

Narrative Report

Project Title	Expanding involvement of Farmers Organizations in Public Programs: Generating Employment and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture
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Summary of the activities done, the results and recommendations

The project “*Expanding involvement of Farmers’ Organizations (FOs) in Public Programs Generating Employment and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture*” was undertaken with two major objectives. First, it was to support the involvement of PAKISAMA, AFA member in the Philippines, in its involvement in the institutional food purchase program of the Philippine government. Second, to increase awareness on institutional food purchase among selected AFA members in the Southeast region and thus increase the likelihood that they too will engage in similar advocacy with their governments. Collectif Strategies Alimentaires supported both this project and the PAKISAMA project.

The project activities were done at local, national and regional levels. Highlights of the activities done and their main results included:

- Technical assistance to PAKISAMA through the conduct of project orientation meeting, project coordination and monitoring visits at local level, facilitation of meetings between PAKISAMA local staff and local executives of PAHP (Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty, the government’s institutional food purchase pilot project) and co-organizing with PAKISAMA a national workshop on PAHP. These activities helped AFA and PAKISAMA project implementors to level off on project deliverables and reportorial requirements, ensure satisfactory project implementation, and reflect on the challenges and lessons learned on farmers’ engagement with institutional food purchase.
- Conduct of a regional knowledge sharing and learning workshop on institutional food purchase, held last Nov 24, in Quezon City, participated in by more than 110 delegates from 80 organizations: Local and 4 National Farmers’ Organizations from Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Brazil, 8 partners’ organizations (AsiaDHRRA, Trias, We Effect, CSA and 3 from government agencies, the UN-FAO and the World Food Program from FOs, CSOs, government, INGOs, and agri-agencies operating in Asia. The regional workshop was preceded by a trip to Camarines Sur to visit farmers groups MOARC and PDCI, held Nov 22, 2015; and a roundtable discussion the day after with local farmers groups and government implementors of PAHP, held last Nov 23, 2015, also in Camarines Sur. The field visits, roundtable discussion and the regional workshop helped participants to (1) be aware of the basic features and success factors of the Brazil Zero Hunger Program which has inspired PAHP; (2) be updated on the current status and achievements of PAHP, (3) describe the challenges and opportunities for farmers to engage in PAHP, (4) outline the recommendations for a better PAHP and (5) for the other AFA member organizations, to make some plans on how to start its advocacy work on institutional food purchase.
- Four knowledge products produced: (1) desk research report on experiences of selected countries on institutional/public procurement, (2) case documentation of PAKISAMA members’ experiences in engaging with institutional food purchase, (3) video documentation on PAKISAMA’s engagement with PAHP and (4) issue paper, entitled “Making Public Procurement Work for Asian small scale Family Farmers”, which was written based on the desk research, the PAKISAMA experience with PAHP and the national and international workshops conducted under this project cooperation. As of this writing, the issue paper is being printed and translated in three languages: Filipino (Philippines), Bahasa (Indonesia) and Vietnamese. Five hundred copies of the English and translated versions will be printed; the translated versions will be distributed to the FOs leaders at the grassroots level to increase awareness on institutional food purchase. These KM products will increase the visibility of the work of PAKISAMA, AFA and CSA on institutional food purchase and will help disseminate important information and guides

in advocating for policies and programs on the issue. The issue paper can guide other FOs as they try to engage their governments in public procurement.

Major recommendations to government to make PAHP more effective include (1) Come-up with the legal framework to institutionalize PAHP program such as the enactment of the National Food Security Bill; (2) strengthen capacities of smallholder farmers in production technology, in processing of their produce and in negotiating with PAHP local authorities for better prices of their produce; (3) provide Credit /financing support to participating farmers groups; (4) adopt the menu to what local farmers can produce in their fields; (5) simpler /farmer-friendly requirements and processes for farmers groups to enter into marketing agreements with PAHP implementors ; (6) conduct the pilot sites in areas where organized farmers groups are existing and (7) ensure significant participation of national and local FOs/CSOs in program implementation not just as beneficiaries but also as decision makers in the design, strategies, and activities of PAHP.

Specific recommendations for FOs included (1) ensure compliance with legal requirements such as proper registrations and business permits; (2) maximize FAO Zero hunger program at the country level through regular dialogues with FAO Country Program Office to get information about zero hunger program (3) Continue advocacy work for more government support to smallholder farming families through institutional food purchase; (4) organize to meet both production and market demands of PAHP programs as well as get fairer terms of agreements .

Specific recommendations at the ASEAN level include: (1) Engage with ASEAN such as in AMAF/ AMRDPE/SOMRDPE to include in AFOSP Cooperation with the ASEAN Foundation; (2) Organize a regional event on institutional purchase dovetailed to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Cooperatives; (3) Conduct learning visits among member states; and (4) Strengthen partnership with FAO, WFP and IFAD by organizing/conducting side events on Institutional Purchase during ASEAN meetings.

Rationale

The project, ***Expanding involvement of Farmers' Organizations (FOs) in Public Programs Generating Employment and Promoting Sustainable Agriculture***, was aimed to promote employment-environmental economic initiatives. It was implemented mainly to support PAKISAMA, AFA member in the Philippines, in its advocacy for better involvement of FOs in the government's institutional food purchase program, also supported by CSA. This project specifically aimed to: (1) facilitate dialogue between FOs and concerned governments at the local, national, and regional levels towards promoting public purchase programs and ensuring FOs' involvement in such programs; (2) provide a venue for the sharing of lessons collectively; and (3) build on good practices in terms of FOs' involvement in public food purchase programs. In so doing, relevant experiences on institutional food purchases would be shared and capitalized. Support to PAKISAMA was envisioned to be in the form of technical assistance and knowledge product development. This project also aimed to increase the awareness on institutional food purchase of several other AFA members, namely API in Indonesia, FNN in Cambodia and VNFU in Vietnam, in the hope that they will then be inspired to do similar advocacy work with their governments on generating employment-environment economic activities with FOs.

