

SOCSKSARGEN AREA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICE – INTEGRATED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAM

The SOCSKSARGEN Area Development Project (ADP), a special project of the Department of Agriculture, has been vital in the concerted effort of the local government units of the SOCSKSARGEN area to tap and develop its agriculture and industrial potentials, and to sustain its economic growth.

In CY 2013, the SOCSKSARGEN ADP's Integrated Food Security Program was allotted with PhP 110.968 million for the implementation of four (4) farm-to-market roads (7.283 kms) and various agricultural infrastructure projects, and for program management. One of the four (4) FMR concreting projects, with a length of 1.70 kms, was completed last October in North Cotabato.

The techno-demonstrations for grains and high value crop production, aimed at evaluating the yield performance of selected crops in the locality, were already implemented. Eight projects are underway, which include the concreting of a total of 5.33 kilometers road and postharvest facilities located in the agriculture-based barangays of Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City. These projects will be completed within the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2013, as per approved contracts.

In complement to the ADP thrust on food security, the Project Office coordinated with the local and national government agencies, as well as with the Civil Society Organizations, for the different priority programs and projects of Region 12 in support to the *Integrated Area Development* (IAD) strategy of the national government. Among the infrastructure projects coordinated are the following:

- General Santos City (GSC) Airport Development
- General Santos City Makar Wharf
- Integrated Economic Development for Regional Trade in General Santos City (with Abattoir and Integrated Food Terminal)
- Central Mindanao Airport in M'lang, North Cotabato
- Glan Port
- Intra-Regional Road Network: (1) Norala-Banga road, (2) Malapag-Tinimbacan-Banisilan road, (3) Sarangani-South Cotabato east and west link, (4) Koronadal-Lutayan-Columbio-Davao del Sur road, and (6) General Santos City ring road, (5) GSC Circumferential road, (6) Awang-Upi-Lebak-Kalamansig-Palimbang-Maitum road, (7) Lake Sebu-Maitum Eco-tourism road, and (8) Isulan-Bagumbayan-SNA-Kalamansig road.

The ADP particularly focused on the development and improvement of the GSC airport since the creation of the GSC Airport Development Task Force, comprised of

multi-agencies, in 2012. The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC) funded PhP 12 Million for the study of the GSC aerotropolis development. Last October, the final draft of the master plan for said aerotropolis was presented to the SOCSKSARGEN stakeholders by the Engineering Development Corporation of the Philippines (EDCOP) – a consultancy firm engaged by DOTC. The master plan will be the basis for the future development of the airport area and its neighboring municipalities and provinces.

Other projects were also supported, in partnership with government and private sectors, such as the Strategic Agri-Fishery Development Zones (SAFDZ) map updating, geo-tagging of food security projects, implementation of Intensified White Corn Production Project, 15th National Tuna Congress, and plans and activities within the protected landscapes and seascape in SOCSKSARGEN area as supervised by the Protected Area Management Board.