

COURSE REPORT

RAINFORESTATION TRAINING FOR THE HINDANG PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVE

March 13-15, 2018

Barangay Katipunan, Hindang, Leyte, Philippines

A field training organized by:

Environmental Leadership & Training Initiative (ELTI)

Institute of Tropical Ecology and Environmental Management of Visayas State University (VSU-ITEEM)

Foundation for These-Abled Persons Inc. (FTI)

Life Giving Forest, e.V. (LGF)

Municipal Local Government of Hindang, Leyte



Participants and organizers during the rainforestation training in Hindang, Leyte.

Background: The Foundation for These-Abled Persons Inc. (FTI) and Life Giving Forest, e.V. (LGF), a Philippines and German NGO respectively, have been working together to enhance the capabilities of existing cooperatives of disabled persons in the Philippines. A goal of the partnership is to help these cooperatives become economically self-sufficient and to enhance their role in promoting environmental conservation.

ELTI is an initiative of: **Yale SCHOOL OF FORESTRY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES**



Dr. Marlito Bande giving a presentation on conservation farming and rainforestation

The partnership initially focused its efforts on the island of Mindanao, but after super-typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda hit the island of Leyte in 2013, it provided emergency response to assist victims of the calamity. More recently, it has been working with the Hindang Persons with Disability Agriculture Cooperative (HIPEDAC) in Hindang, Leyte, to develop sustainable livelihoods through the establishment of a 6-hectare Rainforestation site.

Rainforestation is an agroforestry approach developed by VSU-ITEEM (in collaboration with the German Agency for Technical Cooperation) that uses mixtures of native forest tree species, fruit trees, and agricultural crops to rehabilitate degraded land, restore key ecosystem services, and provide alternative sources of livelihood. FTI and LGF had contacted VSU-ITEEM and ELTI in the past about attending one of the National Rainforestation Training of Trainers, but the location of the training and types of activities would have proven overly challenging. Instead, VSU-ITEEM and ELTI customized a training and offered ongoing technical assistance for a 6-hectare farm that HIPEDAC members want to use as an eco-tourism demonstration area.

Objectives:

The three-day training was designed to develop and strengthen the capabilities of the members of HIPEDAC to design, implement, and monitor their Rainforestation site. The goals of the training were to:

- provide an orientation to the concept of Rainforestation;
- demonstrate the techniques needed to implement Rainforestation, ranging from wildling collection to the development of a temporary nursery;
- assist HIPEDAC members with the formulation of a development plan for their proposed site; and
- develop at least a one-hectare Rainforestation demonstration area.



HIPEDAC presenting their proposed farm plan of the 6-hectare site



Engr. Jimmy Pogosa and Dr. Marlito Bande demonstrating the transplanting of wildlings



Participants transplanting wildlings into polybags

Program

Day 1

The first day of the training took place at the HIPEDAC farm located in Barangay Katipunan, Hindang, Leyte. The training officially started with a formal Opening Program, including a prayer, a welcome, message, participant introductions, and leveling of expectations by Ms. Martha Villafane (Forest Program Officer of FTI). Hon. Betty Cabal, the Municipal Mayor of Hindang, also provided an inspirational message. The training then continued with a presentation by Ms. Lyra Chu (ELTI Philippines Program Assistant) on Philippine biodiversity, which highlighted the status of the Philippines as a biodiversity hotspot, outlined the 12 primary forest formations found throughout the country, and discussed the economic value of the ecosystem services provided by Philippine forests. This was followed by a presentation by Ms. Angelita Orias (Lecturer at VSU-ITEEM), which described the drivers of deforestation, the origins and main objectives of Rainforestation, the process of Rainforestation site establishment, and success stories of Rainforestation adopters. Engr. Jimmy Pogosa (Lecturer at VSU-ITEEM) then gave a presentation that covered nursery establishment, fruiting phenology, seed treatment, wildling collection, and the development of a recovery chamber. Following lunch, Dr. Marlito Bande (Director of VSU-ITEEM) gave a presentation on conservation farming and Rainforestation, which discussed the problems with monocultures, outlined approaches to conservation farming, and described several different approaches to integrating economically valuable crops, like abaca and cacao, with local forest trees.

Day 2

The second day of the training was led by Engr. Jimmy Pogosa and Dr. Marlito Bande and was designed to provide an array of hands-on activities. Participants learned how to establish a temporary nursery, prepare potting mixes, transplant wildlings into polybags, and install a recovery chamber.



Participants installing a recovery chamber



Seedlings given to HIPEDAC during the rainforestation training in Hindang, Leyte.

After lunch, the cooperative members presented their proposed farm plan for the 6 hectares site. The organizers from ELTI and VSU-ITEEM then provided comments and recommendations to improve their proposed plan.

Day 3

On the third day of the training, the participants along with VSU-ITEEM and ELTI training organizers worked on a 1-hectare portion of the site that had been identified as the first area to be planted. HIPEDAC was given 500 native tree seedlings to start the development of its demonstration site. After discussing how best to plant the seedlings, the training organizers and participants planted three hundred of the seedlings together.

Participants:

The training participants included 9 individuals from Hindang, Leyte, who were members of HIPEDAC.

Follow-up:

The remaining 200 seedlings were planted by the HIPEDAC members after the training. HIPEDAC also conducted a field visit to the VSU and Marcos Rainforestation demonstration sites on April 27, 2018. VSU-ITEEM and ELTI will monitor the site and provide additional assistance to HIPEDAC in the establishment of the remaining portion of the 6-hectare eco-farm as needed.

Appendix: Tree Species Planted in Hindang

Species	Number
Anabiong (<i>Trema orientalis</i>)	50
Banai-banai (<i>Radermachera pinnata</i>)	50
Taluto (<i>Pterocymbium tinctorium</i>)	50
Molave (<i>Vitex parviflora</i>)	50
Antipolo (<i>Artocarpus blancoi</i>)	50
Talisay (<i>Terminalia catappa</i>)	50
Dao (<i>Dracontomelon dao</i>)	50
Anagasi (<i>Leucosyke capitellata</i>)	50
Kalumpit (<i>Terminalia microcarpa</i>)	50
Bahai (<i>Ormosia calavensis</i>)	50
TOTAL	500

This event was possible thanks to Arcadia, whose Environmental Conservation grants support programmes that protect and enhance biodiversity, and provide field training and academic research.