

# Visible Works of Women

in Agrarian Reform, Sustainable Agriculture and Cooperative Development in CARRD Covered Areas



# ABOUT CARRD

Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD) is a not-for-profit organization supporting agrarian reform beneficiary cooperatives in Batangas, Iloilo and Capiz. CARRD promotes farmers' access to productive resources and provides support in enabling farmers to make informed decisions about environment-friendly, non-discriminatory, and sustainable livelihoods.

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## PREFACE

The invisibility of women's contribution in the sectors of agriculture, agrarian reform and cooperative has been a decade long issue that new paradigms have tried to address. The role of women has become more prominent in recent years given the emergence of strong-willed women that are willing to take on responsibilities and pursue productive engagement in the communities where they are. Women in these sectors have emerged as proactive facilitators of change and transformation influencing national and local policies, served as co-implementors of government programs, and actively engaged in the delivery of essential services to the vulnerable and marginalized segments of society.

Organizations, such as the Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD), play an important role in walking with these grassroots champions in amplifying their voice. CARRD envisions transformation of the rural poor into viable, productive, gender-sensitive and environment-conscious rural communities. Since its inception on October 19, 1988, CARRD continues to assist agrarian reform beneficiaries and smallholder farmers in the provinces of Batangas, Capiz and Iloilo.

Central to CARRD's commitment is to advocate for gender inclusivity and to celebrate the milestones reached by women in the sectors where it operates. CARRD firmly believes and is a witness to the exemplary abilities, passion, and commitment of women in the many encounters it has with grassroots organizations.

In support of these values, this publication aims to document those experiences of women in the areas of agriculture, agrarian reform and cooperative development. It is a means to acknowledge the women paralegals in facilitating agrarian justice to the landless farmers that aspire to have their own lands to till. To applaud the women organic rice farmers who volunteered to educate other farmers on effective sustainable agriculture farming techniques even without incentives nor pay. For their extra effort to serve as farm managers, farm workers, inspectors and marketers of produce so they can support the needs of household members, especially the children. Lastly, to appreciate the women leaders in the cooperative sector who allot time for organizational and community level activities so their members could get the support services they need to make their livelihoods productive.

CARRD employed several methodologies to complete the case studies featured in this publication. Existing reports from government were reviewed to emphasize and give status on key performance measures and prevalence data to describe context and prevailing concerns among women and the relevant sectors linked in the case studies. Project reports and databases were referred to, especially in detailing the progress of some interventions applied. Interviews with CARRD project staff and management were used to explain CARRD's programs and services. And finally, women representing core groups of paralegals, organic rice producers, and the featured cooperative were interviewed to get information on their experiences and insights on issues confronting them and their sector.

CARRD hopes that this document would encourage and motivate more women to act as agents of change and touch more lives in their homes, communities and the society in general.

# Case Study 1: Gentle Bravery from Women Paralegals

## The Problem of Landlessness

Farmers and farm laborers have fought long and hard since the passage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) on June 10, 1988. Under the CARL, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Programme (CARP) provided the mechanism to implement the redistribution of public and private agricultural lands to landless farmers and farmworkers. It hoped to empower them by securing tenure for the farmers as well as provide various assistance such as infrastructure facilities, marketing assistance program, credit assistance program, and technical support programs. It also seeks to facilitate, resolve cases and deliver agrarian justice.

In the last 30 years of CARP implementation, the Philippine Government has nearly completed the distribution of private and non-private lands through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) using the Certificate of Land Ownership Award (CLOA). From the initial scope of 3.82 million hectares under DAR, their target increased to 5.423 million hectares as of the latest review done by the government. Of this, over 89% or 4.8 million hectares of private and non-private agricultural lands have been accomplished benefiting around 2.8 million agrarian reform beneficiaries. From DENR's end, 2.5 million hectares were targeted for distribution and 99% of these have been accomplished benefitting around 2.34 million farmers. Given these achievements, as of 2016, the remaining land for distribution covers around 603,206 hectares<sup>1</sup>.

The last phase of implementation was beset by a number of challenges. Ballesteros et al (2017) mentioned that coverage of problematic lands span over 148,168 hectares<sup>2</sup> in addition to the 848,420 hectares of the 2,168,116 hectares issued with collective CLOAs that still need to be *parcellized* into individual titles. Second generation issues identified by ARBs are summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1.** Summary of the Second-Generation Issues Identified in Major Steps Towards Subdividing Collective CLOAs<sup>3</sup>

Estate validation, field investigation and certificate of re-documentation	Collective CLOA cancellation	ARB validation and qualification
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lost estate profile when land was first covered under collective CLOA</li> <li>▪ Absence of primary source of information/ ARBs no longer there to substantiate claim</li> <li>▪ Identified beneficiaries cannot be found or no longer living within the area</li> <li>▪ No annotation of names of individual beneficiaries at the back of the collective CLOA</li> <li>▪ Lost collective titles</li> <li>▪ Title was not registered in the Register of Deeds</li> <li>▪ Lost approved survey plan or approved survey plan not done when collective CLOA was issued</li> <li>▪ No means of verification was issued by DAR; land was not yet paid to landowner</li> <li>▪ If survey was not yet done, then <i>parcellary land use map (PLUM)</i> cannot be generated</li> <li>▪ Submit <i>formal request to conduct subdivision survey</i></li> <li>▪ ARBs do not know of the requirement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lost copy of CLOA</li> <li>▪ No follow-up done to Register of Deeds (ROD)</li> <li>▪ CLOA cancellation not done/prioritized by the Office of the Secretary (OSEC)</li> <li>▪ No follow-up done to OSEC</li> <li>▪ Order of finality not done/prioritized</li> <li>▪ OSEC finds no basis for cancellation/ incomplete requirements/ petitions not yet resolved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ ARBs refuse/fail to attend and participate in the meetings</li> <li>▪ ARB/s in the collective CLOA refusing/failing to execute the DOP because of pending petitions for inclusion and exclusion</li> <li>▪ Families of ARBs failing to produce death certificates</li> <li>▪ Families of ARBs have no access to and knowledge about free legal support</li> <li>▪ ARB heirs/spouse unable to produce birth certificates</li> <li>▪ Failing to produce a valid ID</li> <li>▪ ARB/s in the collective CLOA refusing/failing to execute the deed of conveyance/ proof of alienation and waiver of rights because of pending petitions for inclusion and exclusion</li> <li>▪ ARB appeals to DARAB and BARC is unable to issue certification</li> <li>▪ BARC needs to reorganize</li> <li>▪ ARBs fail to come up to an agreement</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Ballesteros, Marife, et al. (2017). The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program after 30 Years: Accomplishments and Forward Options. Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Link – <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1734.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid

<sup>3</sup> Casidsid-Abenilde, Joe-Anna Marie. (2017). Subdividing collective CLOA in the First District of Capiz: A strategy for Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development. (Unpublished Report).

