

**CASE STUDY ON THE COMPREHENSIVE  
AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP)  
FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN SELECTED  
COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST  
MANAGEMENT (CBFM) AREAS AND  
PUBLIC A & D LANDS  
IN TABUK, KALINGA**

# **CASE STUDY ON THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) FARMER-BENEFICIARIES IN SELECTED COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT (CBFM) AREAS AND PUBLIC A & D LANDS IN TABUK, KALINGA**

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

The basic objectives of the Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) are to promote the sustainable management of forest resources, social justice and improved well-being of local communities, and a strong partnership between local communities and the DENR. Its main thrust is to provide security of tenure to the local forest communities through the issuance of Community-Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs) which entitles communities to use and develop forest land and resources for a duration of 25 years, renewable for an additional 25 years subject to compliance by the People's Organizations (POs) in the CBFM area to the terms of the Agreement and other pertinent laws, rules and regulations. The DENR is the prime mover in the implementation of the CBFM with the support of other government agencies. Specifically, CARP funds were provided in selected CBFM areas in the country during the periods of 2000 to 2002 and 2007 to 2008, specifically for provision of support services to the CBFM beneficiaries through CARP-funded projects.

One of the provinces selected as recipients of CBFM-CARP project funds is the province of Kalinga. As of December 2008, there are 11 areas covered by CBFM in the province of Kalinga. However, only one CBFM area was funded under the CARP in 2001 and 2008, i.e., the CBFM area in Barangay Cudal, Tabuk. Another CBFM area in the municipality of Pinukpok became a recipient of CARP-funded project only in 2008.

### **A. The CBFM-CARP Study Site**

The sample CBFM area in the province of Kalinga is located at Sitio Sinapatan, Barangay Cudal, Tabuk. Barangay Cudal is a rural barangay which is considered the third largest barangay of the municipality of Tabuk with a total land area of 4,157 square kilometres. It is 15 kilometers from the town proper of Tabuk and 548 kilometers from Manila via Cagayan Valley. Based on the records of the Barangay Council, it has 378 households and a total population of 2,324. The barangay has a rolling to moderately steep topography. The households of Barangay Cudal generally depend on farming as a source of livelihood with corn as the major crop planted in the area. According to the Barangay Captain, Barangay Cudal is the corn granary of the municipality of Tabuk.

The CBFM area in Barangay Cudal covers an estimated area of 400 hectares of forest lands pursuant to the Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) forged in 1999 between the first President of the organized People's Organization i.e., the Cudal Upland Farmers Multipurpose Association, Inc. (CUFMAI) and the

Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DENR) of Kalinga. However, with the cancellation of the CBFMA with the first PO, the CBFMA was reinstated in 2007 through a new CBFMA forged between the DENR-PENRO of Kalinga and the President of the new organized PO, i.e., the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. (CUFAI). The 400 hectares include the 23.45 hectares which were covered by the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) in 1990. Currently, there are 61 farmer-beneficiaries of the CBFM which include the eight farmworkers who were issued Certificates of Stewardship Contracts (CSCs) under the Integrated Socialized Forestry Program (ISFP) of the DENR. Based on the data obtained from the CENRO, about 200 hectares of the 400 hectares covered by the CBFMA are devoted to corn production. The fruit tree crops planted in the area are mango, banana, coconut, coffee while the forest trees planted are gmelina and mahogany.

Historically, the 400 hectares covered by CBFMA in Barangay Cudal is half of the 800 hectares which were previously covered by a Pasture Lease Agreement (PLA) between the DENR and a private individual. When the PLA expired, the lessee waived half of the 800 hectares in favor of the families of the farmworkers in the pasture lease area and applied for about 294 hectares under Socialized Industrial Forest Management Program (SIFMP) of the DENR. From then on, several landless farmworkers also started occupying and cultivating portions of the 400 hectares. In 1990, 23.45 hectares of the 400 hectares were covered by the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) and eight farmworkers in the area were issued Certificate of Stewardship Contracts (CSCs). Eventually, the 400 hectares was covered by a CBFMA in 1999, while the former lessee of the PLA was granted a Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement for about 294 hectares. The rest of the area i.e., about 100 hectares, is not covered by any program of the DENR although several farmers are cultivating the area. At present, the perimeter and parcellary surveys have not been conducted yet by the DENR. Based on the community map of the CBFM area, a DAR key informant estimated that the actual CBFM area may be more than 400 hectares i.e. about 470 hectares. However, the president of the existing association estimated that the actual CBFM area is only about 200 hectares.

In 2001, the CARP fund provided the CBFM area agroforestry and livelihood development projects in the amount of PhP153,280 for the operation of a nursery for seedling production and plantation establishment of 46 hectares of forest and fruit trees.

In 2008, an amount of PhP578,000 was allocated from the CARP fund for the CBFM area in support of the Hunger Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation Program of the government. Based on the project document, the project includes the establishment of 40 hectares of forest plantation; 20 hectares of mango plantation; 10 hectares of malunggay plantation; 5 hectares of banana and pineapple plantation and planting of cash crops.

## **B. The Public Alienable and Disposable (A & D) Lands Study Site**

In the case of public A & D lands where the farmer-beneficiaries are issued free and homestead patents, it was originally planned that the sample free patent holders will be drawn from Barangay Cudal, the location of the CBFM area. However, the free patents issued in the barangay are for residential lots only. Thus, FP holder-respondents were chosen from other barangays of Tabuk i.e., Barangays Ipil, Bulo and Laya East. Homestead patent holders were not considered in the selection of respondents because most of the homestead patents in Tabuk were issued as early as the 1950s.

Based on the review of records of free patent holders, most of the free patent holders in Barangay Laya East and Ipil inherited their lands from their parents who were the original occupants of the lands. In the case of free patent holders in Barangay Bulo, most of them purchased their lands from the original occupants of the lands. When the DENR conducted a survey, they were identified as the actual occupants and were issued Free Patent (FPs) under the "Handog Titulo" Program of the Register of Deeds in 2008.

## **II. THE COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN BARANGAY CUDAL, TABUK, KALINGA**

The 400-hectare Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM) area in Barangay Cudal, Tabuk was covered by a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) between the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Incorporated (CUFAI) and the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) and the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in Kalinga.

Based on records of the CENRO and interview with a DENR key informant, prior to the coverage of the area under CBFM, the DENR personnel from the regional, provincial and municipal offices conducted several meetings in the barangay and distributed reading materials to explain the concept of the CBFM. After conducting preparatory activities, the election of officers for the first People's Organization i.e., the Cudal Upland Farmers Multipurpose Association, Inc. (CUFMAI) was held sometime in 1999.

According to a DENR key informant, the primary criteria in the declaration of a CBFM area is the willingness of a community to participate in the program. As embodied in the DENR Administrative Order No. 29, Series of 2009, the principal participants in the CBFM are the local communities represented by their organization. He added that an organized PO is a basic requirement in the awarding of CBFMA because the organization is entrusted with the responsibility of managing the CBFM area. In the case of CBFM in Barangay Cudal, he cited that the farmworkers cultivating the area showed interest in the coverage of their area under CBFM.

After the organization of the first PO i.e., the CUFMAI, it entered into a Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) with the DENR-PENRO of Kalinga on December 3, 1999. The CBFMA stipulated that the DENR agreed to devolve to the CUFMAI the responsibility of managing the 400 hectares of forest land for 25 years, renewable for an additional 25 years. The major responsibilities of the DENR are to protect and ensure the exclusive occupation and the use of the forest lands and the forest products to the association; provide assistance to the association in the preparation, updating and implementation of the Community Resources Management Framework (CRMF), Resource Use Plans (RUPs) and Annual Work Plans (AWPs); and give the association first priority in obtaining privilege to extract, utilize and dispose any mineral resource and minor forest products found within the CBFM area. On the other hand, the association assumes the responsibility for the protection of all forest land within the CBFM; prepare and implement CRMF, RUP and AWP with DENR's assistance; and formulate and implement benefit-sharing schemes among its members. The CBFMA also stipulates that the Agreement may be terminated based on the non-performance of the association or violation of any provision in the Agreement.

