

SMALL PRIVATE LAND TREE FARMING IN CARAGA¹

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SITUATION:

- **Caraga....A region blessed with qualities only mother earth can provide-fertile land, favorable climate and appropriate elevation - important elements for a tree to obtain its maximum growth.**
- **Caraga, a major source of timber for Mindanao and the rest of the country, have a potential area of about 116,000 hectares of private lands waiting to be develop into Private tree plantations.**
- **Timber produced from private lands in year 2000 is 60% of the Philippines log production of 800,000 cu.m.**
- **Tree Farming is an established livelihood in the region covering approximately 46,000 hectares of private lands involving 31,000 tree farmers.**

¹ A presentation delivered during the Regional Policy Meeting on Community Forest Management Policies, Implementation and Adaptation on December 7-10, 2004 at Waterfront Hotel, Lanang, Davao City.

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ORGANIZATION OF SMALL TREE FARMERS GROUP

ABOUT CFTFDI. . .

In view of the realization that the present laws and policies no longer apply with the current trends in the developmental forestry sector, a move was initiated by DENR Caraga *Regional Executive Director Benjamin T. Tumaliuan, CESO III* to unite all private tree farmers in the region, a myriad of consultative meetings was facilitated which paved the way for the organization of provincial organization of the farmers. On June 6, 2003, series of meetings culminated into the birth of the Caraga Federation of Tree Farmers and Developers, Inc.

Consultations between the DENR and federation continued to discuss proposals for the deregulation of planted trees in private and alienable and disposable lands. These consultations paved the way for the adoption of a federation resolution and DENR-PWPA resolution which called for a pilot deregulation in the harvesting and transport of planted timber products during the 2nd National Tree Farmer's Congress on July 11-13, 2002 held at Almont Inland Hotel and Convention Center, Butuan City, Philippines.

During the congress, the elected officers of the federation led by *Forester Gregorio V. Mitchao* were formally inducted into office by the former DENR *Secretary Heherson T. Alvarez*. Shortly thereafter, the federation was formally registered with Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) under the name, **Caraga Federation of Tree Farmers and Developers, Inc. (CFTFDI)**.

The CFTFDI have five (5) officers and nine (9) Board of Trustees who oversee the day to day activities of the different service stations.

MANDATE. . .

As answer to the call of deregulation, Regional Memorandum Order (RMO) 02-014 was issued by DENR Caraga *Regional Executive Director Benjamin T. Tumaliuan, CESO III* mandating the federation to **undertake the function of documenting the planted timber harvested from private and A & D lands as an interim procedure.** Finally on March 25, 2004, DAO 2004-04 on “Guidelines on the Utilization and Transport of Planted Trees in Private Lands” was issued by DENR Secretary Elisea Guzon.

MISSION:

To initiate tree farming in Private lands and lead the farmers in sustainable livelihood projects in pursuit of poverty reduction and economic development. Be the unifying organization for pro-active policy towards a favorable investment climate



VISION:

A tree farmer. . . empowered to engage in sustainable livelihood project through tree plantation and living in harmony with nature

GOAL:

Make man-made forest a profitable venture for tree farmers and develop market linkages by promoting investments in downstream industries

Socio-Economic Benefits

■ Employment Generating

- creates direct and indirect employment
- has the capacity to adapt to the social needs of the people
- employed 116 men and women, of which 31 are registered foresters, 11 under board BSF graduates and 74 members of other profession

■ Income Augmenting

- benefited a total of 1,139 farmers
- net income of tree farmers have increased by 28%



Benefits afforded to Fourteen (14) Affiliated Associations

- **Free 500 seedlings and 50% discount on additional seedling requirements**
- **Free seed requirements**
- **Access to Zero Interest Loan**
- **Provision of Technical Assistance**
- **Financial Assistance**
- **Assistance during trucking & towing**
- **Increased Income**
- **Fast track of documentation**
- **Tree-Farmer Unifying**

Institutional Benefits

- **Tree Farmer Unifying**

- paved the way for the creation of the Caraga Federation of Tree Farmers and Developers, Inc.

- **Self Governing**

- established a main office and eleven (11) service stations
- self sustaining
- established the needed market linkages

- **Market Enhancing**

- supplied the demand of the local wood-based industries with an aggregate volume of 488,139 cu.m. in CY 2003.



■ **Capability Enhancing**

- **technical assistance on proper handling and planting of seedlings are provided as well as orientation on various silvicultural measures**
- **conduct of workshops which are geared towards the generation of legislative proposals that will institute pro-farmer reforms**
- **pursued alternative livelihood activities through cooperative ventures**

Ecological Benefits

- **Improved forest cover**
- **Effective soil protector**
- **Regulated water flows and carbon cycles, hence an improved climate**
- **Provides habitats for a multitude of animal and plant life**
- **Minimize if not prevent the occurrence of nature-based calamities**

BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES IN REACHING OUR VISION

Since the start of the organization in September of 2002, we have identified the following barriers and constraint in the small-scale tree farming;

1. The government have no clear cut policy on tree farming in private lands;
2. Political intervention.
3. Lack of initial database as to the extent, age and species of plantation.
4. Lack of technical support
5. No financial windows for soft loans either from the government or private lending institution.
6. Absence of proper market linkage for the products.
7. Tree farmers are not properly organize in cooperation with other stakeholders.
8. Lack of quality – driven products from seed to wood management.
9. No investment incentives and/or investment attraction.
10. Minimal community and capability building.

OTHER TANGIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Established 27 forest nurseries**
- **Mass produced seedlings with an average of 314,000 a month**
- **Established 3 model tree farms**