

Balitung



The Official Newsletter of the Department of Agrarian Reform

Special Edition

BUHAY GULAY



Rosemarie S. Lomibao
Editor-in-Chief

Kelvin Angelo R. Paulino
Editorial Consultant

Richard B. Gallardo
Senior Writer

Medel T. Mercado
Resurreccion E. Arcaina
Writers

Alexandra Mae M. Puno
Layout and Design

Mary Clarhese R. Pasco
Proofreader

Special Thanks to
Dexter Miranda

Balitung DAR is published quarterly by the
Department of Agrarian Reform
Public Assistance and Media Relations Service



BUHAY SA GULAY

A Masterstroke

By: Richard Gallardo

MANY have tried, but only Agrarian Reform Secretary John R. Castriciones has succeeded in stirring public interest into urban gardening.

It was a masterstroke that has driven everybody, from the national government to the local government down to the ordinary people to go for it.

Where it started and how it came into being is something for “Ripley’s Believe it or Not” as nobody thought of it coming to life.

Bro. John, as Castriciones is fondly called, recalls that the idea just flashed in his mind upon seeing an idle football field while distributing food packs to poor residents at the Saint John Bosco Parish Church in Tondo, Manila. He raised it to parish priest, Fr. Gaudencio Carandang, who quickly gave a thumb’s up sign.

And so, the country’s first urban

vegetable garden city came into being on September 29, 2020, hosted by the Saint John Bosco Parish Church, a namesake of Bro. John. It is a fitting battleground in the fight against hunger and poverty, which the Covid 19 pandemic has further exacerbated.

Bro. John christened the revolutionized farming system as “Buhay sa Gulay,” which expands the scope of farming beyond its traditional turf, the rural areas, to as far as the highly urbanized zones.

The idea of urban gardening actually was first floated in January 2009 when former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo introduced it through the Executive Order No. 776. Dubbed as “Gulayan ng Masa,” the project was carried out under the P300-billion “Comprehensive Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (CLEEP).

The Gulayan ng Masa, together with the Integrated Services for Livelihood Advancement (ISLA) for subsistence of fisherfolk, was designed as a massive government food production program in the urban areas. It sought to set up urban vegetable gardens and backyard fisheries, including vacant lots and unused government lands.

The Gulayan ng Masa was truly a noble project. However, nobody took it seriously until it faded off with a whimper.

The Buhay sa Gulay took off auspiciously despite no budget allotted for it. Bro. John simply did the big difference: He sowed the seed right in the heart of the poorest sector of the society – Tondo, Manila, while inspiring them to own up the project.

On the other hand, the Gulayan

ng Masa was laid out on paper and was left in the hands of the local chief executives.

The Buhay sa Gulay project came into being in a snap, out of the love for the welfare of the poor families, while the Gulayan ng Masa was carefully planned and implemented to “take advantage of the window of opportunity, i.e., declining inflation and interest rates and good weather.”

More significantly, the Buhay sa Gulay has the masses actively involved, something the Gulayan ng Masa missed and overlooked.

No wonder, the masses have embraced to heart the Buhay sa Gulay, a masterstroke by Bro. John for the love of the poor and the hungry.

So, whenever Buhay sa Gulay is being talked about, think of Bro. John, the brainchild of the project.



6 FARMER-SCIENTISTS COMMENDED FOR HELPING BUHAY SA GULAY A SUCCESS

By: Richard Gallardo

THE Department of Agrarian Reform cited the six (6) farmer-scientists for extending their technical know-how to develop the first successful urban vegetable gardening project that the department pursued in what used to be a football field owned by the Saint John Bosco Parish in Tondo, Manila.

DAR-Cavite provincial agrarian reform program officer James Arthur Dubongco identified the six farmer-scientists as Joselito Tibayan, Allan Marjes Tibayan and Roberto Mojica, all officers of the Palanque Agrarian Reform Cooperative in Naic; Danilo Arnes and Mario Profeta of Tres Cruces Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers Association; and, Teresita Villanueva of Barangay Bunga Farmers Association in Tanza.

Dubongco commended them for voluntarily sharing their proven farming techniques to Tondo residents who took part in the project, dubbed as Buhay sa Gulay, a brain-child of DAR Secretary John R. Castriciones.