According to a DENR key informant, there was no activity conducted in the CBFM area after the organization of the CUFMAI until such time that the CARP funds were provided for the implementation of a CBFM-CARP project in 2001. The CUFMAI, through its President, implemented the project based on the Contract of Service with the DENR. However, after its implementation, nothing more was heard of the project in the CBFM area.

In 2004, the Secretary of DENR directed the Regional Executive Director (RED) of the DENR-CAR to conduct the evaluation of all agreements, permits, licenses and other tenurial instruments to verify the performance of the beneficiaries in terms of the conditions stipulated in the respective tenurial instruments. In compliance with the directive, the DENR-CAR personnel conducted an assessment of the CBFM in Barangay Cudal through physical validation and interviews with the residents of the area.

Subsequently, the DENR Secretary issued a Memorandum in 2005 to the RED of the DENR-CAR cancelling the four CBFMAs covered by DENR-CAR, one of which was the CBFMA between the CUFMAI and the DENR. The Memorandum cited that the reason for the cancellation of the CBFMA was the low or unsatisfactory performance of the PO. A DENR key informant disclosed that another reason for the cancellation of its CBFMA is the problem on the boundary delineation of the 400 hectares covered by the CBFM. The DENR-CAR personnel who conducted the physical validation of the area found out that there are portions of the 400 hectares that overlap with portions of the area granted under Socialized Industrial Forest Management Agreement (SIFMA) by the DENR. As earlier mentioned, about 294 hectares of the original 800 hectares was granted under SIFMA by the DENR. It was also discovered that the lands occupied by the president of CUFMAI was located within the area covered under SIFMA, in which case, his land was not covered by the actual CBFM area. A DAR key informant

acknowledged the inaccuracy in the geographical coverage of CBFM area and admitted that they were misled by some information provided them regarding the actual coverage of the CBFM as they only depended on the information provided by the president of CUFMAI.

According to one of the participants in a focused group discussion (FGD) with the officers of the new PO, the actual occupants had no knowledge at the outset on the CBFMA between the DENR and the CUFMAI. This FGD participant recalled that the president of CUFMAI invited him to join the association but refused the invitation because he knew that portions of the CBFM area were covered under SIFMA, and the actual occupants had a good relationship with its lessee.

In 2006, the DENR-CAR conducted a reassessment of the cancelled CBFMA and directed the CENRO to initiate measures to assist concerned CBFM beneficiaries in their organizational and area development. In compliance with the directive of the DENR-CAR, the CENRO conducted a series of meetings and field visits in the CBFM area. It also assisted in the organization in June 2007 of the new People's Organization i.e., the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. (CUFAI) which replaced the first organization in the CBFM area i.e., the CUFMAI. Subsequently, the CENRO prepared the Community Resource Management Framework of the CBFM as basis of implementation of projects. Eventually, the cancelled CBFMA was reinstated in the same year.

With the reinstatement of CBFMA in Barangay Cudal, CARP fund was provided in 2008 for the implementation of an Agroforestry Development and Livelihood Projects by the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. These projects are in support of the Hunger Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation Program of the government.

### **III. THE CUDAL UPLAND FARMERS' ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED (CUFAI)**

Before the organization of the existing PO i.e., the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Incorporated (CUFAI), there was the first PO which was organized in the CBFM area i.e., the Cudal Upland Farmers Multipurpose Association, Incorporated (CUFMAI). As earlier mentioned, this PO implemented the 2001 CBFM-CARP project. Based on CENRO records and interviews with the DENR key informants, the CUFMAI was organized sometime in 1999. It had a complete list of officers and had 16 members. However, there is no record showing the exact date of the election of officers.

Notably, the election of officers of the CUFMAI was marred by a controversy. The president of the existing association (now the CUFAI) and a municipal employee of Tabuk alleged that there was no election of officers held during that time and that the names of its officers, including themselves, were just listed without their knowledge. Some CBFM beneficiaries also claimed that no one of

the current members of the existing association were members of the CUFMAI. However, a DENR key informant, who was previously in charge of the CBFM area and is now assigned in another municipality, refuted their claims that no current CBFM beneficiaries were members of the CUFMAI and asserted the legitimacy of the CUFMAI. On the other hand, another DENR key informant disclosed that the CUFMAI was not registered with the SEC.

After the cancellation by the DENR Secretary of the CBFMA with the CUFMAI, the CENRO assisted the CBFM beneficiaries in the conduct of elections for a new set of officers of the association. Based on secondary data, there were 35 actual occupants in the CBFM area who attended the election of officers. Eventually, its officers changed the name of the first PO to Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Incorporated (CUFAI) from Cudal Upland Farmers Multipurpose Association, Incorporated (CUFMAI). It was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in October 2007.

According to some officers of the CUFAI, there was no activity conducted after its organization until the DENR informed them of the CARP funds allocated in the CBFM area. After some preparatory activities conducted by the DENR, their organization entered into "Tripartite Memorandum of Agreement" with the LGU of Tabuk and the DENR-CAR and the "Livelihood Contract Agreement" to implement the project called the "Integrated Agroforestry Development and Livelihood Projects for the Cudal People's Organization in Tabuk, Kalinga."

Based on the records of the CENRO, there are 62 active CBFM beneficiary-members of the CUFAI. Its membership is composed of the original occupants who are non-CSC holders, children and/or relatives of other original occupants (deceased and those who are still in the CBFM area), one original CSC holder, children and/or relatives of CSC holders (deceased and those who transferred their residences), and those who were able to buy land rights in the CBFM area. According to the president of the CUFAI, only one actual occupant is not a member of the CUFAI i.e., the one whose family occupies about 100 hectares but is selling portions of his area to private individuals. Related to this, the current Barangay Captain cited that the area occupied by the CBFM beneficiaries varies from as small as 0.5 hectares to as much as 100 hectares. According to him, the original actual occupants of the area had an agreement that the area waived by the former lessee of the PLA would be utilized for communal cultivation. However, some families breached the agreement by individually occupying portions of the area which is the reason why some families are now occupying bigger areas. A DENR key informant stressed that the information on the bigger areas being occupied by CBFM beneficiaries area are just allegations and could only be confirmed through the conduct of actual survey.

In the case of CSC/CBFM beneficiaries, only one remains as original CSC holder, while two sold their land rights to other CBFM beneficiaries. The rest either transferred their residence, had passed away or are of old age. They had passed on their land rights to their children and/or relatives.

At present, the only activity/project being implemented by the CUFAI is the 2008 CARP-funded project. Under the project, the major activities undertaken by the CUFAI are the setting up of a nursery for forest trees seedlings and the canvassing, purchase and distribution of fruit trees seedlings to its members. The CENRO assisted its officers in the canvassing and purchase of forest tree seeds and fruit tree seedlings. However, the President decides on the proportion of distribution of seedlings to the members.

As regards the leadership capabilities of the officers of the association, the president is the only officer who has attended Leadership Seminar and Protection of Forests conducted by their local cooperative and the DENR. As such, they have limited knowledge, skills and capabilities in performing activities being undertaken in the CBFM project. It is stipulated in the CBFMA that the CUFAI should be the one to prepare the Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) but it is the CENRO who prepared the same and that of the 5-year Work Plan of the CBFM. The officers of the association only provided data and information needed in its preparation. The association has not tried accessing technical and financial support from other government and private agencies.

#### **IV. THE IMPLEMENTATION OF CBFM-CARP PROJECTS**

##### **A. The 2001 CBFM-CARP Project**

The 2001 CBFM-CARP Project implemented in the CBFM area in Barangay Cudal was the operation of a nursery for seedling production and plantation establishment of fruit and forest trees for the 46 hectares within the CBFM area. It was given a project fund of PhP153,280 over a period of six months. The data and information available at the CENRO regarding its implementation are scanty. The substantial data were gathered from the Accounting Section of the PENRO particularly the attached documents on the disbursement and liquidation vouchers of the president of the first PO such as the Contract of Service, accomplishment reports of the president and the validation and inspection reports of the CENRO.

