



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

FARMER'S FAMILY BENEFITS FROM HOG RAISING



PHILIPPINE COLD CHAIN PROJECT

Improving Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide



Joseph and his wife Anna at their backyard pig farm at Awao, Sta Josefa, Agusan del Sur. - Photo by Bert Ablen

Joseph Par and his wife Anna were born and raised in the rice farming village of Awao in Sta. Josefa town, Agusan del Sur. Almost ninety percent of agricultural land in the village is used for rice production, thus making it the biggest rice producer in town.

Like most of the people in his village, Joseph ekes out a living by working in rented farm lands or hired laborer. In his youth, Joseph experienced the hard life, especially in meeting the needs of his family. When he lost his father at the age of fourteen, Joseph was forced to drop out of school to help provide for the needs of his family. Joseph recalls how the untimely death of his father made life more difficult for them. He was determined to make their lives better by working hard. He believed in the values of patience, sacrifice and positive outlook that guided him to achieve a better future.

In 1991, Joseph married Anna Frondoza, his childhood. After his marriage, he continued to work as farm laborer for almost five years until Anna acquired a 1.5 hectares of rice land that she inherited from her parents. The couple worked together and cultivated the land by growing rice. However, due to lack of money to buy inputs, rice farming

proved challenging especially when pests and diseases flock their production resulting to very low yield. Determined as ever, Joseph persisted and strived even more. He did not let the challenges distract him of his goals in life.

It was in 1998 that a rice buyer from Tagum City offered Joseph a small amount of capital to consolidate fresh and dried unmilled grains in Awao. Joseph and Anna borrowed P5, 000 in cash without interest and started their own rice trading business. He saved every cent of his profit, including the sales of his own produced rice. He shared that the one peso margin of every kilo of rice he earned increased after about two years, which made his business profitable. He acquired additional three hectares of land which was mortgaged to him in the amount of P480,000.00. This allowed his to expand his business.

In 2005, Joseph started engaging in milled rice trading. We was mentored by his friend Eduardo who lent him with the start-up capital. He milled the grains he bought and sold them in Sta. Josefa and Davao. Through this, Joseph realized that slowly his dreams to have a better life is coming true.

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.



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

Project Management Office

2F Rudy Tiu II Building J.C. Aquino Avenue | Butuan City | Agusan del Norte
Tel.: (085) 342-0837 Fax : (085) 815-0293

www.winrockpccp.org | helpdesk@winrockpccp.org

© 2015 All Rights Reserved



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

FARMER'S FAMILY BENEFITS FROM HOG RAISING



PHILIPPINE COLD CHAIN PROJECT

Improving Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide

He was able to buy a ten wheeler truck, build a concrete house, acquire four more hectares of land, buy his own car and establish a boarding house in Davao. Blessings came to Joseph and Anna.

December 2014 was not a good Christmas for them and the people of Sta. Josefa who were directly hit by Typhoon Bopha (local name Typhoon Pablo). Dubbed as one of the worst typhoons to hit the island of Mindanao in decades, Bopha claimed more than two thousand lives in Davao provinces and displaced many people, including residents of Sta. Josefa. Joseph remembered the strongest winds he ever had felt and the rapid rise of flood waters that drowned their crops and nearly the whole town. It was very challenging for Joseph's family but thankful that no family member was hurt. It was a painful experience but the family had to start all over again.

The effects of the typhoon brought his business down as rice production went down dramatically. This was attributed to damaged irrigation canals and lack of working capital of the farmers. Also, large rice lands have become unproductive as areas were heavily silted during the floods.

A livelihood project for typhoon affected families was offered by an NGO in Sta. Josefa. At first Joseph was hesitant to engage in hog raising because his skills was in the rice business. Challenged, Joseph received one gilt from the group and raised it. He then raised another three female piglets to become additional sows. One of the challenges of Joseph was the supply of feeds, biologics and other inputs. Also, local buyers were not friendly to local pig raisers as they offer lesser buying prices for live hogs and tied them up with a three kilo meat buy-back. The payment would then be deducted from the sales of every live hog they sold to the buyers. Payments for the hogs were also delayed which gave pressure on them because they just acquired the feeds on credit from other suppliers. Sometimes, they just fed the pigs with leftovers which affected their productivity. He was also forced to sell their pigs at a growing age for "lechon" rather than at the marketable hog weight. He sold some of his pigs to generate money to buy commercial feeds for the gestating sows.

