

RESILIENT LIVELIHOODS



Resilient livelihoods are among the most significant ways of addressing rural poverty, leading the poor to a productive life of dignity, self-worth and transformation.

Highlights

- 125 poor farmers in the Philippines received livestock (goats, pigs, ducks and chicken). 26 of them gave one of the offspring to a deserving neighbor making a total beneficiaries 151. As such the benefits keep multiplying as each farmer passes on an offspring to the next farmer.
- Life for 450 farmers organized in 18 Farmer Field School Groups (25-30 in each group) are graduating from poverty. They are engaged in farming for business where they grow high value crops for market, do group learning and marketing and purchase high seeds. With a better income, they can better feed their families, send their children to school and afford better health.

Food Security and Livelihood Resilience

Our Food Security and Resilient Livelihoods program aims to end poverty for millions of poor and marginalized rural households in Asia and Africa by addressing the many challenges of food, nutrition, and livelihood insecurities. IIRR works to ensure that communities and individuals have equitable access to resources and opportunities, are able to accumulate assets, and can withstand adversity. Selected outcomes of our work in 2015 are illustrated in the following stories and pictures.



Department of Education officials learning about school crop museum.

Climate Smart Agriculture

In 2015, IIRR, in partnership with CCAFS, started a four-year research project to better understand how to scale-up climate-smart agricultural practices. The project had two research sites: one in Guinayangan, Philippines, managed by IIRR, and the other in HaTinh Province, Vietnam, managed by the World Agroforestry Center (ICRAF).

In Guinayangan, IIRR selected 12 villages and organized 214 families into 23 farming groups. These groups were taught nine new farming skills, including low-cost pig



Farmers learn about vaccination of young pigs.

production, caged goat farming, intensive cassava production, and improved upland rice production technologies. Early results from this project in the Philippines are promising.

- Farmers learned techniques to increase productivity. Cassava production was considered for household consumption only, but with education, farmers were encouraged to increase production and grow some to sell at the market. Previously, only 19 farmers in three villages grew cassava, but after intervention, 40 farmers in eight villages began to grow the crop. A women's cassava flour producers group was also formed.
- An improved pig feed formulation was introduced and gained popularity among female farmers. Because the feed was more cost-effective, and women could make more money raising pigs, there was an increased interest in pig production. Sixty farmers in eight villages now raise pigs, up from four farmers in one village.
- Farmers are rediscovering traditional agricultural practices, which are innately climate smart. A traditional upland rice variety known as "kamoros" is slowly regaining popularity, as it has been shown to outperform newly introduced varieties. Similarly, the traditional practice of planting mung beans as post-rice cover, which provides an additional source of income, is again gaining acceptance. Native pigs were not in fashion, but thanks to the introduction of improved breeds from research centers, low-cost medicines and feed, along with consumer-education, they are once again in high demand.
- The local agricultural office has improved and incorporated CSA practices in its regular services to farmers. For example, in order to receive a goat, farmers must practice caged goat farming and the growing of forage. Similarly, as part of the pig dispersal program, alternative pig feed formulation is promoted. And finally, the practice of cassava and legumes intercropping is now integrated into the corn and high-value crops production system.

Better livelihoods through livestock

In the Philippines, pigs and poultry are integral to household consumption and play a critical role in nutrition, but poor households often can't afford to own their own livestock nor pay for expensive feed. Raising pigs, poultry, and goats help with a family's food security and decrease their risk when other forms of income, like crops, fail.

In 2015, IIRR dispersed 296 heads of livestock (pigs, poultry, and goats) to 125 poor households to help them become more self-reliant and resilient. IIRR provides free-range, native livestock that is easier to maintain without medication or expensive feed. This reduces the expenses required to raise livestock and maintain healthy animals.



After passing his first-born goat to one of his neighbors, he said, ***"The more we help each other in the barangay (village), no one will be left behind, and the better it will be for everyone."***

Ruperto celebrates the arrival of his twin goats.