

DRAFT

Government and Community-driven Response to Climate Change Problems

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Introduction

The Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA) has pioneered Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) in the Laguna de Bay Region through the Laguna de Bay Community Carbon Finance Project (or Carbonshed Project), which was funded through a grant from the Japan Climate Change Initiative which is managed by the World Bank . One of the bundles of CDM-eligible sub-projects is Reforestation/Afforestation. Under the CDM rules are land eligibility criteria, which require that the reforestation/afforestation site must be deforested before 1990 and that there is no chance of regeneration unless assisted by humans. It also requires that low-income communities should implement the project. One of the steps in the CDM registration process is project and site validation by the Designated Operational Entity or DOE, who is licensed by the CDM Executive Board.

Pre-validation activity done by the DOE in the proposed site in Siniloan, Laguna was positive but there is no organized low-income community in the project area who should implement the project. This prompted the LLDA and the Local Government of Siniloan, who institutionally is the participant in the project, to act together in organizing the community in Barangays Liyang, Macatad and Laguio with technical and financial support from the World Bank. A Community Organizer was hired to work closely with the LLDA and LGU of Siniloan consisting of the Municipal Council, the Barangay Council of Barangay Laguio, Liyang and Macatad, the landowners, caretakers and farmers.



Figure 1 . Eligible areas for CDM Reforestation in Siniloan, Laguna

The community organizing process

The processes involved in the participation of the upland community to the Reforestation Project is composed of the following five main activities:

1. Carbonshed Reforestation Project Orientation Seminar which is a semi-structured, lecture-discussion type with visual aids, sharing of experiences and local knowledge and case presentation;
2. Preparatory Committee Meetings to identify and schedule workshops and trainings and to prepare Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and creation of a project management team;
3. Consultations with farmers and caretakers to develop indicators for low-income families;
4. Conduct of technical trainings and workshops and study tours on farm planning, agroforestry, plant propagation and nursery establishment, farm plan validation and land survey; and
5. Multi-sectoral consultations and orientation geared towards the formation of a multi-sectoral environmental organization.

Note: the following information and figures are still to be edited synthesized:

1. Project Orientation Seminar

Main Topics of the Orientation Seminar. The main topics of the orientation seminar are as follows:

- I. The Objectives of the Seminar
 - A. Knowing the Conditions of our Environment
 - B. The Roles of Local Government Units in Environmental Campaigns
 - C. What about the Carbonshed Project?
- II Discussion of Mains Topics
 - A. A Brief Environmental Situation
 - B. The Role of Local Government Units on Environmental Programs
 - C. The Carbonshed Project
 1. Objectives
 2. Scope and Type of Project Partners
 3. Methodology and Requisites
 4. Schemes and Benefits
- III. Open forum

The seminar approach was a semi-structured lecture-discussion type with slides and flip chart presentation, sharing of experiences and local knowledge, and case presentation.

Issues/Questions Raised. The following are the major issues/questions raised during the Orientation Seminars:

- Majority of farmer-residents have no titles, how can they participate?
- Most landowners are absentee-owners, can the caretakers be part of the project?
- How can poor farming families benefit from the project?
- Can we incorporate cash crops in the project aside from fruit trees?
- Can poor famers with no legal document but willing to be part of the project participate?
- Can fruit trees and some other cash crops be planted in between the fruit trees?
- Can the barangay be part of the negotiating party for the agreement of the landowners and their caretakers? Will this also have a written agreement?
- What about laws and ordinances to safeguard our farm lots against stray animals, burning and theft?

2. Preparatory Committee Meetings and Consultations with Farmers and Caretakers

There are five sets of Preparatory Committee meetings and consultations with farmers and caretakers held on July 7-12, 2008, July 14-18, 2008, July 28 – August 1, 2008, August 26 – September 1, 2008, and September 2 – 5, 2008.

Please see Annex A for the venues, the coverage/objectives, issues raised and recommendations.

One of the salient output of the consultation meetings with the farmers and caretakers are indicators for farming families living in subsistence level that could provide an operational definition of **what poor (low income) farming families** are in the municipality of Siniloan.

Indicators of Subsistence Farming (Low-Income Families) in Barangays Macatad, Laguio and Liyang:

1. No ownership of farm lots and area for housing is not permanent, they established their home usually near beside the highway, national road. Some families are temporarily occupying the lands allegedly owned by Montalbo, Alcantara, Serrano, Redor and and Acero for housing.
2. No permanent job. Contractual farm labor received wage ranging from the rate of PhP180 or US\$4 with food provision to PhP200 or US\$4.49 without food provision. The Quintero's offers PhP250 or US\$5.62 without food provision; this is exceptional case as the highest rate.
3. Share in harvest in rice for every 3 cans of rice he gets 1 can as share.
4. If he or she works as labor for the tasks of weeding, planting, threshing, blowing, and hauling for an area of 2,000 m² he gets 6 cavans as share. They are locally known as "mangkakamkam". If he or she is a tenant, the share is 50 percent of the harvest for rice less costs of production.
5. If he or she works in the uplands, his income comes from gathering and selling fern (pako) for decoration and ornamentals like papua and pistol. The forest area is usually a two hours walk from the farm lots. This product is delivered in Manila (Dangwa area) Earning PhP100 or US\$2.25 less costs. Selling price of fern (10 bundles–PhP70 cash and PhP75 credit)
6. His or Her family eats twice a day during lean periods.
7. As a caretaker to an orchard farm, he/she gets 1/3 to 25% share of the harvest (citrus tress). If he or she is a tenant, the share is 60-40 in favor of the owner. Locally known as "Tersyuhan". The Quintero family applies this sharing.

