DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

AMIA PHILIPPINES

A COFFEE TABLE BOOK VOL. II

MGA NGALAN

ISTORYA SANG KADALAG-AN SANG MANGUNGUMA KAUPOD ANG AMIA

A Coffee Table Book

HINU NGLAN

Istorya sang kadalag-an
sang mangunguma kaupod ang AMIA

VOL. II

About the Cover

Hinunulan: Istorya sang Kadalag-an sang Mangunguma Kaupod ang AMIA Vol. II captures the essence of resilience and abundance that define today's climate-smart Filipino farmers.

The two farmers featured holding freshly harvested rice crop and proudly showcasing fruits of diverse varieties represent the strength of rural communities who continue to thrive despite climate challenges. Their warm smiles, earthy tones, and traditional hats reflect the spirit of grassroots agriculture, where labor, knowledge, and hope converge in every harvest.

Behind them, the subtle imagery of ripening rice symbolizes growth, renewal, and the core mission of the AMIA Program, that is to equip farmers with the tools, technologies, and climate-resilient practices they need to build secure and sustainable livelihoods.

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Department of Agriculture Western Visayas
Adaption and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture Program
Iloilo City, Philippines 5000
(033) 335-3423
westernvisayas@da.gov.ph
daloms2021@gmail.com

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Small and Big Wins of AMIA in Western Visayas

Looking back at the journey of the AMIA Program in Western Visayas, what stands out are not only the infrastructures built or the millions invested but the quiet, steady wins unfolding in every village we serve. We have seen how small interventions spark big transformations.

In villages once vulnerable to droughts, floods, and unpredictable weather, farmers now begin their day by checking localized climate data from AWS units and digital weather boards. This simple access to information, once a small win, has grown into a powerful tool for timely planting, safer harvesting, and climate-smart decisions.

Across Antique, Aklan, Iloilo, Capiz, Negros Occidental, and Guimaras, we witnessed farmers transition from traditional, risk-heavy practices to diversified, resilient enterprises. From native chicken, odorless piggery, vermicomposting, and vegetable tunnels to goat production, feed formulation, Bokashi facilities, and meat processing—each enterprise represents a win not just in income, but in strengthened confidence and self-reliance.

The partnerships forged along the way are equally significant. With BFAR, BSWM, ATI, Banner Programs, LGUs, and cooperatives we have validated villages to be receipients of the program; these collaboration opened doors to post-harvest facilities, solar dryers, training centers, learning sites, and community hubs that now serve as backbones of village economies.

But the biggest win is the people; the empowered farmers who now lead associations, manage enterprises, share knowledge, and shape their communities' future. AMIA planted the seed, but it is the farmers' resilience that made it grow.

In every village, in every story—AMIA's wins continue to multiply.

Carmelita C. Fantilanan
Agricultural Center Chief II / AMIA Regional Focal Person
Department of Agriculture – Western Visayas

Message

Hinunulan, as a symbol of growth, resilience, and renewal, reflects the very heart of our farmers whose hands shape the strength of Western Visayas. This book is a collection of stories; it is a tribute to the men and women who rise every day with hope, who cultivate life from the soil, and who continue to nourish our communities despite challenges brought by climate, markets, and changing times.

Our farmers remind us that progress begins with patience, courage, and an unwavering faith in our farm lands. Through the AMIA Program and the Department of Agriculture's many initiatives, we have witnessed how climate-resilient practices, community planning, and shared knowledge empower even the smallest village to thrive. Each story in this book is a seed of inspiration, showing how innovation and tradition can work hand in hand to build a more secure and sustainable future.

To our farmers, your determination fuels our mission. Your victories, big and small, remind us why we must continue to strengthen support systems, expand opportunities, and create spaces where every farmer can succeed.

May *Hinunulan* inspire more communities to plant with purpose, nurture with heart, and harvest with hope. Together, we cultivate a future where agriculture remains the pride and promise of Western Visayas.

Dennis R. Arpia
Regional Executive Director
Department of Agriculture – Western Visayas

Message

The Department of Agriculture's research and regulations arm remains steadfast in its mandate to uphold science-based policies, promote safe and quality agricultural inputs, and advance technologies that protect both farmers and the environment. This commitment is strongly reflected in programs such as AMIA, which brings climate-resilient, sustainable, and research-backed practices directly to farming communities.

The success stories featured in *Hinunulan* demonstrate how evidence-based interventions such as organic inputs, soil regeneration methods, and climate-smart technologies translate into real progress on the ground; AMIA complemented regulatory and research efforts by guiding our farmers.

The farmers showcased in this book exemplify resilience and innovation. Their willingness to apply organic and science-informed methods reinforces the importance of a regulatory environment that ensures safety, supports biodiversity, and encourages sustainable production systems. Their achievements affirm that strong research, clear standards, and community-centered programs can create lasting transformation.

Hinunulan stands as a valuable tool in documenting how science and policy come alive in the hands of empowered farmers. May these stories inspire more communities to embrace environmentally sound practices and strengthen the path toward a greener, safer, and more resilient agriculture for Western Visayas.

Zarlina B. Cuello
Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations
Department of Agriculture – Western Visayas

Message

Across Western Visayas, the strength of our agricultural communities is reflected in the hands and hopes of our farmers. In every field we visit, in every association we work with, we see stories of perseverance—stories that inspire our operations team to deliver programs that truly uplift lives.

Our office ensures that interventions reach the ground where they matter most. From climate-resilient farming technologies, seeds, and livestock support, to community-based planning and market linkages, each initiative of the Department of Agriculture is designed to empower farmers to adapt, innovate, and thrive. What makes these programs meaningful is not the scale of assistance, but how they spark transformation, how a simple training strengthens confidence, how a livelihood project opens new possibilities, and how a community becomes more resilient because they worked together.

To our farmers: you remain the foundation of our mission. Your openness to new practices, your dedication to the land, and your spirit of cooperation guide our work every day. Your victories—big or small—affirm that our efforts are creating ripples of progress across the region.

As we continue to strengthen operations and expand support systems, may your stories remind us that true development begins in the fields, grows through community, and flourishes when we move forward together.

Maria Teresa T. Solis
OIC-Regional Technical Director for Operations and Extension
Department of Agriculture – Western Visayas

The Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) is the Department of Agriculture's flagship program designed to address the twin challenges of climate change—adaptation and mitigation. It envisions a climate-resilient agriculture sector and empowers vulnerable farmers and fisherfolk by promoting climate-resilient agriculture (CRA) practices and delivering customized, integrated support services that strengthen their adaptive capacity.

With rising temperatures, sea level increases, and more frequent typhoons threatening food security, AMIA provides targeted interventions that help communities manage risks and reduce vulnerabilities. The program also prioritizes community participation and strong partnerships with local and national stakeholders. Through these efforts, AMIA contributes to safeguarding food security, stimulating economic growth, and advancing rural development amid the intensifying impacts of climate change.

Guardians of food security

In AMIA, there is application of SCIENCE.

“Sa SRI may tibay! Masasabi kung malalim na ang natutunan ko sa SRI. **Habang ang ibang pananim ay pinadapa ng bagyo, ang mga palay ko nanatiling nakatayo”.**

Rene B. Paciente

Estancia, Iloilo

The shift to SRI brought more work, bigger reward

At 56, Rene Paciente carries the calm confidence of a man who has worked the land since he could walk. Born and raised in Brgy. Canoan, Estancia, Iloilo, Rene first learned farming at his parents' side. By age ten he was already doing real farm work, not as a chore but as a way of life. His parents taught that "the farm feeds the family, and you must know what you feed them"; this simple rule guided his household for decades.

But as years passed Rene watched the soil change. Chemical fertilizers and pesticides became commonplace. Harvests thinned, soil tired, and worry set in. "If this keeps up," he thought, "our palay production will disappear and food security will be threatened." That concern pushed Rene from quiet observation into active searching for solutions.

Rene's search for better practices met opportunity in 2021, when the AMIA program introduced climate-resilient farming system (CRFS) trainings to Estancia. The program's core focus was helping farmers understand and adapt to emerging climate threats; and these resonated with him immediately. He attended every meeting, absorbed the lessons on organic alternatives, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), bio-control agents, composting and vermiculture, and applied the concepts in small experiments on his own land.

The AMIA-supported farmers in Estancia formed an association. Rene was among the pioneering adopters. He steadily reduced chemical herbicides and fertilizers — first by halves, then to zero for herbicides — substituting bokashi, vermicast, chicken manure, botanical concoctions and bio-control agents. He built a residential vermicompost system and set up on-farm experiments to test plant extracts and natural formulas. "Do not depend only on seminars," he says; "discover, explore, then share."

He embraced SRI. The method is labor-intensive and meticulous like the careful seedling handling, wider spacing, alternate wetting and drying, and active soil biology management, but the payoff became clear. After three SRI croppings he began to see a marked rise in yields and stronger crops. When Typhoon Opong struck, devastating many neighboring farms planted by conventional methods, His SRI fields stood firm. "Sa SRI may tibay," he says simply. His crops endured while surrounding fields were laid low.

Production efficiency changed the farm's economics. Where his production cost had once reached about P30,000, Rene's careful adoption of organic inputs and hands-on labor reduced costs dramatically. Depending on the season and method, recent figures show his production expenses falling into the low thousands to mid-teens; like one season as low as P5,000; another around P15,000, a huge improvement from earlier spending. At the same time harvests increased from roughly 43 sacks under conventional practice to as many as 60 sacks after switching to SRI. "This is a steady and meaningful improvement", he said.

His commitment is not only economic. He is proud that his family eats pesticide-free rice grown on their ancestral land. His wife, a teacher, has been a trusted ally — promoting his organic rice among colleagues and friends. Their school network became a reliable market. They sell black rice at P80/kg (about P4,000 per sack) and red rice at P70/kg (about P3,200 per sack). Some relatives in Metro Manila even buy directly, seeking the health benefits he offers. Surplus rice supports his children's education; one child is in Grade 8 and another in Grade 12. He reinforces to them the message that small farm changes can secure family futures.

After four years of sustained organic rice production and eight successive croppings using SRI (the association's movement from training to full-practice was particularly active since 2021), Rene became a local figure for practical innovation. Farmers come to him for mentoring; he shows them his vermi-composting setup, demonstrates botanical formulations, and shares results from his on-farm experiments including a recently discovered root crop extract he uses as a botanical fertilizer.

He does not claim perfection. He stresses the work and discipline SRI requires, but insists the results are worth it: greater resilience to storms, improved soil fertility, lower input costs, healthier food for the family and stronger household income. His mantra is simple experimentation, careful observation, and sharing success.

Rene's dream reaches beyond his .73-hectare plot. He envisions Estancia's rice lands adopting organic and climate-resilient practices, turning the municipality's agricultural heritage into a sustainable, health-centered future. His message to younger generations is to explore the land, learn its secrets, and keep the family treasure alive. He encourages his children to take part early so the next stewards of the farm understand both tradition and the modern know-how needed to protect it.

Lead by example to break old mindsets in farming

In the AMIA Village of Pontevedra, Capiz, one farmer stands out for his courage to challenge old habits and introduce a new way of farming. Ronilo S. Esquillo, 52, from Jolongajog, began his livelihood as a fishpond worker. But when he embraced rice farming and later became part of the AMIA Program, he discovered a greater mission—to champion climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture for his community.

His fellow farmer, Guillermo Alvarez was the first in their village to adopt the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). The beginning was far from easy. SRI, which uses young seedlings, wider spacing, and controlled water application, was unfamiliar and, for many older farmers, unbelievable. Some even joked about their unusual planting pattern and strict field management. But he was unfazed. “Para sa akin, hindi pwedeng hindi ako magpunta sa palayan araw-araw,” he often says. For him, daily field monitoring is essential. Missing even a single day may mean overlooking early signs of pests, irrigation needs, or nutrient deficiencies. This discipline enabled him to demonstrate clear and undeniable improvements in plant

vigor and yield—proof that SRI works.

Aligned with AMIA's farmer-led approach, he quickly became a role model in the village. He conducted simple field demonstrations, welcomed farmers to observe his plots, and openly shared his experiences. Slowly, the "to see is to believe" mindset began to shift. Farmers who initially doubted started trying small trial plots and witnessed the results themselves.

His leadership also extends to their expanding enterprise on bokashi fertilizer. Through consistent production and high-quality output, their group has attracted buyers even outside the community. The municipal Mayor has purchased bags of their bokashi, and other AMIA villages have partnered with them for supply. These developments validate the product and inspire more farmers to transition to organic, soil-enhancing practices.

