NARRATIVE REPORT

SDG: 4, 13, 15, 17

Title of Activity: Provincial Environmental Awareness Month

Date/Time: November 2024

Venue: PLGU Nueva Vizcaya

Organizers: PENARO & Provincial Environmental Awareness and Education Team (PEAET)

Objectives: To promote environmental consciousness and action among secondary school students by engaging them in meaningful green activities, that foster awareness, creativity, and commitment to addressing climate change and sustainable practices.

Beneficiaries (if any): JHS and SHS students public and private

Participants: JHS and SHS students public and private

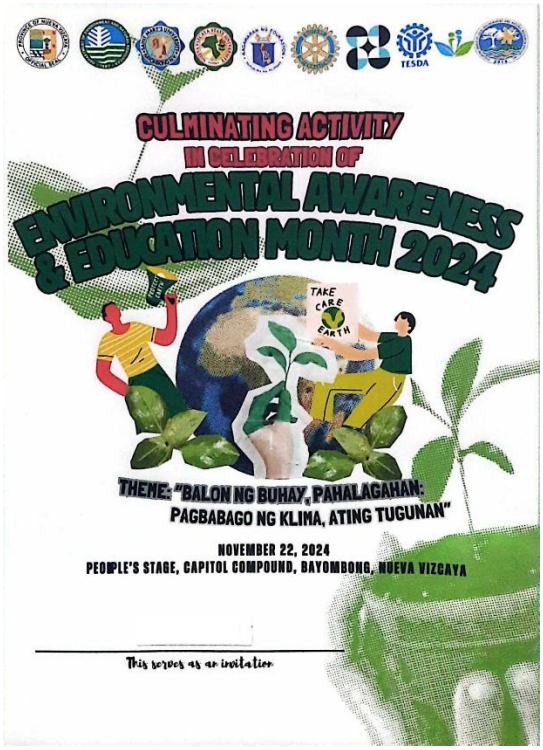
A. Highlights of the Activity:

Pursuant to Ordinance No. 2013-084: An Ordinance locally adopting Republic Act No. 9512 otherwise known as the Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008 Declaring the month of November of each year as Environmental Awareness Month, the Provincial Local Government Unit of Nueva Vizcaya through the Provincial Environmental Awareness and Education Team (PEAE) with its lead offices, the Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office in cooperation with the Department of Education Schools Division of Nueva Vizcaya - Youth Formation Unit conducted contested activities involving the public and private secondary schools in the province with the theme "Balon ng Buhay: Pahalagahan, Pagbabago ng Klima, Ating Tugunan."

Dr. Elsa L. Cajucom, the current Chairperson of PEAET TWG and the team members organized the contested activities of this year's Environmental Awareness cum YES-O Month! (1) Sayawit para sa Kalikasan and (2) Pasiklaban ng mga Proyektong MakaKalikasan. PEAET thru the full support of PENARO under the headship of For. Tito Tanguilig proposed a PhP 340, 000.00 for the cash incentives of winners and consolation prizes to the non-winners. The budget was approved and been granted by the Office of the Governor Jing V. Gambito. The culmination program was conducted via online on November 29, 2024 in response to the non-disruption of classes due to the consecutive suspension of classes due to typhoons

B. Appendices

1. Program





PENARO
RELEASED BY: mdmy
DATE: 21 NOV 2024
TIME: 3:50 PM

...Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA
BAYOMBONG
-oOo-

PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION TEAM

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION TEAM (PEAET) MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 21, 2024 AT 1:00 PM VIA GROUP CALL ONLINE PLATFORM.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

NAME	OFFICE/AGENCY	REPRESENTED BY
1. FOR. TITO A. TANGUILIG	PENARO	
2. HON. CASTILLO A. TIDANG, JR.	IPMR	MR. SONNY Q. WILLIE
3. DR. ORLANDO E. MANUEL	DEPED	MR. MARC HENRICK NICANOR
4. MS. MERLITA C. PADILLA	NVGCHS	MR. VOLTAIRE S. JACINTO
5. DR. WILFREDO A. DUMALE, JR.	NVSU	DR. SHIEREL F. VALLESTEROS
6. DR. JOHN OCTAVIOUS S. PALINA	SMU	DR. ELSA L. CAJUCOM
7. ENGR. JONATHAN R. NUESTRO	DOST	MS. CLARENET BALDERAS MS. FLORITA SINOT
8. MS. TERESITA S. ACOSTA	FRENDS	
9. CHARMANE JOY D. NAVARRO	PENARO	
10. GENITA P. DULNUAN	PENARO	
11. TRACY ANNE A. MARTIN	PENARO	

Prepared by:

Dr. Elsa L. Cajucom
CNS Director

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA
BAYOMBONG

PROVINCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND EDUCATION TEAM (PEAET)

NOTICE OF MEETING

December 9, 2024

PENARO
RELEASED BY: EA
DATE: 14/10/2024
TIME: 9:16
REF. NO.: 4521

DR. JOHN OCTAVIOUS S. PALINA
President, Saint Mary's University
This Province

Dear Dr. Palina,

Warm Environmental Greetings!

The **Provincial Environmental Awareness and Education Team (PEAET) and its Technical Working Group (TWG)** is set to convene its meeting on **December 16, 2024 @ 1:00 PM** to be held at Livelihood and Pasalubong Center, Magsaysay, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya.

Anent this, may we request you or your permanent representative to attend and discuss the following agenda to wit:

1. Post assessment on the recently conducted activities of the Environmental Awareness and Education Month celebration;
2. Other matters.

For confirmation, kindly contact Ms. Charmane Joy Navarro @ cellphone number 09958697936 or email us at envidivisionenro@gmail.com

We highly appreciate your continuous support as our partner in this noble endeavor.

Very truly yours,

TITO A. TANGUILIG, RPF
Environment and Natural Resources Officer
Co-Chairperson, PEAE Team

For Dr. Elsa –
if available, (or rep.)
12 Dec 24

Noted by:

HON. CASTILLO B. TIDANG, JR.
Indigenous People's Mandatory Rights (IPMR) Representative
Co-Chairperson, PEAE Team

not available
representative
12/12

RECEIVED
Date: DEC 12 2024
Signature:
Office of the President
SMU – Bayombong, NV

* Permanent rep; Dr. Elsa Cajucom
Alternate: Dr. Allen Marquez

NARRATIVE REPORT

SDG: 4, 13

Title of Activity: South Intensive Program

Date/Time: February 10-21, 2025

Venue: NVSU-Bayombong, SMU, & ISU-Echague

Organizers: NVSU, SMU, ISU-Echague, Howest University, & VIVES University

Objectives: To foster interdisciplinary learning and international collaboration among students and faculty by equipping them with knowledge and practical skills in sustainable agriculture, climate change adaptation, and entrepreneurship, while promoting cultural exchange and global academic partnerships.

Participants:

1. Shemaiah Josh Misanes (BS Bio 2)
2. Jon Raven Tambo (BS Bio 1)

A. Highlights of the Activity:

Saint Mary's University (SMU) proudly served as one of the host institutions for the South Intensive Program (SIP) 2025, a dynamic academic and cultural exchange initiative that brought together 96 faculty coaches, facilitators, and students from partner universities in the Philippines and Belgium. Running from February 10 to 21, 2025, the program featured a range of interdisciplinary activities across three campuses: SMU and Nueva Vizcaya State University (Bayombong), and Isabela State University–Echague.

This year's SIP included participants from two Belgian institutions—Howest University of Applied Sciences and Vives University of Applied Sciences—and six Philippine higher education institutions: Saint Mary's University, Isabela State University, Central Bicol State University of Agriculture, Bicol University, and Camarines Norte State College.

The program culminated on February 21 at the Climate Change Center, ISU-Echague, with a case presentation on Agri-tourism farms. The presenting team featured international and local student participants: Lise De Vuyst (Howest), Michael De Turck (Vives), Angelica Socito (CBSUA), Jhoanna Joy Aquino (Bicol University), and BS Biology student Jon Raven Tambo

from SMU. Their work was guided by mentors Engr. Jefrie Alindayu (SMU) and Francis Loberanes (CBSUA), whose mentorship played a vital role in their success.

