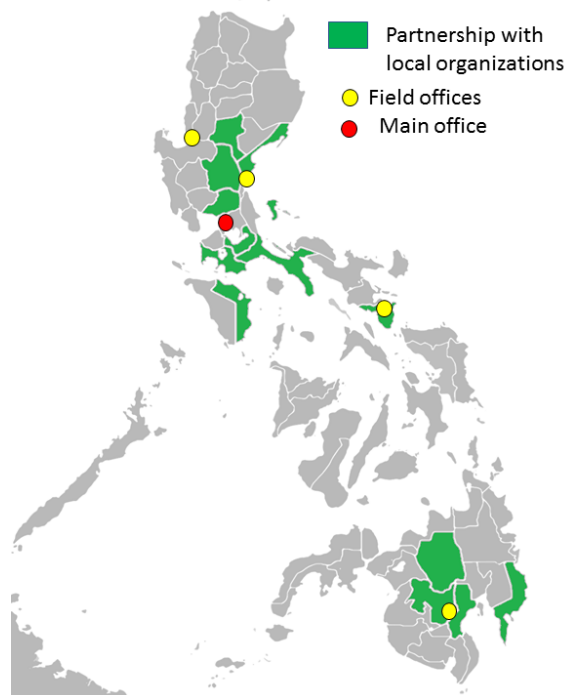


IRDF (INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION)

The Integrated Rural Development Foundation of the Philippines (IRDF) is a **national NGO** established in 1989 with a mandate to implement development programs that will contribute to the social and economic empowerment of marginalized and vulnerable sectors such as small farmers, fisherfolks, indigenous peoples, women and youth.

Partner organizations of IRDF are found in the provinces of Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Laguna, Batangas, Quezon, Aurora, Sorsogon, Mindoro Oriental, Nueva Vizcaya, Davao Oriental and del Sur, Bukidnon and North Cotabato.

IRDF maintains field offices in Sorsogon City; Salcedo, Eastern Samar; Dingalan, Aurora and Kidapawan City, North Cotabato.



I. PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

IRDF's core program is aimed at **building and strengthening the capacity of the rural poor to own and have control over their land and productive resources** such as seeds, water, farm inputs and credit to enable them to sufficiently invest in improving farm productivity and thus raise their incomes. Its main strategies are organizing, training and capacity-building, policy analysis and advocacy and enterprise development.

At the production sphere, **IRDF promotes agro-ecological and sustainable farming methods** to enhance and rehabilitate the environment and the resource base upon which farming depends, ensure local food security and sustain economic viability of small-scale farming especially in the context of worsening impacts of climate change.

As a strategy to build the economic strength of the poor, IRDF basically **supports organizing of small-scale farmers, fisherfolks, women's associations and cooperatives**. It also provides

small-scale financing to support community livelihood and enterprise projects in its project areas.

In communities devastated by disaster, IRDF supports initiatives for **livelihood rehabilitation**. To build long-term capacity of communities in disaster risk reduction management, IRDF supports a more comprehensive capacity building program.

1. Organizing of Small-Scale Farmers, Women, Fisherfolks and Indigenous Peoples Communities to Promote and Protect their Economic and Social Rights

IRDF' organizing program resulted to building and strengthening 358 farmers, fishers and rural women organizations in 39 municipalities with a total of 15,000 members which have achieved various levels of consolidation, namely: regularized organizational meetings; functional committees; institutionalized policies and procedures; and livelihood projects.

2. Policy advocacy on food security, food sovereignty, climate justice and agrarian reform at the national and local level.

IRDF remains at the forefront of advocacy for the right to food, people's food sovereignty and climate justice. It supports coalition building and strengthens national advocacy and campaign networks like the National Movement for Food Sovereignty (NMFS) that are active in promoting the rights of small-scale farmers. IRDF together with these networks have launched the following activities in 2016-2017:

