The answer to Philippines food security issue cannot be solved by developing large mechanized farms alone but by fostering the development as well of small capital-labor family farms integrating livestock-poultry-fish raising, and vegetable-fruit cultivation.

Small & family-farming is suited for the new-age agriculture than large-scale mechanized farming. The rising income of middle class in the Philippines will bring about the trend on the need for healthier produce coming from farms with emphasis on local food, freshness, variety, seasonality. This change in food consumption pattern will result to the need for transformation in agricultural structure.

The new-age agriculture involves intensive, incremental, and variegated hand labor; it is not for farming that depends on economies of scale but farming compatible with economies of scope. According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture conducted by Philippines Statistics Authority, the average farm size of a farm in the Philippines is 1.29 hectares. Most of this are small scale family farms located in the rural areas of the Philippines. What is even more interesting fact is Philippines has a total of 5.56 million farms/holdings that covers a total of 7.19 million hectares; of this total, 38% of which is under half a hectare size. Small and family farms are diverse, sustainable and manageable. Small & family farms represent an important segment of the Philippines agricultural sector and rural communities.

It is important to note that there are growing number of returning Filipinos, retirees and OFWs going back to the Philippines. These are the new breed of family farmers moving back to the rural communities. They bring along with them resources, education and wealth of experiences. To the many of the OFWs, returning to farming means reconnecting with the families and rural communities that they have left behind for “greener pastures”.

The capitalistic agribusiness serves a certain market and plays a role in the food security issue. However, small farms are numerous and can certainly contribute as well. There is strong need for programs that will foster the development and growth of existing small and family farms; such as empowering and integrating small farms with food processing and marketing, including farm tourism activities. At present, the potentials of small family farms is at a crossroad, with the proper government support and capacity building, the opportunity to become a major contributor in rural development is high.
Prior to the passing of RA 10816, The Farm Tourism Development Act of the Philippines, there are already handful of documented farm tourism activities going on in various places in the Philippines. Most of it are private sector driven and surprisingly most of it are initiated and operated by small and family farms.

In one research conducted by Recio, De Ade, et al. to family farm owners in Batangas offering farm tourism activities, agriculture is one of the most satisfying and rewarding ways to make a living. However to most of these family farmers, commercial monoculture agriculture is not their choice of farming. Integrated and diversified family farming is a preferred option. To many of them, it is a lifestyle choice and personal advocacy over economic reasons. Multifunctional roles of family farmers is emphasized. Farm tourism provides an avenue for additional source of income and revenue for the farm.

The establishment of family farm tourism in rural communities have major socio-economic impact such as increase demand in production of local agricultural products and increase revenue for local government. More importantly, farm tourism activities creates additional job opportunities which eventually help in the improvement of the social and living condition of the local community.

With the passing of the RA 10816, it is expected to bring about interest to many family farms to engage in farm tourism activities. The inherent hospitality of Filipinos particularly in rural communities can change the landscape of rural tourism. With the new breed of growing family farms with educated members of the family, it will be exciting to watch how the landscape evolve.

“...I strongly believe that family farming is an excellent driver for rural development and sustainability. I see a wave of "family farming revolution" coming with many of our returning Filipinos and Overseas Filipino Workers going back to rural communities and tracing back their roots. I don’t see them retiring ... I see them starting a new career in family farming. Bringing in their skills and expertise in many different industries and marrying them in agriculture.”

- Ka Gigi Morris
The Case of MoCA Family Farm RLearning Center Inc.

MFFRLCI is one of the early family farms involved in family farm tourism community. Originally the Morris family started farming for hobby. Realizing that maintaining a family farm is costly if there is not sufficient income derived from the farm; they started to farm for profit. It did not take them long to realize that farming for profit is not the heart of family farming; they then farm for rural development.

With their own resources, skills, education and experiences, they embark on the journey to explore farm tourism using the ideals of small and family farming concept. Performing multi-functional roles, they tapped on some government programs to become training and extension providers and partners for the government institutions.

The Morris family have accomplished to transform their family farm to meet national multi-sector industry standards. It is an accredited farm tourism destination by Department of Tourism; an Extension Service Provider (ESP) for Agricultural Training Institute of Department of Agriculture; and a Private Technical Vocational Institute and Assessment Center for TESDA (Technical Education Skills Development Authority).

After a year of operations, here is the identified outcome and community impact of MFFRLC in their community.

### Outcome/Community Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agricultural Crops Production NC I</strong> TWSP Scholars</td>
<td>- 25 students trained; 25 students assessed; 24 students certified competent&lt;br&gt;<strong>Morris Scholars</strong> - 35 students trained, 39 students assessed; 39 students certified competent&lt;br&gt;Self-paid – 2 students trained, 2 students assessed, 2 students certified competent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agricultural Crops Production NC II</strong> TWSP Scholars</td>
<td>- 74 students trained; 64 students assessed; 64 students certified competent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Food &amp; Beverage Services NC II</strong> TWSP Scholars</td>
<td>- 25 students trained; 25 students assessed; 25 students certified competent&lt;br&gt;<strong>Morris Scholars</strong> - 2 students trained, 2 students assessed; 2 students certified competent</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2 Schools in Batangas Province are now offering Agri Program in their TVL track

- 28 scholars are that K-12 teachers are using their certification for their ranking and possibly opening of agri track TVL

- 6 graduates are gainfully employed

- 12 graduates are seasonal wage earners

- At least 70-85% of K-12 TVL teachers on who will teach in Agri track in Batangas Senior High School will come from MoCA Farm.

- We average at least 100 persons/month guests in our family farm tourism effort. About 85% of income generated goes straight to local economy.

- Involvement in the national level – efforts on promotion and organization of National Database Familyang Filipino Farmers.