Building Farmers’ Assets & Investing in the Out-of-School Youths for Rural Development

Asterio P. Saliot, PhD
Agriculture and farming is regarded a lowly profession

Majority of the Filipino farmers/fishers are among the poorest of the poor

Rural areas are usually impoverished

Poverty and malnutrition in farm families and rural communities force outmigration

Discourage young people to engage in farming and agriculture
Vision:
Philippine agriculture to become a viable industry and occupation

Strategy:
Build on the farmers’ assets and invest in the out-of-school youths to develop them as successor farmers
Building dreams, changing lives

It is in building the dreams of any farmer by harnessing their talents and skills to change their lives for good.

ATI will build on farmers’ dreams to cause positive changes in their lives and their families.
For the Out-of-School-Youth

- Invest in their training and education to develop successor farmers who are:
  - Creative
  - Skillful
  - Knowledgeable
  - Entrepreneurial farmers
  - Farm Managers
Programs

- School for Practical Agriculture
- Ladderized Course for the OSY
- Youth in Agriculture and Fisheries Program
- e-Extension Program for Agriculture and Fisheries
School for Practical Agriculture

- Farmers trained as trainer/extension worker
- Farm lot serve as demonstration area or practical learning site
- Used as micro-teaching for other farmers and OSYs especially those enrolled in a ladderized course on Agri-entrepreneurship
School for Practical Agriculture

- Acts as community extension worker with support from ATI and partners
- ATI provides financial assistance to develop his farm lot which will serve as a hands-on learning site

Form part of a network of “practical schools” for agriculture or farm schools network
School for Practical Agriculture

- As FARM TOURISM SITES
  - Tourism spots where actual agricultural activities can be witnessed and learned by visitors
  - Include community activities showing the agricultural landscape
  - Attracts hands-on practice for students
  - Venue for educational tours for local government officials, extension workers and researchers
SPA is designed to:

- Develop farmers and their farms as viable and productive occupation and source of income and livelihood
- Build capabilities and capacities of farmers/fishers and extension service providers (ESPs), rural based organizations (RBOs) and indigenous peoples (IPs) for them to develop and manage agribusiness-eco-tourism projects
SPA is designed to:

- Develop and implement agribusiness-eco-tourism projects in municipalities and establish one stop shops showcasing the products and resources of the communities
- Strengthen public-private partnership though investments and provision of counterpart resources
- Document the project’s success stories
Benefits for the SPA farmer

- Monthly allowance as local extension worker from the LGU or other ATI partners
- Start up capital of not less than $1,200 to or no more than $2,400 to help develop his farm from the LGU or ATI
- Life insurance coverage of PhP$1,200 to $2,400 from ATI and PCIC
- Eligible for accreditation from TESDA as competent trainer/extension worker
- Possible SSS insurance for future retirement benefits
Ladderized Course for OSYs

- A program that allows hands-on agriculture education with special focus on entrepreneurship and farm management

Students will be at the same time learning and earning
Ladderized Course for OSYs

• ATI and FPD lead in establishing the FARM SCHOOLS Network to support the training program for farm entrepreneurs.
• The establishment of the Schools for Practical Agriculture by ATI in cooperation with farmers who were trained as trainers/extension workers and partnership with SUCs and TESDA for the certification system, the ladderized course in Agri-entrepreneurship is well in place.
The Ladderized Program for Out of School Youth are for members of the 4-H Club of the Philippines. This hopes to improve the links between secondary and post-secondary education, the agricultural communities and business by assisting rural communities in designing self-sustaining, community based, and agriculture-focused school to work programs. This will also entail close collaboration between farms as industry training partners and schools which offer farm entrepreneurship program.
Curriculum

- Follows the regular secondary curriculum of the Department of Education.