Subdivision survey, plotting and approval	Individual CLOA awarding	ARB installation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ASP/PLUM was not generated</li> <li>No funds to conduct subdivision survey</li> <li>Security threats to surveyors because of unresolved conflicts in the area</li> <li>Technical description found to be wrong/ unsuitable</li> <li>Previous steps not acted upon</li> <li>Subdivision survey and other requirements not completed</li> <li>ROD requirements not complied/ problems in technical descriptions in the survey</li> </ul>	Requirements in previous steps were unmet	Requirements in previous steps were unmet

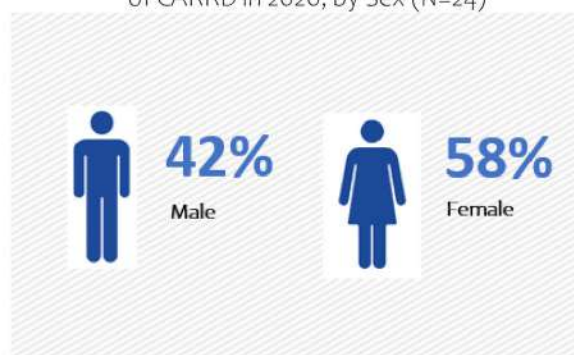
## The Paralegal Strategy and Role of Women

The Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD) is one of the civil society organizations in the frontline since CARP was set into motion. CARRD was conceived in 1988 to support farmers, especially the landless, to secure their access to land. It works with farmer organizations to empower communities so they can advocate for themselves. Among the various initiatives of the organization, the mobilization of paralegals was foundational in CARRD's strategy.

Paralegals are volunteers from the covered communities that act as support to farmers by providing legal advice and assistance to agrarian reform beneficiaries. The roles they play are critical in hastening the dispensation of agrarian justice. This was formally recognized by DAR's Memorandum Circular 15 of 2004 reaffirming the role of paralegals augmenting limited number of lawyers available to offer legal advice to farmers confronting agrarian disputes. Paragraph 4, Section 50, Chapter XII of CARL stipulates *"Responsible farmer leaders shall be allowed to represent themselves, their fellow farmers or their organizations in any proceedings before the DAR"*<sup>4</sup>. The paralegals provide proper orientation to farmers on their legal rights, the laws and processes covering the agrarian reform implementation. They also inform potential beneficiaries of the available options that are faster and non-litigious resolution of their cases.

In the areas covered by CARRD, female paralegal volunteers remain to be a major resource in fast-tracking land distribution among ARBs. Of the 24 first-liner paralegals enrolled in the programme, 58% are female. Paralegals normally render two to four days in a week and cover most of the farmer-clients in a given time depending on the assigned location or parcels to them. They travel to villages to where the assigned landholdings are even if distance was a challenge. Among the distinct characteristics of female PLVs mentioned by interviewed respondents include – keenness and appreciation of details; patience and commitment to their work; willingness and openness to volunteer; and organized handling of case documentations. The female PLVs are well-recognized in their respective communities as they are known for their passion and volunteerism despite not financially compensated for their time and effort.

**Figure 1.** Percentage Distribution of Paralegal Volunteers of CARRD in 2020, by Sex (N=24)



Source: CARRD Paralegal Volunteers' Profiles, 2020

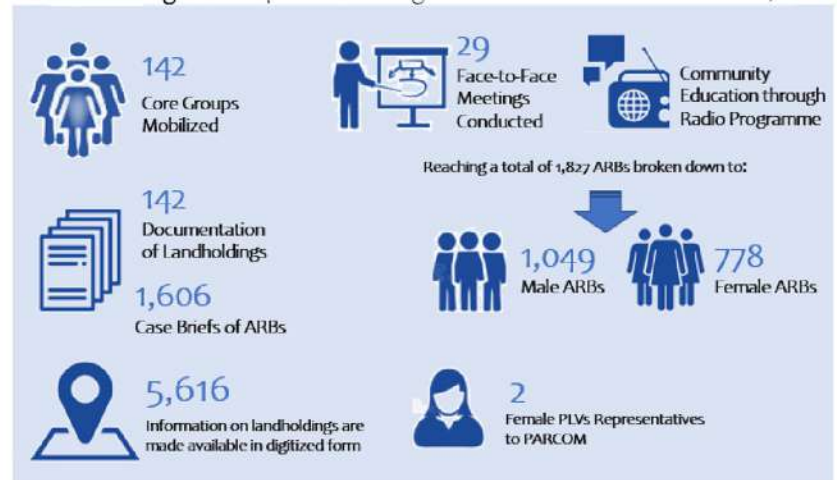
<sup>4</sup>Department of Agrarian Reform. (2004). Memorandum Circular 15, Series 2014 – Reaffirming the Role of Farmer-Paralegals in Facilitating Agrarian Justice and Providing the Creation of the Agrarian Justice Paralegal Support Funds. Link - <https://media.dar.gov.ph/source/2019/07/31/2004-mc-15-reaffirming-the-vital-role-of-farmer-paralegals-in-facilitating-the-delivery-of-agrarian-justice-and-providing-for-the.pdf>

## The Impact of Paralegal Work in CARRD Covered Areas

The CARRD's paralegal programme recorded major milestones in the last two years despite the setbacks brought by COVID-19 pandemic and other challenges encountered. A total of 142 core groups were organized to ensure collaboration among farmers working under the same parcels targeted for distribution. The 29 face-to-face community education sessions and the radio programme reached an estimated 1,049 male- and 778 female-ARBs in the provinces of Capiz and Iloilo. The paralegal volunteers also played a key role in the profiling and drafting of case briefs of 142 landholdings and 1,606 ARBs. Paralegals were also mobilized to coordinate with local CARP implementing agencies for CARRD's spatial mapping initiative that would integrate legal data from land titles, information on amortization and land tax payment schemes into a geographic information system map accessible to communities. Under the said initiative, information about 5,616 landholdings are made available in digitized form in the last three years. In coordination with DAR, paralegals were also instrumental in the training and reorganization of the Barangay Agrarian Reform Councils (BARCs)<sup>5</sup>.

Dialogues and partnership meetings, both at local and national levels, with CARP implementing agencies were facilitated for case updating and policy advocacy. At the national level, CARRD, together with the selected lead paralegals, lobbied with the CARP implementing agencies and stakeholders for the resolution of second-generation issues emanating for the CARPER implementation. At the local level, two (2) of the paralegals were elected as representatives to the Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committees (PARCCOM) in their respective areas. The PARCCOM is mandated, under the DAR Administrative Order No. 05-89 issued on March 3, 1989, to coordinate and monitor the implementation of CARP at the provincial level.<sup>6</sup> The PARCOM also served as informants to stakeholders on the provisions of existing and applicable agrarian reform laws, guidelines and issuances. The PARCOM also provided recommendations to the PARC Secretariat on how the province should be prioritized in the overall scenario of AR implementation.

Figure 2. Impact of Paralegal Work in CARRD Covered Areas, 2020



Source: CARRD Project Report, 2020

<sup>5</sup> CARRD. (2020). CARRD's Project Report from November 1, 2019 to October 31, 2020 entitled "Improving property rights security through facilitating the subdivision on collective land titles, post-distribution farmers' obligations, and social protection mechanisms in Batangas, Capiz, and Iloilo". (Unpublished Report).

<sup>6</sup> DAR. (1989, March 3). DAR Administrative Order No. 05-89 Regarding the Rules and Procedures Governing the Organization of the Provincial Agrarian Reform Coordinating Committee (PARCOM) and the Barangay Agrarian Reform Committee (BARC). DAR, Quezon City, Philippines. Link <http://www.lis.dar.gov.ph/documents/291>

## Female Paralegal in Action - The Story of Edna Aguilar

Edna Aguilar, age 50, with six (6) children (Leocane, Leona Mae, Leocore, Louie, Lorens, and Leo Jr) and wife to Leo Aguilar Sr, is a female paralegal volunteer of CARRD. She entered as regular paralegal volunteer in 2012 and became a consistent volunteer after she was awarded the piece of land through CARPER.

As paralegal, Aguilar serves as development facilitator that organizes core groups among the agrarian reform beneficiaries. At present, she handles core groups representing the eight landholdings assigned to her. In a week, she usually spends four (4) whole days to regularly monitor 43 ARBs from these landholdings.

She provides orientations and lectures on farmers' legal rights and policies and processes on land acquisition and distribution. Part of the farmer-education strategy is her participation in CARRD's School-On-The-Air Program where orientations were carried out through radio. Aguilar also assists farmers in complying with the documentary requirements for filing their claims related to the individual CLOAs under dispute. Since 2015, she has assisted an estimated 500 ARBs from the areas of Duenas, Passi City and San Enrique in the Province of Iloilo.

In her five (5) years of experience as PLV, she encountered both challenging and positive incidents that made a mark in her as a person. Aguilar said, *"Yung ibang may-ari lang lupa nagagalit bakit daw kinukuha ang kanilang lupa [some landowners were indignant asking why their lands were being 'seized'." On the positive side, she, along with other paralegal volunteers, has been treated with respect and recognition. The Municipal Agrarian Reform Program Officer and other DAR officials directly coordinate with them on cases related to the ARBs they cover. Aguilar mentioned, "Kinikilala kami at nag co-coordinate sa amin ang MARPO. Pag pumapasok kami sa opisina maganda ang pakikitungo nila sa akin."*

These experiences contributed to empowering farmers and the PLVs like Aguilar. Aguilar mentioned, *"Malaki ang tulong sa akin ng pagiging paralegal. Dati, pag nag uusap ang mga tao tungkol sa lupa, di pwedeng sumabat. Pero ngayon, kahit gabi na may pumupunta pa rin sa bahay para muhingi ng payo."* [Being a paralegal helped me a lot. In the past, when people talked about land issues, I could not provide my insights. But now, even at night, people still come to our house to ask for advice.]

Despite her workload as volunteer, she is able to cope up with her duties at home. Her husband and children are in full support of what she does. Aguilar does not need to worry about household chores since most of her children are already capable to perform their duties and help out in generating income for the family.

Overall, Aguilar is very grateful for her paralegal experience. *"Laki ng pasasalamat ko sa CARRD. Sa totoo lang, taos puso akong nagpapasalamat bilang ARB. Nalaman ko yung rights ko bilang isang farmer. Hindi nako nahirapan sa pagproseso ng mga dokumento para sa lupa na ibinigay sa amin bilang farmer dahil sa tulong ng paralegal program sa amin."* [I am very grateful to CARRD. Honestly, my heart is grateful as an ARB. I learned my rights as a farmer. I did not have a hard time processing the documents for the piece of land I received because of the paralegal program that supported me in the process.]



Edna Aguilar,  
Paralegal Volunteer of CARRD



Edna Aguilar conducting lecture on  
farmers' legal rights and agrarian reform

## Case Study 2: Budding Hope in the Hands of Women Farmers

Rice is one of the influential commodities in the country due to its importance as staple food for majority of the population and its contribution to the economy and rural employment. On the countryside, rice production has been a steady source of income for 2.5 million households which can be further divided into 2.1 million farmers, 110,000 workers for post-farm activities, and 320,000 for ancillary activities<sup>7</sup>. The total hectareage covered for rice production in 2019 was estimated to be 4,651,500 hectares, around 35% of the cultivated land for crop production.

From the demand side, the per capita annual consumption in 2019 was estimated at 110 kilograms, which was significantly lower than 2009 data of 123.3 kilograms<sup>8</sup>. According to the Philippine Rice Industry Roadmap (PRIR), population increase will drive the demand from 13.91 million metric tons in 2019 to 15.88 million metric tons in 2030. Projections also underscored that annual per capita consumption will increase from 110 kg in 2019 to 114 kg by 2030<sup>9</sup>. To meet the projected increase in demand, the role of women in rice production remains critical in achieving the rice production targets of the country.