Based on the aforementioned documents, the 2001 CBFM-CARP Project in the CBFM area was covered by a Contract of Service between the president of the first PO and the DENR-PENRO signed on July 10, 2000. The Contract of Service stipulates that the association shall provide labor and materials for nursery operation, seedling production and plantation establishment for fruit and forest trees in the 46 hectares within the CBFM area. The Contract also states that the association shall provide labor for the production of 28,000 forest trees seedlings and 900 fruit tree seedlings for the plantation establishment of 46 hectares in the CBFM area.

The DENR key informants who were involved in the implementation of 2001 CBFM-CARP Project hardly recall the details of its implementation. However, these key informants recall that the DENR-CAR, the PENRO and CENRO personnel conducted several meetings in the CBFM area to explain the details of the project, conducted the Socio-economic Survey (SES) of the members of the association and downloaded the project funds to the PENRO for the implementation of the project. In turn, the PENRO released the project funds to the president of the association who was responsible for the purchase of fruit and forest tree seedlings for distribution to the members of the association. Based on the disbursement vouchers in the Accounting Section of the PENRO, the project fund in the amount of PhP134,000 was released to the CUFMAI president in three tranches: PhP40,000 for the first release; PhP44,000 for the second release; and PhP50,000 for the final release.

The former president of the association was not available during the time of the interview and was not able to give information on its detailed activities. Even the two previous officers who alleged that their names were just listed as officers claim no involvement and were unaware of any activity in the project. According to them, it was only the former president who ran the Association. Even the current Barangay Captain, the Barangay Secretary and members of the existing Association who were interviewed are also unaware of the existence of any project in 2001. They also claim that no one from the current members of the existing association were members of the first association and thus, no one received fruit trees and forest trees seedlings from the former President.

A DENR key informant, who was involved in the project implementation and is now assigned in another municipality, admitted that the major activities relating to the implementation of the project were undertaken by the president of the previous association. According to him, the said association president took full responsibility for all the activities in project implementation i.e., from the canvass, purchase and distribution of the forest and fruit seedlings to his members. However, he denied the allegations of some members of the existing association that no one among its members benefited from the project. He insisted that the project was properly implemented as he personally supervised the area during that time.

Some officers and members of the existing association doubt whether the funds for the 2001 project were utilized for the intended purpose. However, based on the documents obtained from the Accounting Section of the PENRO, the previous CUFMAI president liquidated/settled the amount of PhP134,000 which was released to him under the project. Attached in his liquidation vouchers are his accomplishment reports regarding the progress of the project, his letter-request to the CENRO for the validation inspection of his accomplishments, and the validation report of the CENRO. The validation report of the CENRO indicated that the CUFMAI president was able to accomplish all the target activities as stipulated in the contract of service and that the condition in the contract had been satisfactorily complied with.

A DENR key informant believes that the project was properly implemented. However, the fruit and forest tree seedlings which were actually intended for the actual CBFM beneficiaries were distributed to the farmworkers outside the CBFM area. As earlier mentioned, the land actually occupied by the president of the first association (CUFMAI) is not within the CBFM area because of the overlapping portions of the declared 400 hectares covered by the SIFMP area. He also insisted that the forest and fruit tree seedlings were actually planted however, these were destroyed by fire allegedly set by some barangay residents who got envious of the achievement of their co-workers.

## **B. The 2008 CBFM-CARP Project**

### **1. Profile of the Project**

In 2008, another CBFM-CARP Project was implemented in the CBFM area in Barangay Cudal in support of the Hunger Mitigation and Poverty Alleviation Program of the government. The amount of PhP578,000 from the CARP fund was provided to the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. (CUFAI) for the implementation of the project called the "Integrated Agroforestry Development and Livelihood Projects for the Cudal People's Organization in Tabuk, Kalinga". The project includes the establishment of 40 hectares of forest plantation; 20 hectares of mango plantation; 10 hectares of malunggay plantation; 5 hectares of banana and pineapple plantation; and planting of cash crops within the CBFM area. The project aims to contribute to the holistic development of Barangay Cudal in protecting forest resources against degradation and at the same time, enhancing the economic condition of the people in the community. It also aims to empower the people and prepare them to be better partners of the government in development.

The "Integrated Agroforestry Development and Livelihood Projects for the Cudal People's Organization" was covered by three formal agreements i.e., a "Project Implementation Agreement" among the regional (DENR-CAR), provincial (PENRO) and municipal (CENRO) offices of the DENR; a Tri-partite Memorandum of Agreement among the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tabuk, the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. and the DENR-CAR; and the "Livelihood Development Contract" between the DENR-CAR and the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc.

Under the "Project Implementation Agreement", the DENR-CAR assumes responsibility for providing policy guidelines, overall planning, management and coordination of activities and operations pertaining to the implementation of the project; conduct of socio-economic survey of the project, and supervision to ensure the satisfactory execution of the program of activities and conduct of periodic assessment of the project. On the other hand, the CENRO-Tabuk assumes full responsibility in the implementation of the project, the conduct of regular coordination, monitoring and supervision, coaching and capability building of the PO, technical assistance to facilitate the effective implementation, monitor and evaluate the project

accomplishments vis-à-vis its approved Work and Financial Plan and submission to DENR-CAR through the PENRO, monthly reports on progress of implementation of the project. The PENRO-Kalinga takes charge of ensuring the release of funds to the PO and submits to DENR-CAR monthly Financial Monitoring Reports to ensure that funds disbursed are used for the intended purpose, the project implementation is in progress and expenditures are kept within the limit of the amount allocated as specified in the Work and Financial Plan.

The “Tri-partite Memorandum of Agreement” amongst the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tabuk, the Cudal Upland Farmers association, Inc. and the DENR-CAR stipulated that the association shall establish and maintain the areas within the CBFM area to be planted to forest trees such as Gmelina, Mahogany and Calliandra; mango seedlings; malunggay interplant with cash crops; and banana and pineapple strips.

Other responsibilities of the association are to undertake and implement the activities stipulated in the approved Work and Financial Plan (WFP); formulate or issue an internal policy supported by a PO resolution promoting transparency, participative decision-making, equitable responsibility and benefit sharing, and other applicable culture-based sustainability measures; attend capability trainings; purchase materials needed for nursery operation; shoulder all labor costs in the establishment of the plantation and maintenance and protection of the project; maintain in the savings account of the association any amount saved from the operation of nursery which shall only be utilized upon proper planning and consultation with the members; keep accurate and systematic records of all activities related to the project; submit progress reports to the DENR every first week of the month; and exercise full transparency of its operation to all its members, among others. On the other hand, the LGU shall provide a representative as member of the Project Management Team and Monitoring and Evaluation Team to provide technical services and assistance to the implementation of the project.

The “Livelihood Development Contract” is the Agreement between the DENR-PENRO and the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. for the implementation of the “Integrated Agroforestry Development and Livelihood Projects”. The major obligations of the CUFAI are as follow: purchase of the required materials for the nursery operations; raise 54,000 seedling of Gmelina, mahogany and calliandra, 2,000 mango seedlings, 11,000 malunggay seedlings; produce 500 banana suckers and 34,000 pineapple slips for planting within the CBFM area; establish and maintain plantations of 20 hectares for Gmelina, 10 hectares for mahogany, 10 hectares for calliandra, 20 hectares for mango, 10 hectares for malunggay, 5 hectares for banana, and 2 hectares for pineapple; purchase of quality seeds for distribution to PO members and residents; create a committee within the association to fully document and monitor the aforementioned activities; and exercise full transparency in its operation and pass an approved benefit-sharing scheme between the PO and its members of whatever income is derived from the project.

## **2. Process of Implementation**

To implement the “Integrated Agroforestry Development and Livelihood Projects for the Cudal People’s Organization in Tabuk, Kalinga”, a “Project Implementation Agreement” was signed by the DENR-CAR, PENRO and the CENRO of Tabuk. Subsequently, the Regional Executive Director (RED) of the DENR-CAR sent a Memorandum to the PENRO of Kalinga on August 22, 2008 regarding the transfer of the amount of PhP578,000 to the PENRO of Kalinga to cover the budgetary requirements of the CBFM-CARP Hunger Mitigation Project. Attached in the Memorandum were the approved Work and Financial Plan (WFP) and the breakdown of the budget. The RED also advised the PENRO and the CENRO to facilitate immediate awarding of the Contract to the association and to facilitate the immediate implementation of the project. Likewise, a “Tri-partite Memorandum of Agreement” among the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tabuk, the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. and the DENR-CAR was also signed.

