



Philippines Development Forum



WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MEETING

PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT FORUM – WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PDF WG on SRD)

18 March 2010
(2 o'clock in the afternoon)

Conference Room
Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning
Department of Agriculture
Diliman, Quezon City

1.0 Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Walter Salzer, Co-Convenor of the Working Group at 2:15 in the afternoon.

Dr. Salzer acknowledged the members in regular attendance to the meetings of the Working Group and hoped that the participation of other members will improve in future meetings. The complete list of attendees is presented in Annex 1.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda

There having no additional topics proposed, the provisional agenda was adopted by the body (Annex 2).

3.0 Approval of the Minutes of Regular Meeting held on January 21, 2010

3.1 Comments/Issues Raised

On updates from Sub-Working on Upland Development, Mr. Arban/IFAD advised that INREM is also being supported by IFAD in addition to ADB.

While the secretariat correctly recorded statement made by Mr. Bresciani in relation to the meetings of the Sub-WG on Land Policies (page 7)....*but certainly the World Bank would be interested to discuss issues such as the NLUA and exit strategy for DAR after the extension period*, Director San Juan/DAR commented that the exit strategy for DAR should not be discussed, citing Section 21 of RA 9700 (CARPER Law) which states, "...Provided, finally, that after the completion of the land acquisition and distribution component of the CARP, the yearly appropriation shall be

fully allocated to support services, agrarian justice delivery and operational requirements of the DAR and other CARP implementing agencies ”.

Dr. Salzer noted the issues and requested the secretariat to make the necessary corrections in the minutes of the January 21 meeting. With this, the Minutes of the meeting was adopted.

4.0 Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Secretariat was requested to follow up on the:

- Matrix of Climate Change Programs/Projects requested from NEDA
- Proposed meeting of GTZ, JICA IFAD and ADB to exchange information and strengthen coordination on upland Development Measures from DENR

5.0 Updates from the WG/sub-WGs

5.1 WG

Topic: *Climate Change*

Dr. Salzer reported that National Adaptation Strategies for Climate Change had already been finalized and adopted by the Climate Change Commission. He informed the body that GTZ is supporting the development of mitigation strategies and currently engaging consultants to come with Action Plan before such measures are applied at local levels. He reiterated the earlier observation on the numerous national and international meetings and conferences all dealing with climate change which need to be better coordinated. He recommended to invite the Climate Change Commission in the next meeting of the WG to provide updates.

Topic: *Results-based Management/Managing for Development Results(MfDR)*

Ms. Firmeza/NEDA updated the body that following the workshop on the formulation of the sector framework held last 12-14 January 2010, the NEDA and DBM will have an oversight workshop tentatively scheduled on 7-8 April 2010. Moreover, a validation workshop for the sector framework is tentatively scheduled on 4-5 May 2010. This will be held back to back with the kick off of the readiness assessment for MfDR workshop for DA, DAR and DENR. Interviews with key officials from these agencies will also be scheduled within the week of 6-7 May 2010.

She also informed the body that, at the moment, there are internal processes being taken within the government. Once these internal processes would be completed, it is possible that areas for possible collaboration would be presented to development partners.

5.2 Sub-WG on Agribusiness (Annex 3)

Mr. Cuevas/DA-PADCC reported on the following:

- *Agribusiness Investment Proposals matched with investors*

Negotiations between the proponents and prospective investors for the implementation of 14 business plans worth about PhP600 million are still on-going. Further information on the status of the investor matched proposals will be reported to the next PDF-SRD Meeting.

Mr. Portugal/FAO requested to indicate the type of agribusiness venture/schemes in the next update.

- Biomass Program

Conduct of Biomass Resources Inventory and Biomass Atlas

The Department of Energy (DOE)-Renewable Energy Management Bureau (REMB), through Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy Development (CBRED) Project is implementing the updating of biomass resources inventory to include prime agricultural commodities such as coconut (husks, shells, and fronds), sugarcane (bagasse and trash), corn (cobs and stovers), rice (straws and husks), and other biomass energy crops from forest trees and grasses as well as point sources of potential biogas from livestock industry. Atlas of the said biomass / biogas resources will be mapped out using GIS application up to the municipal level nationwide. The conduct of biomass resources inventory is in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture (DA). Initial data on biomass resources from DA-PADCC have been forwarded to the Biomass Group of DOE-REMB as baseline information for the conduct of inventory.

