A Case on a Farming Household’s Access to Insurance, Financing and Other Support Services

November 2011 when some farmers where giving their testimonies and the FSPs were challenging the farmers to value the support services and make good on their loans to be able to one day be financially strong enough not to borrow anymore. She said she remembered how her mother, ever since they were young until they grew old, continually depended on borrowing to make ends meet because of losses from farming and damages caused by the unpredictable weather.

With the trainings, briefings and the integrated package of financing and insurance and the savings scheme she now has with BCBMPC as a full-fledged cooperative member, she said she may still want to cry but this time only because of gratitude and joy.
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Despite farming for most of their lives as a couple and as members of their respective farming households and growing up trying to do better in every cropping, Myrna Maisog and her husband Lucio have never tried getting crop insurance for their rice farm. “Wala gud mi kausan ulma na nam, (We really do not know what it is.), Myrna says.

Myrna and her family live in Barangay Alubijid, Buenavista, a municipality in the province of Agusan del Norte.

Through Risk Transfer Mechanisms is one of five climate change adaptation demonstration projects in the country and the only one in Mindanao under Outcome 3 of the Spanish government-funded Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund (MDGF 1686) Joint Programme dubbed “Strengthening the Philippines’ Institutional Capacity to Adapt to Climate Change.”

The International Labour Organization (ILO), a specialized agency of the United Nations is implementing this project in partnership with the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and in collaboration with the provincial government of Agusan del Norte and the municipal governments of Las Nieves, R.T. Romualdez, Jabonga and Buenavista.

The CCAP developed and tested the WIBI - an insurance scheme in which the payout is based on agreed-weather indices and not on the actual damages suffered by the crops. Developed and implemented with the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) and other key partners such as DOST-Caraga, DOST-PAGASA, DA-Caraga, LGU-Buenavista, LGU: R.T. Romualdez, financial service providers (FSPs): BCBCMP and Peoples’ Bank of Caraga and Farmers’ Groups, the WIBI Package consists of five products responding to risks to low and excess rainfall for rain-fed rice, excess rainfall for areas irrigated rice and low and excess rainfall for corn.

Farmers in Buenavista, like Myrna, who comprised 36% (56/154) of WIBI enrollees under the pilot run were covered for low and excess rainfall.

**Table:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>No. of Farmers</th>
<th>Area (Ha)</th>
<th>Amount of Crop (P)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.009</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upland Corn</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1.288</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>1.085</td>
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Myrna and her husband alternately joined these seminars and then shared the learnings at home with their children.

“I have told my neighbours to also avail of the assistance package and to visit the MAO. I told them even if they will not avail of any loan, they can still enroll under the WIBI. Myrna volunteers that she has answered several inquires from other farmers in the area especially after knowing that she got a pay-out when her area experienced drought last August at the tillering stage. The pay-out, amounting to P13,000.00 allowed her to take care of the farm after the dry spell which struck when the rice crop was about to bear fruit, while she saved the rest for the inputs for the next cropping season.

The pay-out she said was “a big help.”

When the dry spell happened, Myrna said she and her family just prayed for rain. Their farm is not irrigated and the nearest source of water is the upland creek, the water of which was already “dammed” by the other farms nearer to it.

That dry spell eventually caused her harvest to fall by 40%. From her usual harvest of 100 to 105 sacks per hectare (50kg/sack), the yield for that particular cropping posted down to only 60 sacks per hectare.

Myrna said she was more hopeful these days.

“With the WIBI, she is also more confident to face not only drought but also their perennial problem of flooding due to heavy rains.”

The WIBI enrolment will be an added preparation for us, getting us ready for anything – much more than the “ginger bags” (referring to the bagged soil which they plant ginger on and lines up along the areas where the water usually passes through during floods in their yard). ” In addition to our prayers."

She also said she was more hopeful these days.

She shared she cried during the WIBI Cycle I Graduation last