

Living Green Lives thru the Bohol **GREENLIFE** Program

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GREENLIFE

Growing in
Rhythm with an
Ecologically vibrant
Economy,
Nourished by
Life-centered, organically
Integral
Farmlands and
Ecosystems



What is the Bohol GREENLIFE Program??



It is *the* Provincial Organic Agriculture Master Plan that is hoped to serve as an alternative to the technocrat driven conventional agriculture propagated by the green revolution.

What is the Bohol GREENLIFE Program??



It is a product of the long process of development efforts by various individuals and institutions who proved that sustainable agriculture is only attainable if farming systems will be freed from the bondage of commercialized external inputs.

What is
Organic Agriculture in
GREENLIFE?



According to the United Nation Food and Agriculture Organization, (FAO)]

“Organic Agriculture is a holistic production management system that avoids the use of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides, and genetically modified organisms (GMOs), minimizes pollution of air, soil and water, and optimizes the health and productivity of plants, animals and people.”

Over-all Content GREENLIFE Program

- Declaration of Principles

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Chapter 2 - Bohol Agriculture Situationer

Chapter 3 - The Bohol Organic Agriculture Movement

Chapter 4 - Organic Agriculture Framework

Chapter 5 - Problems Addressed by the Program

Chapter 6 - Concept, Objectives and Components

Chapter 7 - Implementation Mechanisms

Chapter 8 - Allocation and Appropriation



The Bohol Organic Agriculture Movement





Community-based approach
started way back early 80's by
few NGOs

BISAD was formally formed –
September, 1994



BISAD's Trusts

Develop and/or introduce appropriate technologies BISAD's Trusts

Increase production

Identify and Improve Alternative markets

Advocacy



BISAD's Composition



- 17 non-government organizations;
- 3 local government organizations;
- 7 Farmers' organizations;
- 5 national gov't agencies;
- 3 private farm operators; and
- 3 cooperatives.

The rise of BISAD as the strong and dynamic organic agriculture movement were able to .

. .



. . . increased collaboration between government entities and civil society groups;

. . . introduced sus ag technologies; developed indigenous knowledge; and improved farmers skills in organic farming systems;



Bohol Organic Farmers Alliance (BOFA) - a parallel movement from the small organic farmers groups

BISAD and BOFA as one organic movement have accomplished:

- legislation of the Bohol Environment Code *(1997)*
- passing of the Bohol GMO-Free Ordinance *(14 July 2003)*
- passing of the Provincial Executive Order 27 creating PWG for BOS; released the 117 OA Standards *(29 December 2003)*
- formalized the Bohol GREENLIFE Program *(29 August 2009)*
- passing of the Provincial Executive Order 20 creating the BOAMC *(29 August 2009)*
- passing of the Provincial Executive Order 27 creating PWG for BOS *(29 December 2003)*

The Vision:



By the year 2015 the Province of Bohol is a major producer of organic agriculture products led by entrepreneurial farming communities.



The Mission:

To continuously promote the production of healthy foods and products through organic agricultural practices and transforming people towards sustainable future.

The Goals:



1. At least 10% (18,487.20 has.) of prime agricultural lands of the province converted to organic farms by 2015.
2. At least 5% of local meat, eggs and inland fisheries consumption in the province are produced organically.

The Goals:



3. Established a provincial marketing network exclusively for raw and processed organic products.
4. Institutionalized provincial organic certification systems based on tested farmer-led internal quality control mechanism.

Program Components of GREENLIFE

1. PRODUCTION ENHANCEMENT:

This component attends not only to crops but also livestock and poultry. There is growing consciousness towards healthy foods, and there is also an increasing trend on organic consumption – thus increasing demand of organic products.

However, despite also of the increasing number of farmers going into organic farming in Bohol, organic products are still unstable. Rice and vegetables are common products, yet not available year-round at least on a marketable scale.

1. PRODUCTION ENHANCEMENT:

Farmers complained that there is no market for organic products other than the mainstream market. Consumers think otherwise, because there were few attempts already to consolidate and market organic products (e.g. organic *tabo*) but failed due to insufficient and unstable supply.

1. PRODUCTION ENHANCEMENT:

A comprehensive look and attention to the production is needed in order to meet both ends together between the producing farmers and the consumers. This component also attempts to stabilize production by looking at various aspects of production cycles in each value chain.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

This component strongly believes in a “hand-over-the-stick” learning method. All research initiatives are intended to bring about empowering spirit to the farmers and the communities by allowing them maximum participation or even lead in all its aspects – from designing to analysis.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

Researches must not only be for the so called “scientists” or “academic experts”, and communities must not only be used to establish the desired statistical data.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

Farmers must own the data for them to use in crafting their own destiny as empowered people. Nevertheless, there will be no research undertakings without the farming communities sharing their time, knowledge, skills and dedication.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

This component adheres to the farmer-led models of research initiatives. It believes to the “*imo* farm” rather than the “demo farm” approach. The former “*imo (your)* farm”, is a learning undertaking where observations are done on actual farms of farmers.

2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

In this model, community culture and the whole ecosystem to where the farm is located are major considerations; thereby its scientific approach is holistic. This exercise creates spontaneous ripple effects in the surrounding farms, exemplifying farmer-to-farmer knowledge transfer.

