

Guideline for the Expansion of Diversified Farming Systems Cooperators

The results of the recently conducted assessment has shown that agriculture extension activities like the field trips to USM's Pagkain Para sa Masa/Bahay Kubo and the diversified farming systems modeling has some positive effects in the communities. Most of the participating farmers have started harvesting the products of the quality inputs they obtained from the USM field trips. Some model farmers harvested and have dispersed improved seeds obtained from the DFS activity. These model farms have also become venues for cross visits and farmer field schools.

Considering that the Programme has about 2 years left for realizing the protection and production objectives for the uplands, the SAD component intends to hasten the adoption of diversified farming practices by incorporating these positive experiences. The component would expand the DFS modeling activity by enlisting more cooperators at the sitio level. This could help establish a sitio based copy of the Pagkain Para sa Masa's Bahay Kubo system attuned to our soil and water conservation thrust. The inclusion of more farmer cooperators hopes to complement ongoing and future agroforestry/soil and water conservation projects. It is also hope that this expanded modeling activity would highlight a rational input set-up concentrated on the farmer's regular cropping area that would consist of the short term (vegetables, cash crops and root crops); medium term (e.g. banana, coffee, and industrial crops) and long term (fruit and forest trees) components integrated with soil and water conservation measures.

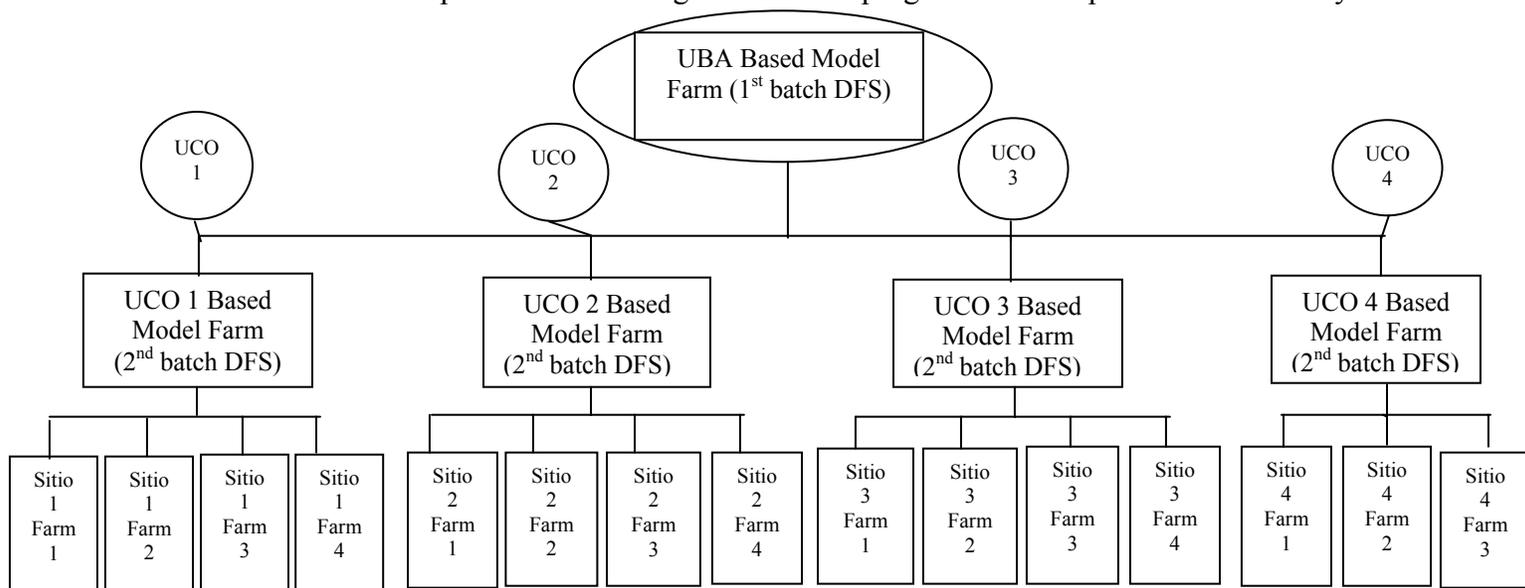
The course of action towards the expansion of the DFS modeling activity is as follows:

1. Initially, the modeling activity intends to have 5 farmer cooperators at the sitio level. Considering that the barangay and sitio based model farms are already functioning, there would be an addition of 4 more cooperators at the sitio level. Around 20 DFS farms are expected at the barangay level or approximately 80 farms established per municipality. For every model farmer, the development activities and inputs will be focused in his/her existing 1 hectare cropping area and that no new area should be opened/cleared just for this purpose. These should clearly appear in the farm plan of proposed candidate for DFS. A simple project implementation agreement between the barangay LGU, municipal LGU, UDP and each DFS farmer cooperator will be signed and will be the basis for the modeling activity.
2. The expansion of modeling activities could immediately start within the barangays deemed by the PPOs as outstanding. It would also include the following criteria:
 - a. Only sitios with functioning UCOs could start DFS expansion activity.
 - b. A barangay extension worker/technician is present and has been appointed by the barangay council to work for three years and provided for with incentives
 - c. The barangay extension worker has received trainings on community organizing; soil and water conservation measures and crop diversification by the Municipal Support Officer and Municipal Project Team.
 - d. The model farm cooperators will be endorsed and supervised by the barangay council and this is embodied in a resolution.
3. Selection criteria for new cooperators.
 - a. The selection criteria will still follow the set of farming systems criteria adopted before and could include the results of PPO initiated innovations like soil and water conservation contests. The modeling activity should not start from scratch i.e. there is already an effort towards diversification; with initial soil and water conservation measures set up and also some fruit and forest trees established.

