

**COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO
SERVE THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19
PANDEMIC: REPORTS FROM **REGION 7**
#CoopsAgainstCOVID19**

NO FACE MASK, NO ENTRY

By Mariefel A. Taghoy

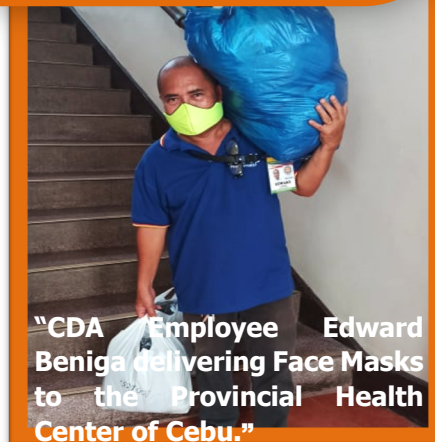
One essential requirement in this time of COVID-19 pandemic is the wearing of face mask. Face mask is one of the protective gears to prevent the transmission of the unseen enemy, the corona virus. Hence, the No face mask, No entry policy was adopted by every institution/organization, whether public or private.

Through the initiative of Asec. Vidal D. Villanueva III, the Cooperative Development Authority-Region 7, sought the support of cooperatives

to donate face masks to the barangay of Cebu City first identified as having Covid-19 case. One Thousand Six Hundred (1,600) pcs. of face masks, together with 20 sets of PPEs, were given to Sitio Zapatera, Barangay Luz, Cebu City. The Provincial Health Office of Cebu Province was also given a total of 4,865 pcs. of face masks.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



"CDA Employee Edward Beniga delivering Face Masks to the Provincial Health Center of Cebu."

The management of the Cooperative Development Authority in Region 7 is very thankful to the wholehearted support of the cooperatives who immediately responded to the call and put into practice the 7th Cooperative Principle, "Concern for the Community" beyond ordinary time and circumstances.

COOP SEED BENEFICIARY IN THE FRONTLINE FOR WELLNESS: VALENCIA DAIRY COOPERATIVE

By Gracia Nenita B. Banogon



The **Valencia Dairy Cooperative** (VADCO) of South Poblacion, Valencia, Negros Oriental, is one of the micro cooperatives that was given a series of capability building seminars in 2018-2019 under the CDA-DTI COOP-SEED Partnership Program. The training equipped the officers and members with the knowledge on how to become farmers-entrepreneurs; and, gave an opportunity to the cooperative to serve as the marketing channel of various products produced by the farmers.

COVID-19 pandemic provided the best opportunity for the cooperative to face the challenges in transporting its products in spite of the lockdown.

VADCO enlisted as one of the municipality's agriculture suppliers and at the same time advertised its products through social media. Orders came in and sales went up. The cooperative was already producing 30 to 50 liters a day through manual operation. However, due to increasing demand, it was not able to serve some of the orders due to lack of facilities and manpower. Sales recorded in March was P26,871.00 and rose to P67,399.00 in April.

Before becoming a COOP SEED beneficiary, VADCO was only a supplier of raw milk to a private processing plant. After the COOP-SEED Program, VADCO became a small scale milk producer and processor. With the assistance and technology given to the cooperative, it learned that it can also be an entrepreneur.

The story of VADCO is no different from other large cooperatives. Indeed, great things start from small beginnings. The officers, management staff and members realized the importance of being in a cooperative. Other forms of assistance are

expected from the Local Government Unit of Valencia, national government agencies and big brother cooperative, through the assistance of the Cooperative Development Authority.

As its way of giving back, this micro cooperative donated fresh milk to the front liners stationed at checkpoints, utilizing its Community Development Fund in the amount of P1,377.99.

VADCO is not only in the process of learning. It is also advocating wellness but advertising its products as well.



VALENCIA DAIRY COOPERATIVE OFFICERS DELIVERED PASTEURIZED FRESHMILK TO CHECKPOINTS