

# RR News

## ENVIRONMENT

### Mangroves Conservation



*Financial Skills of  
Guinayangan POs  
Soar with Training*

**Conducted through the ICORE Project funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative**

IIRR and the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) worked together to provide training for People's Organizations (POs) in Guinayangan, Quezon. The training focused on business planning and bookkeeping to help the POs manage their funds better, implement their businesses more effectively, and attract investors. The training specifically targeted members from oyster and coconut by-product enterprise groups. Fifteen (15) representatives from POs attended the bookkeeping session, gaining valuable skills to improve their enterprises' financial management.



*Never Too Young:  
Guinayangan Academy's  
Youth Learn About  
Mangrove Conservation*

**Conducted through the ICORE Project funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative**

IIRR and ZSL partnered to educate the youth from Guinayangan Academy, Inc. of Guinayangan, Quezon, about the importance of mangroves. In a recent event in Barangay Calimpak, 57 students participated in a visit to the mangrove site, aiming to demonstrate their ecological significance and promote conservation. In response to the activity, the students expressed gratitude for the new knowledge gained, highlighting the impact of raising awareness about environmental issues.



*Buzz for Bees:  
IIRR, CvSU Partners to  
Promote Responsible  
Beekeeping*

**Conducted through the ICORE Project funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative**

Responsible beekeeping is being promoted in the mangrove forests of Guinayangan, Quezon. To support conservation efforts, IIRR has partnered with Cavite State University BRITE Center. Their collaboration aims to provide additional income sources for beekeepers, raise awareness about environmental conservation, and establish a community of responsible beekeepers in the Philippines.

## Climate Resilience Building



*Do Gardens Affect the Climate of a Landscape? IIRR and CVSU Team Up for a Study!*

**Conducted through the Climate Resilience (ClimBeR) Initiative funded by CGIAR**

IIRR, along with the Cavite State University (CvSU) team, conducted a study in Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Cavite, focusing on the Bio-Intensive Garden (BIG). The research included assessments of weeds, insects, birds, and crop diversity, as well as the installation of devices to monitor the garden's climatic parameters. The goal was to understand the garden's impact on the environment, including its micro-climate, biodiversity above and below the ground, and carbon storage. IIRR is only one of the locations for these assessments. The study will include other sites, such as the control plant in Yen Center, an agroforestry site in Yen Center, and a coffee farm in Bailen.



**Partnership on the Move: IIRR, FAO Explores Potential Collaboration!**

**Conducted through the Climate Resilience (ClimBeR) Initiative funded by CGIAR**

IIRR recently met with FAO Country Representative Lionel Dabbadie to discuss a possible partnership on climate change and aquaculture projects in the Philippines. During the meeting, IIRR's Acting Director for the Asia Region, Emily Monville-Oro, introduced the organization's global initiatives, while Senior Global Advisor Dr. Julian Gonsalvez highlighted recent developments in aquaculture in Ifugao. Project Manager Abbi Cabriole also shared updates on CGIAR's Climate Resilience (ClimBeR) Initiative, which focuses on research and communication strategies for adapting to climate change. Dabbadie expressed interest in seeing IIRR's work in Ifugao, which is also an outreach site for ClimBeR activities, as a potential location for aquaculture projects.



**Climate Action in Action: Groups of Experts Visit IIRR Headquarters and ClimBeR Sites in the Philippines**

**Conducted through the Climate Resilience (ClimBeR) Initiative funded by CGIAR**

Last March 20, IIRR facilitated an exploratory visit with climate change and resilience experts from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), the CGIAR Initiative on Climate Resilience and the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCCARRD) to a multi-story coffee-based agroforestry farm in Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Cavite, and the Bio-Intensive Garden (BIG) at the IIRR Headquarters in Silang, Cavite. It was a fruitful visit, bringing together a diverse set of experts collaborating for a greater purpose on climate action.

## Small-scale Aquaculture (AQUADAPT)



*Enhancing partnerships for sustainable aquaculture in the Philippines and Cambodia*

**Conducted through the AQUADAPT Project funded by IDRC and the Government of Canada's International Climate Finance Initiative**

IIRR has been engaging in bilateral discussions with consortium partners to advance the implementation of the AQUADAPT Project. Specifically, IIRR and the Central Luzon State University (CLSU) have successfully completed the MOA signing on March 16. Following suit, the Visayas State University (VSU) and Capiz State University (CapSU) also endorsed the agreement at the end of March.

IIRR has also made agreements with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute and the Marine Fisheries Research and Development Institute in Cambodia this month. This will ensure the implementation of AQUADAPT in Cambodia and help scale the project's advocacies.

IIRR is also continuing its collaboration with key partners like SEARCA, BFAR-NBFTC, and IUCN as members of the global consortium.



*IDRC-Canada Asia's Regional Director Visits IIRR Headquarters*

**Conducted through the AQUADAPT Project funded by IDRC and the Government of Canada's International Climate Finance Initiative**

During an institutional visit, Dr. Khapil Kapoor, the Regional Director of the International Development Research Centre-Canada (IDRC/CRDI) Asia, visited IIRR Headquarters. The BIG tour, led by IIRR's Food Security and Nutrition Program Manager, Ma. Shiela Santos-Anunciado, showcased IIRR's bio-intensive garden, a hub for agrobiodiversity conservation and promotion.

Following the tour, Dr. Kapoor engaged in an open discussion about IIRR's programs, with Emily Monville-Oro, the Acting Director for Asia Region, presenting the organization's achievements. Dr. Kapoor expressed enthusiasm for IIRR's work in its community sites and shared IDRC's overarching goal of influencing policies for marginalized sectors based on evidence-based practices.

## Food Security and Nutrition



*IIRR Turn Overs Vegetable Greenhouses to Guinayangan Local Government Unit*

**Conducted through Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) Initiative funded by CGIAR**

On January 25, IIRR and the Local Government Unit of Guinayangan, Quezon, officially turned over two new Vegetable Greenhouses in Dungawan Central and the Arbismen Crop Museum. The greenhouses aim to provide diverse vegetables using innovative semi-commercial models and strengthen seed systems.

IIRR provided gardening tools, planting materials, and variety of seedlings to 40 farmer-beneficiaries from Dungawan Central, including tomatoes, eggplants, cowpeas, and more.



***Support Local, Stay Healthy: IIRR and IPB-UPLB's Collaboration for Indigenous Crops***

***Conducted through Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) Initiative and Resilient Cities Project funded by CGIAR***

IIRR collaborated with IPB-UPLB to safeguard and promote indigenous vegetable crops, enhancing food security, nutrition, livelihoods, and resilience in rural and urban areas. IPB-UPLB shared various indigenous vegetable crops, including cowpea, soybean, rice bean, pole sitao, amaranth, and jute mallow. IIRR played an active role in these initiatives, serving as a catalyst through the propagation and distribution of these crops in communities in Guinayangan, Quezon, and Quezon City.

In another related collaboration, IIRR and UPLB-UP conducted a workshop to identify 20 priority indigenous crops for conservation and promotion.



***IIRR partners with UPLB CAFS to promote the availability and accessibility of underutilized and neglected vegetables***

***Conducted through the support of Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) Initiative of CGIAR***

IIRR, in partnership with UPLB CAFS Institute of Plant Breeding, conducted a two-day workshop to improve the availability and accessibility of underutilized and neglected vegetable germplasm in schools. The workshop aimed to train instructors in seed preservation techniques for local vegetables and explore opportunities for NPGRL to support biodiversity conservation aligned with DepEd's Gulayan Sa Paaralan Program.



***IIRR Presents at the ASEAN-CGIAR IP3: Regional Consultation Workshop***

***Conducted under IP3 through the support of CGIAR and Alliance of Bioversity International and CIAT.***

IIRR participated in the ASEAN-CGIAR IP3: Regional Consultation Workshop, exploring methods to boost agrobiodiversity conservation and its sustainable use while considering healthy diets, enhancing human health, and lessening the environmental impact on food systems. The regional workshop aimed to enhance sustainable production, improve diets, increase incomes, and promote resilient landscapes in the ASEAN region through research, capacity building, and policy actions focusing on agrobiodiversity.



**Enhancing School Food Environments:**  
Exploring Collaborative Opportunities between IIRR and the Department of Education

**Conducted through Fruit and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH) Initiative of CGIAR**

Last January 26, 2024, IIRR met with Dr. Dexter Galban, the Assistant Secretary for Operations of the Department of Education, to discuss the potential engagement of DepEd in IIRR's initiatives. During the meeting, Food Security and Nutrition Program Manager Ma. Shiela Anunciado discussed the current updates on the Integrated School Nutrition Model (ISNM) and the team's partnership with the Bureau of Learners and Support Services (BLSS).

