

Celebrating the International Farmer Innovation 2015

In November, IIRR conducted two activities that encourage farmers to learn and share from one another. Seventeen farmers from Guinayangan, Quezon participated in a **roving workshop** where a special emphasis on coffee and cacao technologies was given. A **farmers' learning event** was also conducted where seventy farmers gathered and learn about innovations in livestock management from farmer trainers.

Roving Workshop for Coffee and Cacao Technologies

By: Ruel Jordan, Local Community Facilitator Quezon



Sharing of information about cacao farming

Seventeen (17) farmers from 6 barangays in Guinayangan together with the OMA technician and IIRR Staff attended the roving workshop for coffee and cacao farmers last November 12-13, 2015. The roving workshop was designed as a training program wherein farmers learn and test for themselves innovations on climate smart agricultural practices through farmer-to-farmer learning approaches. The activity also aims to surface issues in the cacao and coffee sectors and identify areas of improvement and development.

The roving workshop's first stop was the Livelihood Center of the Yen Center. Here the farmers learned about the Innovations in goat raising, tilapia and azola production, upland rice farming and agroforestry.



Planning for cacao and coffee activity

A visit to the Municipality of Amadeo provided a face to face interaction with a cacao farmer that provided critical information on the characteristics of cacao and different varieties. Mr. Pablito Tonua, Manager of a cooperative named Alfonso Tablea Chocolate, further provided information on various systems for cacao production to maximize land and production potential. He shared that it's best to grow cacao with kakawate (*Gliricidia sepium*) to act as shade while at the same time cultivate black pepper to complete the system. He also provided information on

financial support for cacao production. The World Bank is one of the institutions supporting production and the Land Bank of the Philippines provides loan to farmers.

Farmers also had the opportunity to visit Barangay Minantok Silangan also in Amadeo, Cavite. Here they interacted with Mr. Teodoro Dela Cruz who owns a coffee farm. He shared his expertise in rejuvenating old coffee trees through proper pruning. He emphasized the value of pruning, right spacing, fertilizing, maintenance, choosing best variety and various systems to maximize production and land.

The roving workshop proved to be an innovative way of learning as farmers identified the following “take home” learning and experiences they would apply as they go back:

- Pepper could also be planted not only by seeds but also by buds
- Typhoon is one of the major challenge in pepper production
- Proper application of fertilizer to coffee and pruning for a good yield
- Intercropping, the need to diversify not only to maximize use of land but increase productive capacity of farm
- There is a big opportunity to go into coffee and cacao production as there is a supply gap
- Planting hybrid variety of pepper and kakawate to serve as medium for pepper to vine with while serving as natural fertilizer
- Market information is critical

Farmers innovating Livestock Management

By: Melchor Satira, IIRR Intern in Quezon

On November 26, 2015, a farmer’s learning event was organized with 70 farmers from 7 villages (37 male and 33 female) in Barangay Arbismen Guinayangan, Quezon. The event was led by farmer co-operators who have been growing native pigs for more than a year as facilitated by IIRR. Together the farmers studied the history of swine production in Guinayangan and identified production and market issues. The farmer trainers shared proper management systems such as using available alternative feeds and proper housing.

