

**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 CAUAYAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL**

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 CAUAYAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

I. INTRODUCTION

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988 covers all public and private agricultural lands as provided in Proclamation No. 131 and Executive Order No. 229, including other lands of public domain suitable for agriculture. The *other* lands of public domain include forest lands which have been classified as such under the land classification program of the DENR and all unclassified lands of the public domain. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is the government agency responsible for the disposition of public A & D lands and other lands of public domain.

With the issuance of Executive Order No. 263 on July 19, 1995, the issuance of Certificates of Stewardship Contracts (CSCs) by the DENR had stopped. Instead, the Community-Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs) were issued by the DENR-PENRO to organized communities in the Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) areas through their active People's Organizations (POs). Since the CBFMAs constitute upland communities where most households are poverty stricken due to low agricultural and forest production and lack of basic services, an initial amount of PHP150 million from the Agrarian Reform Fund (ARF) was allocated by the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) nationwide for the implementation of CBFM-CARP projects under the Program Beneficiary Development (PBD) component of the CARP. Support services were provided to the CBFM beneficiaries through the CARP projects which were initially implemented by the DENR in 110 sites (i.e. an average of 7 CBFM-CARP sites/region) all over the country within the period 2000 to 2002 as authorized under PARC Resolution No. 2000-81-03. As a follow-through, an allotment of PHP30 million per year (for CY 2007-2008) was allotted by the DENR from the CARP funds provided to other CBFM areas in support to the Hunger Mitigation Program of the President by implementing agro-forestry and livelihood development activities in the 17 priority 1 and 2 provinces.¹

Based on the report as of December 2008 of the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (PENRO) in Negros Occidental, a total of 25 Community Based-Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs) have been issued in the province, covering a total of 23,774.60 hectares and 2,318 farmer-beneficiaries. Of the 25 Community Based-Forest Management (CBFM) areas, only one has projects funded under the CARP in 2000 to 2002 and in 2008. This is the CBFM area in Cauayan, Negros Occidental.

¹ Priority 1 Provinces include Maguindanao, Tawi-Tawi, Apayao, Kalinga, Mountain Province, Camarines Norte, Masbate, Northern Samar, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga Sibugay, Lanao del Norte, Sarangani, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigaodel Sur. Priority 2 Provinces include Lanao del Sur, Sulu, Abra, Marinduque, Occidental Mindoro, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Romblon, Camarines Sur, Antique, Negros Oriental, Biliran, Samar, Bukidnon, Misamis Occidental, Davao Oriental, Sultan Kudarat

The CBFM-CARP project in Cauayan is one of the CBFM areas covered by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Kabankalan City. It was formerly an ISF area which was the only one that was not devolved to the Local Government Unit (LGU). The CENRO in Kabankalan City formerly covered a total of 26 ISF areas, of which 25 were devolved to the LGU at the provincial level. These devolved ISF areas are now under the administrative jurisdiction of the Provincial Management Environment Office (PEMO) of the LGU at the provincial level.

A. CBFM-CARP Study Site

The CBFM area in Cauayan, Negros Occidental was formerly under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Forestry. The area was formerly covered by Pasture Land Act promulgated on June 10, 1955. It was leased then by wealthy families in the province under a Pasture Lease Agreement. The people in the area clamored to have the land transferred to them. They entered the area and sought the help of DENR for them to be able to cultivate the land. Subsequently in 1975, the Bureau of Forest Development (BFD) covered the site under the Forest Occupancy Management (FOM) program. This program allowed the upland forest dwellers to develop the lands they had been occupying and cultivating through the issuance of FOM permits for two years and renewable for another two years. Under this program, the occupants can cultivate a maximum of seven hectares.

In 1982 the Integrated Social Forestry (ISF) program was launched. It also covered FOM areas, so that the forest occupants in the study site were covered under the ISF program. The identified forest occupants were given individual Certificate of Stewardship Contracts (CSCs) for a period of 25 years, renewable for another 25 with areas of 7 hectares and below. A Joint DENR-DILG Memorandum Circular No. 98-01 was issued to operationalize the partnership on devolved ISF areas and other forest management functions. In 2000, the ISF area in Talacdan which was not devolved to the LGU was declared a CBFM-CARP project in the province as provided under DENR A.O. No. 96-29.

The CBFM area in Cauayan covers an area of 3,411.8147 hectares comprising portions of Brgys. Talacdan, Molobolo, Sura and Lumbia. It was a model site for Environment Natural Resource Center for People Empowerment in the Upland (ENRCPEU) in the province of Negros Occidental. The model site was formerly an ISF area which was not devolved to the LGU as mandated under R.A. No. 7160 and still under the administrative jurisdiction of the DENR-CENRO. Because of this, it was selected as one of the agrarian reform convergence sites funded by the CARP and which paved the way for the CBFM agreement between the DENR-PENRO and the President of Southern Negros Forest Occupancy Permittees Association (SONFOPA) in 2000. The area was chosen as an alternative site of the UNDP Strengthening of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (SISFP) Area II. Concomitantly, the UNDP required the delineation of 1,011 hectares as the project area of UNDP-SISFP Area II which was implemented in 1991-1993 and was funded by UNDP.

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

Public A & D Lands are lands of the public domain which have been subject of the present system of classification and declared as not needed for forest purposes. The distribution of public A & D lands suitable for agriculture are through the processing and issuance of Free and Homestead Patents. The legal basis for the generation and distribution of Free Patent (FP) and Homestead Patent (HP) titles are the Public Land Act of 1936, Presidential Decree No. 1073 and DENR Administrative Order No. 38, Series of 1988. DAR-DENR Administrative Order No. 2, Series of 1988 provides guidelines for the implementation of Section 15 of Executive Order No. 229.

Under the previous laws, the Homestead and Free Patent beneficiaries are entitled to own a maximum area of 24 hectares. Under the CARP, a maximum of 12 hectares can be issued to Free Patent (FP) beneficiaries while only a maximum of 5 hectares for Homestead Patent (HP) beneficiaries.

From the records of the CENRO in Kabankalan City, there were no FP and HP recipients within and in the adjacent barangays covered by the CBFM-CARP project in Talacdan. There are only a few FP recipients in other barangays in Cauayan but upon validation, the FPs were either issued before the enactment of the CARL (R.A. No. 6657) or have been subdivided among the heirs but are not yet registered with the Register of Deeds (ROD).

Another municipality within the administrative jurisdiction of CENRO in Kabankalan City was therefore considered as the study site for the HP recipients. Barangay Gatuslao in the municipality of Candoni was purposively selected because of the predominance of HP recipients. The Homestead Patents (HPs) issued in Candoni were formerly timberland or forest areas released as A & D by the Land Classification Party in the late 1980's. From the list provided by the CENRO in Kabankalan City, the areas owned by the HP recipients in Barangay Gatuslao range from 1.0 to 5.0 hectares. Barangay Gatuslao is a proposed site for the plantation of *Kasla* (*Jatropha*) for the farms mostly owned by 70 homestead patent recipients.

II. THE COMMUNITY BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT (CBFMA)

The CBFMA entitles the forest community to use and develop the forest land and resources for a duration of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years. The agreement is between the People's Organization (PO), representing the local community including indigenous people, and the DENR as represented by the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO).

The contracting People's Organization (PO), which is the Southern Negros Forest Occupancy Permittees Association, (SONFOPA) entered into a Community Based Forest Management Agreement (CBFMA) with the PENRO of Negros Occidental on December 29, 2000 to manage the 3,411.82 hectares of forestlands in

Cauayan, Negros Occidental. The agreement was for a period of 25 years from the date the agreement was notarized, and renewable for another twenty five years, subject to compliance by the SONFOPA with the terms of agreement, the Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF), Resource Utilization Plan (RUP) and the Annual Work Plan (AWP). The agreement was concurred with by four Barangay Captains of the barangays covered by the CBFMA area and the CENRO of Kabankalan, and witnessed by both the Community Development Officer at the CENRO in Kabankalan City and the Municipal Mayor of Cauayan.

