

DM2009 Project Summary

Project Number: 3333 Booth Number: 32

Fishing Communities Seek Security in Aquaculture and Mangrove Restoration

COUNTRY: Philippines

ORGANIZATION: Trowel Development Foundation, Inc.

FUNDING REQUEST: \$182,284

OBJECTIVE: To build and strengthen adaptive capacities of coastal villages to impacts of climate change with the aim of securing livelihoods of subsistence fishing households, restoring biodiversity of aquatic resources, and contributing in the long term to the protection of coastal areas from strong storms and sea-level rise.

RATIONALE: In Northern Samar, about 20,000 poor fishing households engaged in capture-fishing and small-scale aquaculture, and dependent on aquatic resources for their livelihood, face severe economic dislocation if impacts of sea-level rise and strong storms due to climate change are not mitigated. The situation is further aggravated by the existence of hundreds of hectares of abandoned fishponds lying idle in a once vast mangrove forest that previously served as source of diverse food and livelihoods, and protected coastal villages from storms and extreme climatic events.

Planting mangroves in strategic portions of idle and abandoned fishponds and utilizing areas suitable for tie-crab fattening will not only restore and secure sources of livelihoods and food, but also enhance adaptive capacities of subsistence fishing households to impacts of climate change. Likewise, value-chain development will enhance the fishing households' capabilities in crab fattening and marketing, thereby improving their income.

INNOVATION: The project's innovation involves integration and management of a three-tiered strategy that secures livelihoods and enhances adaptive capacities of poor fishing households to storms and sea-level rise: popularization of disaster-resilient, tie-crab fattening technique, comanagement approach in ecological mangrove restoration, and value-chain development in crab fattening and marketing.

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