

## Section 4. How to keep landcare going

Having put so much effort into getting a program started, it is really important that you build on it and keep the momentum going.

In this section, we describe the processes that we believe are necessary to sustain landcare. These processes relate to:

- keeping landcare groups going
- building on the landcare group structure
- staying strong as a landcare facilitator
- supporting the expansion of landcare to new sites.

### Keeping landcare groups going


When a landcare group is functioning well, its activities are relevant to the farmers' needs, the farmers are learning and adopting new technologies, and the farmers' livelihoods are improving. At this stage, the group is likely to continue operating without much assistance. And, after all, this is the aim of the process—to build a strong, self-sufficient group that needs little, if any, assistance from the landcare facilitator.

Some things that are helpful in building self-sufficiency are:

- strengthening the partnership with the local government unit (LGU)
- regularly reviewing the group's action plan
- continually building capacity
- improving income-generating activities
- keeping partnerships healthy
- developing external linkages
- keeping up the supply of resources.



Once you have established landcare, you need to think about how to sustain it; this should be a partnership effort.



## Strengthening the partnership with the local government unit (LGU)

The LGU is the key to establishing and sustaining landcare. So you need to make sure that each partner in the landcare program maintains a strong relationship with the LGU.

As the key partner, the LGU's relationship with landcare groups deserves special attention, particularly the integration of landcare into the LGU's existing programs.

We recommend the following steps for strengthening the relationship with the LGU. You may have already carried out some or all of the steps as part of the initial development of the partnership (see Section 3: Steps 2 and 3). Here, we have targeted the steps at the *barangay* level but you can also apply them at the municipal and provincial levels of government.

1. Establish rapport with *barangay* officials. Make a courtesy call to the *barangay* captain and seek permission to join the next *barangay* council meeting.
2. Present the landcare program to the *barangay* council. Ask the councillors to consider integrating the program as part of the *barangay* development plan and whether you can take part in the *barangay* development planning process.
3. Present the landcare program to the *barangay* development council. Ask them to integrate the landcare program with the *barangay* development plan and to commit some of their budget to make this happen.
4. Present the landcare program to the *barangay* assembly to raise their awareness of the program and its goals. This will also help bolster support and help develop ownership of the program by *barangay* officials.
5. Seek input from *barangay* officials on possibly aligning monitoring and evaluation processes for the project with those of the *barangay* development plan.
6. At least once a year, update the *barangay* development council on progress and outcomes. During this update, revisit how the landcare program is fitting with changing government priorities and plans, particularly the *barangay* development plan.



## Mayor passes ordinance for contour farming in Bohol

Bienvenido ('Ben') Molina believes so strongly in landcare that, during his term as municipal mayor of Alicia, Bohol, he passed a municipal ordinance requiring all farmers tilling lands with a slope of 30 degrees or more to adopt contour farming.

'I was convinced by landcare when I saw that farmers with small landholdings could go on using their lands for farming without any danger of erosion and that their crop yields were still alright', says Ben, now a member of the provincial board of Bohol.

Alicia is a mountainous area not far from the famous Chocolate Hills of Bohol. As mayor, Ben set aside funds for the introduction of a landcare program and also trialled natural vegetative strips on his own farm: 'The result is really clear that this controls erosion excellently'.

Ben sees landcare as important for water conservation as well as protecting the soil: 'Alicia is one of the towns first hit by drought because it no longer has any forests and the area is practically grassland. This means we have a problem for irrigation and water for household consumption. Landcare conserves our water.'

'The number one support that people really need is from government', he says. 'The government has the resources, the technical know-how and the people to implement, supervise and guide the farmers. They also have the resources for training, research and other activities to help farmers to adopt landcare.'



The previous mayor of Alicia in Bohol, Ben Molina, believes so strongly in landcare that he passed an ordinance requiring all farmers tilling steep land to adopt contour farming.