- a) IRDF organized a dialogue with the Department of Agriculture on Feb. 5, 2016 to present the agenda for food sovereignty of the National Movement for Food Sovereignty (NMFS). A press conference was also organized in the afternoon where various issues on food and agriculture were discussed.
- b) IRDF organized a National Youth Forum on October 1, 2016 where the agenda for food sovereignty was discussed with students from various colleges in Metro Manila and nearby provinces.
- c) IRDF published a book on Rebuilding Philippine Agriculture, where the analysis on the crisis of Philippine agriculture was presented and a roadmap for rebuilding agriculture was outlined. The book provides members of the NMFS an effective policy advocacy tool which they can use in engagements and dialogues with the Philippine Congress and executive offices. Copies of the book were distributed to CSOs, media, academe, legislators, government agencies and mayors.
- d) A public forum-dialogue which discussed the challenges to achieving food sovereignty was organized during the observance of the World Food Day on October 26, 2016. Various farmer organizations, consumer groups, urban poor associations and rural women organizations attended the forum-dialogue.
- e) A common campaign on food sovereignty was launched by IRDF, NMFS and Greenpeace in November 2016. Members of NMFS attended the annual meeting of League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities, where IRDF presented its agenda on food sovereignty and sustainable agriculture. IRDF was able to establish ties with the President of the League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities.

- f) IRDF, together with Greenpeace organized the Peoples' Food Policy Dialogue with League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities on Dec. 6-7, 2016, where IRDF presented the campaign for food sovereignty of the National Movement for Food Sovereignty (NMFS) to the member mayors.
- g) IRDF held a forum- round-table discussion on peasant rights, together with the Commission on Human Rights, last December 12, 2016.
- h) IRDF remained an active member of the Philippine Council on Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), the private sector arm of the Department of Agriculture. Through PCAF, IRDF is able to present the position of its partners and network on policy issues in agriculture and food.
- i) IRDF organized three dialogues with senior officials of the Department of Agriculture at the national and regional level, where it discussed its position on the lifting of the rice QR, proposals for achieving rice self-sufficiency and support to small farmer organizations in September and October 2016.
- j) Three researches were conducted namely: i) Impact of the Privatization of the Magat Hydropower Dam on Land Rights and Food Security; ii) Tenurial Security Post-Yolanda and iii) Rehabilitation and Resettlement of Communities Affected by Yolanda.
- k) IRDF Executive Director served as member of the panel of reactors to the presentation of the research conducted by the National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA) during its International Conference on Rehabilitation and Recovery of Hayan Devastated Communities held in August 2016.
- l) IRDF actively engaged the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) on the tenurial issues faced by poor farmers and upland settlers. IRDF was able to organize a dialogue between the leaders of the Siniloan Farmers Organization and the DENR Land Administration Bureau and the Biodiversity and Protected Area Management Bureau on October 3, 2016, which resulted in the recognition of the status of settlers in Siniloan, Laguna and put a stop to the eviction order to the community. The same dialogue also discussed policy recommendations of IRDF on how to improve tenure and access to forests, upland and coastal resources of poor farmers, settlers and indigenous peoples .
- m) IRDF led the Convergence and Sustainable Integrated Area Management Planning in the province of Sorsogon last Nov. 10-11, 2016 and participated in convergence planning in Laguna Lake and Sierra Madre areas from October to November 2016. These planning exercises led to a thorough and comprehensive assessment of the state of environment, status of tenure of forest dwellers and upland settlers, livelihood opportunities and poverty situation in upland areas. Policy proposals on how DENR can effectively regulate the use of forest and coastal resources, close destructive mining and logging operations and improve forest and coastal tenure of poor farmers, fishers and indigenous peoples were also presented.
- n) IRDF made a presentation of the CSO-government environment roadmap during the DA-DENR-DAR Thematic Summit on Food Security, Land Tenure and Environment on Nov. 3- 4, 2016 in Davao City.

3. Empowering Small-Scale Farmers in the market towards Reducing Rural Poverty

IRDF supports **organizing of cooperatives and economic associations of small-scale farmers** so that they can exercise more strength in bargaining, access formal credit, procure

inputs and sell their produce in an organized and collective manner thus reducing costs and inefficiencies.

a. In Sorsogon (Luzon Island)

- **Sorsogon Pili Producers Cooperative (SPPC) – 1,500 smallholder members**

IRDF supported the formation of the cooperative around the supply chain of pili nuts. IRDF **provided planting materials, promoted intercropping, and conducted training on sustainable and organic farming** and integrated diversified farming systems.

Since 2010, SPPC has been buying pili drupes from its members at a **premium price and processed the pulp into pili oil and the nuts into candies and confectioneries**. SPPC also sells dried nuts to members who are engaged in candy-making. SPPC targets to increase participation of the small farmers and small-scale processors in the pili value chain.

IRDF has conducted a series of trainings to **enhance financial literacy and management** as well as leadership skills of officers and members of the SPPC. SPPC is one of the partners of the provincial LGU of Sorsogon in the World Bank- PRDP project.