Despite the challenges especially the reluctance of older farmers to trust new technologies, he remains steadfast. His approach is simple yet powerful: lead by example, share knowledge, and show results. He champions peer-to-peer mentoring, encourages the participation of youth and women, and is actively involved in community-based climate risk planning.

Today, Ronilo is not only an SRI adopter but also a farmer-leader transforming the mindset of his community. His journey proves that with persistence, openness to innovation, and a heart willing to serve, sustainable farming can flourish and change lives.

The men of Banate are now incharge

In Banate, Iloilo, the Abante Banate AMIA Village Farmers Association (ABAVFA) is reclaiming its place as a thriving model of resilience and cooperation. Their 1.4-hectare communal garden is now brimming with eggplant, cucumber, kangkong, and pechay has become a symbol of revival for the community. With steady production and good harvests, the farmers have been able to sell their vegetables at the local market and even to municipal employees, through the support of the local government. Every peso earned is reinvested into the farm—building a small kubo for meetings and rest, buying materials, and expanding their planting area. These visible wins are products of hard work and the renewed sense of purpose brought by the leadership of three dedicated farmers: Nonito Casiple, Joebert Conejo, and Jomarie Flores.

Banate was once among the first ten municipalities in the whole Philippines under System-Wide Climate Change Office (SWACCO), later named Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO), which promotes climate-resilient and sustainable farming systems. The village used to be a model site, often visited by other associations for benchmarking.

But when leadership shifted, and the municipal agriculture officer retired, focal person incharge lacked commitment, the group's momentum slowly faded. Some members became inactive, others focused only on receiving assistance, and collective participation dwindled. Yet, amid the challenges, Nonito, Joebert, and Jomarie chose to stand their ground and bring the association back to life.

Working together as part of the production committee, the three men led the revival of the communal garden project. They organized work schedules, delegated tasks, and shared responsibilities equally among members. Their teamwork became the backbone of the association's recovery; making decisions for planting, soil preparation, and resource management. With the guidance of AMIA's principles, they implemented climate-resilient practices and started shifting toward organic farming. Though the transition has been slow and difficult, especially with neighboring farms still dependent on synthetic fertilizers, they take pride in applying natural methods such as vermi tea, botanical concoctions, and vermi cast to enrich their soil. Their efforts reflect not just compliance with a program, but a deep understanding of what sustainable farming means for the next generation.

In uniting eight local farmer groups into a single federation, the ABAVFA found both challenge and opportunity. Managing a diverse membership required patience and discipline, but with leaders like Nonito, Joebert, and Jomarie at the helm, the group rediscovered its direction. Their leadership style—firm yet inclusive—ensures that everyone contributes according to their capacity. Men take charge of heavier production tasks and farm installations, while women are assigned lighter but equally important responsibilities, fostering a gender-sensitive working environment that values cooperation over hierarchy.

The trio believes that leadership should be grounded in service. For them, success is not measured in profit but in the collective progress of their members. They acknowledge the importance of technical support in marketing and production planning, realizing that growing crops without a market is among the hardest lessons a farmer can face. Through continuous learning, field visits, and engagement with other farmer groups, they aim to strengthen their knowledge and share it within their community.

Today, as their vegetables consistently sell out in local markets, the association is once again attracting attention as a promising example of what collaborative farming can achieve. The men of Banate are now working on expanding their production capacity, with hopes that one day they will be supplying vegetables to the newly opened and modernized Iloilo City Central and Super markets. Their renewed energy and shared leadership have revived a once-declining association and restored the spirit of unity that defines the AMIA Village approach.

HINUNGLAN: Istorya sang kadalag-an sang mangunguma kaupod ang AMIA

AMIA VILLAGE IN ESTANCIA, ILOILO

AMIA Program was launched in November 2021, targeting the severe, complex hazards including typhoon, flood, storm surge, drought, soil erosion, and saltwater intrusion that challenge farmers across three associations in Estancia, Iloilo. The program is structured to reinforce the community's farming capacity and diversify its income base.

A core focus is water and soil resilience, achieved through the distribution of 29 units of Rainwater Harvester and the establishment of a Vermi-Composting Facility. To enhance farmer efficiency and post-harvest operations, the AMIA Program provided key equipment like a 5-in-1 Rice Mill, Hand Tractor, and Rotary Weeder. For livelihood diversification, the interventions include the Babuyang Walang Amoy Project, the start of a Peanut Butter enterprise, and the installation of Vegetable Tunnels in 2024. Finally, long-term adaptation is prioritized through training, with a Climate Resiliency Field School (CRFS) scheduled for 2024 and the adoption of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) in 2025.

AMIA VILLAGE IN PONTEVEDRA, CAPIZ

The AMIA Village site in Pontevedra, Capiz, established early in 2019, a coastal area frequently exposed to typhoon, flashflood, and drought hazards. The program's foundation rests on the collaboration of several farmers' associations, notably the Binuntucan, San Pedro, and Jolongajog Farmers Associations. These groups primarily cultivate rice, corn, and sugarcane, and have successfully established Bokashi Production as a local enterprise. The program has channeled substantial support toward diversification and infrastructure, with funding across different phases totaling over Php 1.4 million (2019-2023) and future plans exceeding Php 5.1 million for 2024-2025. Program highlights include livestock projects like Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology, Goat Production, and Egg Layer Production. Major investments have been allocated for climate-resilient infrastructure, such as the construction of a Bokashi Facility, the construction of AMIA Training Center and Knowledge Management Hub, and the installation of Solar Power Irrigation System (SPIS). These interventions aim to secure livelihoods by enhancing on-farm enterprise development and improving water management against climate variability.

AMIA VILLAGE IN BANATE, ILOILO

The AMIA Village in Banate, Iloilo, established in 2014 as one the first ten municipalities in the whole Philippines under System-Wide Climate Change Office (SWACCO), later named Climate Resilient Agriculture Office (CRAO). Covering 122 hectares across Barangays Carmelo, Libertad, and Merced, Banate is primarily an agricultural and fishing municipality with over 10,000 hectares of farmland. Its farmers cultivate rice, sugarcane, vegetables, and high-value crops such as mango, coconut, and banana, while also engaging in livestock and poultry production.

Interventions have greatly strengthened the community's adaptive capacity to climate hazards like droughts, typhoons, and floods. The program poured in nearly P16 million worth of assistance, including infrastructure, farm machinery, livestock dispersal, and livelihood support. Key projects such as the Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology, organic vegetable and fertilizer production, goat raising, and banana production enhanced both sustainability and income diversification. The establishment of the AMIA Farmers' Center and provision of modern farm tools like hand tractors, rice transplanters, and combined harvesters, further improved productivity and efficiency.

Through continuous technical support, capacity training, and infrastructure investment, the AMIA Program in Banate has transformed traditional farming systems into climate-smart, technology-driven enterprises, empowering farmers and local associations to build resilient livelihoods and a stronger rural economy.

"When my grandfather was still alive I would have encouraged him to adopt SRI because I now see its many benefits. ***It helps farmers become more climate-resilient.*** **Thank you to AMIA program for the trainings and for exposing my family to this project."**

Marenel Dordas

Panit-an, Capiz

AMIA VILLAGE IN SAGAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The AMIA Village site in Sagay City, Negros Occidental, established in 2021, addresses the area's climate vulnerabilities, particularly its exposure to typhoons and drought. Anchored by strong farmer organizations such as the Menakalaw Farmer Beneficiaries Association (MEFABA) and the Salvacion Balibag Workers Association, the program focuses on key commodities including sugarcane, rice, banana, coconut, and vegetables.

Since its inception, the site has successfully developed various enterprises such as the Consolidation of Vegetables (AMIA Kiosk), Native Chicken Production, and Soy Processing. These initiatives reflect the community's commitment to building climate-resilient and sustainable livelihoods.

The program's highlights reveal substantial investments amounting to P4.9 million in funded interventions. Key projects aim to strengthen climate-smart and value-adding agricultural practices, including the implementation of the Babuyang Walang Amoy technology, establishment of a Vermi-Composting Facility, installation of 19 Rainwater Harvesters and an Automated Weather Station (AWS), and procurement of a Rice Thresher.

In addition, the development of major infrastructure such as a Multi-Purpose Drying Pavement and a P2 million AMIA Training Center with Storage Room further demonstrates the program's long-term vision to empower local farmers and ensure agricultural resilience in the face of climate challenges.

AMIA VILLAGE IN PONTEVEDRA, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

Established in 2017, the AMIA Village site in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental, stands as one of the most extensively supported areas under the program, addressing the community's high vulnerability to drought, typhoons, and flooding. Built on strong collaboration with various agrarian reform cooperatives and the AMIA Village Organic Farmers Association (AVOFA), the site benefits numerous farmer-partners engaged in rice, vegetable, and livestock production.

Over the years, the associations have successfully launched diverse enterprises such as Native Pig and Native Chicken Production, Muscovado Processing, and a Village-Type Feed Mill, ventures that strengthen both livelihood and food security.

With a total investment exceeding P24.5 million, the program's interventions focus on enhancing long-term resilience and promoting value-adding agricultural practices. Major initiatives include the construction of an AMIA Training Center and a Multi-Purpose Center, installation of 60 Rainwater Harvesters, a Solar Irrigation System, and an Automated Weather Station (AWS), as well as the procurement of a Customized Feed Mill (Mash Type) to ensure self-sufficiency in organic feed production. Through this integrated approach, the Pontevedra AMIA Village continues to empower its farmers to adapt to climate challenges while advancing sustainable and climate-resilient enterprises.

He once doubted, but AMIA rekindled his hope for government support.

For years, Prince Christian Nervez and his fellow farmers in Barangay Masalting, Cauayan, Negros Occidental, lived with quiet frustration. They tilled their lands with faith but saw little favor, often watching government support bypass their community. Assistance frequently went to those with connections, leaving ordinary farmers skeptical that help from above would ever reach them.

"I know there are government programs, but why do they always skip us?" Prince would often say, voicing a sentiment that echoed throughout the fields of Cauayan. The community had long learned to rely only on their own strength and patience, believing that genuine government aid was reserved for the chosen few. Consequently, many farmers had lost hope for change.

Yet, change arrived when the AMIA program finally reached their village. For the first time, Prince and his community felt truly seen, supported, and valued as farmers standing on the frontlines of both food production and climate challenges.

Before that turning point, his journey had already been one of perseverance. The son of devoted farmers, he grew up witnessing both the dignity and the difficulty of life in the fields. Like many children of poor farmers, he once dreamed of a different path: he wanted to be a seafarer. However, his parents couldn't afford the course fees, and poverty once again steered his destiny back to the land.

Choosing practicality over his initial dreams, he enrolled in Central Philippine State University, majoring in Agriculture with a specialization in Agribusiness. After graduating, he pursued a corporate career, working as a sales agent for farm machineries in Bacolod City and parts of Capiz and Iloilo. The job paid well and gave him a front-row seat to the modern side of agriculture—systems, machines, and profit margins. Still, a part of him felt a profound longing for something more.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Prince realized just how fragile life became when access to food was uncertain. "When there is no help from others, your crops will help you survive," he reflected. The crisis served as a powerful wake-up call: wealth and comfort fade easily, but food remains essential.

In 2019, Prince left his corporate job and returned home to Masalting, Cauayan, determined to build something sustainable. With his siblings'

support, he started raising livestock, beginning with three pigs, which later grew to twenty heads. That same year, he and his neighbors formed a farmers' association, engaging in gardening, swine raising, and rice production.

Still, for years, the group felt invisible to most major programs. Only small interventions, such as rice seeds and fertilizers from the provincial government, ever reached them. Moreover, being in a climate-vulnerable area meant enduring floods, typhoons, and dry spells that could wipe out months of hard work in a single day.

In 2022, following a Climate Risk Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), their barangay was selected as a recipient of the AMIA program—a national initiative of the Department of Agriculture that promotes climate-resilient villages.

"The announcement felt unreal," Prince recalled. "For the first time, we felt that the government truly saw our struggle."

The AMIA Village established in Cauayan became a symbol of renewal. Farmers received free organic vegetable seeds, attended essential capacity-building trainings, and learned about vital climate-smart agriculture practices. Soon, their backyards and communal gardens were blooming with vegetables, providing fresh produce that fed their families and strengthened their sense of self-reliance.

Among the AMIA-supported projects, the Babuyang Walang Amoy (Odorless Pigpen) initiative made the biggest impact. Prince started with nine sows, selling 18 piglets at P4,000 each in 2022. His swine herd continues to thrive, with sows producing twice a year. Even as the region battled African Swine Fever (ASF), his farm remained untouched—a testament to his commitment to strict biosecurity measures.

He credits much of his improvement to the trainings provided under AMIA. "The knowledge I gained from AMIA helped me achieve good crop and livestock farming," he affirmed.