- Bridging school-to-work program entails additional two years to the high school curriculum which combines a secondary and post-secondary program leading to a Diploma. During the additional two year Diploma Course:
  - Students shall go through an intensive on-the-job training program that will afford them hands-on exposure to various agriculture enterprises.
  - The students will supplement their studies by enrolling in various e-Learning courses offered by ATI under its electronic Extension Program.
National Competency

- The post-secondary program is implemented under TESDA’s Dual Training System.
- Graduates who pass TESDAs Certification Examinations earn a national competency certificate in:
  - crops,
  - horticulture,
  - animal and poultry production,
  - aquaculture,
  - organic and natural farming system
Scholarship

- Students under this program are awarded with scholarship by ATI
- Graduates of the program who wish to continue their studies for a college degree may qualify to apply to the:
  - Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurial Management
  - Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Entrepreneurship

Scholarships will then be provided by ATI under its Youth in Agriculture and Fisheries Program
Case 1

- Diploma in Agriculture Entrepreneurship
  - Offered by Meralco Foundation Inc.
  - Farm Business School with the University of Rizal System
  - Agricultural Training Institute which funded the program towards Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurial Management major in Farm Business.

For every semester of four months, one month is spent for classroom instructions while the other three months will be for hands-on learning in partnership with farm schools. At the end of the year the student will take a competency examination administered by TESDA.
Case 2

- Diploma in Eco-Farm Tourism Entrepreneurship offered by Western Philippine University
- Towards a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Entrepreneurship major in Eco-Farm Tourism

Students will have both classroom and actual hands-on exercises in the farms. He/she then will take a Competency Exam from TESDA. This is in partnership with FPD, ATI, WPU, two Congressional districts of Palawan, City Government of Puerto Princesa, Palawan Provincial Government, PAES, SAKA Foundation and the 12 Farm School partners.
Youth in Agriculture & Fisheries Program

- A scholarship program of the DA through ATI
- Open to all deserving children of farmers/fishers to pursue studies and professional career in agriculture and fisheries
- Enlisted the expertise of state universities and colleges in providing quality education
- Covers Bachelor’s degree in Agriculture, Fisheries and other related sciences
Privileges

- Monthly allowance
- Book allowance
- Actual tuition and other school fees
- Funding support to conduct research as a graduating student
Other Programs for the Youth

- Lowering of age requirement of 4-H Clubs membership from 15-30 years to 10-30 years old.

- Gawad Saka Award for Young Farmers – a national award system to recognize young farmers

- Gawad Saka Award for Young Farmer Organization – a national award system to recognize young farmer organizations usually 4-H Clubs
Other Programs for the Youth

- Learning and Discovery Center for Agriculture and Fisheries – a center which showcases various farming systems, extension strategies, value chain of some commodities, innovations in agricultural extension, and features various successful farmer entrepreneurs and their products. This serves as a venue for expository tours of elementary and high school students for them to appreciate agriculture.

- Special hands-on (season-long trainings) for OSY with TESDA NC II Certification
e-Extension Program for Agriculture & Fisheries

The electronic delivery of extension service of the network of institutions that provide a more efficient alternative to a traditional extension system for agriculture, fisheries and natural resources sectors.

It maximizes the use of information and communication technology to attain a modernized agriculture and fisheries sector.

It focuses on creating an electronic and interactive bridge where farmers, fishers and other stakeholders meet and transact to enhance productivity, profitability and global competitiveness.
An aggressive shift in its extension work, envisioning services that can be delivered any time, any place and at any pace.
e-Extension

The electronic delivery of extension service is a network of institutions that provide a more efficient alternative to a traditional extension system for agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources sectors. It maximizes the use of information and communication technology to attain a modernized agriculture and fisheries sector. It focuses on creating an electronic and interactive bridge where farmers, fishers, and other stakeholders meet and transact to enhance productivity, profitability, and global competitiveness.

Solutions

- To institutionalize the e-Extension system of the agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources sectors
- To integrate and harmonize e-Extension initiatives of various institutions
- To empower the stakeholders in agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources on the value of e-Extension services

4 events to Mainstream e-Extension in the Philippines
Components

❖ e-Learning

❖ e-Farming through the:
  ✓ Farmers’ Contact Center
  ✓ NM Rice Apps/Rice Crop Manager with IRRI

❖ e-Trading using the Market Maker model of Cornell University (for pilot implementation)
eLearning component

- Various courses are developed and specifically designed for agricultural extension workers and farmers / fishers
  - Courseware developers come from partner agencies under the Department of Agriculture, Department of Science and Technology, Sustainable Agriculture Center of Xavier University, LGUs

- All courses were pre-tested and assessed by experts on agricultural and social technologies and by experts on distance learning.