- **BIGKIS Farmers' Cooperative – (150) farmers and women**

IRDF also organized this cooperative in Irosin, Sorsogon and facilitated the cooperative's **accessing of a one million peso loan facility** from the Land Bank of the Philippines that is still functioning. Most of its members are coconut and rice farmers that are agrarian reform beneficiaries.

b. In Mindanao

- **Makilala Agricultural Producers Cooperative (MAPC) –175 members**

IRDF has organized and developed the Makilala Agricultural Producers Cooperative (MAPC) and supported its agribusiness project. With its skilled staff in coop development and agribusiness, IRDF has **oriented and organized the cardava banana planters** in Makilala municipality into a producers cooperative. It has established linkages with and **mobilized financial support** from Department of Agrarian Reform Provincial Office (DARPO-North Cotabato) and **accessed technical support** for the cooperative from the Municipal Government of Makilala and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI-North Cotabato.)

IRDF facilitated the MAPC officers to visit banana chips producers in the province to further encourage them to pursue the business. It has also **linked the MAPC to market outlets** in the region where it could deliver its produce of “first fry” banana chips.

The MAPC members were also provided with **technical trainings on cardava production** to grow their banana plants free of diseases and maximizing organic inputs in the locality. They were also trained on how to use the processing equipment provided by DAR and the whole process of banana chips production. IRDF continues to support MAPC endeavors to support small-scale banana farmers to add value to their raw banana produce and raise their incomes.

- **Sto. Nino, Farmers Association (SFA) in Makilala, North Cotabato –75 members**

- IRDF organized the Sto Nino Farmers Association to enable farmers to **sell their rubber in an organized manner and reduce control of traders on local pricing**.

IRDF conducted trainings and seminars on cooperative development and management, business planning, financial literacy and enterprise development. The Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) acknowledged the capacity of the organization to manage a project, thus SFA was granted a PhP 300,000 from OPPAP as initial capital of the organization which it used for a rice retailing project. IRDF assisted the organization in providing technical assistance in the management of the project.

- **Nuangan Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (NARBA) – 150 members**

IRDF formed the **coconut farmers** of Barangay Nuangan into an association to **strengthen their legal claim on their land**. NARBA is now the lead organization of small coconut farmers from 40 barangays in Kidapawan City.

The local government has awarded NARBA a decorticating machine which will process the coco husk into coco fiber or coco coir. IRDF is now supporting NARBA to build its management capacity to operationalize the project. They could also be linked to Franklin Baker to buy the whole nuts from its members in the 40 barangays. IRDF continues to facilitate their requests to agencies like the DA and the PCA.

4. Supporting Livelihood Initiatives of Partner Communities and People's Organizations to augment household incomes and secure food for poor households

IRDF has supported several **small-scale social enterprises and livelihood initiatives** that benefitted farmers, fishers, and women such as hog raising/fattening, rice trading, vegetable gardening, and coco-twining among others. As a result, an increasing number of women are actively engaged in alternative income generating activities in the communities. Micro-social enterprises and the extension of small business loans for both enterprise and agricultural development provided opportunities for farmers, women and fisherfolks to directly engage in on-farm and off-farm productive activities as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Examples of small-scale livelihood projects supported by IRDF

Projects	Beneficiaries	Source of Funds
Coco Husk Project	North Cotabato (2 barangays)	Department of Agriculture
Vegetable Garden Project	North Cotabato (1 barangay)	Department of Agriculture
Bigasan project (Rice Retailing)	Sorsogon (5 barangays) North Cotabato (2 bgsy)	IRDF
Hog Dispersal	Sorsogon (5 barangays)	IRDF
Organic Vegetable Production, Vermiculture Production, Bokashi Production	Sorsogon (2 barangays)	IRDF, Department of Agrarian Reform
Coconut seedlings distribution (4400 seedlings) 8800 for distribution	Sorsogon (60 farmers)	Philippine Coconut Authority
Irrigation system/ dam construction	Sorsogon (1 barangay)	National Irrigation Administration
Livelihood fund for fishers (10,000 pesos)	Sorsogon (10 fishers)	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Flatbed dryer (2 units)	Sorsogon (2 barangays)	Department of Agriculture
Tractor and Thresher (5 sets/municipality)	Three municipalities in Sorsogon (Juban, Bulan and Matnog)	Department of Agriculture
Goat Dispersal plus 1,300 pesos for each beneficiary	Sorsogon (17 beneficiaries)	Department of Agriculture
34 units of 6.5 HP boat engine and fishing paraphernalia	Sorsogon (8 barangays)	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
Vegetable Garden Project	North Cotabato (1 barangay)	Mediatrix Coop
Taro Chips Making	North Cotabato (1 barangay)	King Coop
Banana and Corn	North Cotabato (1 barangay)	King Coop
Micro-lending for Women	Gubat, Sorsogon (4 bgys)	IRDF
Micro-lending for Women	Bulan, Sorsogon (3 bgys)	IRDF
Rags making	Bulan (1 bgy)	IRDF
Coco Coir and Fiber weaving	Casiguran (1 bgy)	IRDF
Banana Chips Making	Aurora (3 bgys)	Department of Agrarian Reform