“You have not denied your talents and skill in the field of farming. Your response became a signal for the success of the said project. Thank you for your time and knowledge,” Dubongco said.

Brother John pursued the project in partnership with Fr. Gaudencio Carandang, parish priest of the Saint John Bosco Parish, after the former noticed the idle football field while he and fellow DAR officials were distributing food packs two months ago to selected local residents living within the immediate vicinity of the parish church.

The DAR provided the farm inputs and the tractor and other farm implements that were used to cultivate the idle lot, while local residents, led by their barangay chairmen, volunteered to do the farming.

Pleased with the result of their first urban vegetable gardening project, Brother John said many local government units in Metro Manila had approached his office to have the project replicated in their respective localities, among them the Quezon and Caloocan City governments. **BUHAY SA GULAY**

November 23, 2020

DAR LAUNCHES URBAN FARMING

in Tondo, Manila

By: Medel Mercado



especially during these trying times.

“We support urban farming, and I will propose to the City Ordinance that this noble project be funded by our local government,” Juson said.

Manila Bishop Broderick Pabillo said St. John Bosco dedicated his lifetime to the poor and that the DAR must be His instrument in helping the poor parishioners of Manila at present.

“I am hopeful that other cities, communities and urban centers in Metro Manila would emulate this project, and I trust that the DAR would certainly, help them,” Bishop Pabillo said. **BUHAY SA GULAY**



“Many Filipinos were affected by the Covid-2019 pandemic because majority lost their jobs and have no means to put food on their tables. The farmers are one of the least affected by the crisis because they have their farms to till, agricultural products to sell and harvest to feed their families, and even some of the country’s households,” thus said Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary Brother John Castriciones during the launching of an urban farming project dubbed as “Buhay sa Gulay,” held in St. John Don Bosco Parish, Tondo Manila.

Castriciones said this project would utilize the 8,000 square meter football fields of the Parish to cultivate various vegetables that would benefit the families and residents surrounding the 17 barangays.

“This land is currently idle and we would use this to teach our urban dwellers how to farm so that they could produce their own food and also sell some of their yields to earn money,” he said.

Brother John further said that the DAR’s mandate is to distribute lands to landless farmers in the countryside and provide them with various support services, including training, to help them boost their

farms. These farmers in rural communities would now share their learnings with the urban dwellers.

DAR-Calabarzon Regional Director Rene Colocar explained that five (5) farmer-scientists, who are also agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of the DAR in the province of Cavite, would teach the benefitting barangays the technical know-how on cultivating the lands.

“Apart from the training, the seedlings, fertilizers, vermicast and other farming materials will be provided by the provincial office of DAR in Cavite, while the machinery we use are borrowed from the Department of Agriculture,” Colocar said.

Manila Counselor Irma Alfonso-Juson, who represented Mayor Isko Moreno, said that this project is most welcome to the Mayor, as it would benefit his constituents,



This land is currently idle and we would use this to teach our urban dwellers how to farm so that they could produce their own food and also sell some of their yields to earn money





TONDO RESIDENTS EARN P19,000 IN 2 HOURS FROM VEGETABLE FARMING

By: Resurreccion E. Arcaina

January 3, 2021

Tondo resident-beneficiaries in 17 barangays reaped their vegetables and earned P19,000.00 in just two hours as they sold more than 600 kilos of vegetables at a discounted price from the “pick, harvest, and pay” promo conducted yesterday during the 1st urban vegetable garden Harvest Festival.

The said activity is being implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) under the “Buhay sa Gulay” project, in partnership with St. John Bosco Parish, Department of Agriculture (DA), and the local government of Manila.

More than 8,000 square meter idle soccer field, managed by St. John Bosco Parish located in Tondo, Manila, was converted into an urban vegetable garden which benefitted families and residents of 17 barangays around the parish to lessen the economic and health effects of COVID-19 pandemic in the area.

“Kapag nagtutulungan at nagkakaisa ang mga mamamayan, ang pamahalaan at

ang simbahan, ay siguradong magkakaroon ng isang produktibong programa na magpapaunlad sa pamayanan,” DAR Secretary Brother John R. Castriciones said during the celebration of Buhay Sa Gulay Harvest Festival.