Recently, the program introduced quail egg production to their association. Six members now sustain the project, producing 300–500 eggs daily, sold at P3 each. Locals even value the quail eggs for their supposed health benefits against dengue. With AMIA's guidance, the group is now negotiating with a potential institutional buyer in Bacolod City that requires 1,000 eggs daily, a major opportunity for rural farmers to access urban markets.

For him, AMIA restored their faith in government programs. "AMIA has been very instrumental for us. It made us believe again that the government truly helps farmers," he shared. The initiative strengthened their community's unity and reinforced their commitment to sustainable practices.

Now a farmer-leader, Prince advocates for fair pricing and stronger postharvest support. He believes that genuine collaboration between the government and communities is key to addressing issues like low buying prices for palay (unhusked rice) and the lack of drying facilities and warehouses.

In the next three years, he envisions a more progressive farmers' association—one that sustains livestock production, explores meat processing and marketing, and continues to empower more local farmers.

His philosophy in life is simple yet powerful:

"There may be challenges within the association, but never surrender, because you will see the great output later."

What began as a story of doubt is now a compelling narrative of faith, the power of collective effort in the resilience of farmers, and the genuine promise of government programs done right.

AMIA VILLAGE IN BANGA, AKLAN

The AMIA Village in Banga, Aklan, established in 2019, exemplifies how community organization and climate-smart technologies can transform smallholder farming. Spanning 75.48 hectares across Barangays Mambog, Linabuan Sur, Muguing, and San Isidro, the farmers primarily cultivate rice while engaging in poultry and livestock production. Despite frequent floods, typhoons, and dry spells, Banga's farmers have built resilience through AMIA Program.

At the heart of this progress is the Banga AMIA Village Farmers' Association and its federation, which have been instrumental in enterprise development and communal livelihood operations. Their initiatives include native chicken and pig production, Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology, and organic vegetable cultivation, all of which have diversified income sources and strengthened local food security.

From 2020 to 2023, AMIA investments amounting to P1.5 million supported enterprise establishment, communal facilities, and capacity-building activities. Projects such as the construction of a poultry house, installation of a digital weather board, and training on meat processing and feed formulation have enhanced farmers' technical and entrepreneurial capabilities.

Today, Banga's AMIA farmers guided by their federation, stand as a model of integrated, climate-resilient farming and empowered community leadership in Western Visayas.

AMIA VILLAGE IN BATAN, AKLAN

AMIA Village in the town of Batan, Aklan was established in 2021 and stands as a living example of how unity and innovation can sustain farming communities amid a changing climate. Stretching over 100.32 hectares across Barangays Ambolong and Palay, the area's fertile plains and tidal flats have long supported rice, mungbean, banana, and livestock production. Yet, these same landscapes also expose farmers to floods and dry spells. To confront these challenges, the community embraced climate-smart agriculture, turning risks into opportunities through collective action.

The Batan AMIA Village Farmers Association (BAVFA), which federates local groups from Ambolong and Palay, has become the driving force behind this transformation. By pooling resources and leadership, BAVFA opened doors to shared facilities, market participation, and hands-on training that strengthened both livelihood and cooperation among members. Vegetable production, vermicomposting, and the Kadiwa Pop-Up Market are now thriving offshoots of their efforts.

Backed by around P1.45 million in AMIA Program investments between 2022 and 2023, farmers adopted adaptive technologies such as Babuyang Walang Amoy, Rainwater Harvesters, Vermi Facilities, and digital weather tools like AWS and information boards. These interventions improved productivity and cultivated resilience, anchoring Batan's farmers in a culture of innovation, collaboration, and self-reliance.

In AMIA, there is BUSINESS enterprise.

"We never asked for much from the government, *but we realized that it was our record, our transparency, cooperation, and discipline spoke for us.* That is why we thrive. Everyone takes part, and everyone cares."

Arnulfo Babe

Banate, Iloilo

From "Remedio General" to Mavi Integrated Farm

At 65, Teresa "Teray" Basinang of Brgy. Iloco, San Rafael, Iloilo, carries a life's worth of lessons in her hands, the calluses from planting, a laugh seasoned by hardship, and a quiet pride in a family shaped by agriculture. Her story moves from survival to stewardship; and it's a portrait of how training, grit, and community can turn subsistence into a hopeful, sustainable future.

Teray grew up learning from her parents how to work the soil. Before marriage she lived with few responsibilities, but everything changed when children arrived. Faced with poverty, she embraced what she calls "remedio general" — doing anything profitable to keep the household afloat. She and her husband worked as sugarcane laborers, sold food, washed clothes, and did whatever it took so their children could study.

The sacrifice paid off when her five children finished professional careers. Her firstborn, a child with special needs due to polio, remained under their constant care. Even as her children went to college, there also sacrifices like one must stooped first to give way to another because tuition fee is so high.

Influenced by her parents and driven by necessity, Teray kept a vegetable garden to feed her family while her husband tilled palay. From that modest start she expanded gradually to poultry and pig raising, then goats, beginning with three and growing to seventeen; she plants napier and tricchanteria for forage; ducks, a fishpond, two sows and ten piglets, and a vermi-composting facility fed by rabbit manure. She sold produce household-to-household and at the market, doing nearly all the work herself.

Over decades this steady work taught her children the value of agriculture; they learned farm tasks, respected the land, and carried those lessons into their own lives. One child even studied agriculture at university and is now a dairy farmer in New Zealand, a testament to how rural roots can lead to global opportunities.

The arrival of the AMIA program marked a turning point. Through AMIA's trainings — from vermi-composting to concoction-making and organic pest-control techniques — Teray discovered the health and

environmental benefits of organic farming that she hadn't known before. Practical lessons like spraying molasses and malunggay instead of synthetic pesticides, and using vermi-cast from rabbit manure, changed her practices and improved her produce quality.

She also benefited from field visits and benchmarking with established livestock raisers. Teray made the most of these opportunities, asking questions, learning animal health management tips, and applying them at home. Regular weather bulletins and the daily text/chat blasts from AMIA became part of her routine; practical tools that helped her plan planting schedules and livestock care according to season and weather patterns.

Once she saw measurable results — healthier soil, stronger plants, and better yields — Teray began sharing techniques with other members of the association. Neighbors, previously unfamiliar with organic methods, started to appreciate and then patronize her vegetables. Her vermi-composting initiative attracted her children's financial support after she presented a business idea; most compost would be used on the family farm while surplus could be sold. They pooled resources, and Teray launched two vermi beds — filling a local niche where bulk vermi production was rare.

Today she teaches, demonstrates, and models what organic, integrated farming can achieve. Her neighbors' newfound interest in organic produce is proof that exposure plus evidence can change attitudes in communities where understanding of organic methods used to be low.

Teray describes her farm as a family partnership. She and her husband remain hands-on, and their children are actively involved. Naming the enterprise Mavi Integrated Farm after her grandson, Teray's dream is to go fully organic; use vermi-cast across the fields, stop synthetic fertilizers, and scale compost production into a small business.

Her advice to fellow farmers is grounded in hard-won wisdom "be resilient by understanding weather patterns, prioritize soil health, and plan livestock care and crop choice according to season." Those simple disciplines, supported by AMIA's information services, have become part of how she manages risk and opportunity.

In the end, Teray's story reminds us that farming is more than planting and harvests: it's about passing on knowledge, adapting with the times, and believing that with the right support and determination, a family and a community can grow together. H

PROPOBAN: Icon of discipline, trust, and excellence in farm mechanization

In Barangay Libertad, Banate, Iloilo, stands an 18-year-old farmers' association that has quietly become a model of discipline, cooperation, and success, the PROPOBAN Farmers' Association, led since its founding by Arnufo Babe.

What began as a modest group of 45 members bound by trust and shared aspirations has now become a symbol of how integrity and teamwork can lead to agricultural excellence, especially in the field of farm mechanization.

When PROPOBAN was established nearly two decades ago, it had one clear goal, that is to help farmers thrive through unity and accountability. Over the years, through membership fees and monthly dues alone, the association managed to accumulate over a hundred thousand pesos. For many organizations, financial stability can be a challenge, but for PROPOBAN, transparency and strong leadership ensured that money matters were never a problem.

In 2017, the association's consistent performance caught the attention of the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program; through the recommendation of the then Municipal Agriculturist, Ms. Luz Ferrer, Arnufo and his members were surprised to learn they were shortlisted as beneficiaries for farm machineries under the Balik Probinsya 2 Program of the Department of Agriculture Western Visayas. "We never asked for much from the government," Arnufo humbly shared. "But we realized that it was our record, our transparency, cooperation, and discipline spoke for us."

In 2022, PROPOBAN was entrusted with an impressive package of modern farm equipment: two combine harvesters, two rice transplanters, eight hand tractors with trailers and accessories, and eight water pump engines. These machineries were distributed and managed among seven associations within the Banate AMIA Village network, with PROPOBAN serving as the main caretaker and signatory of accountability under the AMIA Program.

This responsibility tested the association's capacity to manage resources efficiently. But PROPOBAN proved more than capable. For four years now, all their machineries remain in excellent working

condition, an achievement made possible by their strict maintenance routines and transparent operations. “We make sure no equipment stays unrepaired for long. Maintenance is our priority,” Arnufo emphasized. Their diligence even earned praise from the regional office for their exemplary management practices.

The machineries did improved productivity and transformed livelihoods. The association now rents out the equipment for P7,000 per hectare, generating a net profit of around P3,000 per operation after expenses. Each cropping season, they deposit their earnings in the bank to secure funds for future maintenance and emergencies. From these savings, PROPOBAN has already purchased an elf truck, 200 rental chairs, air and water compressors, and even built a garage building—all from the income generated through mechanization.

Every step of their progress has been marked by accountability. Financial reports are presented openly to the general assembly, ensuring that every member is informed and involved in decision-making. When the association ventured into producing Bokashi fertilizer, members who actively participated were each given P1,000 incentives; a small but meaningful reward that reflected their value for effort and transparency.

Beyond productivity and profit, PROPOBAN has built something deeper—a sense of family among its members. In times of emergency, they extend financial help to one another without interest, guided by trust and compassion. “We are family here,” Arnufo said. “That’s why we thrive. Everyone takes part, and everyone cares.”

Today, PROPOBAN Farmers’ Association, with 43 active members, continues to embody the principles of unity, responsibility, and resilience. Through the support of AMIA, Balik Probinsya 2, and the Department of Agriculture Western Visayas, they have mechanized their farms and professionalized their organization; standing as one of the region’s best examples of sustainable community-led agricultural development.

As their president reflects on their journey, his message is simple but profound:“Kung may disiplina kag pagsaligay sa isa kag-isa, bisan pigado ka, mangin madinalag-on ka gihapon.” (“If there is discipline and trust among each other, even if you start with little, you can still succeed.”).

Thriving without debt, AMIA helped chicken raiser for sustainable livelihood

Ninfa Navalriata's story is quiet but fierce; the kind that grows from daily labor and one small opportunity that turned into a livelihood for an entire family. Born and raised in Brgy. Pis-anan, Sibalom, Antique, Ninfa learned the rhythms of farm life from her parents such as planting, weeding, drying palay, carrying sacks of rice. Even as a child attending school she was expected to help on the farm, and when her only sibling died early, she took on even more. Today, at 65, she tends a 1.2-hectare rice plot and raises chicken, swine, and goats side by side with her husband Pedro; a partnership she describes as diligent and steady.

The AMIA program became a turning point in Ninfa's farm story. In 2021 she was invited by the association president to join the native chicken project but missed the first orientation. Determined not to miss a second chance, she attended the farmers' orientation the following year. What began with doubt soon turned into understanding. "At first I hesitated," Ninfa remembers, "but something guided my feet to that meeting. I learned how to care for the chickens, and I decided to try." She received a starter kit of five native chickens and took the training seriously; learning feeds, housing, and daily routines that would protect the flock and minimize mortality.

Ninfa's approach was deliberate. She counted every chicken each afternoon and treated egg production and chicks as treasures to be nurtured. Feeding combined corn grits and natural forages like madre de agua and ipil-ipil; these are practices introduced in AMIA training that increased survival and resilience. The native breed's resiliency and hardiness helped too. From the modest beginning of five heads, Ninfa steadily reproduced and cared for her stock. Nearly three years after joining the program, her flock grew to over a hundred heads and she faithfully fulfilled the AMIA association's roll-over scheme, returning chicks to support other members.

The financial and social impact on the family is tangible. Ninfa's routine like waking at 3 a.m. to tend chickens while Pedro cares for goats and carabaos is grueling yet disciplined. The chicken provide both food and cash: when money was tight for school fees, she harvested and sold ; last July she sold twenty heads at P220 per kilo and said the proceeds helped cover daily family expenses. Ninfa's eldest works abroad, another child is a farmer, and their youngest is soon to graduate in college. The family's sacrifices have shaped their children; Ninfa says her son who walks to school with only forty pesos in his pocket understands the value of hard work and is not materialistic, which gives her both pride and resolve.