The implementation of the Agreement covers forest rehabilitation including agro-forestry, forest protection, development of alternative livelihood opportunities which are non-dependent on forest products, minor utilization of forest, and other activities which may be identified in the future consistent with the Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF) of the area.

Under the Agreement, the obligations of the DENR are: 1) protect and ensure exclusive occupation and use of the forestland covered by the CBFMA and the forest products to the SONFOPA; 2) provide assistance to the SONFOPA in the preparation, updating and implementation of the Community Resource Management Framework (CRMF), Resource Use Plan (RUPs) and Annual Work Plans (AWPs); 3) deputize qualified members of SONFOPA as Environmental and Natural Resources Officers (ENROs); and 4) in case the province is under a logging moratorium, exempt the CBFMA area.

On the part of the PO, the SONFOPA as the CBFMA holder shall: 1) assume the responsibility for the protection of the entire forest lands within the CBFMA area against illegal logging and other unauthorized extraction of forest products, slash-and-burn agriculture (*kaingin*), forest and grassland fires, and other forms of forest destruction; and assist DENR in the prosecution of violators of forestry and environmental laws; 2) follow all duly promulgated laws, rules and regulations pertinent to forest management; 3) implement the CRMF, RUP and Annual Work Plan with the help of DENR and LGU; 4) formulate and implement benefit sharing schemes among its members; and 5) pay the required forest charges and other fees.

The CBFMA may be terminated based on the non-performance by SONFOPA or violation of any provision stated in the contract.

III. THE SOUTHERN NEGROS FOREST OCCUPANCY PERMITTEES ASSOCIATION (SONFOPA)

The Southern Negros Forest Occupancy Permittees Association (SONFOPA) was organized in 1978 by a group of forest occupants under the ISF program in Brgy. Talacdan. The organizers found it difficult to recruit members due to their lack of confidence in the government, and the unstable peace and order situation in the area. Due to these reasons, it took several years before it was registered with the Bureau of Labor Relations (BLR) in 1991.

Prior to the organization of SONFOPA, preparatory activities were undertaken by the DENR through the conduct of a Pre-membership Seminar (PMES) and Leadership Training. Initially, the SONFOPA had a total membership of 292, of which 181 members are CSC holders and 111 are non-CSC holders. At present, only 197 are active due to the transfer of other members to other organizations and the death of other members. About 10 members in Brgy. Molobolo are inactive, while 9 members in Brgy. Lumbia became inactive because they have their own association in the barangay. The membership fee is P25 per member.

The association consider members as active if they participate in the group activities, pay their monthly dues, attend meetings, and have their own area of cultivation. Farmers were encouraged to join the association so as to be able to avail of support services for crop production. The SONFOPA coordinates with concerned government agencies to strengthen the association.

The training programs conducted for the officers and members of SONFOPA are: 1) Land Use Training Workshop held on November 7 - 8, 2000 with 55 participants and a budget of P5,000; 2) Orientation Workshop on CBFM held on August 7, 2000 with 90 participants and a budget of P2,000; 3) Livestock Management & Paravet Training held on September 6 - 7, 2001 with 48 participants and a budget of P3,900; and 4) Training workshop on Community Resource Management Framework (CRF\MF) held on August 22 - 26, 2001 with 101 participants and a budget of P7,576. All these four trainings were held in Talacdan Multi-Purpose Hall.

IV. THE CBFM-CARP PROJECTS

CARP funds have been provided to selected CBFM areas all over the country since CY 2000-2002 to CY 2008 with the objective of improving farm productivity and the household incomes of farmer-beneficiaries in the upland communities.

For CY 2000 - 2002, the livelihood projects funded by CARP funds in the CBFM area in Cauayan are carabao and goat dispersal. The SONFOPA received financial assistance from the DENR in 2001 for carabao dispersal and goat raising in the amount of Php63,000.00 and Php23,000.00, respectively. Under the carabao dispersal project component, the SONFOPA bought five (5) heads of carabao and distributed these to five (5) qualified beneficiaries but the credentials of the carabao dispersal is in the name of the SONFOPA and not in the name of the beneficiaries. In the case of the goat raising project, the SONFOPA bought 10 goats consisting of 8 does and 2 bucks which are now under the care of the association. The SONFOPA constructed a fence along the perimeter boundary of their pasture area, and a shed to house the goats within the vicinity of the staff house and multi-purpose hall. The association has assigned members who are responsible for caring and grazing the goats.

For CY 2008, the livelihood development projects funded by CARP fund are Agro-forestry Development which constitutes the planting of fruit trees (35.0 hectares)

and Agri-crops Production with Soil and Water Conservation (50 hectares). A total of PhP609,508.00 was released to SONFOPA for the implementation of these livelihood projects envisaged to benefit 85 farmer-beneficiaries.

V. CBFM-CARP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS

The budget for CARP projects in the CBFM areas is part of the budget released by the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council (PARC) to DENR based on the yearly submission of the Work and Financial Plan for approval. After the budget is approved, the allocation for each CBFM site is determined by the DENR Forest Management Bureau (FMB). The process flow of CARP funded CBFM projects are as follows: 1) preparation of proposal and project planning done at the PO level, with the assistance of the concerned CENRO/PENRO; 2) submission of the proposal to the DENR Regional Office for review; 3) submission of proposal to the DENR main office for final review of the contents and budgetary requirements; and 4) presentation of the proposal to the DENR main office for review and approval by the Committee en banc composed of the Director of the DENR-CARP and its Technical Working Group (TWG), the Forest Management Bureau (FMB) Director and/or representatives from the CBFM Division and the National Executive Officer of the DENR-CARP and technical staff. Proposed project funds are sometimes reduced by the Committee en banc during its final review.

After the approval of the project proposal and budget by the Committee en banc, the CBFM agreement is signed by both parties (CENRO and PO) and the concerned Mayor of the LGU. The project funds are directly released by the DENR-CENRO/PENRO to the concerned PO.

A. The 2001 CBFM-CARP Projects

In 2001, CBFM-CARP project funds were downloaded by the DENR Regional Office to the CENRO in Kabankalan City. From CENRO, the funds were directly released to SONFOPA after a Memorandum of Agreement was executed by the PENRO and the PO on the mechanics of implementation of the projects.

The projects for CY 2001 for goat and carabao dispersal amounted to an aggregate of P86,000. With the limited fund, the SONFOPA formulated its own criteria in the selection of member-recipients of the carabao dispersal. The criteria established by SONFOPA were: 1) active members of good standing who were updated in their payment of membership fees and monthly dues; 2) active participation in SONFOPA activities; 3) interest in the project; 4) possession of land for cultivation within the CBFM area and not rented; and 5) no carabaos or goats in their care.

The names of potential recipients were raffled off by the association. Only five were recipients of carabao dispersal. An Agreement was signed by each project recipient with the association. Based on Agreement between the farmer-beneficiary and the association, the recipient was obliged to give 3 sacks of palay yearly for a

period of 5 years to the association and turn-over the carabao and the second calf (1-1/2 yrs. old) to the association after the beneficiary gets its share of one (1) carabao. The association selected the second batch of recipients based on same established criteria.