Chapter 1. Project's progress

Main activities led for each of the results aimed in the logic frame

Activities conducted during project implementation were as follows:

1. Project coordination

At the start of the project, AFA conducted an orientation meeting with PAKISAMA staff. During project implementation, AFA also coordinated with PAKISAMA local staff, with consultants for the knowledge products (desk research, issue paper and video production), and with co-organizers for the field visits, roundtable discussion and regional learning workshop. Coordination was done through skype, email, phone calls, meetings and field visits.

The orientation meeting helped put on "the same page" AFA and PAKISAMA leaders and staff involved in the project implementation, leveling off on project deliverables and reportorial requirements. Also, the coordination activities served as opportunities for both "project monitoring" (checking implementation on the ground), as well as for technical assistance: e.g. in the identification of project sites for pilot testing of the institutional purchase program. The coordination activities helped ensure that project activities were in accordance with the project deliverables and commitments.

2. Knowledge product development:

- *Desk research of different initiatives on institutional purchase program at the country and regional levels (e.g., Asia, Europe, and US). A first draft was presented during a national workshop held March 2015. The second draft was presented during the regional learning workshop held November 2015. This desk research broadened the knowledge of PAKISAMA project staff and leaders on the importance of public procurement programs for food security and the scope and extent of its implementation in other countries. The new knowledge helped PAKISAMA situate its activities in the regional and global advocacy on public procurement. It also helped them in formulating concrete actions on ground and some policy recommendations at the national level. See Annex 1: Desk Research on Institutional Purchase*
- *Case documentation of experiences of PAKISAMA's local member organizations/FOs in engaging in government institutional purchase, featuring the following components: (1) cluster/coop enterprise strengthening; (2) production and productivity enhancement; (3) market enhancement; (4) policy and governance; and (5) knowledge management. Through this case documentation, others can learn from the experience of the PAKISAMA farmers groups. PAKISAMA can also refer to knowledge generated from this case documentation as it tries to explore possible common actions, and provide feedback to government on the PAHP program. See Annex 2 Case documentations of FO pilot test on Institutional Purchase.*
- *Video on institutional purchase program and PAKISAMA's local member organizations' experiences in pilot-testing the program. As of this writing, the video is being finalized. It highlighted the FOs' process of engagement, issues, challenges, and opportunities to improve existing program and framework to institutionalize the program for the benefit of farmers, particularly smallholders, and FOs engaged in economic activities. The video can increase the visibility of the PAKISAMA experience in engaging in the food purchase program of government. As of this writing, the video is still a work in progress. It will be uploaded in the website, targeting to be finished by end May 2016. See Annex 3 first script of video documentation*

- AFA Issue paper on *Public Procurement: Making Public Procurement Program Work for Asian Family Farmers* based on desk research on public procurement, as well as on the results of the field visits, national and regional knowledge sharing and learning workshop. As of this writing, the issue paper is being printed and translated in three languages: Filipino (Philippines), Bahasa (Indonesia) and Vietnamese. Five hundred copies of the English and translated versions will be printed; the translated versions will be distributed to the FOs leaders at the grassroots level to increase awareness on institutional food purchase. These KM products will increase the visibility of the work of PAKISAMA, AFA and CSA on institutional food purchase and will help disseminate important information and guides in advocating for policies and programs on the issue. The issue paper can guide other FOs as they try to engage their governments in public procurement. *See Annex 4 Issue Paper on Public/Institutional Purchase.*

3. Technical assistance

The following were the various forms of technical assistance AFA extended to PAKISAMA:

- Provision of inputs/interventions during meetings, field visits, planning, and implementation of pilot test project in PAKISAMA's selected sites/areas. Criteria for selection of sites were discussed and agreed on, tips on how to establish price of product including the added benefit of organic product, strategy session with Bicol staff at the farmer level such as identification of cooperator and production planning while negotiating with the local executives.
- Assistance in the preparation for a meeting/networking with the local executives and actual networking/meeting with respective heads of offices in four municipalities for pilot-test project implementation (e.g., Municipal and Social Development Officers in Pasacao, Libmanan, Pamplona and San Fernando and local chief executive in Pamplona). In addition, AFA assisted in coordinating with the Office of Congresswoman Leni Robredo where AFA introduced AFA and PAKISAMA pilot projects on institutional purchase and got updates of their pilot sites under PAHP project. . Since the program was still at the start-up stage, there were no significant lessons yet and they committed to invite PAKISAMA for field visit once they have already established their pilot sites.
- Conduct of field visit/meeting with PADC (a PAKISAMA affiliate in Bicol region) to discuss and assess its organizational preparedness to engage in the market through the government/public food purchase program. As a result of the meeting, PADC realized they needed to comply with legal requirements (such as a permit to operate, registration with Cooperative Development Authority) and made plans to do so. AFA staff monitored PAKISAMA local staff in the latter's assistance to PADC's registration
- Conduct of meeting with/visit to PECUARIA to explore opportunities to revive the local marketing of its organic rice in addition to its already existing local markets, including in Manila, in cooperation with its distributors and partners/networks. On institutional market, PDCI expressed interest to engage in the government purchase program and support PADC upon contract signing on institutional purchase, particularly in supplying organic inputs on a term basis towards on time delivery of produce.
- Assistance to PAKISAMA in organizing the national forum on institutional purchase program on 31 March 2015. In this forum, AFA (1) presented the desk research results highlighting the initiatives on institutional/government purchase program in Asia, Europe, and the US; (2) facilitated some of the sessions; (3) contacted translators for the Brazilian resource persons; (4) facilitated skype session with Brazilian resource person and (5) synthesized the results of the discussion. The forum opened up other opportunities for PAKISAMA to access support fund from the DSWD program on Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP). Also in the forum, resource persons discussed the

following criteria for a successful institutional purchase program of goods local people products: (1) harmonize with other government programs to address hunger and support smallholder farmers (producers); (2) clear directions and principles reflected to the legal framework and implementing rules and regulations; (3) other forms of program support, such as investment in capacity building/credit/ insurance/pricing policy; (4) close coordination and collaboration approach of all stakeholders involved at the municipal, provincial, and national levels; (5) assurance of social participation (for public consumer awareness, media); (6) political will created by pressure from social movement ; and (7) Farmers' Organization (FO) voices, claim making, relaying information, and lobbying for policy support.