The culminating activity after the output on biomass resources inventory and biomass atlas has been finalized will be the conduct of National Biomass Investment Conference before end of 2010.

Formulation of Incentives to Farmers

In accordance with RA 9513 (Renewable Energy Act of 2008) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, there shall be an incentive for farmers who will be engaged in the plantation of biomass resources. The DOE-REMB Biomass Group requested assistance to DA-Policy and Planning in coordination with PADCC to formulate guidelines for farmers who will be engaged in the production, supply, and delivery of biomass resources to biomass RE developer/producers. To date, DA is currently identifying concerned DA units and other government agencies including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST).

Director Natural/DA suggested to coordinate with BSWM and ITCAF as these offices also are also involved in Biomass Resources Inventory and Atlas. In response to the query about the Atlas, Mr. Cuevas explained that the Atlas will employ GIS to develop the map showing the location of biomass such as rice hull, coconut shell, sugarcane bagasse as well as location of facilities.

Dr. Salzer informed the body that GTZ is also exploring prospects for biomass and a consultancy for DOE is being negotiated DOE in drafting the Feed-in Tariff for Renewable Energy developers, hence, future cooperation could be possible. Proposed

- Regional Agribusiness Market Place

Information campaign / IEC for the conduct of Regional Agribusiness Market Place have been conducted in all CI Regional Offices. Target pilot areas for the activity are Regions 6, 8, and 13. Tentative launching is set on June 2010 in Region 6. Other agribusiness market place will be timed with the Regional Business Conferences of the PCCI Regions.

The purpose of the Regional Agribusiness Market Place is to prepare the regional offices in time for the forthcoming National Convergence Agribusiness Forum for 2010.

- National Convergence Initiative Action Plan

Revisit NCI Project Plans

NCI intends to revisit all NCI project plans to strengthen complementation of regional / provincial structure vis-à-vis regional convergence plans for submission to NEDA in time for the formulation of the new MTPDP and possible inclusion in the regional / provincial / and municipal development plans.

Conduct of General Training for Regional CI Plans

Conduct of general training for the development of CI plans is tentatively scheduled in the 2nd week of June 2010 for uniformity of all working components of CI, concrete CI plans for funding by government and/or donor agencies, and advocates the importance of business proposals. CI plans must have endorsement / approved by the Regional Development Council (RDC) and Provincial Development Council (PDC) as suggested by NEDA.

Clear Steps to Promote CI

- Publication of CI Success Stories
- Secure commitments of the Presidential candidates
- Integration of CI plans to new MTPDP

Director Natural/DA suggested to coordinate with BSWM and ITCAF as these offices also are also involved in Biomass Resources Inventory and Atlas. In response to the query about the Atlas, Mr. Cuevas explained that the Atlas will employ GIS to develop the map showing the location of biomass such as rice hull, coconut shell, sugarcane bagasse as well as location of facilities.

Dr. Salzer informed the body that GTZ is also exploring prospects for biomass and a consultancy is being negotiated, hence, future cooperation could be possible.

5.3 Sub-WG on Upland Development

The Convenors were absent and no report was made. Ms. Firmeza/NEDA informed the body of the status of 2 projects under NEDA evaluation:

- Pro-FORM has already been endorsed for approval by the Cabinet Committee
- INREM will still have to comply with certain requirements by the Investment Coordinating Committee (ICC)

Proponents are requested to present the final outline of the 2 projects in the next meeting of the Working Group.

5.4 Sub-WG on Land Policies

The sub-WG had not convened since the November 2009 meeting in Tagaytay. Ms. Parba/DAR instead reported on the status of DAR compliance with priority issues on CARPER (Annex 4).

Dr. Salzer encouraged the sub-WG to convene and discuss the other priority issues aside from CARPER and the 2010 Action Plan.

5.0 Updates from the Task Team

6.1 Forum with the Presidentiables, Vice Presidentiables and Senatoriables

Fr. Lucas/ANGOC-CMN presented the concept, guidelines/mechanics for the forum, draft of the questions to be asked and tasking (Annex 6). He informed the body on some changes from the original schedule: April 6 for the Forum with the Vice Presidentiables; April 13 for the Senatoriables and April 20 for the Presidentiables. He solicited additional questions and issues from members, specially from Government Partners.

