

ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY 2005-2006

PROGRESS AGAINST THE OBJECTIVE OF STRENGTHENING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR LANDCARE INCLUDED:

- The working partnership with the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines Inc (LFPI) was continued and a more formal involvement of the Foundation in the project's institutional research achieved. Data gathering and preliminary documentation of the research were completed.
- The Landcare Coordinators Network (LCN) continued to develop with the conduct of three workshops and progress of a number of collaborative cross-site initiatives including a Landcare Peoples' Organisation Forum in December. Processes to evaluate the effectiveness of the Network were developed and commenced with preliminary data gathering and documentation of the research completed.
- Local landcare networks (municipal landcare Associations, landcare groups and local government support structures) at the three existing sites of Misamis Oriental, Bukidnon and South Cotabato were significantly strengthened through a total of 18 targeted institutional strategies involving more than 85 separate activities. At the new sites of Bohol and Agusan del Sur, landcare groups and local government institutional support networks were developed through 12 major targeted strategies involving more than 55 separate activities.

PROGRESS AGAINST THE OBJECTIVE OF SUSTAINING AND SCALING UP ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION FARMING SYSTEMS AND DIVERSIFIED LIVELIHOODS INCLUDED:

- Fifty-five major training and networking events were facilitated or provided across the five sites. In the area of diversification of livelihoods, these included training and exposure to expertise in nursery management; the production of forage, high value vegetables, fruit trees (durian, lanzone, rambutan, mangosteen), livestock (goats, poultry), coffee, coconut, abaca, bamboo, mushrooms, medicinal plants, bananas, wood products and fish; and integrated crop production. In the area of conservation farming systems, the events included training in soil and water conservation, agroforestry, permaculture, soil testing, integrated pest management, biodynamic production systems, natural farming technologies and vermi-composting.
- Eight major cross-visits to landcare sites in Claveria, Lantapan and Bohol were facilitated, involving more than 500 participants.
- Linkages were facilitated between landcare groups and associations and major technical and marketing service providers such as the Vegetable Industry Council of Southern Mindanao (VICSMIN) and the Vegetable Industry Development Board (VIDB).

PROGRESS AGAINST THE OBJECTIVE OF ANALYSING AND EVALUATING IMPACTS INCLUDED:

- The process documentation system developed in the previous year was implemented at all sites with Landcare Coordinators capturing issues of importance and reflections on progress through quarterly reporting and nine-monthly review workshops.
- A major characterisation of sites, including country, provincial and municipal data, was commenced during the year. Data on a range of biophysical, socio-economic and socio-political parameters was collected. It is proposed to analyse the collected data to help understand the environment influencing landcare at each site and draw individual site and cross-site conclusions about enabling factors for landcare development. The data will also serve as baseline information for longitudinal studies.
- The research on institutional support structures for landcare including the Landcare Foundation, the Landcare Coordinators Network and selected case studied organisations was largely completed with analysis and documentation now in progress. Preliminary findings highlight the importance of factors such as commitment, competence, leadership, incentives and effective partnerships as key factors in institutional success.
- A major focus of site teams during the year was the profiling of adoption data. Creative methods for collection of adoption data were implemented, including diagnostic cards and incentives to facilitate more rapid collection. An encouraging feature was the involvement of personnel from LGUs, landcare associations and NGO collaborators in the collection of adoption data. Adoption of landcare technologies was again shown to be significant with over 1300 farmer adopters profiled in the established Misamis Oriental site, and over 150 in the new Bohol site.
- A post graduate research officer with the University of Queensland, Jono Newby, joined the project in mid 2006 to support the research team with studies on the economic impacts of landcare.

PROGRESS IN THE COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT INCLUDED:

- A major project team review workshop was conducted in Bohol in November, with more than 30 personnel participating. Project progress for the first nine months and forward work plans for the next nine months were reviewed. Training on extension methods was provided to Landcare Coordinators prior to the workshop and re-echoed to the Landcare Assistants during the workshop. A meeting of the Project Management Committee was held in conjunction with the workshop, where clarification of cross-agency issues and conflicts were resolved.
- An evaluation of the project ezine, *newsMATE*, was completed with the survey showing a high level of support for and satisfaction with the concept.

- A project website and internal web portal www.landcaremates.org was completed and made operational. A start was also made on a complementary web-based image management system for project images.
- The conduct of the review workshop in Bohol facilitated the interfacing between the landcare project team and the project team of the ACIAR Bohol Watershed Project. Seven personnel from the project attended part of the review workshop and the two teams undertook a joint field trip to project sites in Alicia and Pilar.
- A new component of research was added to the project in mid 2006, with the inclusion of research on interfacing vegetable integrated crop management technologies with landcare groups in the South Cotabato and Bukidnon sites. The component brought Ms Valeriana Justo into the project team and the University of Philippines Los Banos (National Crop Protection Center) into the project partnership.