With regard to goat dispersal, there were 2 bucks and 8 does purchased out of the project fund. Ten kids were born out of these goats, but all got sick and died including the two bucks and one doe. The goats were transferred to a staff house in Brgy. Sura. Only 7 goats remain and are cared for by the PO and not yet given to any recipient.

The role of DENR in the CBFM areas is monitoring of the implementation of projects which is part of the Agreement. For every CARP funded project given to the CBFM area, the association gets 20 percent of the project fund for its operating and maintenance expenses.

B. The 2008 CBFM-CARP Projects

For the CBFM-CARP Livelihood Projects in CY 2008, a contract was entered into between the DENR-PENRO and the President of the SONFOPA in April 29, 2008. The fund for the CBFM-CARP projects in the amount of Php609,580 was directly released in tranches by the DENR Regional Office to the SONFOPA. This amount covers the operating cost of agro-forestry, agri-crops production covering 50 hectares and the planting of fruit trees in 35 hectares. An initial 15 percent of the total CARP project fund of Php609,580 was released by DENR to the SONFOPA for the project mobilization upon signing of the contract and submission of the association resolutions for mobilization and authorization of officials of the association to transact business with DENR and LBP. The SONFOPA assumes the labor counterpart and implements the agro-forestry and livelihood projects as indicated in the approved Work and Financial Plan. The SONFOPA is required to submit to DENR monthly and quarterly physical and financial reports of the project, develop a system for an internal repayment scheme among the FBs in order to sustain the roll-over of CARP initial investment and benefit all members of the SONFOPA, and develop a system of capital build-up to generate funds.

The criteria in the selection of project recipients in 2008 were set by SONFOPA and these include: 1) interest in the projects; 2) members of good standing with the association; 3) active participation in the activities of the association; and 4) possession of land for cultivation within the CBFM area and not rented. The SONFOPA entered into an agreement with the individual recipients to plant one hectare of their farms with the said crops and fruit trees and pay their obligations to the association after harvest, inclusive of five percent interest.

A total of 85 farmer-members of the SONFOPA benefitted from the CBFM-CARP Livelihood Projects in CY 2008 in the development and cultivation of a total of 85 hectares. For the project component on agri-crops production with soil and water conservation measures, 23 farmer-beneficiaries from Brgy. Talacdan and seven farmer-beneficiaries from Brgy. Sura qualified for the project. Of the total farmer-

beneficiaries of agri-crops production, 25 adopted soil and water conservation measures by planting of "kakawate" as hedgerows along the contours of their farms. Forest trees will later be intercropped between the "kakawate" which will serve as perimeter fence of their farmlot. On the orchard component of the CBFM-CARP project in 2008, a total of 35 farmer-beneficiaries qualified as recipients. For this project component, the SONFOPA provided fruits for seeds for the establishment of nurseries of fruit tree seedlings which were under the care and maintenance of the selected farmer-beneficiaries. The fruit tree seedlings being grown are mango, calamansi, rambutan and jackfruit.

For the agri-crops production project, the amount of P9,500 per hectare is allocated by the SONFOPA for the purpose. The selected farmer-beneficiaries were either given cash to buy corn and peanut seeds or made to make advancements for purchased seeds and other production inputs then reimbursed by the association. The budget of P9,500 per hectare covers the procurement of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides, nursery tools and materials, and fruit for raising seedlings in the nursery. The farmer-beneficiary recipients are obliged by the association to return the project funds given to them after harvest, inclusive of five percent interest.

The farmer-beneficiary recipients who are able to pay their obligations to the association are entitled to renew their Agreement with the association for the second time for the same project and continue planting the same agri-crops as provided in the Agreement.

Based on an interview with a key informant in the CENRO, before another project is given to the CBFM area, the SONFOPA is required by the CENRO to submit an accomplishment report.

VI. STATUS OF CBFM-CARP PROJECTS

The 2001 carabao dispersal project is currently still on-going. Of the five carabao recipients, another set of five farmer-members became recipients under the second roll-over of carabao dispersal. The calves, and the birth of another batch of calves will be rolled-over to another set of qualified batch of recipients until all the interested members of the association are able to avail of this project.

Many CBFMA beneficiaries complained of the limited beneficiaries for carabao dispersal because only 5 farmer-beneficiaries initially benefitted, and it took a few years before the second batch of five farmers benefitted. Goat dispersal became a problem due to death caused by disease of some of the goats. The remaining goats are being cared for by the association, and are slated for dispersal to qualified recipients.

The 2008 agri-crops production and agro-forestry projects are on-going. The agri-crops production project benefitted 30 farmers for corn and 20 farmers for peanut production, cultivating a total of 50 hectares. Twenty-five (25) out of 30 farmers who are engaged in corn and peanut production adopted soil and water

conservation technology through the practice of Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT). *Kakawate* are planted as hedgerows along the contours of their farms to conserve soil and water in their farms.

The agri-crops production is on its second cycle. A total of 60 farmer-beneficiaries are presently engaged in corn and peanut production. The first batch of 50 farmer-beneficiaries have renewed their Agreement with the association and an additional 10 farmer-members had entered into an Agreement with the association as new beneficiaries of the agri-crops production project.

On the agro-forestry projects, 35 farmers benefited covering 35 hectares. At present, 26 out of the 35 hectares have been planted to fruit tree seedlings such as jackfruit (10 hectares), mango (6 out of 10 hectares), calamansi (5 out of 10 hectares), and rambutan (5 hectares). Fruit tree seedlings are still being grown in the nursery to fully plant the remaining areas.

Based on the results of the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) with the officers of SONFOPA and interviews of the FB-respondents, the CBFM-CARP projects are a big help to the farmer-beneficiaries' livelihood. However, many of the farmer-members are still waiting to be included among the project recipients.

VII. SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS OF THE FARMER-BENEFICIARY RESPONDENTS

A. CSC/CBFM Farmer-Beneficiary Respondents

1. Demographic Characteristics

The eight (8) CBFM FB-respondents are all married, with a family size ranging from 5 to 11. Their ages range from 47 to 69. Farming has been the primary occupation of the respondents even before their receipt of their tenurial instruments. Aside from farming their own area of tillage, three of them work as hired laborers in nearby farms in the area at a daily wage rate of P100 to P150. One of them is a college graduate, two are high school graduates, and the rest had reached elementary school level. Two of the respondents' spouses reached high school level, while the rest only attained elementary school level. Their objective of sending their children to school was realized by six of them who have children who are studying, while one has children who are already college graduates. Another one has children in college.

2. Farm Characteristics

Six of the CBFM FB-respondents are CSC holders, while two are non-CSC holders. The area of land awarded to the respondents ranges from two hectares to seven hectares. They have been in possession of their lands since 1964 up to 1987.

Five of the CBFM FB-respondents cultivate other lands aside from the lands awarded to them within the CBFM area. The other lands cultivated by four of the respondents were acquired through purchase from other individuals. The other lands which were purchased by two respondents are covered by CSCs, one is owned by the wife of the respondent which is also covered by CSC, while another one is not covered by CSC but part of the CBFM. All of these other lands are within the CBFM area. The lands awarded to the FBs as well as the other lands of five of the CBFM FB-respondents are all upland and undulating.

The primary crops planted by CBFM FB-respondents are rice and corn. Seven out of eight respondents planted both rice and corn. All respondents solely plant corn, two plant sugarcane, six plant peanut, and five plant rootcrops. All respondents practice a combination of monocropping and intercropping. All of them have fruit trees in their farms, the most common of which are mango, bananas, coffee, jackfruit, coconut, rambutan and citrus.

The common forest trees planted in their respective farmlots are gemelina, mahogany, eucalyptus and ipil-ipil. The fruit and forest trees provide the respondents food and additional farm income.

