

**COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO
SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19
PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM **REGION 5**
#CoopAgainstCOVID19**

**Pecuaría Development Cooperative gives organic rice to
426 members, 400 households**

The Pecuaría Development Cooperative's (PDC) membership include many agrarian reform beneficiaries. The coop's main economic activity is palay farming. The cooperative produces organic rice and other products.

The PDC was forced to temporarily halt operations on March 18 after the Luzon-wide lockdown went into effect. It later continued rice processing because of its contractual obligation to buyers in Metro Manila. The necessary permits, passes, and other required documents were obtained from the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit 5, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur. With these documents in possession, the PDC delivered their commitments to Metro Manila buyers and hauled harvested palay from the farms of members.

The Board of Directors later decided to distribute rice to all members. The recipients were expanded to include 400 households in Barangay Lanipga, Bula, Camarines. Repacking was done on April 3-5, 2020 by a skeletal force that included the Bookkeeper and Treasurer/Cashier for the necessary payment to the workers. This act of benevolence was well appreciated by the household-beneficiaries who expressed profusely their gratitude during the door-to-door delivery done by a chosen Team composed of officers and employees.



Photo 1. Board Directors and Management staff pause from the rice repacking chores.



Photo 2. Repacked rice ready for distribution to all coop members and residents in Barangay Lanipga which is the home of the Pecuaría Development Cooperative. Sharing food in time of pandemic of Covid-19.

Four hundred twenty-six (426) members received their allocation of organic pink rice. One hundred twenty bags (@50kilos each) were repacked into 10 kilos, eight kilos, and five kilos intended for active, inactive, and associate members, respectively. The same mode of delivery to the residences of members was done by the Team except for those residing very near the PDC Office who opted to pick up their rice packs from the storage building.



Photo 3. Team 1 delivered the rice packs to residence of members and 400 households in Barangay Lanipga.

Considering the additional burden and exposure to health risks while performing their duties, the Board of Directors, other Officers, the 26 regular personnel, and the 20 on-call workers were given 25 kilos rice each as an add-on incentive. The coop had back-up inventory of rice ready to be distributed again to members should the lockdown be extended anew.

Another form of assistance to members was the distribution of corn and vegetable seeds that were acquired from the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Unit 5 upon strong recommendation and representation by the Department of Agrarian Reform Region 5 based in Legazpi City. True to its good reputation as an award-winning cooperative and government partner in food production and agricultural-agrarian development, the Pecuaría Development Cooperative is well on its way in overcoming the hurdle of the Covid-19 lockdown. The PDC truly embodies the #CoopsAgainstCOVID19 battle cry. ODP / MIS Naga 29-042020 with Board Chairperson Elena B. Tabayag



Photo 4. Seeds of Corn and assorted vegetables were repacked so all members will have share of the planting materials provided by the Department of Agriculture RFU-5. The seeds were acquired with recommendation from Department of Agrarian Reform 5.

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Micro cooperative operates store, releases loans during lockdown

The Paracale Municipal Employees and Community Multipurpose Cooperative (PAMECOMPC) opened its office and store during the lockdown while adopting the necessary precautionary measures so that they can safely serve members and community residents.

The financial needs of members were served thru regular releases of loans. To keep the lending business rolling, the coop allowed members to pay according to

scheduled repayments at the office. With ample stocks of basic life necessities, its consumer store continued selling to members and other customers. The cooperative also gave two (2) kilos of camote to members. This root crop is very nutritious and provides additional calories to the staple diet of rice. Camote can be cooked in various ways and can be eaten alone or in combination with other food and drinks. ODP /MIS Naga 30-042020



Photo 1. Two kilos of Sweet Potato were given to members of the cooperative. Camote is a very nutritious root crop.



Photo 2. The cooperative remained in operations to serve members.



Photo 3. The coop's store continued to serve members and other residents.

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Medium sized cooperative cares for senior citizens

In this time of the covid-19 pandemic, their empathy towards senior citizens, especially those living in remote areas, brought the officers and members of the San Miguel Municipal Employees Credit Cooperative (SAMMECCO) to many senior citizens in the outskirts of the town of San Miguel, Catanduanes.

The two-day food packs distribution started on April 14, 2020 (Tuesday). The targeted



recipients were coop members. They were given food packs containing rice, noodles, coffee, sardines, and milk.

Collage 2. Food packs distribution to coop members.

On the second day (April 15, 2020), the cooperative brought the food packs to the residence of senior citizens (SC). The SC could not hide their appreciation. They hardly knew the cooperative. It was only when they were visited by them that they got to know the cooperative.

Happiness and gratitude were undeniably expressed on their faces.



Collage 3. Some of the recipients while receiving the unexpected food packs.



Through volunteerism, the officers and members of this medium-sized cooperative gave their time in repacking the food items and in delivering these to the senior citizens. ODP / MIS Naga 30-042020 with CDS Ophar June V. Dy