Following his participation to the project orientation and training organized by the Philippine Cold Chain Project (PCCP), Joseph was elected Vice President of Awao Swine Raisers Association (ASRA). Winrock International, implementer of the United States Department of Agriculture-funded PCCP provided technical assistance to ASRA, including teaching farmers about swine raising techniques. Assistance

for financing was provided by PCCP in partnership with the micro credit institution First Community Cooperative (FICCO). To access financing, Joseph attended the pre-membership orientation seminar conducted by FICCO and eventually became a member of the cooperative. He finally accessed financing for his hog raising from the cooperative to buy biologics, feeds and other inputs.

Joseph's participation in the series of technical trainings on swine production provided by Winrock made him confident and inspired to sustain the newly established enterprise. Joseph and Anna were hopeful to address the challenges and become successful swine producers in Awao.

For the first cycle, Joseph accessed P67,200 (US\$1,460) from FICCO for his hog raising. He also valued his own capital of P29,800 (US\$647.8) and P37,400.00 (US\$813) of piglets as his starting stocks. He maintained efficient farm records as well. In his experience, he estimated the production cost per head of market hogs was P5,600.00 (US\$121). This includes the cost of piglets, feeds, biologics, water, electricity and family labor. In this cycle, Joseph sold 12 hogs at a farm gate price of P90 a kilo (about US\$2 a kilo) of live weight how to a buyer in Barobo, Surigao del Sur. He gained a gross income of P97,200 (US\$2,113). After paying his loan to FICCO, he retained a net income of P30,000 (US\$652). He said this was an additional income of the family aside from the income generated from his own four sows.

He and Anna are now raising pigs for the second cycle. According to him, he accessed the same amount of loan from FICCO but are now raising 14 heads. Joseph and his wife are grateful to Winrock through the PCCP for the opportunity to gain technical knowledge and skills in hog production and by providing them with ready financial capital to buy the inputs. It was different before, shared by Joseph, since they were forced to sell their hogs at a less than marketable weight because they don't have enough money to buy feeds. This means they lost the opportunity to earn more had they waited to reach the right weight for their hogs at the right time.

The biggest impact of the project to the community is that more members have participated because they were inspired and saw the results. He said that people are now aware of the benefits of hog raising when given the right assistance.

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.



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

Project Management Office

2F Rudy Tiu II Building J.C. Aquino Avenue | Butuan City | Agusan del Norte
Tel.: (085) 342-0837 Fax : (085) 815-0293

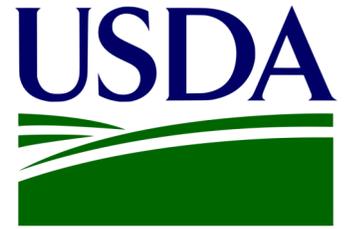
www.winrockpccp.org | helpdesk@winrockpccp.org

© 2015 All Rights Reserved



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

FARMER'S FAMILY BENEFITS FROM HOG RAISING



PHILIPPINE COLD CHAIN PROJECT

Improving Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide

Joseph continued to access breeding services for his own four sows through artificial insemination from the accredited suppliers of Winrock. At the moment, the family has one gestating sow and two lactating sows. These are raised using their own capital resources. He estimated the cost of raising a sow from gestating to weaning is at P8,000.00. His family continued their rice business but they are now more focused on hog raising.

He said that one of the greatest gifts of pigs to his family is their children's education. Income from pigs were used to pay the tuition and other school fees. He also shared that hog raising has lower risks than rice farming. "In rice production, there were many issues in the field, like pests and diseases, exposing ourselves to chemicals and ill effects of extreme climatic conditions," Joseph said.

Joseph and Anna are looking forward for their swine enterprise to be sustainable. They plan to raise 10 sows and are now preparing to expand their pigpens and use the "odorless production technology" as promoted by Pilmico Foods, also a partner of PCCP for livestock production.

"Again, we thank Winrock, FICCO and Pilmico for the opportunity they provided us. We wish more and more people are reached by the project and provided with same opportunity to improve their lives. Also, we hope that Winrock will still support us in strengthening our group, this will make us strong and confident to continue our sustainable hog business," a grateful Joseph related.

Story written by : **Jun Ayensa** and **Bert Ablen**

Submitted by : [Balay Mindanaw Foundation, Inc.](#) for the [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.



WINROCK
INTERNATIONAL

Project Management Office

2F Rudy Tiu II Building J.C. Aquino Avenue | Butuan City | Agusan del Norte
Tel.: (085) 342-0837 Fax : (085) 815-0293

www.winrockpccp.org | helpdesk@winrockpccp.org

© 2015 All Rights Reserved