Recommendations given were: (1) take opportunities to maximize existing openings at the local government; (2) work for legal instruments on institutional purchase from farmers; and (3) push for a review of the Partnership against Hunger and Poverty (PAHP) program, a convergence program led by DAR in cooperation with DSWD and the Office of Congresswoman Leni Robredo.

4. Conduct of Regional Knowledge Sharing and Learning Workshop

AFA co-organized with PAKISAMA a regional knowledge sharing and learning workshop on institutional food purchase, held last Nov 24, in Quezon City, participated in by more than 110 delegates from 80 organizations: Local and 4 National Farmers' Organizations from Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Brazil, 8 partners' organizations (AsiaDHRRA, Trias, We Effect, CSA and 3 from government agencies, the UN-FAO and the World Food Program from FOs, CSOs, government, INGOs, and agri-agencies operating in Asia. The regional workshop was preceded by a trip to Camarines Sur to visit farmers groups MOARC and PDCI, held Nov 22, 2015; and a roundtable discussion the day after with local farmers groups and government implementors of PAHP, held last Nov 23, 2015, also in Camarines Sur.

AFA convened preparatory meetings with PAKISAMA and CSA to discuss and finalize programmatic and logistical concerns, including list of participants, resource persons, program, and sites to be visited, and process of preparing the farmers groups for the field visits. Both AFA and PAKISAMA conducted ocular visits to the farmers groups to be visited as well as visited the DARPO office in Camarines Sur to coordinate the program at the local level.

a. Field visits to MOARC and PDCI (November 22, 2015). The field visit was participated in 14 participants (7women/7men), with representation from CSA (2: 1man/1 woman), FAO Rome (2: 1man/1 woman), Brazil FO FETRAF (1/men), PAKISAMA (4: 2 men/2 women), and AFA (2Secretariat, 2-Vietnam, 1-Indonesia: 3 women/2men). Two visited sites were: (1) May-Ogob Agrarian Reform Cooperative (MOARC) in Ocampo; and (2) the Pecuaría Development Cooperative (PDCI) in Bula, both towns in Camarines Sur province. Also invited to the field visit was Clemente Estrada, Chairperson of Golden Parauma Producers Cooperative (GPCC).

May-ogob Agrarian Reform Cooperative (MOARC) is formerly the Samahang Nayon Association organized in 1990's and then it was re-organized and registered as cooperative. Barangay May-ogob was classified as one of the Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) in 1997 by the Department of Agrarian Reform. It was selected as one of the PAHP pilot areas in the second congressional district in Camarines Sur. MOARC members are also program beneficiaries of DAR-ARCCES since 2013. MOARC involvement with PAHP is more advanced as compared to other 7 pilot areas in Camarines Sur. Farmers involved are already into organic vegetable production (based on their learnings from the training extended by the

DA-Shell foundation) and are marketing their produce to day care centers and consumers in the locality.

The visit with MOARC started with a plenary session at the barangay hall of May-ogob where local PAHP implementors and MOARC leaders took turns in describing the program's activities and results. Then, the participants visited two farms: of Clara Toralde and of Crisologo Abano, the coop members-adopters who were trained on organic farming system by Shell Foundation. They established their backyard vegetable garden following the techniques they learned from the training. Each adopter maintains 500 square meters divided into 10 plots at 5x10sq meters.

The field visit to MOARC examined the "supply side" of the PAHP program. The visits aimed also to learn from their experiences in engaging with PAHP, to know the challenges they faced. On the other hand, farmers from other Asian countries can also assess if they can conceptualize and initiate this kind of program and advocate with their government.

Discussions focused on components of family farms supplying day care/school feeding programs; technical, extension, business management, and marketing; impacts on farmers' income; problems and difficulties encountered; and recommendations to improve the institutional food purchase program, such as menu for day care feeding program.

Some of the reflections/learnings and action points shared during the field visit interactions were:

- MOARC has a good working relationship with the government agencies such as DAR, DSWD and DA and is responsive to supports extended by government agencies, such as capacity building (farmers trained on organic vegetable farming technology, organic fertilizer production, etc) and linking them to market. This enabled them to enhance their capability to produce organically grown vegetables, which they can supply to day care centers and in their locality.
- MOARC, through the women members, decided to offer organic vegetable as an entry point to engage with PAHP. They think that this will further benefit children as they will be provided safe and nutritious foods in the daycare's feeding program, where some of their children also are beneficiaries. However, MOARC, still need to formalize arrangement with the daycare centers so as to have assurance of a market for their organic produce upon harvest.
- Mr. Celso, from FETRAF Brazil, emphasized to MOARC leaders that they need to organize themselves and plan well to ensure and sustain quality supply of organic vegetable required by the market, especially the day care centers. e.g. capacity to plan and grow vegetables based on menu. A good thing is that DSWD is open to adjust the menu based on available vegetables in the farm.
- MOARC will seriously plan to establish community food hub where members can easily bring their produce. It wants to supply the whole food requirement of the feeding program, not only organic vegetable.
- Reflections from other participants include: (1) VNFU representative learned about organic vegetable production; (2) API noted the good relationship between local government authorities and the farmers groups; and will also explore and initiate similar program with "allied" local government units; (3) a leader from PADC, a member of PAKISAMA, was inspired by the MOARC experience and

