



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES
Fisheries Building Complex, Bureau of Plant Industry Compound,
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

10 February 2022

International Potato Center (CIP)

Avenida La Molina 1895, La Molina
Apartado Postal 1558, Lima, Peru

Dear CIP partner,

Greetings!

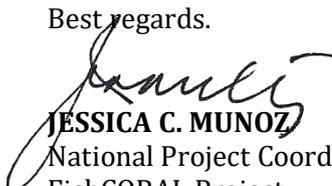
The Fisheries, Coastal Resources and Livelihood (FishCORAL) Project, through its Livelihood Component, strongly encourages fisherfolk to engage in diversified sources of income. Through the Project's partnership with International Potato Center (CIP) – Food Resilience Through Root and Tuber Crops in Upland and Coastal Communities of the Asia-Pacific (FoodSTART+), it was able to launch **28** businesses and capacitated a total of **744**, wherein 65% are women, 12% are youths, and 5% are indigenous peoples, on the Aqua-based Business School with Gender and Climate Change Perspective (ABS-GCC). The partnership with CIP was crucial in the development of livelihood activities toward enterprise development as the ABS-GCC offered a wider range of perspectives in looking at how the beneficiaries develop and enhance their innate capabilities in improving their lives.

With ABS-GCC's simple yet comprehensive learning approach, promising initial results were seen. Participants were able to diversify their income and innovate their products through collective action, enterprise development, and strong market linkages. One of the notable impacts of the ABS to the groups who have launched their products is that they are being recognized by several government agencies and local partners that have pledged commitments for continuous support for further improvement of the groups and their businesses.

While the FishCORAL Project will officially end in June 2022, the Project has ensured that continuous support to the groups and future enrollees will be provided through the development of the sustainability and exit plans that included the adoption of the approach in the livelihood/enterprise development activities of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). These plans will be cascaded to the different regions for implementation. Initially, the national BFAR office was granted Php 30 million to implement fisheries projects in selected sites, of which about Php 10 million was allocated for fisheries and coastal resources management and Php 20 million was allocated for livelihood/enterprise development using the ABS approach. The BFAR will continue to use the approach as it has been proven to bring benefits to the concerned stakeholders.

We thank the CIP for a beautiful partnership in the last five years. We also thank Ms. Julie Roa and Ms. Arma Bertuso, our local partners, for their untiring efforts in coaching and mentoring our ABS groups. And of course Mr. Diego Naziri, for the continuous support throughout the FishCORAL-CIP partnership.

Best regards.


JESSICA C. MUNOZ
National Project Coordinator
FishCORAL Project

A food-secure and resilient Philippines

with empowered and prosperous farmers and fisherfolk

