

## **Good day! I am Ferdinand V. Buenviaje, I'm representing the AFOSP MTCP2 program.**

The AFOSP MTCP2 program is a farmers and fishers organization support project that aims to strengthen organizations for agricultural development participation in Asia and the Pacific.

First let us all congratulate ourselves – IFAD, national government agencies, NGOs and, farmers and fishers orgs for the successful implementation of the current COSOP.

It is also that we commend IFAD for the CSPE. The CSPE like any evaluation process is an important step in any project cycle. Such efforts provide us with opportunity to celebrate the good work and reflect on the challenges that we encountered.

While there are weaknesses which have already been pointed out in the initial report, clearly the country programme has shown pathways in several aspects:

1. Gender and women – experiences that were shared in the IFAD Philippines Gender Network are very encouraging. The book (yet to be launched) that captured the stories would be a good contribution to the knowledge basket of IFAD and the Philippine COSOP
2. Convergence as a crucial element of the country strategy – the positive impact of the convergence of govt. private sector, farmers and fishers groups, and NGOs are providing us with samples of replicable partnerships in agricultural development programs.
3. Value of community participation – the program was able to maximize the value of genuine community and sectoral participation
4. Land rights/access – the program was also able to see show how important resource tenure is in ensuring success of agri- devt. programs.

These 'successes' can serve as initial 'capital' in terms of know and communication opportunities

For the next COSOP we strongly recommend the following to be part of the country program

1. As a general frame, ensuring access to land, water ( both for irrigation and fishing) and seed (both plant seed and fish fingerlings, fish fry and other marine spawn) should be the base principle of the program
2. Increase investment in strengthening of POs – this helps facilitate not only well informed farming practices but also meaningful participation in agricultural development initiatives

3. Increase policy engagement that will support better access to land, water and seeds, and policies that will empower communities for climate adaptation and in accessing renewable energy for their households and post-harvest processes

- Policy engagement should be able to leverage strong POs and knowledge generated from the current COSOP

4. Expand convergence especially with private sector, other international development support agencies and local governments.

As a final note, we must always remember that smallholder farmers and fishers are composed of men, women, children, young and old. They are communities of families, families who should reap the benefits of a new program and whose quality of lives we must improve.

Thank you.