Further, she presented recent studies on the team's project, Fruits and Vegetables for Sustainable Healthy Diets (FRESH), and advocated for a study assessing the School Food Environment. Additionally, she highlighted findings from a collaboration with Alliance Bioversity and CIAT and DepEd. She also emphasized the significance of partnerships with Hellen Keller International, focusing on food vendors, handlers, canteens, and the ISNM in schools.

The meeting concluded on a positive note, with Assec. Galban expressed keen interest in IIRR's initiatives. He is also open to discussing peer-to-peer learning among youth and reviewing the necessary data for ISNM. Furthermore, potential timelines for activities related to FRESH III have already been set.



**Elevating Future Nutrition:** IIRR joins the 1st Inter-Agency EO 51 Task Force Semi-Annual Consultative Meeting-Workshop

IIRR, as a new Inter-Agency EO 51 Task Force member, is committed to promoting and enforcing the Philippine Milk Code. This code, also known as EO 51, aims to ensure infant nutrition safety by regulating the marketing of breastmilk substitutes. The efforts also involve establishing the Calabarzon Interagency EO 51 Task Force, positioning Region IV-A as a compliance model.

Last March 22, 2024, IIRR participated in the 1st Inter-Agency EO 51 Task Force Semi-Annual Consultative Meeting-Workshop, held at the St. Jude Multi-Purpose Cooperative Hotel and Event Center, Brgy. Isabang, Lucena, Philippines. The workshop reviewed and discussed the accomplishments and significant milestones the EO 51 Task Force has achieved since its inception. It also included presentations and deliberations on reports regarding EO 51 violations and discussions on the EO 51 Task Force Algorithms and Action Mechanisms. Consequently, the session addressed the task force's planned activities and initiatives for the current year.

At the end of the program, task force members were given breastfeeding kits as a form of acknowledgment for their contributions. These kits were distributed as an expression of appreciation for their commitment to promoting breastfeeding and implementing EO 51.



**Scoping possibilities:**  
IIRR conducts scoping activity to look at opportunities for Urban and Peri-urban Agricultural Development in Southeast Asia

The IIRR held a two-day scoping event in Tagaytay City from February 27 to 28 as part of the Urban-Agriculture Study, which was conducted in partnership with the World Vegetable Center and the Nutrition Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. During the visit, the team met with the barangay captains and representatives to introduce the project and its activities, visited community gardens, and validated secondary data needed for the actual data collection and finalized the target barangays for the household survey.

Following the first event, the World Vegetable Center Urban Agriculture Study Training for enumerators and barangay representatives was conducted at IIRR Silang Cavite from March 4 to 5. The session provided valuable insights for the household survey and emphasized the importance of thorough data collection and adherence to ethical standards.

From March 6 -13, the survey-based data collection was conducted among 450 households in Tagaytay City who served as respondents for the study. While the research team is still in the process of data cleaning and analysis, the study's results aim to improve the understanding of urban agriculture and food production in the city, which will be shared with Barangay partners and the upcoming City-Fresh Coalition.

## HEALTH



**Championing Health and Nutrition:**  
Supporting Guinayangan, Quezon's Children Through Their First 1,000 Days

**Conducted under Building Supportive Mechanisms and Interventions for Health and Nutrition Program project through the support of [Metrobank Foundation, Inc.](#)**

IIRR conducted a two-day training session on home gardening, nutrition education, and cooking preparation for pregnant or lactating women and mothers or caregivers of children under five years old. In the end, participants were equipped with knowledge of the vitamins and minerals needed to ensure good maternal and child health and nutrition, especially in the first 1,000 days of life.

## CAMBODIA



**Promoting Social Enterprises in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary**

**The activity was conducted through the support of [Wildlife Conservation Society \(WCS\)](#)**

The Bamboo Enterprise Group in Mondulkiri province, Cambodia, is actively engaged in processing bamboo within local villages, providing an eco-friendly alternative to relying on forest resources. This initiative not only promotes collective business practices but also supports local entrepreneurs, with a focus on creating sustainable value chains that benefit wildlife, climate, and social equity.

Additionally, the project emphasizes gender equality and aims to boost income and employment opportunities for smallholder farmers, especially those from impoverished backgrounds. In collaboration with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the initiative has successfully established nine producer groups across ten villages within the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary (KSWS). These groups are involved in various activities, including bamboo processing, scarf weaving, fruit collecting, and honey processing, all of which contribute significantly to the economic development of the region.

## MYANMAR



*DeRisking climate hazards and risks for Myanmar Farmers*

**Project was conducted through the support CGIAR**

Despite the challenges caused by the military coup in early 2021 following the pandemic, the DeRisk project paved the way to achieve significant outcomes, including developing the CRW Database (Climate Risk database) for different cropping systems in Myanmar's central dry zone (CDZ) and creating climate risk maps for key crops in the CDZ. The project also developed a Climate Service (CS) profile for the CDZ, crop decision trees for key crops, and a CS manual translated into Myanmar language to guide climate resilience among smallholder farmers. DeRisk's focus on providing climate advisories through mobile apps and social media became an innovative approach to enhancing farmers' climate resilience.

## SUN-CSA



*SUN on the Move!*

In February 2024, during the Regional Core Group Meeting, IIRR collaborated with the CSN Chair, Secretariat, and Regional Hub to brainstorm regional initiatives. They also engaged with the Global Team to discuss the agenda of the SRAs Regional Coordination Call and Global Gathering Coordination Call.

IIRR participated in the first session of the Module on Nutrition Budget Analysis, focusing on Indonesia as the pilot CSA. This session involved practical exercises on analyzing the country's national budget for nutrition. Participants reviewed statements and policies from national leaders and monitored their implementation progress.

Additionally, IIRR led the Good Governance Facilitation during the Planning Workshop of SUN CSA Philippines. The CSA Philippines identified areas for improvement and committed to incorporating them into their 2024 Strategic Plan. The SUN CSN 121 Meeting was conducted, with CSAs from Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, and Bangladesh completed. The Getting Local WVI for ENOUGH Campaign identified five countries to receive funding support.

# NETWORKING/PARTNERSHIPS



**February 16, 2024**

*IIRR President and Board Member Visit Headquarters, Emphasize Engagement and Support*

On February 16, 2024, IIRR President Peter Williams and Board member Bhavya Kapoor visited IIRR headquarters to engage with staff and learn more about its impactful work.



**March 20, 2024**

*IIRR Recognized During CvSu's Founding Anniversary Celebration Marking the University's 118th Year*

During the CvSU's 118th Founding Anniversary event, IIRR was recognized for its collaboration with CvSU in assessing stingless bees in Guinayangan through the CvSU's BRITE Center. Represented by ICORE Manager Darwin John Raymundo and Field Coordinator Jonalyn O. Laco, IIRR used the opportunity to strengthen connections and explore future collaborations. These partnerships, including projects like ClimBeR and AQUADAPT, demonstrate a shared commitment to addressing poverty through innovation, resilience, and evidence-based approaches.



**March 25, 2024**

*IIRR Participated in CGIAR Listening Session*

IIRR actively participated in the listening sessions of CGIAR for its upcoming research and portfolio innovation stage, ensuring alignment with key national agricultural and food system objectives.

Representing IIRR was the Acting Director for Asia and Philippine Country Director, Emily Monville-Oro. The insights gathered from engaged partners will significantly shape CGIAR's upcoming research portfolio. These sessions provide stakeholders across the 32 countries where CGIAR operates with a consistent and tangible platform. Stakeholders can reflect on current research programs, evaluate their impact, and strengthen collaboration mechanisms.



