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The Philippine Rural Development Project Scale-Up (PRDP Scale-Up) is set to strengthen the agri-fishery industry in the Ilocos Region with subprojects valued at Php3.4 billion.

Since the launching of PRDP Scale-Up in 2023, a total of 24 subproject proposals were rigorously developed for funding approval. The province of Pangasinan leads with 15 proposals, followed by La Union with

North Luzon Cluster celebrates 10th year of PRDP with project awards to LGU partners, implementers



The Department of Agriculture - Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) North Luzon Cluster thru its Project Support Office (PSO), convened Regions I, II, III and Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR) on March 5-7, 2025 in Subic, Zambales for its 9th Year General Assembly with project implementers from Regional Project Coordination Offices (RPCOs) and Local Government Unit- (LGU) partners, to provide updates and present the cluster's accomplishments as it celebrates the 10th year of implementing PRDP.

"We've come a long way in the implementation of PRDP in our respective regions. It has been 10 years of hard-work and committed partnerships. PRDP has transformed our communities in a lot of ways and impacted the lives of our project beneficiaries," Ms. Elma Mananes, PSO-North Luzon Deputy Project Director said in her welcome message

to the participants.

Ms. Mananes also presented updates of the North Luzon's accomplishments in implementing PRDP across the four regions from the project's Original Loan, 1st and 2nd Additional Financing.

Since its initial implementation of PRDP that officially started in 2015, the North Luzon Cluster has a total of

177 approved infrastructure subprojects amounting to P10.508 billion and 347 approved enterprise subprojects amounting to P1.48 billion benefitting a total of 886,431 individual beneficiaries.

As a way to recognize the invaluable contributions and hard-work of the project's partner implementers from the LGUs at the Provincial and City/Municipal levels, the PSO gave recognition awards in various categories



of PRDP implementation.

Ilocos Region was awarded as the region with the highest subproject approval rate under the PRDP Scale-Up with its 14 Regional Project Advisory Board (RPAB) approved subprojects amounting to P2.020 billion.

Other awards received by Ilocos Region were:

- LGU with the Most Number of Subproject under the PRDP Scale-Up: Province of Pangasinan

- LGU with the Highest Rate of Sustainable Projects under I-REAP: Province of La Union

- Best in Safeguards Implementation for I-REAP AF2 SP: San Joaquin Multi-purpose Cooperative, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte

- Outstanding Adaptability Award for the Monitoring Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Unit for being innovative and efficient in the conduct of MEL Unit activities.

Also recognized during the awarding ceremonies were RPCO I staff Engr. Jeffrey M. Ferrer, RPCO I Rural Infrastructure Engineer, for his outstanding contribution to the achievement of the cluster's most number of RPAB approved subprojects; and Ms. Rona Leen B. Supsup,

Business Development Officer, for her notable commitment, perseverance, and invaluable contribution to the Enterprise Development Component's objective.

Service Awards were also given to PRDP-hired staff in recognition of their exceptional service, hard-work and dedication for the past 10 years of PRDP implementation in Ilocos Region which include Engr. Menzhiel G. Conzaga-Alegado, Ms. Amie D. Tacla, and Ms. Regina R. Libadia.

Other highlight of the event was the awarding of No Objection Letter 1 (NOL-1) under PRDP Scale-Up from PSO threshold to LGUs with approved proposals which include the LGUs of Rosales, Pangasinan for the establishment of the Rosales Slaughterhouse; Tagudin, Ilocos Sur for the establishment of Tagudin Slaughterhouse; and Paoay, Ilocos Norte for the Construction of Ubbog Bridge with Approaches.

In its 10th year of successful implementation, the DA-PRDP remain steadfast and determined to achieve its core mission of enabling communities and expanding opportunities for the agri-fishery sector in the Philippines.

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four, Ilocos Norte with three, and Ilocos Sur with two.

The status of these billion-peso proposals was presented on Tuesday at a meeting attended by all PRDP Regional Project Coordination Office 1 (PRDP RPCO1) staff, including both hired consultants and organic members.

Currently, three are already underway: the construction of the San Jose Multi-Purpose Warehouse with Solar Dryer in Vintar, Ilocos Norte; the construction of the Provincial

Warehouse with Multi-Purpose Drying Pavement in Bugallon, Pangasinan; and the construction of the Provincial Warehouse with Multi-Purpose Drying Pavement in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan.