He said the Buhay sa Gulay Harvest Festival demonstrated the concerted effort of the local and national government agencies in bringing about farm products in the city through the dedication, commitment, and handwork provided by the farmer-scientist from Cavite and the Tondo urban farmers.

“Ang mamamayan po ng Tondo ay maaari nang mag-ani ng gulay mula sa lupang ipinahiram ng simbahan at bayaran ng direktso ang mga produktong kanilang naani. Hindi na nila kailangang pumunta sa palengke dahil sariwang-sariwa ang mga gulay na kanilang maaani dito. Siguradong magiging masigla at malusog ang pangangatawan ng mga mamamayan dito,” Brother John said.



Castriciones emphasized that during this time of the pandemic, Filipinos must unite and help each other not only to combat the negative effect of the COVID-19 in the county but also to help bring back its citizen to farming activities.

He disclosed that aside from Tondo, other LGUs in Metro Manila will soon follow in establishing their own urban vegetable garden, such as Quezon City and Caloocan City.

“Sa pamamagitan ng pagsasaka, ang mga mamamayan ng siyudad ay hindi na

kailangan umasa sa ibang lalawigan para sa suplay ng mga gulay,” he added.

Josefina C. Tandog, 65 years old and Chairman of Brgy. 109, District 1 of Tondo said: “Mahalaga ang gulay sa ating buhay dahil ito ang nagbibigay sustansya sa ating katawan.”

She said that they were able to plant and harvest spinach, pechay, kangkong and mustard in the said vegetable garden, with the spinach, mustard, and pechay sold at 30 pesos per kilo, while kangkong is 50 pesos per kilo only. **BUHAY SA GULAY**

QUEZON CITY URBAN-DWELLERS PLANT FOR DAR'S 2ND "BUHAY SA GULAY" PROJECT

By: Medel Mercado
January 8, 2021



A total of eighty (80) urban-dweller beneficiaries under the Department of Agrarian Reform's (DAR) project called "Buhay sa Gulay" has started planting portions of the seven (7) hectare land in Bagong Silangan, Quezon City, the second urban vegetable farming project launched in Metro Manila, to provide barangay residents a steady and continuous supply of different vegetables throughout the year.

DAR Undersecretary for Support Services Office Atty. Emily O. Padilla said "The project started with a vision to help feed the seven percent of the population in Bagong Silangan, in New Greenland Farm. And with the trust to each one of you that you can grow and develop these plants. Be confident that you can stand alone, and that Quezon City can become the center of agriculture, even if it is in the midst of a highly urbanized city."

DAR - Calabarzon Regional Director Rene Colocar said

the resident-beneficiaries of the QC pilot site of the DAR's 2nd urban vegetable farming project in Metro Manila were able to plant vegetable seedlings to around one hectare of the total 7-hectare scope of landholding.

He said, forty-five (45) garden plots measuring 1-meter x 12-meter each were prepared for the planting activity. Healthy competition was conducted among the resident-beneficiaries. The group was divided into five (5) identified teams and were all provided with their own parcels of land to develop. Each team gets a maximum of 9 garden plots which constitute a parcel.

"After planting, the team shall

ensure that all the required day to day cultural management activities and operations are done until the plants are ready for harvesting after 25 days," he said.

Colocar disclosed that a 7-hectare semi-mechanized vegetable garden city of Kyusi would generate an average additional income Php125,488 per urban dweller participant per year.

The planting activity is being undertaken in partnership with six (6) agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOS) from DAR-Cavite and two (2) ARBOs from DAR-Rizal. These farmers are all trained and capacitated by the DAR and the Department of Agriculture (DA) and

are all considered as farmer-scientists, who taught the 80 direct urban dwellers participants the technical know-how on the proper way of urban vegetable gardening.

Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte said "This is my dream project that we may be able to have an urban farm

This is my dream project that we may be able to have an urban farm in our city so that we will not rely on other provinces for our livelihood and for our food.

in our city so that we will not rely on other provinces for our livelihood and for our food."

Bagong Silangan Barangay Chairman Wilfredo Cara said that the residents in their community are very happy with this project because they would soon have a regular source of vegetables in the area.

