

Chapter 8

Expanding Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

The agriculture, forestry and fisheries (AFF) sector of Central Visayas employs 29.5 percent of the region's total employed persons. However, low production and productivity, coupled with the sector's vulnerability to natural disasters render more than half of the region's farmers and fisherfolk poor.

To increase farm income, the Plan will focus on sustainably boosting farm productivity and the competitiveness of agricultural, forestry and fishery products, and reducing inequality in economic opportunities.

The Plan will employ a two-pronged approach to inclusivity by increasing small farmers' and fisherfolk's access to economic opportunities on one hand, while expanding economic opportunities of those who are currently engaged in producing food and non-food agriculture/forestry and fishery-based products on the other hand.

Assessment

Contribution to GRDP and Employment

From 2011 to 2016, the share of the AFF sector to the GRDP consistently declined from a high of 8.0 percent in 2011 to a low of 5.4 percent in 2016. On the average, the sector accounted for a mere 6.5 percent of the GRDP during the six-year period. (*see Table 8.1*)

During the same period, the sector grew by 0.27 percent on the average. This performance was significantly below the Plan target of an AAGR of 3.1-3.5 percent.

In terms of employment, the sector employed an average of 900,667 persons per year from 2011 to 2016. The number accounted for almost 29.4 percent of the total employed persons in the region during the period.

Real wage rates of agricultural farm workers, however, averaged only PhP147.59 a day from 2011 to 2015, less than half of the daily minimum wage of a non-agricultural worker.

Average labor productivity in the sector for the six-year period was only PhP31,500, very much lower than the national figure of PhP64,189.

Table 8.1 Agriculture and Fishery Performance, 2011-2016

AFF SECTOR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	AVERAGE
Actual Growth Performance (%)	3.7	-1.6	-0.3	-1.9	2.3	-0.6	0.3
RDP Growth Target	2.7-3.2	3.3-3.8	3.4-3.9	2.0-2.5	3.5-3.7	3.5-3.7	3.1-3.5
GVA of AFF (in Billion Pesos)	28.95	28.48	28.39	27.85	28.48	28.30	28.40
% Share to GRDP	8.0	7.2	6.6	6.1	5.9	5.4	6.5
GVA of Agriculture & Forestry (in Billion Pesos)	23.95	23.67	23.71	23.86	24.52	24.16	23.97
GVA of Fisheries (in Billion Pesos)	5.00	4.81	4.67	3.99	3.96	4.42	4.42
Agriculture Employment ('000 persons)	906	874	881	904	898	941	901
% Share to Total Employment	31.2	29.8	29.7	29.0	27.9	29.1	29.4
Labor Productivity (in PhP '000)	31.90	32.50	32.20	30.80	31.70	30.10	31.50
Nominal Wage Rate (in PhP)	173.76	178.22	202.06	213.83	224.31	297.25	214.90
Real Wage Rate (in PhP)	142.19	138.80	149.83	150.97	156.17		147.59

Sources: Philippine Statistics Authority and the Updated Central Visayas Regional Development Plan, 2014-2016

Subsector Performance

The sector's growth, the highest of which was in 2011, was mainly contributed by the livestock and poultry subsectors, whose production value consistently grew from PhP8.88 billion and PhP6.18 billion in 2011 to PhP9.39 billion and PhP6.92 billion in 2015, respectively (see Table 8.2).

In 2015, Central Visayas was the country's fifth top producer of hogs, contributing more than 7.0 percent to the total hog production in the country, after Central Luzon (22.7%), CALABARZON (17.9%), Western Visayas (7.1%) and Northern Mindanao. The region was also the second largest producer of goat, accounting for 9.29 percent of total goat production, after Ilocos Region, and the fourth top producer of chicken, after Central Luzon, CALABARZON, and Northern Mindanao (see Table 8.3).

In the case of selected crops, the region was the country's third top producer of mango, contributing 10.25 percent to the country's total mango output, after Ilocos Region (29.49% share) and Zamboanga Peninsula (11.15%). Central Visayas was also the second top producer of cabbage, accounting for 10.52 percent of the country's total cabbage production, after the Cordillera Administrative Region, and the third top producer of sugarcane, after Western Visayas and Northern Mindanao.

