

**Providing Rural Island Communities with Livelihood Opportunities
through Sustainable Sea Farming Enterprises Project
(ProLiFE)**

A Two Year Project

Submitted for funding to:

Any Interested Local or Foreign Funding Agency/Institution

Submitted by:

The Municipality of Tubigon
Province of Bohol
Philippines

PROJECT BRIEF

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. Project Title:

Providing Rural Island Communities with Livelihood Opportunities through Sustainable Sea Farming Enterprise (ProLiFE)

Aquaculture: Hope Grows Out of Seaweeds in Island Villages

2. Project Type:

Technical and Livelihood Assistance Project

3. Project Component:

- a. Technical Training on Seaweeds Culture
- b. Monitoring and Information System
- c. Financial Mechanisms for Sustainability

4. Project Location:

Six (6) island barangays of the Municipality of Tubigon, namely:

- Bilangbilangan Island
- Batasan Island
- Pangapasan Island
- Mocaboc Island
- Ubay Island
- Bagongbanwa Island

II. PROJECT STATUS

1. Proposed Project:

Transformation of the six (6) island barangays as a commercial seaweeds production area through the establishment/development of a five-hectare seaweeds farm per island barangay in Tubigon. Euchema seaweed species will be cultured to produce Carageenan.

2. Status of Project Operation:

Project Idea

3. Investment Programming:

For Local and Foreign Funding

III. PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Background:

The Philippines' marine grounds are a huge storehouse of nature's treasures. The archipelago's 17,400-kilometer combined coastline is strewn with riches as colorful as the peoples and cultures that make up a nation of 77 million.

Life in many island villages is woven into the seascape, from fishing, transportation, and inter-island trade. Generations rolled along with the relentless waves that brought what seemed like infinite marine resources. Yet even the high seas get sparing with its wealth when treated unfairly.

Fish production is dipping annually since the previous decade. Numerous studies by Filipino marine scientists traced the decline to man-made factors. Debates have long shifted on how to contain the damage and regenerate diminishing fish stock.

Thus, the municipality of Tubigon formulated the Tubigon Coastal Resource Management Code to protect the marine resources. Basically, the said code prevents any form of illegal fishing that could destruct the municipal waters of the municipality.

Declination of the household income among the fisher folks was the aftermath of the passage of the said code. Alarmed by such situation, the local government of Tubigon sought for assistance from NGOs for possible interventions for an alternative and supplemental livelihood where mariculture was introduced and implemented at selected island barangays being managed by People's Organizations in the area. Moreover, several initiatives have been employed to regenerate fish stock for sustainability and for food security.

Despite the partnership with the NGOs such as PACAP, ECO-Ocean, MAC, FTCPI, and LOGODEF, the economic status of the fisher folks remain stagnant. In fact, the six island barangays were the top six most deprived barangays as reflected in the Poverty Database Monitoring System, where barangay Bagongbanwa tops the list with 30.56% deprivation followed by Ubay Island with 26.29%, Pangapasan with 23.31%, Batasan with 20.68%, Mocaboc Island with 20.26% and barangay Bilangbilangan with 19.33% deprivation.

In order to alleviate the poverty situation of the six island barangays, alternatives to fishing had to be explored. Seaweed provided one of the more promising options. In fact, seaweed has loads of profitable possibilities, such as food binder, emulsifier or gelling agents in processed foods, for dairy products, meat and poultry products, water gels for pharmaceutical and personal care.

The project also covered capacity training of farmers/fisher folks, establishment of seedling banks that store different cultivars, seedstock production training for farmers, and strengthening of people's organization and business partnership with processors.

The Local Government Unit of Tubigon does not have the necessary capacity to provide these basic needs due to modest government funds. We therefore seek humanitarian assistance to provide livelihood opportunities and increase income of fisher folks of the six island barangays of Tubigon.

2. Project Linkages:

BFAR Aquaculture and Sea Farming Initiative, Coastal Resource Management Program of Tubigon

3. Project Objectives:

- a. To curb poverty threshold by 75% among the identified beneficiaries in the island barangays;
- b. To identify new area for seaweeds farming;
- c. To improve production/culture techniques; and
- d. To reinforce and strengthen community organizations.

4. Sectoral Objectives:

This project would fall under the livelihood program for alleviation of poverty, sustainable food security and water-based program.

5. Regional/National Objectives:

This project addresses the seaweed production of the country for export. Thus, it will boost the country's export of seaweeds. It also addresses household deprivation level through increase in household income.

IV. PROJECT FINANCING

1. Funds Needed:

BARANGAY	TARGET BENEFICIARIES	TECHNICAL TRAINING	MONITORING	FINANCIAL MECHANISM	TOTAL COST
Batasan	20 Families	P25,000.00	P68,000.00	P240,000.00	P333,000.00
Ubay	20 Families	P25,000.00	P68,000.00	P240,000.00	P333,000.00
Pangapasan	20 Families	P25,000.00	P68,000.00	P240,000.00	P333,000.00
Mocaboc	20 Families	P25,000.00	P68,000.00	P240,000.00	P333,000.00
Bagongbanwa	20 Families	P25,000.00	P68,000.00	P240,000.00	P333,000.00
Bilangbilangan	20 Families	P25,000.00	P68,000.00	P240,000.00	P333,000.00
TOTAL	120 Families	P150,000.00	P408,000.00	P1,440,000.00	P1,998,000.00

2. Funding Source:

Any interested local or foreign donor or funding agency/institution

3. Counterpart Funding:

Proponent's will provide a 10% cash equity for the on top of non-cash counterpart from the beneficiaries themselves and other stakeholders such as manpower, market, operational support, project site, available local raw materials/indigenous materials.

V. PROJECT BENEFITS AND COSTS

1. Beneficiaries:

Initially, around 120 fisherfolks or 20 households per island barangay, are expected to be the direct beneficiary of the project. Selection will be based on PDMS data. The direct beneficiaries shall be among the top 20 most deprived household or family as indicated in the poverty indicators of PDMS or LPRAP. They will comprise the initial group of beneficiaries for this project. Additional criteria for selection will be formulated after consultation with the POs and Officials of these island barangays.

2. Benefits:

Livelihood opportunities and increase in income among the marginal sector of the municipality. The project will also enhance their administrative capacity in enterprise development and resource management.

VI. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

1. Responsible Agencies:

The Local Government of Tubigon through the Municipal Agriculture Office in collaboration with the Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator and Non-Government Agencies (NGAs), and People's Organizations (Pos).

2. Implementation Schedule:

The project will be implemented in two years with the following detail:

Activities	1Q1	1Q2	1Q3	1Q4	2Q1	2Q2	2Q3	2Q4	Financing
1. Technical Training on Seaweeds Culture									P150,000.00
2. Financial Mechanisms for Sustainability									P1,440,000.00
3. Monitoring & Information system									P408,000.00

3. Administrative Feasibility:

The Local Government of Tubigon through its **Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO)** in cooperation with the following agencies will be responsible in project implementation:

- a. Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator (OMPDC)
- b. Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
- c. People's Organizations (POs)

4. Social Acceptability:

The project has positive benefits to the people, hence no potential opposition is expected.

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