Ninfa's philosophy is one of sufficiency and independence. She avoids borrowing because, in her words, loans can drown farmers and enrich middlemen. Instead, she focuses on thrift, on making the most of what she has, and on using government programs like AMIA to build assets without indebting the household. "I don't believe in loans," she says plainly. "We must be loan-free; debt only ties farmers to middlemen. Be content, work hard, join programs that teach you, and always thank God." That principle guides how she manages production, sells stock to meet urgent needs, and plans for the future.

Beyond income, AMIA's value for Ninfa was the training and the knowledge transfer. She credits the program not for a dole-out but for teaching how to raise native chickens properly from feed composition to housing and daily care. Her best practices now include careful feeding until chicken lay eggs, protecting chicks to reduce mortality, and maintaining clear records of stocks. These practices have made the enterprise repeatable and reliable, turning a small starter kit into a sustainable micro-business that her family depends on.

Looking forward, Ninfa dreams of improving housing for her flock so she can scale production further. She and Pedro often discuss ways to uplift their living condition, and both fully embrace the AMIA program as a pathway out of vulnerability.

"Work with what you have, learn from programs that teach you to survive without debt, and keep faith — that's how you provide for your children", she said.

HINUNGLAN: Istorya sang kadalag-an sang mangunguma kaupod ang AMIA

AMIA's "Baboyang Walang Amoy" transformed a family's future

Nanette Timbas was raised in a life where every peso had to stretch. At 48 years old, from Brgy. Libertad, Banate, Iloilo, she and her husband Rodion learned early that steady work and careful saving could change the shape of a family's tomorrow. Their first real break came not from luck but from a small, steady venture: hog raising. What began with two gifted piglets from Nanette's brother would become the seed of a dramatic turn in their household's fortunes, especially after they joined the AMIA Program's signature technology, Baboyang Walang Amoy.

Nanette and Rodion started modestly. Using capital given by her brother, they bought two piglets, raised and sold them, and later reinvested to buy five more for fattening. The family used profits for daily needs and their children's schooling. "We always believed hog raising was a way out of poverty," Nanette remembers. Their early hands-on experience would make them quick learners when a formal program opportunity arrived.

When the AMIA Program selected Nanette as a recipient of the Baboyang Walang Amoy technology, she was enthusiastic but not naïve; the couple had already been practicing many of the basics of hog raising. AMIA provided two piglets. They raised one as a sow, one sold to recoup immediate needs. The sow's first farrowing yielded eight piglets; half were sold at P3,200 each and the rest kept for fattening. The second farrowing produced nine more piglets. Nanette treated each litter as a treasure; every piglet represented school fees, food on the table, and small investments toward a better home.

As the swine grew and profits accumulated, Nanette and Rodion began to see tangible change. They opened a bank account dedicated to their children's education, and gradually upgraded their dwelling from a makeshift shelter to a half-concrete, bigger house. Rodion's carpentry skills reduced construction costs; he built much of the new housing for the pigs and helped finish the family home. "If not for the Baboyang Walang Amoy, we wouldn't have been able to construct our house," Nanette says, her gratitude clear. Their three children — Katleen is 22, in college, Katrine is 17, senior high, and Dean Michael is 15, Grade 10, began to look toward futures that felt possible rather than uncertain.

The family's progress was tested. After a third pregnancy, their most beloved sow died following a typhoon that caused severe flooding in Brgy. Libertad and amid the concurrent threat of African Swine Fever (ASF). Nanette refused to allow the animal to be slaughtered; instead,

she and Rodion buried it, grieving a loss that had been both economic and deeply personal. The blow was softened by an important safety net, a significant payment from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), which provided funds during a time of crisis.

Rather than surrender, Nanette diverted her focus. To cope with ASF and the slow recovery of swine production, she began vegetable gardening. Harvesting string beans, papaya, and banana — and raised chickens. She also started cooking viands and snacks, selling them through social media to reach a wider market. These activities, combined with Rodion's carpentry earnings, kept the household afloat and allowed the Timbas family to rebuild. Nanette's meticulous record keeping , tracking expenses, sales, and movements , clarified what worked and where to reinvest.

Today, Nanette and Rodion are beginning again. Through the Provincial Government's swine sentineling program they received P16,000, funding two new piglets and sacks of feed to restart their herd. This time, lessons learned from the ASF outbreak and climate shocks shaped their approach. Rodion has upgraded the swine housing and is strict about biosecurity, limiting entry to protect new stock. Nanette watches every step from feed use to sale prices, nothing is left to chance.

"Before AMIA we were surviving," Nanette reflects. "The program gave us not only piglets but a chance to plan for school, for our house, for a future. Even when we lost our sow, we did not lose hope. We learned, we adapted, and now we stand ready to protect what we have built." Her voice carries the quiet confidence of someone who has paid careful attention to detail, made hard choices, and seen them pay off. H

AMIA VILLAGE IN CAUAYAN, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The AMIA Program in Cauayan, Negros Occidental, establishes a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach focused on enhancing climate resilience through extensive livestock and crop diversification to combat hazards like typhoon, flash flood, and drought.

The village, which was established on June 6, 2022, serves 55 farmer beneficiaries across 102.99 hectares, primarily through three DA-accredited organizations, including the Buhing-Tubig Diversified Farmers Association, Abu-abo Small Farmers Association, and Masaling Fisherfolks Association. The interventions, which totaled over Php 2.65 million in AMIA funding, strongly supported diversified enterprises, including Native Pig Production and the Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology, alongside the construction of a Poultry House and the establishment of new ventures like Goat Production and Sustainable Quail Farming. Crop resilience and sustainability were reinforced by establishing a Vermi-Composting Facility and providing funds for Organic Vegetable Production and a Screen House Nursery, which also supports existing commodities like Rice and Coconut. Additional government support was provided by the BSWM, which contributed a Biodegradable Composting Facility and shredder, further solidifying the community's capacity to develop sustainable enterprises like vermicast production.

AMIA VILLAGE IN CUARTERO, CAPIZ

The AMIA Program in Cuartero, Capiz, launched in March 2024, is implemented in Barangay Mainit and directly benefits the Barangay Mainit Farmers Association, composed of 94 members. With an initial allocation of P451,706, the program immediately focused on establishing diversified and climate-resilient livelihood projects designed to strengthen local food security and income stability.

Recognizing the need to go beyond traditional rice and corn farming, the program prioritized livestock production as a key intervention. This includes full support for a Native Chicken Production enterprise, providing 255 heads, specialized feeds, and materials for constructing chicken housing as well as initiating a Goat Production project with 21 animals (16 does and 5 bucks).

To further enhance sustainability and climate resilience, the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) provided an additional P451,656 in support, funding the establishment of a Biodegradable Composting Facility and a Shredder Machine. These facilities promote eco-friendly waste management while producing organic fertilizer inputs for the community.

AMIA VILLAGE IN NUMANCIA, AKLAN

The AMIA Village in Numancia, Aklan, established in 2022, is dedicated to strengthening climate resilience in this coastal fourth-class municipality, which is highly vulnerable to flooding, typhoons, and drought. At the heart of the program is a strong collaboration among three farmers' associations, a federated group was created and named Numancia AMIA Village Farmers' Association (NAVFA), comprising 175 members who primarily cultivate rice, along with coconut and various other crops.

With a planned investment of P3.2 million from 2022 to 2025, the AMIA Program implements integrated interventions that promote CRA and improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers. The program emphasizes the adoption of sustainable technologies and diversified enterprises to build long-term adaptability in the face of climate change.

Among the key initiatives are the introduction of the SRI and the provision of essential tools such as Rotary Weeders and Carbonizers to improve productivity while reducing environmental impact. To diversify livelihoods, the community has also established Babuyang Walang Amoy (odorless piggery), Native Pig, and Native Chicken Production projects, creating alternative income sources and strengthening food security.

To enhance climate information services, the installation of Weather Boards and an Automated Weather Station (AWS) with a digital display now provides farmers with real-time weather data, supporting informed and timely decision-making.

AMIA VILLAGE IN SAN RAFAEL, ILOILO

Established in 2022, the AMIA Village in San Rafael, Iloilo is situated in a dominantly rice-producing area that faces high exposure to typhoons, flooding, and soil erosion. The initiative brings together several farmers' organizations creating Sanyog San Rafael AMIA Village Farmers' Association, who collectively cultivate corn, rice, sugarcane, and coconut as their primary commodities.

The program has strategically directed its efforts toward livelihood diversification and the enhancement of climate information services. Among its notable interventions are livestock and poultry ventures such as Native Pig Production, Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology, and Native Chicken Production, all supported by the construction of a dedicated Poultry House.

To further promote sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture, the AMIA Program also established a Vermicomposting Facility and extended support for Organic Vegetable Production, complemented by a Greenhouse Nursery. The installation of an AWS and Weather Boards provides real-time weather updates, empowering farmers to make timely and informed decisions.

In addition, the community benefits from Tilapia Production assistance from the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and composting facilities provided by the BSWM.

A self-sustaining association led by empowered farmers

In Pontevedra, Negros Occidental, farming has long been the heartbeat of life, with rice and sugarcane as the main commodities. Yet, behind the golden harvests were stories of uncertainty. Farmers struggled with the constant threat of floods and droughts and the creeping fear that their land might fail to provide for the next generation. Many had grown weary of promises from government programs that never seemed to reach them.

Then came 2017, the year that began to change everything. Pontevedra was chosen as one of the AMIA Villages under the Department of Agriculture's Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program. This initiative was designed to help communities adapt to climate change while sustaining productivity.

At first, there were doubts. Many farmers questioned whether another project could truly make a difference. But as training sessions began and interventions arrived, curiosity slowly took root where skepticism once thrived.

The AMIA Program introduced climate-smart farming technologies and resilience-building projects. Farmers learned to grow vegetables organically, raise native pigs and chickens, and diversify crops beyond traditional rice production. The program poured in significant support—P4.9 million from the BAR Fund and P8.5 million from the DA-OSEC Fund. This investment funded training on organic and sustainable practices, the establishment of a training center, a solar irrigation system, and even an automated weather station that helped them forecast rains and droughts with greater accuracy.

For the first time, farmers had the tools to plan, adapt, and hope.

It was during these years of learning and collaboration that the idea of forming an organization took shape. The farmers realized their strength lay not in individual plots but in collective action. Thus, in March 2022, they officially registered the AMIA Village Organic Farmers Association (AVOFA). This group of 81 farmers, including 50 women, bonded by a shared vision of resilience and self-sufficiency, was now ready to take charge of its destiny.

AVOFA's momentum accelerated immediately. In the same year, the AMIA Program, under its Balik Probinsya, Bagong Pag-asa (BP2) initiative, invested another P7.7 million. This funding went into the construction of a multi-purpose center, a feed mill, and a vermicomposting facility. These crucial projects transformed their community from mere subsistence farming into an integrated and thriving enterprise. Each facility symbolized a milestone: The feed mill allowed AVOFA to produce their own animal feeds, cutting costs and enabling them to grow livestock and poultry sustainably. The vermicomposting facility turned farm waste into high-quality organic fertilizer. New poultry houses and native pig breeding stocks expanded their livelihood opportunities significantly.

By 2023, the group was effectively managing several enterprises, including organic vegetable production, muscovado processing, native pig and chicken production, and feed manufacturing. With continued support from the local government and the Department of Agriculture, they even acquired feed pelletizers and expanded their breeding operations. These collective "small victories" built the foundation of what AVOFA is today: a self-sustaining association led by empowered farmers.

AVOFA's human core makes its journey even more remarkable. Half of its members are women—wives and mothers who, having once stayed home, are now managing backyard poultry and vegetable plots that substantially contribute to their family's income. Older farmers, many of them senior citizens, have become invaluable mentors to the youth, passing down both wisdom and the value of collective action.

Through partnerships with the Kadiwa ng Pangulo, Organic Trading Post, and May's Organic Garden, AVOFA's produce now reaches markets well beyond their local barangay. The association generates an impressive average daily income of P5,000.

Two of AVOFA's most notable achievements are their partnerships with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP): They sustain the feeding program for children in a nearby elementary school, serving the kids organic produce from their communal garden. Through a signed partnership, they supply a minimum of 50 kilos of various vegetable products to the BJMP, providing the association with a significant and reliable income stream. They no longer sell just to survive; they sell to sustain, to innovate, and to inspire.