DAR and the local government of QC launched the 2nd "Buhay sa Gulay" project last January 8, 2021 and they target to conduct their first harvest on February 14, 2021. **BUHAY SA GULAY**

DAR UNVEILS 4,000m² LOT for 'Buhay sa Gulay' Project in Caloocan City

By: Resurreccion E. Arcaina
January 3, 2021



The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has partnered with Caloocan City government to develop a 4,419 square meters idle lot in Sunriser and Vista Verde Village, Barangay 167-Llano, Caloocan City into an urban vegetable farming site.

Dubbed as "Buhay sa Gulay," the project primarily aims to promote the importance of urban farming and empower urban dwellers to have an alternative source of income through production and selling of fresh vegetables.

DAR Secretary Brother John R. Castricones said: "the farmers are the new heroes during this time of the pandemic. Without them, there can be no food on our tables."

Castricones said that with the help from the Department of Agriculture, local government units and all the farmers in the provinces, Filipinos in urban areas can now plant vegetables so that the people

living in the city will have a continuous supply of affordable, fresh, and healthy vegetables.

"We can have farmers in Metro Manila. Let us be united to prove that farmers are considered as one of the heroes of the country. And let us continue to pray to God Almighty for this pandemic to pass," Brother John said.

Buhay sa Gulay in Barangay 167 is the DAR's third urban vegetable farming project in Metro Manila, which partners with a

local government unit replicating the success of the urban farming project in Tondo, Manila, and Bagong Silangan, Quezon City.

"I want to thank the national government for giving us a program like this. They did not just give us a project, but also supervised and took

care of us in this time. The project is very timely in this time of the pandemic because through farming, we can survive this crisis that we are experiencing," Caloocan City

Mayor Oscar "Oca" G. Malapitan said.

He added: "In the future, whether there will still be a pandemic or not, as long as we are used to planting in our environment, at least in our own backyard, somehow this would be a great help to our community."

The project is a combined undertaking of the national government agencies, local government units, and community-based organizations led by the DAR, Department of Agriculture, the local government of Caloocan City, Agricultural Training Institute, residents of Barangay 165, 166, 167, and 168 and the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) of Cavite and Rizal.

Beneficiaries of the project will be trained by farmer scientists and ARBs from DAR-CALABARZON, while the DA will

provide them with machineries and tools.

Included in the highlights of the event is the ceremonial unveiling of the "Buhay sa Gulay" project for four project sites, signing of the Memorandum of Understanding with the two government agencies and barangay officials to formalize the partnership and the vegetable planting ceremonies.

The Buhay sa Gulay" project is in line with the 'small brother-big brother' development strategy, wherein mature, established, and progressive ARB organizations (ARBOs) of DAR provide support and assistance to marginalized dwellers, who are mostly informal settlers, much akin to newly organized ARBOS struggling to keep its members and the organization functioning. **BUHAY sa GULAY**

The farmers are the new heroes during this time of the pandemic. Without them, there can be no food on our tables.





'We can beat Covid 19'

-DAR chief

By: Richard Gallardo
February 18, 2020

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary John R. Castricones declared Thursday, February 18, 2021, that the Filipino nation could beat Covid 19 by working together for the highly successful revolutionized farming system: the "Buhay sa Gulay" project.

Bro. John, as Castricones is fondly called, said the project could help increase food productivity that "will redound for the benefit of our people."

"We may not be able to feed our people with these vegetables, but what really matters is that we are able to arouse their interest and enthusiasm into farming," Bro. John said during the "Harvest Festival" of the now "talk of the city" vegetable garden city in Bagong Silangan, Quezon City.

And the farmworkers were ecstatic about the result of the project.

"This is really a big help for us. We were taught about new farming methods to increase our harvests much unlike before when we just cleared a portion of the area and plant. We were taught how to prepare garden beds, unlike before we totally ignore such practices," said Severino T. Sablay, 72, leader of Team Talon, one of the five teams working on the "New Greenland Farm".

"We are seeing a great future here. We were taught the proper way of farming and spraying our plants with pesticides. Before, we just plant and then let them grow by themselves," said Camilo Mendoza, 79, member of Team Sayaw.

Cabinet Secretary Karlo Nograles, who is the concurrent chairman of the Task Force Zero Hunger, said Covid 19 is much better compared to hunger.

"At least, Covid 19 can be cured by the vaccine. There is no vaccine for hunger," Nograles said.

