

COMPREHENSIVE PROJECT PROFILE

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Title : **Backyard Gardening Project for Better Household Income**

2. Project Type : The project is a capital-forming type of assistance involving the purchase of planting materials for the promotion of backyard gardening for high value crops in 17 Barangays of Municipality of Baclayon. It also covers the provision of Technical Assistance in the training, advocacy and marketing of backyard-based vegetable production.

3. Project Components :

The project has the following components:

- a. Procurement of planting materials and seeds
- b. Land Preparation
- c. Training of beneficiaries
- d. Post-harvest activities and marketing

4. Project Location : The project will be implemented in all 17 Barangays of the Municipality of Baclayon, Province of Bohol

II. PROJECT STATUS

The project is still at the proposal stage although it strengthens existing initiatives for the promotion of backyard gardening throughout the municipality. It has been considered as one of the strategic actions for farming diversification and in increasing incomes of households. The Municipal Government has identified this project a priority and committed to support its implementation. As part of this commitment, a counterpart, in form of financial and human support, will be provided for the project.

III. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Background

The Municipality of Baclayon is a coastal municipality, 7 kilometers from Tagbilaran, the Bohol Province's capital. It is generally an agricultural area with fishing and farming as the main sources of income for most of its people.

While Baclayon may be geographically close to Tagbilaran City, its people have been experiencing certain levels of socio-economic deprivation. Based on the survey conducted in 2006 using the Poverty Database Monitoring System (PDMS) parameters, 1,214 households (69.33% of total households) in the municipality are living below the income threshold. The survey also revealed that 53.97% of the total households are living below the minimum food threshold. Furthermore, about 25.85% of the total working-age persons are unemployed.

With these household situations, the Municipal Government it is essentially proper for the Municipal Government to initiate strategies that can curb the hardships experienced by its constituents. The municipality can build and develop its leading resources – agriculture and fishery, to pull its people out of poverty.

One of the appropriate strategic actions identified for agriculture productivity enhancement is the promotion of backyard gardening in the municipality. This strategy is strongly encouraged to provide alternative livelihood to low-income families especially in the highland coastal barangays. This project is strongly supported by the local executives, as part of the program which was launched by the Provincial Government. It provides opportunities to poor farmers to diversify their farming activities and grow agricultural commodities at their backyard for better cash incentives. Poor farmers in the municipality have been characterized to lack the technical knowledge, capital and initiatives to venture into non-traditional methods of farming or producing high value crops.

The project will basically encourage every household in all 17 barangays of the Municipality to develop their vacant or idle lots for backyard gardening. This approach of gardening does not require large-scale area and that cellophane bags and pots can even be used to grow vegetables. Also, the project will promote vegetable gardening in rice areas, introducing the rice-monggo-cropping system. This will be implemented in Barangays Tanday, Dasitam, La Libertad, Cambanac and San Juan Buenaventura. This cropping system is considered simple and generates good results as successfully implemented in some areas of Davao del Sur. It will produce a second crop and requires no hard labor in land preparation. This will allow farmers to earn alternative income while they leave their rice fields vacant after rice harvesting.

Waste minimization in Baclayon will also be supported by this backyard gardening project. Households will be required to make compost pits where organic fertilizers are produced for gardening purposes. This, in the long run, will

reduce costs of farm inputs and at the same time promote a better environment in communities through household-level solid waste management. Barangay Councils can also support this by enacting ordinance that will encourage the maintenance of compost pit in every household.

This backyard gardening project is also a response to the growing demand for vegetables and high value crops in the municipality and neighboring areas. It has been observed that during market days, most of the vegetable sold in the market come from neighboring municipalities. Local produce only accounts minimal share of the vegetable supply in the market. With this, there is a great potential for local farmers to fill-in this supply gap and take advantage of the technical assistance to produce quality vegetables in marketable volumes. In this way, Bacayon will be on its right path towards food sufficiency and sustainability.