AVOFA maintains best practices that truly set it apart: Their organic communal garden is now an accredited learning site. They demonstrate exceptionally high cooperation among members. Their trading kiosks were built entirely through bayanihan (community effort), costing the association no money. They maintain full transparency among the leaders.

They boast P300,000 in their bank account plus their capital build-up, with members religiously paying their monthly dues.

Today, as they continue with the completion of their multi-purpose center and work towards the materialization of a five-year plan for their community, AVOFA has evolved into a movement of people rediscovering their strength and purpose.

Passing it forward

Joy Dumapit grew up with soil under his nails and the rhythm of planting and harvest in his bones. As a boy in Cala-an, Panit-an, Capiz, he was a constant companion to his father in the ricefields, learning by doing, noticing seasons, and watching how other farmers lived from the land. Those early lessons shaped a simple conviction of doing good farming, done right, can change a family's life.

But the road has not been easy. Panit-an sits like a basin where water from the second district drains into the lowlands. Floods and typhoons came suddenly and often; Joy remembers the worst heartbreak when crops were nearly ready for harvest and a flashflood wiped out everything. "The saddest moment is when we are about to harvest, then a flashflood comes and destroys our crops and we can do nothing," he says. The community was also hit hard by the recent typhoon Opong, which compounded years of climate stress on yields and incomes.

A turning point came in 2022, when Joy and his peers met the AMIA program. What excited him most were practical, hands-on technologies on how to make their own organic fertilizer, how to manage swine without large input costs, and how to grow vegetables using local resources. He learned bokashi, vermicomposting, organic concoctions, and the Baboyang Walang Amoy technology — all aimed at rebuilding soil fertility, reducing chemical dependence, and strengthening local value chains.

The results were tangible. On his rice farms, Joy reports that applying bokashi restored soil health and lifted yields where one hectare used to give about 70 cavans, he now harvests 80–90 cavans. Input costs also fell. "Before we put out as much as four sacks of fertilizer; now we have reduced it to two," Joy explains. In their association, members support one another; each lends 20 sacks of bokashi to a fellow farmer and repays after harvest; a small but powerful system of mutual aid.

AMIA's livestock interventions were equally transformative. Joy received two piglets under the Baboyang Walang Amoy scheme and carefully raised them into a sow and a fattening pig. The sow's first farrowing gave him eight piglets; the next round produced ten. He sold some piglets, met the roll-over commitments of the program, and reinvested in his farm. Even when African Swine Fever (ASF) devastated many herds, Joy managed to save and nurture one surviving piglet — a symbol of stubborn hope. He believes that, without ASF, his income per sow could have reached P30,000–P40,000; in his experience a healthy sow averages about 13 piglets, with 11 sold and two kept for rearing.

Joy's approach is hands-on and frugal because he does the work himself, makes locally sourced forages, raises chickens, and cares for a carabao — another AMIA grant that now helps replace mechanized work in his fields. He practices organic farming not in name only but in action. Most of his inputs now come from bokashi, vermicompost, and organic concoctions learned from trainings. He also looks ahead;

P8 per kilo at harvest. For many families that must sell immediately to cover expenses or repay loans, this creates a recurring cycle of indebtedness that training alone cannot fix. “The cost of pesticides, herbicide, and fertilizers are way higher than the profit we get,” he says. Still, for Joy the answer lies in combining practical technologies with solidarity and good stewardship.

A core belief guides him: the roll-over scheme is not just policy but a promise. If a project succeeds or struggles, its seed or animal should be passed on so another member can begin. “What is important is you are able to pass on one of the produced to the next farmer member so they can also start on their own,” Joy says. This mindset to share, repay, and lift the next farmer has helped the association stay resilient despite shocks.

Today Joy’s family is more secure. Production costs are lower, harvests have increased, and small livestock and poultry help steady income for school needs and household expenses. His life testimony is simple and profound, for him, government support must be cared for and nurtured. In his words, spoken with the plain honesty of a farmer who knows the worth of every grain, “Lahat ng tinutulong ng gobyerno alagaan natin; ako po, wala kaming trabaho — ito ang palayan at mga baboy ko ang bumubuhay sa amin.” (“We must take care of everything the government helps us with; we have no other job — my ricefields and pigs feed us.”) H

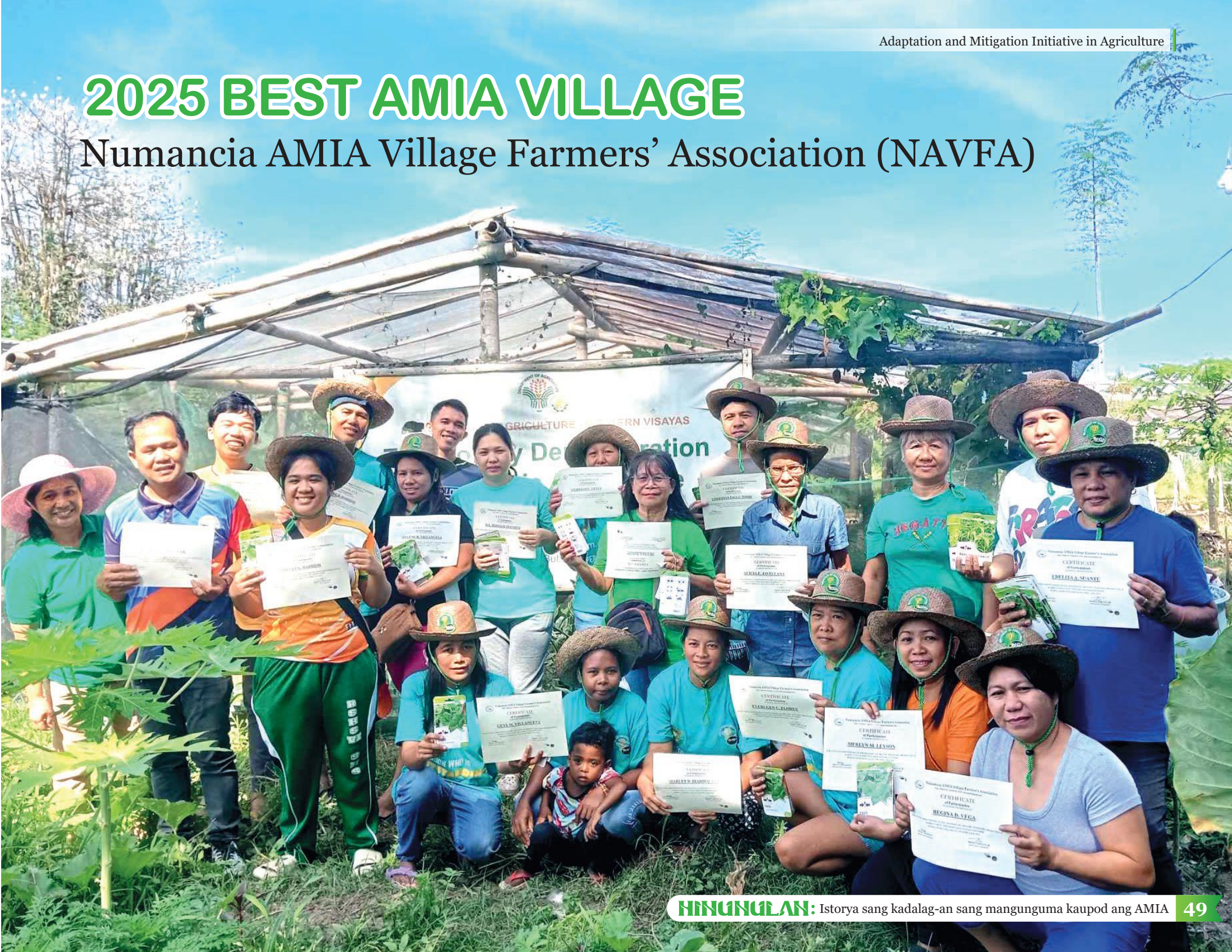
"Sa SRI may laban tayo
sa bagyo at mga peste,
iba talaga pag ma-train ka ng AMIA.
Iba ang process mo at chemical-free
ang pagkain mo".

Edelberto Naman

Sibalom, Antique

2025 BEST AMIA VILLAGE

Numancia AMIA Village Farmers' Association (NAVFA)




BUANGAY MAINIT


ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION INITIATIVE IN AGRICULTURE (AMIA)
NATIVE CHICKEN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY
NAME OF BENEFICIARY:
FUNDING AGENCY: DA-AMIA WESTERN VISAYAS
PROJECT LOCATION:


MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE IN REGIONAL
PROGRAM
1ST QUARTER MEETING

“I don’t believe in loans. We must be loan-free; debt only ties farmers to middlemen.

Be content, work hard, join programs that teach you, and always thank God.”

Nimfa Navalriata

Sibalom, Antique


BURBERRY

In AMIA, there is healthier LIFESTYLE.

“Ang hirap talaga na wala na ang asawa ko. Matindi ang bigat sa puso ko,

but I found strength in our AMIA group. We share knowledge, help each other, and continue to make our community better,

ang turo ng AMIA, kung masipag ka lang, ang lupa bakante, naghihintay lang na taniman mo.”

Victor Gajete

Sibunag, Guimaras

Vegetable master loses wife, finds care with AMIA farmers

For years, Victor Gajete of Sebaste, Sibunag, Guimaras has turned seeds into sustenance, transforming barren soil into a source of hope; but when tragedy struck, it wasn't just his crops that needed tending, it was his heart. With the help of the AMIA Program and his fellow farmers, Victor found a new beginning rooted in resilience and community.

Born to farmer parents in the hilly lands of Guimaras, Victor's childhood was steeped in the rhythm of the fields. His parents tilled the land with bare hands, cultivating rice, corn, and root crops without the benefit of modern machinery or government support. As a young boy, Victor learned early that farming is more than labor; it is life. When his parents couldn't give him school allowance, he brought his harvested vegetables to sell to his teachers. "I used to sell papaya for five pesos," he recalled with a chuckle. Despite their poverty, Victor always believed they were rich — rich in land, in effort, and in lessons learned under the sun.

Weekends meant plowing fields, carrying vegetables to the local market, and dreaming of a better life. After finishing high school, Victor ventured beyond Guimaras . He explored to Oton, Iloilo, where he planted watermelons, and then to Negros and Palawan, where he worked in haciendas and learned more advanced farming techniques. From those experiences, he developed a deep respect for Ilonggo farmers whom he described as "diligent and trustworthy handlers of the land."

Returning home to Guimaras, Victor met the woman who would become his wife, Jessica. On her family's land, they started a small vegetable farm that became their primary source of income. Together, they raised their children and found joy in the simple pacing of planting, harvesting, and selling produce in the local market. For Victor, vegetable farming was his life purpose.

"Kung masipag ka lang, ang lupa bakante, naghihintay lang na taniman mo," he would often say.

Life was good until tragedy struck. Jessica fell gravely ill and was hospitalized for nearly a month. Despite Victor's tireless effort to sustain her medical needs through farming, she eventually passed away. "Ang hirap talaga na wala siya," Victor shared, his voice breaking. "Matindi ang bigat sa puso ko".

Suddenly, he is a widower and solo parent, Victor found himself grappling with grief while trying to be strong for his children. His eldest, who was still studying at that time, served as her mother's caregiver in the hospital. Victor vowed to continue working hard so his children could finish their education, a promise he made to his late wife.

When Jessica was still alive, they were active members of the BUSESAFA (Bubog, Sebaste, and Sabang Farmers Association), one of the groups supported by the Department of Agriculture's

Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program. His wife believed in the potential of their farmer group, is the number one cheerer of the groups small wins. She sells the vegetables in a small nipa kiosk they built together.

After her passing, Victor's grief was eased by the very people who had become their second family, his fellow AMIA farmers. "They helped me refocus and find purpose again," he said.

Organized in 2019, BUSESAFA began with 67 members. Through AMIA's support, the group received more than P5 million worth of interventions, including vermicomposting facilities, shredders, solar-powered irrigation systems, incubators, organic production inputs, native pigs and chickens, feeds, and the establishment of a product depot.

One of the recent AMIA-supported projects was the improvement of their makeshift kiosk into a semi-concrete product depot, now serving as their permanent outlet for selling fresh produce. "'Yung nipa kiosk na sinimulan namin ng asawa ko, ngayon ay naging tindahan na. Tinulungan kami ng AMIA, yan ang laging sinasabi ko sa mga bumibili dito," Victor proudly shared.

Among the members of BUSESAFA, Victor is known as the "Vegetable Master." His long years of experience made him a mentor to younger farmers. He teaches them about the timing,

market demand, and sustainability of vegetable production, the very knowledge that helped him raise his family.