The South Intensive Program serves as a platform for global collaboration, focusing on sustainable agriculture, climate change, and entrepreneurship. It not only enhances academic engagement but also fosters cross-cultural understanding, innovation, and leadership among the next generation of global changemakers.

B. Appendices

1. Photo Documentation









Prepared by:

Dr. Elsa L. Cajucom
CNS Director

OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MOBILITY NARRATIVE REPORT FORM

Title Activity	South Intensive Program 2025
Date of Activity	February 10 – 21, 2025
Participants	Buhong, Rachel Mateo, Denaline Misanes, Shemaiah Josh Patawig, Angelo Gabriel Peque, Harlit Tambo, Jon Raven
Platform	Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya and Echague, Isabela
Organizer/Sponsor	Nueva Vizcaya State University, Saint Mary's University, and Isabela State Univesity

Narrative Report on the Activity

The **Saint Mary's University (SMU)** delegates, along with participants from various schools worldwide, arrived at **Nueva Vizcaya State University, Bayombong Campus (NVSU-BC)** via SMU van for the first day of the **South Intensive Program 2025**. They were warmly welcomed by the **NVSU President** and treated to a cultural presentation.

The next few days were dedicated to **case visitations and discussions in the morning**, followed by **socialization activities in the evening**. On **Day 5**, an **intercultural activity** took place, where **SMU participants** showcased their cultural heritage by performing the **Ifugao dance, Dinnuya**. This performance was made possible with the support of the **SMU Benguet, Ifugao, Bontoc, Abra, Kalinga (BIBAK) Organization**. Other delegates also had the opportunity to present their respective cultures. The events for the first five days were all held at **NVSU-BC**.

Day 6 was one of the most exciting days, as it involved a **trip to Banaue, Ifugao**. The delegates had the chance to visit the renowned **Banaue Rice Terraces**, formerly recognized as one of the **Seven Wonders of the Philippines**, located beyond the **Nueva Vizcaya Province**.

In the following week, **SMU** took the lead in hosting the **prototyping program**, it was organized by the SMU Promotions, External Relations, & Internationalization Office, which spanned two days.

The mornings and afternoons were focused on **prototyping sessions**, while the evenings were reserved for **fellowship and a swimming night**, providing a perfect balance of work and recreation.

The **following days of the second week** were spent in **Isabela** organized by the Isabela State University, where the delegates had the opportunity to explore various historical and natural landmarks. On the **first day**, the group visited **Hacienda De San Luis** in **Cauayan City, Isabela.**

Afterward, the delegates traveled to **Ilagan, Isabela**, where they explored the **Japanese Tunnel**, a historic underground passage believed to have been used during **World War II**. The visit provided insights into the province's wartime history and the resilience of the local community.

The day continued with an excursion to the **Ilagan Sanctuary**, a well-known **eco-tourism destination** surrounded by lush forests and home to various wildlife species. The sanctuary provided a perfect setting for adventure and learning, as delegates explored its nature trails, interacted with the local biodiversity, and learned about ongoing conservation efforts in the area.
On the **second day in Isabela**, the delegates began their itinerary with a visit to **Magat Dam**, one of the largest dams in the Philippines, which serves as a major source of hydroelectric power and irrigation for the region. They learned about its significance in providing water and energy to surrounding provinces while also admiring the breathtaking views of the reservoir.

Following this, the group proceeded to the **Local Government Unit (LGU) of Ramon, Isabela**, where they gained insights into the local governance and development initiatives in the municipality. Later in the day, the delegates explored the **Philippine Planas**, where they had the chance to immerse themselves in nature, appreciating the lush greenery and scenic landscapes the area had to offer.

In the afternoon, the delegates visited **the Last Regnant Leisure Hub** of their trip located at **San Mateo, Isabela**, where they enjoyed various activities and bonded over shared experiences. The day concluded with a **socialization night**, where participants from different schools came together to reflect on their journey, celebrate newfound friendships, and strengthen cultural exchanges in a lively and engaging atmosphere.

On the last day of the **South Intensive Program 2025**, the delegates arrived at **the Isabela State University, Echague Campus**, where they participated in the presentations, awarding, and closing ceremony. Case 5 Group A won the Best Case Award, coached by **Sir Jefrie Alindayu**, the SMU Department Head of Civil Engineering and Architecture. One of the members of the winning group was **Jon Raven Tambo from SMU**.

Afterwards, the event officially ended with a **fellowship night**, where delegates shared emotional farewells as they prepared to return home.

What insights have you gained from the activity?

Rachel Buhong: As a participant in the SIP program, I gained valuable knowledge in areas such as entrepreneurship, climate change, and agriculture, and learned how sustainable development goals are being pursued in these fields. This experience sparked my desire to actively contribute to solving the problems around us, rather than becoming part of the problem. Additionally, collaborating with people from various universities, both locally and internationally, helped me overcome my fear in socializing and improve my public speaking skills and boosted my confidence in addressing large audiences.

Shemaiah Josh Misanes: In my perspective, the activity made me reflect that our world may have a lot of dilemmas to face especially in our environment. Yet we have a lot of opportunities for us to innovate and to put our passion into what we aim for in order to create a global solution for us to mitigate current problems.

Within this activity, it became an eye opener for us to create better solutions for our planet. It is our way of exploring ideas for adaptability and development.

Denaline Mateo: Joining SIP gave me the chance to realize what I am and who I am in-front of people with different cultures, beliefs and places of origin. It was a learning full of lasting and memorable experiences which created a bond that I never thought would exist. The SIP had done a lot not just to connect people but also promoted a sustainable strategy in the field of agriculture, entrepreneurship, and climate change. These led the delegates from different schools and places in and outside of the country to unify and give-out ideas despite the differences. The experience was not just something to remember but it was something to treasure. It was the dedication and genuineness of one another during the whole program that made it more fun and exciting. Also, the activity made me realize that one can find their commonness to others even if they don't speak the same language, eat the same food and sing and dance to the same music. At last, the South Intensive Program 2025 had shaped my mind by bringing us closer, the delegates and together going beyond our capabilities, and exploring things which led to wholesome experiences.

Angelo Gabriel Patawig: I learned that promoting this kind of program would be an awakening for institutions and students since it advocates awareness of environmental challenges and also a promotion of Philippine agriculture and businesses where we learn how to balance both so it won't be a win or lose situation.

This kind of initiative should also be supported by different sectors of the government and also encourage more universities to join and be a part of different projects.

Harlit Peque: Joining the South Intensive Program 2025 has been an eye-opening experience that deepened my understanding of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their significance in addressing global challenges. Through various activities, discussions, and site visits, I have gained valuable insights into how these goals serve as a roadmap for creating a more sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future for all.

Overall, this experience has strengthened my commitment to advocating for sustainable development in my own community. I now have a clearer vision of how I can contribute to positive change, whether through raising awareness, supporting green initiatives, or collaborating with like-minded individuals who share the same passion for a better future.

Jon Raven Tambo: I gained a lot of knowledge from the program. From sustainable agriculture, climate change, and entrepreneurship, I was put into something that changed me into a better version of myself. Interacting with people from different cultural and academic backgrounds, working and collaborating with them, I really learned a lot of things that I will remember and cherish for a lifetime. Being a participant for the South Intensive Program this year is definitely a highlight for me as I represented Saint Mary's University and also as I grew a bond with other participants.

Documentation (*Please attach pictures of the highlights of the activity*)











https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ucFTpuUsIyLB67fWTFxhGrTJsSskk5pb?usp=drive_link

Submit a soft copy of all the documentation via Google Drive.