### Rural Women and Rice Production

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) mentioned that the roles of women in rice farming gravitate towards planting, weeding, harvesting, and post-harvest processing<sup>10</sup>. A similar study by Paris et al<sup>11</sup> underscored that of the total population of economically active men and women in agriculture in the Philippines from 1990-1999, involvement of men and women in rice farming were at 47% and 27%, respectively. The same study highlighted the women's contribution in the areas of post-harvest activities, value addition, by-product processing, and preparation of food for farm help. For the post-harvest activities, women were said to be engaged in seed cleaning, selection, and storing seeds for the next cropping. Women also contributed in preserving indigenous knowledge in crop production as well as in domestic work, such as water and fuel fetching. The volume of work that women carry tend to vary depending on the economic capacities of the households as women were inclined to absorb the brunt when households could not afford external farm labor.



Female Farmer Beneficiary of CARRD engaged in harvesting palay

In a more recent study done by the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), there are several variables that influenced gender relations in rice farming. These include the agroecosystem, socioeconomic status, cultural norms, degree of mechanization, and availability of farm labor. In the Asian Region, including Philippines, women contribute at least half of the total labor inputs in rice production<sup>12</sup>.

While this information accounts for women's involvement in the rice farming sector, these are among the few accounts documenting women's roles and contributions in the rice sector.

<sup>7</sup> Gonzales, L. (2013). Global Cost and Price Competitiveness of Philippine Rice.

<[http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/scpi/Document\\_pdfs\\_and\\_images/Presentation\\_RRI-Philippines.pdf](http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/agphome/scpi/Document_pdfs_and_images/Presentation_RRI-Philippines.pdf)>

<sup>8</sup> CGIAR. (n.d.). Ricepedia. <<http://ricepedia.org/philippines>>

<sup>9</sup> Arcalas, Jasper (2019, 01 October). "Cheap imports may drive up rice consumption". The Business Mirror. <<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/10/01/cheap-imports-may-drive-up-rice-consumption/>>

<sup>10</sup> FAO. (2004). International Year of the Rice 2004.

<sup>11</sup> Paris, Thelma, et al (n.d.). Women's Roles and Needs in Changing Rural Asia with Emphasis on Rice-Based Agriculture. <[https://www.fft.org.tw/htmlarea\\_file/library/20110725165454/eb593.pdf](https://www.fft.org.tw/htmlarea_file/library/20110725165454/eb593.pdf)>

<sup>12</sup> IRRI (n.d.). "IRRI: Women in Rice Farming". <<https://asiasociety.org/philippines/irri-women-rice-farming>>

## CARRD's Interventions on Sustainable Agriculture

The Center for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development (CARRD) initiated its Sustainable Agriculture Program for Rice Production in Iloilo back in 2004. This program aimed to support the agrarian reform beneficiaries in making their land productive hoping to generate more income for farming families. CARRD's initial engagement with farmers focused in two barangays - Alimono and Salngan. The program was appreciated by farmers that CARRD needed to expand to other areas to meet volume requirements for their rice market in Metro Manila. CARRD expanded in six (6) more barangays in Iloilo, namely – Agtabo, Magdungao, Jaguimitan, Tagubong, Dalicanan and Talongonan – making the total coverage to eight (8) barangays.

The KASAPPI-ARC, a primary cooperative comprised of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs), served as CARRD's conduit in rolling out interventions on sustainable agriculture. In 2011, a year after the passage of the Philippine Organic Agriculture Act (RA 10068), CARRD started providing trainings to ARBs on organic agriculture covering the farming techniques aligned with the Philippine National Standards for Organic Agriculture. Both male and female farmers were given chance to participate in these initiatives. With CARRD's plan to acquire smallholder group certification, it also trained farmers to serve as key personnel constituting the Internal Quality Control System Committee and inspection team. These teams are the mandated to monitor farm activities, assess, and decide whether farmer-members are compliant with the IQCS standards set by the cooperative. In 2015, CARRD obtained organic certification from the Organic Certification Center of the Philippines (OCCP) to help in marketing farmers produce. At present, the IQCS committee plays a key role in ensuring sustainability of CARRD's organic agriculture programme in Iloilo.



**Actual IQCS Inspection Conducted**

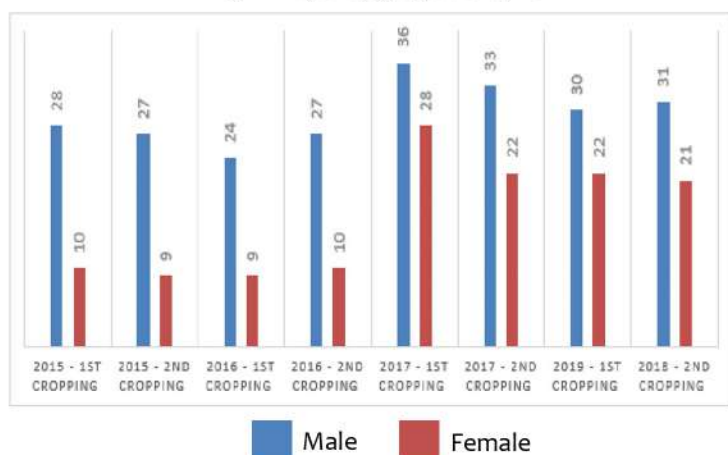
CARRD also mobilized support from the Embassy of Japan in the Philippines for the installation of milling facility in 2008. Mill operations became fully functional in 2014 when CARRD invested on the repair after the facility was partially damaged by Typhoon Haiyan. At present, KASAPPI-ARC is already generating income from the rice mill operations, serving both members and non-members proximate to where the facility is located.

In the last five (5) years, KASAPPI-ARC has been marketing organic rice in large volumes with Global Organic Wellness Corporation (GlowCorp), a farmer-led market intermediary, as partner. The premium price obtained from the marketing agreement with GlowCorp is being given back to farmers in the form of incentives. Farmers get PhP4-5 per kilo higher than the prevailing market price for black and red rice sold to GlowCorp.

