

FARMCOOP Initiatives for Women Empowerment in the Banana Industry



ABOUT FARMCOOP

- a grassroots **not-for-profit organization** engaged in organizing and providing support services to farmers' cooperatives.
- **founded in 1995** by leaders of agrarian reform cooperatives and associations and development-oriented individuals **to address the call of the government for NGOs to assist in the implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL)** to liberate farmworkers from poverty and uplift their quality of life.
- Serves more than **6,000 farmers** comprising **20 cooperatives** of agrarian reform beneficiaries, small-scale farmers, and indigenous peoples.

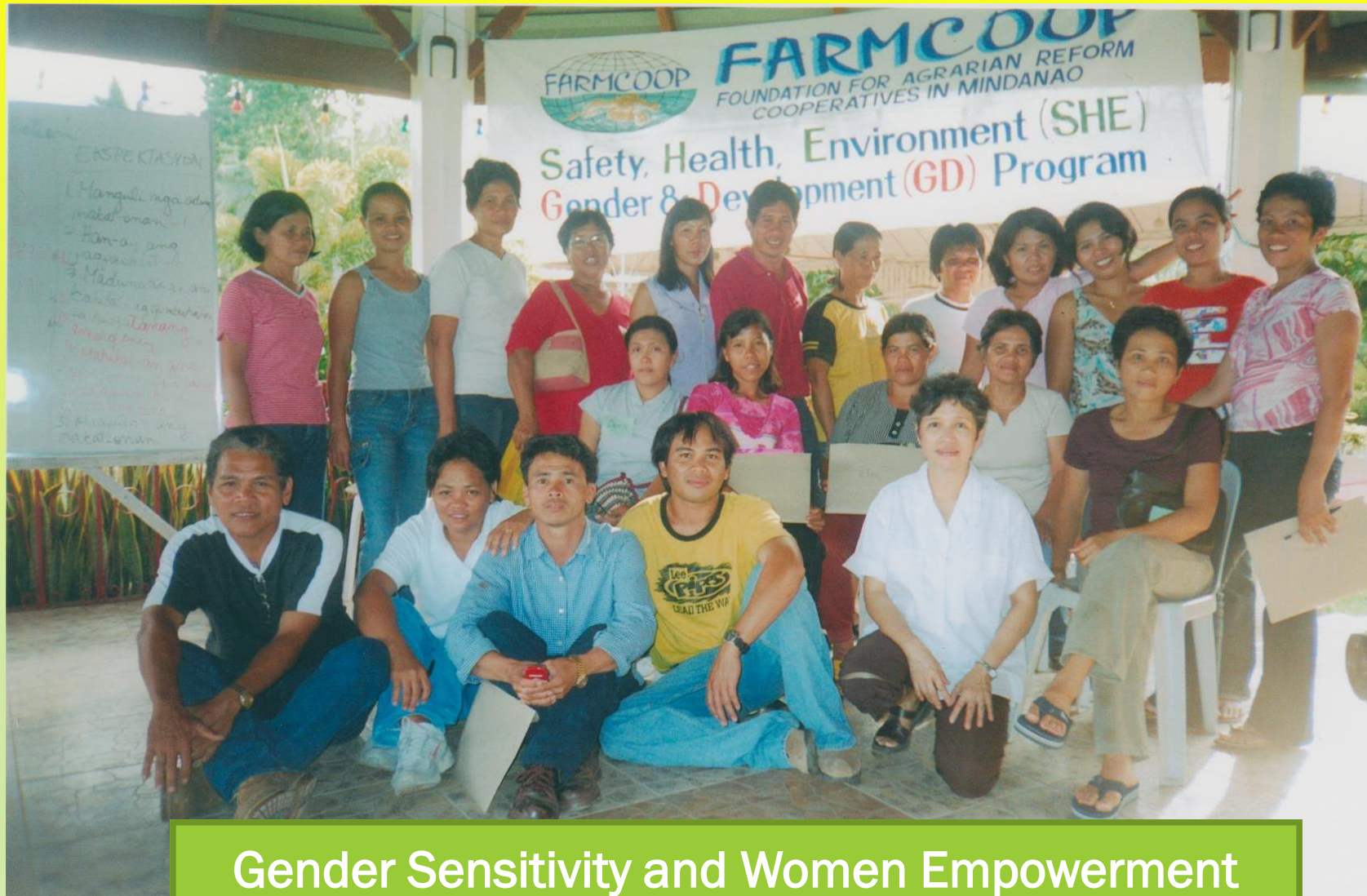
We envision building **sustainable and resilient farming communities** through agri-based and value-adding entrepreneurship.

