March 13, 2008

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SUBJECT : **Travel Report on the Conduct of Field Training and Supervision for the Survey of Costs and Returns in Seaweed Production in Zamboanga Sibugay on March 3 - 7, 2008**

The training started at 8:00 AM March 4, 2008. PASO Camilo Bagsican together with his four (4) staff were in attendance. There were only five (5) POC staff in the province, however the CO trainers observed positive attitudes in addressing additional loads despite of other concerns/activities of the province.

The training was started with a prayer led by POC staff, followed by a short introduction of each participant. The briefing on the concepts, objectives, coverage and the questionnaire of the Survey of Costs and Returns in Seaweed Production take five hours to finished. During the training the POC staff were very attentive and actively participated during the discussion. With regards to the start-off of the survey, we decided to focus in one barangay to have a chance to supervise all the POC staff involved in the survey. The POC staff was split into two groups; a Co staff and the PASO led one group. Each group interviewed two (2) sample farmer operators. The average time of interview lasted for one hour and five minutes.

Their cooperation and involvement during the start-off of the survey was also noticed. Clearing was done simultaneously after finishing one set of questionnaire to determine if there are issues to be taken before proceeding to the 2nd sample farmer/operator.

Visit in different seaweed farms was also done to actually see the actual procedures in culturing seaweeds.

The following are the issues/concerns and remarks/recommendation that cropped up during the training, conduct of survey, supervision, clearing, seaweed farms visit, and editing of survey returns.

Training:

ISSUES / CONCERNS	REMARKS / RECCOMENDATION
Block C. **Farm Characteristics**	
- If there are several seaweed farms operated/managed by the farmer/operator at the same time during 2007, what is the criteria in the selection of focus farm / area.	- Select only one farm/area, should be the last completed production cycle during 2007 (meaning from planting activities to harvesting) planted with one variety of seedlings and using one culture method.
- How to compute the ratio of focus area to focus farm?	- For example the focus farm composed of 9 lines with a length of 200 meters, in between the row is 8 meters, however during the last completed production cycle the farmer/operator planted only 7 lines. First compute for the area of **focus farm** by multiplying the number of lines by the length per line, and by the number of meters in between lines, then divide the product by 10,000 square meters (equivalent to 1 hectare). Thus, 9 x 200 x 8 = 14,400 m^2 / 10,000 = 1.44 hectares. Do the same in computing the **focus area**, which is, 7 x 200 x 8 = 11,200 m^2 / 10,000 = 1.12 hectares To get the ratio, simply divide 1.12 has. by 1.44 has. = 77.78%
- Number of harvests/cropping	This pertains to the focus farm/area understudy; this is the number of times of harvests until the area was being completely harvested.

ISSUES / CONCERNS	REMARKS / RECCOMENDATION
Block D. **Farm Investment**: Value of inherited investment item	Includes investment items used in the focus farm/area during the reference period. - Impute for the value of inherited investment items. Ask the value of the investment item during the time it was inherited / acquired and record in the space provided.
Repairs	- Record only expenses incurred on repairs during the last completed production cycle understudy.
Percent of use	- Record the estimated percent of use of every investment item used in the focus farm/area. That an investment item may be used for many purposes or different production processes on different crops/commodities. To reflect a closer estimate of depreciation, explain to the respondent the need to get some estimation as to the extent of use of each investment item used for seaweed culture during the reference period.
Block E.**Material Inputs and Supplies**	- Record seaweed seedlings and supplies by mode of acquisition, this will be use to fill-up the cost and returns structure in seaweed culture. Those purchased falls under cash costs while the rest are non-cash costs (e.g. owned produce, received from others, etc). To impute for the value, ask the respondent the price of seedlings per kilogram if bought or can be the same with the price per kilogram of seaweed sold.
Block H. **Production and Disposition** - How to compute total production with staggered harvesting.	- Be sure all harvested seaweeds in the focus farm/area is accounted from the first harvest to the last harvest. Pruned seaweeds for seedling purposes should also be accounted as part of production.

Field supervision and Clearing:

ISSUES / CONCERNS	REMARKS / RECCOMENDATION
Variety of seaweed planted – there was two reported type of alvarezii planted by the second sample farmer/operator but planted in different lines, within one focus farm, he specified as giant alvarezii and the other is cottonii alvarezii. As per FSD reports, cottonii is different from that of alvarezii, however with respect to the respondent we did not contest what the farmer/operator reported. Complete details on all data items were asked, e.g., number of lines, length of lines and the number of meters in between rows to determine the focus area by type of alvarezii. He also showed as a sample of the alvarezii seaweeds (in fresh and dry form). At first glance we determined that both were alvarezii seaweeds.	- We set a meeting with Ms. Estrella C. Macapobre of BFAR, Zamboanga Sibugay at the provincial office, with PASO Bagsican, to verify the issue and also to gather available information on seaweed culture/production. - Variety planted by the farmer/operator were both alvarezii. - **Cottonii** is another variety of seaweeds.
Labor Inputs - Is there a need to separate selection of seedlings and planting?	Yes, planting is done by unit (per line) before planting another unit. Same in seedling selection to prevent exposure to sunlight. Ask the number of minutes/hours spent in selection of seedlings for one line, (consider the length of the line) and also time spent in planting. Be careful on the average number of days and hours worked rendered per person, data items vary depending on the farm activity performed.
Other Production Costs Licenses /permits: According to the sample farmer/operator interviewed seaweeds farmers in Zamboanga Sibugay had no licenses/permit.	Mrs. Estrella C. Macapobre confirmed. - In Zamboanga Sibugay, seaweed farmers have **no licenses/permits** in their seaweed operation. - LGU had conducted public consultation on the implementation of licenses/permit to start this year, 2008.