Undersecretary Emily Padilla said everything is possible for as long as "people like our Secretary (Bro. John) and our dear (Quezon City) Mayor (Joy Belmonte) have visions. They are the kind of leaders who can walk the talk."

Even Mayor Belmonte was awestruck by the success of the project.

"Before, ours was limited to backyard



gardening. I'm glad that we have started urban farming and we are going to expand from seven hectares to 10 hectares. I just really want to thank Secretary John Castricones for your support," Belmonte

said in her speech.

Sen. Bong Go, for his part, said the vegetable garden city project "plays a vital role in achieving food self-sufficiency for the country. **BUHAY sa GULAY**



At least, Covid 19 can be cured by the vaccine. There is no vaccine for hunger



DAR CHIEF
DECLARES FARMING: “““

THE LAST FRONTIER OF OUR SURVIVAL

By: Richard Gallardo
March 16, 2021



Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Secretary John R. Castriciones has declared agriculture as the “cornerstone of the country’s survival” against the continuing upsurge of the Novel Coronavirus 19 pandemic.

“You can have all the money in the world, but it has no meaning if there is no food available in the market. But if you plant today you are assured of something to eat tomorrow,” Bro. John, as Castriciones is fondly called, told urban vegetable gardeners during the third “Buhay sa Gulay” harvest festival in Caloocan City, the third in Metro Manila.

He added: “At this time of the crisis brought about by the pandemic, agriculture is our only hope, the last frontier for our survival.”

The DAR chief praised the urban

vegetable gardeners for taking the challenge of cultivating and making productive idle lots under the “Buhay sa Gulay” program, which he himself had conceptualized upon seeing an idle football field at the Saint John Bosco Parish Church, which has become the first urban vegetable garden city in the country.

Bro. John said he is elated by the transformation of the once garbage dumping ground inside the Sunriser Village in Barangay 167, Caloocan City, into “a nourishing sight, a thing of beauty, and a new source of income for everyone and of affordable food on the table of every Filipino.”

He aptly described the urban vegetable gardener’s various kinds of vegetables that are now ready for harvesting as the “fruits of labor, nurtured with love.”

D A R

Undersecretary for Support Services Emily Padilla echoed: “Today is the day when we should rise and meet the challenge posed by Covid 19. And rise to the challenge we will when we start cultivating idle lots and planting vegetables for our daily subsistence.”

“Kung ano ang itinanim, siya ring

aanihin (Whatever we sow, we shall reap),” Padilla stressed, in reference to a biblical passage in Galatian 6.

“The “Buhay sa Gulay” program is a big help especially for us poor families. It gives us a new source of income and food on our table,” said Julieta Portuguez, 56, leader of Team Tony, derived from the name of their Barangay 167 chairman Antonio Reyes, one of the four teams of gardeners.

Team Yakap (Embrace) leader Lynette Daez, 49, said the “Buhay sa Gulay” program inspired them especially when “we were able to make the covered basketball court and multi-purpose compound, from

garbage dumpsite to a vegetable garden, from being an eyesore to the pride of the Sunriser Village.”

City Councillor Vicente Ryan “Enteng” Malapitan, who ably represented his City Mayor Oscar Malapitan and 1st District Rep. Dale “Along” Malapitan, said he is awed by the collective efforts of the four barangays, which rose to the challenge.

“I am awed by what I see. The “Buhay sa Gulay” program shows that it is not only a good hobby and pastime but also a new source of income for our constituents. Hopefully, you can convince others to embrace it,” Malapitan said. [BUHAY SA GULAY](#)





DAR-TACLOBAN TRANSFORMS 23-HA CARP-AWARDED LOT INTO A VEGETABLE GARDEN

By: Medel Mercado
February 2021

TACLOBAN CITY – Despite having been categorized as highly urbanized, this city is still capable of producing tons of vegetables. This is what the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) would like to prove as it starts to transform a 23-hectare awarded lot under the government’s Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) into a vegetable garden.

DAR Regional Director Ismael Aya-ay said they have initially utilized a one-hectare lot for the planting of fast yielding crops such as kangkong, pechay, lettuce, okra and pepino to contribute to the sufficient supply of food in the city and neighboring towns, aside from providing livelihood to the farmers.

