

## THE STORY OF A SUCCESSFUL HOG RAISER



## PHILIPPINE COLD CHAIN PROJECT

Improving Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide



"THERE'S HOPE AMIDST POVERTY," so says Jocelyn Racho, a member of the Bailan Savings and Credit Association (BASCA), one of the PCCP partner producers group (PG) engaged in livestock production.

BASCA is one of the partner farmers' associations of Winrock International in its implementation of the Philippine Cold Chain Project (WI-PCCP), funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress (FFPr) program. The PCCP is a four-year project implemented in the Caraga Region which commenced 2014 and will end May 2018.

Before she became a beneficiary of the WI-PCCP, Racho used to earn a little as a day care worker in her barangay. His husband is a fisherman. The couple supplemented their income through hog raising. They had two sows and a fattener.

"Hog raising is really my passion. Through this, I was able to send my children to college. One of them is now a teacher and another one is a policeman because of this venture," she said.

"But the sows that I use to rear were not hi-breed; only of the native breed. I have been using the sows for quite some time, and right now, their productivity has relatively reduced. This means less piglets produced and not as much income than before. I'm actually thinking of selling them," she added.

"I still have three children to send to school. My husband's income is not enough to feed my family and provide the needs of my children," she continued.

When the PCCP was introduced to BASCA, Racho started attending the trainings and seminars on swine management provided to the members of the association. After completing the mandatory trainings, she applied for an agricultural loan from the First Community Cooperative (FICCO), a partner Micro-Finance Institution of PCCP. She then received a loan which provided for a package of 12 heads of piglets, which she raised in three months. Also included in the loan package was a provision for feeds.

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She was so happy and thankful for the opportunity. She said "I've been in hog raising for a long time, but it is only now that I've learned some of its techniques and technologies, and applied them after I attended the trainings."

In a 3-month time span, her hogs gained an aggregate weight of 1,007 kilograms or an average of 83 kilograms per hog.

On February 16, this year, she sold the hogs to a buyer who got it at P105 (USD 2.28) per kilogram. She was paid P105,735 (USD 2,299). She earned close to P10,000 (USD 217) from her project. She was happy she was able to pay her P96,000 (USD 2,087) loan to FICCO.

"I started with 12. I hope that someday FICCO will allow me to borrow twice the amount of my previous capital," Racho said. "On behalf of my family, I am so thankful for the hope and opportunity that Winrock-PCCP gave to us. Now I can say that in the midst of poverty, there is hope that God gave to us."

Story written by: Jeravie Senados

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