3. MARKETING DEVELOPMENT:

The component is aimed towards developing “niche market” for organic products better than that of the mainstream marketing and trading system.

3. MARKETING DEVELOPMENT:

A “niche market” can only be attained through a defined and organized relationship between three parties: the producers (organized farmers); the traders (with systematic and fair trading system) and the consumers (informed public).

3. MARKETING DEVELOPMENT:

This component also envisions developing a systematic marketing and trading facility that will respond to fair trading system capable for organic crops. Hence, 'niche' marketing hopefully serves as alternative for the farmers as against the mainstream trading system.

4. POLICY ADVOCACY / STAKEHOLDERS DEVELOPMENT:

While this program works on increasing farm productivity, and improve the marketing aspects, it will also provide the technical and advocacy support necessary to sustain the inroads made in the adoption of sustainable and organic farming practices.

4. POLICY ADVOCACY / STAKEHOLDERS DEVELOPMENT:

Foremost would be its role in institutionalizing the Province's program in organic agriculture by passing a provincial ordinance making Bohol an organic agriculture province.

4. POLICY ADVOCACY / STAKEHOLDERS DEVELOPMENT:

Secondly, this program will form a strong constituency of organic farmers, organic consumers and traders, organic agriculture advocates who will help each other in promoting organic agriculture in Bohol.

4. POLICY ADVOCACY / STAKEHOLDERS DEVELOPMENT:

Thirdly, by activating a workable Internal Guarantee System (IGS) which sets the standards for organic product certification and fair pricing, we put in motion an economic independence rooted on a strong local economy that doesn't exploit – one surefire method of alleviating poverty.

5. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEM:

This component aims at institutionalizing an internal quality control system that will serve as a second party certifier acceptable and affordable to small farmers.

5. ORGANIC CERTIFICATION SYSTEM:

On August 14, 2009, BOAMC during the Provincial IGS Institutionalization Workshop approved 117 standards for Bohol Internal Guarantee Systems (BIGS). These are basically extracted from OCCP standards, also accredited by IFOAM. This also includes aspects on crops, livestock, fisheries and processing.



THE BOHOL INTERNAL
GUARANTEE SYSTEM
(BIGS)

BIGS CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:



STEP 1: Farmer Level

1. Complete documentation based on 117 BIGS organic standards. *(standard forms provided)*
2. Letter of intent for certification
3. Conforms for at least 3 years conversion period
4. Endorsement of existing organic farmer organization (PO) in which the applicant farmer is a member. *(If the farmer applicant is not a member of a PO, s/he must seek endorsement to the PO in the community nearest to her/his farm).*

BIGS CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

STEP 2: Inspectors Level (*municipal*)

1. Evaluation/Validation of documents
2. Field Visits for site verification
3. Recommend for certification

(at least **50+1%** of its members)



BIGS CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Composition of Inspectors

- 1 Designated staff from the MAO – *Team leader*
- 1 Representative from a PO recognized by Bohol Organic Farmers Alliance (BOFA)
- 1 Representative by an NGO working in the area (*if none, BISAD determines who*)
- 1 Representative from MLGU (*preferably from SB Committee on Agriculture*)
- 1 Representative from BLGU where the farm is located (*preferably Barangay Kagawad Chair for the Committee on Agriculture*)



BIGS CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

STEP 3: Certifiers Level (*provincial*)

1. Evaluate documents and application
2. Accept certification and processing fees (*to be determined*), issue receipts
3. Surprise visit (*optional*)
4. Issue certificate for three (3) years subject to yearly evaluation/assessment



BIGS CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:

Composition of Certifiers

- 1 Designated staff from the OPA – *Team leader*
- 1 Representative (officially designated by its Execom) from the Bohol Organic Farmers Alliance (BOFA)
- 1 Representative from BISAD (officially designated by the BOT)
- 1 Representative from MLGU (preferably from SB Committee on Agriculture)
- 1 Representative from BLGU where the farm is located (preferably Barangay Kagawad Chair for the Committee on Agriculture)



BIGS CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE:



Types of Certification (*labeling*)

1st Class Certification – Fully Organic (*Conforms to all standards*)

2nd Class Certification – Naturally Grown (*natural application using internal inputs but with minor contaminations*)

3rd Class Certification – (Organically Grown (*organic application using external outputs but with minor contaminations*)

4th Class Certification – On Conversion (*conforms to the standards but does not comply with 3 years conversion process*)



Implementation Mechanism

PROFarmS Development Project in Alicia and Dagohoy

FARMERS FIELD SCHOOL COMMON LEARNING AREA

Funded by:

Philippines- Australia Community Assistance Program (PACAP)
Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID)
Under its Focal Community Assistance Scheme (FOCAS)



Local Government
Units of
Dagohoy and Alicia

Dagohoy Farmers Organization (DFO)
San Miguel Organic Farmers
Organization (SAMOFA)

**Program Allocation and
Appropriation**

Sustainability



Responsibility

Bohol GREENLIFE Program sustains if the provincial government continues to believe that the only way towards food sufficiency and security is to go organic – therefore be prioritized.



Accountability.

1. Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA)
2. Bohol Initiators for Sustainable Agriculture and Development (BISAD)
3. Bohol Organic Farmers Alliance (BOFA) - PAKISAMA



End of Presentation

*Thank you very
much!*





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