Through AMIA's trainings, Victor learned new technologies and organic farming methods, which significantly reduced his production costs. "Nakatipid talaga kami ng malaki dahil sa organic farming," he said. He now advocates for safe and sustainable agriculture, prioritizing consumer health over profit. "Money is secondary. What's important is growing food that's safe for everyone."

One of his proudest moments was when he earned P60,000 from planting just one liter of squash seeds, allowing him to buy a motorcycle, now the family's main mode of transport. Today, he cultivates okra, sitaw, kalabasa, kamatis, and pipino, continuing the livelihood that has supported his family through every challenge.

Despite the pain of losing his wife, Victor stands strong; guided by faith, surrounded by community, and inspired by his children. His eldest, now 22, and his youngest, 15, are both honor students. Every time they achieve something, Victor feels both joy and sorrow, imagining how proud their mother would have been.

"AMIA helped me grow not just as a farmer but as a person," he said. "I found strength in our group. We share knowledge, help each other, and continue to make our community better."

For Victor, success is not measured by wealth but by the life he has built; rooted in love, perseverance, and the unyielding belief that the land will always reward those who nurture it.

Women of Cuartero: Rising from debt to resilience through AMIA

In the agricultural village of Mainit, Cuartero, where rice, corn, and livestock shape everyday life, women have long carried the burden of poverty, debt, and physical labor. Before AMIA arrived in 2024, most farmers relied on financiers with interest rates of 5–10%, trapping families in a cycle of borrowing and unpaid dues. But when the community organized the Barangay Mainit Farmers Association, opportunities finally reached their farms and their lives.

For Marly Dumaniel, 49, farming has been both a necessity and a lifeline since she became a mother at 19. She worked the fields under the sun and rain, often with nothing left after harvest to sustain her family. Determined that her children would not repeat her painful sacrifice of giving up education, she persevered. When AMIA introduced the goat-raising project, Marly became one of its first beneficiaries. With training, guidance, and livestock she treasures, she now sees a path toward ending their debts and strengthening the livelihood she and her husband built through decades of hard work.

Shirley Natibes, a lifelong farmer, once believed there was no "good life" in agriculture. Illness forced her to shift from strenuous fieldwork to vegetable gardening and poultry, yet income remained unstable. AMIA's native chicken project changed everything. Starting with just four hens and a rooster, she applied natural feeding techniques she learned from training. Her flock grew to over a hundred, earning her P17,000 in profit—enough to buy 17 sacks of palay. Now a senior and breadwinner for her aging parents and husband, Shirley draws strength from this newfound stability.

For Dorothy Cion, 57, the biggest change is empowerment. She witnessed how unorganized farmers especially women suffered under high-interest loans and low profits. Today, through their association and AMIA's free seeds, inputs, and starter kits, farmers no longer rely on financiers. For her, "organizing" was the key that unlocked government support and restored dignity to women.

AMIA VILLAGE IN DAO, CAPIZ

The AMIA Village in Dao, Capiz, established in March 2022, supports the Duyoc Farmers Association and Lacaron Farmers Association to enhance climate resilience against hazards like typhoons, flash floods, and drought. The program's total investment through the MCRARP reached over Php 4.83 million (2022-2024), highlighting a commitment to both staple crop resilience and livelihood diversification. The most significant intervention focuses on crop production through the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), which received a substantial allocation of Php 3.3 million over two years, alongside the provision of a Rice Thresher.

Complementing this, the program provided essential livestock enterprises for income diversification, including the Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology, Native Pig Production, and a Native Chicken project complete with a dedicated Poultry House. Furthermore, resilience is reinforced through the installation of an Automated Weather Station (AWS) and a Digital Board for climate information, along with establishing a Vermicomposting Facility and providing Organic Vegetable Production tools to promote sustainable farming practices.

AMIA VILLAGE IN PANIT-AN, CAPIZ

Established in 2021, AMIA Village in Panit-an, Capiz aims to strengthen the climate resilience of a community frequently affected by floods, typhoons, storm surges, and landslides. At the center of this initiative is the Cala-an AMIA Village Farmers Association, whose members primarily cultivate corn, rice, coconut, and sugarcane as their major commodities. Beyond traditional farming, the association has successfully introduced Bokashi production as a thriving local enterprise, promoting sustainable and organic practices.

Program highlights feature a blend of diversified livelihood projects and critical infrastructure investments, with total MCRARP funding for 2022–2023 amounting to P628,072.74. Among the key interventions are Babuyang Walang Amoy (odorless piggery), Caracow Production, Native Chicken Production, and the installation of a Rainwater Harvester System, all designed to diversify income streams and strengthen food security.

Further expanding their resilience, the association secured additional support from the Rice Banner Program in 2024, acquiring essential post-harvest equipment including a 5-in-1 Rice Mill and a Solar Bubble Dryer. These facilities have significantly improved the community's processing capacity and helped safeguard their primary source of livelihood against the impacts of climate change.

AMIA VILLAGE IN SAN LORENZO, GUIMARAS

The AMIA Village in San Lorenzo, Guimaras focuses on strengthening the resilience of a coastal community highly vulnerable to typhoons, earthquakes, and landslides. At the center of the program is the San Lorenzo AMIA Village Farmers Association (SLAVFA), along with other local groups, which collectively cultivate major commodities such as mango, rice, corn, coconut, and sweet potato.

These associations have successfully established several enterprises, including Organic Vegetable Production, Native Chicken Production, Vermicast Production, and the Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology (BWAT). Since its implementation in 2022, key program interventions have included the deployment of BWAT/Hybrid Pig Production and the installation of 19 units of Rainwater Harvesters (RWH) to strengthen water security for agricultural use.

To further promote sustainability, the site has developed a Vermicomposting Production Facility and installed an Automated Weather Station (AWS) and Weather Boards to provide real-time climate data for informed decision-making. The community is also expanding its value-adding capacity through the planned provision of Meat Processing Starter Kits and has received a Rotary Composter/Bio Shredder Machine from the Organic Agriculture Program.

AMIA VILLAGE IN SIBUNAG, GUIMARAS

The AMIA Village in Sibunag, Guimaras, is focused on enhancing climate resilience through a diverse set of agricultural interventions and livelihood projects. The program concentrates on supporting farmers whose main commodity is Rice, complemented by other various crops.

Key enterprises established to diversify income and promote sustainability include Native Pig Production, Native Chicken Production, and Organic Vegetable Production. The AMIA program's highlights showcase significant investment in both technology and infrastructure for value-adding and post-harvest management. This includes the establishment of an AMIA Product Depot valued at over Php 298,000.00, and the deployment of the Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology (BWAT).

Furthermore, the site received various equipment from partner programs like DA RFO 6 Rice Program and BSWM, such as a Walk Behind Transplanter, Rice Thresher, Hand Tractor (Ride on), and a Shredder Machine. Through facilitation by the partner NGO, RWAN, the community also acquired a Portable Bolo Rice Mill and a Solar Bubble Dryer, alongside assistance for the SRI Technology.

Farm helper turned SRI champion

When Edelberto "Eddie" Naman returned to Barangay Bontol from the poblacion in 2000, he came home to care for a sick child and to help his aunt on her rice farm. What began as occasional land preparation and harvest help, while he continued construction work in the city, turned into a full-time commitment to farming driven by family need, a worried aunt, and a growing conviction that there had to be a better way to farm.

Eddie's earliest years in Bontol were shaped by the patterns and limitations of conventional rice farming. For more than two decades the community relied on chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides inputs Eddie accepted without much thought because "as long as I got my share at harvest" his family survived. But when his aunt grew older and the rice land began showing signs of decline—poor yields and tired, malnourished soil, Eddie felt the responsibility of stewardship. With five children to feed and three later reaching college, the precarious three-month wait between planting and harvest while he worked in construction no longer fit the family's needs. He left his construction job in Manila and stayed.

The turning point came in 2021, when the AMIA program arrived in Sibalom. Through a series of trainings on climate-resilient farming systems, concoction production, System of Rice Intensification (SRI), and natural farming practices, Eddie found practical, locally appropriate alternatives to the conventional, chemical-dependent methods he had long relied on. The knowledge he gained from AMIA and the Department of Agriculture's resource speakers gave him both the why and the how to change his approach.

Eddie started small and learned fast. He set aside a 3,000-square-meter portion of his 0.75-hectare farm to try SRI, practicing 25 x 25 cm spacing, using only four kilos of seeds and applying Bokashi and botanical concoctions instead of synthetic fertilizer. The results surprised him; from that trial plot he harvested 31 cavan, each cavan

at 32 kilos, a proof that lower seed rate, careful transplanting and healthier soil could be more productive than the conventional wisdom of crowding and heavy chemicals.

What followed was a gradual but firm conversion. Over three years of applying organic and natural farming methods, Eddie observed his soil regaining nutrients and structure. His production costs dropped; chemical input bills were far smaller and although SRI demanded more attentive labor, Eddie and his wife Tessie welcomed the work. Tessie took on seedling tray preparation and mixing botanical fertilizers, and together they turned the farm into a family enterprise. Eddie now manages the entire 0.75 hectare using SRI and natural farming methods.

Eddie's experience also became a quiet demonstration to neighbors. Where once they laughed at the "wide spacing" and warned that he was wasting land, they now see healthier crops and stronger stands. During last year's typhoon many conventionally planted ricefields lodged and failed; Eddie's SRI crop stood resilient. Adoption in Bontol has been slow but growing. SRI adopters rose from four to six farmers within a season, with Eddie's results and the support of the local government encouraging others to try.

He credits AMIA's trainings and the local MAO office for technical assistance. "Sa SRI may laban tayo sa bagyo at mga peste, iba talaga pag ma-train ka ng AMIA. Iba ang process mo at chemical-free ang pagkain mo," Eddie says, proud of the crop's resilience and of producing food that's safer for his family. His other piece of advice to fellow farmers is pragmatic and patient: "Huwag ka madiscourage sa unang bahagi ng proseso ng SRI, after 21 days makikita mo ang resulta."

Today the farm is more than a livelihood; it is a legacy for his children and a living demonstration of change. Three of his children are in college, a clear sign that the family's economic standing has improved and Eddie reports that household expenses for farm inputs have drastically decreased. More than the numbers, however, he measures success in the health of the soil and the confidence of neighbors now willing to experiment.

What makes Eddie's story particularly inspiring is the arc from indifference to stewardship. He admits that earlier he "didn't care about the way of farming—as long as I got my share." Today, that short-term view has been replaced by a farmer who will not use practices that threaten his family's health or the long-term fertility of the land his aunt entrusted to him.

Fall seven times, stand up eight

Fall seven times, stand up eight.

For most people, this Japanese proverb is just a saying. But for Eulalia Perucho-Mabulay, it's a way of life.

In Brgy. Linubuan Sur, Banga, Aklan, Eulalia have spent years falling and standing back up — countless times. Each season, each crop, and each challenge has tested her patience and perseverance. But through it all, one thing has remained unshaken: her deep love for farming.

Eulalia's story begins in her childhood, where she first learned to till the soil beside her parents. Farming wasn't just a chore back then — it was a rhythm of life, a lesson in hard work, and a connection to the earth that she never outgrew.

Today, she and her husband manage 1.5 hectares of land divided into small parcels for vegetables and rice. For years, she practiced conventional farming, using commercial fertilizers and methods she thought were already enough. Farming was her family's lifeline, sustaining her husband and their three children through life's uncertainties.

There came a time when she diversified her farm by raising cows, converting part of her land into a grazing area. For a while, income trickled in, but it was slow and unpredictable. "Sometimes I feel like my effort just goes to waste," she said.

Realizing that her children's schooling and daily needs couldn't wait, she made a brave decision — to stop raising livestock and focus entirely on vegetable production.

"Growing vegetables is a hit or miss," she laughed. "But when you love what you do, even failure becomes part of the process."

Failure, indeed, has visited her farm more than once — from pest infestations to droughts and floods. Yet, every time her crops failed, she would plant again. Her resilience became her strongest harvest.

Among her many crops — calamansi, eggplant, chili, cucumber, banana, and rice — it was her sitaw (string beans) that brought her a sense of triumph.

During one peak harvest season, she reaped 145 kilograms of sitaw in a single day from one small parcel. It was a moment of joy and validation — proof that persistence truly pays off.

Vegetable farming gave her family stability, but more than that, it gave her pride. “Each time I see my plants growing, I feel alive,” she said. “It’s like watching my hard work breathe.”

In 2022, Eulalia’s journey took a new direction when she attended an orientation on the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA). Initially, she joined out of curiosity. But as she learned more, she realized that AMIA offered something she’d been searching for — a way to make farming more sustainable and climate-resilient.

