

February 27, 2008

Memorandum:

For : Director Romeo S. Recide  
Thru : Assistant Director Maura S. Lizarondo  
Subject : **Travel Report on Pre-test of Costs and Returns Survey of Seaweed Production Questionnaire, Zambales, February 13 – 15, 2008**

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A brief orientation on the conduct of Costs and Returns Survey of Seaweed Production was initially conducted at the Zambales POC. The orientation was attended by concerned POC staff.

The CO team, together with PASO Abela and two of his staff proceeded to BFAR Research Outreach Station in Marine Water Development Zone in Bamban, Masinloc, Zambales. The visit was previously coordinated with BFAR and they contacted seaweed operators for interview. These seaweed operators were the recipient of their technical assistance program. The seaweed operators were already present when we arrived. We were able to interview five (5) seaweed operators using the 8-page CRS Seaweed questionnaire. Each interview session lasted for 15-20 minutes. Through the interview we were able to firm up some survey concepts and establish the related data items to be included in the questionnaire.



From the same interview, we noted that Masinloc, Zambales was identified as suitable area for seaweed culture. The current/existing area planted to seaweed is 35 has. but the potential area is 600 has. Usual farm size is 0.25 ha. based on zoning arrangement. BFAR had tried the different culture method before but the operators preferred floating monoline. A 100-gram seedling is estimated to yield 1.5 kgs. after 45 to 60 days. Peak months of harvest are September to February and less harvests is observed from April to May because intense heat is not good for seaweed.

The following day, BFAR accommodated us aboard their boat and toured us around seaweed farms and other facilities. We were able to observe the different activities and practices in seaweed culture as well as the tools and equipment used. We have also observed drying of seaweeds in drying pad/raft afloat the sea owned by the investor/financier. The raft is covered with net where fresh seaweeds are scattered to dry and covered with plastic. In the process, the moist somehow washes the seaweeds. The dried seaweeds are white in color and command better price in the market.



The pre-test team again sat down together to discuss observations, issues and concern related to the CRS Seaweed questionnaire. Detailed discussion of these issues and concerns are discussed in the attached form.

Submitted by:

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Issues and concerns arouse on the pre-test of CRS Seaweed questionnaire:

Issues/concerns	Agreements/resolution
<p>Block C. Farm Characteristics</p> <p>1. Definition of:</p> <p>a. Focus farm</p> <p>b. Area of focus farm</p> <p>2. What to do to a farm where the last production cycle was completed only to selected number of lines (rope)</p>	<p>a. Farm where the last production cycle was completed.</p> <p>b. Area of focus farm is the area in hectare occupied by focus farm. This can be measured by multiplying the length of the line (rope) and the sum of distance between lines.</p> <p>2. Devise a concept of “focus area”. This is the area occupied by selected lines or rope, which is part of the focus farm where last production cycle was completed.</p> <p>For addition to block C:</p> <p>a. If there is focus area, what size?</p> <p>b. “Ratio of the focus area to total size of focus farm”. This is to apportion the total cost to the focus area.</p> <p>c. Code 5 for variety of seaweed - Spinosum</p>
<p>Block D. Investment to focus farm/area</p> <p>1. Seaweed focus farm</p> <p>2. Dryer</p> <p>3. Storage container</p> <p>4. Rubber sandal</p> <p>5. Rope</p> <p>6. Fine mesh net</p> <p>7. Raft</p> <p>8. Floater</p> <p>9. Scoop net</p> <p>10 Rubber shoes</p>	<p>1. Delete because no acquisition and disposal of seaweed farm. Farmers only acquired permit/license to operate seaweed farm.</p> <p>2. Delete. There was drying platform under farm structure</p> <p>3. Delete storage and retain “container”</p> <p>4. Delete</p> <p>5. Specify size to verify value</p> <p>6. Delete “fine” and retain mesh net</p> <p>7. Specify whether bamboo or styropore</p> <p>8. Specify whether bottle or styropore</p> <p>9. Delete</p> <p>10 Delete</p> <p>11. Include sinker</p>
<p>Block E. Material inputs and supplies</p> <p>1. Seedlings</p> <p>2. Monofilament line</p> <p>3. Net</p>	<p>1. Specify whether own produced, purchased, or received from others</p> <p>2. Delete</p> <p>3. Delete</p>
<p>Block F. Labor inputs</p> <p>1. Hauling of seedlings</p> <p>2. Definition of planting</p> <p>3. For farms with staggered planting</p>	<p>1. Insert before planting activity</p> <p>2. Will be discuss in the manual. This will depend on the practices of farmer. It is either tying of seedling in the rope while in the sea or installing the rope in the sea with seedlings already tied on it.</p> <p>3. Labor inputs to consider will be those spent only in the focus area.</p>

<p>Block G. Other production cost</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Salaries of office employees</li> <li>2. Cooperative fees</li> <li>3. Rentals</li> <li>4. Fuel and oil</li> <li>5. License/permit</li> <li>6. Electricity</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Monthly</li> <li>2. Annual</li> <li>3. Per cropping</li> <li>4.. Per cropping</li> <li>5. Annual</li> <li>6. Per cropping.</li> </ol> <p>Insert column for imputed cost</p>
<p>Block H. Production and disposition</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Harvest for seedlings</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include in the production those harvest or pruned for seedling purposes.</li> </ol> <p>Insert columns for Quantity in kilogram and price per kilo</p>
<p>Definition of the following concepts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. frame (structure)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. to be consulted with BFAR</li> </ol>