

A Dream Come True for Mang Fredo
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As he went about his daily tasks of tilling and nurturing the land that was not his, he nurtured the dream of owning that land amidst the turmoil and strife that was prevalent in the area.

In 1993, the day finally came. Alfredo Mariño Segovia, or Mang Fredo was now the proud landowner of a parcel of land from the Siari Valley Estate, which was voluntarily offered for sale under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). The landholding, formerly owned by the landed family of the Mendezonas, covered 1,133 hectares of agricultural land. Mang Fredo, as one of the identified beneficiaries, was awarded a 1.2 and 1.7 ha. planted to rice and coconuts, respectively.

Mang Fredo continued his relentless effort and hard work in his farm now that it is his own. His annual net income from the rice land from two croppings has an average of PhP 185,000. He likewise derives sufficient income from the cocoland, which is intercropped with mango, cassava, squash, root crops, and corn. He has also ventured into coco wine production, or "tuba", which nets him an additional monthly income of PhP 3,000.

He strived hard and saved to buy properties within and outside the community, foremost of which is a 4,000 square meter lot where he built his home. They now also own a 1,000 square meter farm lot and a 137 square meter residential lot in Poblacion, Sindangan where he intends to construct a boarding house. He has also leased an additional 1.5 ha agricultural land, which is planted to palay. Aside from the farms, Mang Fredo is into poultry and livestock raising.

We, the validation team, were amazed when we were invited into his home, filled with conveniences and furnishings, such as colored television set with accessories, karaoke, videoke, and refrigerator. They also have a pressure tank that supplies water for household use and gardening. Mang Fredo has also constructed a big warehouse, where he keeps all his farm equipments, like rice thresher, hand tractors, mud boat, welding machine, and motorcycles.

Despite all the blessings that he has received, he believes that nothing stays forever. With this in mind, he opened several savings accounts in different banks, such as the Metrobank, Rural Bank of Dipolog, and the Savings and Credit Center within the ARC. The latter awarded him as the "highest saver depositor", for maintaining a deposit of PhP 50,000 for five consecutive years.

Mang Fredo does not just devote all of his time to farming. He also takes part in the affairs of the SVARBEMCO as BOD and also as chairman of the agriculture and fisheries committee. He was likewise elected twice as barangay councilor.

He never wastes time, balancing his day with serving God, his family and their sources of livelihood and his community. He is very active in their church as the present chapel president and trainor-facilitator.

He attributes his success to God, who he acknowledges as the source of his wisdom, good health, and patience. He believes that nothing is impossible with God. He cannot help but become sentimental whenever he recalls the hardships that he and his family faced.