The number of implemented subprojects is expected to increase significantly in 2025, following the approval of five proposals by the Regional Project Advisory Board last year. Additionally, four subprojects are currently in the procurement stage, while ten others are actively undergoing subproject preparation.

Furthermore, two subprojects are in progress. One is awaiting the issuance of a No Objection Letter 2, a crucial step before implementation. The other is undergoing material sampling and quality control to ensure adherence to required specifications and standards.

Meanwhile, the PRDP RPCO1 is committed to completing three remaining subprojects funded under the previous financing scheme, Additional Financing 2, by the end of this year.

PRDP-assisted proponent groups connect with businesses via market-matching event



Some 18 PRDP-assisted proponent groups participated in a market matching activity organized by the Philippine Rural Development Project Ilocos Region in the City of San Fernando, La Union, on January 16.

Proponent groups present were the Catuday Agrarian Reform Cooperative, Hundred Islands Farmpreneurs Agriculture Cooperative, Aramal Tocok FFF

MPC, Angio Taculit MPC, Alcala Onion Growers MPC, Bomadus MPC, ISFOL MPC, Tugui Grande Farm Produce Association, Kailian MPC, Nueva Segovia Consortium of Cooperatives, Nansuagao ARC MPC, Conconig East MPC, Cabugao Mango Growers Association, Bacarra Zanjera Irrigator MPC, Pasuquin Growers Agriculture Cooperative, San Joaquin MPC, Pallim MPC, and San Fermin ARC MPC.

The event served as an avenue

for proponent groups to connect with private companies to expand their market reach.

Invited private entities include the Vikings Group of Companies, Young Star Poultry Farm, Prime Global Corporation, Waltermart, and Dizon Farms.

The PRDP facilitated this initiative to help farmers increase their market access and in hopes to establish sustainable linkages.

Beneficiaries must take good care of PRDP-funded facilities: I-REAP Ilocos

The Ilocos I-REAP Component in a coordination meeting on January 17 reminded beneficiaries to take good care of the facilities turned over to their cooperatives and associations.

“The operation and maintenance of these facilities are very important,” Ms. Maria Christine de Leon, enterprise development marketing specialist, said. “You are the very first World Bank-supported recipients in Region 1. You should therefore properly tend to it.”

The I-REAP, also known as the Enterprise Development Component of the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP), aims to improve access to the markets of enterprise clusters while increasing productivity and value addition.

Eligible interventions under this component include production



enterprises and facilities for input supply/sourcing, consolidation, post-harvest, processing, and marketing, among others.

This meeting, participated in by 65 beneficiaries, was held to report the status of enterprise operations, including their challenges and recommended solutions.

“Dapat masiguro po natin na tayo pong lahat ay nasa iisang pahina

lang po. Alam po dapat natin lahat kung ano ang ating kailangang gawin at kung kailan natin ito gagawin,” Ms. Rhoda Galban, I-REAP Component head, said. (We must make sure that we are all on the same page. We should all know what to do and when to do it.)

Under PRDP, the Ilocos Region has a record of 71 completed I-REAP subprojects valued at Php306M.



Rice I-VCA formulation in Ilocos Region set



On March 13, an inception meeting on the Philippine Rural Development Project's (PRDP) initiative to formulate a Regional Climate Resilient and Agro-Industrial Oriented Value Chain Analysis (I-VCA) for rice commodity was held at the Department of Agriculture Ilocos Region, City of San Fernando, La Union.



I-VCA is one of PRDP's investment planning tools that embeds climate and geologic assessment into value chain analysis, including animal and plant health risks. This approach ensures mitigation measures are not limited to commodity production and helps identify potential larger and commercial-scale investments.

With the Ilocos Region Core Planning Team in attendance, discussions covered the significance of the I-VCA in the project implementation and its potential to assist other agencies in their planning and budgeting to support rice production in the Ilocos Region.

The methodology of conducting rice I-VCA was also presented to enhance its credibility in terms of appropriateness, responsiveness, and accuracy.

Under PRDP's Original Loan and Additional Financing scheme, rice was not included as a priority commodity, as DA's regular funding already supports rice-based programs. The agency, however, adopted the value chain approach due to its perceived effectiveness under the PRDP.

Currently, key informant interviews have already been

conducted in the top three rice-producing municipalities from the four provinces in the region—municipalities of Pagudpud, Dingras, and Bacarra in Ilocos Norte; Cervantes, Santo Domingo, and Santa Lucia in Ilocos Sur; Naguilian, Rosario, and Bangar in La Union; and Mangatarem, San Manuel, and Umingan in Pangasinan.