2. Project Linkages

The project is in line with the Food Security initiatives the Provincial and National Governments. It supports enhancement of agricultural productivity as pursued by the Municipal Government through the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO). It complements on-going government efforts in maximizing the utilization of idle lands for better production and economic returns. Also, the project enhances the promotion of organic farming as well as contributes in the solid waste management activities of the municipality.

3. Project Objectives

- a. To provide alternative livelihood opportunities to low income families who are very much affected by the present financial crisis that engulfed society;
- b. To promote food sufficiency and good nutrition in poor households;
- c. To encourage target households to produce their own vegetables and minimize their vegetable purchases in the market;
- d. To promote solid waste management at the household level

4. Sectoral Objectives

The project supports the intention of the agriculture sector in encouraging households to be self-producing in agricultural commodities, especially high value crops and vegetables. This will contribute to the attainment of food-sufficiency in the province. It also facilitates the utilization of idle lands, tilling them to be more productive for better cash inflows to farmers. This will be the project's contribution in the poverty alleviation efforts of the agriculture sector.

5. Regional and National Objectives

The project supports the poverty reduction initiatives of the National Government by making the countryside, especially the rural areas, actively participate in agricultural production. This, in a way, will contribute in ensuring the attainment of food security in the province as well as in the region. Household incomes will also be increased through this project thereby alleviating people from poverty.

IV. PROJECT FINANCING

1. Funds Needed

The project will require P 618,200.00 for its implementation. This will already cover farm inputs for the 17 barangays of the municipality. Detailed project costs are as follows:

KIND	UNIT	UNIT COST	NO. of UNIT	AMOUNT
1. Pechay	100 grams	P 95.00	250 can	P 23,700.00
2. Eggplant	20 grams	305.00	250 can	P 76,250.00
3. String beans	100 grams	130.00	250 can	P32,500.00
4. Tomato	50 grams	305.00	250 can	P 76,250.00
5. Okra	100 grams	120.00	200 can	P 30,000.00
6. Ampalaya	250 grams	850.00	200 can	P 90,000.00
7. Sweet pepper	50 grams	345.00	250 can	P 86,000.00
8. Cucumber	100 grams	185.00	200 can	P 37,000.00
9. Monggo	Kilos	45/ kilos	300 can	P 13,500.00
10. Cellophane	Pack			
	5x5x9	165.00/100	300 packs	P 49,500.00
	7x7x11	345.00/100	300 packs	P 103,500.00
Kaumahan Price				P 618,200.00

Manpower requirements and technical services for the project are to be conducted by appropriate Local and National Government Agencies.

2. Project Financing

The project will be implemented through a counterparting scheme between the Municipal Government and any interested funding/ donor agencies. Financial contributions will be used for the procurement of various farm inputs for the backyard gardening.

3. Funding Source

The project is proposed for funding from the Provincial and National Governments, Non-government Organizations and local or foreign donor agencies.

4. Counterpart Funding

The Municipal Government of Baclayon will provide a counterpart fund equivalent to 10% of the project costs. It will also commit its human resources, through the Municipal Agriculture Office, to provide the necessary technical assistance to the farmer/ household beneficiaries.

5. Financial Viability

The project is financially feasible. Although it involves distribution of planting seeds and provision of technical assistance to farmer-beneficiaries, this project will eventually facilitate the generation of income for these farmers. While the initial capital investment for the project may be subsidized from the project, its long-term impact will translate to sustained vegetable production wherein households can utilize their own roll-over seeds for planting in the succeeding planting period. Fertilizer costs will also be minimized, if not avoided, with the introduction of organic fertilizer (through compost pit), allowing farmers to save extra amounts of cash.

V. PROJECT BENEFITS AND COSTS

1. Beneficiaries

The project will directly benefit the farmers, as well as their family members, in all 17 barangays of the Municipality. This will translate to about 4,000 households, a significant number of which are living below income thresholds.

