



## DAR-IARCDSP SUPPORTED INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE LGUs and the COMMUNITIES IN SULTAN KUDARAT AND SARANGANI PROVINCES

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) implemented “Italian Assistance to the Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Program” (IARCDSP) is moving headway towards achieving its noble objective of helping improve the living conditions of the farming communities. With the turnover of 15 infrastructure sub-projects (SPs) to serve as catalyst for rural development, it is expected that the recipients Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) will soon be transformed into viable communities conducive to farming activities as the provided SPs are responsive to their demands.

The turnover ceremonies on April 12 and April 13, 2018 at Esperanza and Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat Province and at Alabel, Sarangani, respectively, marked also the taking over of the Local Government Units (LGUs) for the sustainability of the different sub-projects.

The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Undersecretary Sylvia F. Mallari together with the National Project Coordinator (NPC) and Chief Technical Adviser (CTA) of the Italian Agrarian Reform Community Development Support Program (IARCDSP) of the Italian Government headed the delegation. It started off on April 12, 2018 at Barangay Kangkong (one of the Barangays of Pag-asa ARC, Esperanza) with the cutting of the ribbon of the 880 meters concrete Farm to Market Road (FMR).

Honorable Mayor Helen T. Latog of Esperanza, in her welcome address candidly said, “This is what we are waiting for. Our heartfelt thanks to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), to the Italian Government and to the people of Kangkong for this project that will serve not only the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) but also the people in general.”



“The project aims to improve the quality of life by uplifting the economic conditions of the people,” says Municipal Engineer Clarissa Alna Unson when she presented the profile of the sub-project.

After the signing of the turnover documents, Barangay Chairman Melchor C. Tagle gave his acceptance speech and emotionally said, *“Sa ngalan ng BLGU (Barangay Local Government Unit), buong puso kong tinatanggap ang proyekto. Ito’y aming iingatan para hindi kami mahihiya sa mga nagbigay sa amin.”* (In the name of the BLGU, I am accepting this project wholeheartedly. We will take care of this so we will not be ashamed to those who gave this to us.)

USEC Sylvia F. Mallari in her inspirational message said, *“Ito ay isang tagumpay at ang tagumpay na ito ay sa inyo. (This is victory and this victory is yours)* The responsibility is now embraced by the community. Your place is Esperanza, meaning hope. We hope that this one and the 17 other upcoming sub-projects will change the lives of the people. *Aming karangalan ang inyong tagumpay. (Your victory is our honor.)”*



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Upcoming 17 infra projects amounting to more or less 100M were approved and will be implemented in the coming months. Along with these are 4 AEDS (Agriculture and Enterprise Development Support) projects and 7 LCBS (Local Capacity Building Support) activities.



The delegation went to Upper Katungal (one of the Barangays of Tacurong ARC) for the cutting of the ribbon of the .486 kilometers concrete FMR. Joining the delegation was Honorable Mayor Lina O. Montilla of Tacurong City.

Hon. Mayor Montilla committed to take care of the sub-project so that more will come. She further said that she is glad that they did it and in return she thanked DAR-IARCDSP for the chance given. She also admitted that she learned a lot from the project.

Honorable Dominador Castellanes, SP member, said that the sub-project is a big help to the people. There are more or less 3,108 individuals who can benefit from the road, 278 of which are ARBs. It provides access to other services and facilities, easy transport of farm produce and good road facility for the students. In addition, it will contribute an increased revenue to the BLGU as the swimming resort within the barangay premises is now with easy access.

A mother and a grandmother of 40 grandchildren Mansueta Boston said that the sub-project provides benefits to her family. It lessens time and cost spent in going to school and to the market and for other activities.

USEC Mallari in her speech said *“Ang mga malalaki ay binubuo ng mga maliliit. Kung walang maliliit walang malaki. Yong mga maliliit ay bahagi ng malaking national development* (Big developments comprise small ones. The small ones are part of the bigger national development). Both the Philippines and Italian governments feel proud that we are in partnership with the Local Government Units. Where FMR begins, development begins.” She concluded with her hope that the project will be in good hands.

In the Municipality of Alabel, 13 sub-projects worth Php 19,688,747.30 were turned over on April 13, 2018 such as two (2) FMRs, 10 Solar Dryers and one (1) expanded Potable Water System located at Kawas ARC (covering Baragay Kawas) and BATODO ARC (covering Barangays Baluntay, Tokawal and Damolok). The 12 sub-projects will service 3,450



households, more or less, and the Potable Water System (Expanded) in Kawas ARC will serve 804 households.

Approved and for implementation are fourteen (14) infrastructure projects, four (4) AEDS projects and two (2) LCBS activities.



“I dreamed of Alabel that treats their farmers with the same level of nobility and respect. Therefore, when the DAR in partnership with the Italian Government chose Alabel as the recipient of these sub-projects, I was excited beyond belief. I was excited for the farmers because they will have access to new and improved facilities which will surely help them improve their crop production. And, I was excited for the LGU because if these sub-projects prove to be sustainable, then it is only a matter of time wherein we may be able to put our agriculture higher up in our list of priorities.” This was the opening message of Vice Mayor Ronnel Saldua Espanol.

He further said: “This day is also intended to celebrate our partnership with different government and non-government agencies.” He thanked FASPO-DAR through USEC Ms Sylvia F. Mallari and the Italian Government for choosing Alabel. “This opportunity will surely be taken advantaged and will be fully maximized for the betterment of the citizens of Alabel and most especially to alleviate the plight of the farmers. He hoped that this significant first step is revitalizing the farming industry and help not only the farmers but all sectors live more fulfilling lives,” Espanol continued.

He concluded with a quote from Mahatma Gandhi: “Service is the rent we pay for living in this earth.” He further said, “I hope that all of us would take this to heart as we strive to serve one another in the hopes of painting a brighter, better and greener future for our children.”

DAR Undersecretary of Foreign Assisted and Special Projects Sylvia F. Mallari said that the projects **are you, by you and for you** and that what is needed are strong and committed communities. She expressed her appreciation and deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve them, the farmers and the people.



Engr. Anuar P. Acop, the NPC of DAR-IARCDSP, inspired the farmers as he highlighted his 3 points agenda: happiness is our business; gratitude for the willingness, support and cooperation; and community participation for the sustainability of the sub-projects. He said, “If you want to be successful, it is not in the hands of other people, but it is in your hands.” He further stressed that when we see that the farmers are happy, that is our highest satisfaction because happiness is an indication of success.



CTA Carlo De Rosa expressed that good collaboration usually gives good results and that this should continue in order to sustain the sub-projects to have maximum utilization and benefits. The projects are the products of the cooperation of the different implementers and the active participation of the people and the stakeholders.

More sub-projects are coming to Alabel to be financed by DAR-IARCDSP. P70M worth of infrastructure sub-projects will be constructed the coming months and hopefully will be turned over within 2019.



FMR at Barangay kangkong, Esperanza, Sultan Kudarat



Solar Drier at Purok 6, Datal Conde, Barangay Domolok, Alabel



Farm to Market Road at Barangay Baluntay Proper to Sitio Talik



Solar Drier at Purok 3C, Barangay Tokawal, Alabel