In the upcoming months, PRDP Ilocos Region, through its I-PLAN component, will hold a series of focus group discussions and a regional stakeholders' consultation to ensure the completeness of the I-VCA.

BUILDING BRIDGES

winning hearts

How Manaoag LGU exemplifies PRDP's commitment to social responsibility

When it comes to implementing public infrastructure projects, challenges such as budgetary constraints, compliance with documentary requirements, and addressing the concerns of affected residents often arise. However, the Municipality of Manaoag, Pangasinan, showcased a stellar example of how to navigate these challenges with compassion and foresight under the Philippine Rural Development Project (PRDP).

The Oraan Bridge, a vital infrastructure connecting barangays Cabanbanan, Mermer, Lelemaan, Oraan East, and Oraan West, was once a two-barrel Reinforced Concrete Box Culvert (RCBC) that frequently succumbed to floods during the rainy season. Approved under PRDP on November 17, 2015, the project aimed to transform the bridge into a sturdy structure that could withstand the elements, improve transportation, and ensure the safety and convenience of residents. With a total project cost of Php 20.6 million, the Oraan Bridge now boasts a 5-meter concrete pavement, 21 linear meters in length, and 275 meters of approaches.





However, behind this significant development was a story of challenges and a shining example of commitment to addressing community concerns. Early in the project planning, consultations revealed that two households along the project site would be affected due to the reconstruction of their fences. Understandably, the residents were hesitant to support the project,

fearing the disruption it might bring to their daily lives.

The Manaoag Municipal Government, mindful of the residents' concerns, stepped up with empathy and action. Through the collaborative efforts of the Municipal Agriculture Office and the leadership of the Local Chief Executive, the LGU conducted

dialogues with the affected residents to discuss their grievances and craft a resolution. Recognizing the immense benefits the Oraan Bridge would bring to five barangays and the need for community support to make the project a reality, the LGU took an extraordinary step: it allocated a special fund worth Php 499,023.01 to reconstruct the damaged fences of the two

households.

This act of goodwill highlights a best practice under PRDP's Social and Environmental Safeguards aspect. Unlike typical government projects that often lack provisions for compensating Project-Affected Persons (PAPs) or even face delays due to unresolved issues with residents, PRDP sets itself apart

as a "project with a heart." The swift and thoughtful response of the Manaoag LGU to the concerns of the affected residents ensured the smooth progression of the project while also upholding the community's trust and dignity.

PRDP's approach emphasizes that successful infrastructure development goes beyond

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completing structures; it involves prioritizing the well-being of the people it seeks to serve. By addressing potential conflicts, fostering open communication, and allocating resources for those affected, the Manaoag LGU proved that infrastructure development and social responsibility can go hand in hand.

As the Oraan Bridge now stands as a testament to Manaoag's dedication to its people, it also serves as an inspiring reminder for other local governments to integrate these practices into their programs. A bridge that connects communities is meaningful, but one built with respect and care for the people is extraordinary—a reflection of PRDP's essence as a project with a heart.

WITH THE PEOPLE, FOR THE PEOPLE

Here are 7 lessons
experience in
PRDP

from LGU Paoay's
implementing
subprojects

To the Local Government Unit project implementation lies in the people.

But how does a local the challenges of executing subprojects? Mr. James Social and Environmental LGU Paoay, shares seven lessons

Strong government support. When the initiatives that benefit its people, they pave development in the community. Paoay has two major PRDP-funded subprojects— Rehabilitation of Nalasin-Sungadan-Langiden Farm-to-Market Road (FMR) and the Rehabilitation of Paoay Communal Irrigation System. Investment for these infrastructures is valued at Php203.9M.

Mr. James Galano credits the success of the subprojects to the strong support of the Paoay Local Government

of Paoay, true success in working hand in hand with

government navigate PRDP-funded Galano, head of the Safeguards (SES) Unit of from their experience.

government fully backs the way for the completed the



Unit and the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte.

“We were very successful sa mga projects namin because of the government’s support. Nakita namin iyong support ng municipal and provincial government,” he said. (We were very successful in our projects because of the government’s support. We can see the support of the municipal and provincial government.)

No matter how far and difficult it is, look for the rightful owners. In the initial implementation of the Rehabilitation of Nalasin-Sungadan-Langiden FMR, the only struggle identified by Mr. Galano was in

reaching out to project-affected persons (PAPs) who own parcels of land in the subproject site but are no longer residing in the area.

“May mga iba kasi na nasa Alcala, Pangasinan. May owner din na nakatira na sa Manila,” he said. (There are some who are in Alcala, Pangasinan. There is also an owner residing in Manila.)

The owner in Manila has a 12-hectare property where around 1200 square meters will be needed for the FMR subproject. “Mahirap, dahil unang-una he was a cancer patient. Pero naintindihan agad niya. The first time na pumunta ako, I met him, nag-usap lang kami.

Sabi niya, it’s good kasi pwede na akong magpatayo ng kubo doon sa property ko, na matagal ko nang hindi nakikita. So noong ipinaalam namin (about the project), kaagad niyang binigay iyong kanyang ID, and pumirma siya sa document. We were very glad. Kahit alam namin noon na kailangan niya din iyong pera, pero hindi siya humingi,” Mr. Galano added.

(It was difficult because, first of all, he was a cancer patient. But he understood right away. The first time I went there and met him, we just talked. He said it was good because he could finally build a small hut on his property, which he hadn’t seen in a long time. So, when we presented

“We do not only consult the concerned PAPs,” Mr. Galano explained. Aside from the lot owners, the support from the different sectors of the community should be considered. It was an important step in which the LGU made sure that the community’s voices were heard and any issues and concerns were addressed in the pre-implementation stage. “We even have to do the consultation twice,” he added.

the documents, he immediately gave his ID and signed the documents. We were very glad. Even though we knew he also needed the money, he never asked for it.)

Teamwork. Working together with the right people results in better outcomes. “When we work, it is always a team,” says Mr. Galano. “It is always a team of the municipal assessor, municipal planning officer, our office (municipal engineering office), and the municipal agriculture office.”

The team’s hands-on approach is essential in ensuring that every community member understands the value of the project. They make it a point to visit the field together, engaging directly with the community to explain the significance of the subprojects. “Sama-sama kaming pumupunta nag-eexplain para mas mapabilis. Lahat may expertise. So as an assessor, ma-eexplain niya, ‘Ganito kasi iyong lupa niyo, ito iyong property niyo.’ On our part naman iyong mga benefits niya,” Mr. Galano said.

(We go together as a team and explain things to speed up the process. Everyone brings their expertise. As an assessor, they can explain, ‘This is your land, this is your property.’ On our part, we explain the benefits of the project.)

Organized associations. In the implementation of the Paoay Communal Irrigation System, having an irrigator’s association (IA) already in place made the procedures easier for LGU Paoay. While the site had existing structures, they were mostly temporary, and the association played a crucial role in convincing landowners to make way for the subproject.

“Wala kaming affected na PAPs kasi talagang existing na iyong canal since the 1800s,” Mr. Galano shared. “Iyon nga lang, natabunan na. Doon na sila nagpatayo sa mismong canal. Kaya hindi mo na makikita iyong canal. Nagpatayo na sila ng mga hindi naman permanent structures. Like kulungan ng baboy, CRs lang. It was easy to convince them lalo at they have organized irrigators’ associations. Even the farmers themselves, the members of the IA, would say that it would be good kung ma-revive iyong CIS. Of which ngayon, nagsa-second cropping na sila ng rice aside from their main product, which is the onion and tomato.”

(We don’t have any affected PAPs because the canal has actually existed since the 1800s. However, it had been covered over time. People built structures directly on the canal, which is why it’s no longer visible. They constructed non-permanent structures like pigpens and toilets. It was easy to convince

them, especially since they have organized irrigators’ associations. Even the farmers themselves, who are members of the IA, said that reviving the CIS would be beneficial. Now, they are already doing a second cropping of rice, aside from their main products, which are onions and tomatoes.)

Consultation dialogues. In PRDP’s SES guidelines, meaningful consultation with the person’s affected and other stakeholders in the proposed subproject is mandatory.

“We do not only consult the concerned PAPs,” Mr. Galano explained. Aside from the lot owners, the support from the different sectors of the community should be considered. It was an important step in which the LGU made sure that the community’s voices were heard and any issues and concerns were addressed in the pre-implementation stage. “We even have to do the consultation twice,” he added.

Use of social media platforms.

In this digital age, using social media to settle grievances can do the work. If properly regulated, such can save time and resources for both the complainant and the implementing LGU.