The Pecuaría Development Cooperative (PDCI) is an agri-cooperative with a total membership of 426 Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries. It registered with the Cooperative Development Authority in 1991. Under the CARP program, each member was awarded with 1.8 hectares of farm lot and 600 square meters of home lot. The major crops planted are sugarcane and rice. The major products of PDCI are organic rice of different variants (such as red, black, white and brown), organic fertilizer and organic garden soil. Organic rice produced is sold directly by the cooperative locally (province and region) at the major supermarket chain, institutions and walk-in buyers who are health conscious. The Global Organic and Wellness Corporation (GLOWCorp) where PDCI is one of the founding shareholders, is handling the marketing and distribution in major supermarket chains in Metro Manila and other nearby areas, as well as export market. The cooperative farmer members' producing organic rice is supported by the coop enterprise such as training and input support. This is directly extended to members and other organic farmer practitioners in Bicol region. All organic products of the cooperative were certified by the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines, one of the accredited local certifying bodies in the country.

The Pecuaría field visit explored possible support at the "supply side" and how Pecuaría could help push for government food purchase program. The coop chairperson, Antonio Badong, gave an orientation on Pecuaría. Miller Bicaldo, the general manager, presented the status of the cooperative business operation. He said that the cooperative had previously supplied organic rice to government offices such as the Land bank, SSS and Pag-ibig as rice subsidy to employees. They also joined in the bidding process for organic fertilizer to DA as subsidy to farmers. They underwent the rigorous bidding process and the problem was that the Cooperative couldn't sell organic rice lower than the commercial rice. Currently, majority of PDCI buyers are private institutions. It could not meet the demand of most buyers because of lack of supply. Organic practitioners were minimal. The issue of "pole vaulting" among PDCI associate members trained in organic rice production exacerbated the situation. Meanwhile, Jhun Cabal, Internal Control System (ICS) coordinator, explained the need for organic rice production and sustainability of supply.

Compared to MOARC, Pecuaría Development Cooperative is advanced in terms of organic farming technology and internal control system. It also has an established market for their organic rice produce. This institutional purchase gave Pecuaría an opportunity to reconsider their marketing strategy- supply the local market through institutional purchase - as well as support the advocacy to institutionalize PAHP program and for the program to allocate budget so that farmers can build their capacities to sell on a cash basis.

b. Roundtable Discussion on Institutional purchase in Camarines Sur (Nov 23, 2015). A total of 31 delegates (16 females and 15 males) from FOs, CSOs, and local government authorities participated in the forum. Discussions focused on experiences in engaging with government institutional purchase both from Brazil under its Zero Hunger Program and Philippines under the PAHP. Discussions revealed the following:

(1) Agencies involved in the PAHP had no specific budget or additional funds for the program. They merely utilized their existing regular program funds to implement PAHP target activities. The DA, for example, provided support to PAHP by making accessible to farmers its different support services and programs upon submission of requirements, such as project proposal and pertinent documents.

(2) DAR, as lead agency, facilitated the implementation of PAHP partnering only with agrarian reform beneficiaries' organizations. It provided capacity building support through the ARCESS (ARC Connectivity Economic Support Services) program. Also, it provided support in marketing the farmers' produce by linking them to DSWD's feeding program in

daycare centers, with the signing of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) at the start of PAHP implementation in September 2013.

(3) PARPO (Provincial Agrarian Reform Program Officer) Gigi Sales shared the following DAR's action points on PAHP:

- Strengthen collaboration between suppliers.
- Activate convergence strategy among agencies.
- Provide capability development trainings.
- Look into possibility for replication.
- Ensure that government policies are geared towards the realization of achieving project objectives and targets.
- Provide a long-term road map for PAHP project.

Based on the shared experiences and PAHP program accomplishments, forum participants were asked to identify which program strategies to stop, start, and continue and determine the reasons for doing so.

In sum, all stakeholders agreed to continue PAHP highlighting the following action points:

- Determine the road map of PAHP and define solutions with an avenue for collaboration between government agencies and FOs;
- Strengthen collaboration/synergy among agencies to address farmers' needs;
- Organize farmers and build their capacity in handling business and managing institutional food purchase;
- Leverage support to farmers;
- Document lessons learned and best practices from pilot testing of PAHP program implementation for policy recommendation and collaboration;
- Farmers must manage demand and supply and government support is necessary.

c. Regional knowledge sharing and learning workshop (Nov. 24, 2015) - The workshop was participated in by more than 110 delegates from 80 organizations: Local and 4 National Farmers' Organizations from Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Brazil, 8 partners' organizations (AsiaDHRRA, Trias, We Effect, CSA and 3 from government agencies, the UN-FAO and the World Food Program from FOs, CSOs, government, INGOs, and agri-agencies operating in Asia. It aimed to do the following: (a) share and learn from experiences and initiatives and build on the good practices of FOs in institutional food purchase program; (b) learn and understand existing government institutional food purchase programs and policies and analyze mechanisms on how FOs can effectively engage in government food purchase program (e.g. Brazil experience); (c) learn and understand the institutional set-up to make institutional food purchase more effective and responsive to key stakeholders; (d) share good experiences of government actions on legislation; and (e) identify challenges, opportunities, and action points in improving farmers' engagement in government food purchase programs.