Prepared by:

Harlit B. Peque
SIP Participant

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B. Appendices

1. Photo Documentation









Prepared by:

Dr. Elsa L. Cajucom
CNS Director

SCOPING REPORT

Saint Joseph Parish Multi-Purpose Cooperative-Belance

Belance, Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya

ORGANIZATION	Saint Joseph Parish Multi-Purpose Cooperative-Belance (SJPMPC-Belance)
ADDRESS	*Belance, Dupax del Norte, Nueva Vizcaya*
DATE ESTABLISHED	March 5, 2010 (August 1984-March 10, 2005 as Credit Union) With CDA Registration No. 9520-02009012 as Saint Joseph Parish Multipurpose Cooperative-Belance
MEMBERS	6, 686 (Male: 2,687, Female: 3,999) as of December 2024
CORE BUSINESS	Lending, Saving, and Merchandising (Bakery, Grocery, Hardware, and Dry Goods)
CONTACT PERSON	Agustina C. Betawang* (General Manager) | Ms. Mary Sagapan** (Internal Auditor and Focal Person for Synergy Pilipinas)
CONTACT DETAILS	(+63) 919 454 3858

I. ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE

Saint Joseph Parish Multi-Purpose Cooperative-Belance (SJPMC-Belance) was established in 1984 with the primary objective of providing financial assistance to farmers for their startup capital and other agricultural expenses. Originally operating as a lending cooperative, it has evolved significantly since its inception. From its humble beginnings, SJPMC-Belance underwent a transformative journey, culminating in its official confirmation on September 30, 1991, by the Cooperative Development Authority under Confirmation No. 1630 under RA 9520 (Article 144). Today, SJPMC-Belance stands as a testament to the power of community-driven initiatives and the enduring commitment to its mission, which is to *provide financial assistance, strengthen spirituality, advocate ecological protection, support community development, and offer complimentary solutions to enrich the lives of the members and transform communities.* The officers and employees are being guided by the cooperative vision, which is a "trusted and ideal cooperative.".

II. ASSESSMENT REPORT

a. Organizational Capacity Assessment Report - **5.06** The CSO is fully functioning and sustainable, with diversified resource base and partnerships with national and/or international networks

b. Secondary Data (certificate of registration, certificate of compliance, business permit, awards and recognitions, and others)

c. **SWOT ANALYSIS**

STRENGTHS	**WEAKNESSES**
Strong support for organic farming. The SJPMPC strongly supports organic farming since they plant organic ginger, corn, and other crops. The cooperative started organic farming on the diocesan land they are managing. **Strong Interpersonal Dynamics**: SJPMC-Belance benefits from a robust and harmonious working relationship between the Board of Directors, Management Staff, and its members. This cohesion fosters effective communication, collaboration, and decision-making, creating a conducive environment for the cooperative's operations and growth. **Strong faith.** The cooperative officers and employees have strong faith that guides them to perform their duties honestly and with dedication. They are also guided by the Cooperative basic virtues of honesty, respect, humility, confidence, cooperation, communication, and transparency **Established Systems and Processes**: The cooperative boasts well-defined systems and processes, including comprehensive accounting systems, an organized organizational chart, by-laws, policies, promotion strategies, and litigation procedures. These structures ensure efficiency, transparency, and accountability in its day-to-day operations, enhancing governance and	**Limited training on organic farming.** Some coop members attended training on organic farming organized by NVES in 2017. **Lack of marketing outlets/linkages on organic farming.** These participants (mostly cooperative members) practice organic farming; however, due to problems with marketing, they turned to good agricultural practices (GAP). The SJPMPC did not continue planting organic crops due to a lack of marketing outlets. **Lack of Marketing Expertise:** SJPMC-Belance faces a weakness in marketing expertise, which hinders its ability to effectively promote its products and reach target markets. This gap may result in missed opportunities for sales growth and market expansion. **Absence of Research and Development**: The cooperative's lack of research and development initiatives limits its ability to innovate, improve product quality, and adapt to changing market demands. Investing in R&D could enhance competitiveness and sustainability in the long run. **Limited Training Opportunities**: The absence of regular upskilling and retraining programs for members and staff diminishes their capacity to perform

mitigating risks.

Commitment to Organic Agriculture: SJPMC-Belance demonstrates a proactive approach towards sustainable agriculture by showcasing a willingness to undergo training in organic agriculture practices. This commitment not only aligns with consumer preferences for organic products but also positions the cooperative as a leader in environmentally friendly farming methods, potentially opening up new market opportunities.

Cooperative advocacy on climate and Disaster Resilience, particularly focusing on farmers, plays a crucial role in empowering vulnerable communities to adapt to the challenges posed by climate change. The cooperative serves as a platform for farmers to unite and advocate for their rights and needs in the face of climate change.

The existing partnerships with Local Government Units (LGUs), the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), and the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) to promote disaster and climate-resilient crops represent a significant strength in enhancing agricultural sustainability and resilience. The collaboration among LGUs, DA, DTI, and DAR fosters an integrated approach to address the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change. By combining resources and expertise, these entities can implement comprehensive strategies that enhance agricultural resilience.

The cooperative's openness to partnerships with organizations or agencies that share similar advocacies. The cooperative can optimally and keep pace with industry developments. Addressing this gap is essential for fostering continuous learning and skill enhancement within the cooperative.

Inadequate Support for Farmer Entrepreneurship: SJPMC-Belance does not offer specific services or programs aimed at fostering entrepreneurship among its farmer members. Providing tailored training, mentorship, and resources could empower farmers to explore value-added ventures and enhance their income-generating opportunities.

Failure to Conduct Feasibility Studies: The lack of feasibility studies before embarking on new projects or initiatives increases the risk of investment failures and operational inefficiencies. Conducting thorough feasibility assessments is crucial for informed decision-making and risk mitigation.

Unquantified Target Growth Rate: The cooperative's target growth rate is not systematically computed based on past performance data. Establishing clear and measurable growth targets grounded in historical records can facilitate more realistic goal-setting and performance evaluation.

Lack of Product Processing Facility: Without a dedicated processing facility, SJPMC-Belance may face limitations in adding value to its agricultural products and diversifying its product range. Investing in infrastructure for processing could unlock new revenue streams and enhance competitiveness.

Lack of Preventive Maintenance Plan: The cooperative lacks a preventive maintenance plan for equipment donated by government agencies. This oversight

leverage additional resources, including funding, expertise, and technology. This collaboration can enhance the cooperative's capacity to implement projects and initiatives that benefit its members and the broader community. **The willingness of farmers, cooperative officers, and other members to participate in training related to organic farming is crucial for the successful implementation of sustainable agricultural practices. Various organizations, including the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and Provincial Agriculture Office, conduct training programs aimed at enhancing knowledge and skills in organic farming.** These programs help them gain a deeper understanding of organic farming principles and practices and include initiatives on Climate Smart Farm Business School and Organic Fertilizer Production.	increases the risk of equipment breakdowns, downtime, and operational disruptions, potentially impacting productivity and service delivery. Implementing a proactive maintenance strategy is crucial for optimizing equipment lifespan and performance. **Lack of internal expertise on disaster-resilient crops and proper crop calendars. Without proper crop calendars, farmers may struggle to determine the optimal planting and harvesting times for various crops.** This misalignment can lead to poor crop performance, increased vulnerability to disasters, and reduced overall productivity. **Lack of internal expertise on building a learning, influential, and inclusive synergy platform.** Without the necessary expertise, the cooperative may struggle to create an environment conducive to continuous learning and knowledge sharing among its members. This limitation can stifle innovation and prevent the adoption of best practices that could enhance agricultural productivity and resilience.
<u>OPPORTUNITIES</u> **Government Support and Collaboration**: The cooperative enjoys robust support from various government agencies, both provincial and local government units, as well as agencies like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA). These partnerships provide access to resources, funding, market development initiatives, and technical expertise (training) that support their cooperative's growth and sustainability.	**<u>THREATS</u>** **Dependency on Tomato Prices:** The production of tomato ketchup is inherently vulnerable to fluctuations in tomato prices. Any significant changes in the market rates can directly impact the profitability and viability of our operations. **Weather-Related Risks**: The unpredictable nature of weather patterns poses a constant threat to agricultural production. Sudden changes or extreme weather events can result in the destruction of agricultural products.