But the performance of the fisheries subsector remained below par throughout the period 2011 to 2015, with production steadily declining. Value of production dropped from PhP5.11 billion in 2011 to PhP4.14 billion in 2015. Value of seaweed production in particular dropped from PhP646.61 million in 2011 to PhP453.01 million in

Table 8.2 Value of Agriculture Production, Central Visayas, 2011-2015
(in million pesos at constant 2000 prices)

SUBSECTOR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	AVERAGE
Crops	11,969.38	11,530.78	11,699.38	11,803.62	11,485.25	11,697.68
Palay	2,576.42	2,610.42	2,774.65	2,703.78	2,682.80	2,669.61
Corn	1,395.35	1,354.74	1,363.32	1,292.25	1,180.89	1,317.31
Coconut	1,178.95	1,213.30	1,234.68	1,205.42	1,162.19	1,198.91
Sugarcane	1,963.24	1,603.22	1,602.48	1,772.54	1,516.52	1,691.60
Mango	1,376.05	1,432.36	1,515.56	1,589.02	1,826.55	1,547.91
Other Crops	3,479.37	3,316.74	3,208.69	3,240.61	3,116.30	3,272.34
Livestock	8,886.65	9,034.89	9,048.13	9,065.83	9,399.10	9,086.92
Carabao	174.70	170.48	179.98	177.87	181.83	176.97
Cattle	822.21	823.83	796.24	794.30	780.99	803.51
Hog	7,557.44	7,701.84	7,730.52	7,752.28	8,086.56	7,765.73
Goat	332.30	338.74	341.39	341.39	349.72	340.71
Poultry	6,187.90	6,416.07	6,311.15	6,244.88	6,921.75	6,416.35
Chicken	4,168.34	4,324.17	4,369.69	4,561.63	4,829.26	4,450.62
Duck	9.84	10.78	10.78	11.04	11.16	10.72
Chicken Eggs	1,993.94	2,066.93	1,916.49	1,658.81	2,067.92	1,940.82
Duck Eggs	15.77	14.19	14.19	13.41	13.41	14.19
Fisheries	5,110.04	5,029.84	4,911.76	4,167.71	4,142.31	4,672.33
Milkfish	309.86	318.74	306.89	255.09	261.01	290.32
Tiger Prawn	347.13	356.95	196.49	81.87	78.60	212.21
Roundscad	615.11	633.12	657.93	425.01	433.42	552.92
Seaweed	646.61	638.59	582.73	492.17	453.01	562.62
Others	3,191.33	3,082.44	3,167.72	2,913.57	2,916.27	3,054.26
TOTAL	32,153.97	32,011.58	31,970.42	31,282.03	31,948.40	31,873.28

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 8.3 Top 5 Producers of Livestock and Poultry, 2015

RANK	HOG		GOAT		CHICKEN	
	REGION	PRODUCTION (IN MILLION MT)	REGION	PRODUCTION (IN MILLION MT)	REGION	PRODUCTION (IN MILLION MT)
1	3	0.422	1	0.010	3	0.609
2	4-A	0.336	7	0.009	4-A	0.321
3	6	0.178	3	0.008	10	0.146
4	10	0.170	10	0.007	7	0.097
5	7	0.163	6	0.007	6	0.089

Source: Philippine Statistics Authority

Table 8.4 Top 5 Producers of Selected Crops and Seaweed, 2015

RANK	SUGARCANE		MANGO		CABBAGE		SEAWEED	
	REGION	PRODUCTION (MILLION MT)	REGION	PRODUCTION (MILLION MT)	REGION	PRODUCTION (MILLION MT)	REGION	PRODUCTION (MILLION MT)
1	6	13.40	1	0.25	CAR	0.097	ARMM	0.627
2	10	3.00	9	0.11	7	0.008	4-B	0.395
3	7	1.90	7	0.08	10	0.006	9	0.204
4	4-A	1.70	3	0.06	11	0.004	7	0.096
5	12	0.68	4-A	0.05	1	0.003	6	0.800

Source : Philippine Statistics Authority

2015 following the onslaught of the El Niño in 2015.

Still, Central Visayas managed to become the country's fourth top producer of seaweeds in 2015, accounting for 8.59 percent of the country's total seaweed production, after ARMM (37.36% share), MIMAROPA (27.05% share), and Zamboanga Peninsula.