5. Livelihood Rehabilitation in Disaster Stricken Communities: Project Haiyan

With the increasing urgency to restore back crop and animal production and resume the economic activities in the **Yolanda devastated communities** in the Visayas, IRDF carried out a **livelihood rehabilitation and development project in 8 barangays** in the municipalities of Balangiga, Mercedes and Salcedo in Eastern Samar and another four barangays in Tunga, Leyte.

The project goal is to rehabilitate livelihoods, strengthen the capacities of farmers, fishers and their families, and rebuild safe and resilient communities in severely devastated but less-served municipalities of Eastern Samar and Leyte. As a result of this project, a total of **2,518 households** received assorted vegetable, organic fertilizer and thus harvested an average of 50 kg of vegetables sold to the market (e.g. ampalaya, eggplant, string beans) and consumed about 20 kg for their own food a year after the devastation. Moreover, a total of **897 fisherfolk families** benefited from the various fishing equipment and boats provided by the project harvesting an average of 10 kilogram per week of different species (fish, blue crab, etc.)

More importantly, IRDF delivered **10,000 coconut seedlings and accessed 27,000 more dwarf coconut seednuts** from PCA that it distributed to 8 villages in Eastern Samar and Leyte. Likewise, 142 farmers acquired concepts and skills in organic farming such as farm planning, organic fertilizer making, organic pesticide formulation and other sustainable farming system.

6. Policy Advocacy towards small farmer-oriented Agriculture and Agrarian Policy

Complementary to its grassroots programs and projects, IRDF engages in **policy research, advocacy and campaigns at national level** to push for **policy reforms in the areas of agriculture, trade, and food security**. It initiates and supports network building among civil society groups, social movements, the academe and legislators, and engages government officials in dialogues and policy discussions

IRDF is also the **lead convenor and secretariat of the Task Force Food Sovereignty (TFFS)** formed in 2001 and now re-organized into the National Movement for Food Sovereignty or (NMFS). National Movement for Food Sovereignty (NMFS) is a large network of farmer organizations and CSOs present in 30 provinces and actively engaged in the advocacy of small farmer rights and food sovereignty.

IRDF has also led formation of advocacy networks such as the People's Campaign for Genuine Agrarian Reform (2008-2009) and has a solid background in developing strong partnerships with legislators and government agencies in its advocacy for farmer-oriented agriculture policies. It has entered into budget partnership agreements with the National Irrigation Administration and the National Food Authority in the last three years. It remains an active member of the Philippine Council on Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF), the DA's consultative arm.

In Mindanao, the Task Force Food Sovereignty (TFFS)-Mindanao campaigned for increased government support particularly in seeds and for repair of non-functioning irrigation systems in the province of North Cotabato and Agusan del Sur. TFFS has negotiated with the Department of Agriculture for capacity-building of coconut farmers and the resolution of the coconut levy fund.

II. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Governance

IRDF highest policy-making body is its Board of Trustees. Day-to-day management is the responsibility of the Executive Director. It has a national office based in Quezon City and field offices in Sorsogon City, Kidapawan City, Dingalan, Aurora and Salcedo, Eastern Samar.

Its Board of Trustees is composed of the following:

President - Dean Rene Ofreneo, Ph.D., University of the Philippines, Diliman

Secretary – Eduardo Mora, national farmer leader, Chairman, PKMP

Treasurer – Fr. Edwin Gariguez, Executive Director, National Secretariat for Social Action, CBCP

Member – Francisco Pascual

Member – Maitet Diokno, Executive Director, Eco-Fiber Pilipinas

Member and Executive Director – Arze G. Glipo

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