Expanded Market Reach for Processed Tomato and Squash Products: There is a growing opportunity to increase our market coverage for tomato and squash processed products. This could involve tapping into new distribution channels, exploring partnerships with retailers, or expanding our reach to new geographical areas. **Emerging Demand for Squash-Based Foods:** The COVID-19 pandemic has spurred an increased demand for healthier food alternatives, leading to the popularity of squash noodles and breads. Capitalizing on this trend presents an opportunity to diversify their product offerings and cater to evolving consumer preferences. **Academic Collaboration for Extension Activities**: Collaborating with academic institutions for extension activities provides an opportunity to access expertise, resources, and research findings that can enhance their agricultural practices, product development, and community outreach initiatives. **Exploration of New Product Markets**: There is potential to explore new product markets, such as the production of flour using squash, tomatoes, ginger, and other upland crops. Diversifying their product portfolio can help them capture niche markets and capitalize on emerging consumer trends. **The partnership with Synergy Philippines and various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), such as Saint Mary's University (SMU) and Nueva Vizcaya State University (NVSU), presents a significant opportunity for advancing agricultural practices and enhancing**	affecting both the supply of raw materials for ketchup production and the livelihoods of farmers. **Local Cooperative Competition**: intensifying competition among other cooperatives operating within their locality presents a challenge to their market share and profitability. Competing for resources, customers, and market positioning requires strategic planning and innovative approaches to maintain their competitive edge in the industry. **Lack of knowledge of consumers on organic products.** Local consumers lack knowledge on the benefits of organic products; hence, local consumers do not patronize organic products. **The occurrence of stronger typhoons that destroy crops and other properties of the farmers.** Recent typhoons have caused extensive damage to crops and infrastructure. It also resulted in agricultural losses.

community resilience. Joint research initiatives can focus on critical areas such as climate-resilient crops, sustainable farming techniques, and food security. By leveraging the expertise of both Synergy Pilipinas and HEIs, these research projects can yield valuable insights that benefit local farmers and the broader agricultural sector. Training programs can also be developed through this partnership and can enhance the skills of both students and local farmers. **Existing programs and services related to strengthening disaster and climate resilience of partner agencies. Existing programs often involve collaboration among various stakeholders, including government agencies, NGOs, and local communities.** This multi-stakeholder approach fosters a comprehensive understanding of local needs and enhances the effectiveness of resilience-building initiatives by pooling resources and expertise. **Most government agencies and other organizations tap or include cooperatives as partners in implementing their programs and services.** Government agencies often have access to funding and resources that can be channeled into cooperative initiatives. By partnering with these agencies, cooperatives can secure financial support for projects aimed at improving agricultural practices, disaster resilience, and community development.	

III. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A. On Sustainable Agri Entrepreneurship

1. Organic Farming

- Approximately 3.2 hectares are devoted to organic farming.
- Organic farming started in 2016 through the Agrizkaya Cooperative Federation.
- Five farmers started organic farming and were certified by OCCP in October 2017; certification expired in 2019 and was not renewed.
- Despite this, the five farmers continued practicing organic farming, and other farmers began to engage in it.
- Other farmers struggled to sustain their practices due to a lack of market access for organic products.
- Investment of around one million to convert the parish lot for organic farming; however, it did not prosper due to a lack of market outlets.

A.2. Market Opportunities

- If a stable market outlet for organic products can be assured, more farmers will likely engage in organic farming, increasing the area planted.

A.3. Cooperative's Managed Farm

- Approximately 1 hectare is allotted for farming.
- Currently, following good agricultural practices, with plans to transition to organic farming.
- The cooperative will produce its own organic fertilizers and pesticides.

A.4. Strategic Planning

- Promotion of organic farming and products will be included in the Five-Year Strategic Plan
- The plan is being finalized for presentation at the Annual General Assembly in March 2025.
- A budget of PHP 500,000.00 has been allocated to support organic farming initiatives.

A.5. Support for Farmers

- Helping farmers sell their organic products through the cooperative's stores.
- Implementing organic farming (GAP) on the diocesan land (around 1 hectare) managed by the cooperative.
- Implementing GAP among identified farmer members (500 upland farmers)
- Close partnerships with advocates of organic farming in the municipality and province.
- Maintaining or strengthening partnerships with Synergy Pilipinas and other organizations advocating for organic farming.
- Linking practicing organic farmers with organizations that provide training or seminars on organic farming or sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship.

A.5. Free-Range Poultry Farming

- Sustainable poultry farming prioritizes environmental conservation through rotational grazing to prevent overgrazing.
- Currently managing around 200 free-range chickens on a land area of 2,500 square meters located in Upper Green Hills, Belance, Dupax del Northe, Nueva Vizcaya.

6. Organic Crop Production

- Cultivating various crops including dragon fruit, lettuce, herbs (rosemary, stevia, serpentina, gotu kola, peppermint), eggplant, sitaw (string beans), tomatoes (in small quantities), okra, banana, cassava, ube (purple yarn), ginger, corn, amplaya (bitter melon), pechay (chinese cabbage), and other crops (still produced in small quantities).

A.6. Various government agencies support both provincial and local government units, as well as agencies like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA)

Training on organic farming and production of organic fertilizer; Cultured Banana Seedlings and Ginger	DA - NVES
Free-range chicken (200 heads), Kadiwa Truck, Rotavator Equipment	DA
Funded seedlings such as Satsuma (failed), Rambutan	Provincial Agriculture-
Training on Production of Squash Noodles, Cookie Cutter, Stainless Table, and Deep Frying Machine	DTI
Sprayers to some farmers to be used for planting squash intended for squash noodles, building improvement amounting to 900,000	DAR
Greenhouse, 1 unit Portasol, 1 unit Electric Meat Grinder	Dupax del Norte LGU

B. Certifications:

- Certification of Compliance
- BIR Certification
- FDA Certification
- Certificate of Registration

C. Enterprise activities

- *Bakery:* Offers a variety of freshly baked bread and pastries (squash). It employs at least seven women for the food processing and bakery operations, assisted by the DTI and DAR.
- *Grocery/ Mini-Mart*: Stocks a wide range of grocery items, including pantry staples, fresh produce, dairy products, frozen foods, snacks, beverages, and household essentials.
- *Eatery*: Sells a diverse menu featuring a variety of main courses, sides, and desserts to appeal to different tastes and dietary preferences.
- *Piggery: Managed by MLGU Dupax (30 heads).*
- *Poultry. Assisted DAR*
- *Gasoline station*

IV. St. Joseph Parish MPC-Belance Future Plans:

A. Enterprise Activity of the Coop and of members

- Enhancement of squash noodles product.
- Enhancement of packaging of products such as Noodles, bakery bread
- Other vegetable and fruits processed products like VEGETABLE Chips (e.g., squash, tomato, taro, guava, lemon, and others)
- Wine Production (from mulberry, bugnay, tomato, etc.)
- Swine production—for meat processing
- Tilapia production (funded by MLGU-Dupax)
- Tomato pruning
- Marketing to Deped, Diocesan schools, etc

B. Capability Building:

1. Officers, employees, and members

- Customer Care Training
- Entrepreneurship Development Training
- Basic Financial Management System
- Feasibility Study Writing
- Proposal Writing
- Fund Raising
- Succession Planning and 2nd Line Leaders

2. Products

- Processing of new products
- Packaging and labeling
- Producing organic fertilizer through vermicomposting.

3. Programs and Services

- Delinquency Control
- Financial Literacy
- Awareness Campaign and Training on Gender and Development
- Cooperative Resiliency
- Capacity Building
- Risk Management

4. **Livelihood**
    - Composting
    - Sustainability Training
    - Organic farming
    - Training on planting flowers, orchids
    - Training of our young agriculturalists
    - Raising organic chicken, pigs
    - Production of organic feeds and insecticides in partnership with DA and other agencies or organizations providing these programs.