## Landcare can benefit LGUs and non-government organisations

by Delia Catacutan

Local governments are a frontline organisation in the future of landcare. As the only permanent local institutions, they are in a good position to deliver services and support to landcare. The challenge is to get their support and involvement.

We need the larger system of government to cooperate with local farmers. While I support farmers being self-reliant, I still see a great need for governments to participate and provide the foundation for farmers' activities. I think it is great that farmers value independence and knowledge rather than external finance and resources. This creates the culture of pride, independence and esteem for themselves and what they do. But they should not be left alone.

This doesn't mean it's the sole responsibility of government or a certain agency. It's more about complete participation that includes government and non-government organisations (NGOs) like the Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, Inc. (LFPI). It's about developing farmers' ability to be independent while working with government and non-government partners for large-scale change.

Delia Catacutan (far right), a research officer with the World Agroforestry Centre and long-time landcare advocate, introduces farmers and LGU officials to landcare principles during their visit to Lantapan, Bukidnon.

Local governments can help landcare and improve their own extension programs by:

- employing more qualified technicians and extension personnel who are supported by relevant training programs and travel opportunities
- producing quality extension materials
- applying the landcare concept to both agricultural and environmental extension programs
- supporting livelihood activities in landcare as a form of incentive, rather than an aid
- gaining private support and investment for landcare from, for example, the agribusiness industry.

NGOs can support landcare by:

- building community skills for achieving development rather than focusing on projects that lead to dependence and the need for a 'dole-out system' to support development
- being flexible in their project targets to allow for experimentation, which means achieving a balance between content, process and output
- supporting landcare projects rather than creating new institutions.



### Regularly reviewing the group's action plan

The action plans developed at the initial planning meeting with the farmers (see Section 3: Step 6) need to be continually reviewed to make sure that they still meet the evolving needs of the farmers in the group. The farmers should conduct an action planning workshop each year to review what the group has done and learned. At the workshop, get the farmers to identify how their needs changed as their farms and their livelihoods started to improve. Use the evaluation records from each event (such as cross-visits and on-farm training days) to help with the analysis.

A short-term review of the action plan can also be done at the end of each meeting or field event by getting the farmers to review their immediate plans for the next and subsequent activities.



LFPI Northern Mindanao Landcare Coordinator Lyndon Arbes works with farmers from Claveria, Misamis Oriental, in developing a new banana marketing group. It's important to work closely with farmers to identify their changing needs.



## Continually building capacity

Training needs identified at the initial farmer planning meetings (see Section 3: Step 6) will have made their way into the group's action plan. Get the farmers to reassess their training needs each time they review the group's action plan, as described above.

Here are some other things you can do to help build the group's capacity:

- If the group has identified new training needs, organise a 'training match-up' workshop between the farmers and invited landcare partners such as LGUs, national government agencies and non-government organisations. During the workshop, the farmers present their training needs and the partners identify which of these needs they can meet, based on their capacity and mandate.
- If there are training needs that cannot be met by the partners, contact other institutions that may have the expertise to help. Research and academic institutions often have the capacity to help with training but lack the local knowledge of farmers' needs and networks and the appropriate contacts.
- Work with the farmers to prioritise their training needs. Sometimes they need help in getting a balance between technical training and group development.
- As capacity building and training programs evolve, evaluating the effectiveness of the training becomes more important. Continually emphasise the importance of ongoing monitoring and evaluation of all training events. The partner agencies that provide the training will also appreciate getting feedback on the effectiveness of their training programs.
- When the group has matured, encourage them to think about forming a farmer trainer group to provide specialised farmer-to-farmer training services to other landcare groups. For some landcare groups, this has become an income-generating activity.
- Mentor and groom one or two farmers who appear to have good leadership potential. They are important for the future sustainability of the group. Try to link them up with leadership development programs of the LGU or other providers.
- Make sure individuals in the group are not over-burdened with work, particularly those with talent and interest. It is important to avoid burnout. Appointing a committee is one way to spread the load.
- Continue to strongly support the involvement of women from farming families in capacity-building programs. Women are often better skilled and better placed to play key roles in running and developing the landcare group. Landcare promotes a strong gender equity ethic along with its bipartisan political ethic.



## Bohol women's landcare group flourishes

The Masonoy Women's Association in San Isidro, Bohol has more than 30 active members. President Eleuteria Godin is proud of her garden full of flowers. Planted by the women's group, the flowers are sold to nearby markets to supplement each of the women's family income.

The women prefer to make their own organic fertiliser that does not degrade the soil or cause soil acidity. Eleuteria hopes they will soon be able to afford to buy worms to help speed up the process of producing the fertiliser.

She also dreams of having a machine to help them turn the ginger they grow into powder, so that they can sell it beyond the local stores into other cities and towns in Bohol.

'We do this to help our husbands and families', Eleuteria explains. 'We also help them on our farms to build contours. We're getting a much better production and return from our farms than we did before landcare. Instead of just having sweet potato and cassava, we now have vegetables, coconuts, bananas, and other fruit.'



Eleuteria Godin is President of the Masonoy Women's Association in San Isidro, Bohol. The members grow flowers to sell at nearby markets to supplement their incomes.



## Improving income-generating activities

The livelihood improvement and income-generating activities identified at the initial planning meeting with the farmers (see Section 3: Step 6) need to be reviewed. Encourage the group to continue to look for new and innovative ways of improving their livelihoods. Here are some ideas:

- Start a group livestock dispersal program. For example, the group buys a piglet that is looked after by a landcare group member until it is large enough to produce its own piglets. Some of the offspring are dispersed to other members of the group and some are sold for the group's income, and then the cycle continues.
- Make organic fertilisers and vermicompost, and sell the products to farmers or non-government organisations that are promoting organic farming.
- Start a microfinancing scheme where all group members contribute a small amount of money, and lend the funds to members at minimal interest.
- Investigate improved marketing systems for the group's farm products.



Vale Justo trains farmers in how to grow new vegetables and apply new pest and disease management systems.





## Growing the right potato for the right market

With landcare, farmers are growing more produce and are expanding the range of their produce. In many cases, this is more than is required to meet the needs of their families and local outlets, and they need to find other markets.

In remote communities such as Ned in South Cotabato, where rough roads hamper transportation, this can be a problem. For produce like cabbages and tomatoes, it can mean high losses before they even reach the marketplace.

‘Farmers in remote areas are being encouraged to move to more durable crops, like potatoes and onions, that aren’t damaged as easily’, says Valeriana (‘Vale’) Justo, a researcher working with landcare at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

‘Every time we hold a landcare meeting in Ned we have these farmers who come every time,’ says Vale. ‘There are three or four ladies who have to walk 2 hours by foot, but they still come even if it’s raining. We teach them things like biofumigation and how to produce different vegetables. They are very organised in their landcare groups. They work with each other; they share their resources and their labour. They help each other in planting onions and they are happy doing this.’

Jessan Catre, a technical support officer with Catholic Relief Services, is helping farmers find new markets to support the new supply of produce. And his market intelligence is also helping farmers to select the right produce to grow.

‘There are two types of potato in the Philippines: a yellow variety and a white variety. The white potato is used for fast food such as potato chips, but we currently need to import this from places like Australia and Europe’, says Jessan.

The white potato is ideal for growing in Mindanao’s upland areas of Ned, Kapatagan and Lantapan.

‘The biggest buyer of this potato told us there was potential for landcare groups to produce these potatoes. He said that if we could produce quality white potatoes in Mindanao that he’d buy from us rather than import the potatoes. And so with Vale’s technical production expertise we’re trying to introduce this quality potato into the region.’

Jessan is hoping to see farmers become confident enough to call themselves entrepreneurs. His agroenterprise program with landcare is supporting this dream.