Farmcoop commits to deliver reliable and highly effective organic agro-industrial technologies and allied services to communities of **Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), Small Farmers (SFs), and Indigenous Peoples (IPs)**.

Gender equality, social and economic justice and cultural sensitivity are among **FARMCOOP's core values**.

TRAININGS

Gender Sensitivity & Empowerment
Community Development Projects
Involving Women



Gender Sensitivity and Women Empowerment Trainings



Group Discussion and
Experience Sharing
Among Women

**Sibulan Organic Banana Growers Multi-purpose Coop.
(SOBAGROMCO) - 2004**



Cooperative Governance and Management Trainings

Women gained key responsibilities
in their cooperatives

- Finance and Administration
- Education Committee
- Peace Mediation Committee

**Sibulan Organic Banana Growers Multi-purpose Coop.
(SOBAGROMCO) - 2004**

“Our products here are organic, so its not just the pay that interests me, but the fact that this work is good for our health.”

Assisting health and holistic development for women in the banana industry





**Continuous Gender Sensitivity Trainings (GST)
Sibulan Organic Banana Growers Multi-purpose Coop.
(SOBAGROMCO) – 2014 to 2016**



Creative Nurturing Communities (CNC) - Pageno Project - 2014 to 2016
Assisting in the establishment of Indigenous People's Learning Center – A Special Project
at Mt. Apo Elementary School



**Backyard gardening in the community for food security and additional livelihood
CNC-Pageno Project 2014 to 2016**



Special Project: Medical Clinics among Partner Cooperatives in Barangay Sibulan, Toril District, Davao City

PARTNER COOPERATIVES & TRIBAL COMMUNITY

- Sibulan Organic Banana Growers Multi-purpose Coop. (SOBAGROMCO)
- Sibulan Ancestral Domain Organic Producer Cooperative (SADOPCO)
- Pamara Producers Cooperative of Organic Banana Growers (PaPCOBaGrow)
- Tibal community- LANAHAN