5. **Marketing**
    - Marketing of Organic Products
    - Networking and linkaging (DepEd schools, Diocesan schools)
    - Help farmers promote and sell their organic products through the cooperative stores.

C. Networking/Advocacy

- Maintain and strengthen partnerships with the DA, DTI, LBP, DAR, and LGUs, and expand collaborations with other government agencies for potential projects that will benefit the members.
- Assist interested students in availing scholarships related to organic farming and sustainable agriculture.
- Establish partnerships with private organizations, academic institutions, and civil society organizations (CSOs) for projects or activities that will benefit both the organizations and their members.
- Continue collaboration with the Municipal Agricultural Office to promote and facilitate access to crop insurance and other programs or services that support sustainable agriculture.
- Promote sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship among farmers in partnership with Synergy Philippines and other organizations advocating for sustainable practices.
- The cooperative is assisting some youth through the Special Program for Employment of Students.

D. Aligned Plans of the Saint Joseph Multi-purpose Cooperative—Belance with the advocacy programs of Synergy Pilipinas

Saint Joseph Multi-purpose Cooperative— Belance is dedicated to upscaling sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship through strategic engagement with Synergy Pilipinas, focusing on initiatives such as the production of organic feeds, fertilizers, insecticides, and sustainability training. Plans for product development utilizing locally available agricultural crops are underway, alongside a commitment to disaster climate resilience through enhanced risk management programs. Emphasizing women and youth inclusion, the cooperative seeks partnerships with private organizations, academic institutions, and civil society organizations (CSOs) to create mutually beneficial projects. Additionally, awareness campaigns and training on gender and development will empower members with the knowledge and skills necessary for

success in sustainable agriculture and entrepreneurship, ensuring long-term community growth and environmental stewardship.

Upscaling Sustainable Agriculture and Entrepreneurship	● Engagement of the cooperative on sustainable agriculture and organic initiatives of Synergy Pilipinas (part of their future plans are the following: production of organic feeds, fertilizers, insecticides, Sustainability Training, and Organic farming) ● Plans for product development utilize agriculture crops available in the locality. ● Willingness to participate in entrepreneurial and business development activities to be conducted by Synergy Pilipinas
Disaster Climate Resilience	● Assistance in terms of cooperative resilience and risk management programs.
Women and Youth Inclusion	● Partnership with private organizations, academia, and CSOs for any projects or activities that will benefit both organizations and the members. ● Awareness Campaign and Training on Gender and Development

V. INITIAL ASSESSMENT FOR SCOPING

AREAS FOR SCOPING	FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
A. Governance and Leadership	● *SJPMC-Belance* benefits from a harmonious working relationship among the Board of Directors, Management Staff, and members. ● The cooperative's well-defined systems, including accounting, by-laws, and policies, demonstrate a commitment to structured governance. ● The absence of R&D initiatives suggests a potential gap in strategic governance. ● The cooperative's governance structure seems to lack provisions for empowering farmer members with entrepreneurial skills. *SJPMC-Belance shows strong governance and leadership, particularly in ethical practices, interpersonal dynamics, and a commitment to sustainable agriculture. However, there are key areas needing improvement, including a lack of research and development, marketing expertise, and training opportunities. To enhance governance and leadership, the cooperative should focus on strategic planning, incorporating innovation, entrepreneurship support, and*

	skill development. Strengthening these areas will help sustain growth and maintain competitiveness in the long term.
B. Strategic Planning and Management	● SJPMPC-Belance has well-defined systems, a commitment to core values, and proactive efforts in organic agriculture, providing a strong base for strategic planning. ● There is a lack of marketing expertise, research and development, and feasibility studies, all of which are critical for effective strategic planning. Additionally, the absence of regular training and a preventive maintenance plan suggests gaps in ongoing management. ● SJPMPC-Belance can leverage government support, expand market reach, and explore new product markets. Collaborating with academic institutions could enhance strategic initiatives. ● Dependency on fluctuating tomato prices, weather-related risks, and local competition highlight the need for more robust risk management strategies. *SJPMC-Belance needs to enhance its strategic planning and management by incorporating more comprehensive market analysis, innovation, and continuous learning. Strengthening these areas will ensure better alignment with market demands, improved risk management, and sustainable growth.*
C. Program Design, Implementation, and Management and Monitoring and Evaluation	● SJPMPC-Belance program design benefits from established systems, processes, and strong interpersonal dynamics among the board, management, and members. ● The cooperative's strong commitment to its core values, ethical practices, and sustainable agriculture indicates a well-grounded approach to program management. ● The cooperative's structured systems provide a foundation for monitoring and evaluating program outcomes, ensuring transparency and accountability. ● The absence of regular training programs, research and development, and feasibility studies highlights gaps in the design and implementation phases. ● Program management faces challenges due to limited marketing expertise, lack of support for farmer entrepreneurship, and absence of a preventive maintenance plan. ● The lack of quantified growth targets and the absence of feasibility studies indicate a need for more robust M&E processes. *SJPMPC-Belance needs to enhance its program design, implementation, and management by incorporating continuous training, R&D, and feasibility assessments. Strengthening M&E processes with clear metrics and regular evaluations will ensure*

	programs are effectively managed and aligned with strategic goals. This will lead to more informed decision-making, better resource allocation, and sustained program success.
D. Resource Mobilization	● The cooperative's cohesive relationships and well-defined systems provide a strong foundation for mobilizing resources. Though without regular upskilling and retraining programs, the cooperative's members and staff may not be fully equipped to effectively mobilize and manage resources. Continuous professional development is key to improving resource acquisition and utilization. ● The cooperative's focus on sustainable practices can attract resources from government agencies, NGOs, and consumers who prioritize environmentally friendly products. This commitment enhances the cooperative's appeal for external funding and support. However, their cooperative's ability to attract and mobilize resources is limited by its lack of marketing skills. Without effective promotion and outreach, the cooperative may struggle to secure new partnerships, customers, and investors. ● The cooperative has strong support from various government agencies, providing access to funding, technical expertise, and market development initiatives; however, a lack of R&D initiatives hinders the cooperative's ability to innovate and adapt, which is essential for attracting new resources. Potential funders may be more inclined to invest in organizations that demonstrate a commitment to innovation and future growth. ● By tapping into new markets, particularly for processed tomato and squash products, the cooperative can mobilize resources to support production expansion and diversification. Collaborating with academic institutions for extension activities can also bring additional resources and expertise. ● Their dependency on tomato prices and vulnerability to weather-related risks can negatively impact resource mobilization efforts. ● Competing cooperatives may vie for the same funding, markets, and support, requiring SJPMC-Belance to differentiate itself strategically *SJPMC-Belance has a solid foundation for resource mobilization, particularly through its strong relationships, established systems, and alignment with sustainable agriculture. However, to fully capitalize on these strengths, the cooperative needs to address weaknesses in marketing, R&D, and training. Leveraging government support, expanding market reach, and diversifying products will enhance resource mobilization efforts. Additionally, mitigating external threats*

	like market dependency and competition through strategic planning will ensure more stable and successful resource acquisition and utilization.
E. Administration and Human Resource Development	● SJPMC-Belance benefits from the cohesive relationships among the Board of Directors, Management Staff, and members that enhance communication and collaboration, while a dedication to honesty, respect, and transparency builds a culture of integrity and dedication. ● Access to government resources, including training programs and technical expertise, presents opportunities for enhancing administrative functions and HR development. These partnerships can help address existing gaps and build capacity within the cooperative. ● The cooperative faces challenges due to limited training opportunities, which restrict the development of human resources and hinder staff and member adaptation to industry trends. Additionally, a lack of marketing expertise and research and development limits the cooperative's ability to innovate and enhance administrative efficiency. The absence of clearly defined growth targets also indicates a need for more strategic HR planning to align efforts with long-term objectives. ● The absence of marketing expertise and research and development initiatives highlights gaps in administrative capabilities. These weaknesses can limit the cooperative's ability to innovate and adapt, which are crucial for both administrative efficiency and HR development. ● External threats like unpredictable weather and dependence on specific market prices can create instability, which may strain administrative resources and impact HR development efforts. These challenges highlight the need for robust risk management strategies. *SJPMC-Belance benefits from strong interpersonal dynamics and a commitment to ethical values, which underpin its administrative and HR development efforts. However, there are notable weaknesses in training, marketing, and strategic planning that need to be addressed. Leveraging government support, expanding market opportunities, and focusing on continuous skill development will strengthen both administration and HR development. By doing so, the cooperative can better navigate external threats and enhance its overall organizational capacity.*
F. Financial Management	● SJPMC-Belance benefits from well-defined accounting systems and comprehensive policies, which contribute to transparency, efficiency, and effective financial management. ● The lack of systematically computed growth targets and clear financial goals can hinder effective financial planning and