## Role of Women in Rice Farming in CARRD Areas in Iloilo

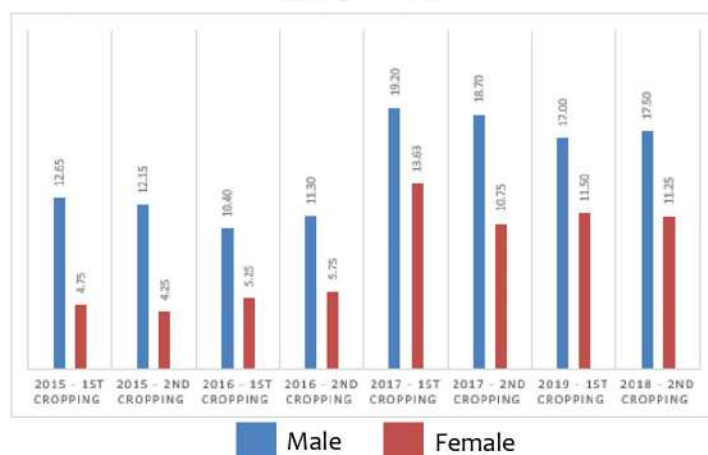
The number of women involved in organic rice farming, particularly in the CARRD covered areas, doubled from 2015-2018 (Figure 3). Their numbers peaked in 2017 but slightly decreased in 2018. The increase in the women farmers was due to the expansion of the CARRD's Sustainable Agriculture Programme to other barangays.

**Figure 3.** Number of Organic Rice Farmers Enrolled in IQCS from 2015 -2018, disaggregated by sex



Source: CARRD Sustainable Programme Data, 2018

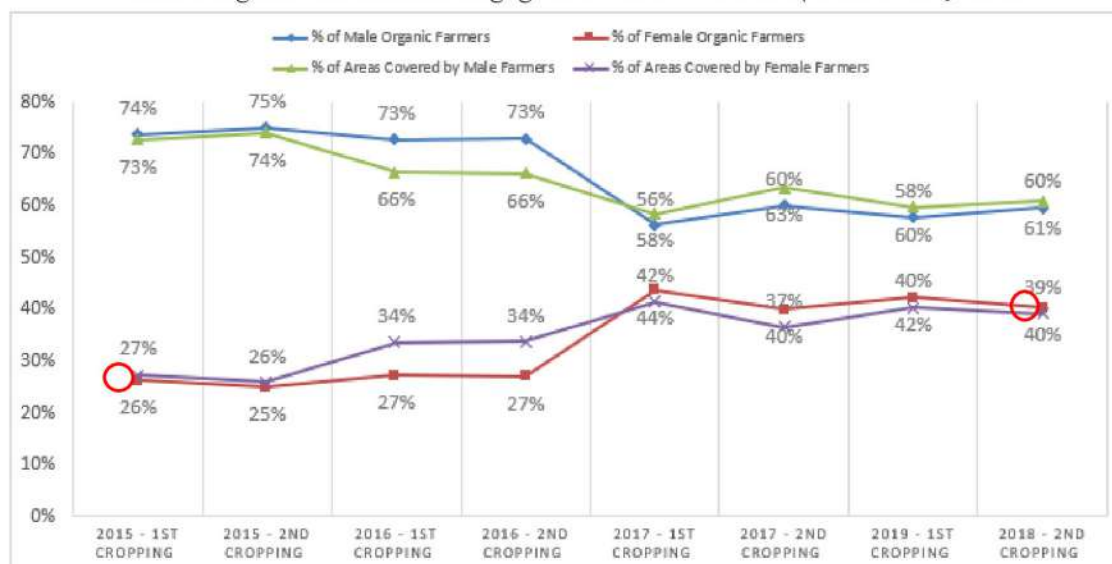
**Figure 4.** Areas (has) Covered by Organic Rice from 2015 -2018, disaggregated by sex



Source: CARRD Sustainable Programme Data, 2018

The total areas covered for organic rice production increased from 17 hectares in 2015 to 29 hectares in 2018 (Figure 4). Subsequently, the percentage contribution of women-farmers in the total cultivated areas increased from 27% in 2015 to 40% in 2018 (Figure 5).

**Figure 5.** Comparative Analysis on the Percentage of Areas Covered and the Proportion of Male and Female Organic Rice Farmers Engaged in KASAPPI-ARC's IQCS from 2015 -2018