“May Facebook page na sarili ang CIS. Doon sa FB page, iyong



mga reklamo po ng mga andun na nadaanan along the CIS, doon nila pinapadaan,” Mr. Galano explained. (The CIS has its own Facebook page. On that FB page, affected people along the CIS route submit their complaints.)

In another situation, the page was also used to help one of the residents that were affected by the flood during a typhoon.

“Lagi naman silang nababaha pero since andoon iyong mga equipment namin, nagreach out sila na ‘Could you please help us? Mababaha na kami.’ Sabi namin tatal andun naman na iyong equipment namin at rumaragasa po iyong tubig, tulungan na namin sila. Pumunta iyong

engineer namin, municipal engineer, resident engineer, at engineer ng contractor. Pumunta po sila sa site kahit bumabagyo,” he said.

(They always experience flooding, but since our equipment was there, they reached out and asked, ‘Could you please help us? We’re about to get flooded.’ We said that since our equipment was already there and the water was rushing, we would help. We received the request through the Facebook page. Our engineer, the municipal engineer, the resident engineer, and the contractor’s engineer went to the site despite the storm.)

During the implementation stage of the proposed CIS, additional issues,

such as the debts of workers at the site’s stores, were also raised on the Facebook page.

“Di po natin maiiwasan iyong mga trabahador natin na may utang. Diyan sa FB page din nila dinadaan,” Galano said. (We can’t avoid having some of our workers who have debts. They also submit those issues through the Facebook page.)

The complainant reported that the workers had not paid for their snacks and refreshments. In response, the LGU contacted the contractor’s representative, but the contractor himself personally arrived to address and resolve the issue.

They were very cooperative. Wala kaming pinangako sa kanila na kapalit. We just explained to them the benefits of the project. Kailangan lang namin na i-convince sila.

“Tinawag po namin si representative ni contractor pero ang dumating po ay si mismong contractor. Tinawag din po iyong nagsend sa fb page ng listahan. So ayon pinag-usap namin sila. Binayaran ni contractor. Nagsorry siya. At sinabihan niya iyong tao niya. Kasi matagal din na po iyong utang na un,” he added.

(We called the contractor’s representative, but the contractor himself arrived. We also called the person who sent the list on the Facebook page. So, we had them talk. The contractor paid the debt, apologized, and spoke to his worker because that debt had been long overdue.)

Rather than individuals posting negative comments about the project on their personal Facebook accounts, the CIS Facebook page has provided a platform where concerned individuals can safely voice their complaints and work together to find solutions.

The Paoay CIS Facebook Page can be accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064641340926>

Community support. For the LGU Paoay, the community agreeing immediately with the implementation of a project is a blessing. The PAPs during the implementation of the Rehabilitation of Nalasin-Sungadan-Langiden FMR were some 129

households. Around 50-70% of their landholdings were used for the construction of the road.

“They were very cooperative. Wala kaming pinangako sa kanila na kapalit. We just explained to them the benefits of the project. Kailangan lang namin na i-convince sila,” Mr. Galano said.

(They were very cooperative. We didn’t promise them anything in return. We just explained the benefits of the project. We only needed to convince them.)

The 129 PAPs didn’t receive any compensation. The only condition requested by one of the landowners was for the LGU to process the cutting permit and ask the DENR to give the logs to the affected person.

“Pumayag naman sila and inaplyan din po namin ng transport permit para kung in case na magpapagawa siya ng furniture, hindi po siya huhulihin aside from may tree cutting permit. Kami iyong nagpaputol, kami pa iyong nagbayad ng transport permit,” he explained. “Iyon na iyon. Compensation niya not in the form na diretsang pera pero mga services po ang binibigay namin. And aside from that, pagpapapanotaryo, paglalakad ng mga papel, sa amin po lahat un. Wala po silang ginastos na pera.”

(They agreed, and we also applied

for a transport permit so that in case they wanted to have furniture made, they wouldn’t get penalized. Aside from the tree-cutting permit, we were the ones who cut the trees and even paid for the transport permit. That was it. Their compensation wasn’t in the form of direct cash but through the services we provided. Aside from that, we also handled notarization and processing of documents—all of it was on us. They didn’t spend any money at all.)

With such support from the community, LGU Paoay, in its third proposed subproject under the Scale-Up funding of PRDP, the “Ubbog Bridge with Approaches,” was approved by the Regional Project Advisory Board 1 in December 2024. This year, the LGU is awaiting the National Project Coordination Office’s issuance of No Objection Letter 1.

