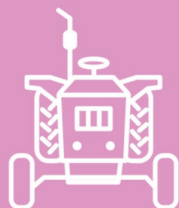


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Supporting Smallholder  
Farmers in Asia and Pacific  
Islands Region through  
Strengthened Agricultural  
Advisory Services  
(SAAS Project)

# BEST PRACTICE NOTES



## COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING SYSTEM FOR PUBLIC GOOD PROJECTS

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### 5 Key Points

#### 1. Challenges and constraints

- Lack of incentives for members
- Needs continuous training activities
- Budget limitations

#### 2. Objective

The BPMET was formed from community volunteers to ensure the effective monitoring of CHARM2 projects.

#### 3. Methodology

Social Mobilization

#### 4. Highlight of result

The BPMET contributed greatly in the success of the CHARM2 implementation, and some BPMETs were even integrated by the local government units in their formal monitoring teams to monitor not just CHARM2 but other public projects as well.

#### 5. Highlight recommendation

An incentive system as well as a well-laid out transition plan for the turnover of projects and activities is crucial in order to successfully develop the BPMET into a permanent fixture.

### Introduction

- The Second Cordillera Highland Agricultural Resource Management (CHARM2) Project was implemented by the Department of Agriculture, with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID) to reduce poverty in the Cordillera highland communities through sustainable agricultural development. CHARM2 projects focused on reforestation, agroforestry, and rehabilitation of farm to market access facilities, irrigation and domestic water supply facilities as well as other agricultural infrastructures.
- To ensure proper monitoring and timely implementation of programs, the Barangay Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation Team (BPMET) was formed from community volunteers, which contributed greatly to the success of the CHARM2 project.
- The BPMET was implemented in 170 barangays in 37 municipalities of the CAR provinces (Abra, Apayao, Benguet, Ifugao, Kalinga and Mt. Province), and was able to address problems in project monitoring since CHARM2 projects areas are situated in remote parts of the region.
- The presence of the BPMETs were instrumental in the implementation of the project, assisting in the day to day monitoring of projects thus ensuring that problems were promptly addressed and that project activities were all on track with the general plan.
- The participatory approach in project monitoring through the BPMET contributed in upholding the traditional practice of safeguarding the community's assets in the Cordillera region.

## Methodology

### Social Mobilization Component

BPMETS were provided with trainings, monitoring equipment and other capacity building tools and activities in order to develop their monitoring skills, specifically on what to observe and document depending on the project being monitored. General responsibilities for the BPMET include:

- Obtaining and safeguarding documents pertaining to CHARM2 projects being implemented within the barangay;
- Convening the BPMET and scheduling the conduct of monitoring and evaluation activities;
- Undertaking the actual monitoring activity;
- Preparing the monitoring report and submitting the same to the BIT, and to the concerned unit in charge of the activity.

The major activities carried out by the BPMET are as follows:

- Perform their function as members of the validation team for reforestation and agroforestry projects;
- Monitor ongoing civil works;
- Reports on the status of sub-projects to the Municipal Management Group;
- Perform their function as members of the Inspectorate team that validates completion of infrastructure sub-projects;
- Take part as signatory for final payment of contracts for civil works;
- Conduct outcomes monitoring in the barangays.

## Recommendations and Conclusions

- Most respondents recommend that BPMET should become a permanent structure in the barangay, which will ensure transparent and constant monitoring of projects as well as it may lessen corruption in public projects.
- However, before the BPMET can be fully scaled and mainstreamed, there must be an established incentive system as well as a well-laid out transition plan for the turnover of projects and activities.
- Overall, the BPMET became the avenue for community members to participate in various ways in the project implementation projects. They not only act as critics of the project but advisors as well, allowing project management and local government to implement the projects in such way that it is mindful of the concerns of the community.

## Key Findings

- The formation of the BPMETS and subsequent trainings on participatory monitoring and evaluation was able to engage a strong membership of 1,466, with 60% composed of men (884 males) and the rest women (582 women)
- As recognized in the preliminary Project Completion Report (PCR) of the CHARM2, the BPMET was instrumental in standardizing the implementation of subprojects, which greatly contributed to its potential for sustainability.
- Improved governance of local government units was also observed ever since the implementation of the BPMET; barangay officials became more active, unethical dispensation of public funds were minimized and the constant monitoring of projects enforced the implementers to expedite their completion.
- Giving the community members a sense of ownership over the projects encourages pro-active participation which is a strong facilitating factor in successful project implementation and sustainability. The BPMETS became a success as well, and may be scaled and replicated in other barangays due to the strong sense of community participation in indigenous communities.
- A critical constraint in mainstreaming the BPMET, however, is creating an incentive or allowance scheme for the volunteers, since they contribute valuable time and effort as well as expose themselves to certain risks.
- Another challenge for the future development of BPMETS is establishing a transition system. Without developing a culture of knowledge sharing, especially on monitoring, evaluation and learning, it will be difficult to ensure the program's sustainability and the quality of its results once activities and leadership is passed on to the next generation of volunteers.

### CONTACT DETAILS

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