Challenges

Low productivity in the agriculture and fishery sector. Growth in the sector's productivity has been hampered by such constraints as limited access to credit and insurance, weak agriculture extension service, inadequate agriculture infrastructure (such as irrigation, farm-to-market roads and post-harvest facilities), inadequate support for research and development, and ageing farmers and fisherfolk.

The devolution of extension service functions to local government units has affected the delivery of services to farmers and fishermen. Low priority accorded to the sector resulted in inadequate budgetary and manpower support.

Low competitiveness of agriculture and fishery products. High production cost, limited connectivity between production areas and market, and poor compliance to international standards and requirements, make local produce uncompetitive.

Average production cost for both irrigated and rainfed palay stood at PhP14.42 per kilogram in 2015, the highest among the regions in the country; while average production cost for white corn stood at PhP16.05 per kilogram, also the highest in the country. Maintenance cost for mango was recorded at PhP15.36 per kilogram

In fisheries, the average production cost of milkfish and tilapia were PhP39.56 and PhP46.80 per kilogram, respectively, in 2015.

Sector's vulnerability to weather disturbances and climate change. Agriculture sector gains in 2011 were overturned by production losses and the damage to infrastructure due to typhoons and the El Niño that occurred from 2011 to 2015. These extreme weather conditions also hampered fishing activities. Damage to agriculture caused by the 2015-2016 El Niño reached more than PhP 4.0 billion in Bohol and PhP3.8 billion in Cebu.

Limited agricultural land suitable for agriculture. The region's terrain is characterized by highlands with narrow coastal strips of arable land. Only the province of Bohol has a level plateau, where its agricultural areas are concentrated.

Data from the Bureau of Soil and Water Management (BSWM) show that the region has a total agricultural land area of 429,066 hectares, 45 percent of which are devoted to temporary crops like rice and corn. The 2012 Census of Agriculture showed that Central Visayas ranked

fourth among the regions in the country with more than 200,000 parcels devoted to temporary crops. The actual number of parcels devoted to such crops was 310,000. The Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) defines a parcel as “one contiguous piece of land under one form of tenure without regard to land use.”

The average area per farm/landholding, however, was merely 0.68 hectare. A farm/landholding is defined by PSA as “any piece of land used wholly or partly for any agricultural activity, such as growing of crops, tending of livestock and poultry, and other agricultural activities, under single management and operated as one technical unit by one person alone or with others, regardless of title, legal form, size or location.”

Strategic Framework

The desired outcomes of the agriculture and fisheries sector by the end of 2022 are: a) sustainably expanded economic opportunities of

those who are currently engaged in producing agriculture, forestry and fishery products; and b) increased access of small farmers and fisherfolk to economic opportunities. (see Figure 8.1) The attainment of these outcomes would reduce inequalities in economic opportunities.

Targets

The target is to increase gross value added (GVA) of AFF over the next six years, from the baseline value of 2.3 percent to within 2.8 to 2.9 percent by the end of the plan period. Faster growth rates in the GVA of AFF would necessarily mean corresponding increases in the value of agriculture and fishery production. Table 8.5 presents the key indicators and planned targets for the AFF sector.