Through the Banga AMIA Village Association, she was introduced to organic fertilizers and natural concoctions, concepts that were new to her. The training taught her to create bokashi and fermented plant juices, and though the process was tedious, she never turned back.

“Making bokashi takes time,” she shared. “But now I understand that every extra day I spend preparing it is an investment for a healthier soil and a safer environment.”

This shift in her farming practice didn’t just improve her yield — it deepened her sense of purpose. She now sees farming as her contribution to a cleaner, healthier community.

Today, with her children grown and pursuing their own dreams, Mrs. Mabulay continues to rise early to tend her fields with her husband. Buyers often come directly to their farm, drawn not only by the freshness of her produce but also by her warmth and sincerity.

She describes farming as her greatest source of peace. “With farming, I can be myself,” she said. “It gives me joy that no other work can give.”

Through all the ups and downs, Eulalia’s love for farming never faded. The soil, the sun, and the struggles have all shaped her into the strong woman she is today. And just like her sitaw vines that continue to grow back no matter how often they are trimmed, she continues to rise — season after season — living proof that true farmers never give up.

The rise of resilience through SRI and the AMIA program

When Marinel Dordas returned from Manila to her grandfather's home in Cala-an, Panit-an, Capiz, she carried more than the memory of selling goods in the city; she carried years of hands-on exposure to farm work that would later shape a new life. She began farming in 2022, inheriting her grandfather's farmland. She participated in Climate Resilient Filed School (CRFS) and became an AMIA program beneficiary. What followed was a focused, three-year journey of learning, stubborn persistence, and gradual transformation toward chemical-free, climate-resilient rice production.

The early years were hard. Under conventional practices, inputs and maintenance were costly: for two hectares the family spent as much as P50,000–P60,000 on fuel, grass clearing and supplies yet harvested only about 70 sacks. Calamities particularly heavy rains and flooding frequently damaged standing crops. In 2022 Marinel and other adopters began experimenting with the System of Rice Intensification (SRI) introduced through AMIA trainings and meetings. SRI immediately reduced seed requirements (to roughly 10–15 kg per hectare compared with several sacks under conventional planting) and emphasized careful, low-density transplanting, soil health and organic inputs.

Adoption was not smooth. Early SRI practice was communal, and inconsistent plot maintenance led some adopters to drop out from 15 starters only eight continued. Marinel endured setbacks, including failed first croppings, and learned that patience and regular plot attention are essential to SRI's payoff. She shifted to individual SRI management and doubled down on organic methods: no chemical sprays, preparation of IMO and bokashi, and use of organic concoctions for pest and soil health.

By 2024 the results were striking. Marinel reported harvesting 63 sacks from just half a hectare, with each sack recorded at 52 kilograms; after milling she reported a yield that she described as entirely chemical-free. Reflecting on the change, she said, "When my grandfather was still alive I would have encouraged him to adopt SRI because I now see its many benefits." She also credits AMIA for access to trainings and for exposing the family to complementary projects.

Marinel now teaches her children SRI, bokashi and organic concoctions, making sustainability a family habit. "SRI helps farmers become more climate-resilient," she says, urging peers to try the method "for the sake of future generations."

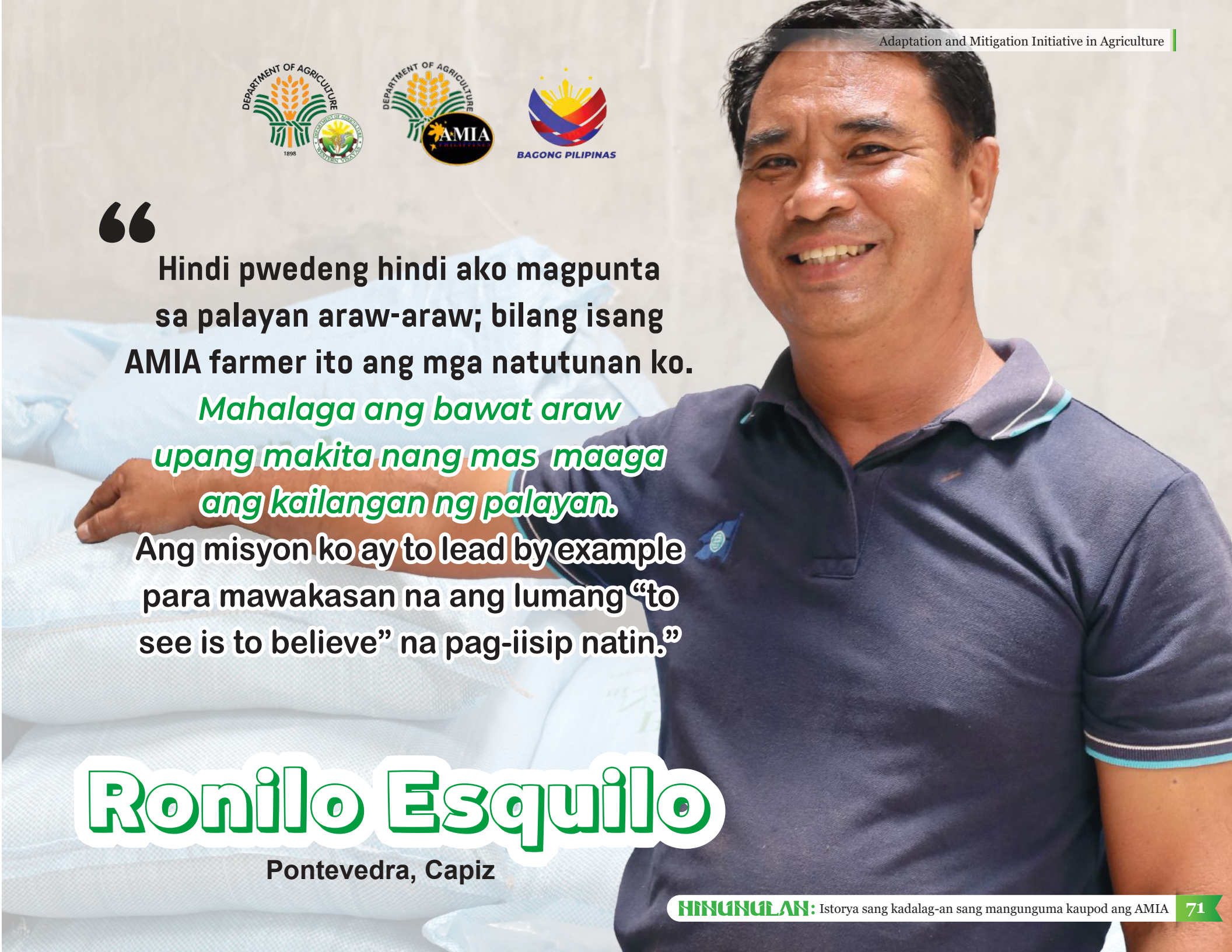
AMIA VILLAGE IN SIBALOM, ANTIQUE

The AMIA Village in Sibalom, Antique, established in 2021, addresses the municipality's high vulnerability to typhoons, floods, and droughts. Known as the "Rice Bowl of Antique," the program is anchored on two key organizations—the Bontol Farmers Association and the Pis-anan Integrated Farmers Association—whose members primarily focus on rice and corn production.

To strengthen resilience and diversify income, the AMIA Program has introduced a series of climate-smart interventions and livelihood projects. These include the establishment of Babuyang Walang Amoy (odorless piggery), Native Chicken Production, and the provision of inputs for Organic Vegetable Production, all aimed at promoting sustainable and diversified farming systems.

A major investment was also made in a Rainwater Harvester System to improve water management and safeguard crops during dry periods. To enhance climate monitoring and support informed decision-making, the site was equipped with an Automated Weather Station (AWS) and Weather Boards.

A key milestone for the community is the acquisition of post-harvest equipment funded by the Rice Program, including a 5-in-1 Rice Mill and a Solar Bubble Dryer.



“Hindi pwedeng hindi ako magpunta sa palayan araw-araw; bilang isang AMIA farmer ito ang mga natutunan ko. *Mahalaga ang bawat araw upang makita nang mas maaga ang kailangan ng palayan.* Ang misyon ko ay to lead by example para mawakasan na ang lumang “to see is to believe” na pag-iisip natin.”

Ronilo Esquilo

Pontevedra, Capiz

A lifetime sown in service, harvested in hope

"Ang pagsasaka ay naka-ukit na sa akin."

With these simple yet profound words, Catalina Reyes Andrade captures the very core of who she is. Farming is not just something she learned—it is something engraved into her life, etched into her hands, and rooted in her spirit. Long before she worked in government offices or sat in council meetings, Catalina was a young girl walking the fields of Brgy. Linubaan Sur, Banga, Aklan, guided by the steady hands of her parents who taught her to love the land.

Those early lessons would define her journey. Even as she ventured into public service, rose through the ranks, and became a leader for women in her community, the call of the soil remained constant. Farming was her first language and her enduring compass—one she would always return to.

In 1972, Catalina began her career in the municipal office, starting as a clerk and eventually becoming a Budget Officer. Her dedication and work ethic later earned her a seat in the Sangguniang Bayan, where she championed women's welfare and community development. Her career spanned more than two decades, but even during her busiest years, she never let go of her connection to the land. Farming grounded her, reminding her of where she came from and what truly mattered.

After retiring in 1994, Catalina found her passion for agriculture rekindled with new intensity. In 2022, she joined an orientation for farmers, unaware that this moment would open a new chapter in her journey. It was there that she first encountered the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA). Eager to learn, she "emptied her cup" and embraced every training and meeting with humility and curiosity. Yet amidst the new concepts, she found a familiar warmth—many of the AMIA technologies mirrored the methods her father had taught her decades ago. This realization affirmed that traditional knowledge,

when enhanced with modern science, remains valuable and relevant in today's world.

Catalina quickly became a strong advocate of the System of Rice Intensification (SRI). On her own farm, she proved its effectiveness: using only 1.5 kilograms of rice seeds, she harvested 9.5 cavans—a result that inspired her fellow farmers. "SRI may be more tedious than conventional farming, but the quality is better," she shared. She also uses Bokashi as one of her primary organic fertilizers, strengthening both soil health and crop performance. Her commitment to organic farming has always been firm, and AMIA only deepened that conviction.

Through the program, she also became more aware of her role in protecting the environment. During her regular visits to the Kalibo public market—twice a week—she noticed the large amount of vegetable waste being discarded daily. Instead of ignoring it, she found purpose in it. Catalina began collecting around three sacks of vegetable waste per visit. She mixes this with rice bran to create nutrient-rich pellets for her pigs, chickens, and ducks. These feeds can last up to three days, reducing production costs while helping cut down market waste.

Her agricultural journey, however, has not been free of hardship. She endured the challenges of African Swine Fever and the harsh impacts of El Niño. Yet she faced them with resilience and grace. To her, farming will always involve risks, but with the right technologies, a strong mindset, and unshakeable faith, no obstacle is insurmountable.

Physical labor now poses her biggest challenge, often draining her strength and limiting her production. But instead of seeing this as a setback, she views it as motivation to empower younger farmers. She encourages the youth in her community to embrace climate-resilient practices, believing that they will inherit the responsibility of caring for the land.

Today, Catalina Reyes Andrade stands as a living testament to passion, resilience, and lifelong learning. From a farm girl to a respected public servant, and back to the fields where she feels most alive, her life is a circle completed with purpose. Her story reminds us that agriculture is not just work—it is legacy, identity, and love. And for Catalina, it is a love that continues to grow, one harvest at a time.

Women uniting progress in climate resilient farming

The extraordinary success of the AMIA villages in Dao, Capiz, is essentially a story of technological adoption and community transformation impelled by the crucial organizational initiatives of its women members. Through Duyoc and Lacaron, its 147 farmer partners realized that unity makes the difference in securing over P2.7 million worth of government interventions. It was a strategic unity mostly driven by women, who organized the existing groups to federate for streamlined support, culminating in the 2023 registration with DOLE and the construction of the AMIA Multi-Purpose Center is a physical testament to their operational prowess and commitment to producing sustainable inputs like organic fertilizers.

Women farmers were the key agents in integrating and managing essential technologies and climate-resilient practices. The development of seven SRI demo farms testified to their mastery over this precise method, which requires attention to proper technique for documented yield increases ranging from 50% to 100%. Beyond rice, female leadership was instrumental in adapting to crises such as ASF by enforcing strict biosecurity to maintain the successful Babuyang Walang Amoy project that generated an income of P135,000. They led in diversification, maintaining the communal poultry house with its 264-egg incubator and spearheading the vermicomposting project to assure soil health and family nutrition.

