

DA-BFAR's F2C2 pushes 'Cooperativism' for fisherfolk group success, administers necessary training

SUMILAO, Bukidnon (Oct. 13) - Acknowledging 'cooperativism' as an effective model for improving the livelihoods of fishers, some 30 representatives from fisherfolk groups in Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte, and Bukidnon underwent an extensive three-day training on cooperative formation, financial literacy, and basic accounting, here, supporting long-term economic strength for fishing communities in the region.

These essential skills, offered under the Department of Agriculture's Farm and Fisheries Cluster and Consolidation (F2C2) scheme through the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Region 10 (BFAR-10), aim to empower fisherfolk groups, promoting economic resilience and sustainability in the fisheries industry.

In line with the celebration of the National Cooperative Month, the training program encompassed essential topics discussed by proficient resource people from the bureau tasked to elaborate these areas in the most comprehensive and interesting method.

During day one, resource person Al-jun Magamano, chewed over the 'Orientation for Cooperative Formation' where the participants learned the history, principles, methodologies, and importance of converting a mere group into an income-generating, entrepreneur-minded cooperative.

"This knowledge fosters unity, collaboration, and collective decision-making among members, which are fundamental to the success of the F2C2 scheme, and ultimately for the fisherfolk group themselves," said Magamano.

Ellsworth Miller Orlasan facilitated the second day's activity with 'Fish N' Learn: a Financial Literacy game crafted by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP). Participants received valuable insights into managing their finances effectively, helping fisherfolk groups make informed decisions, invest wisely, and navigate the complexities of economic sustainability with real-life scenarios.

Moreover, the fisherfolk delved into basic accounting principles and bookkeeping, gaining the ability to maintain financial records and ensure transparency and accountability within their cooperatives on the last day.

The training program's goal is to equip fisherfolk groups with the knowledge and skills needed to improve their economic standing and the quality of their products. By forming cooperatives and embracing financial literacy, they can access support and resources offered by the F2C2 program, such as better market access, credit facilities, and sustainable practices.

Balingasag Producers Cooperative chairman, Herminia Maria Roa, expressed her appreciation for the training, saying, "*Nahimo ning eye-opener kanamo hilabina bahin sa paggasto sa among income sa grupo, unsaon pag-record sa mga transaction aron masubay og updated permi ang among mga dokumento,*"

[This training has opened our eyes to the importance of managing our group's income wisely and keeping records of our financial transactions up-to-date.]

Arlyn Sutacio, vice chairman of the Malaybalay City SAAD Fisherfolk Agriculture Cooperative confessed her realizations, sharing *“Abi namo’g sakto ug kumpleto na among mga gipang-gama, daghan paman diay og kulang. Pag-uli namo ron, amo g’yud dayon tong trabahuon para maapas pa.”*

[I thought that we’ve correctly complied with what’s needed. Now we have a lot of work to be done when we go back just to catch up.]

The DA-BFAR enhances the participants’ capabilities, the bureau made sure that the fisherfolk are poised to contribute to the growth and sustainability of the sector and improve their own economic well-being. (CLViajante//BFAR-10)