On September 28, 2008, the Regional Personnel of the DENR-CAR visited the CBFM area and conducted a meeting with the members and officers of the association. They presented the approved project document and conducted a socio-economic survey (SES) of the members of the association.

Subsequently, the CENRO staff and the Municipal Agriculturist of Tabuk conducted an orientation meeting on October 15, 2008 in the project site to solicit from the municipal government their counterpart fund and/or interventions. On October 22, 2008, the Regional Executive Director (RED) of DENR-CAR visited the CBFM area and conducted a dialogue with the Barangay Captain, the officers and members of the association and discussed the goals and objectives of the project. On October 25, the association conducted a general meeting which was attended by the 35 members. The meeting was attended by the Barangay Captain and the DENR personnel who presented the approved WFP for the members’ comments and suggestions. Likewise, different committees were organized and action planning was undertaken. In the same month, the aforementioned Livelihood Development Contract was signed between the association represented by its president and the DENR-CAR.

As regards fund releases, the first tranche of payment was released to the association on December 8, 2008 in the amount of PhP39,300 while the second tranche was released on January 7, 2009 in the amount of PhP193,883. In compliance with the Contract, they put up a nursery for forest tree seedlings in the farmlot of one of the CBFM beneficiaries. Relative to project implementation, the following activities were undertaken by the association: cleaning and levelling of the nursery site, construction of nursery shed and pot beds, purchase of plastic bags and yemane and mahogany seeds, bagging and sowing of seeds, gathering and planting of banana suckers and pineapple slips, canvassing of grafted mango seedlings, purchase of grafted mango seedlings, gathering and collecting of malunggay cuttings. In the case of the mango plantation, the CENRO and the CUFAI decided to use grafted mango seedlings for the

mango plantation instead of putting up a nursery. As an incentive to the members of the CUFAI, each member was paid PHP25 for each mango seedling and banana sucker they planted.

### **3. Status of the Project**

The implementation of the 2008 CBFM-CARP project is still ongoing. Based on the approved Work and Financial Plan of the project, the purchase of Gmelina and mahogany seeds and other activities relating to the establishment of a nursery for forest tree seedlings i.e., purchase of plastic bags and bagging, sowing of seeds is 100 percent completed. The current activity being undertaken in the nursery is the maintenance of the nursery which is being done by one member of the association. It was originally planned that mango and malunggay seedlings will be raised in the nursery. However, the CENRO and the PO decided to plant the grafted mango seedlings instead. Likewise, instead of raising malunggay seedlings in the nursery, the CBFM beneficiaries individually planted malunggay cuttings. The planting of 11,000 malunggay cuttings has not been fully accomplished (only 20% complete) because the members are still busy with the harvesting of their corn produce and the PO is having difficulty in looking for sources of malunggay cuttings. On the other hand, the purchase and distribution of grafted mango seedlings are almost complete except for some 500 mango seedlings which were purchased last April 2009 and are still for distribution to the members of the CUFAI. They have also completed the planting of banana suckers. However, the planting of pineapple slips is only 60 percent complete. They had also purchased seeds for cash crops which were distributed to women of Barangay Cudal. The only activity which has not yet been accomplished is the establishment of a nursery for calliandra seedlings because of the difficulty of the PO in looking for a source of calliandra seeds. According to the CENRO of Tabuk, the amount of PHP329,000 was already released to the CUFAI. The balance of the budget allocated for the project will be used for the purchase of calliandra seeds and the maintenance of the nursery for forest tree seedlings.

The CUFAI through its president, continuously coordinates with the DENR, particularly as regards the distribution of fruit seedlings to its members. It has a monthly meeting with the DENR personnel to report the progress of project implementation and their accomplishments as well. In this regard, the president of the association cited that the officers have been very supportive in this endeavour as indicated by their complete attendance during meetings. However, they have difficulty convening members because of their preoccupation with their farms. They only respond to the call of the officers during distribution of fruit tree seedlings. One officer commented that the members only attend meetings if they know that the association will distribute something to them.

On the part of the DENR, the CENRO continuously monitors the implementation of the 2008 CBFM-CARP project. It conducts a monthly meeting with the officers of the

CUFAI to monitor the status of the project. The DENR-CAR and PENRO monitor the status of the project as needed.

#### **IV. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE FARMER BENEFICIARY-RESPONDENTS**

##### **A. Demographic Characteristics**

There are nine CBFM FB-respondents in Barangay Cudal, Tabuk, Kalinga, one of whom is a CSC holder who was issued a CSC in 1990. All of them were covered by a CBFMA in 1999. On the other hand, the four Free Patent (FP) holder-respondents were taken from other barangays in Tabuk, because the free patents issued in Barangay Cudal are for residential lots only. Two of the FP holder-respondents were issued Free Patent Titles in 2008, one in 2004 and the other one in 1999.

All CBFM FB-respondents are males and married. Their ages range from 28 to 74 years old. Three of them are in their 40s, two are in their 30s and the other two are in their 50s. As regards their educational attainment, two are high school graduates, three reached high school level, two are elementary graduates, one reached Grade 6 level, while one is a college degree holder. They are all residing in the central part of Barangay Cudal i.e., outside the CBFM area, for about 10 to 52 years. Farming is the only source of income of the FB-respondents.

Most of the CBFM FB-respondents' spouses are plain housewives; one is an elementary school teacher; one is an employee of a local cooperative while the other one helps her husband in the farm. Two FB-respondents have two children each, the other two have three children each, and five of them have more than four children. The household size of the farmer-respondents ranges from two to nine members. Except for one who has an extended family, all of them belong to a nuclear type of family.

As regards FP holder-respondents, all are males and married, except for one who is female and a widow. The youngest is 37 years old while the oldest is 70. The other two are 48 and 54 years old. Except for one who only reached third year high school, all of them are high school graduates. Aside from farming which is their major source of income, one of them is a dealer of grain seeds, one is a farm laborer while the other one is the current Barangay Chairman. Because of old age, the lone female respondent entrusted the management of her land to her only son.

##### **B. Farm Characteristics**

The CBFM FB-respondents were cultivating their lands for about five to 44 years before the area was covered by CBFMA. The FB-respondent, who had the longest possession of his land i.e., for about 44 years, was one of the original occupants in the

CBFM area. The area awarded to the FB-respondents in the CBFM area ranges from about 1.3 to 21 hectares. These lands have undulating and hilly terrains. They have been planting yellow corn since they occupied the CBFM area. They plant fruit trees such as mango, banana, coffee, coconut and forest trees like Gmelina and mahogany along the boundaries of their lands. However, the mango and banana are not yet in the productive stage as these were provided under the 2008 CBFM-CARP project which was initially implemented in the last quarter of 2008. Some FB-respondents derive only minimal amounts of produce from coffee, banana and coconut which they utilize for home consumption. Notably, there is one FB-respondent who originally occupied about 30 hectares but at present occupies about 21 hectares because he relinquished the cultivation of some portions of his 30 hectares of awarded land to his eight children due to old age. The 21 hectares left to him are now sporadically planted with fruit and forest trees and are being used as grazing areas for his 12 carabaos. He and his wife are now dependent on their children for a living who give them portions of the proceeds of their farm incomes. On the other hand, the lone CSC holder-respondent was awarded 5.0 hectares but only about 2 hectares are being cultivated because the bigger area is part of the mountain. Of the 2-hectare area, about 0.6 hectare is primarily planted to corn while the rest are planted with fruit and forest trees which are not yet in the productive stage.

