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

BEST PRACTICE NOTES



PARTICIPATORY APPROACH: HEART OF CHARM2 PROJECT

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5 Key Points

1. Challenges and constraints

- Establishing rapport with the community
- Time management
- Project prioritization

2. Objective

The participatory approach aims to empower community members by involving them in the whole process of project implementation

3. Methodology

- Identification of beneficiaries
- Addressing specific needs and priorities Participatory Project Investment Plan
- Other preparations

4. Highlight of result

- 169 Project Investment Plan (PIP) was implemented
- Six out of 37 Municipal Local Government Units integrated the PIPs in their municipalities

5. Highlight recommendation

Formation of People's Organization

Introduction

- The Cordillera region is the center of agriculture in the north of the Philippines. However, agricultural programs that are implemented in this region employ a top-to-bottom approach with little to no involvement from the communities.
- As such, the programs were unsustainable due to the lack of ownership the community had over the projects. Moreover, some of the projects did not address their actual needs.
- To address this issue, a participatory approach was implemented during the Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resources Management Project (CHARMP 2) in the Cordillera Administrative Region in the Philippines.
- It aimed to involve the communities in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of projects to ensure its sustainability and the empowerment of the partner communities. These partner communities were the provinces of Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga, and Mountain Province.
- A total of 37 municipalities and 170 barangays (villages) that are in highland areas, with high rates of poverty, were selected for this program. They also have received little to no development project assistance in the last three years.
- Most of the 190,000 target beneficiaries are indigenous peoples from different ethnolinguistic groups whose main source of livelihood is agriculture.
- They were organized into 283 People's Organizations (POs) which handled projects on reforestation (148 groups); Agroforestry (162 groups); irrigators' association (36 groups); and the Barangay Water System Association/BAWASA (41 groups). There was also 644 Livelihood Interest Groups formed for the implementation of the Livelihood Assistance Fund.