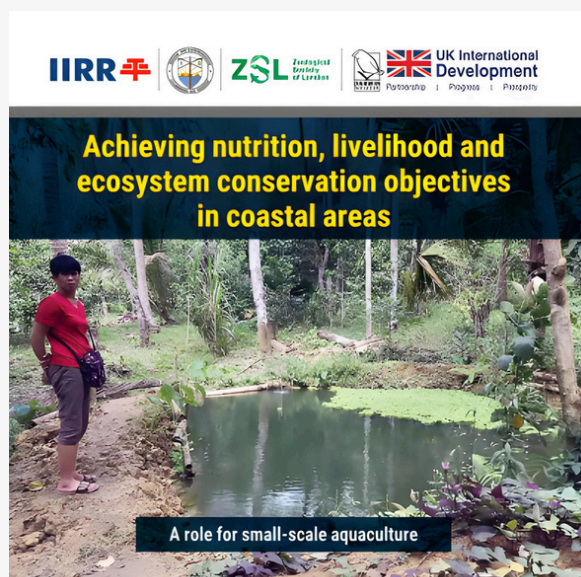
*IIRR joins the Canada-in-Asia Conferences 2024 held in Singapore*



Last February 4, IIRR's Asia Acting Director Emily Monville-Oro participated in the Canada-in-Asia Conferences 2024 in Singapore. This event was the first two thematic CIACs, focusing on Agri-food and Climate Solutions. CIAC2024 Agri-food and CIAC2024 Climate solutions aim to spark dialogue and exchange of perspectives by bringing together and engaging experts, investors, policy-makers, researchers, business leaders, and innovators from Asia and Canada. Ultimately, it seeks to create collaborative partnerships among key sectors of society.

During the event, IIRR's Asia Acting Director Emily Monville-Oro shared some insights on food security, nutrition, and food systems. She also shared IIRR-Asia's work on climate resilience and the role of small farmers. On the same evening, a Gala was held, where she joined the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) team and other partners.

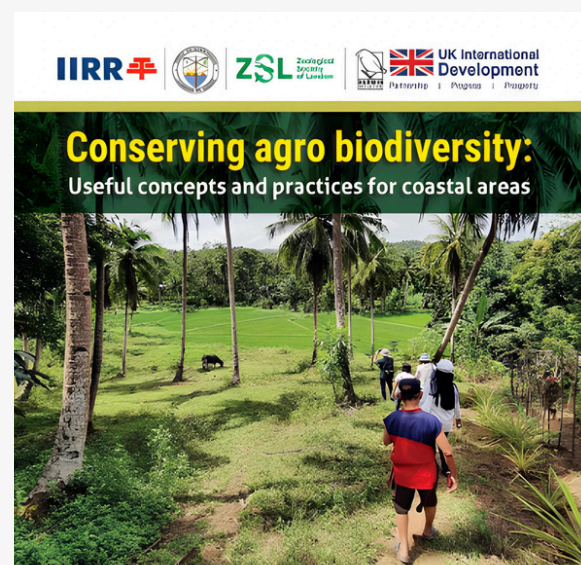
## KP DEVELOPMENT



**Improving Coastal Resilience and Ecosystem Services through Biodiversity Conservation (ICORE) project funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative**

How can small-scale aquaculture boost the nutrition and livelihoods of local communities while preserving ecosystems?

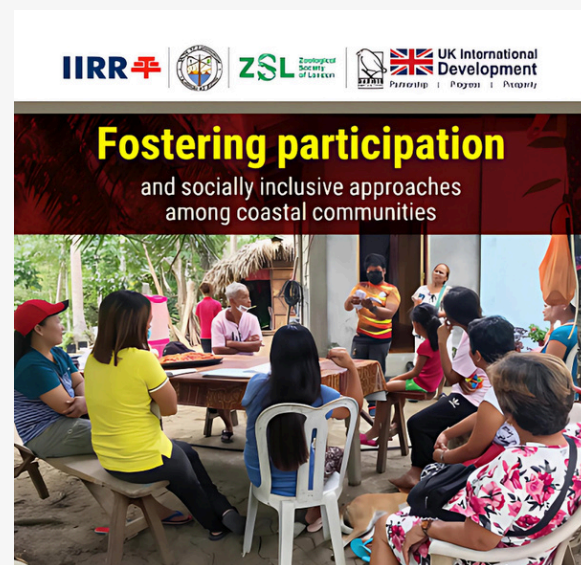
Uncover insights from the sourcebook titled "Achieving Nutrition, Livelihood, and Ecosystem Conservation in Coastal Areas." This sourcebook explores sustainable practices related to coastal resources and the preservation of mangroves, drawing examples from the Philippines, China, Thailand, and Vietnam. It emphasizes the crucial role of enhancing environmental and socio-economic resilience, as well as improving food security in coastal regions.