2. Social Benefits

Providing the beneficiary-farmers with the necessary know-how, technology and initial planting inputs for backyard gardening will allow them to become self-reliant people, capable of increasing their incomes that would facilitate the improvement of their socio-economic conditions. Increased incomes will allow them to provide better nutrition to their household, access education for their children, and even improve their dwellings. It will also encourage the unemployed or underemployed to become productive members of society by spending their time in income-generating backyard gardening.

3. Economic Benefits

The project will basically capacitate those farmers living in highland, lowland or coastal areas in Baclayon to engage in backyard gardening that will provide them the opportunity to earn cash for their families. It does not only provide direct sustenance to households but also the advantage of producing high value crops that is in-demand in the market. The marketing component of the project will provide the farmer-beneficiaries with linkages to definite markets that would buy their produce.

4. Social and Economic Costs

There are no actual or foreseen socio-economic costs of the project.

VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Responsible Agencies/ Persons

The Municipal Government of Bacayon, through the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO)/ DA LGU Staff, will be responsible for the overall implementation and administration of the Backyard Gardening Project. Technical assistance shall also be provided to the beneficiaries in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, Office of the Provincial Agriculture (OPA) and the Provincial Agrarian Office. The farmer-beneficiaries will provide the necessary land and labor/ manpower to implement, manage and sustain the project, as supported by each of the Barangays' Council.

2. Implementation Schedule

ACTIVITIES	MONTH	PERSONS/AGENCY. DEPT. RESPONSIBLE
1. Preparation/submission of project proposal	October, 2006	DA LGU Staff/MAO, MPDC
2. Fund-Sourcing	Oct. – Dec. 2006	DA LGU Staff/MAO, MPDC, Mun. Mayor
3. Finalization of Funding Agreement	Jan. 2007	Funding/ Donor Agencies, Mun. Mayor, Sangguniang Panglungsod, DA-LGU, Barangay Councils
4. Procurement of planting materials	Feb. – Mar. 2007	DA LGU Staff/MAO
5. Training/ Capability Building/ Seminars	Feb. – April, 2007	DA LGU Staff/MAO, DA, OPA, Agrarian Office, Barangay Councils
6. Land Preparation	Feb. – April, 2007	Beneficiaries, DA LGU Staff/MAO, DA, OPA
7. Commencement of Actual Backyard Gardening	May, 2007	Beneficiaries, DA LGU Staff/MAO, DA, OPA, Barangay Councils
8. Post-harvest/ Marketing	April-May 2007	DA Ag. Tech.
9. Monitoring & Evaluation	From start of project to finish date. Quarterly monitoring to be conducted after the project completion	DA Ag. Tech., MPDC

3. Administrative Feasibility

The Municipal Agriculture Office/ DA-LGU Staff will be the direct implementors of the project, under the supervision of the Municipal Mayor. This office has the capacity to handle and manage the project as it is within their expertise and they have already established linkages with the farmers. Although there are several factors to consider in sustaining the project like individual's (beneficiary-farmers) attitudes, interests and time, appropriate management strategies will be undertaken to ensure the project's implementation. Mitigating measures will also be made to lessen the impact of bad weather conditions.

Close supervision, monitoring and evaluation are necessary for the project. As planned, there will be continuous education/ capability-building for all beneficiaries at the barangay level thru farmers meeting, home visits and informal contacts to support the project implementation.

The bottom line for the sustainability of the project is for people to have the right attitudes and aspirations to engage in backyard-level economic activities. It is the people's innovativeness, perseverance and openness to change and failures that would push this project to succeed.

4. Legal and Political Feasibility

There are no legal or political impediments for this project. Municipal leaders are supportive for the implementation of this backyard gardening initiative.

5. Social Acceptability

The people of Baclayon, especially in the target beneficiaries of this project, are very much supportive for this backyard gardening initiative. They have good grasps of the benefits of the project and have appreciated its long-term favorable economic impacts, considering the very minimal land and labor requirements for its implementation. This can be