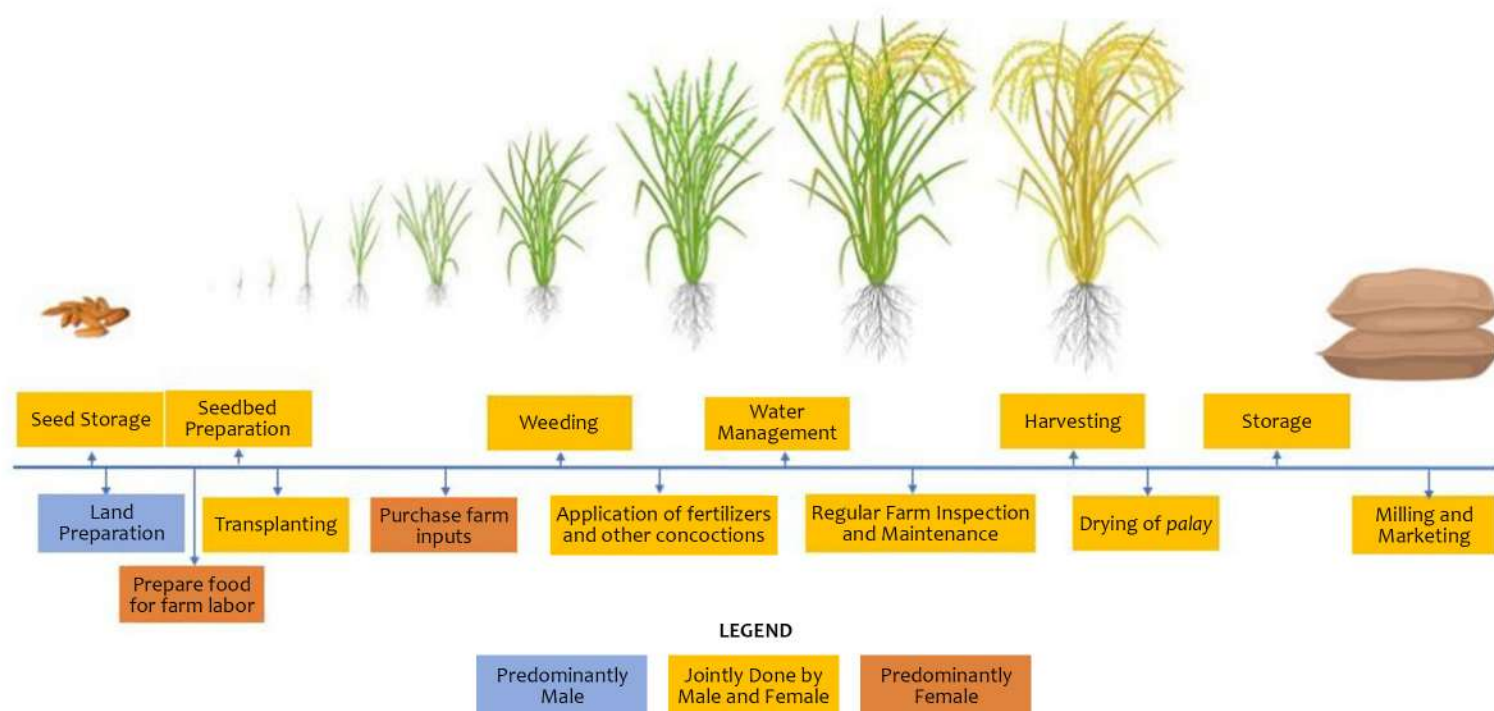


Source: CARRD Sustainable Programme Data, 2018

## Gender Roles in Organic Rice Farming

The female farmer-cooperators of CARRD are well-entrenched in the actual organic rice farming. Based on the gender role analysis done, majority of the steps in organic rice farming are jointly done by both genders (Figure 4). In some cases, assignments on who takes the lead in farm management depends on the socio-economic conditions of the households. When women are the lead, they usually hire external farm help during land preparation and other processes that may entail hard labor while their male counterparts take charge of the sugarcane farms.

Figure 6. Observed Gender Roles on Organic Rice Farming in CARRD Sites, 2020



Based on the interviews done with selected female farmers, CARRD farmer-cooperators usually do two (2) cropping cycles per year covering the periods June – September and October – January. Farmers usually allow the farms to rest from February to May as most of their farms are rainfed. But for those who have access to irrigation, they could decide to engage in a third cropping cycle for the year.



Women Farmer Beneficiaries of CARRD

## Woman Trailblazer in Organic Agriculture in the Province of Iloilo

Ofelia dela Cruz, age 67, mother to Roel (45 years) and wife to Roberto (72 years old), is an organic rice farmer by profession. Her family owns farm lands planted to organic rice and sugarcane totaling to three (3) hectares. She has been a member of the KASAPPI Cooperative since 2006 and is currently one of the members of the IQCS Committee.

As farmer for more than 25 years, she is very much involved in farming activities in their organic rice farm. As early as 1995, she took charge for organic rice production while her husband manages their sugarcane farm.

As lead, she handles all the steps and stages in organic rice farming – from seed selection, land preparation, transplanting, pest and water management, and harvesting. She obtains help from farm labor, where necessary, especially during land preparation. Her son Roel also helps in the farm activities to support her but she sees to it that the organic standards outlined are complied.

She mentioned benefiting from the various trainings offered to KASAPPI members who are organic rice and sugarcane farmers. She attended trainings related to IQCS, the organic rice standards, organic farming techniques, gender, and cooperative management. Being a previous paralegal volunteer (PLV) for more than six (6) years, she also participated in the series of trainings for PLV, both basic and advanced levels, to keep herself updated with the law, the agrarian reform program, and all the processes to be undertaken by ARBs assigned to her.

Her experience as KASAPPI member also paved the way for increased access to support services. According to dela Cruz, both male and female members of KASAPPI can access production loan amounting to PhP60,000 per hectare at 2.5% monthly interest.

Her involvement in organic rice farming, cooperative development, and paralegal work allowed her to gain more friends, networks, and partners. Her passion for farming resulted to positive achievements as dela Cruz was awarded as top individual in the farming competition for 2017 where she won PhP50,000. DAR recognized her contributions in their community and tapped her as a resource in trainings to reach more agrarian reform beneficiaries in the eight (8) villages of Bijo and five (5) villages in Passi within in the Province of Iloilo.

Dela Cruz also encountered a minor challenge being a staunch advocate of organic rice farming. She narrated, “*Sabi ng iba para sa lalaki lang ang farming. [Sabi ko], pwede din naman sa babae. Para makasiguro sa quality, ako na po ang nag manage ng organic rice farm naming mula noong 1995 pa. [Others said farming is for men only. [However}, I replied saying that it can also be for women. To maintain quality, I have been managing our organic rice farm since 1995.]*”



Ofelia dela Cruz, Organic Rice Farmer-Member of KASAPPI



Ofelia dela Cruz facilitating one of the IQCS Trainings

Being an organic rice farmer, she gets marketing support from CARRD along with other ARBs enrolled in the IQCS managed by KASAPPI. Dela Cruz said, “*Dati, ang ani ko per hectare ay 100 cavans (40 kilo per cavan) na binibili sa akin ng Php11- 14 per kilo. [Before, my yield per hectare was 100 cavans (40 kilo per cavan) and the market paid me P11-14 per kilo].*” She added, “*Ngayon sa organic agriculture, ang ani ko ay 60-65 cavans (50 kilo per cavan) pero binibili naman ito ng KASAPPI ng Php5 na mas mataas kesa sa prevailing farm gate price. [In organic agriculture, my yield became 60-65 cavans (50 kilo per cavan) but KASAPPI buys it from us at Php5 higher than the prevailing farm gate price].*” Based on dela Cruz’s experience, the reduction in harvest from 4,000 kg to 3,250 kg per hectare did not necessarily mean loss. The net income from organic rice production per hectare is still higher by around Php5,750.