USEC Rosalinda Bistoyong delivered the keynote speech of the DAR Secretary. Identified in the keynote speech is the 's key role in providing smallholder farmers, mostly ARBs, an assured market for their produce while ensuring good quality, safe and nutritious food for their children in day care centers. The PAHP was initially implemented in the Bicol Region and was rolled out in Region 8, particularly in areas severely affected by Super Typhoon Yolanda, and in the Zamboanga peninsula where problems associated to malnourishment and poverty were prevalent.

DAR reported that PAHP implementers (DSWD, DA and DAR) prepared a manual on community participation in the PAHP. The manual sets guidelines in procurement in government and identifies lessons from community-based development programs. It

presents how the community can participate as contractors or service providers under the scheme on negotiated procurements. It is expected to facilitate a more efficient procurement process in the PAHP upon its approval by the government's Procurement Board. The scheme though is still a proposal. Also reported was the progress of two related pieces of legislation -- National Food Security Act and Right to Adequate Food Framework Act.

Relevant information on institutional purchase was discussed, such as basic concept, criteria, principles, and governance structure, including enabling policy framework. Also discussed were implementing rules and regulations and activities and strategies towards a more effective and efficient implementation.

The case experience from Brazil, as shared by Mr. Celso of FETRAF, motivated farmers to engage with government in terms of getting an assured and sustainable market for their produce and support through programs and projects, such as in capacity building, financing, and others.

As a whole, the workshop was able to do the following: (1) clarify to the farmers/FOs certain issues about the program; (2) surface issues and areas of improvement in program implementation; (3) identify needs/interventions to achieve target results; and (4) recommend to the government to seriously implement the PAHP.

Issues in Program Implementation of PAHP were:

- Lack of info dissemination resulting to low awareness on PAHP program
- Lack of capacity to produce quality products and price is higher for organic products
- Rigid procurement process/Bidding process
- CSOs role not defined well in the PAHP implementation
- No legal framework, no budget allocated for the program
- Lack or no access to credit and pre-postharvest facilities
- Menu for feeding program of day care children are prepared by the national office

Some of the recommendations to government to make PAHP more effective were at the national level

- Come-up with the legal framework to institutionalize PAHP program, as well as provide an enabling policy environment, credit/financing support to smallholder farming families
- Capacity building support to smallholder farmers in terms of production technology, processing and to negotiate with better market
- Participation of FOs/CSOs along the process; Maximize FAO Zero hunger program at the country level
- Dialogue with FAO Country Program Office to get information about zero hunger program;
- Ensure FO representation in the TWG for PAHP;
- Include in the PAHP plan a learning visit in Brazil participated by concerned government representatives and FOs; and
- Push for actual cooperation and piloting; Continue advocacy work for more government support to small-scale FOs

At the regional/ASEAN level,

1. Engage with ASEAN such as AMAF/ AMRDPE/SOMRDPE
 - Include in AFOSP Cooperation with the ASEAN Foundation
 - Organize a regional event on institutional purchase dovetailed to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Cooperatives on April 2016; and
 - Possible learning visits among member state

2. Strengthen partnership with FAO, WFP and IFAD by organizing/conducting side event on Institutional Purchase

See Annex 5- Proceedings: International Knowledge Sharing and Learning Workshop on Institutional Purchase

Chapter2. Results evaluation

Progress towards the project's general and specific objectives

Global Objective: Produce arguments aiming the funding of institutional purchases project involving FO and supporting family farming

Indicators: Knowledge materials (case study, video documentation and issue paper) are produced and widely disseminated through website and distributed during international conferences

Results:

- Case study produced and presented during the regional knowledge sharing and learning workshop:
 - Documented the PAKISAMA experience on engaging government/public procurement in two sites: CNOFA in Kasiguran and PADC in Camarines Sur in partnership with Pecuaría Development Cooperative
 - -MOARC experience under PAHP program was included in the case study documentation as reference to the analysis of the program under PAHP vis PAKISAMA pilot test outside of the pilot areas of the convergence
- Video documentation (work-in-progress)
- Produced one Issue paper on Public Procurement: Making Public Procurement Programs Work for Asian Family Farmers and translated into three languages: Filipino, Bahasa and Vietnamese

Specific Objective 1. Facilitate the dialogue between FOs and government at various levels (local, national, regional) in order to promote public food purchase programs and to ensure the FO's involvement in those programs

Indicator: Number of government representatives present during the regional learning session: identified action points /way forward

Results:

a. At the roundtable discussion held Nov 23, 2015, there were four government representatives present (from DA, DAR, DSWD, Office of Congresswoman Leni Robredo) there was a total of 42 participants, majority of whom were farmers.

Based on the discussions, all stakeholders agreed to continue PAHP highlighting the action points below:

- Determine the road map of PAHP and define solutions. This can be an avenue for collaboration between government agencies and FOs;
- Strengthen collaboration/synergy among agencies involved to address farmers' needs;
- Organize farmers and build their capacity in handling business and managing institutional food purchase;
- Leverage support to farmers;
- Document lessons and best practices from pilot testing of PAHP program implementation for policy recommendation and collaboration;
- Farmers must manage demand and supply and government support is necessary.

b. At the regional level, there were five representatives from government (DA, DAR, DSWD, LBP); The workshop was participated in by more than 110 delegates from 80 organizations: Local and 4 National Farmers' Organizations from Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia and Brazil, 8 partners' organizations (AsiaDHRRA, Trias, We Effect, CSA and 3 from government

agencies, the UN-FAO and the World Food Program from FOs, CSOs, government, INGOs, and agri-agencies operating in Asia.

