

SHALOM SCIENCE INSTITUTE

In July 1, 2016, a four month TRAINING & TECHNO-TRANSFER SYSTEM (3TS) agricultural development program was initiated, utilizing a school (Shalom Science Institute) as the venue in Banago, Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur, Mindanao. The program included lecture sessions and hands-on crop production activities for students, orientation tour for the farming community of farmers, free seed distribution and actual growing of different rainfed rice varieties provided by the Philippines Rice Research Institute and various vegetables. All activities are addressed as Multiple Cropping Systems for all year round production activities. 3TS will be a sustainable program and is part of the school curriculum for the students, the farming community and a symbol of achievable peace in Mindanao.

Lanao Del Sur in Mindanao is a province in dire need of hands on assistance where government agricultural involvement is minimal. I am privileged to share what can be accomplished in this short period on assistance shared with the community of schools, agricultural government personnel, families and farmers. FAO has recognized the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) as the poorest region in the country and has suffered from decades of social & political conflicts that continue to undermine its economic growth.

Shalom Science Institute also known as a Muslim-Christian school, is located in one of the most remote areas of the Philippines, in the heart of the ARMM. It is a non-profit school with very limited access to funding support from both the Government and the private sectors. It has a student population of 260 students, 40% Christians and 60% Filipino Muslims. Balabagan has 27 barangays, with Banago as the seat of government.

Frank D. Gorrez, PhD. (FDG)
Agronomist – Volunteer Consultant
June 17 to October 17, 2016
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Shalom Science Institute (SSI) Banago, Balabagan, Lanao Del Sur



Eufemia Munn President of SSI





Shalom Institute at the Background



Students seeding rainfed rice varieties (above) and string beans along the wire fence (right).





The Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG)
Two weeks old rainfed rice varieties and emerging corn in the foreground. Shalom Science Institute (SSI) is in the background across the street.







3-4 weeks old rainfed rice varieties.



2 weeks old corn





Okra









Rainfed Rice Varieties coming from The Philippines Rice Research Institute





Hanging Colored Streamers are to Scare Maya Birds Eating the Grains

Eight Varieties of Rainfed Rice with Different Maturity Age









Student with Consultant





Direct Seeded Rice



FDG giving instructions on harvesting.



FDG & Students

Harvesting Rainfed Rice Varieties



SSI Pres. E.T.Munn encouraging participation of students.



Threshing the old fashion way (with feet).



Teacher Casan (center) counting productive tillers with students.



Students & teachers







Multiple Cropping System



Sweet Potato Patch Outside the Garden



Tomatoes Grown in Plastic Bags





Ampalaya on Trelis with Plastic Protection

























Squash

Eggplants









Eggplants





Chinese Cabbage & Radish (above) & Pechay (below)



Okra













Frank D. Gorrez, Consultant & Arnel Hofer, SSI VP President (left photo)



Harvested Corn





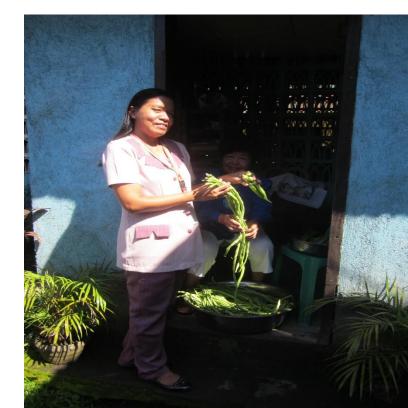














Volunteers Preparing Arroz Caldo









School Children In-Line For Free Arroz Caldo



Arroz Caldo for School Children Thanks to Kay Wong & the PCCCI LTD







Volunteer Agronomist Consultant Frank Gorrez, "Guest Speaker" on Revolutionizing Agricultural Outlook for Sustainable Growth.









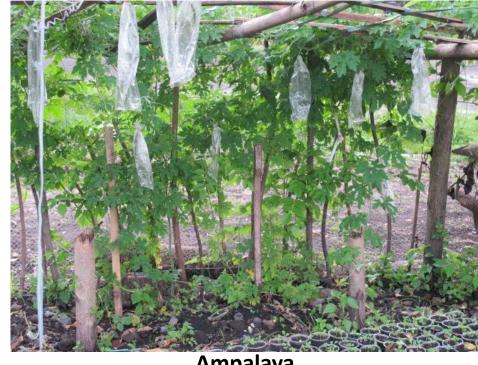


FDG Checking the Corn



Okra

Tomato



Ampalaya



Sweet Potato

Harvested Vegetables from the SSI-RVGarden at 3 & 4 months after seeding/transplanting







Eggplant

Bitter Gourd (Ampalaya)



Okra

Tomato

Rice & Vegetable Garden
Field Day
In Shalom Institute





Boy & Girl Scouts from other School



Balabagan Central Elem Sch Prinsipal & Teachers

GARDEN LAYOUT FOR 2017

rows each at 30 cm rows each at 30 cm	Hog wire trellis for String beans and Ampalaya (Bitter gourd). Width of trellis is two hog wire width.					ompost pile area	nd co	Work space an	
Seed SS2 & SS5, 3 Seed SS9 & SS10, 3 Tomato Eggplant Okra rows each at 30 cm	Hog wire trellis	Squash				Nursery		Corn	
rows each at 30 cm rows each at 30 cm						Rice Plot 2		Rice plot 1	
apart. Plot Dimension is 2.5 m. width by as much possible length. apart Estimate the same dimension for all vegetables	Other Vegetables	Okra	Eggplant	stimate ne same mension or all	E t d	rows each at 30 cm apart Plot Dimension is 2.5 m. width by as much possible		rows each at 30 cm apart. Plot Dimension is 2.5 m. width by as much possible	





The Land Bank Library in Shalom Science Institute will be set up in 2017. It will have educational materials and agriculture specific books. Solar Panels, laptops and book shelves will be provided. An agricultural entrepreneurial program will be introduced to help K12 students to be entrepreneurs or be employable upon graduation.

