

Community-based Participatory Action Research

Is a location-specific research cum extension that deals with improved farming systems technologies for specific micro agro-climatic environment within province/municipality. It is a downstream research focused on technology verification, adaptation, demonstration and dissemination in the community.

It involves extension and transfer of technologies needed on the community. Its main responsibility is to convert information into knowledge for action. Its role in managing innovative management of knowledge will be instituted.

Objectives

The CPAR Grant aims:

1. To enhance the role of RD&E through technology transfer to improve production management system;
2. To develop strategies for effective integration of support services for enterprise & agribusiness development; and,
3. To institutionalize active community participation in the overall management of farm & coastal resources for enterprise and agribusiness development.



Eligibility

1. The CPAR may be implemented by the DA-RFUs through the RIARCs and RFRDCs in partnership with LGUs and organized agriculture/fisheries group (e.g. cooperatives, Farmers Associations, NGOs, etc.);
2. The project must cover at least two barangays; (To facilitate monitoring, a common technology should be identified for the area “one project - one technology”);
3. The proponent must be willing to provide counterpart funds;
4. The LGUs and NGO partners must be willing to provide resources (in cash or kind).

Who may submit proposals:

1. DA Regional Integrated Agricultural Research Centers (RIARCs)
2. DA-BFAR Regional Fisheries Research and Development Centers (RFRDCs)

Items eligible for funding

Support for the following budget items may be included as BAR counterpart:

1. training for component technologies (resource person fees, meals)
 2. training in organization development and resource management;
 3. inputs for conduct of on-farm research (e.g. seeds, fertilizer, etc.);
 4. technical assistance (may include experts consultation, TEV of expert, meals);
 5. coordination cost (not to exceed 10% of the budget); and
- Other expenses as may be justified in the project activities

Strategies of implementation

Site Selection

To maximize the impact of the project, site pre-selection is recommended based on a set of criteria. This is to ensure that the necessary support systems are in place and that partner institutions are committed to support the project.

The following should be considered in selecting a project site:

1. The target site should cover at least two adjacent, and ecologically-homogenous barangays;
2. The farming system in the target site should be representative of the existing agricultural system in the province;
3. The LGU is supportive of the project (LGU willing to provide counterpart support - cash/in-kind support);
4. The farmers and fisherfolks are organized into a cooperative, association or group and that the organization is currently active;
5. The site should be accessible to ordinary modes of transportation;
6. The site should have access to electricity and should be within the coverage of an existing cell phone carrier;
7. The site should have a stable security situation.

Conduct of Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)

The Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) is implemented to ensure that the project addresses the existing needs of the community and identify the resources of the areas that can be mobilized to serve the needs of the project.

The CPAR Action Planning

During the PRA, a community plan shall be formulated by the community.



Organization and Management

Once the project is approved, the CPAR team with the participation of the community shall organize its project management team which will implement and monitor project activities to ensure the accomplishment of cycle specific activities. It shall facilitate project implementation and coordination. As a basic requirement, the management system shall include:

Project Management Team

- A Project Management Team shall be organized which will include CPAR focal persons from the DA-RFU/BFAR-RO, LGU and farmer/fisherfolk group and whenever needed a representative from the private sector will be invited;
- The roles and responsibilities of individual partners and/or institutions (DA-RFUs/BFAR-ROs/RIARCs/RFRDCs, Municipal and Provincial LGUs, Farmer/Fisherfolk Cooperators, DA-ATI, SCUs, DA-BAR, Farmer Organization/Cooperative) shall be defined, specified and delineated to ensure sustainability of project management; and
- Performance and financial accountability at all levels shall be mandatory.



General Roles and Responsibilities - DA-RFUs/BFAR-ROs (RIARCs/RFRDCs)

For projects implemented by the DA-RFUs and/or BFAR-ROs through the RIARCs and/or RFRDCs, the lead implementor (RIARC or RFRDC) shall be responsible for the following:

- Provide counterpart funds and logistic support to the project;
- Provide field level management of the project in cooperation with MLGU/PLGU, SCU, ATI and other institutions involved in the project;
- Lead in the monitoring and evaluation activities;
- Provide the required data and information which shall form part of BAR's CPAR M&E System embodied in the “e-pinoy farms program”;
- Prepare project reports (Accomplishment Reports and Financial Reports) and submit them regularly to BAR for monitoring purposes;
- Document and track problems, issues and constraints relevant to project implementation;
- Present the results of project evaluation to the local community (with farmers, LGU officials and other collaborating partners of the project) for dissemination and development