- b. The candidate's good standing in his SLG/FSC. He should have at least P500.00 in savings or capital build up (at least P500.00) and attends meetings regularly.
 - c. The candidate should have an LGU endorsed farm plan which and shows good potential for coming up with a farm based enterprise.
 - d. He have participated in the Entrefarm course and have passed with good marks.
 - e. The candidate farmer has been exposed to ICRAF sites and outstanding UDP supported model farms.
4. The amount of inputs that will be allocated per cooperator will not exceed P 6,000.00. The minimum area to be covered by the modeling activity will be 1 hectare and the cooperator will be strongly encouraged to expand specially his soil and water conservation measure to cover the whole cultivated area. For the 1 hectare- the maximum grant support is P 3,000.00 while for the 2 hectare- the amount will be a maximum for P 6000.00. The inputs would basically consist of planting materials that would address the short, medium and long term components of the farming system. Thus aside from fruit and forest trees, the farm set-up would highlight a balanced combination of cash, annual and perennial crops.
 5. For transparency reasons and empowerment of model farmers, procurement of seedlings will be jointly done by the MSO or PPO specialist, the AT, the barangay extension worker and the model farm cooperator.
 6. As much as possible, the farmer cooperators are encouraged to source out their own forest tree seedlings from indigenous or existing commercial species in the area. As their counterpart, the LGUs will provide forest tree seedlings produced from the municipal nurseries. The Programme will provide fruit tree planting materials to complement existing trees grown in the area at an acceptable ratio of 1 fruit tree for every forest tree established (50/50). Fruit tree seedlings inputs given by UDP shall not exceed 30 seedlings per farmer and should follow specifications set out for quality seedling materials e.g. at least 3 feet high and proven suitable to agro-ecological conditions of the area.
 7. The training for the new cooperators will be the responsibility of the PPO with the SAD specialist taking the lead. He will be assisted by the MSO, AT and barangay extension worker. Aside from the orientation on farming systems development objective and methodologies, topics pertaining to the step by step establishment of DFS will be done at the farmer cooperator's area using the farmer field school (FFS) approach. The FFS will be guided by the calendar of activities defined in the DFS farm plan which means that the schedule of trainings should coincide with the various stages of the diversified farming activity. An sample outline for FFS is shown below:

Topics/Actions to be Taken	Schedule	# of Hours
Importance of SWC measures	Day 1 AM (1 st Wk)	1 Hour
Establishment of contour lines using the A- Frame	Day 1 AM (1 st Wk)	2 Hours
Land preparation	Day 2 AM (1 st Wk)	3 Hours
Planting of hedgerow materials, delineation of NVS	Day 1 AM (2 nd Wk)	1 Hour
Planting of improved crop varieties; importance of crop rotation, intercropping of legumes etc.	Day 2 AM (2 nd Wk)	3 Hours
Inter- planting of fruit tree crops	Day 3 AM (2 nd Wk)	3 Hours
Fertilizer application/ relevance of organic farming	Day 1 AM (6 th Wk)	3 Hours
Maintenance, Harvesting, Processing, Marketing etc	To be determined	
Field Day/Recognition Day	To be determined	

8. Basically, the model farm cooperators will do coordinative work with the UBAs and UCOs. They will be monitored by their respective UCOs, while the 1st batch model farmer will report the overall status of the activity to the UBA and bgy. council. The MSO will report to UDP management on the progress of the expanded DFS activity.



For the existing batch of DFS cooperators, the inputs they received can be repaid by helping the new batch establish their DFS farms.

8. The roles and responsibilities of the cooperator are defined in the project implementation agreement. Ultimately the cooperator by his example, should facilitate the cascading/multiplication of the modeling activity to other farmers down the line. This means that the inputs and technology he acquired can be shared with others. The cooperator's farm should also be considered first choice for venues during farmer field schools and field visit activities.
9. The supervision and monitoring of the DFS activity will be part of the UCOs and UBAs' responsibilities. These organizations can require the DFS cooperator to report the progress of his activity during regular meetings.
10. A simple monitoring form containing at most 5 sections/activities will also be used to facilitate documentation. A sample form is shown below:

STATUS REPORT

Farmer Cooperator:

As of February 28, 2003

Location:

Total Area of Model Farm:

Activities Conducted (w/ dates)	Inputs Received (to include quantity and quality at delivery)	Status of Inputs (e.g. number surviving) Revisions etc.	Results e.g. income generated, quantity seed produced etc.	Issues/ Problems and Recommendations e.g. follow up activities

11. The model farms can be prioritized for any future techno demo activities that would come in as a result of other component activities e.g. infrastructure- small scale irrigation; Marketing and Enterprise Development- pilot EntreFarm Activities; Rural Finance Services- prototype UDLF funded business etc.; and collaboration with other institutions- PhilRice; GEM; ICRAF and even agricultural supply companies.