The Land Bank Library will not only be a structure – rather, it will be a source of sustainable education for the students, the community and a symbol of an achievable peace in Mindanao. This is through the efforts of Cristy & Jeffrey Hofer of HOFER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION.

Scout Master Arnel Colina & Scouts of Upper Itil Visiting SSI-RVGarden



Parents of SSI-Muslim Students with Frank Gorrez (c)

VISITORS



Kapatagan Mun. Agric. Officer (DA)

Dr. M. Macabago (top-right)



Muslim Parents & Frank Gorrez



Balabagan Central Elem. Sch. Principal and Teachers



Jomar & Cristy Lobregat with FDG

Ripple Effect





- Jomar Lobregat, a plantation owner in Banago, is duplicating the RVGarden and within two months prepared a one hectare rice evaluation area and a ¼
 hectare vegetable garden intended to supply the needs of his farm workers. He requested Frank Gorrez to provide advice and support at this initial stage of his
 project development. Above, Frank giving instructions to farm workers on how to seed the rice (palay) grain.
- 2. Seed recipients provided free through the RVGarden programs are: a) Edwina Tobias of Kapatagan; Arturo Blane, Lydia Benitez Reynos, Yolanda Ferenel, Eric Tocao & Sherrybelle Madela (for Principal of Igabay Elementary School, Josie Ferenal & Mila Sate; Lilia Ibanez of Purakan; Adelaida Lendio of Balihgasag, Misamis Oriental & Michelle Quimbo of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur; Celedonio & friend; Teresita Bolatacan of Upper Itil & Arnel Colina, Principal of Upper Itil Elementary School; Wilma Israil & Casana Papandayan of Balabagan Central Elementary School: Riodel Manzano of Iligan City; Byron Bulac of Sultan Naga Dimaporo, LDN; Twenty three teachers of SSI, 150 parents of students at SSI, Pechay seedlings to 250 SSI students and many others.

Donors

3. SSI is very grateful to all supporters and donors for their cash and in-kind donations. The RVGarden has achieved what seemed to be an impossible challenge and task, since no agricultural program of this type has ever existed in the municipality. Many thanks to Jo Ann G. de Larrazabal, Amy G. Saxton, Lisa G. Bauer, Ike G. Araneta, Marshal "Sonny" G. dela Fuente, Terry Manalo, Kay Wong-Aida Padua and the Hong Kong based Philippines Cabin Crew Charities Ltd, Frank D. Gorrez, Daniel Rodriguez, Harry Yu, Cristy & Jeffrey Hofer, Chito Protacio, Marissa Jarmin Hartwig, Eufemia Munn, Land Bank, LBC, Students & Teachers of SSI, and Dolores Felicitas of Silliman University Manila office.

"LIGHT IN THE CROSSROAD"

I stand in awe gazing at a green landscape of rice and vegetables on a corner lot across the street from Shalom Science Institute! (SSI). What four months ago was a pasture land, dump site, and abaca dryer has become the "talk of the town"- a visible testimony to the miracle of planting seeds and now, a bountiful harvest of rice and vegetables.

Shalom Science Institute's Rice and Vegetable Garden (RVG) has become the "Light in the Crossroad" whose beam has reached far and wide and many a curious person look in amazement and admire. RVG speaks volumes for what it has become through growing different varieties of rainfed rice (palay) and multi-cropping of vegetables.

This transformation of a dumpsite, however, into a beautiful garden did not just happen. Is it an answer to prayer? Definitely Yes! A year ago I surrendered SSI to God that if it was His will, to send us someone to help us. It has gone through drastic changes due to recent overhaul of Philippine education system and SSI is relegated to Tract 3 – Vocational Livelihood. We decided to start agri-business. How? Where? What? Who?

August 24, 2015 on LinkedIn Dr. Frank Gorrez, a retired international agronomist read my profile and was curious about Shalom Science Institute, a non-profit Christian school. He asked if he could be of assistance. I read his book, "How to Grow Paddy Rice" with fascination, but his professional accomplishments at the end of the book made me really wonder if a person of his rank will come to a remote municipality, 600 miles south of Manila that many would refer to as "no man's land." I explained all pros and cons but he decided to come, saying that "God precedes me wherever I go and I believe this is a Divine Appointment."

He organized and with his daughter, Jo Ann de Larrazabal, hosted a meeting in Valle Verde in Pasig on June 15. He and I had already "worked" for SSI through the wires, but it was our first time to meet. The meeting was attended by businessmen, a congressman, Filipino Cathay Pacific stewardesses with NGO based in Hong Kong, a representative from Philippine Rice Research Institute, a private corporation, and from Silliman University.

Shalom Science Institute's RVG is bridging the gap between Christians and Muslims through students' participation, community awareness, free distribution of palay and vegetable seeds We at SSI are very fortunate and grateful to Frank Gorrez, who, like a stone dropped in a pond, ripples of his work are reaching out to the needy and to a local plantation owner.

All these events in a remote municipality are made possible through the generosity of many people: Kay Wong-Aida Padua and Friends, Harry Yu, Ike Araneta, Lisa Bauer, Amy Saxton, Sonny de la Fuente, Jo Ann de Larrazabal, Cristy and Jeff Hofer. I thank you all very much from the bottom of my heart. What we do is to honor God, follow Christ, and serve humanity.

Eufemia Tobias Munn
SSI President
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