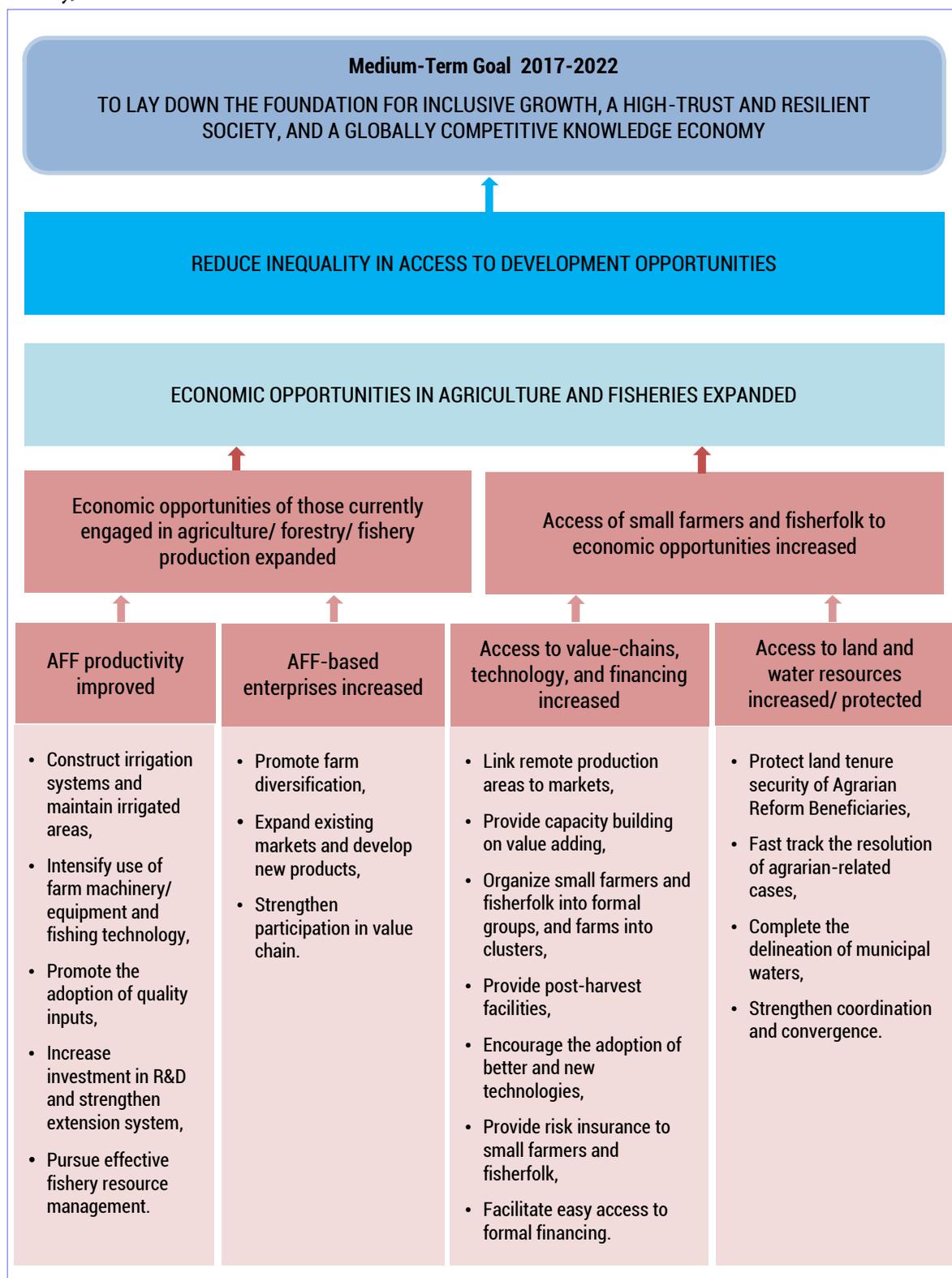
Strategies

To sustainably expand economic opportunities of those who are currently engaged in agriculture/fishery production, two intermediate outcomes have to be achieved, namely: a) productivity must

Table 8.5 Planned Targets to Expand Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery 2017-2022

INDICATORS	BASELINE		END OF PLAN TARGET
	YEAR	VALUE	2022
Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Expanded			
Growth of GVA in AFF Increased (in %)	2015	2.3	2.8 – 2.9
Agriculture and Forestry	2015	2.8	2.8
Fishery	2015	-0.7	1.0
Growth in Value of Agriculture and Fisheries			
Crops	2015	-2.7	1.5
Livestock	2015	3.7	3.7
Poultry	2015	10.8	10.8
Fisheries	2015	-0.6	1.0
Growth in the Value of Agriculture and Fishery Exports Increased (in %)	2015	-22.7	20.0
Access to Economic Opportunities by Small Farmers and Fisherfolk Increased			
Growth in Labor Productivity of Farmers and Fisherfolk (in %)	2015	2.9	2.9

Figure 8.1 Strategic Framework to Expand Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, 2017-2022



improve (Strategies 1 to 5); and b) the number and capacity of agri-, forestry- and fishery-based enterprises must increase (Strategies 6 to 8).

To increase small farmers' and fisherfolk's access to economic opportunities, the following intermediate outcomes have to be achieved, namely: a) access to value chains, technology and financing by small farmers and fisherfolk must increase (Strategies 9 to 15); and b) their access to land and water resources must increase and be protected (Strategies 16 to 19).