3. Farm Production

Corn is planted twice a year by all of the eight respondents, while rice is planted twice a year by three out of the eight. The respondents who plant rice twice a year tap water from the creek to irrigate the ricefields. The CBFM CARP-FB respondents planting corn harvested in 2008 from 500 to 1,500 kilograms per hectare which was sold at PhP7 to PhP14 per kilo. In the case of rice, the respondents harvested in 2008 from 175 to 5,600 kilograms per hectare in 2008. The low production was attributed to both the insufficient amount of fertilizers applied in the farm due to high cost, and the unfavorable weather condition in the area.

Notably, one of the CBFM FB-respondents was able to harvest 80 sacks or 4,000 kilograms of shelled corn when a part of his farm (i.e. one hectare) was used as corn demonstration farm by the DA in 2007. This respondent was provided by DA with one pack of hybrid corn seeds and 10 sacks of organic fertilizer worth PhP180 per sack. However, after his farm was utilized as corn demonstration farm, the CBFM FB-respondent was unable to adopt the required amount of fertilizer due to limited financial resources. Hence, his succeeding harvests were relatively low (i.e. 10 sacks or 500 kilograms per hectare) because he can only apply two sacks of organic fertilizer per cropping.

4. Credit Sources

Only four of the CBFM FB-respondents have experienced obtaining credit. The most common sources were QUEDANCOR and the Southern Negros Forest Occupancy Permittees Association (SONFOPA). The credit obtained was used for agri-crop production expenses. One of them obtained credit from QUEDANCOR for three times already and paid after every harvest of the sugarcane. Most of the respondents

have already paid their loans except for one respondent who only obtained his credit in 2008 from the SONFOPA.

5. Marketing of Farm Produce

All the CSC/CBFM-respondents market their farm produce in Talacdan market during market day (i.e. every whole day of Wednesday). Traders come to Talacdan market to buy the farm products of the farmers at a low price dictated by them. Though the price set by the traders is low, they pay the FB-respondents in cash. The marketing of timber trees like mahogany and gemelina is also through the traders from Bacolod City who come to Barangay Talacdan to pick up the logs which are purchased by board feet.

The common problems encountered in the marketing of farm produce by the respondents is the poor farm-to-market road which makes the transport expenses from their farms to Talacdan market costly, i.e. at Php20 per sack during wet season transported through carabao and Php10 per sack during dry season transported by jeep. Other respondents cited the low price dictated by the exploitative traders.

6. Quality of Life

The quality of life of the CBFM FB-respondents was assessed in terms of household income in 2008, housing conditions and facilities, and acquisition of farm and household assets prior to the issuance of CSC and/or CBFMA and in 2008.

6.1. Household Income

The household income of the CBFM FB-respondents is mainly derived from the farm. (Table 1). However, the CBFM FB-respondents who have family members working and are receiving remittances from relatives have higher household incomes than

Table 1. Household Income of FB-Respondents by Source and Household Size (2008)

Res. No.	Household Size	Farm	Off-Farm	Non-Farm	OFW Remittances	Total Household Income
<i>CBFM-FBs</i>						
1	10	106,800		12,000		118,800
2	4	99,700				99,700
3	6	37,300		12,000		49,300
4	6	103,125				103,125
5	7	87,573		16,000	35,000	138,573
6	11	6,500	5,000			11,500
7	6	55,050	3,250			58,300
8	5	26,000	5,000			31,000
<i>HP Holders</i>						
9	3	20,548				20,548
10	3	100,700			30,000	130,700

other FB-respondents whose income source is only from their own farm. Three of the FB-respondents have family members who are employed and are contributing to the household income. Three other FB-respondents do off-farm work as hired

farm laborers in other farms and are paid wage rates of P100 to P150 a day. One FB-respondent receives regular remittances from two sons working abroad. The annual gross farm income of the eight CBFM FB-respondents ranges from a minimum of P6,500 to a maximum of P106,800 or from 56.5 percent to 89.9 percent of the annual gross household income. Four of the eight FB-respondents earn an annual gross farm income of PhP75,000 and above. As regards their total household income, the highest is P138,573 (with sons working abroad) and the lowest is P11,500.

Four FB-respondents have annual gross household incomes which are above the 2007 poverty threshold of PhP74,655 in the rural areas of Negros Occidental as estimated by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB). The other four CBFM FB-respondents have an annual gross household income way below the 2007 poverty threshold.

6.2. Housing Condition and Facilities

Before and after the issuance of CBFMA, the housing conditions of the CBFM FB-respondents remain the same. Seven out of eight CBFM FB-respondents own the houses where they live, except for one who has been living with his parents. Three of them have houses within their awarded lands which are made of light materials. Only two have galvanized iron roof. As regards housing facilities, there is only a slight improvement after the issuance of CSC/CBFMA in terms of source of water. The source of water supply of four FB-respondents has improved from open well to piped water from the impounding water tank (*tuburan*) installed in the barangay. The rest of the respondents have the same source of water as before, i.e. spring water for two respondents, deep well for one respondent, and open well for another respondent. The other housing facilities of the respondents are the same as before, i.e. all the FB-respondents use kerosene gas for lighting, wood for cooking except for one who uses LPG, and open pit for their toilets.

6.3. Farm and Household Assets

Having a carabao used in the farm is an asset for the farmers. Five of the CBFM FB-respondents have carabaos. The other farm assets owned by the FB-respondents are ordinary plow, bolo, shovel, and carabao driven carts. There is not much improvement in the acquisition of farm assets before CBFM and at present. The same is true for household conditions and assets except for two respondents who have acquired car battery-run TV sets. In spite of the low farm production, six of the FB-respondents own cellphones.

B. Homestead Patent Respondents

1. Demographic Characteristics

The two Homestead Patent (HP) respondents are both married, one is 62 years old, the other is 42. Both of them have a household size of 3. One of the respondents is a college graduate while the other is an elementary school graduate.

2. Farm Characteristics

The farm area of HP respondents is 3.15 and 2.1 hectares, respectively. One of them cultivates another landholding which is a 4.57- hectare land owned by his father and covered by a Homestead Patent title. The awarded lands of both respondents are upland and undulating. They have been in possession of these lands since 1970 and 1980, respectively but their Homestead Patents were both registered with the Register of Deeds (ROD) in 1990. One of them has resided within the awarded land long before the award, while the younger respondent resides in the homelot and house he inherited from his father close to his awarded land. The latter temporarily left the place in 1983 due to the volatile peace and order situation in the area brought about by the military's "Operation Thunderbolt" against the New Peoples' Army (NPAs). He returned to the area in 2000.

Both HP respondents plant rice as primary crop, while the younger HP respondent plants sugarcane as secondary crop aside from rice. The fruit tree planted in their farms are mangoes. Other fruit and forest trees planted by the older respondent are Indian mango, jackfruit, banana, gemelina, eucalyptus and mahogany. The younger HP respondent has only star-apple, santol, coconut, tamarind and chico in his farms.

3. Farm Production

In 2008, the production of the younger HP respondent from a 2.0-hectare of sugarcane farm was 45 sacks of sugar which was sold at P1,065 per sack and 46 sacks or 1,840 kilograms of rice per hectare sold at PhP10 per kilo. The older HP respondent obtained a total production of only 37 cavans or 1,628 kilograms of rice per hectare in 2008 because he was unable to apply fertilizer. In the previous years, he used to harvest an average of 60 cavans per hectare annually. His Indian mango, jackfruit and banana trees are not yet fruit bearing. The commercial timber trees such eucalyptus, gemelina, mahogany and bamboo are still in gestating.

