Engaging with Academia and Research Institutions (ARIs) to support Family Farmers and Food System Transformation During and Post COVID-19 Pandemic in Asia

With technical assistance from the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Building partnerships in promoting agroecology and sustainable food systems: The experience of the MASIPAG farmers’ network and the Department of Community Development, University of the Philippines Diliman

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MASIPAG'S VISION AND WHAT WE STAND FOR: a just and humane society that is sustainable where there is holistic development for the people

MISSION

to improve the quality of life of small scale, resource-poor farmers

PHILOSOPHY

people first before profit - reflected in all programs

APPROACHES

bottom up, farmer-ngo-scientist partnership, farmer-led research and mode of transfer and advocacy on issues affecting farmers rights

PROGRAMS

biodiversity conservation, breeding, DSAE, FDAT, LMPS, advocacy and linkaging, ODNS, CCR

GOAL

support local initiatives of resource-poor farmers and their organizations to attain farmers rights over land and production
MASIPAG: Farmers’ control over seeds and technologies

Locally Adapted MASIPAG Rice and Traditional Rice Varieties

- 518 Peoples Organizations
- 60 Non-Government Organizations
- 18 Scientist-partners
- 67 farmer rice breeders;
- 21 corn breeders
- 100+ farmer-trainors (volunteers)

- On-farm research resources
- 226 PO-managed trial farms +10 back-up
- 9 PO-managed chicken gene pools
- Rice collections: more than 2000 varieties, including farmer-bred lines

- Practitioners in 49 provinces, and estimated to have reached 35000 smallholder households
Adaptive technologies and innovations: FDAT (Farmer-developed and adapted technologies)

- Decreased chemical fertiliser and pesticide use
- Organic farmers have eliminated the use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides and use a variety of organic methods. In contrast, 85% of conventional farmers use fertiliser and 80% continue to use pesticides.
- 97% of the full organic group use alternative pest management.

Isabao Banza, Calumpuyan, Nueva Ecija
Local marketing of organic products

Farmers’ Guarantee System:
- Organic standards
- Internal quality control
- Product and market development
- Processing facilities
- Management capacity bldg.
League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities and Cities in the Philippines

CONGRATULATIONS!
PROVINCE OF NORTH COTABATO FOR PASSING A LAW PROHIBITING GOLDEN RICE.

GOLDEN RICE

MUNICIPAL INTEGRATED ORGANIC FARM

LOAMCP Philippines
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10068

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF ORGANIC AGRICULTURE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Press Release

Network of PGS practitioners welcomes newly amended Organic Agriculture law, gears for “pro-small farmers” implementation
People's Review of the SDGs:
Rising above the health and economic crisis in the time of COVID-19
July 5 to 19, 2021

SDGWatch 2021 forum series
‘Honor and excellence in the service of the people’
(University of the Philippines Charter)

Teaching and Learning Principles of the Department of Community Development

• Praxis – learning from theory and practice
• Community engaged Learning, combining learning and service to the communities
• Building life-long partnership and social solidarity
Principles into action

• community integration/immersion as a means for consciousness raising and grounded theorizing

• Support to efforts of marginalized and disadvantaged sectors and communities in organizing and organizational development, community education, trainings, participatory action research, program implementation and management, advocacy campaigns

• Learning with and service to the community

DCD Field Instruction Program

Department of Community Development
College of Social Work and Community Development
University of the Philippines, Diliman
Students Integrate with the community – living and working with the community; engaging in farming and other production and community activities, participating in community development project implementation
Students’ fieldwork activities in 2019: supporting the Organizational Development of MASIPAG farmers’ organizations by building their capacity for undertaking community education, participatory planning, monitoring and evaluation, collective leadership
Fieldwork of students in 2020 - Research on MASIPAG farmers’ agroecological farming practices

MASIPAG is a Philippines-based, farmer-led network, that brings together people’s organisations, NGOs, and scientists focusing on community empowerment, sustainable land management, food security, and food sovereignty. MASIPAG advocates for greater control of genetic and biological resources by farmers, and promotes organic agriculture and associated knowledge. To date, MASIPAG has reached more than 30,000 farmers in the Philippines, and works together with 510 people’s organisations, 41 NGOs, 20 church-based development organisations, and 15 partner scientists. MASIPAG also promotes agroecological systems and people-led development at the regional level, through their Asian People’s Exchange programme, implemented in partnership with the Asia Pacific branch of the Pesticide Action Network.
Fieldwork activities in 2020

- Support to various MASIPAG online/social media advocacy campaigns
- Fund raising for relief operations
In November 2021, fieldwork students and farmers’ organizations undertook a participatory process of developing:

- community-based participatory action research on the impact of glyphosate on farmers and women
- Training on farmer-led advocacy, lobbying and networking
Seeds of hope in the midst of the health and food crisis:
The MASIPAG farmers’ response and contribution to social solidarity building during the pandemic
Highlights of the research

• Small farmers’ agroecological practices enabled them to help feed poor communities and sectors during the pandemic

• The centrality of women’s reproductive work/care work in the private and public spheres, in social and economic development

• Farmers’ critical role in building social solidarity that asserted more sustainable development models such as agroecology and farmer-led and sustainable food systems during the pandemic