Productivity Improved

Construct irrigation systems and maintain irrigated areas. To expand production activities, the Malinao Dam in Bohol will be upgraded. The implementation of the Bohol North East Basin Project, which has an irrigation component, will be pushed. The economic feasibility of constructing large dams in Cebu and Bohol will also be studied.

In the meantime, the construction of small scale irrigation systems like diversion dams, small farm reservoirs, communal irrigation systems, including small water impounding projects, and drip irrigation; and the distribution of shallow-tube wells will be prioritized. Solar-powered irrigation facilities will be introduced in villages not connected to the grid.

Rehabilitation of damaged and restoration of non-functional systems will be done regularly. Effective and efficient water-saving and management technologies will also be promoted.

Intensity use of farm machinery and equipment and fishing technologies and gears. The adoption by farmers and fisherfolk of locally-fabricated machinery and equipment that are suitable to local conditions will be pushed to lower production costs and post-harvest losses.

In Central Visayas, there are 25 fabricators and distributors of agriculture machineries such as tillers, pedal rice threshers, rice blower, paddy

cleaners, 4-wheel tractors and tractor implements, rice planter, mulcher, irrigation pumps, power sprayer, rice mill, pulverizer, corn mill, corn planter, corn sheller, shredder, trailer, recirculating dryer, flatbed dryer, hammer mill, weeder, seeder, coconut shell chipper, forage cutter, organic mixer, rice separator, combine harvester and decorticating machines.

The government must provide funding for the implementation of Republic Act 10601, also known as the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization Law, which mandates the promotion of local assembly and manufacture of small engines as a major source of power in power tillers, other agricultural machinery, and fishing boats.

Push the adoption of quality inputs. The adoption of quality inputs such as seeds or planting materials of high-yielding and stress-tolerant varieties of crops will be pushed. For the fisheries and livestock subsectors, the adoption of quality fry of fish species and high quality genetic materials, respectively, will be pushed.

Investments in propagation facilities like broodstock, hatcheries, nurseries and laboratories will be enhanced by pursuing public and private collaboration.

Increase investment in research and development (R&D) and strengthen the extension system. Investments in R&D and strengthening the extension system are areas where the academe and the private sector can participate. In the medium term, the sector's research and development agenda will include the following:

- a) Updating of the region's fisheries map, and soil fertility and suitability maps for eventual incorporation in the Comprehensive Land Use Plans of LGUs;
- b) Remapping of the Strategic Agricultural Fisheries Development Zone (SAFDZ) to include, as part of the mapping variables, climate change vulnerabilities;

- c) Development of climate- and disaster-responsive technologies and innovations;
- d) Improvement of fishery culture for bangus and tilapia; and
- e) Documentation of various good practices in farm and fishery management practices, including indigenous knowledge and technology for climate change adaptation and resource conservation.

Pursue effective fishery resource management in the context of blue economy.

Blue economy as discussed during the East Asia Sea Congress in 2012, refers to a “sustainable ocean-based economic model; one that employs environmentally-sound and innovative infrastructure, technologies, and practices, including institutional and financing arrangements, for meeting the goals of sustainable and inclusive development.”¹ As far as the region’s coastal and marine environments are concerned then, the following strategies will be implemented:

- a) Conduct of regular fish stock inventory and assessment;
- b) Implementation of “closed season” for sardines and herring in the Visayan Sea from November 15 to February 15 of every year;
- c) Full implementation and enforcement of fishery regulations including the strengthening of measures against illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, implementation of boat/vessel and gear licensing, and monitoring of compliance with catch documentation requirements for both municipal and commercial fishing boats; and

- d) Aggressive conduct of information, education, and communication (IEC) activities on resource conservation measures and compliance with fishery laws.

Since blue economy also encompasses governance, ecosystem-based co-management mechanisms for the Danajon Double Barrier Reef and the Tañon Strait will be explored. The Danajon Double Barrier Reef is a rich fishery resource shared by four provinces in Central and Eastern Visayas, namely: Cebu, Leyte, Bohol and Southern Leyte, or a total of 20 local government units in the two regions.

The Tañon Strait, meanwhile, is also a fishery resource shared by three provinces in Central and Western Visayas, or 300 LGUs in the two regions. The strait has been declared a protected seascape and has as overseer, a Protected Area Management Board (PAMB) with 42 city and municipal mayors, and three governors as members.