‘Farmers always think of themselves as purely farmers and powerless to be involved in the dynamic market system’, he says. ‘In this program we try to educate landcare farmers to look at themselves as entrepreneurs who have the capacity to participate and influence the market.’

Jessan Catre (front right) helps landcare groups find new markets and improve their marketing systems through a market clustering process introduced by Catholic Relief Services.





## Keeping partnerships healthy

By now the landcare group will have cemented important linkages with the agencies in their landcare partnership. These linkages need to be kept healthy. Here are some ways to do this:

- Communicate regularly with partner agencies to make them feel valued. Emphasise the progress being made by the program and the benefits to partners.
- Make sure partners are invited to landcare events, even though they may not appear to be interested or the event may not seem relevant to their mandate.
- Always acknowledge your partners at events, even if they are not present.
- Make sure partners are included in any written publicity about the program.
- Evaluate the performance of the partnership to identify and document what worked well and what could be improved. And get the partners' agreement on any new action plans. This is often a good opportunity to celebrate the importance of the partnership and its successes.

## Developing external linkages

Linkages and partnerships with new agencies need to be continually developed in line with the evolving needs of the landcare group.

This is an important role for the landcare facilitator, requiring good communication and negotiation skills, networks, and access to information about agencies and their expertise. It is best if one of the farmer leaders in the group can assist you by playing a leading role in brokering the linkages.

Always be on the lookout for new development programs and agencies that may be relevant to the landcare program. Keeping in close contact with LGU officials and staff is a good way to keep updated on new programs.





## Pooling resources to plant 15,000 trees in Claveria

During his time as *barangay* captain of Madaguig in Claveria, Misamis Oriental, Samuel Abrogar successfully led the planting of 15,000 assorted timber-tree seedlings.

The activity was supported by the Community Agriculture Technologies Project run by LFPI with funding from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR). The project brought together LFPI, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the municipal and provincial LGUs, and the Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology (MOSCAT).

The collaborators planned massive tree-planting activities in the *barangays*. At first, Samuel thought success was unlikely, given the scale of the project and the need for resources such as seedlings and manpower.

‘These constraints were addressed by several meetings conducted with partners’, he explains. ‘We finally came up with a detailed plan and sharing of resources.’

The local community, led by Samuel, pledged the labour force needed to identify sites, prepare the land and plant the seedlings. DENR committed to providing the seedlings. MOSCAT pledged the involvement of their faculty, staff and students. And LFPI committed to oversee the activity.

‘We planted 15,000 assorted seedlings in the degraded forest margins and along roadsides in the vicinity’, says Samuel.



A successful tree-planting project in Madaguig, Claveria, Misamis Oriental, relied on collaboration between LFPI, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the municipal and provincial local government units, and the Misamis Oriental State College of Agriculture and Technology.



## Keeping up the supply of resources

To develop and remain active, a landcare group needs an ongoing supply of resources—people, cash and materials. Here are some ways you can help to sustain the flow of resources:

- Partner agencies need to remain actively involved in the program. Make sure they recognise the importance of pooling their resources with those of the other partner agencies.
- Consider each partner's ability to contribute, and recognise and understand their funding limitations.
- Remember the importance of integrating landcare with partner programs and priorities and, ideally, having resources allocated through these programs. Be aware of each partner's processes—they are always unique to each organisation. Knowing the best people to talk to, and the best time of year to approach them, increases your chances of success.
- Look for help from your landcare 'champion' in the partner agency. A champion is someone within the organisation who has the credibility and influence to promote landcare and negotiate with key decision makers in their agency.
- Get the *Kagawads* (*barangay* councillors) involved in training. It helps to engage them in landcare and may improve their attitudes to providing support.

## Some groups will not survive

Groups generally continue to exist only while they have a need and common purpose. Landcare groups are no different.

