultation and meetings of OPA.

Other major programs and projects that also contributed to the development of OA program in Bohol are the following:

• **Poverty Reduction through Organic Farming Systems (PROFarmS) Development**, which was implemented in ten barangays within five municipalities of the province and participated by ten farmers’ organizations. It received funding from the Philippines-Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP).
• The Local Governance Support Program for Local Economic Development (LGSP-LED) project support to the Bohol Integrated Area Development (BIAD V) wherein a cluster of eight municipalities provided support for the PROMOTE-RICE program for the development of vermi fertilizer networks. Vermi starter and processing machine were provided to expedite the production of biomass for the vermin. The intervention resulted in a household based vermi production in different barangays under the BIAD clusters. Estimates from the MPDO show that more than 500 households either produce or buy vermi fertilizer for their own farms.

• The LGSP-LED project also invited PARFUND, Inc. (an NGO) and introduced the Organic Integrated Rice-Duck Farming Systems in BIAD to support the industry-based organic rice programs. As a result, 68 farmers covering 63 hectares in 46 barangays were trained on IRDFS and were set to establish organic rice-duck farms starting April. PARFUND and the Provincial government, through the OPA, also developed and submitted an investment proposal worth 2.4 million to the DA-RFU 7. This was for breeder farms and duck hatcheries in BIAD V to provide support for 100 hectares of IRDFS and to ensure available ducklings for farmers who will be implementing the IRDFS in their own farms. The experience in BIAD V will be translated into a province-wide organic rice-duck program through the OPA.
Success Factors and Replicability

The key factor to the success of the LGU-LED OA program in Bohol was the influence by different development organizations (NGOs/CSOs/POs/CBOs) implementing OA programs. The strong and dynamic alliance of these groups has pushed the provincial government to take steps in integrating organic agriculture in their service delivery, particularly by providing strong policy support for using organic agriculture as a strategy to attain food and income security at the household level. With resource allocation, coupled with a series of capacity building programs provided by the different local and international partners at the provincial and municipal level, the capacities of the Provincial government and municipal staff on OA program development, planning and implementation has improved. A division of organic program under the OPA was created with its own staffing and the Bohol Organic Agriculture Technology Center was established. Conversion to organic farming was encouraged and supported by showcasing and model-building of the different organic farming technologies.

The presence of national and international partner organizations and donor organizations like PACAP, SEARICE, MASIPAG and the ongoing LGSP-LED program, have provided the different support systems to the local communities, and have enhanced the OA program at the provincial level. Implementing the OA program in line with other sectoral programs in the province has ensured complementation of efforts in addressing the current issues on food security, environmental protection, and health in Bohol.
Annex A.3

GENUINE PEOPLE’S AGENDA:
A Case Study on Organic Agriculture Program
of Dumingag, ZamboangaDel Sur
The Local Situation

The municipality of Dumingag is a 2nd class municipality located at the center of Zamboanga Peninsula. About 50% of the area is rugged with steep hills and rolling valleys. It has a vast area of undeveloped land with less than a hundred hectares utilized for agriculture (2007 data). The major crops of the Province of Zamboanga del Sur, where Dumingag is a part of, include corn, rice, coconut and, fruit trees.

For decades, agricultural services delivered by the Municipal Agriculture Office are based on modern farming, a system of production that is highly dependent on synthetic farm input: hybrid seeds, fertilizer, pesticides, and herbicides. Farmers and LGU agriculture technicians work closely together and mostly with the support of chemical companies. Farmers often have to borrow money from local traders at high interest rates to buy agri-chemicals since they have no access to better farm financing terms. However, this system did not always translate to higher incomes for the families.

As a counter effort to the LGUs program, CSOs and Church-based Organizations (CBOs) have engaged the local farmers to implement a more sustainable system of farming. For more than three decades now, these groups have been promoting and implementing organic agriculture
programs in communities, although in a fragmented and piece-meal approach.

Dumingag has more than 50,000 inhabitants in 44 barangays (33 upland and 11 lowland). The LGU data in 2007 showed that 90% of its constituents are considered poor based on NSCP Poverty Rate. People and communities have poor health and literacy status. Families have income of only Php3,000 a month which is way below the poverty line. People could hardly afford to buy their basic necessities, including food, and pay for basic education and health services.

