



WINROCK
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LOBSTER RAISING “LIBERATES” WOMAN FROM BEING PLAINLY A HOUSEWIFE



PHILIPPINE COLD CHAIN PROJECT

Improving Lives and Livelihoods Worldwide



AS MARECHIN GUMA's husband, Rodel goes out daily to fish and gather sea urchins, she is left in the house to take care of their child and tend to household chores. She has to make do with a scanty budget based on what Rodel earns. This is a typical situation among families in the coastal barangay of Dose, Dapa, Surigao del Norte.

Rodel used to earn a meager income of only P150 (\$US 3.26) a day as a fisherman. When the weather is not favorable, he operates a pedicab to make ends meet.

Rodel is a member of the Brgy. Dose Fisherfolks Association

In 2010, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) provided the association a Milkfish Production project. It gave the group 10,000 seedlings with a 10x10 meters cage. This project ran until 2013. However, this failed which the association blamed on their lack of technological knowledge and organizational management capacity. With a high rate of mortality at 50%, each member had a meager share of only P1,000 (USD 21.74) from four months of hard work.

The group didn't have regular activities other than tending their milk-

fish production project. They didn't have regular meetings as well. This rowdy situation led to some leaving the group and others became inactive until only eight members of BADOFA remained, including Rodel.

“Information is a source of learning,” as a theorist stated. Thus, if only the right information were provided and made available to the farmers, high yield from their production would have been acquired and would have capacitated their organization.

In February 2015, BADOFA was selected as one of the partners of Winrock International – Philippine Cold Chain Project (WI-PCCP). This is a 4-year project under the support of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food for Progress (FFPr) program slated to end May 2018.

BADOFA was renamed Barangay Dose Farmers and Fisherfolk Association (BADOFFA). Women, including Marechin, joined the organization. She was elected as treasurer of the association.

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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Producer Group Planning Workshop, Basic Organizational Management, Leadership Skills Management, Record Keeping and Financial Literacy, Savings Mobilization, Lobster Production Technology, and Harvest and Post-Harvest Handling Standards, were the trainings that the group has undergone which Rodel and Marechin were agog in attending.

The project also facilitated their linkage to the First Community Cooperative (FICCO) to provide loan for their lobster production business. FICCO was a partner micro-finance institution of the WI-PCCP.

Adopting knowledge from the trainings they have participated, a significant change happened to their lives and to their organization. A functional organizational structure was established. Micro-lending with policies was set up to help other members in times of exigency.

Marechin’s loan from FICCO was approved in October 2015. The couple heartily applied the technology they learned from the trainings. With proper feeding management and timely monitoring which they all learned from the training, in just 10 months of culture, their stocks reached an average size of 700 grams per piece.

After marketing their produce they were able to fully pay their loan to FICCO. They gained P80,000.00 (USD 1,739) net income.

As of now, Marechin no longer stays in their house and waits for her husband to give the green light. Instead, she assists her husband in

gathering feeds, compute the feeding ratio and help manage their family business.

In a letter addressed to WI-PCCP Chief of Party, Remer Lane and company during their recent visit to Siargao Island, Marechin wrote, “because of this project (WI-PCCP), I am proud to tell each one of you that we bought and owned a new pumpboat, paid all our debts, repaired our cage, and are living a life that is better than before. I know words are not enough, but we would like to express that we owe this to you and we are very grateful for the benefits we enjoyed through the project.”

She was in the verge of tears as she conveyed her heartfelt thanks to the project.

Story written by : Rowena I. Salino

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