The problems facing rural communities in the Philippines, particularly in the uplands, are so significant in terms of importance and scale that we expect landcare to continue for many years. But we need to recognise that not all landcare groups will be successful, and not all will want to continue.

If a landcare group loses momentum and the farmers do not respond eagerly to your interventions, it is often best to allow the group to disband. This does not indicate failure; it just means that the group is not yet ready for the complete landcare process. Experience has shown us that often these groups re-form when they recognise either a new need or the value of the landcare approach.



## Building on the landcare group structure

Once a landcare group is stable, you may consider building on its strength to broaden its scope to the municipal or even provincial level. Here are some mechanisms you can use:

- farmer trainer groups
- municipal landcare associations
- farmer research committees
- strategic plans
- links with community organisations.

### Farmer trainer groups

When a landcare group has built reasonable capacity, it may consider forming a farmer trainer group (FTG) to pass on its specialised knowledge to other farmers. This extends the farmer-to-farmer training concept. If the group can tap into an area of demand, the FTG can become an income-generating activity for the landcare group.

Farmer trainers need to be carefully selected. They should be capable leader types, be active and successful adopters within the landcare group, have good farms suitable for demonstrations and be able to communicate well with other farmers.

You can help the FTG to promote its services to the landcare network. If you can get the FTG to accredit itself with the LGU, that may help it win clients. Non-government organisations may also be willing to promote and use its services.



Members of the Alubijid Farmer Trainer Group in Misamis Oriental graduated in 2007.





## Seeing is believing for Bohol farmers

Zacarias Polinaria was one of the first adopters of landcare in the mountainous municipality of San Isidro in Bohol. He thought the landcare message was positive and wanted to experiment on his farm. Over time he gained skills in landcare, especially agroforestry, and is now training other farmers.

'My farm is a model for other farmers', he says. 'I am not good at giving lectures; I can only train farmers when I can show them something on my farm.'

'I feel good because farmers from other *barangays* and municipalities have visited my farm. I like to show them how I have improved things.'

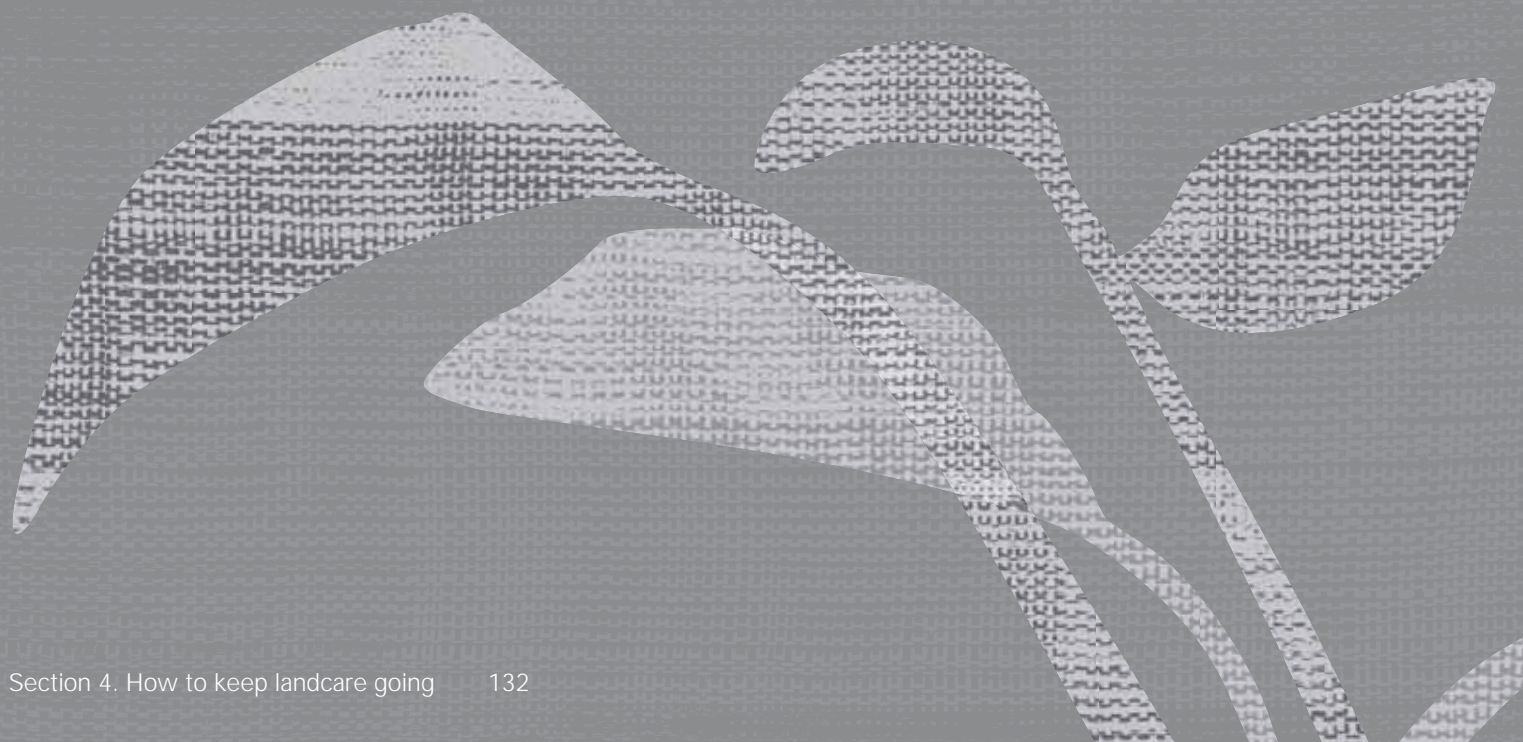
'Teaching other farmers is effective in promoting landcare when it is combined with formal training by agricultural technicians.'

