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Developing, Planning, and Implementing Inclusive and Sustainable ARD Projects: A Training-Workshop

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Background and Rationale

Southeast Asia is experiencing an unprecedented economic growth. While it has lifted millions out of poverty, hunger, malnutrition, and diseases, Southeast Asian economic growth model makes unsustainable use of natural resources and creates widening inequalities. The degradation of natural resources results into water scarcity and food insecurity. The impact of climate variability and change is also very high, making the region vulnerable to both natural and human-induced disasters.

The growing income disparities and inequality due to poor access to economic opportunities, weak institutional framework and poor delivery of services has further marginalized poor farmers, small farm holders, and indigenous people in the rural areas. The agriculture and rural sector is continuously being marginalized and unable to participate in the broadening and emerging economic opportunities. The road to Southeast Asian prosperity is authentic rights-based approach, inclusive and sustainable

agricultural and rural development that will contribute in the strengthening of human capital and institution and ultimately, food and nutrition security for all.

In this regard, SEARCA is championing inclusive and sustainable agricultural and rural development (ISARD) in the Southeast Asian region. Given its more than 40 years of expertise, SEARCA is promoting an effective model of ISARD. ISARD is anchored on building and empowering human and institutional capacities. SEARCA is undertaking this training-workshop to build ISARD capacities in the region. The training-workshop is focused on two major areas, namely: a) innovative and systems approach in the management of ISARD; and 2) adaptive project management life cycle for ISARD.

SEARCA has partnered with experts and researchers from Fenner School of Environment and Society, Australian National University, to introduce the use of systems-based approach in promoting ISARD. Experts from UP Los Baños will discuss the value of adaptive project management life cycle within the ISARD framework.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this training-workshop, participants will be able to:

1. Discuss the concept, value orientation, features, and components of ISARD;
2. Describe and utilize innovative and integrative systems-based research framework, particularly commodity system approach, commodity trap analysis, and smallholder empowerment in ISARD;
3. Explain principles and approaches of adaptive project management life cycle in ISARD;
4. Prepare a logical framework matrix (LFM) and outcomes-based monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework for an ISARD project; and
5. Package an ISARD project proposal.

Intended Participants

Intended participants of the course are officials and professional/technical staff of the following institutions:

- Government agencies whose mandate is to help small farmers and promote agricultural and rural development (ARD), including state colleges and universities;
- Nongovernment organizations (NGOs) that advocate ISARD in Southeast Asian countries; and
- Multilateral and bilateral development assistance organizations that operate in Southeast Asia.

Modules

The course will start off with a discussion of ISARD model, drivers and domain, value orientation, features, and key components. Then it will move on to the following modules:

- *Module 1: Innovative and Systems-based Research Framework to Promote ISARD*, which focuses on the following topics: 1) commodity system for food and nutrition security; 2) understanding and escaping commodity traps; and 3) interventions to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers; leverage points
- *Module 2: Adaptive Project Management Life Cycle for ISARD*, which discusses the process of mainstreaming inclusive and sustainable development in agricultural and rural development, and which has the following sub-modules:
 - *Module 2a. Generating and Prioritizing Project Ideas* (using Inclusive and Sustainable Development criteria)

- *Module 2b. Project Design Preparation* (using Logical Framework Matrix)
- *Module 2c. ISARD Project Proposal Writing and Packaging*
- *Module 2d. Project Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation*

Expected Outputs

The expected outputs of this training-workshop are as follows:

- Graduates of the training-workshop with enhanced knowledge, skills, and attitudes on ISARD;
- Small farmholder intervention options for ISARD (generated from commodity system analysis)
- Logical Framework Matrix (LFM) for ISARD
- Outcomes-based M&E framework
- Project Proposal Package

For more information, please communicate with:

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