	performance evaluation. Without measurable targets, it is challenging to assess financial progress and make informed decisions. ● The absence of research and development and marketing expertise can impact financial performance by limiting innovation and market reach. These gaps may result in missed revenue opportunities and reduced competitiveness, affecting overall financial health. ● Diversifying product offerings and market reach can help SJPMC-Belance stabilize income and enhance financial sustainability. ● Unpredictable weather patterns can disrupt agricultural production, affecting the availability of raw materials and potentially leading to financial losses. Implementing risk management strategies and contingency plans is essential to addressing this threat. *SJPMC-Belance has a strong foundation for financial management with its established systems and commitment to core values. However, addressing weaknesses such as unquantified growth targets, lack of R&D and marketing expertise, and limited training opportunities is crucial for improving financial performance. Leveraging government support and exploring new markets can provide opportunities for growth and stability, while managing risks related to price fluctuations, weather, and competition will ensure long-term financial sustainability.*

ENDORSEMENT:

Saint Mary's University endorses the Saint Joseph Multipurpose Cooperative as a new MBO member due to their strong commitment to organic farming, as evidenced by the willingness of farmers and cooperative officers to participate in training programs conducted by the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Agrarian Reform, and the Provincial Agriculture Office. Despite encountering marketing challenges that led them to adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), their initial efforts in planting organic crops such as ginger and corn demonstrate significant potential. Their investment of around one million to convert a parish lot for organic farming reflects a serious dedication to sustainable practices. To enhance their success, it is crucial to provide targeted support in developing effective marketing strategies and establishing partnerships with local markets and government agencies like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA). This collaborative approach can help the cooperative overcome existing barriers, secure reliable market outlets, and ultimately thrive in the organic farming sector.

Prepared by:

Dr. Elsa L. Cajucom

Mr. John Michael C. Ibarra

Dr. Harrison T. Villanueva

Activity Report

Lead Proponent	**Saint Mary's University**
Co implementers	Nueva Vizcaya Participatory Guarantee System (NV-PGS), Nueva Vizcaya State University, and Saint Joseph Multi-purpose Cooperative- Belance (SJMPC-B)
Area	Nueva Vizcaya
Expected Outcome/s (primary)	Outcome 3: Increasing income of MBO enterprises
Actual Output/s (primary)	Output 3C. Organic Weekend Market
Title of Activity	Organic Weekend Market
Date/time	February to July 2025
Venue	Carlos M. Padilla Convention Center

I. Background/Rationale

Organic farmers and traders play a pivotal role in advancing sustainable agriculture, and their participation in local markets is crucial. Farmers' markets serve as essential platforms for these producers, enabling them to sell directly to consumers. This direct-to-consumer model eliminates intermediaries, ensuring that farmers receive fair prices for their products while fostering a strong connection between producers and their communities.

Economic resilience is another significant benefit of farmers' markets for organic farmers and traders. These markets stimulate local economies by keeping food expenditures within the community. When consumers purchase organic produce from local farmers, they contribute to a cycle of economic growth that supports not only the farmers but also surrounding local businesses. This localized economic activity encourages more farmers to adopt sustainable practices, knowing there is a robust demand for their products, thereby nurturing a vibrant agricultural ecosystem.

Moreover, farmers' markets enhance food security by providing communities with access to fresh, locally grown produce. This access is especially vital in areas where healthy food options may be limited. By reducing dependence on imported foods and promoting the consumption of seasonal, local crops, these markets strengthen the resilience of local food systems. They also serve as educational platforms that inform consumers about the benefits of organic farming and sustainable practices, empowering them to make informed choices that reflect their values.

The environmental impact of farmers' markets is also noteworthy. By minimizing transportation distances and promoting organic practices, these markets help reduce the carbon footprint associated with food production and distribution. Many farmers at these markets employ sustainable farming methods that protect soil health and promote biodiversity. This environmentally friendly approach not only benefits the planet but also ensures the long-term viability of agricultural land, making it imperative for organic farmers and traders to engage actively in such market initiatives.

The Nueva Vizcaya Working Group (NVWG) is committed to strengthening member organizations and fostering partnerships with local government units (LGUs) and key government agencies to support micro-business enterprises (MBOs) in increasing income for family farmers, women, and youth members. During the 2024 Regional Assessment and Annual Planning Session, the Working Group recognized the pressing need for market linkages specifically for organic agricultural products.

Mainstreaming organic farmers and traders into the sustainable agriculture market of Nueva Vizcaya is vital for enhancing food security, economic stability, and environmental sustainability. Organic agriculture emphasizes natural processes and materials while avoiding synthetic chemicals and genetically modified organisms. This approach not only improves soil health and biodiversity but also significantly reduces pesticide exposure for farmworkers and consumers, leading to better public health outcomes. Research shows that organic produce often contains higher levels of essential nutrients—such as vitamins and antioxidants—compared to conventionally grown crops, promoting better overall health for consumers. Furthermore, organic farming practices help mitigate environmental issues by reducing soil erosion, conserving water, and promoting healthier ecosystems.

The establishment of an organic weekend market represents a strategic initiative aimed at promoting organic agriculture, boosting local economies, and fostering community engagement. A scoping report conducted by proponents in the Dupax Cluster revealed that many farmers struggle to sustain their organic agriculture practices due to limited market access. Some cooperative members practicing organic farming have reverted to good agricultural practices (GAP) because of marketing challenges, leading them to abandon organic crops altogether. One identified opportunity lies in government support and collaboration; partnerships with various government agencies—both provincial and local—as well as organizations like the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Agriculture (DA), can facilitate market development initiatives while providing access to resources, funding, and technical training that support cooperative growth and sustainability.

In this context, the Provincial Working Group (PWG) assisted Synergy clusters in increasing income through the collective marketing of priority crops by supporting them in establishing market linkages. Among the priorities for the Nueva Vizcaya Cluster this year is the conduct of an organic weekend market to address the lack of market access for organic products among local farmers.

Target beneficiaries:

Based on the provincial target sheet, the expected output of this activity benefited individuals from three organizations in Nueva Vizcaya: (1) Nueva Vizcaya Participatory Guarantee System Inc. (NVPGSI), (2) Saint Joseph Parish Multipurpose Cooperative, and (3) Agrizcaya. These organizations were further divided into five clusters: Cluster 1 (Bayombong, Ambaguio), Cluster 2 (Bagabag, Villa Verde, and Solano), Cluster 3 (Kayapa), Cluster 4 (Dupax del Norte), and Cluster 5 (Bambang).

During the final year of Phase 2, the NVWG focused on promoting policies and programs aimed at upscaling sustainable agripreneurship, enhancing disaster and climate resilience, and strengthening women and youth inclusion, primarily for the target Synergy clusters and their communities. It was expected that out of the total 45 beneficiaries, 20 women and 1 youth would benefit from improved marketing, policy, and management systems. The table below presented the summary.

