

Good afternoon to all of you. We have reached the end of the Module 2 of the Agribusiness Master Class (AMC), and I would like to thank the organizers, our partners, mentors, and speakers for sharing their expertise with us, namely:

- Ms. Mai Alagcan, ACIAR Philippines Country Manager
- Dr. Lilly Lim-Camacho, CSIRO Research Group Leader
- Mr. Anton Simon Palo, Foodlink Advocacy Co-operative General Manager
- Ms. Michaela Cosijn, CSIRO International Development Researcher
- Dr. Gomathy Palaniappan, University of Queensland Fellow
- Dr. Steven Crimp, Australian National University Research Fellow

Also, to all the participants for your positive participation and excellent presentations in this training. I can conclude that the expectations of this training have been accomplished.

The main objective of this AMC training is to develop the participants' knowledge and skills needed to influence the agribusiness value chain development in the country. It targets to embed value chain thinking in designing and planning for projects and programs in the respective sectors of the participants.

We envision that through AMC, value chain approach will be widely-promoted and utilized in understanding industries and generating R&D areas to be able to help industries in more realistic and grounded way.

While Module 1 <sup>the</sup> have provided key principles and frameworks around value chains, Module 2 focused on inclusive value chains, and climate change risks and vulnerability

I understand that the 5-day training was extremely eventful with your hands full from the group presentations on the results of your mini-projects (Palengke Boy, Tilapia, Mango, Livestock, Cacao), discussions on various topics, panel talk with the guests who shared their experiences on social inclusion, field visits to conduct value chains studies with focus on social inclusion and climate change; and group presentations and conceptualization of your mini-projects for Module 3 in April.

Allow me to share some of the observations and insights from this training series:

1. There were very diverse composition of participants - from various government agencies (Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and PCAARRD), state universities and colleges (SUCs) (University of the Philippines (UP) Mindanao, UP Los Baños, Visayas State University (VSU), University of Southeastern Philippines (USEP), and Central Luzon State University (CLSU), and private organizations (Aboitiz Foundation, Rooted Seed Stories Corp., Farmwatch Solutions Inc., Foodlink Advocacy Co-operative, Grow Asia, Apostol Techno-Demo Learning Farm, Inc., San Felipe Cooperative); each and every one actively participates, sharing their thoughts and experiences, challenging ideologies and contributing to the discussion.
2. We greatly appreciate the support from our mentors, in facilitating, welcoming thoughts and insights from everyone, giving chance to everyone to be

engaged during discussions, and improving skills and knowledge of the participants.

3. It is very important that everyone is learning from each other especially that each participant has different background. Mentors also learn from the participants.
4. Expanding networks/linkages and increasing collaborations among participants and, even, with mentors.

As this training has shown, we will continue to support and fund for Module 3 as we look forward to the first batch of AMC graduates this April and will strive to aim for the second batch of AMC students with diverse backgrounds. We will also strengthen our partnership with ACIAR, CSIRO, UQ, Foodlink, among others.

As we aim for more inclusive environment in AANR sectors, we will do our part and work on incorporating/integrating gender/ social inclusion and climate lens in the projects of PCAARRD by ensuring consultations with marginalized stakeholders, particularly women and poor farmers. This means looking beyond what we think is the value of our projects and doing away with purely management-directed initiatives. Instead, we have to understand and analyze further the true 'value' of our projects to the 'people we care about'. It is quite challenging to move towards social inclusion and integrating the lens of gender and climate. But, we do enjoin everyone, even if it means taking little or baby steps towards development of more inclusive value chains in the country.

With that, on behalf of PCAARRD, we congratulate our participants for completing the 2<sup>nd</sup> Module. We hope you have learned a lot, and enjoyed this training.

Also, I would like to congratulate again our organizers, partners and mentors for successfully putting up the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Module. You all did a great job!

We are excited to see you all again in April as we move to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Module, which targets to equip participants with skills and knowledge on how to develop and evaluate value chain strategies.

Once again, thank you and have a safe trip!