According to the plan, the DAR would simultaneously conduct Farmer Field School to the 20 members of the New Kawayan-Cabalawan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers’ Association to sustain the initial project and eventually spread its area until the entire 23 hectares have been covered.


“In partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the city government of Tacloban thru the City Agriculture Office, the DAR has initiated this February 2021, the plan to make a portion of the agricultural lot in Barangay New Kawayan, which is covered by a collective Certificate

of Land Ownership Award (CLOA), into a vegetable garden where the agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) are guaranteed of sure income,” Aya-ay explained.

Aya-ay added that they would like to replicate DAR Secretary Brother John Castriciones’ “Buhay sa Gulay” program, an urban farming project, where its initial implementation in Tondo, Manila became a success, with Quezon City and Calocan City following its footsteps.

In this project, the DAR will provide the farmers with garden tools and other farming materials, while DA and the City Agriculture Office will provide the seeds and training.

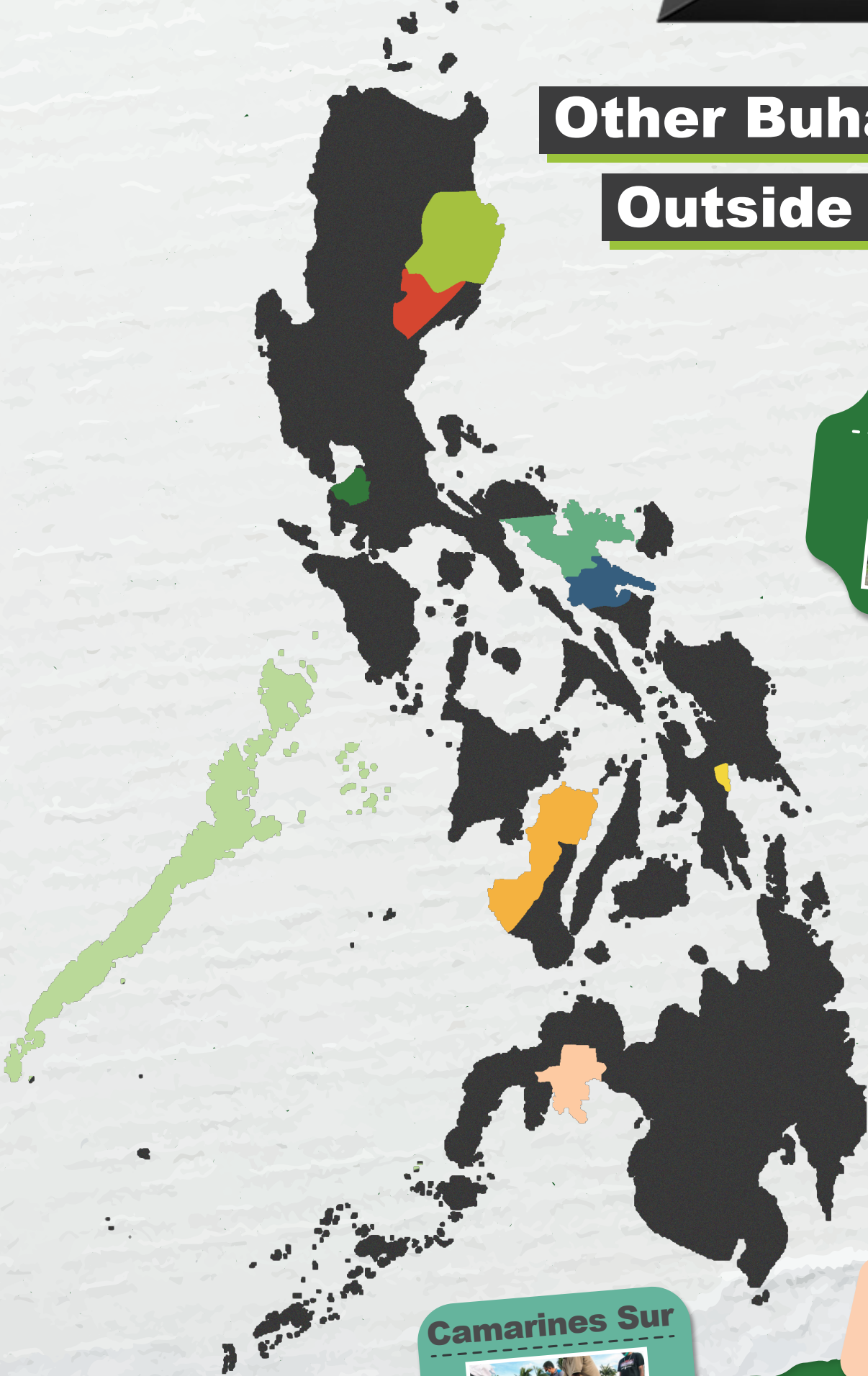
“The project commenced on the first week of February with the preparation of the land, layouting, plot making, and plant sowing. Planting of seedlings into their assigned plots is scheduled this week and on the last week of the month, it is expected that the farmers could already start harvesting. At the moment, the making of 60 plots, measuring 1 x 20 meters continues,” the regional director said.