- Digital learning resources are available for supplemental learning (web-based, pdf and video tutorials in YouTube)
Crops
From planting to harvesting, let’s learn the latest technologies on various crops grown in the country.
LEARN MORE

Livestock & Poultry
Learn and profit from efficiently rearing farm animals.
LEARN MORE

Fisheries
Let’s raise and harvest aquatic plants and animals. Learn the various technologies in fisheries.
LEARN MORE

Social Technology
Lead. Initiate. Mobilize.
Learn concepts, and strategies to build your capabilities along agricultural extension.
LEARN MORE

Sustainable Agriculture
Let’s study how to produce safe and health food, while taking care of the environment and the natural resources.
LEARN MORE

Learning Resources
More information on various agri-fisheries technologies that you can download for free.
LEARN MORE
## e-Learning Data as of June 30, 2014

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20,050 registered users  
*As of June 30, 2014*
e-Learning

Capability Building

- Content Development (two phases) for partner agencies
- e-Learning Program Administration
- Internet Communication and Basic Computer Literacy for Extension Workers
- Seminar on Internet Communication for Executives
- Demystifying eLearning Seminar for SUCs, LGUs, FITS Centers
Department of Agriculture’s

FARMER’S CONTACT CENTER

Ang inyong kaagapay sa usaping agrikultura...
Farmers’ Contact Center

- A support center for the clients of the Department of Agriculture to deliver farm and business advisory services through the use of ICT.
- Main features: services through voice (call) and short messaging system (text) modes thru a pre-defined toll-free number specified across the country, as well as online communication like chat, online fora and email.
FCC Hotlines

1-800-10-982-AGRI (1-800-10-982-2474) for Provincial Toll-free calls

982-AGRI (982-2474) for calls within Metro Manila

0920-946-AGRI (0920-946-2474) for Mobile calls

391-DA (391-32) for Smart and Talk ‘N Text

0920-946-AGRI (0920-946-2474) for Globe, TM, and Sun Cellular

info@e-extension.gov.ph
Topics Covered

- Agriculture and Fisheries Technologies
- Agricultural Marketing
- Pests and Diseases Management
- DA Programs and Services
- e-Learning Concerns
How the e-services are promoted

- Mobilization of pool of e-Extension Coordinators from the Regional Training Centers to conduct briefings and promote the e-Extension Program and the services of the FCC
- Dissemination of IEC and promotional materials
- Participation in agri-fairs and exhibits
- Promotion in the local radio stations especially for those who have school-on-the-air program
- Promotion through social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter (Pinoy eXtension) and YouTube
- Maximizing search engine optimization
Grow Local & Eat Local Movement

- Joint project of ATI and FPD
- To encourage Filipinos to grow and patronize food produced near their place
- To address food security of each town, city or province
- Caters to farmers and farmer groups, restaurants, hotels, resorts, supermarkets, hospitals, offices and individual consumers
- Strategies: weekend markets, farmers’ markets, food exchanges and packing centers, and “community supported agriculture” via subscription farming which will lead to the establishment of a local food system
Benefits of the Movement

- Lower food prices
- Reduce import bill and create ready markets for Filipino farmers
- Increased income of local farmers
- Reduce carbon footprint due to savings from food miles
- Localization of food production and consumption of fresh and healthy food
- Encourage the youth by making them realize that agribusiness entrepreneurship is a career option
Since agriculture is a science, it therefore has to be nurtured through developing the attitudes and character of those who will engage it.

It is by building the farmers’ capabilities and investing in out-of-school youths that we can hope for a developed and progressive sector.
Conclusion

It cannot be one after the other.

It should be **simultaneous to have synergy** as the farmers hand over to the OSYs as their future successors the knowledge, skills, and values they learned from their ancestors and years of experience.
Conclusion

The government and the private sector should craft the needed policies and put-up the infrastructures that will facilitate the achievement of the dreams and aspirations of those engaged in fishing and farming and eventually change them to have better lives.
Thank You!

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