**Improving Coastal Resilience and Ecosystem Services through Biodiversity Conservation (ICORE) project funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative**

How can enhancing agro biodiversity help increase the income, food security, and nutrition of coastal communities?

Uncover the solutions through the sourcebook "Conserving Agro Biodiversity: Useful Concepts and Practices for Coastal Areas!" The publication focuses on promoting fruit trees, root and tuber crops, legumes, and small animals adapted to coastal areas, helping local communities adapt to challenges.



**Improving Coastal Resilience and Ecosystem Services through Biodiversity Conservation (ICORE) project funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Initiative**

How can we unite coastal communities to protect their agro-ecosystems while addressing challenges such as poverty, depletion of natural resources, and the impacts of climate change?

Learn effective strategies from the sourcebook titled "Fostering Participation and Socially Inclusive Approaches among Communities" to drive social change and enhance community well-being for equitable and resilient livelihoods!

### Philippine Program Brief

**IIRR in the Philippines**

**Who we are**

The International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is an international NGO with more than 60 years of experience in the Philippines. It promotes participatory and people-driven approaches to rural development. It was established in 1950 by Dr. James Yen, a Chinese educator regarded as the father of rural reconstruction.

In 2011, the Philippine Country Program was established and has since developed three learning communities in Cavite, Quezon, and Panay. The program addresses key development issues such as income inequality, food insecurity, malnutrition, gender and education, climate change and disaster risk reduction.

**How we do it**

**Learning Community Approach**

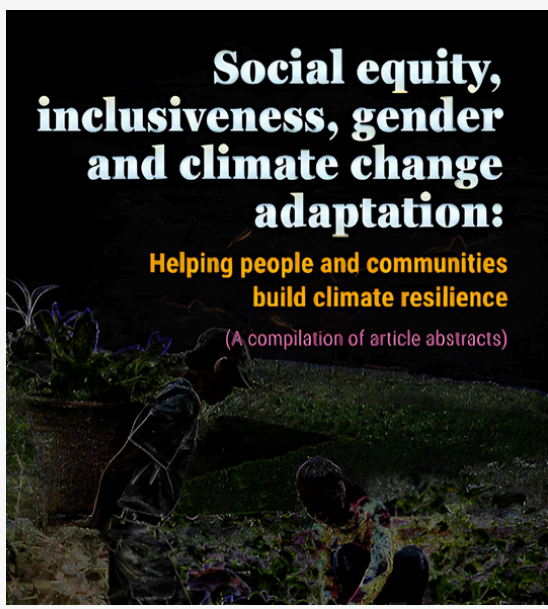
The Learning Community is an IIRR program approach wherein a group of people who share common values, interest, beliefs, and aspirations learn together to find innovative solutions for their common problems or attain common goals. IIRR works with local partners in finding holistic and integrated solutions for addressing the multi-faceted causes of development issues.

**Community-led and managed approach**

Interventions in learning communities are designed to provide opportunities and create an environment that allows communities to take control and be actively engaged. This often involves building capacities through "learning by doing," helping them reflect on their experiences and to choose the best course of action. It is often a combination of "technical know-how" from the

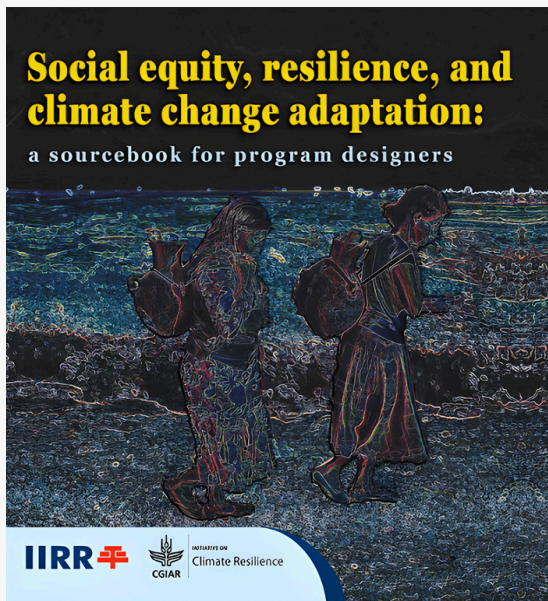
**What we do**

The IIRR Philippine Country Program was established in 2011 and has since developed three learning communities in Cavite, Quezon, and Panay. The program addresses key development issues such as income inequality, food insecurity, malnutrition, gender and education, climate change, and disaster risk reduction.