	Target	Actual	Variance
Members			
Partners			
# FF/SSE			
# women			
# non FF/SSE			

Organization	**Barangay, Municipality**	**Crops**		**# of FF/SSE** *a = b+c*	**Women** *b*	**Men** *c*	**Youth** *d*
		Rice	*HVCC*				
Nueva Vizcaya Participatory Guarantee System Inc. (NVPGSI)	Bayombong, Ambagiuo - Cluster 1	/	/	17	6	11	0
	Bagabag, Villa Verde, Solano - Cluster 2	/	/	5	3	2	0
	Kayapa - Cluster 3		/	8	4	3	1

Organization	Barangay, Municipality	Crops		# of FF/SSE *a = b+c*	Women *b*	Men *c*	Youth *d*
Saint Joseph Parish MPC	Dupax Del Norte - Cluster 4	/	/	10	5	5	0
Agrizkaya	Bambang Nueva Vizcaya - Cluster 5	/	/	5	3	2	0
Total				**45**	**20**	**24**	**1**

In particular, the lead MBOs, CSOs, HEIs, NGOs for the lobby and advocacy work are as follows:

Name of Organization (specify resource person or office, if any)	**Role**
Nueva Vizcaya Participatory Guarantee System and Saint Joseph Multi-purpose Cooperative Belance	• **Led** a team in conceptualizing and organizing the organic weekend market. • **Coordinated** with concerned stakeholders (PLGU Nueva Vizcaya, LGU-Bayombong, other government agencies, and MBOs). • **Identified** SAE FF/SSEs to participate in the activity. •
SMU (Dr. Harrison T. Villanueva, Ms. Sheryl A. Baria, and Dr. Monaloufel Rosario F. Jasmin)	• **Co-responsible for conceptualizing and organizing** the organic weekend market. • **Assisted** in logistics and **disbursed** funds as needed for the project. • **Coordinated** with members regarding the availability of products during the organic weekend market. • **Spearheaded** the regular conduct of the organic weekend market and school trade fair as extension activities to assist farmers and traders.

II. Participants

Organization	Barangay, Municipality	Crops		# of FF/SSE *a = b+c*	Women *b*	Men *c*	Youth *d*
		Rice	*HVCC*				

Organization	Barangay, Municipality	Crops		# of FF/SSE *a = b+c*	Women *b*	Men *c*	Youth *d*
Nueva Vizcaya Participatory Guarantee System Inc. (NVPGSI)	Bayombong, Ambagiuo - Cluster 1	/	/	17	6	11	0
	Bagabag, Villa Verde, Solano - Cluster 2	/	/	5	3	2	0
	Kayapa - Cluster 3		/	8	4	3	1
Saint Joseph Parish MPC	Dupax Del Norte - Cluster 4	/	/	10	5	5	0
Agrizkaya	Bambang Nueva Vizcaya - Cluster 5	/	/	5	3	2	0
Total				**45**	**20**	**24**	**1**

III. Activity Highlights

February to May 2025	**Coordination and follow-up with LGU Bayombong and the Provincial Local Government Unit of Nueva Vizcaya** *Note:* Delays occurred due to difficulties in negotiating with the LGU and PLGU, as well as frequent changes in decisions made by the Local Chief Executive.
May 26, 2025	**Farmers and Fisherfolks Month Celebration**
May 30-31, 2025	**Kadiwa ng Pangulo – Nueva Vizcaya Provincial Capitol**
June 2, 2025	**Pop-up Store sa Bayombong – LGU Bayombong**
June 13, 2025	**Kadiwa ng Pangulo – NVPP**
July 4, 2025	**Kadiwa ng Pangulo – Nueva Vizcaya**
August 2025	Prepare the activity report

Facilitating factors for implementing the activity:

- Active involvement of the Synergy NL Coordinator, who consistently reminded the team about Synergy activities and deadlines.
- Harmonious relationships among SMU, the Nueva Vizcaya Participatory Guarantee System, and Saint Joseph MPC.
- Collaborative and cohesive dynamics among the project proponents.

- Consistent communication among team members.
- Regular meetings conducted by Synergy Pilipinas, complemented by email correspondence to ensure timely updates.
- Shared commitment among stakeholders to promote organic agriculture and sustainability.
- Accessibility of communication channels for coordination and information sharing.
- Positive response and participation from local farmers and traders.

Issues and challenges:

- Delays in project implementation due to difficulties in negotiating with the LGU and PLGU, as well as frequent changes in decisions made by the Local Chief Executive.
- Hectic schedules of the proponents resulting from heavy workloads and multiple responsibilities at the university.
- Weather disturbances that affected the scheduling and conduct of market-related activities.

Unintended benefits or outcomes resulting from conducting the activity:

- Strengthened bonds between the cooperative and SMU through collaboration and shared activities related to sustainable agripreneurship and disaster and climate resilience.
- Greater appreciation for diverse perspectives and cultural practices due to interactions among members from varied backgrounds.

Insights and suggestions in the design of the activity

- Improved coordination with the LGU and PLGU for the smooth implementation of the project.
- Utilized the activity as an opportunity to strengthen existing skills while expanding participants' expertise through peer learning and shared problem-solving.

IV. Activity Outputs

The expected outputs of the Organic Weekend Market were submitted.

V. Member and Partner's Counterpart

Description	Budget	Actual Expenses	
		Synergy	SMU/ NVPGS
Meals	10,800	10,800	1,500.00
Booth set-up	20,000	20,000	

Transportation	12,000	12,000	1,500.00
Materials	20,000	20,000	37,776.25
Accommodation	8,000	8,000	
Support for documentation and logistics	5,400	5,400	
Evaluation and planning meetings	6,750	6,750	
Venue	8,000	0	
Staff Time	16,000	0	
Total	**106,950.00**	**82,950.00**	**40,776.25**

Note: SMU/NVPGS counterparts were allotted staff time and venue.

VI. Annexes

Electronic copy of the full report with annexes must be sent to the PIT prior to submission of printed copy of Annex 1 and Annex 6 only. There is no need to send a printed copy of the main report and other annexes.

- ANNEX 1. Outputs/Photo documentation (Farmers Fisherfolks Month Celebration_5.26.25, Kadiwa ng Pangulo -NV Capitol_5.30.31, Pop-Up Store sa Bayombong Lgu_6.2.25 , Kadiwa ng Pangulo-NVPPO_6.13.25, and Kadiwa ng Pangulo -NV Capitol_7.4.25
- ANNEX 2. Expense Report and Official Receipt and Acknowledgement Report (Ledger, Expenditure, and Income with supporting documents)

- ANNEX 1. Attendance Sheet/s
- ANNEX 3. Activity evaluation summary
-
- ANNEX 5. Outputs (e.g. Pre/post test summary, copies of action plans, etc.)
-
- ANNEX 8. Training team assessment

Submitted by:

NAME:	DESIGNATION:	ORGANIZATION:	DATE:
HARRISON T. VILLANUEVA		SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY	





Reviewed by: **Noted by:**

TECHNICAL ASSISTANT	DATE:	PROGRAM MANAGER	DATE:

NARRATIVE REPORT

SDG: 13, 15, 17

Title of Activity: Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies (FICCS)

Date/Time: February 26-28, 2025

Venue: Saint Mary's University and Imugan, Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya

Organizers: CEIPSC and SHANS

Objectives:

To promote the integration of indigenous knowledge systems with scientific approaches to address global challenges in biodiversity and environmental conservation.

Participants:

1. Dr. Elsa L. Cajucom, LPT (Organizing Committee)
2. Mr. Jason Arnold L. Maslang (Organizing Committee)
3. Ms. Vivien Junelle R. Almendra
4. Ms. Leana Pauline B. Alap
5. Ms. Arcelle Mae P. Novida
6. Mrs. Julieta A. Villanueva
7. Mr. Michael S. Catacutan

A. Highlights of the Activity:

From February 26 to 28, 2025, Saint Mary's University (SMU) played host to the Fourth International Conference on Cultural Studies (FICCS), bringing together thought leaders and experts from across the Philippines, Singapore, New Zealand, Australia, and Nepal. The conference focused on the powerful role that indigenous knowledge systems play in tackling pressing global issues related to biodiversity and conservation.

Seven (7) faculty and four (4) BS Biology students from the SMU's Center for Natural Sciences (CNS) were at the heart of the event, not only attending sessions but also actively engaging in meaningful conversations that wove together scientific inquiry, cultural traditions, and environmental sustainability. Their participation highlighted how interconnected these fields truly are, showcasing the importance of combining empirical research with time-honored indigenous practices.