“The same din dito sa Ubbog bridge siyempre may 300 meters na approach. Meron pong 97% of the lot ay affected, pero sabi niya ever since naman di ko nagagamit iyan and yet binabayaran ko ng buo. Kaya they are willing kasi nga mababawas naman (sa tax). Kumbaga minimal na iyong babayaran nila,” Mr. Galano said.

(It’s the same here with the Ubbog Bridge—of course, there’s a 300m approach. About 97% of the lot is affected, but the owner said, ‘I’ve never really used that land, yet I’ve been paying the full amount in taxes.’ So, they were willing because their tax burden would be reduced. In a way, they would only have to pay a minimal amount.)

SETTLING THE DUST ON THE ROAD

This is how the provincial government of Ilocos Norte resolved issues in PRDP-funded initiatives

Settling the dust on the road was a literal challenge for the provincial government of Ilocos Norte (PGIN) during the early stages of their very first PRDP-approved subproject—the rehabilitation of the Billoca-San Juan Farm-to-Market Road and eight bridges in Batac City.

“Kasi nung sinimulan na talaga iyong pag-implement ng rehab ng aming FMR dito, maalikabok,” Mr. Hustler A. Garalde said, the PPMIU Social and Environmental Safeguards Unit Head. (As soon as the rehabilitation work on our FMR began, the dust became a big issue.)

During construction, residents passing near the site were affected, particularly on their way to the central business district.

“Kapag umaga kasi, yan iyong mga time na magiging busy ang mga tao. Iyong pagpasok ng mga estudyante, papapasok sa opisina, at magtatrabaho, kaya we did the sprinkling para hindi maalikabok,” Mr. Garalde explained. “Morning, lunchtime, and hapon. We do it three times.”

(Morning is the busiest time when people are heading out to work or school, so we implemented sprinkling to reduce the dust. We did this three times a day—morning, lunchtime, and in the afternoon.)

In addition to the dust, waste management became a concern. Residents were discarding garbage near the site.

“Naglagay kami ng mga placard, at tsaka mga trash bins doon sa area, para iyong mga tao ay aware na hindi pwedeng magtapon-tapon na lang kung saan-saan sila kasi magiging problema natin yan lalo na at may malapit kaming ilog doon,” Mr. Garalde continued. “Hindi lang naman sa i-isang lugar kundi along the streets of the project ay may mga signages tayo to remind them regarding sa waste management. “

(We put up placards and trash bins in the area to raise awareness that dumping trash randomly wasn’t acceptable, especially since we’re close to a river. We also placed signage along the project streets to remind everyone about waste management.)

Mr. Garalde emphasized that the provincial government was committed to ensuring the welfare of the people, for they are part of the project.

The Php 186.4M, completed in 2020, has since benefited more than 6,000 residents and farmers.

Finding solutions at the grassroots level

Engaging local communities in a project is important.

“Dito dapat tinitingnan ang kapakanan ng mga tao,” Mr. Garalde said. “Dapat ang project ay acceptable sa kanila. Kasi kapag hindi, hindi magiging effective iyan or hindi magiging successful.” (Here, we must prioritize the well-being of the people. The project must be acceptable to them. If it’s not, it won’t be effective or successful.)

This perspective guided the Provincial Government of Ilocos Norte as they implemented other subprojects under the Philippine Rural Development Project.

“Once na niyakap ng tao ang project, sigurado iyan 100% magiging successful. Hindi lang ngayon, kundi in the future,” Mr. Garalde added. (Once the community embraces the project, it’s bound to be 100% successful—not

only now, but in the future.)

Including the aforementioned FMR subproject, the LGU completed four other subprojects—all of which are fully operational and serving their intended beneficiaries.

To address grievances, the LGU created a team composed of personnel from the barangay, municipal/city, and provincial offices.

“Kung may mga hindi pagkakaunawaan. Doon mismo ay naaddress na ang mga concerns,” Garalde shared. “As much as possible, hindi na namin iyan pinapataas.” (When misunderstandings arise, we address them on the spot. As much as possible, we don’t want to elevate it anymore.)

At the barangay level, barangay tanods were assigned to oversee the safety of workers at the project site. “Kung walang traffic lights at kuryente, andun sila na nakaduty,” Mr. Garalde said. “Iyong mga dumadaan noon kasi, pinagtitripan ang mga trabahador ng contractor.”