Moreover, the women's organizational skills encompassed policy and technological integration. That they were able to operationalize the automated weather station and create guidelines based on real-time data shows a holistic approach to risk mitigation. Consistently advocating for collaboration, precision in technology adoption, and diversification has placed the women of Dao, Capiz, on the front lines of progress-a solid model for sustainable rural development that proves the greatest catalyst for change is unified action.

Women at the frontlines of AMIA San Lorenzo

In San Lorenzo, Guimaras, a quiet transformation is taking root; the creation of San Lorenzo AMIA Village Farmers Association led the collective strength, vision, and resilience of women. Once regarded only as field helpers, the women of AMIA San Lorenzo now stand at the forefront of leadership, innovation, and enterprise, proving that agriculture flourishes when women are empowered.

Through the AMIA Program, these women embraced climate-resilient technologies, organic farming methods, and community-driven planning. Their once monocropped plots have blossomed into diverse, thriving food gardens. What began with a small group of determined women has grown into a unified movement committed to sustainable production and community resilience.

Their dedication was further cemented with the launch of the AMIA Market in 2023—a turning point that showcased their confidence

and capability. Every Thursday, the market comes alive as women manage harvesting, sorting, pricing, and customer relations with professionalism and pride. The display of freshly harvested vegetables, the earnings they once thought unreachable, and the community's admiration all stand as living testimonies to their hard work.

Beyond production, these women embraced organic inputs, soil regeneration, and associative lending mechanisms that lowered costs and increased yields. Most importantly, they nurtured a culture of shared learning—teaching one another new techniques, welcoming beginners, and showing that empowerment deepens when it is collective.

Today, the women of AMIA San Lorenzo cultivate far more than crops. They cultivate hope, leadership, and a future where women shape the heart of agriculture in Guimaras.

AMIA VILLAGE IN TOBOSO, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The AMIA Village Site in Toboso, Negros Occidental, established on March 21, 2024, is one of the newest sites under the program, situated in a coastal municipality where farming and fishing serve as the primary sources of livelihood. The initiative is anchored by the Magcalape Tulangon Gabon-Gabon Farmers Association (MATUGAFA), a 70-member organization engaged in cultivating sugarcane, corn, high-value crops such as squash and mungbean, as well as raising various livestock and poultry.

During its initial phase under the Locally Funded Projects (2024) MCRARP, the AMIA Program focused on livelihood diversification, particularly in livestock and poultry production. Key interventions included support for native chicken production, with the distribution of 210 hens and 45 roosters, along with materials for chicken housing and feed supplies. In addition, the association received six heads of carabao for the Caracow Production enterprise.

These interventions aim to establish and strengthen the farmers' animal husbandry enterprises, providing sustainable and climate-resilient income opportunities for the community while promoting agricultural productivity in Toboso.

AMIA VILLAGE IN VALDERRAMA, ANTIQUE

The AMIA Village in Valderrama, Antique, established in 2019, is situated in a municipality characterized by rugged terrain and high exposure to natural hazards such as floods, typhoons, landslides, and soil erosion. The program is anchored on the collaboration of local organizations, particularly the Pamuatan Integrated Farmers Association (PIFA) and the Samahan ng Mangingisda sa Panguinra (SAMPA), whose members primarily cultivate rice, corn, and root crops.

Program highlights demonstrate an integrated approach to climate-resilient agriculture and livelihood diversification. Among the enterprises developed are native chicken production (Darag) and feed formulation, supported by the construction of a poultry house. To strengthen the community's adaptive capacity, essential infrastructure and technologies were provided, including an Automated Weather Station (AWS), weather information boards, and rainwater harvesters (RWH) to ensure water availability for farming activities.

Additionally, the site received vital post-harvest equipment such as a rice thresher and corn sheller to improve efficiency and reduce losses. Complementing these interventions, Climate Resiliency Field School (CRFS) training equipped farmers with practical knowledge on sustainable practices, enhancing productivity and resilience while promoting value-adding opportunities within the community.

AMIA VILLAGE IN VALLADOLID, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

The AMIA Village Site in Valladolid, Negros Occidental, established on March 20, 2024, is among the newest additions to the program, focusing on a community where farming and fishing serve as the primary sources of livelihood. The initiative is anchored by the Barangay Paloma Farmers Association (BPFA), a 70-member organization engaged in rice, corn, vegetable, and livestock production.

Funded under the Locally Funded Projects (2024) MCRARP, the initial phase of the AMIA Program in Valladolid centers on strengthening local livelihoods through poultry-based enterprises. Major interventions include substantial support for native chicken production, with the distribution of 210 hens and 45 roosters, along with housing materials and feeds. The site also launched an Itik Pinas Production project, providing 130 hens and 26 roosters, likewise equipped with feeds and housing supplies.

These interventions aim to swiftly establish climate-resilient and income-generating enterprises for the farmer-beneficiaries. By promoting diversified livestock production, the AMIA Program enhances livelihood stability, food security, and the community's adaptive capacity to withstand the effects of climate variability in Valladolid.

AMIA VILLAGE IN BINGAWAN, ILOILO

The Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program in Bingawan, Iloilo, implements a comprehensive approach to help farmers adapt to climate-related challenges such as floods and dry spells. The program's strategy revolves around three key pillars: improving access to climate information, building resilient infrastructure, and promoting sustainable agricultural practices.

To support informed decision-making, the site was equipped with an Automated Weather Station (AWS) and a Digital Information Board (LCD TV), providing real-time, localized climate data to guide farming activities. Livelihood diversification is another central focus, highlighted by the establishment of a poultry house for native chicken production and the construction of an AMIA Mushroom and Multi-purpose Facility, which serve as alternative income sources during adverse weather conditions.

The program also promotes sustainable agriculture through the upgrading of the vermicomposting facility, complemented by the provision of vermi worms and molasses to enhance organic fertilizer production. To further strengthen local food security, the AMIA Program supports organic vegetable production, supplying farmers with essential tools such as drums, hoses, and garden equipment for both communal and individual plots—empowering them to achieve resilient, eco-friendly, and self-sustaining farming systems.

AMIA VILLAGE IN ANINI-Y, ANTIQUE

The AMIA Village in Anini-y, Antique, established in 2022, stands as a model for climate-resilient and inclusive agricultural development in the southernmost part of the province. Characterized by its diverse landscape—from uplands to coastal zones—Anini-y faces recurring challenges such as typhoons, floods, and droughts. Despite these risks, the community has demonstrated remarkable adaptability and innovation through the interventions of the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) Program.

The Masagana Anini-y AMIA Village Farmers Association, together with other local groups, has diversified its livelihoods through native chicken and pig production, vermicomposting, organic vegetable farming, and the adoption of Babuyang Walang Amoy Technology. These enterprises not only enhance food security but also promote sustainable and eco-friendly farming systems.

Between 2022 and 2024, the AMIA Program invested over P2 million in various interventions, including the establishment of poultry houses and vermicomposting facilities, the provision of livestock, feedlot cattle fattening support, and the installation of Automated Weather Stations (AWS) and digital information boards.

Through these initiatives, Anini-y's farmers have successfully transitioned from traditional, risk-prone farming to organized, technology-driven, and climate-smart agriculture, empowering both men and women to build resilient livelihoods and contribute to long-term agricultural sustainability in the region.

"Kami, mga kababaihan ng Cuartero, matagal nang humaharap sa hirap sa bukid at sa buhay, pero hindi kami sumuko. **Nang dumating ang AMIA, nabuksan ang bagong daan para hindi na kami umasa sa utang.** Ngayon, may lakas, may kabuhayan, at may pag-asa kaming maipamana ang mas magandang kinabukasan sa aming mga anak."

Women of Cuartero

Cuartero, Capiz

The System of Rice Intensification (SRI), promoted by the AMIA program, is a climate-resilient rice farming technology that maximizes yield while minimizing inputs. By using younger seedlings, wider spacing, and careful water management, SRI enhances root growth and soil health. Farmers benefit from higher productivity, reduced costs for seeds and fertilizers, and greater resilience to drought and pests. Its impact is evident in improved harvests, increased income, and strengthened food security. Beyond economics, SRI encourages sustainable farming practices, empowering farmers to adapt to climate change while promoting environmentally friendly and efficient rice production in their communities.

Vermi-composting, promoted under the AMIA program, is an eco-friendly technology that uses earthworms to convert organic waste into nutrient-rich compost. The process accelerates the breakdown of farm residues, kitchen waste, and crop by-products through microbial activity enhanced by earthworm digestion. The resulting vermi-compost is rich in nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and beneficial microorganisms, improving soil fertility, structure, and water retention. Farmers benefit from healthier crops, reduced dependency on chemical fertilizers, and lower production costs. Beyond boosting productivity, vermi-composting supports sustainable agriculture, reduces environmental pollution, and strengthens farmers' capacity to manage organic waste efficiently while enhancing long-term soil health.


um Phosphate
(Calphos)
1000 ml

Organic vegetable production under the AMIA program emphasizes growing vegetables without synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, or genetically modified inputs, relying instead on natural methods like composting, biofertilizers, and integrated pest management. This approach enhances soil fertility, preserves biodiversity, and reduces chemical residues in food, promoting both environmental and human health. Farmers benefit from safer, higher-value produce, lower input costs, and access to niche markets for organic products. The practice strengthens climate resilience by improving soil structure, water retention, and nutrient cycling, while empowering communities to adopt sustainable, eco-friendly farming systems that ensure food security and long-term agricultural productivity.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Bokashi technology, promoted under the AMIA program, is an anaerobic fermentation process that converts organic waste into nutrient-rich soil amendments using effective microorganisms (EM). Unlike traditional composting, Bokashi ferments food scraps, crop residues, and farm by-products in a sealed container, producing a pre-compost that is later buried or added to soil. This method retains more nutrients, accelerates decomposition, and enhances microbial diversity in the soil. Farmers benefit from improved soil fertility, increased crop growth, and reduced reliance on chemical fertilizers. Bokashi promotes sustainable farming, efficient waste management, and climate-resilient agriculture by turning organic residues into valuable resources for productive and healthy farms.


BABUYANG WALANG AMOY

The Babuyang Walang Amoy technology, promoted under the AMIA program, is an innovative, environmentally friendly pig-raising method that eliminates foul odors from pigpens. Using a combination of microbial additives, proper waste management, and feed optimization, this system accelerates the decomposition of manure while reducing harmful gases. Farmers benefit from healthier pigs, cleaner farm environments, and reduced labor and production costs. Beyond improving farm hygiene, the technology allows safe integration of livestock with other farm enterprises, enhances income through sustainable pig production, and promotes climate-resilient, eco-friendly farming practices that protect both human health and the surrounding environment.

The Native Chicken Technology, supported by the AMIA program, focuses on raising indigenous chicken breeds using improved, sustainable practices. By combining proper housing, balanced feeding with locally available resources, and disease management, the technology enhances growth, egg production, and overall flock health. Farmers benefit from higher-quality meat and eggs, increased income, and reduced dependence on commercial inputs. Native chicken farming also strengthens climate resilience due to the birds' adaptability to local conditions. This technology promotes sustainable livestock production, preserves local breeds, supports food security, and empowers farmers to integrate small-scale poultry into diversified farming systems for long-term economic and environmental benefits.


TRAINING ON SLOPING AGRICULTURAL LAND TECHNOLOGY (SALT)
Integration of Crops and Livestock
September 9-10, 2025


AMIA VILLAGE PONTEVEDRA
AMIA KIOSK
AMIA Village Organic Farmers Association
AVOFA
Fresh
Vegetable & Fruits


AMIA PRODUCT DEPOT


BLACK RICE
₱80.00/KG.
RED RICE
₱65.00/KG.
ELOYTE WHITE RICE
₱60.00/KG.
RC 222
₱55.00/KG.
MALIDO WHITE RICE
₱85.00/KG.
R1
Scaling of Rice Technologies
SYSTEM OF RICE INTENSIFICATION
Organically-grown Rice Production
Turnover of Palay Vending Kiosk
To Estancia AMIA Village Farmers
Association
















AMIA Team

CARMELITA C. FANTILANAN

CHRYSTAL JANE L. ALMENDRALEJO

JOCIE V. MANANGAN

RODOLFO C. GRANA JR.

EDRALYN SEÑEREZ

JEHANN Q. PITOGO

JEPEE A. PALMA

CHERIE RIZALYN B. MINA

MA. RITCHEL C. ALMERIA

JINEVEB S. SIVA

RATIS Writers and Photographers

JAMES EARL OGATIS MARIA CORAZON BUALA AILEEN JOY SUBADE GEORGIA MAE CORDOVA

Department of Agriculture - Western Visayas
Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture
Iloilo City, Philippines

Connect with us:
(033) 335-3423
da6loms2021@gmail.com
westernvisayas.da.gov.ph
facebook.com/DepartmentofAgriculture-WesternVisayas