

**COOPERATIVES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY GOING THE EXTRA MILE TO SERVE
THEIR MEMBERS AND COMMUNITIES AMIDST COVID-19 PANDEMIC:
REPORTS FROM REGION 13 or CARAGA**

#CoopsAgainstCOVID19

**The Story of *Bayanihan* During WWC (World War Covid)
By HAROLD S. GARRIDO**

The COVID-19 (Corona Virus Disease) is currently becoming humanity's biggest threat to health, economy, and most especially freedom, in the global scale. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared this disease as a pandemic, having affected millions of people around the globe. Our country is just one of the nations that has become a victim of this invisible virus.

The hostile effects of the Corona virus brought an overwhelming negative impact in the lives of every citizen in country. Companies had no choice but to close their businesses, leaving their employees jobless. Marginalized sectors were even greatly affected because of the scarce supply of food and basic necessities. However, our country is blessed with organizations that are built and organized based on values that naturally encourage the members to be more compassionate and kind hearted. Despite the difficulties, in their own small ways, the coops extended help and support to the "*madlang pipol*". They went out of their way to reach out to folks affected by the situation.

The micro and small cooperatives listed below extended their support to their members and communities where their respective businesses are operating:

Name of Cooperative	Coop Initiated Activity/Programs/Services	Beneficiaries		Amount Spent (PHP)
		Members	Non-members	
Community Initiative Support Initiative Socio Economic Enterprise Consumers Cooperative (CIS-SEEC)	Extended relief packs that includes 5 kilograms of rice, canned goods, and hygienic kits	88		15,000
Manapa Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and Community Cooperative (MARBCC)	Extended 6 kilograms of rice to 230 members and 4 kilograms rice to 65 non-members in the community	230	65	59,000
Tagmamarkay Coconut Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (TACOFACO)	Extended 2 kilograms of rice to the entire 512 households in the barangay	56	456	25,000



Community Initiative Support Socio Economic Enterprise (CIS-SEEC) is a consumer cooperative with registered address at Brgy. Sacol, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. It is a new cooperative, just registered last November 2019. The cooperative offers merchandising/retailing as their main business operation. Despite being micro and newly registered, the cooperative did not hesitate to help members affected by the lockdown. The CIS-SEEC conducted a Bayanihan activity and handed relief packs last March 25, 2020.

The Manapa Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries and community Cooperative



(MARBCC) is a farmers' cooperative organized by the farming community of Km. 12, Purok-5, Brgy. Manapa, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte. This cooperative ventures into lending, consumer store, merchandising/retailing, and lumpia/meat processing. Despite being part of the marginalized sector, the coop allocated Php 59,000.00 as donation for the heavily affected coop members and non-, meaning including the whole community. The cooperative has just started to grow economically. It was classified last year from micro to small category coop when it reached past the 3M Asset boundary. The coop has indeed matured and felt capable enough to give out donations.



The **Tagmamarkay Coconut Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (TACOFACO)** is a micro cooperative located at Barrio Site, Purok-3, Tagmamarkay, Tubay, Agusan del Norte. This cooperative showed that being “small” in terms of asset is not the gauge to be used when extending help. Recently, their bakery business was shut down due to COVID. Despite the heartbreaking situation, the officers remained hopeful and allocated funds to extend help to the 512 households of the entire barangay! They did not limit the beneficiaries to that of coop members because they believed that blessings should be shared and distributed to all even in small quantities.

These Bayanihan activities were successfully initiated with the observance of strict social distancing and wearing of masks. Members and the communities themselves were greatly thankful for the generosity these cooperatives have shown. They are micro and small cooperatives yet with BIG hearts!

This COVID-19 is really anti-coop, distancing people from people and severing vital connections. Despite this undeniable fact, these three (3) cooperatives did not lockdown their hearts. Their vision and mission to uplift the lives of their members in every possible way did not falter. They were not hindered by fear and instead, went out of their way to help even their communities. Striving to help self, community, and the world is the very essence of COOPERATIVISM!

In difficult moments like this, regardless of status, gender, and beliefs, we must come together as one decisive force to combat this monstrous disease. Let us give our best, like the 3 cooperatives! Let us give ourselves to help HEAL OUR LAND. *****