Aside from their lands in the CBFM area, six out of nine FB-respondents own other corn farms within the barangay which range from about 1.2 to 3.5 hectares. They acquired these lands through inheritance. There is one FB-respondent who owns three parcels of corn farms within the barangay i.e., one parcel was acquired through inheritance, one parcel through purchase and another parcel was mortgaged to him by a co-farmer in the barangay. Some of the FB-respondents plant banana, coffee, mango, and coconut along the boundaries of their other lands. These lands are located in the low lying areas of the barangay which are outside the CBFM area. Generally, the other lands owned by the respondents have flat terrain but there are two respondents whose portions of their lands have undulating topography.

The four FP holder-respondents plant only rice in their awarded lands. They harvest rice twice a year because they were able to tap irrigation water from the Chico River. The smallest and largest areas awarded to them are 0.8 and 1.5 hectares, respectively. These rice farms are located in areas with plain terrain. One of the FP holder-respondents has been in possession of his land for about eight years while the rest for more than 20 years before they were issued their FP titles. Two of them inherited their lands from their parents and/or parent-in-law who were the original claimants of the lands while the other two purchased their lands from the original claimant. One respondent, a female and widow, has entrusted the management of her land to her only son due to old age. However, because of lack of capital to finance their farm operations, they have their land cultivated by a co-farmer in the area since the last cropping of 2008. This is under a sharing arrangement of 30-70 i.e., 30 percent of the net produce goes to the owner of the land after deducting farm expenses which is shouldered by the cultivator. On the other hand, only one FB

holder-respondent owned other land which is a 6-hectare rice farm. Of the 6 hectares, one hectare is covered by CLOA while the 5 hectares are inherited from his parents.

### **C. Farm Production and Income**

Corn farming is the only source of income of the CBFM FB-respondents. Except for three FB-respondents, all of them own other corn farms within the barangay. In 2008, the corn production of the FB-respondents ranged from 3,500 to 6,562 kilograms per hectare. The gross farm income derived by the FB-respondents from their corn production is from about PhP110,800 to PhP824,000. The FB-respondent who has the highest income of PhP824,000 cultivates about 3.5 hectares in the CBFM area and owned another 2.8 hectares within the barangay. All FB-respondents have an annual gross household incomes which are way above the 2007 poverty threshold of PhP76,405 in the rural areas of Kalinga as estimated by the National Statistical Coordination Board(NSCB). Although they obtain considerable earnings from their corn lands, the respondents complain of the high cost of farm inputs and other expenses in the operation of their farms. They estimate that they spend about PhP35,000 per hectare per cropping for their corn production.

On the other hand, the rice production of four FP holder-respondents ranges from about 80 to 108 cavans per hectare. In 2008, they have derived farm incomes ranging from about PhP54,000 to PhP131,900. Overall, the household incomes of the FP holder-respondents range from PhP66,900 to PhP767,500. The FP holder-respondent who has the highest income of PhP767,500 owns another 6-hectare rice farm aside from his 1.5-hectare awarded land and is a dealer of grain seeds. Only one FP holder-respondent has an annual gross household income of PhP66,900 which is way below the 2007 poverty threshold of PhP76,405 in the rural areas of Kalinga.

### **D. Credit Sources and Marketing of Farm Produce**

The private traders from the town proper of Tabuk are the FB-respondents' (CBFM and free patent) main source of credit and at the same time their common market outlet. These private traders usually charge a high monthly interest rate of four to 10 percent a month, payable after every harvest. When a farmer takes out a loan from a trader, he is obliged to sell his farm produce to this trader who in which case dictates the prices of the farm produce. Usually, the farmers get their loans during land preparation and after the harvest of their farm produce, they bring these to the private traders who automatically deduct their loans from the sales of their farm produce. The loan matures after one cropping season. However, unpaid loans can be carried over to the next cropping season as long as they pay the interest of their previous loans. According to the FB-respondents, they fully pay their loans after every harvest to avail of new loans for the next cropping season.

According to the respondents, they used to sell their farm produce to private traders from the nearby provinces of Isabela and Nueva Vizcaya because they offer higher

prices than the local traders. However, the private local traders have organized themselves to control the farm gate prices. This has discouraged the entry of traders from nearby provinces. Some farmer-respondents feel exploited by these organized local traders especially during the rainy season when farm gate prices are usually low. Since they lack drying pavements and warehouses for the storage of their produce, they have no option but to sell their farm produce at a lower price before they rot. Other marketing problems cited by the farmer-respondents are: unstable prices, exploitative local traders, high transport costs and poor farm-to-market roads.

The other sources of credit cited by the farmer-respondents are the private moneylenders and agricultural farm input traders who charge a high monthly interest rate of eight to 10 percent. The FB-respondents also obtain loans from their local farmer's cooperative at a monthly interest rate of two to five percent. There is one free patent respondent who availed of credit assistance from the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) in the amount of PhP26,150 which he used for rice production, with a monthly interest rate of 1.5 percent. His wife also secured an interest-free loan of PhP5,000 from a women's group under the LGU credit assistance program.

## **VI. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY FARMER BENEFICIARY-RESPONDENTS IN CROP PRODUCTION**

The common crop production problems encountered by both types of FB-respondents (CBFM and free patents) are the lack of capital to finance the operation of their farms and the high cost of farm inputs. Other problems cited are low crop production (i.e., in the case of FP holder-respondents), lack of support services such as farm inputs, and drying pavements, infestation of pests and diseases, high cost of labor, natural calamities, and poor soil condition. Generally, they have not taken any measure to resolve their problems on crop production. However, to finance their farm operations, they are working through their own initiatives to get loans from whatever sources are available. Some even said they feel helpless and cannot do anything to resolve these problems.

## **VII. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF THE ISSUANCE OF CSC/CBFMA AND FREE PATENT TO FARMER BENEFICIARY-RESPONDENTS**

### **A. Tenurial Security**

The Community-Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) provides tenurial security and incentives to the POs to develop, utilize and manage specific portions of forest lands. To recognize the farmer's individual property rights within the forest land, a Certificate of Stewardship (CS) is issued by the DENR to individual farmers upon the

recommendation of the organized PO in the CBFM. In the case of the CBFM in Barangay Cudal, the CUFAI was issued a CBFMA which entitles its members to use and develop the forest lands and resources within the CBFM area for a duration of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years. However, there is still no individual Certificate of Stewardship (CS) issued to individual farmers as of this writing.

With the issuance of a CBFMA, most of the farmer-respondents feel secure about their present tenurial status because they cannot be removed from their lands which they have been tilling for many years. According to them, they feel secure because they are protected by their association as the members are united. However, they also express their desire to be issued individual Certificate of Stewardship (CS) as proof of ownership of their lands. Some of the FB-respondents feel insecure about their tenurial status because they have not yet been given their individual CSs which they believe is an important document that can be passed on to their children.

All free patent-respondents feel secure with their tenurial status as they are already holding their free patent titles. One of them said that having his title gives him peace of mind because he has in his possession the document of ownership that can be passed on to his children. Another respondent said that the title of the land gives him assurance of income from the farm, while the other one said that free patent title can be used by farmers as collateral for loans.

## **B. Farm Practices**

Corn has been the major crop planted by the farmer-beneficiaries of the CBFM even prior to the coverage of the area by the program. At present, farmers plant the yellow corn variety twice a year. Other crops planted within the CBFM area are banana, coffee, coffee, mango, coconut and pineapple. The planting of mango, banana and pineapple is under the CBFM-CARP project which was implemented in the last quarter of 2008.

Most of the farmer-respondents used traditional variety of corn when they started cultivating their lands in the CBFM area. According to them, they used to buy their corn seeds from their co-farmers and most of them were not using chemical fertilizer and pesticides at all. For some who applied fertilizers and pesticides before the area was covered by CBFMA, they used only minimal amounts. Gradually, they learned to adopt modern agricultural technologies from both government agencies and private companies. Aside from the DA, they are benefiting from several private companies who are conducting seminars in the area to promote their agricultural products. According to the president of the CUFAI, changes in their agricultural farm practices can be attributed to the agricultural development programs of the government which they gradually adopted.

