

COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM **REGION 7**

#CoopAgainstCOVID19

CONNECTING THE DOTS: PROBLEM OF ONE, OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL

By Gracia Nenita B. Banogon, CDS II

The Southern Negros Agri-Fisheries Multipurpose Cooperative (SONAMCO), which owns a forty six hectares' fishpond located at Sumaliring, Siaton, Negros Oriental, used to send tons of shrimps to Manila weekly via commercial air freight.

The COVID-19 pandemic posed a big challenge to the cooperative. On April 4, 2020, the manager, Mr. Juventud V. Chavez reported to CDS II Ms. Gracia Nenita Banogon who was then monitoring the agriculture cooperative. The cooperative has 33 tons of shrimps ready for market but commercial flights were unavailable. They tried seaborne freight but it entails longer travel time that could affect the product's quality and sales.

By connecting the dots, CDA-7 mobilized the cooperatives in Dumaguete City, the various cooperative development councils headed by the Provincial Cooperative Development Council of Negros Oriental, and with the support of NEDA-7 and the DTI networks in the province, the forecasted loss of livelihood of the members and negative income for the cooperative were overcome.

The latest data released by the cooperative last May 4 showed estimated sales amounting to Php 7,893,600.00 for the 33,000 kilos of shrimps sold.

The network established amidst the Enhanced Community Quarantine(ECQ) found a way to help other cooperatives. The Cooperative Bank of Negros Oriental bought Php10,000.00 worth of shrimps and donated to Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital Credit Cooperative (NOPHCCO), which members are the personnel of the provincial hospital. The NOPHCCO, in turn, sold the shrimps to the members and added the proceeds to the existing CDF budget for the purchase of N95 facemasks for donation to the personnel medical facility.

COVID-19 ECQ brought forth the best talents and opportunities to help one another, banner the spirit of cooperation as expressly pronounced in the Bayanihan to Heal as One Act. Because of the above-mentioned initiative, the livelihood of the fisherfolks and the SONAMCO members continues and the supply of agri-products is sustained and will continue for the next quarter with the incoming production of 40 tons.

Cooperatives and individuals who served as marketing channels saved the forecasted loss of SONAMCO. Those who responded immediately to the call of CDA are the following: Perpetual Help Community Cooperative, DCCCO Multipurpose

Cooperative, Cooperative Bank of Negros Oriental, PFCCO-Visayas, NORECO II Employees Credit Cooperative, Silliman University Community Cooperative, Negros Oriental Provincial Hospital Credit and Consumers Cooperative, Bacong Small Coconut Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative ,Dr. Profetiza S. Lim, Mr. Cliffordson T. Lariosa, Mrs. Flordeliz V. Bokingkito, Atty. Gloria G. Futralan, Mr. Reynaldo B. Gomez, Mrs. Emma S. Dela Cerna, Mr. Vincent Farole, Mr. Kairos C. Lasta

There may be more challenges ahead, with the on-going general community quarantine condition, but the cooperative spirit proves that we can surpass all the odds.



BAYANIHAN TO HEAL, A COOPERATIVE WAY OF LIFE

By: Mariefel A. Taghoy

In response to the call of President Rodrigo R. Duterte, to heal and act as one amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Chairman Orlando R. Ravanera and the Board of Directors of the Cooperative Development Authority called upon the cooperatives nationwide to utilize the Community Development Fund and other funds allowable by law to help address the present crisis.

Record of the Cooperative Development Authority Region VII showed a total of Php 54,077,883.14 Community Development Fund was spent as of April 30, 2020 by the different cooperatives in the region.

Cash and in kind donations were extended to COVID-19 pandemic frontliners, workers, members of the community affected by the enhanced community quarantine, and other vulnerable sectors of society.

More assistance was also received by the members of the cooperatives region wide with the release of Php 864,578,271.07 in the form of interest on share capital and patronage refund.

We salute the officers and staff of the cooperatives in Region VII for their immediate and active response. Together, we heal as one through the cooperative way!



CASAY SEASIDE MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE Food given to FRONTLINERS



ANTEQUERA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE



CATMON WATER AND SANITATION SERVICE COOPERATIVE (CAWASSCO) Mobile Lavatory



PESTALES AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE during relief operation



FARAON MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE distributing of Relief Packs and Facemask



The BOHOL COMMUNITY MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE caters to the need of its members while observing the social distancing. Relief Packs were also given to its members during this pandemic