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Supporting Smallholder  
Farmers in Asia and Pacific  
Islands Region through  
Strengthened Agricultural  
Advisory Services  
(SAAS Project)

# BEST PRACTICE NOTES



## CHARMP2: SCHOOL-ON-AIR

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### 5 Key Points

#### 1. Challenges and constraints

- Technical difficulties
- Weak signal frequency
- Lack of SOA expert broadcasters

#### 2. Objective

The SOA provides distance education through the use of radio by offering courses aligned with the project's advocacies.

#### 3. Methodology

- Participatory Module Development Process
- Formal SOA enrolment
- Launching cum Orientation
- SOA Broadcast Airing
- SOA On-site Practicum
- SOA graduation
- Evaluation

#### 4. Highlight of result

1,363 farmer-students or 79.66% of the total enrollees successfully completed the program.

#### 5. Highlight recommendation

- All the stakeholders must be involved in the whole process of the program.
- It should be tailor-fit to the needs and preferences of the target beneficiaries.

### Introduction

- The lack of accessibility in the Cordillera region due to its poor road and communication network has largely contributed to the lack of agricultural know-how and underdevelopment of farmers and their communities.
- In response to this, the CHARMP2 or the second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management Project School-on-Air (SOA) program was implemented to help uplift farmers living in far-flung communities with little to no access to education.
- The CHARMP2 SOA program aimed to provide accessible education and agricultural knowledge for marginalized farmers in the Cordillera highlands while also offering courses such as root and tuber crops, traditional rice varieties, sugarcane, livestock and poultry, organic highland vegetable, coffee, and natural resource management that supported the project's advocacies.
- Farming communities in Abra, Benguet, Kalinga, and Mountain Province were chosen for this project. Specifically, 120 farmers per province who are members of project-assisted people's organizations were enrolled in the SOA program to allow for a better learning environment and a close monitoring of their progress.
- A total of 1,363 farmer-students (79.66%) successfully completed the SOA program out of the 1,711 total farmer-enrollees.
- The SOA program was also accessible to anyone who could be reached by the radio frequency. They were also encouraged to participate by sending feedback through mobile messaging.
- Overall, the success of the program was largely attributed to its highly-participative nature. Because the stakeholders were involved from the beginning until the end of the program, their needs and concerns were resolved. They were also empowered and educated which made the program sustainable.