

COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PROFILE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Title:

Livelihood Development Program through Organic Ubi Production, Processing and Preservation

2. Project Type:

Technical Assistance/Capital Forming Project

3. Project Components:

- a.) Community Organizing
- b.) Capability Building
- c.) Capital Outlay - Establishment of Ubi Processing Facility

4. Project Location:

The project will focus on two barangays in Alburquerque, namely Basacdacu and Toril.

II. PROJECT STATUS

The project is still in the Proposal Stage. It involves the strengthening of People's Organization, specifically the Ubi Growers, and providing them technical and financial assistance for livelihood initiatives.

A project profile is available for this proposal. Initial analysis and study have been made to come up with realistic and practical scheme in terms of project location, the required technical assistance, equipment support and the general scope of the project.

The project is proposed for funding from local and foreign agencies willing to extend assistance in this type of project. The Municipality of Alburquerque is committed to put up a counterpart fund to share the cost of the project.

III. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

a. Project Background

Alburquerque is one of the coastal towns in the province of Bohol with a total land area of 2,865 hectares, of which 19.94% or 571.5 hectares are devoted for rice, corn,

rootcrops, vegetables, fruit trees and coconuts plantation. About ten hectares are planted with rootcrops like ubi and camote.

The municipality is composed of eleven (11) barangays, six (6) of which are in the coastline and five (5) are in the inland/upland areas. Fishing is the major source of income of coastal barangay inhabitants while farming in the upland areas.

Crops commonly grown by farmers are ubi, camote, corn and bananas. Few are planting rice due to limited planting area and absence of irrigation facility in the municipality.

The two focused barangays in the project - Basacdacu and Toril are both inland areas, where people till their lands for subsistence and occasionally for small-scale commercial ventures. With limited opportunities, these areas have been considered priorities for economic development and assistance. Based on the survey conducted in 2004 using the Poverty Database Monitoring System, these two barangays have high levels of deprivation in terms of, among others, income and unemployment. In Barangay Toril, there were about 77 households or 56.20% of the total number of households in the barangay that earned an income below the income threshold of P10,200.00 per year. Barangay Basacdacu, on the other hand, also showed an alarming rate of 49.03% under-income households. In terms of unemployment, 19.32% of persons aging 16 to 65 years old were unemployed in Barangay Basacdacu. Unemployment rate in Toril was recorded at 12.06%. With these indicators, it is essential to improve the levels of income in these areas, with agriculture-based development as a major strategy.

Based on records of the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist, ubi production is dominant in the two barangays with about 100 households growing different kinds of ubi. This number represents 5.5% of the total number of households in the entire municipality.

Harvest season for ubi lasts for two months - from April to May. The average volume of production per farmer every season is 150 kilograms. The Ubi crop are stored in households' respective houses and sold within the locality during market days. Some people sold their produce in Tagbilaran City. At times buyers from the city go to the municipality to buy larger volume of kinampay and baligon-on Ubi, the violet-colored varieties.

To encourage the ubi growers in these barangays to produce more ubi and use organic fertilizer, the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) recommended for the provision of technical assistance to people engage in the production of this high value crop. To develop the Ubi industry in the area, it is essential to build the Ubi-based products by way of capacity enrichment for the people. Ubi growers may be trained and provided initial processing and preservation facilities. Assistance shall also be provided to build linkages for ubi products. Instrumental to the success of this initiative is organizing the local communities in the two barangays and pull together their resources, labor and capabilities to create an ubi-based organization. This will provide better economic opportunities for barangay inhabitants. Financial assistance in form of revolving fund can be extended to the ubi growers to start up their organization.

b. Project Linkage

The Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) has been a partner of the Municipal Agriculture Office in the implementation of programs and projects related to agriculture and fishery development. This particular project supports the provincial thrust of pushing for the full development of high value crops, particularly ubi. This also complements PAO's programs in helping LGUs in promoting new farming technologies to farmers such as the use of organic fertilizer.