Wonder how social equity, inclusiveness, gender, and climate change adaptation help people and communities build climate resilience? This sourcebook comprises 56 article abstracts from diverse publications that can give you knowledge on such subjects. Flip through the articles and read the sourcebook.

The sourcebook is developed as part of the Climate Resilience Initiative (ClimBeR) funded by CGIAR.



The sourcebook titled, "**Social Equity Resilience and Climate Change Adaptation: a Sourcebook for Program Designers**" serves as a guide on tackling social equity within climate-resilient agriculture. It utilizes recent research and findings from diverse fields and geographic areas. It highlights the hurdles, possibilities, and creative approaches to improving social equity.

**Sourcebook**

**Harvesting Outcomes of CSVs Project in Guinayangan**

Dive into the inspiring stories in Guinayangan, Quezon, where farmers, communities, and the local government join forces to confront the impacts of climate change.



Discover their resilience and innovation in the "**Harvesting Outcomes of the CSVs Project in Guinayangan**" video, developed through ClimBeR, an initiative of CGIAR, as they take a transformative shift from traditional coconut farming to climate-smart agriculture.

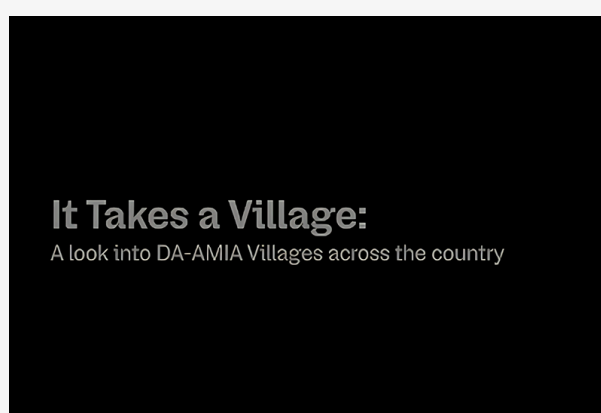
**Food Security and Nutrition Legacy Brief**

The Food Security and Nutrition Program initiated by the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction (IIRR) is committed to the comprehensive transformation of agri-food systems, aiming to establish inclusive, resilient, and sustainable networks. Focused on elevating food security and nutritional standards nationwide, the program places a strategic emphasis on fostering the production and accessibility of safe, diverse, and nutrient-rich fruits and vegetables. To know more about the projects of the Food Security and Nutrition Program.



**It Takes a Village: A Look into DA-AMIA Villages Across the Country.**

Uncover how IIRR and the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture - AMIA (DA-AMIA) Program have revolutionized climate adaptation efforts in Philippine agriculture in the video "**It Takes a Village: A Look into DA-AMIA Villages Across the Country.**"



With the support of the CGIAR Initiative on Climate Resilience, IIRR explored lessons and opportunities related to climate change adaptation efforts in the Philippines. Watch the video to see how they address the impacts of climate change by implementing the AMIA Village Approach.

# UPCOMING TRAINING FOR 2024 GLP CORNER

## GLP Events

### MAY 13 - 17, 2024

- Facilitating Community-based Agriculture: Lessons from Climate-Smart Villages (CBA-CSVs) in Cambodia

### OCTOBER 17-18, 2024

- ClimBer's Regional Learning Exchange

### OCTOBER 23-24 (Webinar) & OCTOBER 28-NOV 1

(Face-to-Face)

- Tracking Progress & Impacts via Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (PMEL)

### NOVEMBER 6-7 (Webinar) & NOV 11-16 (Face-to-Face)

- Climate Change Adaptation & Its Interconnection to People-Centered Food Systems in Ethiopia

### NOVEMBER 20-21 (Webinar) & NOV 25-29 (Face-to-Face)

- Rural Development and Management

## GLP Courses

### TRAINING COURSES OFFERED

#### International Courses

1. Rural Development
2. Leadership Development
3. Food Security and Nutrition
4. Community and Resilience Building
5. Community Enterprise Development
6. Organizational Support Services

While the courses are primarily for development agents, IIRR can customize them to meet the specific needs of organizations. These courses can include virtual and face-to-face sessions, as well as interactive learning exercises and workshops in communities.

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