4. Credit Sources

Only the younger HP respondent had obtained credit in 2007 from a private lending institution at an interest rate of 2.5 percent per year which was used for sugarcane production. The loan has been partially paid. On the other hand, the older HP respondent has no record on availment of credit. Hence, the lack of credit support explains the low farm production of the latter respondent.

5. Marketing of Farm Produce

The older HP respondent do not market the palay produce from his farm because it is only for home consumption. On the other hand, the younger HP respondent marketed his sugarcane through the Binalbagan – Isabela Sugar Company (BISCOM). Since the younger HP respondent owns a Tamaraw vehicle, he brings

the palay produced from his farm for sale in Bacolod City market. By selling the palay in Bacolod City, he gets a better price and avoid the exploitative local traders.

6. Quality of Life

The quality of life of the HP respondents was also assessed in terms of household income in 2008, housing conditions and facilities, and acquisition of farm and household assets prior to the issuance of HP and in 2008.

6.1. Household Income

The household income of the younger respondent seems to fair better as compare to the older respondent. In 2008, he earned a gross farm income of P100,700, plus remittances every two months (6 months) from relatives working abroad amounting to around P5,000 a month, hence he reported a gross annual household income of P130,700 which is 175 percent higher than the 2007 poverty threshold of PhP74,655 in the rural areas of Negros Occidental (Table 1). In 2008, the income derived by the younger HP respondent from his farm constituted 77 percent of his annual household income, while overseas remittances was equivalent to 30 percent. Hence, even if the income derived by the younger HP respondent from overseas remittances is excluded, his gross annual household income is 138.9 percent higher than 2007 per poverty threshold in the rural areas of Negros Occidental.

On the other hand, the household income of the older HP respondent is only derived from his farm and which is relatively low, i.e. PhP20,548 which is 27.5 percent lower than the 2007 poverty threshold in the rural areas of Negros Occidental.

6.2. Housing Conditions and Facilities

There is only a slight improvement in the type of housing materials of both HP respondents, i.e., from cogon roofing to galvanized iron and from walls made of wood to a combination of concrete and wood. As to housing facilities, their source of lighting has upgraded from the use of kerosene for lamps to electricity installed in their houses in 2004. Their cooking fuel is still the same as before, i.e., wood and charcoal. However, there is a marked improvement in their toilet facilities as they both have graduated from the open pit type to water-sealed toilets. The source of potable water of both respondents has also improved from open well to spring and pump.

6.3. Farm and Household Assets

The younger respondent previously lived with his parents, hence he did not own any farm implements prior to the issuance of HP because he used the farm implements of his father. At present, he owns a carabao, plow and a cart and a sprayer. He also has acquired household assets such as: karaoke, TV set, DVD player, stereo component, electric stove, wall clock, cell phone, sala set and a Tamaraw vehicle which he uses in hauling farm products to Bacolod City.

The older respondent has only a carabao, plow, harrow and handsaw for his farm implements and a battery operated radio as his only household asset before the issuance of HP. At present, he owns the same farm implements as before and no longer has a carabao. His household assets include a radio, karaoke, TV set, a DVD player, refrigerator, electric fans and a cell phone, some of which were purchased by his daughter. He has a tricycle purchased in 1997. Both respondents have relatives providing for their other household needs. The farm income augmented with the help from relatives was of big significance to both homestead patent-respondents.

VIII. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY FARMER BENEFICIARY-RESPONDENTS IN CROP PRODUCTION

The most common problems encountered by both CSC/CBFM and HP respondents in their crop production are lack of farm capital, high cost of farm inputs, and incapacity to pay hired laborers at Php100 a day with food and Php150 a day without food. The problem on climatic condition (i.e. heavy rainfall) was cited by one of the CSC/CBFM FB-respondents which contributed to low farm production.

As regards measures undertaken by the FB-respondents to resolve their problems on crop production, only two of the eight CSC/CBFM respondents cited that their problems eased up when they became recipients of the CBFM-CARP agri-crop projects in 2008, although six out of eight respondents are recipients of the said project. For the other respondents, one of them availed of a corn production loan from the DENR, another one obtained loan from other members of the CBFMA, while one became a beneficiary of the Tabla Valley Project implemented by the DENR. One respondent adopted contour farming and planted *kakawate* trees where the leaves are left on the soil to decompose and serve as fertilizer. For the respondent who has no carabao, he rented one for Php150 a day so that he could cultivate his farm. Lastly, one of the respondents became a beneficiary of the corn demonstration farm project established by the DA wherein part of his farm was utilized for the purpose and he was provided free corn seeds and organic fertilizer.

IX. ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS OF THE ISSUANCE OF CSCs/CBFMA AND HOMESTEAD PATENT

A. Tenurial Security

There were initially 292 farmers covered by the CBFMA of which 181 are CSC holders and 111 are non-CSC holders. Of the eight respondents purposively chosen from the farmers covered by the CBFMA, six are CSC holders while two are non-CSC holders. Although there are two respondents who are non-CSC holders, all of the eight CBFM FB-respondents feel secure in their farms because they are either holders of Certificates of Stewardship Contract (CSCs) or are included in the CBFMA which to them unequivocally guarantee their tenurial security over the lands that have been in their possession since 1965 to 1987. With the inclusion of the farmer-

respondents in the CBFMA, they were able to avail of support services provided by the government, particularly the projects funded by the CARP in 2001 and 2008. They consider the CSC and CBFMA as proof of land ownership and they are secure that they cannot be ejected from their farms.

Although the non-CSC holder respondents indicate the need for the issuance of individual Certificates of Stewardship Contract (CSCs) under the CBFMA, a key informant from the DENR-CENRO opined that there is no need for the issuance of CSC because it is already superfluous. The CBFMA provides tenurial security of the farmers within the coverage area for a duration of 25 years, renewable for another 25 years.

Likewise the HP respondents feel secure with the proof of ownership that they have in their possession and are confident that nobody can take their lands from them.

B. Farm Practices

The farm practices of the FB-respondents have improved since the issuance of CSCs and CBFMA. The respondents with CSCs were issued from 1978 to 1983, while the non-CSC respondents were covered by the CBFMA in 2000.

Before the issuance of CSC and CBFMA, most of the respondents used traditional varieties of rice and corn and natural fumigation for pest and disease control and induced flowering in fruit trees. The respondents used some amount of inorganic and organic fertilizer, depending on their capability to purchase this farm input.

Subsequent to the issuance of CSCs and CBFMA, almost all the respondents used certified hybrid seeds for rice and corn, applied a combination of both inorganic and organic fertilizers and adopted contour farming through the Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT) obtained through the training they attended in Bansalan, Davao del Sur in 1991, sponsored by the DENR-CENRO. Through this training on SALT, the FB-respondents learned the use of organic fertilizer in combination with the inorganic fertilizer, contour farming, terracing, and mulching for soil and water conservation. All of the FB-respondents still use animal-drawn plow as before.

The cropping system being practiced by the FB-respondents are the same as before the issuance of CSC and CBFMA because they plant the same agricultural crops, fruit trees, and forest trees as they did prior to award. The FB-respondents practice monocropping for sugarcane, rice and corn, mixed crops with forest trees, and intercropping for fruit trees and vegetables.

Basically, there were no changes in the farm practices and cropping systems adopted by the HP respondents before the issuance of patents and in 2008 because of the lack of support services for their farm operations.

