Nature-Based Solutions in Small-Scale Aquaculture: A Roving Workshop

Freshwater, Brackishwater, and Marine
Ecosystems in the Philippines
February 9-14, 2026

Small-scale aquaculture (SSA) is vital to securing rural communities' food, livelihood, and environment. Despite its importance in sustaining communities, it faces several interrelated socioeconomic challenges, prompting an urgent need to gather evidence, increase advocacy, and rally support for sustainable aquaculture.

Through a 6-day roving workshop, being organized by the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) the participants will visit Cavite, Nueva Ecija, and Quezon Provinces (Central and Southern Luzon) to gain first-hand experience on how small-scale aquaculture programs are implemented and managed. Field visits around various sites managed by local government agencies, academic institutions, and small-scale farmers will provide participants with the rich opportunity to learn directly from experts.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this roving workshop, participants will be able to:

- Understand the basic concepts, principles, and approaches of nature-based solutions in small-scale aquaculture.
- Identify different small-scale aquaculture systems and technologies that help communities build resilience and improve access to resources;
- Explore strategies to enhance household productivity and profitability while reducing vulnerability to climate-related shocks; and
- Develop an action plan that translates the workshop's insights and lessons into practical steps for implementation within their organizations.

Workshop Flow

Part One: February 9, 2025

Basic Concepts, Principles and Approaches: Nature-based Solutions in Small-Scale Aquaculture
This session introduces key concepts, principles, and approaches behind nature-based solutions. It also provides an overview of IDRC's Aquadapt Program and the PhilCam Project. Together, these topics will help participants build a strong conceptual foundation for supporting communities in sustaining nature-based livelihoods, and in strengthening household food security and nutrition.

Session 1   Key Concepts, Principles and Approaches of NbS on SSA towards Food Security, Income Generation and improving Livelihoods, Promoting Diversification, and in Integrating Gender and Social Inclusion.

Session 2   Overview of IDRC's Aquadapt Program and the PhilCam Project.

Part two: February 10-12, 2025

Nature-based Practices and Community Engagement Approaches in Small-scale Aquaculutre

This session allows participants to learn from field visits including to universities, local government units (LGU), and communities implementing small-scale aquaculture projects. They will explore practical, solutions-driven interventions that enhance household productivity and profitability while reducing environmental impacts and vulnerability to climate-related shocks. Reflection sessions will capture key lessons from these visits to guide the development of action plans at the end of the workshop.

The workshop willl be bringing participants to the following sites, institutions and communities:
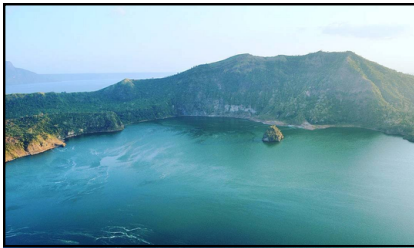
Taal Lake

Central Luzon State University

Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice)

Pagbilao Mangrove Experimental Forest

IIRR's Quezon Community Learning Center

Part three: February 13-14, 2025

Action planning

The final session focuses on reflection, synthesis, and action planning. Participants will consolidate their learnings to develop action plans aligned with their organization's ongoing nature-based small-scale aquaculture programs. These plans will be presented in a plenary session, where a panel and fellow participants will provide feedback and suggestions for improvement.

🪙 Fee

For international participants: USD 2,000 per person inclusive of board, lodging, local transportation, training materials only.

To register or inquire, feel free to email us at: education.training@iirr.org

Scan here!
For more details, scan the QR code to access the full roving workshop design and schedule