Meanwhile, Sonny Colete, an ARB of lot 9, which was chosen as the demo farm, said: “This is an opportunity for us to be assisted in developing and improving our lots and in turn, contribute in providing food in our city.” 



Other Buhay sa Gulay

Outside Metro Manila



Cavite

Albay

Isabela

Palawan

Negros

Quirino

Tacloban

Camarines Sur

Zamboanga Del Sur



LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in Bicol region is taking a proactive step by establishing a vegetable garden in its office grounds, adopting the ‘Buhay sa Gulay’, an urban vegetable farming program initiated by DAR Secretary Brother John Castricones, which is now being implemented in towns and cities across the country.

“The art and science of growing one’s own food have been gradually lost among government workers and agencies. We at DAR can carry the social influence needed to promote it once again, especially during this pandemic,” said DAR Bicol Regional Director Rodrigo Realubit.

He said the project aims to produce approximately 3,000 kilograms of various leafy greens regularly, which will be sold to DAR regional office employees, walk-in clients, and passers-by. Its accumulated income will serve as a source of funding to

support some of the employees’ financial needs.

The regional office, according to Realubit, will provide growing space around the agency’s premises in Bgy. Gogon and at the CARP Development Center (CDC) compound in Bgy. Rawis. Garden tools, facilities, and equipment will be provided to get the garden started.

“We will convert every unused corner of our premises into productive greeneries. In doing this, we hope to influence other people and the community around us into planting vegetables,” he said.

On May 21, twenty (20) regional office employees completed a one-day hands-on and theoretical training on good practices for organic vegetable growing. Agriculturist Francisco Obina of the Albay Provincial Agriculture Office (APAO) at the DAR Regional Office in Legazpi City conducted the training.

“We are taking advantage of this year’s summer season by offering gardening basic training to our employees so they can begin planting and harvesting their bounty at work or even at their own homes,” Realubit said.

DAR Regional chief for support services Lerma Dino stated that training is not the project’s end goal, and that she hopes it will be sustained and continued even beyond this year.

According to Dino, the plan is to adopt container or vertical gardening technologies using plastic bottles or scrap materials at the regional office compound because of limited space. Vegetable plots will be prepared at the CDC compound by incorporating raised bed designs in growing vegetables and sacrificing a portion of the lawn.

“Gardening and maintenance tasks will be done entirely by employees according to their own schedules. They are required to work their own plots or areas—planting, weeding, watering, and harvesting—at least once a week during the growing season, and they must also spend at least 1 or 2 hours a week to help maintain and keep the garden beds weed-free, as well as taking the proper care of the garden tools and facilities.”

Dino said

the office has set aside Php 57,000 for the preparation, start-up, and implementation phases, including the procurement of gardening facilities and tools on-site, from the nursery, carbonizer, vegetable crates, seed storage to fertilizer storage, water containers, bags, and terracotta pots.

“We will utilize scrap and recyclable materials still within the office whenever possible to save on expenses,” she added.

“There’s a lot of money that can be taken out from this project that we will have to establish. All we need to do is to make it as productive as possible,” said Dino.

Earlier, the DAR in Camarines Sur launched their urban vegetable gardening projects that have now begun to bear fruit. The gardens occupy a 2,000-square meter portion of a football field inside the Naga City’s Holy Rosary Minor Seminary and a 2,000-square meter of idle land near the Barangay Hall of Bgy. Dalipay in Milaor town. **BUHAY SA GULAY**

