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# FARMER'S FIELD SCHOOL IN AGUSAN DEL SUR SHOW LEARNING LEADS TO HIGHER EARNING



## PHILIPPINE COLD CHAIN PROJECT

## Improving Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide



In Agusan del Sur, vegetable farmers have proven that learning about new technology in farming, and actually applying it, can lead to better life.

When the Philippine Cold Chain Project (PCCP) and its partner, East West Seed Company, started implementing its Farmer's Field School (FFS) project in Barangay Dakutan, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, members of the beneficiary group, the Luna-Beawan Vegetable Producers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CROBEVPMPC), did not have an idea how it will help them increase income.

PCCP provided training on improved agricultural techniques using the Farmer's Field School (FFS) approach facilitated by East-West. The new technologies and crop solutions enabled the members to achieve higher yield. One of the members, 47 year old Rene Apas, said that farming is not easy and did not provide enough to sustain the daily needs of his family. Rene is a tenant of a 0.75 hectare plot earning less than 8,000 pesos a month by growing a variety of vegetables using traditional production meth-

ods. Production is not stable because of difficulties and constraints in accessing financing, new technology, inputs and facilities. They also have to contend with an unstable market for produce.

The FFS provided a practical approach where the farmers established a farm-level demonstration adopting the technology learned from the training. "I have been in vegetable farming for 20 years, but today I believe that improved technologies helped me a lot to produce better yields and quality vegetables for market" he said.

Practicing the improved technologies, Rene established a 1,500 sq.m. area for ampalaya and tomato production spending almost 27,000 pesos for production and labor costs. Coupled with hard work and skills, to his surprise, he reached a gross income of 93,850 pesos, gaining a net income of almost 67,000 pesos from the total yield of 3,717 kilos of *ampalaya* and tomatoes. In his testimony during the FFS graduation, he encouraged his co-producers by saying that it is important to continue to learn in order to enhance our knowledge and skills, and not just to learn but also to earn for a better living. **Joyce A. Rabanal/Philippine Cold Chain Project**



Winrock International is a nonprofit organization that works with people in the United States and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources.



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