ANNUAL REPORT

January to December 2021

Water, Agroforestry, Nutrition and Development Foundation
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Background:

The initiatives of the WAND Foundation has the main aim of improving the quality of lives of marginal farmers by implementing multi-pronged components consisting of tree growing and agro-reforestation, rural micro-financing, land redemption, provision of farm inputs such as draft and small animals, provision of small water system and promoting low-cost water and sanitation. It is a response to the felt need of the local communities for a better and healthy life and the ability to chart their own destinies. It is also a response to the inability of the national and local governments to provide for their own citizens and to stem the hemorrhage of the youth who go to the urban areas to seek employment instead of cultivating the land.

Our 2021 Initiatives:

1. The WAND Foundation is an active partner of the Global Giving since 10 years ago and several projects have been continuously funded via the facility. These project ranges from agro-reforestation and permaculture, small farm and non-farm livelihoods, disaster relief and recovery, small farm development and many more. The list of all projects and corresponding updates for 2021 can be found in, https://www.globalgiving.org/donate/3157/water-agroforestry-nutrition-and-development-foundation/.

2. The Donor See donation portal promotes small projects that are easily funded and implemented. “Project” funds range from 100 to 1,000 USD. To date the WAND Foundation has implemented more than 500 projects since its participation 3 years ago. The list and descriptions of these projects including updates can be found in, https://donorsee.com/way2meg.

3. Climate change measures through promotion of coconut farmers’ agroforestry conversion in the Philippines

   With funding support from the Toyota Foundation, a climate change mitigation project focusing on agro-reforestation is being implemented in Tanauan, Leyte. This year is the end-phase of this 3-year project.

   The project aims to address the vulnerability, build the resilience, and enhance the adaptive capacity of coconut farmers and the local environment in Tanauan, Leyte, severely hit by Typhoon Haiyan in November 2013, by means of local biodiversity improvements through agroforestry conversion and reforestation. The project help enhance local biodiversity by bio-natural or organic raising of multiple crops, trees,

vegetables and mushrooms, as well as through the training of 300 typhoon-hit coconut farmer households.

To date a total of 330 participating farmers have been actively participating in the project. A total of 16,000 trees, vegetables and fruits were already planted and taken-cared of by growers.

4. Climate change mitigation through conversion to agroforestry (AF) and the improvement of biodiversity by planting trees, around Tanauan and Palo municipalities in northeastern Leyte which was severely damaged by the Haiyan Typhoon in November 2013. Mitsui Fund for the Environment. The agroforestry system was disseminated through organic cultivation of various kinds of fruits, trees, vegetables, and mushrooms, as well as training of 700 typhoon-affected coconut farmers. In the training and dissemination, we mobilized demo-farm growers who are motivated to disseminate agro-forestry among the coconut farmers. Furthermore, a local organization is utilized as the primary agricultural cooperative to increase farm income through sales of agricultural products. This year is the final phase of the project.

   The outcomes of the project include the following;

   a. Over 80% of the 700 participant coconut farms get to know how to grow at least two fruit and vegetable crops so that they can gain resilience in the face of future cyclone attack.
   b. The 18,000 hardwood trees, fruit trees and bamboos planted through reforestation in the area of 300 ha will contribute to protecting the target areas from a future cyclone attack while mitigating the global warming and climate change.
   c. The planted 9,000 hardwood trees will provide the basis for a 30 years rotational forest management from planting to growing and to cutting for household income and energy use, as well as a regional circulation of rainwater, river and irrigation water, and household water use.
   d. At least 50% of the 700 participant farms have established on-farm nutrient recycling of produced crops, animal wastes, and EM (effective microorganisms) through integrated crop and livestock farming.
   e. The participant farmers increase the amount of their subsistence food (excluding rice) by 200% and income from farm products by 150%, respectively.
   f. The replanted trees help to protect the survival of endangered local animal species (eg., Visayan warty pig, civet cat, and Philippine flying lemur) and plant species (eg., Apitong, Narra, Molave, Lauan, Dao), while contributing to the biodiversity conservation of numerous others.

5. Land Redemption

Most of the landholdings of farmers in the target areas are considered small. The average is 1.5 hectare and most of the inhabitants only own 1 hectare or less. In the event that there is a calamity happening to the family/household that needs immediate cash, i.e. an emergency, a death, etc, the easiest way for a family is to give the land to local usurers/financiers in exchange for an amount averaging P35,000 for a hectare of land. Sometimes the amount is lower and when the usurer/financier sense that the person is really in dire need, the amount goes even lower up to P10,000 or P15,000 for a hectare. The landowner could no longer avail of the harvests of the land until he has paid back the amount loaned to him. This is very prevalent here and this has brought down many farming families to destituteness. A resource-poor, cash-poor farming household who has no other source of income will become a landless farming family when this happen. When one is in this situation, the more that he cannot redeem the land area that he has loaned to the usurer. This system is called "prenda" and is very common here. There are many variations to the rule governing "prenda". One of the most difficult instance for a farmer is the rule that if one cannot pay the loaned amount in a specified period of time, say 5 years, the land in question is considered forfeited in favor of the usurer. This is usually done to coconut lands because the usurer is assured of immediate return every harvest or cropping season.

This year we were able to redeem 19.8 hectares of land.

Additional benefits:

a) Full, unencumbered and free cultivation and management of the farm.
b) Ability to develop the full potential of the farm.
c) Ability to earn from a variety of incomes that the farm generate such as income from bananas, small animals (goats, pigs, chickens) being raised and income from fruit trees especially mango. Mango in Misamis Oriental is export-quality.
d) Pride and sense of ownership and security.

6. Small farm development, micro-agri financing (draft and small animals, local livelihood development, gardening and agro-reforestation).

This component adheres to what is called low-external input sustainable farming system or the use of organic and locally-produced fertilizers and pesticides including ecosan products for the crops. The draft animal component will remain a major initiative given that the draft animal is proven to provide the farmer with multiple benefits and these benefits will last and be sustained for a long time to come. This component serves to integrate the whole aspect of water, agroforestry, nutrition and development or WAND. We will use organic agriculture, vermi-culture and the use of organic pest in our crop-animal-tree agroforestry and small farm development implementation.

This year we were able to reach 1,200 farmers and support them with various inputs.

7. Typhoon relief and recovery initiative.

   The German Doctors as well as small donors have provided funds for relief and recovery activities of the WAND Foundation this year. Notable is our water and sanitation and food security via vegetable gardening actions during Typhoon Rai in Surigao areas.

End of annual report