

Promoting Sustainable Dairy Entrepreneurship among Youth

Context

The agriculture industry, despite its vast potential, faces a decline in interest among young people, largely due to the challenges experienced by small farmers and insufficient government support. This disinterest from agriculture adversely affects food security. Additionally, a significant buffalo population presents untapped potential for dairy production. By targeting out-of-school youths, who often lack viable opportunities for education and employment, this project aims to create pathways for these young individuals to thrive in the agriculture sector.

Building on the success of the initial phase, which focused on training out-of-school youths and high school students in buffalo milk production, this continuation project aims to further enhance the capacity and sustainability of dairy entrepreneurship among young people in rural community. The initial phase demonstrated significant improvements in youth workers income and youth engagement in agripreneurship. To sustain and expand these achievements, ongoing support and new initiatives are necessary.

Brief summary of the project

ASKI Skills and Knowledge Institute (ASKI-SKI) will continue to support trained youths in buffalo milk production. This phase focuses on providing ongoing support for raw materials, developing new dairy products, and securing FDA accreditation to ensure the safety and marketability of products. The project aims to enhance the sustainability and scalability of dairy entrepreneurship, contributing to long-term rural development.

Specific objectives

- Sustain Youth Engagement in Dairy Entrepreneurship: Maintain and increase youth participation in agripreneurship.
- **Support Income-Generating Activities**: Continuously improve livelihoods and income generation for rural families.

- **Enhance Food Security**: Expand access to affordable and nutritious dairy products.
- **Foster Agripreneurship:** Further establish agriculture and dairy farming as attractive and respected career options.

Activities

- **Ongoing Training and Support**: Provide continued training sessions on advanced dairy production techniques and entrepreneurship.
- **Raw Materials Support**: Facilitate the purchase of raw materials necessary for dairy production, ensuring uninterrupted operations.
- **Product Development**: Develop new products to diversify income sources and meet market demand.
- **FDA Accreditation**: Pursue FDA accreditation for dairy products to ensure quality and safety, enhancing marketability.
- Market Expansion: Identify and develop new market channels for dairy products
- **Community Engagement**: Continue community engagement and awareness campaigns to promote the benefits of agripreneurship.

Contribution of the project to real change

The continuation project aims to build on the initial success and create a more robust and sustainable model of dairy entrepreneurship:

- **Provide Youth with Advanced Skills**: Equip young people with advanced skills and opportunities to excel in agriculture.
- **Increase and Diversify Family Incomes**: Enhance family incomes through diversified dairy products and market expansion.
- **Improve Nutrition**: Provide a wider range of nutritious products to school children and the community.
- **Strengthen Rural Communities**: Foster stronger, more resilient rural communities through continuous support and engagement.

Location of the project

Nueva Ecija, Philippines.

Local partner

ASKI Skills and Knowledge Institute (ASKI-SKI) - is the training and capacity-building arm of the ASKI Group of Companies, based in the Philippines. ASKI-SKI is dedicated to providing high-quality education and training programs to support

the development of individuals and communities, particularly in rural areas. The institute focuses on enhancing skills, fostering entrepreneurship, and promoting sustainable development through various training programs and initiatives.

Direct beneficiaries

- ° Out-of-school youths and high school students.
- ° Rural families involved in buffalo milk production.
- ° school children receiving nutritious dairy products

Sustainability of the project

The project emphasizes building local capacity and creating a self-sustaining model of dairy production and distribution. Continuous training, support for raw materials, product development, and FDA accreditation will ensure long-term viability and scalability.

Monitoring and evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation will assess the progress and impact of the project. This will include tracking youth engagement, income generation, product development success, and community empowerment.

Duration

January 2025 – December 2027