



**BOTTOM-UP GOVERNANCE
A Development Strategy
SOS2-ASOG**

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The Municipality of San Isidro started by coming up with a common belief that family life development and community reconstruction is mutually dependent and mutually reinforcing. Rural families, even how poor they are, if given the opportunities and appropriate assistance can effect improvement in their own lives. Only when people themselves become principal advocates of the rural development can lasting progress be achieved.

San Isidro is in the 4th District of Nueva Ecija with an area of 7,740 hectares and a population of 44,687. Most of these inhabitants relying on the agricultural means are in the state of poverty. Nevertheless we were able to attain our goals thru responsive programs and empowered citizenry resulting to societal equity.

SLIDE: VISION / MISSION

We started with a shared vision of “A Better Quality of Life for the People of San Isidro and shared mission “To implement and sustain Socio-Economic Development thru collaborative programs and citizenry participative of San Isidro’s governance.

SLIDE: STRATEGIES

1. RE-ORGANIZATION

We were able to save of 3.268M a year which was used to fund social services programs. At the same time, in professionalizing our bureaucracy we were able to come up with a Medium Term Development Plan that teaches the family and community to manage the programs and activities in their areas always taking in consideration the future of the children.

Problems faced by both farm & non-farm families, interrelate and interlock. Hence, development programs must be integrated and holistic to deal with problems in all aspects of people’s lives.

The San Isidro Anti Poverty Program (SIAAP) was formulated in compliance to the Republic Act 8425 and to have a strategic direction as well as basis to move forward. Our objective is to improve the quality of life through basic services delivery and employment opportunities coming from agriculture, commercial and industrial sectors.

A Project Management Unit consists of representatives from the multi-sectoral groups and government agencies crafted a solution that will increase the harvest of the farmers.

2. INTEGRATION OF SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Integrated Cooperative Farming System project concept is a corporate farming approach characterized by the integration of farming operations, pre-production, production, processing and marketing as a single business under one management.

The concept was finalized thru series of consultations with the farmers, community leaders and civil society.

3. CREATION OF CCSI

Implementing the programs effectively is necessary to achieve our goals. The Critical Coalition of



San Isidro, a coalition of multi-sectoral leaders, was created to roll out programs to the grass roots using a process where stakeholders will CO-OWN the issue and CO-CREATE a new arrangement that will lead to empowered citizenry and responsive institutions. The process is done thru series of trust building dialogues until a common response is achieved and a new arrangement done. These activities enabled us to draw a road map of our targets VMOKRAPI.

4. The limitation in our municipal budget does not give us the freedom to do all the social service programs needed to reach our goals. We have chosen to prioritize on health because most of the problems on the ground are health related.

We allocated 16.5% of the municipal budget to HEALTH to sustain the BARANGAY BASED HEALTH CARE SYSTEM and maintain a CLIENT CENTERED CLINIC. 35.56% of the budget comes from the voluntary co-sharing of P200/yr/family and capitation from national government and 64.44% comes from Municipal Budget.

In order to reduce poverty and achieve social inclusion, we believe that health insurance coverage must be extended to the sector of the population that do not benefit from formal social security protection. We were able to enroll 9541 families by allocating subsidy for the premium payment of PHILHEALTH sa MASA. This program is implemented by 108 trained women from the grass roots called Barangay Health Workers or BHW assigned to every 50 to 100 families. Our health program was institutionalized thru Resolution of Municipal Council.

5. INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

With our health program in place, we were able to engage partners to help us in other programs using San Isidros' health agenda as our equity.

In education Ateneo Center for Educational Development taught us the importance of school profiling to meet our goals. 57-75 an education revolution movement of the League of Corporate Foundations gave us the venue to partner with our local institutions to address other concerns in education not only in our community but in our province.

We were able to offer backyard livelihood by becoming a pilot area of the Philippine Israel Center for Agricultural Training a project by the Philippine government and State of Israel. We provided skills training with production opportunities by partnering with national agencies and civil society.

In San Isidro, farmers are a majority group. 75%-80% of the population depends on the agricultural sector for livelihood and majority belongs to the low income group. Existing government housing programs caters to the needs of various sector of our society but not the farmers considering that farmers play a very important role in feeding the nation. It is but proper that farmers be given opportunity to afford decent homes. Partnership with the government agency, PAG-IBIG, enabled us to conceptualize a new program that opened a window for farmers to access funds for housing.

Our partnership with GAWAD KALINGA in giving home for the homeless and land for the land less, is addressing our problems of squatters and families affected by disaster. This program also introduced a social transformation of collective and collaborative action which we call Bayanihan. This action became prevalent that contributed to our town development.

6. COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS

Anti-illegal drug campaign and environment programs are requirements for all program beneficiaries as their counterpart in SIAPP. This compliance strategy allowed us to address faster the problems in drugs and garbage thru the grass roots approach and with minimal cost.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES OF OUR COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS



1. Healthy and happy children of GK villages after receiving the 4 basic services of HEALTH, EDUCATION, LIVELIHOOD, SHELTER.
2. Increase in farmers' income
3. Increase in tax collection
4. Increase in revenue collection
5. Citizens empowerment increased sectoral group participation
6. Peoples trust in government resulted to better electoral behavior.

SLIDE: OVER-ALL FRAMEWORK

The social and economic integration, a collective response of the community with the development thrusts of, increase productivity and income, capacity building of municipal government, people empowerment and decentralization, provision of basic services, land use planning management and development, technology transfer and management and livelihood cooperative development will give an overall impact of strong family life, strong cooperative movement, self-reliance and sustainability, improve quality of life and peace and order.