

PARISH PROJECT 2010

Working for Love, Hope & Justice



Rice drying near Bontoc community. ©Julianne Stewart/ABM2008

Farming and Agriculture in the Philippines

Target: \$40,000 in 2010

The impact of the Global Financial Crisis and the worldwide rice shortage is still being felt in the Philippines, particularly in the more rural areas where poverty is worse. The country is the world's largest importer of rice. Prices have increased due to the shortage. Many crops, mostly rice, were destroyed when severe storms struck in late 2009 (BBC).

ABM's Food and Agriculture project supports poor and disadvantaged communities by providing resources to help improve their yields from their crops. Many are subsistence farmers who benefit from increased agricultural production. They are able to provide more food for their families and sell food.

Most projects funded under this program focus on reducing farm costs and improving crop quality. This includes supplying agricultural equipment, seeds and fertilizer. Facilities such as rice or corn mills and threshers, solar drying pavements, and grain storage help reduce waste.

Activities such as livestock distribution and small-scale fishing projects help farmers to supplement their meager incomes. They can also feed their own families with fresh produce such as milk and eggs.

Threats to Food Security

(World Food Programme 2009)

- *Late spring droughts*
- *Summer flooding*
- *Occasional typhoons in early autumn*
- *Deforestation and consequent silting of rivers*
- *Economic downturn*
- *Lack of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers*
- *Limited capacity to access international capital markets and import food*

This year, three communities (representing 144 households and more than 750 individuals) will receive facilities. Workshops are held on leadership skills, livelihood and enterprise development, organic farming methods and environmental awareness. Community members are also encouraged to work together, take responsibility for the use of the facilities.

The Episcopal Church in the Philippines (ECP) believes that the work must continue so that the needs of marginalised communities are met. In Kalamansig municipality in Sultan Kudarat, Mindanao, where conflict continues to limit the movement of aid and development workers, the Church helps the local community through this program.

What your gift can do:

- **\$1,625** purchases a sugar cane presser
- **\$5000** buys a rice mill

Prayer Points:

- Pray that the local communities are benefitting from the projects and are able to support their families.
- Give thanks and praise for the work of the ECP development team involved in these projects.
- Pray for Prime Bishop Edward Malecda, the clergy and people of all six dioceses in the ECP.

Jaree is a rice farmer who lives in Barangay Saliok in the Philippines.

This year, Jaree hopes her village will get a rice mill and a sugar cane presser. Both will mean that they do not have to conduct these processes by hand, which is what she does now. Jaree says that people do not plant sugarcane because there is no thresher. "If there is a thresher, people can plant sugarcane and it will be used as sugar, basi and vinegar."

"Work will be faster. The people can do more, not only pounding. Pounding ten kilos, for example, takes about half a day." Jaree says that working on the farm makes their lives better. "We do not lack food and we do not have to buy it."



The Philippines Facts:



Location: Southeastern Asia, archipelago between the Philippine Sea and the South China Sea, east of Vietnam

Population: 97,976,603 (July 2009 est.)

Languages: Filipino (official; based on Tagalog) and English (official); eight major dialects - Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan

Religions: Roman Catholic 80.9%, Muslim 5%, Evangelical 2.8%, Iglesia ni Kristo 2.3%, Aglipayan 2%, other Christian 4.5%, other 1.8%, unspecified 0.6%, none 0.1% (2000 census)

(CIA-The World Factbook)



Anglican Board of Mission Australia Ltd. Locked Bag Q4005, Queen Victoria Building, NSW 1230
 Phone: 1300 302 663 or Sydney 9264 1021 Fax: (02) 9261 3560. Email us at: info@abm.asn.au Web: www.abmission.org

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OUR PROFILE ABM is the national mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia.
 We work with Anglican Church Partners to develop and provide for the spiritual, social and material needs of people, both overseas and within Indigenous communities in Australia. We help the Anglican Church and the wider community realise and respond to the call for each of us to be a part of God's hope for the world.