Finally, dela Cruz shared her appreciation to CARRD and KASAPPI-ARC’s joint programmes. “*Kung walang KASAPPI, ma-lilimit ang alam ko. Nandito ang CARRD natumutulong sa aming mga farmers di lang sa pagtatanim pero sa marketing din. Ngayon ang pagbili ng organic black rice ay Php5 na mas mataassa prevailing farm gate price. Php4 naman na mas mataas ang sa red rice. Malaking tulong po ito sa amin. Dahil sa KASAPPI and CARRD, nakaangat ang aming buhay. Patungkol naman po climate change, organic farming ang sagot. Kung wala ang CARRD, di po malalaman ng farmers na makakatulong ito sa environment. [If there is no KASAPPI, my knowledge on [agriculture] would be limited. CARRD is here assisting farmers not only in farming but also in marketing. Now, the per kilo farm gate price for organic black rice is Php5 higher than the prevailing farm gate price. For red rice, the price is Php4 higher than the prevailing farm gate price. This is big help to us. Because of KASAPPI and CARRD, our livelihoods improved. As for climate change, organic farming is the solution. If there was no CARRD, the farmers would not have known that organic farming helps the environment.]*”

## Case Study 3: The Roles of KASAPPI-ARC and Women Leaders in the Implementation of Agrarian Reform in Iloilo

The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) is one of the centerpieces of the Philippine Government in addressing poverty and inequality plaguing the country. Its vision of rationalizing the distribution of land resources to the landless farmers, agricultural lessees, regular and seasonal farmworkers is central to the success of this anti-poverty program. Of the 5.423 million hectares targeted under the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), 4.8 million hectares of private and non-private agricultural lands were distributed to 2.8 million agrarian reform beneficiaries. As of 2016, about 603,206<sup>13</sup> hectares are left for distribution in addition to the lands that still need to be parcellized coming from the collective Certificates of Land Ownership Award (CLOA) distributed during the 30 years of CARP implementation.

### Cooperatives as Conduit for Support in Agrarian Reform Implementation

Under CARP, the law outlined institutional mechanisms that would help organize and expedite the delivery of services to the intended beneficiaries. Administrative Order No. 6 of the DAR issued on June 15, 1990 recognized the role of cooperatives and other self-help organizations in propelling self-reliance among beneficiaries<sup>14</sup>. AO No. 6 articulated the framework in the promotion of and support that would be provided to ARBs and their organizations in the dispensation of the program. It also shared the role of DAR in these processes as well as the interaction that need to happen between the ARB organizations and the various DAR units and other support agencies of the bureaucracy.

CARRD targets to facilitate distribution of 82 landholdings servicing a total of around 1,500 farmers in six (6) municipalities of Iloilo. The formation of cooperatives is one of the best approaches they have employed since 2004. The *Katilingban sang Agraryo Padulongsa Pag-uswag sang Iloilo* Agrarian Reform Cooperative (KASAPPI-ARC) is one of the established cooperative-partners of CARRD. KASAPPI-ARC was established in 2007 and registered under the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA). CARRD's engagement with the founding members of KASAPPI-ARC started when CARRD assisted farmers in Barangay Salngan when they had limited access to post-harvest facilities and were beset with poor farm-to-market roads.



KASAPPI-ARC General Assembly Meeting

KASAPPI-ARC covers six municipalities in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> districts of the Province of Iloilo. KASAPPI-ARC supports its members by providing production loans, common service facilities (e.g. tractor, trucking, threshing and milling service to rice and sugarcane farmers). The cooperative also serves as consolidator and primary market of organic rice, ensuring competitive pricing for certified organic rice produced by members. KASAPPI-ARC's overall vision is to have self-reliant communities where there is equitable distribution of resources and empowered ARBs who could effectively manage their economic and social development towards improved quality of life. The cooperative has steadily paced its growth since 2007 and has accumulated assets valued at PhP 12.6 million.

<sup>13</sup> Ballesteros, Marife, et al. (2017). The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program after 30 Years: Accomplishments and Forward Options. Philippine Institute for Development Studies. Link – <https://pidswebs.pids.gov.ph/CDN/PUBLICATIONS/pidsdps1734.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Department of Agrarian Reform. (n.d.). Administrative Order 6, Series of 1990 – Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) Guidelines Governing the Promotion of and Support to Cooperatives and Other Self-Help organizations for Beneficiaries of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP). <<https://media.dar.gov.ph/source/2019/10/22/1990-ao6-dar-guidelines-governing-the-promotion-of-and-support-to-cooperatives-and-other-self-help-organizations-for-beneficiaries-of-the-carp.pdf>>

## Role of Women in KASAPPI-ARC

The role of women in KASAPPI-ARC's growth is duly recognized. Half of the twelve KASAPPI-ARC's leaders and officers are female and have been serving the cooperative for many years. Their service and contribution to the organization have shown strong passion and commitment to the cause and mission of the cooperative, which is to alleviate the living standards of its members. Aside from the values that they promote, these women are known as leaders in the areas of agrarian reform and sustainable agriculture in the covered areas of CARRD. They have long served as volunteer paralegals and community educators to support other farmers and ARBs like themselves.

The majority of KASAPPI-ARC's members are women despite the predominant notion that agriculture and cooperatives are biased towards men. Based on 2019 records of the cooperative, women comprised 53% (294) of the 554 total members of KASAPPI-ARC. Almost all these women members are agrarian reform beneficiaries and farm practitioners as well.

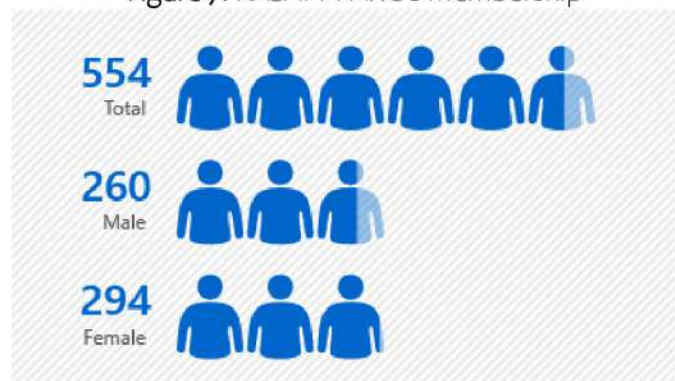
## KASAPPI-ARC's Work in Agrarian Reform and Sustainable Agriculture

KASAPPI-ARC was instrumental in mobilizing support to hasten the land distribution in the 3rd and 4th districts of Iloilo Province. KASAPPI-ARC received recognition as key partner of the agrarian reform implementers, including DAR, LandBank of the Philippines, and Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), among others. KASAPPI-ARC, in coordination with CARRD, has educated an estimated 3,000 farmers on their legal rights to land from 2015 to 2020. The cooperative also produced 9 first-liner paralegal volunteers and 357 core group leaders that served as "force multipliers" in the implementation of the agrarian reform programme.