To address this local situation, the LCE- Mayor Nacianceno M. Pacalioga, Jr., who was elected in 2007, published for a program called the Genuine People’s Agenda, in order to liberate his constituency from poverty, sickness and hunger. OA was identified as one of the foundations of the comprehensive development program that, among others, sought to transform Dumingag’s conventional farming system into organic agriculture to attain food sufficiency. The LCE made organic agriculture his socio-economic agenda by consolidating the positive gains of organic agriculture programs implemented by CSOs.

Consolidating the positive gains of OA programs as implemented by CSOs/CBOs was one of the programs socio-economic agenda.

**The OA Program**

The OA component of the GPA is aimed at (1) recovering soil fertility, (2) increasing farm production and (3) achieving food sufficiency. Towards these goals, the LGU embarked on the following:

- Identified and **established a structure and mechanism to lead the OA program implementation.** A new team of OA technicians was
organized and Livelihood Development Coordinators (LDCs) were appointed reporting directly to the Mayor. Through the leadership and guidance of the LCE, OA program planning, implementation and monitoring was carried out by the LDC. A master plan was crafted with the technical assistance provided by Social Action Center, Xavier University Cagayan De Oro City.

- Immersed in the community to better understand the local situation and organized community support structures. The LDC spearheaded the grassroots machinery through community organizing. The local officials, head of offices, members of the core group and different stakeholders immersed in the 44 barangays and campaigned for the GPA. They engaged in trust-building activities with the people and communities. The LGU organized all communities into:

  a) Neighborhood cells, a small group of around eight neighbors, who helped each other in livelihood activities (bayanihan especially in farming activities). These cells then constitute the municipal-wide formation.
  b) Genuine People’s Organization (GPO) is a municipal-wide formation composed of the neighborhood cells. The GPO monitors and assesses how the community plans are being implemented. It also ensures that the local development plans are designed and done according to the needs and demands of the people.
  c) The Dumingag Organic Farming System Practitioners Association (DOFSPA) and the Dumingag Organic Farmers Credit and Savings Cooperative (DOFCSC) were organized to consolidate the farmers and support adoption of OA.
  d) Pool of Leaders
  e) Organic Farming Teams

- Facilitated community planning session, called Social Preparation and Strengthening People’s Participation (SPSPP). This process enabled communities to diagnose their social problems, identify priorities, and plan out doable solutions to identified problems. In coordination with the municipal and barangay officials, communities planned out projects founded
on organic agriculture and based on their capacities and resources. The process identified what the people wanted to do and how the local government can assist in achieving the goals of the community. The SPSPP later became the basis of the local development plan’s targets output and priorities.

- Laid down a comprehensive and transformative education and capability building program for the communities to become OA practitioners and advocates. It established the Dumingag Institute of Sustainable Organic Agriculture (DISOA), a school that trains farmers on organic agriculture. It provided modular trainings with hands-on exercises and community organizing to farmers, LGU agriculture technicians, CSOs, and POs around the country.

Farmers were developed to become role models in their barangays and LDC’s were deployed to coach the farmers in organic farming. For continuing development, farmers were required to make their own farm plan during their training on sustainable agriculture and were made to understand and value their stewardship of their farms.

The LDCs then monitored and assisted the farmers in implementing and improving their farm plan. Apart from engaging in the education of farmers on farming technologies, the LGU took a step further to ensure that organized farmers are able to sustain the operations of the organization. Leaders and members of organizations were involved in activities to strengthen organizational capacities like team building. The
LGU also made teachers in the community as partners in the promotion of OA. All teachers in both public and private schools attended seminars on organic farming so they could echo and spread the appreciation for OA to students and parents.