C. Participation of Farmer-Beneficiaries in the Association and Development Programs in the Community

The eight CSC/CBFM FB-respondents are active members of the association, regularly attend monthly meetings of the association and participate in the *bayanihan* activities of the *barangay*. Three of the respondents are officers of the association while one was formerly the president of the association. As regards the *Barangay* activities, they all participate in the Clean and Green program, tree planting, maintenance of physical infrastructure, booth display of farm products during fiestas, and maintenance of peace and order in the *Barangay as Barangay Tanod* (community-based peace and order enforcers). One of the respondents participated in information dissemination on anti-rabies and piggery raising. Only three of eight respondents had participation in *Barangay* development activities prior to the issuance of CSC/CBFMA in light of their being former *Barangay* Officials at the time.

Based on the results of focus group discussion (FGD) with the officers of the association, the farmer-members participated in the implementation of the five-year Work Plan of the association in coordination with the DENR-CENRO. The farmer-members participate in all the activities of the association for as long as they are not in conflict with their farm activities.

On the other hand, the results of the FGD with the *Barangay* Officials confirmed the participation of the CSC/CBFM beneficiaries in *barangay* development activities such as: participation during fiestas wherein they have booths displaying their farm products, attendance in *barangay* meetings and trainings, as "*Barangay Tanod*", and as elected *Barangay* Officials. They added that those who do not participate are either lazy, busy with farm activities, or just attend when there are projects in the *Barangay* wherein they are able to avail of services, while others are shy to join because they are uneducated.

As regards the two Homestead Patent (HP) respondents, the older one participated in the clean and green project, tree planting, maintenance of physical infrastructure, spring development in the *barangay*, and in the construction of roads, school buildings and a day care center. The younger HP respondent has had no participation in any of the *Barangay* development activities because he was not aware of them.

D. Peace and Order in the Community

Three out of eight CSC/CBFM FB-respondents observed an improvement in the peace and order situation in their community since Barangays Talacdan and Sura were covered under the CBFMA. These *barangays* were formerly under the control of New People's Army (NPA). Some of the respondents admitted that they had to pay "revolutionary taxes" for peaceful coexistence with the rebels. With the issuance of CBFMA in 2000, majority of the awardees/beneficiaries in Barangays Talacdan and Sura were former rebels (i.e. members of the New People's Army). Moreover, based on an interview with the Vice Mayor of the Municipality of Cauayan,

the rebel returnees were given livelihood and housing projects through the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) under the Office of the President.

The HP respondents also cited an improvement in the peace and order situation in their community because they can now freely communicate among the residents in the barangay and they no longer pay "revolutionary tax."

X. OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED AND/OR IMPLEMENTED IN THE COMMUNITY WHICH BENEFITED THE CBFM BENEFICIARIES AND PATENT HOLDERS

According to the officers of SONFOPA, aside from the CARP funded projects implemented in Barangays Talacdan and Sura covered by the CBFM-CARP Project, these two barangays are included among the 19 barangays covered by the Tabla Valley Project being implemented by the DENR from 2008 to 2009 through funding support obtained by the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Watershed Development Program. The Tabla Valley Project includes soil water conservation through the planting of bananas, pineapple and fruit trees to prevent soil erosion. The Project was contracted by the NIA with the Southern Negros Forest Occupancy Permittees Association (SONFOPA) for a period of two years (2008 to 2009) covering a total area of 100 hectares cultivated by 70 farmer-beneficiaries in Barangay Talacdan and 30 farmer-beneficiaries in Barangay Sura. A farmer-beneficiary is given Php9,800 per hectare as incentive for planting pineapple and bananas and for the adoption of contour farming. An individual contract with the association was executed by each farmer-beneficiary. Many farmers within the CBFM area wanted to avail of the project but due to insufficient funds, not all were accommodated.

Based on interview with the Municipal Vice Mayor of Cauayan (who was then the Municipal Mayor and signatory to the CBFM Agreement between the SONFOPA and the DENR when it was forged in 2000), the following support projects and services were implemented by the Municipal Government in Barangays Talacdan and Sura:

1. The Tabujara village has been established in Sitio Binakay, Barangay Talacdan from November 2008 to the present which amounted to P1.4 M for the victims of the military's "Operation Thunderbolt" who were displaced in the area. The Tabujara village is a core shelter program of Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) which has programmed to build 20 dwelling units or houses, of which 10 are already completed and ready for turnover to the project beneficiaries.
2. An amount of Php37,500 was provided by the LGU for the Food for Work Program for the food of the farmers who participated in the construction of the houses in the Tabujara village.

3. A Water Impounding System (WIS) was installed in 2004 by tapping water from a spring but this did not become operational because it was allegedly destroyed by some people in the area due to political rivalry. The municipal government of Cauayan initially provided a share of PhP600,000. An additional amount of PhP250,000 was released by the municipal government of Cauayan for the repair of the system. The repair of the water system is currently being undertaken by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH).
4. The PhilHealth services were implemented for the indigents as certified by the DSWD wherein 183 indigents benefited in Barangay Talacdan.
5. Electric generator worth P60,000 was given to Sitio Binakay in Barangay Talacdan which benefited a cluster of 15 households.
6. A budget allotment of PhP500,000 from the KALAHI-CIDDS was provided for the construction of farm-to-market road (FMR) from Sitio Binakay to Barangay Sura. The amount of PhP500,000 is part of the P22.5 million given by KALAHI-CIDDS to the municipal government of Cauayan for the construction of a FMR accessing 25 barangays in the municipality.
7. A Self-Employment Assistance Program has been implemented which benefited 25 women-members of an organization. This Program is still on-going.
8. In 2008, corn seeds were provided by the Department of Agricultural (DA) to the CBFM farmer-beneficiaries in Barangay Talacdan who were cultivating a total of 400 hectares.

In a Focus Group Discussion (FGD) conducted with the Barangay Officials of Talacdan, they cited the several support services and projects that were implemented in the barangay which benefited the CBFM beneficiaries:

1. The support services/projects provided in the area through the annual allocation of a Barangay Development Fund (BDF) from the International Revenue Allotment (IRA) of the provincial/municipal governments are: road maintenance and rehabilitation in 2008 amounting to P130,000 covering 14 sitios in Barangay Talacdan; construction of a farm-to-market road amounting to P70,000 to P90,000 per year wherein the municipal government gives a counterpart in the form of equipment, diesel, and additional cash if the fund is not sufficient; construction of a market building and a stage at the barangay plaza in 2008; installation of iron grills in the barangay multipurpose hall worth PhP20,000 in 2008; construction of five day care centers through the funding support from the provincial government and the barangay IRA. Two of the five day care centers, which are funded by the barangay IRA are still for completion. These are in Sitios Malabong and Mumbay in Barangay Talacdan.
2. The Department of Agriculture (DA) through the Provincial Agriculturist (PA) and the Municipal Agricultural Officer (MAO) provided subsidy in the purchase of

certified hybrid seeds of palay in 2008. For a sack of palay worth PhP800, the farmers paid only PhP400 per sack. An amount of PhP70,000 was also provided by the DA in 2005 for the purchase of farm inputs for the corn seed production project. A Farmers' Field School on Crop Production was conducted by the Provincial Agriculturist in 2006 to 2007. It was a one-day class for 25 farmers as participants. On-Farm Research was also implemented by the DA Provincial Office which benefited 17 farmers, two of which are from the CBFM area.

3. The construction of a concrete road from the national to the barangay proper of Talacdan has been started in 2007 which amounted to PhP200,000 drawn from the Congressional Development Fund (CDF) of the Representative of the Sixth District of Negros Occidental.
4. From the national budget, four additional rooms were constructed for the elementary school building in Sitio Baslay, Barangay Talacdan. Two rooms were constructed in 2006 by a private contractor. Another room was constructed in 2007 by the Engineering Battalion of the Philippine Army. One more room was constructed in 2008 by a private contractor.
5. Water Impounding Systems (WIS) were installed by the Engineering Battalion of the Philippine Army in 2004 worth PhP900,000 which serves the whole barangay of Talacdan.
6. The QUEDANCOR has provided loans to sugarcane and corn farmers from 2004 to present in the amount of PhP20,000 to PhP60,000 depending on the farm area. A total of 150 farmers had availed of loans but 90 percent of them were unable to pay due to low price of sugar and high cost of farm inputs like fertilizer.

