

Abstract

SESSION 2:

Accelerating Actions for Sustainable Development and Climate Change

WORKSHOP 2.1:

Scaling up ICM: Innovations and Impacts at Local, National and Regional Levels



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**Global Targets
Local Benefits**

Setting the Sustainable Development Agenda for the Seas of East Asia beyond 2015

Alternative Platform for Addressing Poverty and Hunger in Coastal Communities: Experiences from the Philippines

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This paper describes the experience of WorldFish in implementing the Aquatic Agriculture Systems (AAS) Program in the Visayas-Mindanao (VisMin) Hub in the Philippines. First, it presents the AAS program as an alternative platform for development in coastal communities in the country, especially to address poverty and hunger. Then, it describes the use of the AAS approach in project implementation, and in partner and community engagement.

The AAS program enabled the kind of community voice, support, and participation that is necessary for sustainable long-term results. Community members affirm ownership of their action plans and have committed to pursuing the priorities they have identified for the development of their community and livelihoods.

Earlier development initiatives were commonly prescriptive and often, community action ended with the project closing. Unlike these, AAS community initiatives revolved around self-determined priorities of productivity, markets and governance. These initiatives mesh within a reflexive knowledge sharing and learning context, thus, enhancing the potential for continuity and sustainability of the initiative.

Partners willing to support the community action plans represent a vital component of the AAS approach. As such, community initiatives aligned with the partners' existing community development strategies and/or programs.

The Theory of Change guided the planning for the AAS initiatives. All participants had to understand explicitly the steps required for long-term changes. The ToC process allowed the team to assess what it can influence, what impact it can have, and whether the goal is realistic given the resources available.

Scaling out and up of the AAS approach is a major final output of the program. During its regular reflections, the team identified lessons from its experience that could be picked up and brought to other sites or projects. These "portables" represent the team's learning that it then applies forward to improve its practice of the AAS approach and methodologies, as well as, enhance the processes it employs in scaling.

About Lily Ann D. Lando:

Dr. Lily Ann D. Lando is a Scientist at WorldFish and led the Productivity Research Initiative of the Aquatic Agriculture System (AAS) Program. She was part of the community immersion team for the AAS and led the program activities in Southern Leyte. Prior to this assignment, she was Country Communications Officer.

She graduated in 1985 with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (*cum laude*) and in 1994 with a Masters in Science both majoring in plant pathology at the Benguet State University. She earned her Ph.D. also in Plant Pathology, from the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Before joining WorldFish, she was Chief Science Research Specialist at the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD).