

## PROPOSAL ON SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION MODELING ACTIVITIES

The soil and water conservation modeling activity can be an environmental awareness tool. Although the direct benefits can not be felt in the short term, the effects on production will be visible in the mid to long term.

One strategy is for farmers to realize the importance of SWC by putting a direct value on the topsoil, the equivalent cost of applied fertilizer, and substantial effect of soil loss on productivity. Farmers can determine this by conducting their own observations using local and inexpensive materials. This is also a good way to encourage farmer research.



The characteristic of the SWC modeling site are as follows:

1. Participation is voluntary, but the farmer cooperator should pass the criteria for site selection i.e.
  - The area for application should cover about 0.5 hectare and is visible and accessible to the community
  - The cooperator/s should be willing to include at least 3 appropriate SWC technologies/measures
  - The SWC structures will be placed in the actual cropping area and that no new area should be cleared just for establishment
  - As a showcase for SWC technologies, the farmer cooperator is willing to host field visits by other farmers to his area.
2. Initially there will be an opportunity for funding of one SWC modeling activity per Barangay.
3. The maximum limit for UDP funding of the materials for SWC modeling will be P 2,000.00. This includes seed materials, soil traps and other structures that measure topsoil loss.
4. As an incentive for the cooperator, he can avail of the open pollinated seed variety for his regular crop planted for the first season within the SWC structures (e.g. OPV corn at 0.5 hectare requires 10 kg. costing about P120.00).



This proposal is open for comments and revisions from the provincial project offices.