Notwithstanding the support services provided by the SONFOPA and the Municipal Government, only four out of the eight CBFM respondents have benefited. These four CBFM respondents benefited from the DENR-UNDP funded program on strengthening of the ISF areas implemented from 1990 to 1999. The projects under this program are: small water impounding structure installed in 1991 and provision of piping materials; training on contour farming held in 1991 in Bansalan, Agusan del Sur; training on plant propagation held in 1996 in Davao del Sur; construction of access trail in remote sitios in 1991 and 1995; training on leadership and human relations; and multipurpose shed in 1992. Two of the four CBFM respondents benefited from the livelihood projects implemented by the DENR such as production of free-range chicken, goat raising, carabao raising and piggery. One of the four CBFM respondents attended training conducted in 2001 by the DENR and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) on coconut craft and *pandan* weaving and another one attended the training conducted by QUEDANCOR in 2003 on organic fertilizer making.

The two Homestead Patent respondents benefited only from the construction of a national highway which traversed their barangay and the spring development

implemented through the Congressional Development Fund (CDF) of the Representative of the Sixth District of Negros Occidental.

XI. ADDITIONAL PROGRAM/PROJECT INTERVENTIONS NEEDED BY THE CSC OR CBFM AWARDEES AND PATENT HOLDERS

Given the inadequacy of the support services availed of by both the CSC/CBFM and HP respondents, they are all in need of additional program interventions that will help them improve their farm productivity and household income. The most common need is farm capital for their farming operations. Two of the respondents are in need of a carabao and farm equipment that they can use in their farms, while one respondent wants that the barangay road to be improved to easily transport farm products to the market at a lower cost. The other respondents cited the need for free certified hybrid palay seeds, farm equipment that would facilitate land preparation for planting, additional livelihood projects, subsidized fertilizers, palay and corn seeds, price support on farm products, and food for work program.

XII. PERCEPTIONS ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE FARMER-BENEFICIARY RESPONDENTS

A. Socio-Economic Condition of the FBs (2008)

Six out of the eight CSC/CBFM FB-respondents perceive that their household income and farm production have improved since they became recipients of the CBFM-CARP projects. Although their farm production has improved, their farm incomes have either stagnated or regressed due to high cost of farm inputs. As a result of improvement in the household incomes of the respondents, their capacity to send their children to school has also improved. The two respondents who perceive no improvement in their household income became CARP project recipients only in 2008 and 2009.

In the case of HP respondents, they likewise perceive an improvement in their farm production and household income but not in farm income since the issuance of Homestead Patents. They attribute their low farm income to the high cost of farm inputs, low price of farm products set by the traders, and high cost of farm labor, i.e. at PhP80 per day without food and PhP70 per day with food. The capacity of the HP respondents to send their children to school has improved.

From the perspective of the Officers of the People's Organization, i.e. the Southern Negros Forest Occupancy Permittees Association, (SONFOPA), the socio-economic conditions of the CBFM-CARP project recipients have improved in term of household income, farm production, farm income, household assets (only for some CBFM-CARP project recipients) and their capability to send their children to school.

On the other hand, the Barangay Officials were unable to give their perceptions on the socio-economic conditions of CSC/CBFM awardees because they are unaware of

the projects implemented in the CBFM area. They observed that there is no improvement in the farm production of the farmers in the CBFM area due to the high cost of farm inputs which is not within the reach of the common farmers.

B. Level of Satisfaction on the Socio-Economic/Political Factors in the Community

Most of the CSC/CBFM FB-respondents are satisfied with the livelihood opportunities, health-related services, potable water supply, electricity and peace and order in the area. They showed dissatisfaction over the roads and vehicles plying in the area. During the rainy season, no vehicle could service in their area due to rough and muddy roads. Only carts driven by carabaos or horses serve as their means of transportation. During the dry season, four *habal-habals* (motorcycles with passenger cabs) ply their area and charge Php20/passenger. Jeeps ply the barangay once a week and charge each passenger Php10.

C. Quality of Life of the Farmer-Beneficiary Household (2008)

On the quality of life perceived by the CBFM FB-respondents, their responses vary. They were asked to rate the quality of life of their households in 2008 on a scale of 1 – 10, wherein “10” denotes the best quality of life and “1” the worst quality. One of them gave a rating of “7” because he has five children who already finished their college education and he can maintain the household expenses of his family out of his farm income.

Five FB-respondents expressed they are on level “5” for the following reasons: able to maintain the food needs of the family and improved peace and order situation in the area (1 respondent); contented with the lands provided by the government (1 respondent); project recipients (2 respondents); and able to send children to school (1 respondent). Another one gave a rating of “3” because only two of his children are left schooling and six of his children already finished their college education (Table 2).

As regards the perception of the two HP respondents on the quality of life of their household in 2008, the younger respondent gave a rating of “6” which indicates a moderately good quality of life. According to the respondent, he is able to meet the household expenses and the other needs of his family. The older respondent gave a rating of “3” indicating a very slight improvement in the quality of life of his household since the issuance of his Homestead Patent. His rating is based on the difficulty of life due to the high cost of living. The older HP respondent was able to improve his housing conditions and acquired household assets through financial assistance provided by his daughter working in a pharmaceutical company, while the younger respondent was able to improve his house and acquire household assets through the income derived from his farm. According to both HP respondents the peace and order situation in the area has greatly improved. They both claim that their farm income has not improved due to high cost of farm inputs.

Table 2. Present Quality of Life as Perceived by the Respondents in 2008

Respondent No.	Quality of Life	Reasons
CBFM-FBs		
1	5	Can afford to eat 3 times a day, can avail of credit, and improved peace and order situation in the area
2	3	Only two children are schooling, the rest (6) already finished their college education
3	5	Contented with land provided to him by the government, although the support projects are insufficient
4	7	Able to finance and maintain the household expenses, five of the children have already finished college, and the rest are still schooling
5	3	Three of the children are college graduates, the rest are still schooling receives remittances from two sons working abroad
6	5	A project recipient in 2001 & 2008, and he has nine children
7	5	With the income derived from his farm, he was able to send his children to school
8	5	By joining SONFOPA in 2003 and through the earnings derived from working as hired laborer in other farms, he was able to improve his 4.0 hectare-farm.
HP Holders		
9	3	High cost of living due to increase in prices of all commodities
10	6	Able to maintain the household expenses and the needs of his family

XIII. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE CSC/CBFM AWARDEES AND PATENT HOLDERS

Land boundary conflict is one of the common problems of the farmers in the CBFM area. Non-CSC respondents within the CBFM area do not know their exact areas of cultivations. They want CSCs to be issued on their individual cultivation. Their association has assisted in resolving their problems with the help of the DENR-CENRO and Barangay Officials in the area.

The other problems raised are: lack of farm capital, high cost of fertilizer and poor farm-to-market roads. These problems were confirmed by the Barangay Officials, Officers of the association, and concerned DENR-CENRO staff.

The CBFM Unit Head of the CENRO in Kabankalan City confirmed that the problems in the study site are land boundary conflicts, social dynamics (factions) within the People's Organization (PO), and poverty. The delay in the release of project funds from the DENR Regional Office was also cited as a problem.

