



development academy of the philippines

Center for Governance

(Center)

2024 PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

I. Project Information

Project Code: CPRFG

Project Title: Assessing the Effectiveness of Selected Farmers' Information and Technology Services Centers in Delivering Information to Local Farmers

Project Start: 25 September 2023

Project End: 30 September 2024

Project Price: Php 4,400,000.00

Client Organization: Agricultural Training Institute (ATI)

II. Project Team

Project Manager: Girlie Anne G. Miradora

Team Members: Eliza Salud C. Galang, Hilary Martinez, Clarrie Mae A. Castillo, Gabrielle Marie A. Allarey, Maria Patricia Alexandra T. Vargas, Ma. Kristine Joy L. Baño, Jay Ann N. Comillo, Nivea Jane C. Urdas, Mariz P. Potestades, Lean Rius D. C. Morales, Karen Arroyo

Supervising Fellow: Gilbert E. Lumantao

Consultants/ Resource Persons: Garry Jay S. Montemayor, Ramoncito G. Cambel, Michael Kenneth P. Datoy, Mary Rose M. Perin, Thea Rica So, Eunice R. Parungao, Jenny Lyn E. Adolfo, Mary Gelle R. Lleva, Catherine G. Collado, Lourdes Bautista, Melanie C. Picoy, Thelma O. Dorado, Cherrie Mae E. Sondo, Jacquelyn P. Yurag, Maria Lourdes B. Pobe, Eloisa C. Matheu, Relene L. Paz, Allyn Estorgio A. Madriñan

III. Project Details

Project Description: The ATI is the lead agency in providing training and extension services to agricultural extension workers and their clientele, including farmers and other agricultural workers. It is responsible for communicating research results to farmers through appropriate training and extension activities.

The Techno Gabay Program (TGP) was initiated by the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) in 1996 to bring science- or technology-based information services closer to end-users in the agriculture and fisheries sector. It was eventually transferred to ATI by virtue of Executive Order No. 801, s. 2009, which enjoins local government units (LGUs) to adopt Techno Gabay as part of their agricultural extension programs, and directs concerned government agencies to provide assistance on the same.

The TGP has four interdependent components, namely, the Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers; Magsasaka Siyentista; information, education, and communication (IEC) support; and information and communication technology (ICT) utilization. The highlight of the TGP is the operations of the FITS Centers, being the facility that houses the TGP services. These Centers serve as one-stop service facilities that provide farmers, fisherfolks, entrepreneurs, and other clients with fast access to information and technologies in various forms appropriate to clients' needs.

While monitoring and evaluation activities at the national and regional levels were carried out by ATI throughout the implementation of the TGP, no evaluation study on the effectiveness of FITS Centers was conducted since its transfer from PCAARRD to ATI. In this light, the ATI recognizes the need to conduct evidence-based evaluation study to gauge the level of attainment of desired outcomes in consonance with the program assessment requirement stipulated in Section 12 of the implementing rules and regulations of EO 801, s. 2009. The results of the evaluation study will also serve as input to improving the program's design and implementation strategies to maximize the FITS Centers as a



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rural-based mechanism in promoting farmers' access to agriculture and fisheries extension knowledge products and services.

Project Objective: This evaluation study seeks to assess the effectiveness of FITS Centers in delivering information to farmers. Specifically, it aims to:

1. Describe the general profile of the FITS Centers and the characteristics of its clients;
2. Determine if the target clients/beneficiaries are being reached by the FITS Centers as intended;
3. Determine how the FITS Centers, particularly its IEC activities, help improve the knowledge, skills, and attitude of farmers in their respective localities;
4. Identify the extent to which the farmers apply the technologies they learned from the FITS Centers; and
5. Recommend policy options to further improve the IEC activities of the FITS Centers.

Focus Area: Governance

Project Type: Technical Assistance, Research

Project Beneficiary: Public Sector

Regional Coverage: Not Applicable

IV. Project Accomplishments

Key Activities Implemented: Inception activities, preparation of data collection instruments, data collection, data cleaning, processing and analysis, report writing, presentation of results, debriefing meetings

Major Outputs: Inception Report, Progress Report, Presentation of Results, Final Report

Project Impact: Improved policies on FITS Centers' service delivery

Lessons Learned:

- Since the unavailability and lack of cooperation of some LGUs are beyond the control of the team, our best course of action is to maintain close coordination with the LGUs. Additionally, field supervisors should be trained so they can better manage unexpected situations and improve their strategic skills.
- During the orientation, ensure all team members are aligned with the protocols. All technical and administrative protocols should also be reiterated in the pre-deployment briefing.
- Strive to administer the survey house-to-house instead of relying on the LGUs to convene the farmers. To do this, the team should explore renting a vehicle for each field site for the whole duration of the fieldwork.
- Consider the context of the target respondents in the scheduling of fieldworks so that it would not coincide with their busy season.
- Simplify the terms used in the questionnaire and if possible, conduct another round of pre-test after revising the questionnaire. Remind enumerators to probe and reiterate the definitions if the respondent seems to have difficulty understanding.
- Consult enumerators about the most convenient travel routes to the field sites. If they are not familiar, consult with other more experienced enumerators.
- Include in the contract of enumerators that any charges incurred from any deviation in the travel itinerary will be deducted from the enumerators' honorarium payment.
- Rent a vehicle for each field site for the whole duration of the fieldwork. This will prevent enumerators from keeping their travel allowance because it will be automatically deducted from their per diem allowances.



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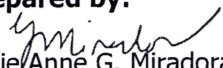
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- Be more thorough in double-checking the cleaned raw data rounds before transmitting it to the statistician. Also, ensure that the screener questions of the survey can adequately capture the respondent criteria.

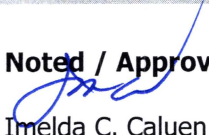
V. Attachments

- Certificates of Project Deliverable Accepted
- Certificate of Project Closure

Prepared by:


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Project Manager

Noted / Approved by:


Imelda C. Caluen
Center Head