- Took the lead in network and partnership building to help in program implementation. It organized support groups and pooled resources of different stakeholders and partners:

  a) Xavier University-Social Action Center for education and advocacy on Sustainable Agriculture and Climate Change;
  b) Asisi Development Foundation, Inc. (ADFI) for sustainable agriculture, water system and Lumad education
  c) Philippine Agrarian Reform Fund (PARFUND) for rice-duck technology
  d) MASIPAG Philippines for OA promotion, Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), seed production, seed banking and marketing
  e) Government Agencies (DA, DTI, DOLE, TESDA, FIDA) for various livelihood projects, support infrastructure services, and OA
  f) Provincial government for organic farming, rice-duck, and cassava program
  g) Congressman Victor J. Yu for projects on vermiculture, rubber, falcate, reforestation, and infrastructure
  h) JH Cerilles State College for research and documentation of organic farming. It also entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the LGU to transform 100% of its 43-hectare rice fields owned by the school to organic farming and serve as a model for the community.
i) Other groups (Job, Education for Peace (JEP), ZUELLIG Family Foundation, Damayang Pilipino sa Nederland, AKKAP, MSU-Naawan, Growth with Equity in Mindanao (USAid-GEM)) were also tapped (indirectly) to contribute to the sustainability of the LGU’s OA program through social enterprise development, alternative livelihood programs (alternative medicines, inland fishery), revenue generation, gender and women empowerment, health, and capacity building for political leaders.

The local government of Dumingag is also a core group member of the Mindanao Network on Sustainable Organic Farming Technology (MINSOFT) and the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM), organizations actively involved in the advocacy and practice of organic farming locally and internationally. The LGU hosted the 1st Mindanao-wide assembly on Sustainable OA Network on February 2012. It also participated in the 17th World Congress of IFPAM in South Korea last September 2011. These networks and engagements ensure the furtherance of Dumingag’s OA program.

• Worked on its capability of ensuring the integrity of its organic products by installing appropriate systems. With technical assistance from the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP), the LGU started to develop and document its Internal Control System (ICS) in preparation for organic certification. It also recently entered into a MOA with MASIPAG Philippines to look into developing a PGS for Dumingag. Both systems aim to ensure that farm plans are implemented in line with the principles of organic agriculture and the Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture (PNS 07:2003)

After 3 to 4 years of implementing the OA program, the LGU already saw the commendable fruits of its labor and has produced tangible, positive results and impacts, notably:

a) From 20 farmers in 2007 to more than 500 organic farmer practitioners in 2011 with diversified and integrated farming system. There was increase in volume of organic products like organic rice, vegetables, livestock and other crops that
resulted in food sufficiency among the farming households. The organic farmers are now able to have enough healthy rice to eat until their next harvest. With their diversified farms, they no longer have problems with other food requirements like vegetables, livestock, and other crops. Surplus production allowed them to sell in the market and have money for their non-food requirement like education, clothing, and other household supplies. Farmers are able to generate savings, and their purchasing power increased.

b) 55 varieties of organic rice seeds were developed by the farmers, stabilizing the supply of organic seeds in Dumingag and in the neighboring municipalities.

c) The organic farmers have taken control of their products from production to marketing. The DOFSPA succeeded in mainstreaming organic products in the local market and through its cooperative, it now has the capacity to buy organic rice from the farmers at a fair price and still be able to bring it to the market at a reasonable profit margin. The organic farm products, especially rice, are always available in the local market even with the increasing demand.
d) The average yield per hectare of organic rice farms increased from 60 to 95 bags of 65-kilo bags even without the use of inorganic fertilizers. Rice farmers used to require huge amounts (6-8 bags) of chemical fertilizers with agrochemicals such as pesticides and herbicides in order to achieve a good harvest.

Rice farmer sold his organic rice to the coop.
e) Established Vermi composting facilities in all 44 barangays with an average production volume of 50 tons per month.

f) From 5 inland fishponds in 2007 to 264 fishponds in 2011 through the institutionalization of partnership with MSU-Naawan, on the Inland Fisheries Development Program.

g) Native chickens in most households were raised organically. Most households were trained on organic feed formulation and encouraged to raise native chickens organically. Chicken raisers were formed into cooperative for stable market access.

h) From 5 hectares in 2007 to 500 hectares of organic abaca in 2011. The Abaca industry in Dumingag flourished employing more than 60 women workers. It now generates jobs, provides income, and further stimulates the local economy.

i) From 350 hectares 2007 organic cassava covered to 2,000 hectares by in 2011. OA also expanded to include rubber and Falcata. From less than 10 hectares of rubber, it increased to 1,100 hectares. This is expected to raise the income of landowners and rubber tappers substantially. From less than 5 hectares of Falcata in 2007, it went up to more than 600 hectares - harvestable in around 7 years.

j) Galing Pook Awardee as one of the top 10 most outstanding lgus in the philippines in 2010.

