REGIONAL POLICY FORUM
From Farms to Schools:
Towards Sustainable and Inclusive School-Based
Food and Nutrition Programs in Southeast Asia
Crimson Hotel, Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Philippines
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School-plus-Home Gardens Program

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SEARCA’s 11th Five-Year Plan

VISION
A leading enabler and champion of excellence in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia

MISSION
To elevate the quality of life of agricultural families through sustainable livelihoods and access to modern networks and innovative markets

SEARCA aims to provide more context-relevant and valuable services (BETTER), to more stakeholders (BIGGER), in more effective and efficient ways (SMARTER).
School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP): QUICK HISTORY

A Participatory Action Research on School and Community-Based Food and Nutrition Program for Literacy, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in 2016-2017 by the:

- Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA),
- University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)
- Department of Education (DepEd), Philippines Laguna Office

Three-pronged objective: to improve school children’s nutrition, education, and economic well-being

Supported DepEd’s two programs

- Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP)
- School-based Feeding Program (SBFP)

Piloted in 5 elementary schools and 1 high school
Improve the nutritional condition and dietary habits of school-aged children by increasing production of locally adapted vegetables through school gardening and consequently contribute to the community’s food and nutrition security.

**NUTRITION**
Increase diversity and availability of food within the local community that will meet the nutritional needs of children

**EDUCATION**
Increase knowledge and improve skills of students and teachers on food production and nutrition through experiential learning activities

**ECONOMICS**
Reduce food expenses, create savings, and provide an alternative source of income for families
Prevent hunger and malnutrition among school children

DepEd’s Food and Nutrition Programs

- GPP
- SBFP

SEARCA’s S+HGP

- Increase diversity and availability of food within the local community that will meet the nutritional needs of children
- Increase knowledge and improve skills of students and teachers on food production and nutrition through experiential learning activities
- Reduce food expenses, create savings, and provide an alternative source of income for families

The PLUS (+) Factors in school and home gardens:
1. promotion of year-round food production in both schools and home;
2. mobilization of parents in the school gardening activities;
3. allocation of funds by the LGUs;
4. multifunctionality of the school gardens as source of food, nutrition, additional income, and learning gardens;
5. stimulation of the children’s interest in agriculture.
School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP): IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

- Improved nutrition, KAP towards vegetable consumption and production
- Enhancement of school gardens
- Lesson integration into school curricula
- Improved supply and quality of fresh vegetables for SBFP
Enabling environment and support from relevant institutions

School-Plus-Home Gardens: Self-Propelling Model

DepEd + DA + Provincial/Regional Government Units

Provincial/ Local Gov’t Unit

DepEd (Province)

Project Management Team (SEARCA-UPLB-DepEd)

Pilot Schools

Sister Schools

Brother Schools

No school shall be left behind
The School Gardens’ Operations during COVID-19

- DEPED Regional Memorandum (DEPED-4A-RM-20-255) or the **Utilization of the Gulayan sa Paaralan Produce**
- The Schools Division Offices in CALABARZON are directed to allow the Local Government Units (LGUs) to acquire the produce of the GPP to be included in the family food packs of the DSWD and the LGUs.
### School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP):

**TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NUTRITION</th>
<th>EDUCATION</th>
<th>ECONOMICS/BIODIVERSITY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition planning and monitoring</td>
<td>School garden planning (Design, implementation, and maintenance)</td>
<td>Sustainable organic agriculture and crop production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improving 120-day menu for the SBFP</td>
<td>Basic gardening and planting of recommended vegetables and fruit trees, seed production, and locally adapted green technologies</td>
<td>Integrated pest management</td>
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<td>Cooking demonstration of local recipes</td>
<td>Garden plot preparation (soil restructuring/conservation techniques)</td>
<td>Edible landscaping</td>
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<td>Standardization exercise for weight and height measurement</td>
<td>Commodity Planning, Crop Suitability Analysis</td>
<td>Soil Sampling &amp; Analysis using STK</td>
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<td>Menu evaluation</td>
<td>Integrating of gardening concepts (agriculture, nutrition, and climate change) into the curriculum</td>
<td>Soil Conservation Techniques</td>
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<td>School garden M&amp;E</td>
<td>Seedling establishment and crop varieties</td>
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<td>Crafting of sustainability plan</td>
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<td>Developing scaling-up strategies</td>
<td>Crop Cultural Management Practices (Water and Nutrient Management, IPM, Trellising, Weeding/Hill-up, Pruning, Community Seed Banking, etc.)</td>
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<td>Development of Annual Cropping, Farm Plans and Budget</td>
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<td>Natuculture</td>
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<td>Biodiversity Enhancement</td>
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<td>Environmental Sustainability</td>
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School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP):

TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

EDUCATION

- School garden planning (Design, implementation, and maintenance)
- Basic gardening and planting of recommended vegetables and fruit trees, seed production, and locally adapted green technologies
- Garden plot preparation (soil restructuring/conservation techniques)
- Commodity Planning, Crop Suitability Analysis
- Integrating of gardening concepts (agriculture, nutrition, and climate change) into the curriculum
- School garden M&E
- Crafting of sustainability plan
- Developing scaling-up strategies
- Action Planning for a Better Normal (Post-COVID-19 Pandemic)
School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP):

**TIMELINE**

- **2007**
  - SEARCA’s S+HGP Pilot in Laguna
  - Gulayan sa Paaralan (DM No. 293, s., 2007)

- **2016**
  - Workshop on Updating the Action Plans in Busuanga Island Schools
  - Baseline data gathering
  - Training-Workshop on Vegetable Production in Busuanga Island
  - SHGBEE 1 International Conference (Coron, Palawan)

- **2019**
  - Scoping activity in Busuanga (RnK)

- **2020**
  - Study Visit/Benchmarking Activity of Key Stakeholders from Busuanga Island, Palawan to Selected S+HGP Pilot Schools and Municipalities in Laguna

- **2021**
  - E-Training on SHGBE for Busuanga Island

- **2022**
  - Trainer’s Training for Integrating SHGBEE in the Establishment of ATPs and Mini ATPs in Cambodia

- **2023**
  - ON-GOING ACTIVITIES
    - S+HGP Case Study
    - SEL4E Project in Rizal
    - Regional Policy Forum
    - Training on Sustainable Food Production for Schools and Communities in Busuanga
    - PAR Proposal with DepEd Palawan
    - Home Gardening Guidebook + IEC materials
    - SHGBEE 2 International Conference
    - Proposal for Cambodia (CE SAIN)
    - Partnership Agreements (DepEd, LGU, DILG, PSFI, AgriPortal, CE SAIN, etc.)
  - Study Visit/Benchmarking Activity of Key Stakeholders from Busuanga Island, Palawan to Selected S+HGP Pilot Schools and Municipalities in Laguna

- **2022**
  - Edible Landscaping Project of DepEd (Recommended Recipient Schools of Project Funds of up to PHP50K)
Prospects for Further Work and Collaboration

• Expand the S+HGP in the Southeast Asian region
• Strengthen the involvement families through community gardening (e.g. Hapag Program of the DILG, Philippines)
• Involve of industries in S+HGP (e.g. adopt a school) in the sustainability of the program
• Integrate farming families and farmers’ associations in the local food supply for the school-based feeding program
• Develop a general framework/mechanism for new/enhanced school-based food and nutrition programs
Thank you!