(When there were no traffic lights or the electric supply was down, they were on duty. There were incidents when passersby harassed the contractor’s workers.)

In another setting, social media became a platform for project complaints. “Amum met ti tao nu mamingsan ket ipost da lang ladta kayat da nu anya ladta kunadan, sunga nagpameeting kami kanyadan within the local, and iyong mga concerned,” Mr. Garalde explained. “Kasi, natrace mi met idi dijay nu

Here, we must prioritize the well-being of the people. The project must be acceptable to them. If it’s not, it won’t be effective or successful.



sino dijay nagpost isunga nakasarita mi idi. And then inikat da metlaeng.”

(People sometimes post their concerns online without understanding the situation, so we held meetings with the locals and the concerned parties. We traced the posts and spoke directly with those involved. They took down the post afterwards.)

Community cooperation has also made land acquisition for the project easier.

“Sa ibang mga areas, pinakita namin sa kanila kung gaano kahalaga ang proyekto under the PRDP. Kung ano ang magiging implikasyon nito, hindi lang sa present generation kundi sa future din. Tumatak sa kanila kung paano sila mabebenepisyan ng project na ito,” Mr. Garalde said. “So sa mga areas na iyon, wala ng nagpacompensate sa amin. We are very thankful kasi cooperative naman iyong mga tao.”

(In other areas, we explained the importance of the PRDP subproject and its long-term impact—not only for the present generation but for future ones as well. They understood how they would benefit

from the project. So, in those areas, no compensation was required. We are very thankful for the cooperation of the people.)

In some cases, the acquired land was deducted from the beneficiaries’ tax obligations. Meetings were conducted to ensure the process was transparent, and new tax declarations were issued to reflect the land deductions.

“We ensure na talagang nasusunod at talagang nakikita din ng mga tao iyong para sa kanila ay para talaga sa kanila,” Mr. Garalde shared. “Minimal areas lang naman ang nakuhang lote. Mga 5-10 square meters. Dineduct doon sa babayaran nila.”

(We made sure that the process was clear and that the people could see that what was intended for them was really for them. Only small portions of land were taken—about 5 to 10 square meters. These were deducted from their taxes.”

To further encourage participation, the LGU provided beneficiaries with farm interventions and planting materials.

“Kaya sinasabi namin sa kanila na,

talaga, itong project na ito ay hindi para sa amin, kundi para sa tao,” Mr. Garalde added. (We tell them that this project isn’t for us—but for them.)

Compliance with other agency regulations

Project implementers under the PRDP must ensure full compliance with the regulations of agencies beyond the Department of Agriculture, such as the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

In line with DENR regulations, any tree cutting for a project requires a commitment to reforestation, with replacement seedlings planted at a ratio of 1:100 for every tree removed.

The LGU adhered strictly to this requirement, as several trees were affected during the project’s implementation. “We see to it that the administrative order of DENR is complied with. May mga plantations kaming naestablish in replacement sa mga naputol na mga kahoy doon sa area,” Mr. Garalde said. (We established plantations to replace the trees that were cut in the area.)



In other areas, we explained the importance of the PRDP subproject and its long-term impact—not only for the present generation but for future ones as well. They understood how they would benefit from the project. So, in those areas, no compensation was required. We are very thankful for the cooperation of the people.

Post-implementation obligation

Under PRDP, the responsibility for maintaining the completed subprojects lies with the proponent group.

In the FMR project, the LGU prioritized the safety of the public. “Nag-establish kami at nagconstruct ng mga solar street lights. With that, iyong project natin kahit gabi para kang dumadaan sa expressway. Napakaliwanag ng ating daan,” Mr. Garalde said.

(We established and constructed solar-powered street lights. With that, the project ensures that even at night, the road feels like you’re driving on an expressway. It’s brightly lit.)

At the barangay level, local officials who benefit from the FMR have passed ordinances regarding the project’s maintenance.

“May mga naipasa na silang mga ordinances na dapat monthly or quarterly ginagawa ang maintenance o paglilinis doon sa area,” he added.

(They’ve passed ordinances stating that the maintenance and cleaning in the area must be carried out monthly or quarterly.)

Currently, the provincial government of Ilocos Norte has five completed PRDP subprojects in its portfolio, totaling Php 226.9M.

The LGU is committed to continuously improve their safeguard practices using their lessons learned to protect the local community and the environment.



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