---

**[TABLE 1. TITLE]** Rice Production of Inorganic and Organic Farming in Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur for year____

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Inorganic Rice Farming</th>
<th>Organic Rice Farming</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dry Season</td>
<td>Wet Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ave. Yield/ hectare</td>
<td>95 bags</td>
<td>70-85 bags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ave. Cost/ hectare</td>
<td>19,900</td>
<td>12,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gross Income/ hectare</td>
<td>98,800</td>
<td>60,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net Income/ hectare</td>
<td>78,900</td>
<td>40,940</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The local income has increased. More people paid their real property and business taxes.

a) Average local income before 2007 was only P2.9M. It has a rising trend: P4.5M in 2007, P5.7M in 2008, P12.5M in 2009, and P13.5M in 2010;

b) Estimated local income in 2011 was P15M

c) Generated more businesses. In 2007, there were only 180 registered business establishments in the locality. In 2010, the LGU registered a total of 324 business establishments.

Data gathered from Dumingag Business Association on the Estimated Average Money in Circulation in the market vicinity per day:

d) From less than P200,000 in 2007 to P2.5 million at present

e) Outside Market Vicinity: P4.5 Million
Success Factors and Replicability

Key factor to the success of the OA program in Dumingag is rooted in the strong leadership and political will of the Local Chief Executive who was able to create a mass base for organic agriculture programs and projects. There was a clear structure and mechanism established for program implementation. It organized the LDC composed of highly motivated and committed individuals/technicians to push the OA programs of Dumingag. Government structures were mobilized from the municipal to the barangay down to the purok level with the LDC as the operators. Households were mobilized to help and support each member within the cell in the practice of organic farming and technology development. It later influenced even traditional agriculture technicians who were ingrained in conventional farming system of production to be actively involved in the OA program if the LGU.

The LGU had laid down a comprehensive and transformative program aimed not only at changing the agricultural technology being practiced in the community but changing the hearts and minds of the farmers and people in the community to appreciate organic farming. They were made to recognize that OA is a just, equitable and sustainable system of food production that cares and nurtures the health of the soil, environment, and life in general.

The LGU was able to capitalize on empowerment of communities by enabling them to participate in direction setting and planning. They developed a sense of ownership of the program by the people in the community. The OA Program encouraged different stakeholders to work together for a common goal, which is to attain food security and liberation from poverty. It consolidated and organized the farmers and even went a step further by embarking on organizational development and strengthening activities to ensure the sustainability of the groups they had organized.

Budget was allocated for (1) the massive production of organic inputs to ensure access of farmers to affordable organic inputs at a lower cost; (2) establishment of different models as education and advocacy was given to all sectors in the community; (3) regular contests on the best organic products and a market place in the town center so other farmers would be encouraged to join the bandwagon of Organic Agriculture Program in Dumingag.
Most importantly, the OA program was further institutionalized by the passage of local laws, executive orders, ordinances, and resolutions supporting, promoting and advancing OA. A local institution, DISOA, consolidated hands-on lessons and developed a curriculum and training module that is accessible to other LGUs and farmers.

Overall, the experience of Dumingag can be replicated across different LGUs in different geographical location. In the language of Mayor Jun:

“We need to convince first the local chief executive (LCE) so that he/she will start appreciating what is going on in the organic agriculture business and how it will translate into strong political machinery. Consolidating the experiences of NGO/PO/CSO is a good communication tool to increase the LCEs understanding and appreciation. Getting involved in the actual process is best, but you need to establish and document the experiences on the ground. For me, the political gains come naturally after we have created impact at the household level. Problems and challenges are always there, but we Mayors can always find solutions to problems that come our way.”
Transforming Communities through a Sustainable Organic Agriculture Industry
A Roadmap for Local Government Units