Workshop and plenary discussions revealed the following:

- Issues in Program Implementation of PAHP includes: lack of awareness on PAHP program, rigid procurement process/Bidding process, no legal framework and no definite budget to carry-out program activities, menu for feeding program of day care children are prepared by the national office. Issues related to supply side includes: farmers' lack of capacity to produce quality products and price is higher for organic products, Lack or no access to credit and pre-postharvest facilities. It was noted that CSOs role was not defined well in the IPP/PAHP implementation
- Recommendations to government to make PAHP more effective: 1) Come-up with the legal framework to institutionalize PAHP program, as well as provide an enabling policy environment; 2) Capacity building support to smallholder farmers in terms of production technology, processing and to negotiate with better market; 3) Credit /financing support; 4) Participation of FOs/CSOs along the process of program implementation. Also, maximize FAO Zero hunger program at the country level through dialogue with FAO Country Program Office to get information about zero hunger program. Continue advocacy work for more government support to smallholder farming families to ensure FO representation in the TWG of PAHP; include in the PAHP plans a learning visit in Brazil participated by concerned government representatives and FOs; and push for actual cooperation and piloting of institutional purchase.

At the regional/ASEAN level: 1) Engage with ASEAN such as AMRDPE/SOMRDPE to include in AFOSP Cooperation with the ASEAN Foundation; Organize a regional event on institutional purchase dovetailed to the ASEAN Ministerial Meeting in Cooperatives; Possible learning visits among member state. ; 2) Strengthen partnership with FAO, WFP and IFAD by organizing/conducting side event on Institutional Purchase

Specific Objective 2. Sharing lessons collectively and build on good practice in terms of FOs' involvement in public food purchase programs

Indicators: Lessons on public procurement identified and are expressed in demands/call for action to governments, FOs, NGOs during the regional learning session.

Results

The knowledge learned from the desk research, the national workshop last March 2015, the field visits, the roundtable discussion and the regional sharing workshop last November 2015, gave opportunities for PAKISAMA leaders and staff to interact with PAHP implementors at local and national levels, and come to a dialogue where the achievements and limitations of the current PAHP implementation are identified and recommendations for a better PAHP are articulated (see Chapters 1, sections 3 and 4 above). The lessons on institutional food purchase were also described in the issue paper.

What are the impacts of the project on the organization's strengthening and/or its member strengthening?

At AFA level, the project has helped increase knowledge and awareness of AFA members in Vietnam (VNFU), Indonesia (API) and Philippines (PAKISAMA) on institutional purchase: on different initiatives on institutional purchase specially the Brazil's zero hunger program; on the criteria and requirements needed towards its effective implementation; the required enabling policy environment especially the legal basis to institutionalize the program. Also, AFA members were able to understand the process of engagement as well as requirements for FOs towards effective engagement with government.

With knowledge they gained, VNFU and API could conceptualize a proposal by which to engage their government on institutional food purchase. PAKISAMA, on the other hand, could develop action plans in (1) modifying their strategy of engagement, (2) design their production systems to align with market requirements in supplying quality food products on a regular basis and (3) advocating for a legal framework on institutional food purchase that takes into consideration the factors for a successful program learned from this Project.

Some of the reflections and lessons learned:

- Government agencies were open minded to give the solution to the problem of community on hunger and poverty
- Organizing farmers to increase the purchasing power in the value chain
- Knowledge on different programs on agriculture and their stories from other countries
- Inspired on the international sharing specifically the Brazil experience, their real works and implementation of plans and programs;
- Collaboration and incredible support of Brazil government and also Philippine gov't to support institutional purchase program
- Encouragement and commitment of providing food and obtain zero hunger through institutional purchase
- The capacity to bring together in one venue with the relevant international agencies and donors, FOs and Phil government agencies, CSOs and FOs have helped in generating comprehensive analysis, recommendations and action plan.
- The proposed National Food Security bill of Congresswoman Leni Robredo is a very exciting bill for the poor/social protection. It will give a chance to poor family to alleviate their life. However, the Congress is soon to adjourn, and a new set of lawmakers will be elected in May 2016. Congresswoman Leni Robredo is running for Vice President. We hope a new set of lawmakers will sponsor a similar bill and eventually pass this in both houses of Congress.
- New learnings on institutional purchase and an opportunity to access on government procurement program
- Understand PAHP and other related topics
- Gather different inputs and strategy on institutional purchase program to other country will be useful in enhancing PAHP program
- There is a great potential for institutional food purchase to address poverty-related issues: low income, food security and malnutrition
- Advocacy of all participants to help peasant and marginal farmers to access support
- Social protection of farmers and children with malnutrition is at the heart of institutional purchase
- Opportunities for small farmers access to market but also the readiness of FOs has to be addressed
- Good to hear comparison between foreign and Phil situation as well as in the project implementation
- Complementation of support from the government lead agencies (DAR, DA and DSWD) and PO-NGO-CSO stakeholders support in the implementation

How can you apply the learnings you have acquired here?

- To help others who are experiencing hunger and poverty
- Vote for more farmer representatives in the party-list

- Sharing of learnings to coop members, apply in the community
- Engage family members to participate and inspire organization and the community
- Push for the formation of national union/or agricultural cooperative for the farmers to participate in the institutional/government purchase program
- Immediate formulation of plan in the area on how to engage school feeding program of DSWD-Daycare centers;
- Inform my colleagues and build some internal control policies that will lead to a new attitude toward being part of the organization
- Finding possibilities to propose our government to implement this kind of program that will help increase income of farmers while producing/supplying nutritious food to children – people and consumer
- Apply initiative in Vietnam, proposal for exchange visit to successful site like Brazil
- Together with the organization, continue to seek additional information and practices to enhance more knowledge and guidance on program implementation
- Promote the cooperative principles to the farmers’ association
- To get accreditation of LGU-local special bodies to push for the agenda of the farmers including the institutional food purchase program
- Promote PAHP to FOs and advocate for policy enhancement: legal frameworks
- Adopt knowledge /learning with our office program (social protection and support to family recipients of Conditional Cash Transfer Program (CCT) in region 12
- Inquire different local government agencies in the municipalities on how to supply organically grown rice
- Advocate the full implementation of PAHP
- Since we are in the actual implementation of PAHP/IPP acquired ideas will be taken into consideration for improved implementation of IPP
- Working together with the government and other institutions and farmers
- Will coordinate with DSWD in our municipality, discuss with IPP stakeholders and identify potential area for pilot testing
- Participate in the LSB in respective municipality

What impacts have had the activities of your organization and your organization member within the project on actors and or strategic elements of the context of action?