One of the key highlights of FICCS 2025 was the BaNTAY-Kalanguya-Ikalahan project, which shone a spotlight on the value of cultural heritage in promoting eco-friendly and sustainable solutions. CNS faculty played a pivotal role in various breakout sessions, where they shared insights on how

biological sciences can enhance biodiversity efforts rooted in local traditions and community knowledge.

Dr. Christopher Allen Marquez, Director of the Community Engagement and Indigenous People Studies Center (CEIPSC), noted that the conference served as a powerful reminder of how embracing cultural understanding can lead to more innovative and adaptable responses to today's environmental challenges. Collaborations with major organizations like UPLB, WWF-Philippines, and the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity further elevated the event's impact.

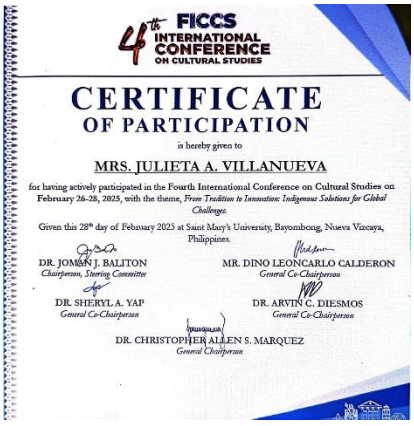
In all, the strong presence of CNS faculty at FICCS 2025 reaffirmed SMU's ongoing commitment to promoting solutions that are not only science-driven but also deeply respectful of cultural contexts and indigenous wisdom.

B. Appendices

1. Certificate of Participation









2. Photo Documentation









Prepared by:

Dr. Elsa L. Cajucom
CNS Director

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

This Memorandum of Understanding, hereinafter referred to as MOU is made and entered into by and between:

The **WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE (WWF) - PHILIPPINES,** a non-stock, non-profit corporation duly organized and existing under Philippines law, with principal office located the 4th Floor, JBD Plaza, 65 Mindanao Avenue, Quezon City, represented in this act by its Executive Director, **MS. KATHERINE CUSTODIO,** hereinafter referred to as "**WWF-Philippines"**

and

The **SAINT MARY'S UNIVERSITY** with office address at Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, represented herein by its University President, **DR. JOHN OCTAVIOUS S. PALINA,** hereinafter referred to as **"SMU"**

RECITALS:

WHEREAS, this agreement seeks to implement the Education for Sustainable Development projects in collaboration with SMU which is hereinafter referred to as the **"Project"**.

WHEREAS, the **Project** is in support of Republic Act 9512*: Environmental Awareness and Education Act of 2008*, which aims to integrate environmental education in the school curricula at all levels, whether public or private, including in barangay daycare, preschool, non-formal, technical vocational, professional level, indigenous learning and out-of-school youth courses of programs.

WHEREAS, Environmental education shall encompass environmental concept and principles, environmental laws, the state of international and local environment, local environment best practices, the threats of environmental degradation, and its impact on human well-being, the responsibility of the citizenry to the environment and the value of conservation, protection and rehabilitation of natural resources and the environment in the context of sustainable development.

CLEARED
OFFICE OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL
Saint Mary's University
DATE: APR 16 2024

WHEREAS, the implementation of the **Project** aims to support the law by conducting capacity building through trainings, seminars, workshops on environmental education, development and production of environmental education materials, for teachers, staff, students, student organizations, partner communities/schools and other stakeholders.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises and of the mutual covenants set forth herein, WWF-Philippines and SMU hereby have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I
RESOURCES

The **Project** is a collaboration of WWF-Philippines and SMU and will be implemented through cost sharing between the concerned parties.

WWF-Philippines will provide the following resources: module development, learning experience design, consultation and expert resources.

SMU will provide the following: expert resources on venue and logistics for onsite activities (including transportation, and accommodation if needed) and digital platforms for online activities, consultation and expert resources.

ARTICLE II
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

WWF-Philippines shall:

1. Collaborate with SMU on the creation of the framework and program design and toolkits.
2. Enhance capacity of teachers in the integration of environmental education in classroom discussions;
3. Enhance capacity of students, student leaders and student organizations on environment education;
4. Provide resource speakers in the conduct of conferences/symposia/fora relative to environmental education;
5. Provide suggestions for content for information, education and communication materials.

SMU shall:

1. Apply for CPD points for the conduct of conferences/symposia/fora relative to environmental education;
2. Provide active participation of faculty and students to participate in the conference/seminar/fora relative to environmental education;
3. Collaborate with WWF on the creation and implementation of modules;

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4. Provide venues, equipment and other resources for the conduct of the **Project**;

ARTICLE III
CONFIDENTIALITY AND PROTECTION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS

Any intellectual property existing at the time of the execution of this contract shall remain with their existing owners.

All materials bearing the Panda logo shall be subject to WWF-Philippines approval prior to release.

Materials developed jointly by WWF-Philippines and SMU are jointly owned by WWFPhilippines and SMU and will be shared solely for the purpose of the **Project**; and for other purposes that will advance the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) program of WWF-Philippines and SMU;

ARTICLE IV
AMENDMENTS

This MOU may be revised, modified or amended, in whole or in part, by consensus of the Parties. Any revision, modification or amendment agreed upon by the Parties shall be in writing and shall form part of this MOU. Such revision, modification or amendment shall come into effect on such date as may be determined by the Parties.

ARTICLE V
MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The parties involved shall conduct a regular consultative meeting for monitoring and as an avenue to discuss important issues and concerns that may arise during the implementation of the project. The parties involved shall mutually agree on the frequency, date and time of the meeting.

ARTICLE VI
VALIDITY

This agreement shall take effect immediately upon signing by the parties and will remain in full force until 31 July 2025, the end of AY 2024 - 2025.

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DATE: APR 16 2024

ARTICLE VII
TERMINATION

Either party may terminate this Agreement in writing with immediate effect for any reason effective thirty (30) days upon receipt of written notice for any the following reasons:

a) in the event that the other party commits or permits any material breach of the terms of this Agreement
b) if such breach is capable of being remedied, but fails to remedy such breach within thirty (30) days after receiving written notice

ARTICLE VIII
SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES

Any dispute or conflict in the interpretation and implementation of any of the provisions of this MOU shall be settled amicably through consultation and negotiation among the Parties.

In the event of suit, the parties agree to settle the case via mediation, within 10 days from receipt of the Notice to Mediate. In the event that the issue remains unresolved within 10 days from start of Mediation, the parties agree to submit to Arbitration under the rules of the Philippine Dispute Resolution Center, and for the constitution of an Arbitral Panel of 3, to be selected under the current PDRC rules.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been executed by the parties hereto, as of this ___day of _____, 2024.

JOHN ACTAVIOUS S. PALINA, PHD, DBA
University President
SMU

KATHERINE CUSTODIO
Executive Director
WWF-Philippines

Witnessed by:

CHRISTOPHER ALLEN S. MARQUEZ
Director, LMCDAC
SMU

DINO CALDERON
Program Manager, ESD
WWF-Philippines

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (_____)S.S.

BEFORE ME, a Notary Public for and in _____, on this _____day of _____appeared:

NAME	IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT	DATE AND PLACE OF ISSUE/EXPIRY
KATHERINE CUSTODIO	Passport Number: P9471228B	April 1, 2022 / DFA Manila
JOHN OCTAVIOUS S. PALINA	106-651-097-000	11 July 2017 / Nueva Vizcaya

Known to me be the same persons who executed the foregoing instrument and acknowledged to me that the same is their own free and voluntary act and deed.

This instrument refers to a Memorandum of Understanding consisting of four (4) pages including this where the Acknowledgement is written, signed by the parties and their instrumental witness on each and every page thereof.

WITNESS MY HAND AND NOTARIAL SEAL

Doc. No. :
Page No. :
Book No. :
Series of 2024