Agriculture-based Enterprise Increased

Promote farm diversification by increasing production of commodities with high value-adding and export potential. Increasing the production of the following commodities will be promoted: mango, coconut as raw material for food grade virgin coconut oil and coco coir, cacao, coffee, and bamboo. These commodities have high export potential, and road maps have been prepared for each, as part of the National Industry Cluster. Producers of these commodities will be given assistance in processing, product development, packaging and marketing.

Farm diversification will also be promoted for the production of secondary fiber crops like sisal for pulp and tea bags, and abaca for export. Sisal thrives best in rocky places, and is drought-resistant; hence, can be grown in Bohol, Cebu

¹ Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA), “Blue Economy: Where are We Now? Where are we Headed?,” accessed May 10, 2017, <http://www.pemsea.org/dev/sites/default/files/1475203802713042.pdf>

and Siquijor. Moreover, the implementation of Republic Act No. 9242, also known as the Philippine Tropical Fabrics Law, would incentivize local fiber producers. The law prescribes the use of natural fibers produced, spun, woven or knitted and finished in the country for official uniforms of government officials and employees.

In the livestock and poultry subsector, increased production of hogs, goat, chicken and chicken eggs will be promoted to supply the needs of local food processors, hotels and restaurants, as well as that of other regions. For more value-adding, the private sector will be encouraged to partner with government in the establishment of triple-A abattoirs in strategic places in the region. The region must also develop its feeds component supplies and lessen its dependence on imported materials like soya and fishmeal, to reduce production cost.

In the fisheries subsector, the production of the following species will be prioritized: seaweeds, milkfish, tilapia, shrimp, oyster and other shellfish.

In the provinces, priority products will be mango, vegetables, livestock and poultry in Cebu; native chicken and dairy in Bohol; and beef and native cattle in Siquijor.

Farmers expanding their production capacity will be provided technical assistance in farm cultivation and management, advisory services on soil fertility and crop suitability, and timely and accurate provision of weather and climate information. The animal health program will be sustained to cater to the needs of livestock and poultry raisers. Farmers and fisherfolk will be encouraged to adopt Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP), Good Handling Practices (GHP), and for food exporters, the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP).

Expand existing markets and develop new products. To stay competitive and responsive to consumer preferences, the sector will develop new products and innovate on existing ones. These will necessitate the following interventions:

- a) Support technology transfer and know-how on value-adding, processing, packaging and compliance with international standards and certifications like phytosanitary standards and Halal certification;
- b) Credit facilitation assistance to agriculture-based enterprises for capital build-up and acquisition of machinery and other fixed assets;
- c) Increase investments in post-harvest and cold chain technologies;
- d) Assistance and subsidies on agricultural insurance;
- e) Conduct of market facilitation events such as trade fairs and market matching activities;
- f) Provide a reliable market information system to facilitate decision-making, knowledge sharing and linking of producers and consumers to the market;
- g) Formulate a policy to regulate other forest products like fuelwood, charcoal, non-timber forest products; and
- h) Strengthen monitoring and implementation of projects that promote community-based enterprises such as the National Greening Program (NGP) and Community-Based Forest Management (CBFM).

Strengthen linkage of agriculture sector with agro-processing industries through greater participation in effective value chain. New forms of linkages connecting small farmers to markets and other upstream services will be established. These will include contract farming, networks with agricultural processors, supermarkets, cooperatives and producers' organizations, and private sector-led extension services.

Access to Value-Chains, Technology and Financing Increased

Link remote production areas to markets. Remote production areas will be linked to the market with the construction of climate-smart farm-to-market roads (FMRs), bridges, tramlines and logistics support facilities such as economic and business centers and food terminals. The implementation of the Food Terminal System in Jagna, Bohol, will be pushed within the Plan period.

Connectivity will be pursued in terms of roads and bridges, ports, and digital communication. Priority will be given to those farm-to-market roads identified and mapped by the provincial business chambers through the Coordination Roads and Infrastructure Investments for Development (CR+ID) Project. The identification of these FMRs was done through several consultation workshops with the LGUs and local stakeholders, using value chain analyses.

Provide capacity building for small farmers and fisherfolk on value adding. Farmer Field Schools (FFS) will serve as venue for disseminating information and technological know-how to small farmers and fisherfolk. They will be trained on processing, packaging and marketing, and compliance with product standards and certification.

