

PRINCIPLES AND MECHANISMS OF PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

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Partnership



- Mutuality or reciprocal relationship between two or more entities (Partnerships Resource Centre (PrC), 2014);
- A valuable instrument to overcome obstacles (OECD, 2006)

PARTNERSHIPS has become the preferred approach in stimulating sustainable development.

Partners jointly work towards a common objective despite each one's having potentially differing interests.



Why Partnerships



- To bring together **actors** to complement each others' resources and capabilities.
- To sustain the **implementation** of programs/projects.
- To generate and share **knowledge**, promote **innovations** and **alternative solutions**
- For greater **impact** in national development.



DA-LGU PARTNERSHIP

- Legal Basis: AFMA/RA 8435; LGC/RA 7160
- LGUs shall endeavor to be **self-reliant**, while discharging the **functions and responsibilities of national agencies and offices** devolved to them.
- After 19 years, the process of devolution has not yet been completed.



SNAPSHOTS



Community Level Coco Water Processing Technology Pilot Testing And Business Incubation Project

- DA (RFO 5, Philmech and PRDP), Camarines Sur and CBSUA
- 7.3 M PhP
- To come up with production and machine protocols and supply chain linkages in testing the commercial viability of community level coco water production



- Assembly and installation of equipment, identification and mobilization of farmer groups, training on equipment operation and beneficiaries' provision of raw materials
- Roles:
 - *DA-RFO as overseer of day to day operations*
 - *CBSUA, for feasibility study and GMP practices*
 - *DA-Philmech, technology*
 - *DA-PRDP, funding*



ARMMSARAP Project

Partnership between DA-ATI and ARMM and Brgy. Balas, Lamitan City in Basilan together with ACES Polytechnic College, Anak Mindanao Partylist, Earth Soul Solutions

- 2014, costing 17.3 million PhP

- Livelihood assistance in a war torn area to promote peace
 - *Formulation and production of organic feeds (farm inputs)*
 - *Range organic fishes in fish cages (bangus, lapu-lapu, lobster)*
 - *Processing organic fish in bottles*
 - *Production of organic lettuce and free range chicken*
- Processing plant, feed mill, dormitory and training hall, fish cages
- Landing port out of plastic drums and coco lumber

Farm To Market Road (FMR) with 200m Hanging Foot-bridge

- Reduced farmers' transportation cost of agricultural products by at least one peso per kilo and provided easier access in times of calamities and emergencies
- P11 M (DA) and P2M counterpart from LGU Sibagat
- DA Caraga with with LGU Sibagat, Agusan del Sur

- Now an artery that links farmlands in the Poblacion to the national highway, it is the result of the convergence of plans and priorities as projects are harmonized through DA's program and allocated budget.
- serves a total of 1,560 farmers from Brgy. Poblacion, Brgy. Tagoyango, and Brgy. Kioya



General Principles

- Shared vision and values
- Complementarity of purpose
- Autonomy and independence
- Transparency and mutual accountability
- Clearly defined roles and responsibilities
- Commitment to joint learning



DA-LGU PARTNERSHIP, Principles

- Shared vision: Working within the framework of the goals under AFMA of 1997/RA No. 8435, namely **1) Prosperity of Farmers; 2) Competitiveness; 3) Food Security; 4) Sustainable Production Systems.**



- Complementarity of purpose:
Better quality of life for the rural poor. Programs and services must result in **greater productivity, access to market and resources** both financial and technical, **competitiveness**, and **better income.**



- Autonomy and independence. National Government (NG) focuses on national goals (**steering function**), local governments (LGUs) focus on effective programs and services (**rowing function**).





- *Transparency and mutual accountability.* The DA is accountable to its partners particularly the people and communities it serves. Monitoring and evaluation is an institutionalized practice to ensure adequate feedbacking and immediate action on issues that arise.



- *Clarity on Roles and Responsibilities.* DA-LGU partnerships are built on clear understanding, thus embodied through **partnership agreements** such as Memoranda of Agreements, and further enhanced through a **series of consultations** and other forms of communication.



- *Commitment to Joint Learning.* In all partnerships, there is **promotion of continuous and systematic learning.** Each experience is a lesson learned from which better partnerships evolve.



Mechanisms Used

- *Duration:* Short vs. long duration
- *Scope:* Narrow local targets vs. Coordinating broad policy areas
- *Orientation:* Business oriented vs. job generation or social issues





- Grants/Dole-out vs. Co-Financing Agreement/Counterparting Scheme
- Incentive driven
- Production technology vs. value chain approach
- Locally driven or top down
- Limited involvement vs. multi-stakeholder implementation

- *Approaches:* Participatory, convergence, commodity vs. function-based, agribusiness, complementation



Problems and Issues



- No provision in the Local Code for LGUs agri-services to have **functional relationship** with the Central Government particularly DA.
- Clarification on **devolution** of agricultural services.

- Governance
 - **Duplication** of functions at the provincial and national levels
 - **Financial constraints of the LGU** - Inability of 4th – 6th class municipalities to cope up with counterparting
 - **No direct control** of the Provincial Government over municipalities
 - **Politics/problems** with the bureaucracy
 - **Devolution-related problems** (Insufficient manpower, lack of fund support, etc.)

- ECONOMIC

- *Marketing issues – low prices, no market linkages*

- SOCIO-CULTURAL

- *Dole out mentality of farmers*
- *Financial constraints of the clientele*
- *Low repayment of **loans***
- *Farmers **do not like** the projects being implemented*



Lessons Learned



- Tap **relevant actors**, whether part of the problem or solution
- Get **formal commitment** through partnership contracts specifying responsibilities and interests, a formal structure and mechanisms to strategize shared analysis of issues

- Faced with **changing partners or their involvement**, there is a need to ensure commitment as bodies rather than individuals.
- New tasks calling for **additional key actors**, or new ones cooperating when visible benefits are emerging, will require a redefinition of the framework for partnership.
- There is a need for a **strong communication** among partners to ensure maximum transparency.

- **Monitoring and evaluation** must be an institutionalized system from the beginning.
- **Good partnerships** can be observed from
 - *Strong sense of ownership*
 - *Rules of conduct*
 - *Sharing of knowledge and resources*
 - *Equal opportunities among stakeholders*
 - *Targets are compatible with strategic documents (PDP, RDC Plan, local development plans)*

Recommended Action Points

- There can be some **weaknesses** but we can learn from them to evolve stronger partnerships
 - *Substantive allocation on agri and fishery programs/ projects in the LGUs' IRA*
 - *Assert further a policy of national government steering and local governments rowing*

To recap



PARTNERSHIP



Importance

Snapshots

Principles

Mechanisms Used

Problems and Issues

Lessons Learned

**RECOMMENDED
ACTION POINTS**