At present, all the farmer-respondents are using the high yielding variety of yellow corn which they usually purchase from commercial agricultural stores. Likewise, they

now use heavy doses of chemical fertilizer and pesticides. During their early years at the CBFM area, there was no access road in the CBFM for heavy tractors, hence they used animal-drawn plows to cultivate their lands. Since the construction of a 1.5-km access road within the CBFM area in 1994, almost all CBFM beneficiaries hire heavy tractors to facilitate their land preparation although they still use animal-drawn plow in the peripheral areas of their farms. They also use corn shellers which is an improvement from the manual shelling of their harvested corn before.

On the other hand, the FP holder-respondents practice monocropping for rice in their awarded lands. They plant rice twice a year because of availability of irrigation water from the Chico River. All of them have been using the high yielding variety of rice and apply chemical fertilizer and pesticides in their farms even before and after the issuance of their free patent titles. They have been using both heavy tractor and animal-drawn plow for land preparation and rice thresher for harvesting.

### **C. Quality of Life**

The quality of life of the CBFM FB-respondents and FP holder-respondents was also assessed in terms of their housing conditions and facilities, and acquisition of farm and household assets prior to the issuance of CBFMA and FP and in 2008.

#### **1. Housing Conditions and Facilities**

There are only slight changes in the housing conditions and facilities of the CBFM FB-respondents. Most of the FB-respondents owned the house and lot they are occupying before CBFM issuance and at present. One FB-respondent used to squat in the CBFM area before the issuance of CBFM but has since been able to construct his own house in the lot he purchased in the central part of the barangay. Another FB-respondent does not own a house and has been living with his parent-in-law before and at present.

There is no change in the type of roofs of houses of most of the FB-respondents, except for two FB-respondents who changed their roofing materials from cogon to galvanized iron sheets after the issuance of CBFMA. Likewise, there is no change in the type of walls of houses of most of the FB-respondents after the issuance of the CBFMA i.e., four out of nine have walls made of wood, three out of nine have concrete walls, and the rest have walls made of bamboo. Only one FB-respondent changed the walls of his house from bamboo to wood.

As regards housing facilities, all the FB-respondents have access to electricity for their lighting because of the existence of the Kalinga Electric Cooperative (KAELCO) even before the CBFMA issuance. Most FB-respondents source their potable water from their own artesian well while others get water from the artesian wells owned by their neighbours before and after issuance of CBFMA. There are two FB-respondents who have been using the LPG as alternative fuel even before the CBFM issuance. At

present, wood is the cooking fuel used by all FB-respondents but three of them use LPG as an alternative. As regards toilet facilities, there were no changes cited by most of the CBFM FB-respondents before and after the issuance of CBFMA. Four FB-respondents have water-sealed types of toilet facilities, two use open pits, while the other two have not had toilet facilities at all before and at present. There is only one FB-respondent who previously used open pit but is presently using a water sealed type of toilet facility.

In the case of FB holder-respondents, there is also a slight change in their housing conditions before and after the issuance of titles to their lands. All of them own the lot where their houses are built, except for one whose family has been staying with his parents. Before the issuance of their FPs, there is only one respondent whose house roofing material is made of *cogon*. At present, all of them have galvanized iron sheets as roofing materials of their houses. There is no change in the type of house walls of the respondents before and after the issuance of their titles. Two FB-respondents have houses with concrete walls, one has wooden, and one has walls made of bamboo. All of them have access to electric lighting facilities before and at present because of the existence of KAELCO. They have been sourcing their potable water from artesian wells before and after issuance of their FPs. Before the issuance of FP, only one respondent used LPG. At present, all respondents use a combination of wood and LPG for their cooking fuel. Only one of them used open pit before but at present, all of the respondents have water-sealed type of toilet facility.

## **2. Acquisition of Household and Farm Assets**

### **A. Household Assets**

Before the issuance of CBFMA, the most common household asset owned by the CBFM FB-respondents (6 out of 9) was a TV set. Other assets owned then were cellular phones (5 FB-respondents), DVD/VCD, radio, refrigerators, wooden dining sets and gas stoves (4 FB-respondents each), sala sets and cassette recorders (3) and Karaoke (2). At present, there are more FB-respondents who own TV set, DVD/VCD, and cellular phones.

Of the four FP holder-respondents, only two have significant improvements in their ownership of household assets. Before the issuance of their FPs, they only owned a few household assets but at present, they now own TVs, cassette recorders, DVD/VCDs, refrigerators, cellular phones and gas stoves. On the other hand, the other two respondents only own few household assets before and at present and these include wooden cabinets, sala sets and gas stoves.

### **B. Farm Assets**

There is a significant improvement in the acquisition of farm implements by the CBFM FB-respondents. At present, one FB-respondent owns 12 carabaos, three FB-

respondents own three carabaos each, and the other three own one carabao each. Six out of nine FB-respondents owned one carabao each both previously and at present. Likewise, two FB-respondents are raising goats and hogs in their backyard. However, only one FB-respondent acquired a hand tractor with trailer before the CBFMA. There were more FB-respondents who owned cart, thresher and corn sheller. At present, a corn sheller is owned by five FB-respondents; harrows by four FB-respondents; carts by six FB-respondents with two owning more than one; hand pumps are owned by two FB-respondents; and grass cutter by three FB-respondents. The FB-respondents do not see the need of acquiring a tractor because there is an available private four-wheel tractor for hire in the area.

Three out of four FP holder-respondents who presently own carabaos did not have one before the issuance of their free patent titles. The free patent-respondent who does not own one at present uses a hand tractor in his farm. There is also one respondent who owned a cow previously and at present. Moreover, three out of four FP holder-respondents owned a hand tractor with trailer previously and after the issuance of FP except for one respondent who has acquired a hand tractor recently. As regards farm implements, three free patent-respondents owned harrows, two owned mobile threshers, and one owned a grass cutter previously and at present.

### **C. Other Assets**

All the other assets of the CBFM FB-respondents were acquired after the issuance of CBFMA. Four FB-respondents acquired motorcycles while one FB-respondent acquired a passenger jeepney. Another FB-respondent purchased two bicycles. Likewise, the FP holder-respondents were able to acquire other assets after the issuance of their FPs. One free patent-respondent acquired a Wrangler-type jeepney, another one a motorcycle, and another, a tricycle.

### **D. Participation of the Farmer Beneficiary-Respondents in the Cudal Upland Farmers Association, Inc. (CUFAI) and in Programs/Activities in the Barangay**

All farmers covered by the CBFMA are active members of the CUFAI except for one whose family is cultivating about 100 hectares within the CBFM area. According to the president of the CUFAI, he invited this person to join the association but got no response at all.

All FB-respondents disclosed that they joined the CUFAI as part of the requirement of the CBFMA. However, they also cited that they want to avail of whatever services and/or facilities the association could provide to its members, to gain additional knowledge that could help them improve their farming operations and for purposes of socialization. According to them, they participate in all the activities of the association particularly the meetings called by the president and the DENR.

Notably, all FB-respondents cited that it was through their association that they became recipients of the 2008 CBFM-CARP project for which they were given mango seedlings, pineapple slips and banana suckers which they have already planted in their farms. Moreover, they said that the association fosters unity, cooperation and a harmonious relationship among the members. Because of their active participation, they can feel the support for each one towards the other.

As regards their participation in various programs and activities in the barangay, most FB-respondents have been participating in programs/activities in their barangay whenever they are requested to by the barangay officials even before the coverage of their area by the CBFM. Others seldom participate because of their preoccupation with farm activities. Some of the activities they participated in are clean and green/tree planting, maintenance of infrastructure projects and community pest management. However, they also mentioned that these activities were seldom undertaken and that there are few activities undertaken in the barangay.

#### **E. Peace and Order in the Community**

According to the barangay officials, the cooperative officers and the CBFM FB-respondents, peace and order in the community has been sustained even before the issuance of CBFM and at present. Even the FP holder-respondents have no problem on the peace and order situation in their communities.

### **VIII. OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED/IMPLEMENTED IN THE COMMUNITY WHICH BENEFITED THE CBFM BENEFICIARIES AND PATENT HOLDERS**

According to the officers of the CUFAl, there are no other support services provided specifically for the CBFM area except for the support interventions provided by the DENR and the CBFM-CARP project. Although the LGU and other government agencies provided several infrastructure and development projects, these are part of their regular functions and services provided in the entire community of Barangay Cudal wherein the CBFM beneficiaries have also benefited.

Based on data obtained from the Municipal Planning Development Office, the following are the physical infrastructure projects implemented by the municipal LGU in Barangay Cudal from year 2000 to 2008: construction of farm-to-market roads, PhP660,000; rehabilitation of farm-to-market roads, PhP850,000; rehabilitation of Communal Irrigation System (CIS), PhP43,779; construction of canal linings, PhP100,000; rehabilitation of water works system, PhP50,000; construction of box culverts, PhP120,000; construction of drainage system, PhP140,000; construction of foot trails/pathways, PhP115,000; construction of multi-purpose pavements, PhP560,000; flooring of health center, PhP100,000; painting of various buildings, PhP60,000; leveling of high school grounds, PhP30,000; rehabilitation of deep well, PhP25,000;

fencing/gate construction of barangay health center, PhP40,000; and construction/repair of deep well, PhP50,000.

The national and municipal offices of the Department of Agriculture provided the following support services in Barangay Cudal: hybrid rice seed subsidy worth PhP64,000 for 32 hectares for two cropping seasons in 2008-2009 under the GMA rice program; certified seeds in the amount of PhP29,920.00 for 68 hectares from November 2008 to April 2009; hybrid corn subsidy worth PhP1M for two cropping seasons in 2008-2009; hybrid rice seed subsidy for 34 hectares and Farmers' Field School (FFS) trained the farmers from May 2008 to October 2008. It also provided training programs on farming technology through its Farmers' Field School to increase farmers' production and income, established coffee production demonstration farm on a one-hectare area in 2008, and activated two organizations in 2008 i.e., the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) and 4H Club. The monitoring and evaluation of project implementation is all-year round. The DA national office also funded the construction of a small water impounding project (SWIP) in the amount of PhP5M which was completed in March 2008 while the construction of another SWIP is still ongoing, also with a funding of PhP5M. Moreover, the DA national office provided the amount of PhP2.4M to a local cooperative in the barangay for the purchase of a four-wheeled tractor.

On the other hand, the projects implemented and funded by the Barangay Council of Barangay Cudal are: construction of box culvert, PhP20,000; improvement of foot trail, PhP12,000; rehabilitation of deep well, PhP10,000; repair of NIA canal/lining, PhP16,000; rehabilitation of farm-to-market road, PhP30,000; construction of public toilet, PhP16,000; and purchases of Nebulizer for barangay health center (PhP3,091.30), a set of sound system and office supplies (PhP35,000), water meters (PhP50,000), and fuel for road scrapping (PhP27,697). Likewise, the Barangay Council allots five percent of its barangay development fund for the purchase of medicines and other equipments needed in rendering health services to the barangay residents. It also funded the honorarium (PhP650 per month each) of the three appointed Day Care Workers.

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) funded the construction of canal linings in three sitios of Barangay Cudal amounting to PhP4.1 million. The construction of another canal lining in the amount of PhP3 million in one sitio is still ongoing.

According to the Barangay Officials, the infrastructure projects implemented by other agencies such as the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), House of the Senate and other private entities are the following: construction of a bridge, PhP10M (DPWH); construction of provincial road in 2005, PhP5M (398 meters, DPWH); construction of a 2-classroom high school building and a deep well in 1997 (Senator Heherson Alvarez); construction of a 14 kilometer farm-to-market road, PhP2M (Senator Rodolfo Biazon and Senator Edgardo Angara); construction of a primary school building, PhP550,000 (Senator Alberto Romulo);

construction/improvement of a Senior Citizen's building, PhP70,000; construction of a Women's Center building (LGU); and construction of a water system, (Episcopal Diocese of Anglican Church). Likewise, the National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) funded a goat raising project (i.e., 14 goats) which amounted to PhP30,000. Particularly, the water system funded by the Episcopal Diocese of Anglican Church was already installed but not yet operational because the barangay residents cannot afford to buy individual water meters.

In the case of free patent-respondents, they say that they had availed of the following support services from the DA: organic fertilizer subsidy (one cavan for every hectare); hog dispersal in 2008; vegetable seeds dispersal in 2008 through Rural Improvement Club (RIC) for women's backyard gardening; carabao dispersal in 2006; vegetable production in 2008 for 10 sitios of Barangay Ipil, and 60 forest trees from DENR in 2007. Likewise, seminars and training were provided by the DA and some private companies on crop production and pest management.

## **IX. ADDITIONAL PROGRAM/PROJECT INTERVENTIONS NEEDED BY THE CSC/CBFM BENEFICIARIES AND PATENT HOLDERS**

Notwithstanding the aforementioned support services provided by various government and private agencies, the program interventions needed by the CBFM and free patent-respondents to improve their farm productivity and household income are: capital for crop production; rehabilitation and expansion of farm-to-market road; credit assistance for livelihood projects on hog, cattle, and carabao raising; subsidy for fertilizers and herbicides; price regulation on farm produce; low cost of farm inputs such as fertilizers, certified seeds, herbicides, and other chemicals; and provision of drying pavements, box culverts and spray cans. Based on the FGD with the barangay officials the immediate needs of the farmers in Barangay Cudal is the rehabilitation and expansion of farm-to-market roads and the construction of multipurpose drying pavements. The officers of the CUFAl stressed their need for the expansion of the access road and construction of multipurpose drying pavements within the CBFM area. According to them, the provision of these support interventions will boost the farm productivity of the CBFM beneficiaries.

## **X. PERCEPTIONS OF THE FARMER BENEFICIARY-RESPONDENTS ON THEIR SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

### **A. Socio-Economic Conditions of the FBs**

Most CBFM FB-respondents perceive improvements on their socio-economic conditions particularly their farm production and income as a result of their being CBFM beneficiaries. However, they attribute the improvement in farm production and income to various farm technologies introduced by the government which they

gradually adopted ever since they started to cultivate their lands in the CBFM area. Although there were no other support services specifically provided in the CBFM area, the FB-respondents farmers learned about corn farming through several training programs conducted by government agencies and some private companies. The president of the CUFAI cited the support services provided by the LGU to improve the condition of the barangay residents such as the conduct of yearly consultation and survey regarding the priority projects needed by the residents. However, he stressed that the farmers should follow modern farm technology in order to improve their farm production. Another respondent says he had low farm production previously because of his non-adoption of modern farm technology as he lacked capital to buy farm inputs. At present, he claims he derives higher farm produce because he can now avail of loans to buy farm inputs. Another FB-respondent claimed farmers plant more crops, apply fertilizers and are using high yielding variety of corn. Another respondent claimed improvement in his farm production and income because of farm inputs applied and other farm technology adopted. However, some of the FB-respondents also clarified that the improved socio-economic condition of the CBFM beneficiaries cannot be attributed solely to CBFM because most of them owned other lands which they inherited from their parents. Likewise, most of the FB-respondents cited that although there is an improvement in their socio-economic conditions, their household incomes are still insufficient to provide for their family's needs because they spend a large portion of their incomes on farm inputs which are costly thereby resulting to lower net farm income.

As regards their housing facilities, there is a gradual improvement but not much improvement in their household assets. One FB-respondent even cited that he was able to buy a homelot and construct his own house because of higher incomes derived from his farm. Except for one respondent, whose children are all married and the other two FB-respondents whose children are not of school-age, all FB-respondents unanimously say that they now have the capability to send their children to school. One FB-respondent has seven children who are all studying and his source of income is mainly from the farm.

For a few FB-respondents who claimed no changes in their farm production and income, they attributed this to the high cost of farm inputs and transport cost and the low prices they get for their farm produce.

During an FGD with the barangay officials, the Barangay Chairman of Barangay Cudal, who is also a CBFM awardee, disclosed that only those who have bigger landholdings in the CBFM area have improved socio-economic conditions in contrast to those who have small areas. He disclosed that his parents were one of the original farmworkers in the CBFM area. When the area was not yet covered under CBFM, the original farmworkers agreed to have the lands equally divided among them. However, when some of them learned that the area will be covered by the DENR, they started occupying bigger areas until the area was covered by CBFM. According to him, there are four families who were able to obtain bigger lands in the area. Thus, those who

have small areas of cultivation have not improved their socio-economic condition as compared to those farmers with bigger landholdings.