Dr. Salzer requested the members to review the WG's 2-page Policy Agenda and consider its link with the questions to be formulated. He further suggested to include this policy paper in the kit to be provided to the candidates prior to the forum.

The Task Force Steering Committee will further discuss to finalize the preparations and will keep the members of the WG updated on recent developments. Again, Fr. Francis reiterated his invitation to the members to the next meeting of the Task Force on March 23, 3pm at ANGOC Office.

6.2 Campaign for the Passage of the National Land Use Act

Ms. Tolentino/ANGOC presented the concept on the campaign for the passage of the NLUA (Annex 7).

Dr. Salzer shared the letter from NEDA OIC-DDG Bacani informing the availability of a unified and approved version of the NLUA by the National Land Use Committee (NLUC) since 2008. OIC-DDG Bacani suggested that further comments/inputs to this version must be submitted to the NLUC.

Since no copy of the unified version of the NLUA was available at the time of the meeting, WG members from NEDA were requested to provide copy to the secretariat for circulation.

Dr. Salzer offered to support a workshop, if it would help, to provide venue for NEDA/NLUC to discuss/compare the unified bill with the matrix of NLUA bills earlier prepared by the civil society. The offer was welcome by the civil society representatives and Ms. Tolentino will consider this in the next meeting of the Task Force also on March 23.

Invitation to the next meeting of the Task Force will be issued through the secretariat.

6.0 Adjournment

Having no further issues to discuss, Dr. Salzer expressed satisfaction on the outcomes of today's meeting. The next regular meeting of the Working Group will be held on May 20, 2010 (2pm), however, special meetings may be called as necessary.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 in the afternoon.

Prepared by:
Erlinda F. Dolatre
GTZ

**MEETING OF THE
PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT FORUM – WORKING GROUP ON SUSTAINABLE
RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PDF WG on SRD)**

18 March 2010
(2 o'clock in the afternoon)

Conference room
Office of the Undersecretary for Policy and Planning
Department of Agriculture
Diliman, Quezon City

List of Participants

A. Government Partners

Ma. Leni Lebrilla	House of Representatives
Prince Mamhot	House of Representatives
Katherine Firmeza	NEDA
Raquel Mendiola	NEDA
Rizza Trumata	NEDA
Diane Gail Llanto	NEDA
Nieva Natural	DA
Toni Marcel Rimando	DA
Marriz Agbon	DA-PADCC
Benjamin Cuevas	DA-PADCC
Racquel Parba	DAR
Herminia San Juan	DAR
Cynthia Cardenas	DAR
Ruel Limbo	DAR

B. Development Partners

Walter Salzer, Co-convenor	GTZ
Yolando Arban	IFAD
Aristeo Portugal	FAO
Marie Habito (for RDLasco)	ICRAF

C. Civil Society

Nathaniel Don Marquez	ANGOC
Fr. Francis Lucas	ANGOC/CMN
Maricel Tolentino	ANGOC
Eugene Tecson	Centrosaka
Reggie Aquino	KAISAHAN

**MEETING OF THE
PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT FORUM – WORKING GROUP ON
SUSTAINABLE RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PDF WG on SRD)**

18 March 2010
(2 o'clock in the afternoon)

World Bank Office-Manila
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

AGENDA

2:00pm	Call To Order	Dr. Walter Salzer, Co-Convenor
10 minutes	Adoption of Agenda	
10 minutes	Approval of the Minutes of Meeting (January 21, 2010)	
10 minutes 10 minutes 10 minutes 10 minutes	Updates from the WG/sub-WGs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG • Sub-WG on Agribusiness • Sub-WG on Upland Development • Sub-WG on Land Policies 	Usec. Serrano/ Dr. Salzer Mr. G. Serrano/Mr. M. Agbon Usec. Gerochi/ Usec. Madueno/Mr. F. Bresciani
40 minutes	Updates from the Task Team <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forum with the Presidentiables, Vice Presidentiables and Senatoriables • Campaign for the Passage of the National Land Use Act 	Fr. Francis Lucas Don Marquez/Maricel Tolentino
	Discussions	
	Other Matters	
	Adjournment	