During the regional knowledge and sharing workshop, the government committed to review and revise the existing PAHP to engage more meaningfully farmers organizations at national and local levels in the design and implementation of the program. The March 2015 workshop paved the way for the participation of PAKISAMA president in the study tour to Brazil conducted by the government last July 2015. After the regional workshop, PAKISAMA also gave stronger commitment to push for the passage of pending bills authored by Rep. Leni Robredo in the House of Representatives. Meanwhile, FO members VNFU and API were encouraged to advocate with their government similar institutional food purchase programs.

Can you evaluate (in number) the ‘outreach’ of the whole project: the number of persons reached by the project, specifying the number of women.

Local	125 (F-37, M-88)
Sub-national	
National	30 (F-10, M-20)

Regional	110 (F-60, M-50)
International	
Total	265
Number of women	97 (40%)

Chapter 3. Comment briefly on the following issues (+- 1 page). Some information on:

- **The context in which the project started and the evolution of this context**

During the United Nations Summit of Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012, the Walloon Minister of Sustainable Development, Jean March Nollet, organized a parallel conference named "Employment-Environment Alliance: make improvement the environment as a source of economic opportunity, good practices and partnerships". The partners of Collectif Strategies Alimentaires, including AFA Secretary General who was present there, informed the Walloon Minister about the many initiatives undertaken by Civil Society in this regard. However, lacking was the initiatives' impact at the macro level. It was concluded that public authorities' intervention was necessary. Thus there was a need for a convergence, or stronger partnerships between government/public authorities and civil society to push through this kind of employment-environment Alliance policy.

AFA and PAKISAMA came to know of Brazil's zero hunger program through several international workshops convened by CSA. From this knowledge, AFA and PAKISAMA engaged allies in government and soon found out that the Philippine government was also studying the Brazil experience and had taken efforts to pilot this initiative. PAKISAMA then embarked on a project with CSA that aimed to strengthen its engagement and influence over policy framework and implementation of its pilot project on institutional food purchase. AFA then partnered with CSA to provide technical assistance and knowledge product development to PAKISAMA, to aid them in their work (of engaging the government) as well as to promote the new learnings on institutional food purchase to its members in the ASEAN region.

Public procurement is a potential market for smallholder farming families. There is a need to support farming families to get capacitated to enable them to engage in public procurement programs. There is a need to intensify policy advocacy towards institutionalization and provision of an enabling environment to optimize market opportunities.

- **The project's relevance for development (effectiveness, efficiency, coherence, relevance, sustainability)**

It is important that FOs' engagement in government procurement program is supported by necessary technical and financial assistance and enabling policy environment. . The project helped AFA member organizations, specifically PAKISAMA, to gain new knowledge and insights on public procurement programs from different experiences and initiatives, such as in Brazil and Philippines. With this new knowledge, its leaders would be able to strengthen their influence in enacting a "pro-small family farmer" law on institutional food purchases and in implementing a better PAHP.

- **Risk management in the project**

The main risk was if the government authorities at local and national levels would not want to engage the farmers groups and NGOs in their institutional food purchase program. This risk was managed through going through appropriate channels (allies in government), as well as inviting government officials in national workshops, roundtables

and regional learning and sharing sessions and making them co-organizers in these workshops.

- **Short-term effects of the realizations**

Through this Project, PAKISAMA, API and VNFU gained important knowledge on institutional food purchase. For PAKISAMA, it has strengthened its engagement in PAHP, at local and national levels. With new knowledge, for example on Brazil's zero hunger program, PAKISAMA became more confident and assertive in demanding to government to include farmers organizations (e.g. in the study tour to Brazil, in listening to FOs recommendations during the workshops). PAKISAMA member-FOs were able to explore possible areas of engagement with their respective LGUs to initiate or strengthen existing engagements to leverage programs and services supportive of FO-initiated marketing activities through institutional market (e.g., feeding program). More farmers are set to benefit upon the institutionalization of institutional purchase. Such institutionalization, however, would challenge farmers to produce good quality products and sustainably supply target markets, such as daycare centers, government offices, schools, hospitals, and others.

Chapter4. Questions on transversal themes: gender, environment, financial sustainability. For each theme, please answer to those different questions:

- *Does the project concern directly the transversal theme? (Through the general and specific objectives?)*

Yes, the project concerns directly the themes on environment and financial sustainability. Government institutional purchase of food produced sustainably (organically) helps strengthen FOs' capacity to produce organically, then supply and link to sustainable market, and this contributes to improving their capacity in enterprise and financial management. If successful, the pilot test would encourage other FOs to replicate or expand its existing initiatives to benefit more farmers. The project also talks about supporting family farmers, and this means, including women. The project is concerned about how many women have participated in the national and regional learning workshops. The project is also analytical on how many women were involved in the PAHP pilot project and the benefits that have accrued to the women farmers.

- *Is there a specific link between the project and the transversal theme? (Ex: activities(s) aiming at this objective)?*

Yes, the project has a specific link to financial sustainability. Once the farmers, through their groups, are able to negotiate and market directly to the government institutional purchase, farmers can earn considerable profit, as middlepersons are no longer involved. Profit will be shared between the farmer-supplier (margin) and the consumer (fair price). With more consumers patronizing organic products, farmers will be more motivated to practice organic farming, thus lessening, if not eliminating, the use of chemical inputs and pesticides harmful to both human beings and the environment. Such harmful inputs and pesticides have long-term adverse effects to farm productivity and financial sustainability.

