

Celebration of Farmer innovation Day and SRI Learning Group Reflection Workshop, November 29, 2014

For the second year, the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) in partnership with the local government of Guinayangan, Quezon celebrated farmer innovation day by honouring farmers who continue to promote sustainable approaches and innovation in their farms and in the management of resources. An exhibit of these approaches was put on display to raise awareness and knowledge on these available innovations. Sixty (60) farmers attended the event.

Rice farmers who practiced systems of rice intensification and low external input rice production shared a significant decreased in their cost as they reduced seedling requirement to more than 60%. Generally they claim that production cost has decreased to 30-40% percent. Many also acknowledged that manifestations of climate change through observed weather variability has affected their agricultural production.

The use of green leaf manure has reduced their dependence to synthetic fertilizers. Many also installed their own rain water harvesting to address irrigation needs.

Meanwhile livestock farmers proved through their stories that goats are not nuisance with proper management and that swine raising can be inexpensive through alternative housing and feeding.

Mostly fishing villages are reluctant to plant mangroves as storm protection as it gets in the way of their fishing boats. However a group of fishermen from one coastal village narrated how they were able to modify their way of growing mangroves. They adopted straight and row planting to provide enough space for their boats to pass and dock.

Mrs. Gloria Macaraig said that she is not really interested in SRI but then she saw the bountiful harvest of her neighbour who practiced SRI even in dry season. She experimented on her land and very anxious that her husband will blame her for their loss but then they harvest 99kgs in their 100 sq m of land. Now she is confident with her plants and do SRI in all her 1 ha of rice fields. She emphasizes the ECONOMIC value of doing the system of rice intensification. Meanwhile Ka Pepe Buno of Sintones is very much pleased with the outcome of doing SRI in Rice planting. He is one of the participants that attended the training in Mindoro. Besides the fact that he saves in planting seedlings, he also saves in the fertilizer application.

Aling Connie Alfiler, a farmer from Himbubulo Weste, an upland village in Guinayangan, started with just 2 goats. Now she has 11 and sold 4 goats. Her management practice of confined system and establishing an intensive feed garden resulted to the fast multiplication of the goats as the ruminants are more healthy compared to the iterant system. With this system she can use their urine and feces as organic inputs.



These innovations were celebrated and promoted during the market day in the municipality. Farmers and other people from the community became curious; some even stayed and heard the testimonies of their peers as they delayed their marketing chore.