According to the PO officers, there is a marked improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the CBFM beneficiaries. According to them, with the increase in farm income of the CBFM beneficiaries, they can buy some household assets and more importantly, they can afford to send their children in school. However, they claimed that the improvement in their farm income cannot be attributed solely to their being CBFM beneficiaries but because of their own diligence, and the various trainings on farm technology provided by government agencies and private companies. They also mentioned that most of the CBFM beneficiaries owned other lands aside from their lands within the CBFM area either through inheritance or purchase.

On the other hand, the PO officers unanimously claim that there is an improvement in terms of membership of the CBFM beneficiaries in POs and the cooperative. They particularly cited their participation in their association in the CBFM while some of them are also members of a cooperative in their barangay. While there are only a few activities in the barangay which call for their participation, they show their interest to participate in any development programs and activities in the barangay.

The FP holder-respondents unanimously say that there are improvements in their socio-economic conditions, particularly their farm and household incomes and acquisition of household assets, as a result of their being free patent holders. However, one says that he attributes his improved socio-economic status to some people who helped him achieve what he is now, the various programs of the government and his patience and diligence to improve the status of his family.

Another FP holder-respondent attributes the improvement in the socio-economic condition of her household to the lands awarded to her. However, the income derived from her farm is insufficient because she has no other lands to depend on for a living and her family is mainly dependent on the income from the farm. She also cited that the improvement in her housing conditions and assets is attributed to financial support provided by her son who works abroad. She also cited her predicament regarding her daughter who is suffering from congenital heart disease for whom they spend so much in medication.

## **B. Quality of Life**

The CBFM FB-respondents were asked to rate the quality of life of their households for the period of January to December 2008 on a scale of 1 – 10, wherein “10” denotes the best quality of life and “1” the worst quality.

The perception ratings of the FB respondents on the quality of life of their households range from “2” to “7”. Four of them perceived that they are at level “5” while there is one who perceives that the quality of life of his household is at level “7”. The FB-

respondents' higher perception on the quality of their life is attributed to the higher incomes derived from their corn farms.

Four FB-respondents perceive that they are at level "5" because their farm incomes are sufficient to provide or sustain the financial needs of their families. On the other hand, there is one respondent who rated the quality of life of his household at level "5" because his farm income is still insufficient to meet the family's financial needs due to the high cost of living. He also cited the problem on the high cost of farm inputs which affects his net farm income. The lone farmer-respondent who gave a rating of "7" attributes this to hard work, sacrifice and *pakikisama*. According to him, he tried to follow or adopt whatever knowledge he gained from training or seminars conducted by government or private agencies in order to improve his farm productivity.

On the other hand, there are two CBFM FB-respondents who perceive that the quality of life of their households is at level "2". One of them explained that his farm income is insufficient to provide for the basic needs of his family because he lacks capital to finance his farm operations. The other FB-respondent gave a rating of "2" because he is now dependent for a living on his children because of old age.

One FB-respondent gave a rating of "4" because all his children are still studying and his farm income is just enough or sometimes insufficient for the family needs. He also mentioned the high cost of living which made their life difficult. Notably, this FB-respondent has the highest household income of PhP824,285 in 2008 but he has seven children who are studying, four of whom are in college. One FB-respondent rated the quality of life of his household at level "3" because of the difficulty of sustaining the basic needs of his family.

On the other hand, two of the FP holder-respondents perceive that the quality of life of their households is at level "2". One respondent cited that although they are not as financially hard up as before, he has several children who are still studying thus, he cannot say that he has already achieved something because he is still striving to improve the quality of their life. Another respondent cited that the condition of her sick daughter for whom they are spending much for medication and the insufficiency of farm income as the reasons for her family's low quality of life. The other two FP holder-respondents gave a rating of "3" because of insufficiency of their incomes and one has several children who are still studying.

### **C. Level of Satisfaction on Selected Socio-Economic Factors**

Only a few CBFM FB-respondents are dissatisfied with the available livelihood opportunities in their barangay because farming is the only major source of livelihood of the barangay residents. On the other hand, most CBFM FB-respondents are satisfied with farming opportunities in their barangay even though this is the only source of their income. They argued that they at least have their own farms to work on unlike others who have no job at all and some farmers derive bigger earnings from

their farms. All farmer-respondents are very satisfied with the peace and order situation in their community. Moreover, they are satisfied with the health services provided in their barangay because of the availability of health centers and the occasional provision of some health services by the health workers. However, they lament the lack of medicines in the health centers. They are also satisfied with the existing access road leading to their barangay even though this still needs rehabilitation because several passenger jeeps are plying the area. They are very satisfied with the availability and sufficiency of electricity in the barangay because only those residing in the remote areas of the barangay are not reached by electricity. They also expressed satisfaction on the source of potable water because most barangay residents own artesian wells. Those who do not own artesian wells depend on their neighbors for their potable water. According to them, a certain socio-religious group had already installed a water system but the residents were unable to provide their own water meters hence, the project was stalled.

## **XI. AWARENESS ON THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) AND THE CBFM PROJECT**

Five out of nine CBFM FB-respondents are aware of the CARP. However, most of their knowledge on the CARP is limited to distribution of lands to the farmers although there are some who understand CARP as a means of protection of farmers' rights and which will pave the way for the improvement of the socio-economic conditions of the farmers. Their sources of information on the CARP are the government agencies like DAR and DENR, barangay officials, their cooperative, and multi media such as television and radio. Only two of the CUFAI officers are aware of the CARP, i.e., the president and the vice-president which is expected considering that they often coordinate with the DENR. Based on an FGD with the Barangay Officials, only two out of six are aware of the CARP i.e., the Barangay Chairman and a Barangay Councilor.

Ironically, almost all CBFM FB-respondents and FGD participants (officers of the CUFAI and barangay officials) are unaware that the CBFM-CARP project in 2008 was funded under the CARP. The only FB-respondent and FGD participant who are aware of the CBFM-CARP project are the president of the CUFAI and the Barangay Chairman. As far as they know, the DENR is the one funding the fruit and forest trees which were distributed to the CBFM beneficiaries. It was only during the interview with them that they realized that the fund for the 2008 CBFM-CARP project was provided under the CARP.

Conversely, the four FP holder-respondents are aware of the CARP. However, their knowledge is limited only to the distribution of lands to farmers which they heard over the radio and saw on television.

## **XII. EMERGING PROBLEMS AND ISSUES IN THE CBFM AREA AND IN PUBLIC ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE (A&D) LANDS**

1. There are a few cases of mortgaging of awarded lands by the CBFM beneficiaries and which is mainly attributed to financial needs for the education of beneficiaries' children. In most cases of mortgaging, only a portion of their lands were mortgaged to the co-farmers within or outside the CBFM area.
2. According to some officers of the PO, there is one CBFM FB-respondent who is cultivating about 100 hectares in the CBFM area, portions of which he is selling to private individuals residing outside the CBFM area. This is the reason why there is one CBFM beneficiary who is not an original occupant of the CBFM area but became CBFM beneficiary, having purchased land rights from this CBFM beneficiary. There is also one CBFM FB-respondent who originally occupied about 30 hectares but relinquished some portions to his children, leaving him about 21 hectares. According to the incumbent Barangay Captain, the original actual occupants of the area had an agreement that the area waived by the former lessee of the PLA would be utilized for communal cultivation. However, some families had broken the agreement by individually occupying portions of the area which is the reason why some families are now occupying bigger areas than the rest. A key informant from the DENR-CENRO stressed that the information on the bigger areas being occupied by CBFM beneficiaries area are just allegations and could only be confirmed through the conduct of an actual survey.
3. The farmer-beneficiaries in public A & D lands depend on whatever support services that are provided by the LGU and other government agencies in improving farm productivity, particularly the DA in their communities. There are no specific livelihood development projects being implemented by the DENR among the patent holders because subsequent to the release of patent titles they become owners of private agricultural lands.