- *Certain project activities give specific and relevant information on this transversal theme? If yes, please explain.*

Yes. First there is affirmative action for women: AFA and PAKISAMA targeted at least 30% women participation in the national workshop, roundtable discussion and regional learning workshop. Second, farmers groups who were visited, and who were encouraged to engage in PAHP were those committed to do sustainable, integrated, diversified, organic farming systems.

Chapter 5. Lessons Learned and recommendations for the upcoming years

The following are the lessons learned and corresponding recommendations for the upcoming years:

1. Lessons learned

Generally, the project activities were implemented and results were achieved as discussed per target activities. However, there were delays in the implementation due to some factors that were out of control by the project implementers such as FO capacity to engage business e.g. business permit, registration and licensing; natural calamities that hinder in the actual delivery of organic rice negotiated by CNOFA (a member of PAKISAMA) with the of Municipal Health Office (MHO) rigorous process of negotiating with the local executives in the case of Bicol.

- Clear criteria of pilot site selection should be taken into consideration to facilitate its program implementation.
- At project level, close coordination with the project implementers should be improved by regular updating, meetings (online and face-to-face)

There were challenges and difficulties along the process of project implementation as well as areas for improvement in terms of (1) coordination at the local and program level between PAKISAMA local staff and PAHP local authorities and (2) PAKISAMA's identified target areas/member farmers groups in pilot testing of institutional food purchase were not priority areas of PAHP program.

However, there were windows of opportunity where PAKISAMA, specifically its local members, can actively engage in the program since PAKISAMA has some member groups in some target areas of PAHP.

2. Recommendations for the upcoming years

- PAKISAMA should continue working with the local members and should follow-up with the local executives about their commitment to the proposed program. AFA will support in the follow-up through coordination with PAKISAMA local staff.
- Support for the passage of Congresswoman Leni Robredo's bill, the National Food Security Bill #6062 which will help CSOS/FOs formalize its involvement in the PAHP program implementation (from planning, implementation and evaluation) as stipulated in the HB#6062 on National Food Security Bill.
- AFA should work closely with PAKISAMA and other CSOs to advocate government to push for the approval of the bill.
- AFA to follow-up or provide assistance to API and VNFU who signified interest to do similar program in their country
- AFA to organize a regional event on institutional purchase dovetailed to an ASEAN meeting, in partnership with FAO, WFP and IFAD, to increase likelihood of more participation from top government officials.

3. These are lessons learned by PAKISAMA AND AFA, if we want to see our farmer groups maximizing opportunities from the Philippine government's PAHP:

- Institutional purchase (public procurement) is not new. It has existed for years. FOs, such as PECUARUA, has been selling their produce, such as rice, to government offices (e.g., SSS, LBP, Pag-Ibig, etc.) for their employees' subsidy. In this project, however, institutional purchase has become complex because it has aimed to address complex social issues, such as access to market and promoting organic products, specifically supplying nutritious and safe food to government's school feeding program aimed to address malnutrition among schoolchildren. Such arrangement poses a big challenge to

farmers, especially those yet to practice diversified organic farming, as such entails initial intensive labor and financial capital and slow but long-term recovery of investment due to the conversion period. Farmers need premium price for their products in order to recoup their investments. Organic products are usually sold to niche markets targeting A & B consumers. Pricing for organic produce is an area for policy advocacy to support farmers producing organically grown, safe and nutritious food products for school feeding programs. Institutional/public procurement program can be integrated into existing organic laws or related government programs and policies.

- Institutional purchase is a huge market opportunity for FOs. To maximize such opportunity, the government should have clear mechanisms and legal frameworks to guide local executives in implementing specific programs and/or projects on the matter and other stakeholders, specifically smallholders farming families, in accessing and engaging in such programs and/or projects.
- The opportunity to engage in government purchase program is quite good for farmers doing commodity-cluster organizing that directly links specific demand for products to markets. More farmers can access such markets at lower transaction costs (logistics and other delivery costs) and help the local economy as local products supply/feed the local people.
- The opportunity for farmers to engage in institutional purchase is huge. But in order to significantly participate in and maximize such opportunity, FOs should address first the capacity building needs of leaders to engage in the process; negotiate for better terms (fair price and COD); manage enterprise; leverage support to strengthen farmers to produce quality food products on a regular basis; and comply with all legal requirements (registration, receipts, etc.).
- FOs involved in the project are into organic farming and are registered as associations, which do not allow them to do business. They needed to get registered as cooperatives in order to engage in business activity. Length of time for FOs to prepare and submit documents for registration with the CDA was underestimated. FOs already involved in marketing activities should have been selected as project participants in the first place. Problems on delays in delivery of supply resulting from lack of capacity of supplier to meet demand and produce at lower price could have been avoided.
- Public procurement/institutional purchase could be a marketing option or integrated in the existing marketing strategies of FOs in agri-enterprises as well as in policy advocacy for government to enact or pass new laws on the institutionalization of poverty eradication programs, such as institutional purchase, for the benefit of smallholder farming families.

Chapter6. Financial report

Please compare the total budget and the final budget. Please give the explanations for the differences. To be furnished by second week of May 2016.

Annexes to the Narrative Report

- Annex 1. Desk Research on Public Procurement
- Annex 2. Proceedings of the International workshop on Institutional Purchase program
- Annex 3 first script of video documentation
- Annex 4. Case studies: PAKISAMA pilot test project on Institutional Purchase program and MOARC experience of engaging PAHP program
- Annex 5. Issue Paper on Public Procurement