	- A farmer can register in his name a maximum area of 1.00 hectare and minimum of 0.25 hectare.
Farm Visit: Tiayon, Ipil Farm Visit – It was observed that the longer the lines the wider the distance between the rows. Length of lines 50 meters and below should be 1.5 to 3 meters distance in between rows. Lines 51-100 meters long should be 4 to 6 meters distance in between rows. Lines 101 to 150 meters long should be 5 to 8 meters distance in between rows Lines 151 meters long and above should have 8 meters distance in between rows. Weight per seedling is 100 – 300 grams Distance of seedlings should be 15 – 25 centimeters interval and should be tied securely.	**Editing:** There was no significant issue noticed during the editing of the four (4) accomplished survey returns. The distance between rows is necessary to protect the farm from the strength of water current, prevent the lines to twist, preventing seaweeds to tangle with each other and also easy to penetrate the farm during care of crops, e.g., cutting of grasses, removal of rocks, sea urchins and other predators.
Pre-determined list of sample barangay. . The following barangays falls under group 4 from the pre-determined list, however declared very critical at present. Taguisan, Mabuhay	In Zamboanga Sibugay pre-determined sample barangays were group into 4. For the province, group 4 was selected, due to the situation we informed SMRD. As advised, the following barangays were taken as replacement. Solar (Pob.) Olutanga (Group I)

Tandiong Muslim, Alicia La Paz, Alicia Minundas (Santo Nino), Payao	Bulu-an, Ipil, (Group 1) Pangi, Ipil (Group 2) Pres. Roxas, Roseller Lim (Group 2)
D. OTHER MATTERS	
. 1. There should be **cash advance** to finance at least transportation and food expenses during data collection.	-To inform the concern unit about the matter.
2. Additional computer unit for the province. At present there is only one (1) computer unit at POC used by five (5) POC staff	-The PASO brought in at POC his personal computer unit to facilitate the activities of the province.
3. No RP motorcycle in the province.	-POC staffs are using personal motorcycles.

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SUBJECT: Travel Report on the conduct of Field Training and Supervision for the Survey of Costs and Returns in Seaweed Production in Palawan on March 4-8, 2008

The briefing on the conduct of the survey was held in the afternoon of March 4. The first part of the briefing was the film showing followed by the discussion on the concepts, rationale, objectives, methodology and questionnaire of seaweed production. The last part was the workplan of the survey. The activity was participated in by two (2) CO staff, PASO Adoracion Garciano and six (6) POC staff. On the next day, the group started the dry-run in Pandan and Snake Island, Honda Bay. The group was with 1 personnel from BFAR Palawan.

The group interviewed five (5) seaweed farmers/operators. The time spent for the interview of one sample lasted from one (1) hour to two (2) hours depending on the farm investments held and behavior of the farmer/operator.

Attached are the issues/concerns that cropped up during the training and the results of the clearing on the conduct of survey, field supervision and editing of survey returns.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS	RECOMMENDATION
TRAINING	
1. What to do if no seaweed farmers in the sample barangay completed cropping cycle in 2007?	Refer to SMRD.
2. How to compute for the ratio of focus area to focus farm?	Divide the focus area by the area of focus farm. If focus area is equal to (=) to focus farm then the ratio will be 100.00.
3. How to compute for the percent of use?	In determining the percent of use, consider the number of farms owned, area of farms, number of croppings per year and extent of use of each item other than seaweed farm.
4. Where to record items with less than 1 year of estimated life?	Record in Block D-Material Inputs and Supplies if items have less than 1 year estimated life from the time it was purchased. On the other hand, if greater than or equal to 1 year estimated life record in Block C-Farm investment.
5. Where to record seedlings harvested for own use? seedlings harvested for sale?	Record seedlings harvested for own use to disposition item 3.6 For seedlings. If for sale, record to Item 3.8 Harvested for seedlings and inquire for the price per kilogram.
CLEARING AND EDITING	
1. How to get the size of focus area?	Inquire and multiply the number of lines operated in the focus farm, length of the line and the distance in between lines to get the size of the focus area. Focus area should be lesser or equal to focus farm.
2. If focus area had 3 croppings, what month planted and harvested to record?	Record the month planted and harvested of the last completed cropping.
3. Investment items not used in the focus area	Do not include. Only those items owned and used in the focus area during the last completed cropping.
4. Investment items inherited/given free	Get the number of items, year and value of the items at the time it was acquired
5. Mangrove pole (taken from the forest)	Impute for the value of mangrove pole if purchased
6. Free use of mesh net and hut (owned by the cooperative)	Do not impute. Record in Block L. Item 1.2 Benefits derived as member from the

	cooperative.
7. Repair/improvement	Get the total cost incurred in the repair/improvement of item during the last completed cropping
ISSUES AND CONCERNS	**RECOMMENDATION**
8. Do we record the price per unit of same items purchased in the same year separately?	No, record the total acquisition cost.
9. Activities on seedling selection and preparation, hauling of seedlings and planting are done simultaneously.	Get the number of lines prepared per day and number of hours spent per activity. Then ask how many lines were operated by the farmer in the focus area. Compute for the average number of hours and days spent per activity.
10. How to compute for mandays?	As specified in the manual of operations, multiply the number of persons worked in the farm by the average number of days worked and by average number of hours spent per activity. Compute for the number of mandays after the interview process or during field editing.
11. Wife of operator is recorded under operator labor.	To record entries under family labor.
12. Quantity of seedling used	To validate get the number of tied seedlings used per line and multiply with the weight per seedling.
13. Operators pay P2/kilo of produce to cooperative	Record in Block G Other production cost item 3 cooperative fees.
OTHER MATTERS	
There should be cash advance to finance traveling expenses of POC staff. Need to hire boat to go to sample barangays.	To inform concern unit

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