Demonstration farms will be set up to show farmer-trainees how to apply science-based technologies and integrated farming systems.

Organize small farmers and fisherfolk into formal groups, and farms into clusters. Farmers and fisherfolks will be organized into associations, cooperatives and federations to facilitate the provision of services, and linkage with processors, enterprises and agro-industries.

The cultivation of idle lands, as well as the clustering of existing farms will be promoted for economies of scale.

Provide post-harvest facilities. Post-harvest facilities such as ice making and cold chain technology will be provided to help reduce post-harvest losses, maintain quality and increase the value of agricultural and fishery commodities.

Encourage small farmers and fisherfolk to adopt better and new technologies. Encouraging small farmers and fisherfolk to adopt better and new technologies (e.g., use of high quality seeds and other inputs, effective soil rehabilitation, and use of modern harvest and post-harvest facilities to minimize losses) will entail information dissemination, capacity building, actual demonstration and technical support.

Increase the number of small farmers and fisherfolk provided with risk insurance. Crop insurance has positive and significant impact on farmer income, and the amount of insurance cover plays a vital role in protecting the assured farmers from negative shocks from climate and weather impacts. The RDC passed Resolution No. 45 (s. 2016), enjoining LGUs in the region to encourage and support farmers in their localities to secure agricultural insurance from the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) by providing partial or full subsidy for the insurance premiums. Farmers will be informed about the agricultural insurance program of the PCIC.

The Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA), the database used in identifying beneficiaries of agriculture-related programs and services including credit and insurance, will be regularly updated. Only those registered can avail themselves of agriculture-related services.

Provide small farmers and fisherfolk affordable and easy access to formal financing. Government financial institutions shall do the following:

- a) Develop and implement innovative loan products with responsive credit delivery mechanism;

- b) Conduct capacity building for borrowers as well as information dissemination on available loan products;
 - c) Assess the effective credit demand of the agriculture sector to come up with a more accurate indicator of how much credit the sector really needs;
 - d) Revisit the Agri-Agra Law to address issues and recommend measures to increase participation and compliance of commercial banks with agricultural lending requirements; and
 - e) Push for the expansion of the Sikat Saka Program to include rainfed palay farms and other priority commodities in all provinces of the region.
- Distribution, and immediately installing ARBs in awarded lands upon the issuance of Emancipation Patent and/or Certificates of Land Ownership Awards (CLOAs).
- Fast track the resolution of agrarian-related cases.** The resolution of agrarian-related cases, especially those that involve many affected farmers, will be fast-tracked. Timely and free legal assistance will be provided to ARBs, including counselling and representation in judicial and quasi-judicial bodies.
- Complete the delineation of municipal waters.** In an archipelagic region like Central Visayas, it is imperative that the delineation of municipal waters, including the issuance of local ordinances, be completed.
- Strengthen coordination and convergence.** Convergence initiatives between and among regional government agencies, LGUs, civil society organizations and state universities and colleges will be strengthened to ensure the protection and preservation of water resources such as watersheds. A ridge-to-reef approach will be used for a sustainable and climate-resilient agriculture.

Access to Land and Water Resource Increased

Ensure and protect land tenure security of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs). Land tenure security of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) shall be protected by completing the Land Acquisition and

Legislative and Administrative Reform Agenda

To strengthen the effectiveness of identified strategies, the legislative and administrative reform agenda outlined in Table 8.6 will be pushed.

Table 8.6 Legislative and Administrative Reform Agenda to Expand Economic Opportunities in Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry, 2017-2022

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA	RATIONALE
Review of the Local Government Code	To make it mandatory for LGUs to create a Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) to be headed by a municipal agriculturist with personnel complement of at least five (5) to cover institutional development, and the cereals, livestock and poultry, fisheries, and high value crops subsectors. The MAO shall coordinate the preparation of the Local Agriculture and Fisheries Development Plan, and oversee its implementation.
Formulation of a Magna Carta for Agricultural Extension Workers	To develop a mechanism for the career development and support of the agriculture extension workers who are the key players in improving productivity in the agriculture and fishery sector.
Formulation of a policy to regulate forest products such as fuelwood, charcoal, and non-timber forest products	To discourage the production of non-timber forest products, such as fuelwood and charcoal, which usually use methods that are harmful to the environment.