Linkages can also be established for this project to other programs of National Government Agencies. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and TESDA can be partners in providing skills trainings, seminars and advocacies to ubi growers so that they maybe able maximize their ubi produce, develop ubi-based products and establish marketing ties with trading points in the province.

c. Project Objectives

1. To increase the production of organic ubi (baligon-on and kinampay) in barangays Basacdacu and Toril of Alburquerque, Bohol;
2. To provide technical assistance to 100 ubi growers in barnagay Basacdacu and Toril as regards organic ubi production, processing, product development, preservation and market linkaging;
3. To establish/construct an ubi processing plant and preservation/research center for ubi varieties;
4. To provide alternative source of livelihood to 100 ubi growers by producing ubi-based products through the conduct of skills trainings

d. Sectoral Objectives

This project supports the development thrust of the Provincial and Municipal Governments for sustainable agriculture and food security, as highlighted in the Bohol's Agriculture Master Plan. Improving the income levels of people, especially in rural agricultural areas, is also a direction that this project intends to pursue. Promotion of community-based organization, as a vehicle for livelihood enhancement, is another goal that the project supports.

e. Regional and National Objectives

This project is in line with the program of the National Government on Food Security and Poverty Reduction.

IV. PROJECT FINANCING

a. Funds Needed

The proposed project costs Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00). This covers for outlays for community organizing, capability building, and establishment of Ubi processing facility.

This, however, is an indicative cost. Changes may be made when the formal studies and program of work for the ubi processing facility are completed.

b. Funding Sources

| | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| LGU Counterpart (10%) | = P 50,000.00 |
| External Sources | = P 450,000.00 |
| TOTAL | = P 500,000.00 |

Financial assistance from the Department of Agriculture is also possible.

c. Counterpart Funding

Allocation for agriculture and other livelihood initiatives has been included in the regular budget of the Local Government Unit. At least ten percent (10%) of the total project cost will be appropriated out of the 20% Development Fund of the LGU. Ubi growers also will contribute for the project in form of labor inputs for ubi production.

V. PROJECT BENEFIT AND COST

a. Beneficiaries

One hundred (100) ubi growers are expected to benefit from this undertaking. These farmers had been engaged in growing ubi in their respective barangays, but the problem on who will buy their produce and where they can process and preserve these products have created some level of apprehension that caused farmers to decrease their ubi production. The project will directly benefit those barangay inhabitants who are unemployed, thereby utilizing the unused or underused labor in the barangays.

b. Benefits

The project will build the capacity of ubi growers to enhance their ubi production and engage in activities that will develop ubi-based products and eventually increase household incomes. The organization of ubi growers into an association would provide opportunities to grower-members to be engaged in a much larger scale production with greater and stronger links with demanding markets. The ubi growers can now enjoy a processing facility, which they will own and manage, that would pave the way for the production of new ubi products. The key advantage of this project is allowing ordinary ubi-growers to become active business partners involved in not just the production of the crop, but also in the management and operation of a community-based economic enterprise. This empowers people to be economically active through group effort, thereby strengthening their social capital.

VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

a. Responsible Agencies

The Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) will be the lead agency in putting in place of this project. They will be responsible in organizing and strengthening of the ubi growers in the 2 focused barangays including their registration and accreditation. The MAO will also assist these grower associations in sourcing funds for their other initiatives. For capability-building and enhancement, the MAO, with the assistance from the Provincial Agriculture Office, is responsible for the conduct of training on new technologies of farming, production of ubi-based products, and installation and utilization of processing facilities. Assistance from the DTI and TESDA can be provided especially in the product development and marketing aspects of the project. Construction of the processing facility will be supervised by the Municipal Engineer's Office.

b. Implementation Schedule

| Activity | Time Frame |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Meeting with Ubi Growers | Q4 of 2006 |
| 2. Inspection of ubi farms/cultivated areas | Q4 of 2006 |
| 3. Sourcing of funds | Q4 of 2006 to Q1 of 2007 |
| 4. Strengthening of Ubi Growers thru capability | Q1 to Q2 of 2007 |

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| building activities | |
| 5. Preparation of Program of Works for the Ubi Processing Facility | Q1 of 2007 |
| 6. Bidding Process | Q1 - Q2 of 2007 |
| 7. Construction of the facility | Q2 of 2007 |
| 8. Operation and management of facility | Q3 of 2007 |

c. Administrative Feasibility

Since the lead agency of this project is the Municipal Agriculture Office, they are also responsible in strengthening the organization and making follow thru activities to ensure that the project will succeed. Monitoring and evaluation will be done regularly specially on the operational status of the ubi growers' organization. Coordination with other key responsible agencies and offices will also be maintained to ensure proper execution of the project. Written reports will be submitted to the Local Chief Executive for information and/ or appropriate interventions and action.

d. Social Acceptability

This is a welcome project to all. There is no foreseen negative effect on the environment, health and social interaction of people. Generally, the people, especially the ubi-growers, are expecting better economic returns from this project, improving their living conditions and lessening their levels of deprivation.