



PROJECT OVERVIEW

ARISE-Farmers



The Assuring Resiliency of Family Farmers amidst COVID-19 (ARISE-Farmers) aims to contribute to achieving the SDG goal of ending hunger and poverty by empowering federated farmers groups in meeting the needs of their members as well as ensuring health and sufficient food supply during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

ARISE-Farmers builds on the coverage of the IFAD regional grant Asia Pacific Farmers Programme (APFP). The target group is the same as APFP with a specific focus on smallholder men and women farmers/producers needing production assistance for the immediate next cropping season within the lockdown or post lockdown. The target group of smallholder farmers/producers includes those smallholder farmers with the potential to become active economic players in a wide array of emerging value chains, supported by various quality services provided by their farmers' organizations.



WHAT WE DO

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacities of farmers' organizations (FOs) to manage production support to members and expand the existing 4Ps partnership in order to address the current lockdown and market access difficulties. Initially participated in by 8 countries in Southeast Asia (SEA) and East, Central, and South Asia (ECSA), ARISE supports farmers' organizations and its members through the provision of loan assistance at a maximum rate of 3%. The loan amount will be used to support the production activities of the farmers such as feeds, biologics, seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs. Meanwhile, the fund can also be used to support the working capital of the farmers' organization to increase their capacity to purchase the raw materials produced by their farmer members.

ARISE-Farmers' end-of-program outcomes

- The most vulnerable farming household is COVID-free with their assets secured by being effectively reached through the provision of essential food/commodities, and associated services
- Strengthened capacity of FOs to manage production support to members and expand the existing 4Ps partnership in order to address the current lockdown and market access difficulties
- Installed effective online and offline communication and knowledge management tools and mechanisms to complement/support both emergency and resiliency initiatives including a simple e-commerce platform for FOs and food consumers

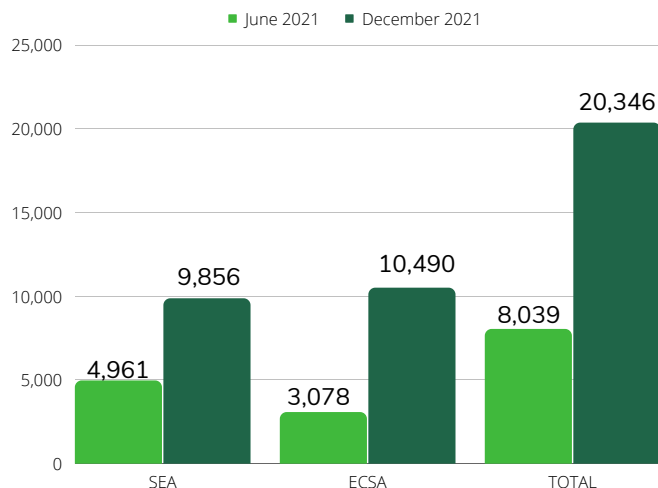


Figure 1. Number of Direct Farmer Members in June 2021 and December 2021

COMPONENTS AND KEY ACTIVITIES

Resiliency Response provides enhanced production support on crops with short production cycles that should contribute quickly to enhanced domestic production.

Online and Offline Communication and Knowledge Management support includes the setting up of the Farmer Help Desk through linkage building with a community radio or online/social media. This component supports the setting up or linking with existing e-commerce platforms for producer-consumer matching and improved logistics support.

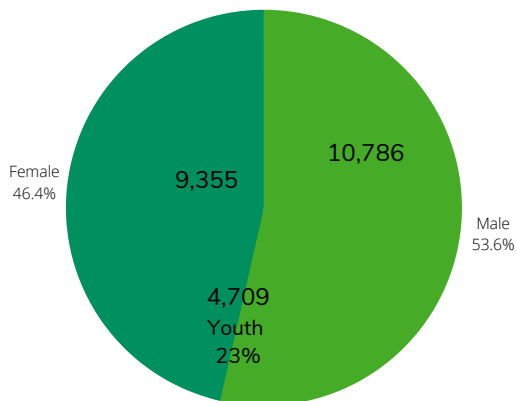


Figure 2. Cumulative Disaggregated Direct Beneficiaries

GOOD IMPLEMENTING PRACTICES AND APPROACHES

- In the Philippines, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, the NIAs were able to assist the FOs in securing their market through negotiation with the markets and establishing marketing agreements. They were able to monitor the selling price in the agreement that will ensure that the farmers get the agreed price based on the contract.
- In Pakistan, the ARISE beneficiaries are getting better prices for their produce through collective marketing or group selling. The FOs are now in a better position to build market linkages. Further, farmers were able to gain access to quality production inputs at the right time enabling them to harvest at the time when prices are better.
- In Sri Lanka, the selection of farmer-beneficiaries was done through the involvement of two institutions--the Unions and FOs. This has proven to be an effective selection methodology to ensure that the neediest farmers are selected under the consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Herder-members of cooperatives in Mongolia who were having difficulties in selling their products due to the COVID-19 situation were assisted through the collection and marketing of their livestock raw materials. ARISE provided working capital to cooperatives for the purchase of members' products.

SUCCESS STORIES

In **Cambodia**, the working capital of the sub-national FOs (SNFO) to purchase the produce of its members has increased through ARISE. Farmers are now getting a good farm gate price, secured market, and eliminated the risk of spoilage/surplus of rice. Furthermore, a signed marketing contract with Amru Rice was established for 13 SNFOs with a total demand of 5,000 metric tons of rice. Both the income of the cooperatives and their members have increased through contract farming. The premium price for cooperatives is at USD 12.5 per ton and the members can sell at USD 50-75 USD per ton. The SNFOs already sold 2,500 tons of organic rice and 300 tons of rice seeds.

In **Lao PDR**, the Huay Oun Organic Vegetable Group already paid their full loan and was able to make an income of USD 1,161 from ARISE. They may not be able to sell their produce at the best price but their members used the income from ARISE to sustain the vegetable production that will give them continuous income.

In **Mongolia**, cashmere-producing herders were able to

sell their products at better prices with the support of ARISE. Middlemen normally control the market by lending money to herders during the off-season and taking cashmere as payment which is often at lower than prevailing prices.

In **Nepal**, Bhesh Kumari Chepang, a commercial vegetable farmer and member of SFACL Jogimara received a loan from ARISE which she used to fund farm inputs and farm labor and management. For one season, she made an income of USD 507, and savings amounted to USD 312.

Cow breeding professional branch in La Ake commune, Phu Thien district, Gia Lai, **Vietnam** used the ARISE loan to purchase vaccines and medicines for lumpy skin disease. After this, there was zero mortality among the cows despite the spread of the disease.

In the **Philippines**, MIEDECO was able to supply 828,381 kilograms of whole coconuts to Franklin Baker in Davao Del Sur for 4 months. The cooperative was also able to purchase and consolidated 20,600 kg of cacao-dried beans and was sold to institutional buyers in Davao City.

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