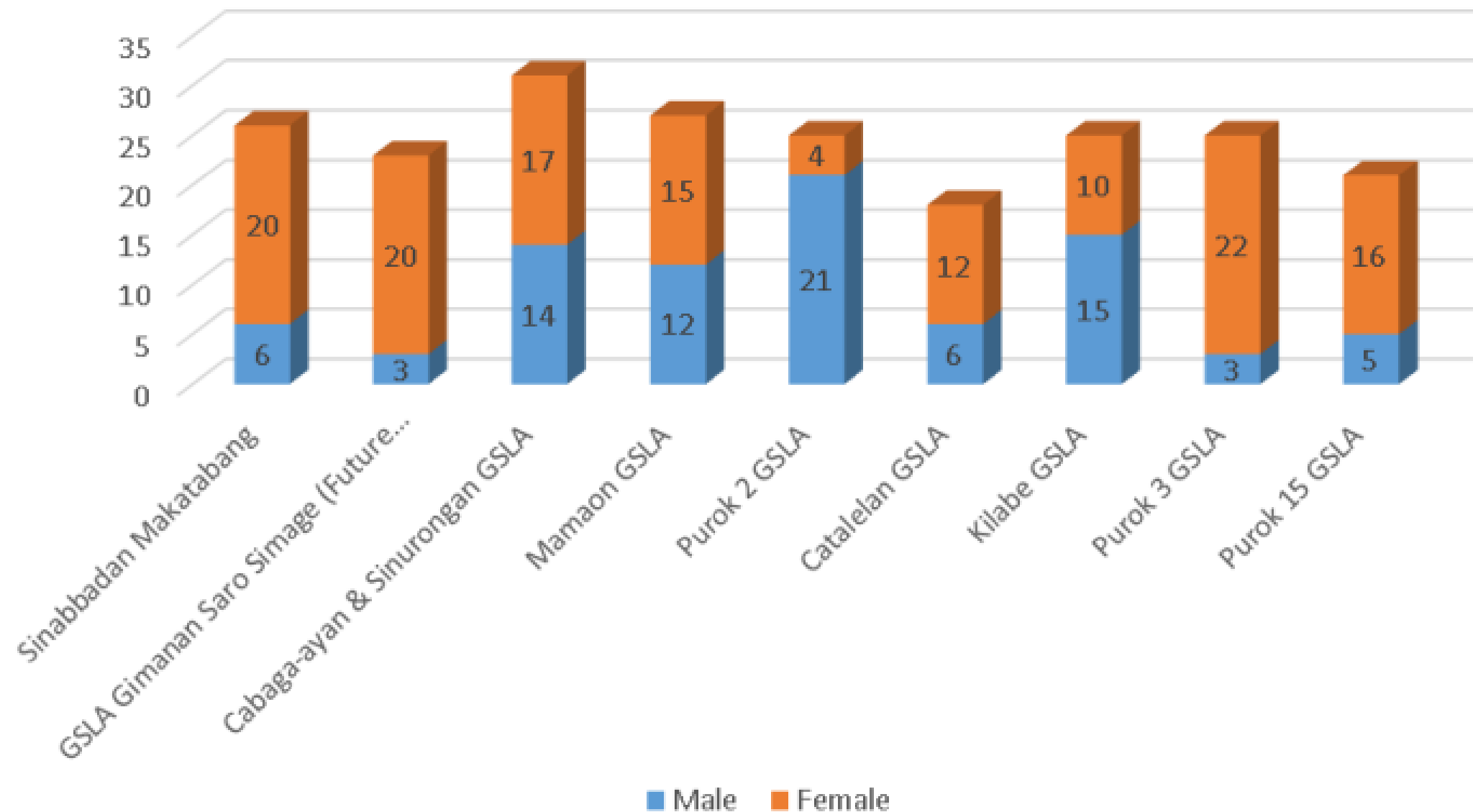


Group Saving Loan Associations (GSLA)



A project with WE EFFECT: “Building Capacities for Cacao and Coffee Agri-Business Development of Tribal Farmers in Sibulan Ancestral Domain”
Sibulan Ancestral Domain Organic Producer Cooperative (SADOPCO), 2014 to 2106

Nunmber of Farmer Beneficiries Joined GSLAs, December 2015



Together with its partner cooperatives, small farmers and indigenous communities, FARMCOOP strives to develop new initiatives towards fulfilling the human rights of women to equality and economic opportunity.

In the Home...

Gender disparity in the home and the workplace prevail. Tradition and social customs perpetuate division of labor where women carry out farm labor at the same time raising their children without their husbands sharing the work.

Workshops and informal discussions gradually awaken men to the reality of their wives' multiple burden.

Challenges...

Women workers in the banana industry continue to face challenges:

- Need more access to trainings and skills development to increase earning capacity;
- Continuing education in new fields to qualify for traditionally considered all-male positions (e.g. field supervisors, managers, quality control supervisors, lead person, etc.);
- Strict enforcement of laws providing for health and safety in the workplace especially during pregnancy and when breastfeeding and caring for infants and very young children (e.g. In the Philippines, Republic Act 7877 or Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 and Republic Act 9262 or Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children of 2004)
- Increase awareness and sensitivity among board members, managers, and those who are in supervisory positions to develop policies and programs to prevent and eliminate sexual harassment in the workplace

Conclusion...

Networking and close collaboration among women banana workers at all levels – local, national and international – to provide opportunities to share experiences and develop common strategies towards their full empowerment.

Women and men need to work with each other to achieve a more holistic and sustainable world.

THANK YOU

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FARMCOOP

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