8. He or She cannot afford to send his or her children to high school or college due to maintenance costs amounting to PhP50 or US\$1.13 a day for transportation and food allowance. Only a few families can send their children to college. At present in Brgy. Liyang, Siniloan only 5 students sent to college.
9. A small farmer in the uplands owns only a maximum of ½ ha. Planted with a few vegetables, these are the white and yellow corn and cut flowers, few fruit trees, cassava and bananas.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the Municipal and Brgy. Councils and the landowner were discussed and finalized.

3. Technical Trainings & Workshops and Study Tours

A total of six technical trainings and workshops for the farmers and caretakers were conducted (See Annex A for the details):

1. Agro-Forestry Training/Study Tour and Farm Planning Workshop (Aug. 9-10);
2. Second Farm Planning Workshop (Aug. 14);
3. Plant Propagation and Nursery Establishment Training in Barangays Macatad and Laguio (Aug 17);
4. Trip to Caranglan and Pampanga (Aug. 21-22);
5. Plant Propagation and Nursery Establishment Training in Barangay Liyang (Aug. 24); and
6. Coordination for the Farm Plan Validation Workshop and Land Survey (Aug. 25).

4. Multi-Sectoral Consultations and Meetings

Through the multi-sectoral consultations and meetings, the Kalinga sa Kalikasan tungo sa Kaunlaran (KAKASA KA) was established. An AD HOC Preparatory Committee was also organized which drafted the Constitution and By-laws of KAKASA KA Siniloan.

Recommended Local Actions of KAKASA KA Siniloan:

1. Environmental Education and Information Campaigns
2. Advocacy and lobbying on basic rights for a sound environment.
3. Advocacy on People's responsibility sharing for the environment.
4. Zoning and rehabilitation of Geohazard areas
 - a. Grassland areas
 - b. Steep slope (landslide prone) areas
 - c. Springs and water tributaries (creeks, rivers and lake)

5. Community Management and Protection of the following natural resources
 - a. Buruwisan and other small falls in Siniloan
 - b. Waters sources and tributaries (springs, creeks, rivers)
 - c. Lowland and Hillyland areas
6. Covenant on Boundaries (Tree boundaries)
7. Be part of the Carbonshed Reforestation Project.

INSIGHTS AND LESSONS LEARNED

Based on the assessment of the response of the community in their involvement to the Siniloan Reforestation Project, the following insights/realizations were gathered:

- Communities have the adaptive capacity for disaster preparedness planning and management even if originally these were not integrated in the overall planning process
 - What started as a reforestation project as part of the Carbonshed project of Laguna de Bay, after series of orientations, trainings and workshops and study tours for the landowners, caretakers and leaders, the communities decided to incorporate disaster preparedness that would be brought about by the usual natural and human induced hazards being experienced by the communities but also incorporate climate change related vulnerabilities in their overall planning process.
- Communities became more proactive rather than reactive in dealing with a potential hazard brought about by climate change
 - It has been shown that the organizations of committees, especially for the multi-sector environmental formation and engaging of the political leaders have been very instrumental in the buy-in or generating community support as manifested in their active participation in preparatory committee planning and even in the preparations for the trainings. The topic on the climate change issue which was very much part of the orientation has made the communities realized that they have to be proactive on the potential hazard of climate change in their area.
- Political will of the local leadership serve as catalyst provide better direction in hazard management (municipal and barangay level)

- Orientation of the Municipal Council on the project and engaging them to support the Agro-Forestry Training/Study Tour and the series of Farm Planning Workshops, has been effective in not only generating support but also commitment to support hazard management. This commitment provided the leadership which facilitated the Plant Propagation and Nursery Establishment Training in Barangays at the barangay and municipal level and the fo Macatad and Laguio and the conduct of the Project Management Team Planning-Workshop as well as the KAKASA KA Siniloan Prep Com Meeting. This political leadership also facilitated the Coordination for the Farm Plan Validation Workshop and Land Survey and the Consultation with other Land owners and Land Administrators. This led finally to the project resolution sponsorship from the Municipal Council and local ordinances from the three barangay local government units.
- Strong community involvement in the base lining and planning process can strengthen ownership of the plan and ensure its implementation
 - In all these preparatory activities, community engagement has been strong especially in the gathering of baseline information to be used in the planning process. The survey activities were participated in by local communities so that community issues especially in terms of land demarcation and tenurial issues were resolved at the community level.
- Local champion, facilitator, catalyst spells the difference
 - Champions like the President of the Kakasa Ka Siniloan, Prof. Armando L. Belda, a well respected retired professor of Soil Science at the LSPU, Lay Minister of the parish Church in Siniloan, Pepe Acelajado (MENRO) and Mars de Leon (Municipal Engineer) and the Mayor of Siniloan served as inspirations for the community. They were responsible in the facilitation of the whole process which lead to the eventual organization of the Kakasa Ka Siniloan, with its constitution and by-laws and conduct of the project public hearing in the municipal council which culminated in the ceremonial MOA signing.
- Trainings and organization at the Municipal and Barangay levels necessary
 - From the Siniloan experience, the community organization work and the capacity building components both at the municipal and barangay levels were necessary ingredients for the in the project development and planning process.