In the area of financial services, KASAPPI-ARC has provided production loans to about 205 or 39% of its members who are sugarcane and organic rice farmers. Of the total number of borrowers 56% were women. In terms of value, 98% of the loan exposure was accessed by sugarcane farmers while the remaining 2% was recorded for organic rice producers. KASAPPI-ARC's Agri-Credit Portfolio amounted to over PhP9.85 million based on the May 2019 data from the cooperative (Figure 8).

KASAPPI-ARC also serves as conduit of the PCIC, an agency mandated to extend social protection to farmers in the form of crop and accident insurance. For 2020, KASAPPI-ARC was accredited as partner to collect the payments for the crop insurance availed by its members.

Figure 7. KASAPPI-ARC's Membership



Source: KASAPPI Profile, May 2019

Figure 8. Agri-Credit Portfolio Availed by Members



Source: KASAPPI Profile, May 2019

Table 2. Insurance Coverage Among CARRD Members

Description	2018	2019
<b>Crop Insurance</b>		
Male	57	18
Female	74	11
Total area (ha)	131.5	58.75
Amount ensured	9,271,000	3,525,000
Subsidized premium	324,485	123,375
<b>Life Insurance</b>		
Total	41	50
Amount ensured	410,000	No data
Voluntary premium contribution	2,050	No data

Source: CARRD Report, May 2019

For 2018, 131 farmers availed of the crop insurance with total insured coverage of PhP9.28 million. For 2019, the crop insurance portfolio dropped to 30 farmers with insured coverage of PhP3.53 million. Of the 160 members covered by the crop insurance in 2018 and 2019, 85 or 56% were women. In addition, about 41-50 members availed of life insurance for 2018-2019 (Table 2).

On top of support services for farm production, leaders and members were also informed of important issues confronting the agriculture and cooperative sectors. From 2017 to 2019, CARRD and KASAPPI-ARC partnered with relevant government agencies and service providers in delivering trainings and orientations on cooperative management, leadership, program management and monitoring, entrepreneurship and business development, among others (Table 3). Members are also educated on important thematic areas and related policy issues on climate change, community resilience, organic agriculture, local governance, health and wellness, and gender sensitivity (Table 4).

**Table 3. Trainings Attended by Leaders and Members in the Last 3 Years**      **Table 4. Seminars Attended by Leaders and Members in the Last 3 Years**

Trainings attended in the past 3 years	Total
1 Leadership Training	5
2 Cooperative Governance/Management	10
3 Project Management/PIME	2
4 Policy Formulation and Internal Control System	6
5 Financial Management	5
6 Basic Bookkeeping and Accounting	3
7 Enterprise Development/Proposal Making	4
8 Business Management	4
9 Strategic Planning and Implementation	5
10 Product Development and Marketing	3
11 Computer Literacy Training	0
12 Paralegal Training	2
13 IQCS Training	16
14 Others	3

Source: KASAPPI Profile, May 2019

Orientations and Seminars Attended	Total
1 Climate Change Orientation	19
2 Community Resiliency on Climate Change	16
3 Organic Agriculture Orientation	17
4 Local Governance Orientation	4
5 Value Chain	6
6 Gender Sensitivity	5
7 Team building and Value Formation	7
8 Active Non-Violence	1
9 Health and Wellness	4
10 Political Awareness	4
11 Change Orientation	3
12 Advocacy and Linkage Building	4
13 Social and Spiritual Seminar	8
14 Others	0

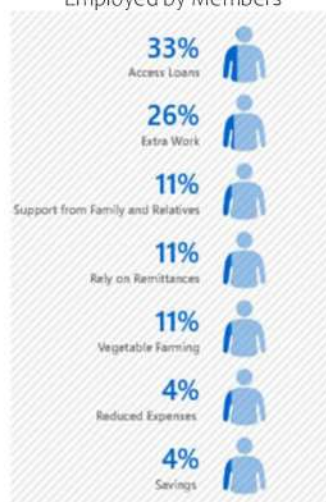
Source: KASAPPI Profile, May 2019

Aside from the trainings provided from partners, KASAPPI-ARC also organized membership and ownership orientation seminars and consultation meetings to engage members in the governance of the cooperative. In 2019, 296 members were able to participate in 10 organized meetings where 177 or 67% were represented by women members.

### Impact of KASAPPI-ARC's Work in Households

Given that agriculture is the primary source of livelihood among the 531 members of the cooperative, the interventions of KASAPPI-ARC proved to be relevant not only to members but also to their household members. In the 2019 baseline data of CARRD, 42% of the respondents have about 4-6 unemployed household dependents and majority have one to three children below 15 years of age. During lean season, which is usually from June to August, members tend to practice coping mechanisms such as accessing loans, engaging in alternative work, or selling vegetables produced from their backyards (Figure 9).

**Figure 9. Coping Mechanisms Employed by Members**



Source: KASAPPI-ARC Baseline, 2019

**Figure 10. Sources of Capital Among KASAPPI-ARC Members**



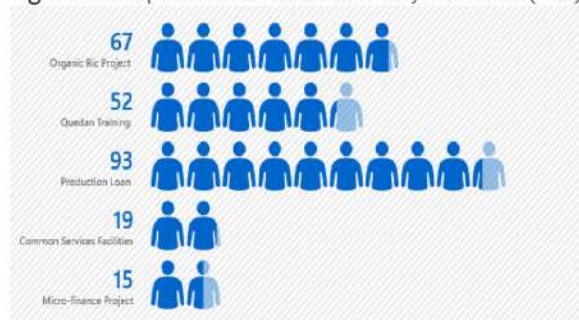
Source: KASAPPI-ARC Baseline, 2019

In terms of sources of capital, the cooperative remained to be the major source for 63% of the members. Other sources include private lenders (41%), personal savings (19%), and family and relatives (4%) (Figure 10).

Among the cooperative services availed by members, production loan (93%) tops the list. This was followed by organic rice project (67%), Sugarcane Quedan Training (52%), Common Service Facilities (19%), and micro-finance project (15%) (Figure 11).

Moving forward, KASAPPI-ARC aspires to deepen their impact on the lives of their members and their families by further improving services and reaching more farmers in communities where they are currently based.

**Figure 11.** Cooperative Services Availed by Members (In %)



Source: KASAPPI Profile, May 2019



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