On the other hand, the problem encountered in the implementation of the CBFM-CARP project was the absence of counterpart funds of the association for labor. The labor should have been assumed by the association. However, the association has no funds for mobilization or operating expenses. The project proposal prepared by the association with the assistance of DENR-CENRO included at least 15 percent in the budget to be allocated by the association for labor expenses, but this was disapproved by the Committee *en banc* at the DENR Central Office.

For the Homestead Patent respondents, the common problems are land boundary conflict and the inability to pay land taxes. Their non-payment of land taxes delays the registration of their patents with the Register of Deeds (ROD). Since many patent holders were unable to pay their yearly land taxes, the GMA *Handog Titulo* Program was implemented in 2008 wherein the DENR, in collaboration with the LGU, facilitated the issuance of patents to qualified occupants of public A & D lands. Hence, many Homestead and Free Patents were issued to qualified farmers in 2008. Under this program, the registration fee of Php100 was free but the payment of land taxes was not condoned.

In an interview with the concerned CENRO staff, the problems encountered by the Patent Holders are: the reclassification of timberland or forestal areas into A & D lands which thereby resulted to the issuance of patents in lands with 18 percent slope and above (e.g. KKK and GOL lands); non-provision of support services to patent holders; unstable peace and order situation in the area; and non-survey of lands to resolve boundary conflicts. If the farms are not yet surveyed by DENR, there is no improvement normally introduced by the farmers because of boundary conflict, but once they are surveyed, the farmers start improving and investing in the land. The key informants from the CENRO also cited that homestead patent holders do not pay real property taxes because allegedly the members of the NPA also collect taxes from them in form of "revolutionary tax."

XIV. AWARENESS ON THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY-BASED FOREST MANAGEMENT (CBFM) PROJECT

Seven of the eight CSC/CBFM FB-respondents are aware of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) which they either heard over the radio or from DENR personnel and neighbors, but five of them do not know the meaning of the CARP. On the other hand, the meaning of CBFM is understood by all the CSC/CBFM FB-respondents because they are all project beneficiaries. They are not aware that the funds of the support services projects were sourced from the CARP.

Based on the focused group discussion (FGD) held with the Barangay Officials of Talacdan, they are aware of CARP. They said it is about land distribution, and FBs land obligations which they heard from the DAR personnel and over the radio. They are also aware of the CBFM when the SONFOPA Chairman accredited the name of the association to the barangay. They are not aware of projects provided to FBs in the CBFM area of Talacdan because the transactions concerning the projects are directly coursed by the DENR-CENRO to the association.

During the FGD with the Officers and members of SONFOPA, most of them admitted that they are not aware of the CARP. Only two knew about CARP because they have relatives who are CLOA holders. The staff from DENR-CENRO admitted its failure to explain the source of project funds to the project beneficiaries in 2001.

On the other hand, the two Homestead Patent respondents are aware of the CARP. The younger respondent heard about it over the radio while the older respondent learned about it from the orientation briefing on CARP he attended as the former BARC Chairman. The knowledge on CARP by the older HP respondent is only limited to a mode of land acquisition and distribution (LAD), i.e., Voluntary Offer to Sell (VOS), while the younger one does not know its meaning at all.

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

A. Boundary Conflicts

The CBFM area covers a total of 3,411.8147 hectares comprising portions of Barangays Talacdan, Sura, Molobolo and Lumbia. It covers 292 farmers, of which 181 members are CSC holders and 111 are non-CSC holders. Due to the absence of specific delineations of individual tillages or areas actually occupied by the CBFM awardees, boundary conflicts arise among the non-CSC holders. As a consequence of lack of funds, the DENR is unable to undertake parcellary surveys required for the issuance of Certificates of Stewardship. On the other hand, there are problems created by the CBFM awardees themselves by removing monuments installed in their farms to increase the area of their tillage.

B. Double Titling on Public A & D Lands

Based on a key informant interview in the DENR-CENRO, there are public A & D lands where Certificates of Landownership Awards (CLOAs) were issued by the DAR and Homestead Patents were also issued by the DENR on the same lands. This problem has emerged due to non-coordination of the DAR fieldmen with the DENR and the absence of ocular investigation in the area before the processing of documents for the issuance of titles.

C. Issuance of Homestead/Free Patents in Non Alienable and Disposable (A&D) Lands

Before the implementation of the CARP, there were homestead and free patents issued in timberlands and forestal areas which are subject for cancellation because these are considered fake titles. This problem emerged when homestead and free patent holders decided to have their lands covered under Voluntary Offer to Sell (VOS) of the CARP or have their lands transferred to their children only to find out that they can not be disposed of because the lands are within the classification of the non-A & D lands. This was the result of there being no certification required from the DENR-CENRO/PENRO or Regional Technical Director (RTD) that the land is A & D before the land is covered under the VOS. Since 1999, however, the DAR has been required to secure a certification from the DENR-CENRO as to whether the lands to be covered under VOS is within the classification of public A & D lands.

To address the problem on fake titles, the DENR has implemented the "Anti-Fake Title Program" since 1998. Under this Program, the DENR-CENRO conducts field investigations to determine if the land is within the timberland or forestall area as indicated in the land classification map prepared by the NAMRIA. The cancellation of title/patent is a long process from the DENR-CENRO, to the Regional Technical Director (RTD) of DENR, then to the Office of the Solicitor General who acts as lawyer for the government in filing the case for the cancellation of titles. Then, the cancellation proceedings will be conducted by the Regional Trial Court (RTC) where the land is located, after which the RTC Judge decides on the cancellation of titles. The implementation of the "Anti-Fake Title Program" is supposed to be a continuing process but it is constrained by the non-availability of funds for the conduct of field investigations.

Although the results of field investigations conducted by the DENR-CENRO show that the actual use or status of the land is no longer forestal area or timberland, the homestead/free patent titles that were issued have to be cancelled. The lands have to be reclassified as alienable and disposable before these can be acquired by the government for distribution to farmer-beneficiaries or before these can be transferred to legal heirs. The reclassification of lands is also a longer process because it has to be deliberated upon by both Houses of Congress and approved by the Office of the President through the issuance of a Presidential Proclamation. Considering that reforestation is one of the current priority thrusts of the government, this may not be included among the priority bills for deliberation by Congress.

D. Selling of Certificates of Stewardship Contracts/Homestead and Free Patents

Based on interview with the CSC/CBFM and HP respondents and results of FGD with the Officers of the SONFOPA, there were a few CSC and HP holders who have sold their awarded lands primarily for financial needs of the family and other emergencies. Others sold their lands because of transfer of residence and to seek greener pastures. This is confirmed in the DENR-CENRO monitoring report which showed that twenty eight (28) out of 292 CBFM farmer-beneficiaries have already sold their rights over the land.

In the selling of land rights, the farmer-sellers usually look for buyers most of which are either relatives or other farmers in the area. After the transaction, the seller leaves the area to start a new life while the buyer continues planting the land with the same crops being planted in the area. There were no changes in land use after the sale of land rights.

Only two out of eight CSC/CBFM respondents confirmed that there are also CSC/CBFM awardees who have mortgaged their land rights for financial reasons but the awardees were able to redeem their lands after two years.

E. Absence of Cumulative Data in the Annual Accomplishment Report on Homestead and Free Patent Processing and Issuance.

The Annual Accomplishment Reports prepared by the PENRO and CENRO do not have the cumulative data on the number of Homestead and Free Patents processed and issued to farmer-beneficiaries/recipients and the total area involved in hectares. The accomplishment reports available at both offices are by year disaggregated by municipality and gender. Moreover, the reports have no data on scope or target in terms of area and number of farmers for patent processing and issuance.