

CAMARINES NORTE, FIRST IN BICOL TO CONDUCT ORIENTATION ON COMPUTERIZED GAD ASSESSMENT TOOLS

Gender and Development Mainstreaming have become part of the development plan not only in the government sector but also in many private entities. Many studies show how it positively impacted the social and economic growth and development of many countries. On year 2013, the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) issued Memorandum Circular # 2013-22 containing the Guidelines on Mainstreaming Gender and Development in the Cooperatives, by which there is a need for all Cooperatives to have GAD Committee, designate GAD Focal Person, come up with GAD Plans and Programs and Budget to encourage them to participate in massive campaign for Gender Equality.

To respond to the call for Gender and Development mainstreaming, the Camarines Norte Federation of Cooperatives (CANOFECO) together with their foreign NGO Partners, the Trias Southeast Asia and We Effect Philippines have been working on programs to provide innovative, proactive and adapted answers to the needs of both men and women member of cooperatives.

On March 12 & 17, 2021, the CANOFECO and CDA Regional Office V conducted the Orientation on Computerized GAD Assessment Tool which was attended by Coop Officers, members of coop's GAD Committee, GAD Focal Persons and Management Staff. This is the first orientation on Computerized GAD Tools conducted in the Bicol Region. This initiative is based on the CDA Memorandum Circulars 2013-22 and 2017-04 which were anchored on the Sustainable Development Goal No. 5 dubbed as "Gender Equality" and of the Philippine Plan for Gender-responsive Development (PPGD 1995-2025).

This Orientation on Computerized GAD Assessment Tool aims to help the assessment of cooperative progress in mainstreaming gender and development towards achieving Gender Equality. The result of assessment will be the basis of their GAD Plans and Budget to be included in the coop's development plan, annual plan and budget. The tool comes with 21 indicators designed to assess four entry points: (a) People; (b) Policies; (c) Project, Activities and Programs (PAPs); and (d) Enabling Mechanism.

Through the computerized GAD assessment tool, the cooperative will be able to identify particular areas that needs improvement, to help them create specific programs and services which aims to address and fill the equality gap evenly within the cooperative. The activity was attended by 62 participants from different member cooperatives of CANOFECO in the province of Camarines Norte. Participants expressed their interest in using the tool upon realizing the benefits of having gender equality within the cooperative, and committed not only to serve, but also to become a gender-fair organization.