Zacarias believes farmer trainers are effective because they are practising landcare on their own farms.

'In the early stages it can be difficult to convince other farmers about landcare, but when they see the actual benefits, such as reduced soil erosion, they are more likely to apply landcare technologies on their land.'

'One of my neighbours did not attend any of the trainings but when he saw the results on my farm improving the health of the land and the soil, he replicated everything I had done without me having to convince him. Just seeing the results was enough.'

Zacarias Polinaria believes farmers learn best by seeing landcare in practice. He trains farmers on his farm at San Isidro, Bohol.





# Lantapan Landcare Association brings bargaining power and camaraderie

by Lorena Loma

Lyndon Arbes says his greatest achievement was in building the capacity of farmers in Lantapan to collectively address issues affecting their communities and livelihoods.

Lyndon has been involved in landcare since 1999 as a landcare facilitator at Lantapan in Bukidnon in northern Mindanao. As part of his role, he provides technical training and capacity building to farmers. He is passionate about helping to improve their social and economic wellbeing while protecting their environment.

‘Before landcare, farmers were very passive in addressing local and environmental issues’, says Lyndon. ‘They did things individually and were driven always with the mindset of attending training and meetings to get financial support. But through landcare, they saw the benefits of working together as a group to address the issues that confronted their daily lives’.

Landcare groups from various *barangays* of Lantapan have since got together to form the Lantapan Landcare Association. The association has established links with groups and individuals and has more bargaining power in accessing their support.

The association has actively partnered with the LGU to implement environmental and livelihood projects. This not only helps build the capacity of landcare members but also links them to a wider network that has the potential to address their ongoing needs. ‘This is crucial in sustaining their activities’, says Lyndon.

‘I believe the farmers’ mindset has changed for the better’, says Lyndon. ‘They have learned many things. They are now more cohesive and learn to socialise themselves, gaining new friends and establishing new linkages. Today, they not only value money, but also people, relationships and camaraderie.’



Members of the Lantapan Landcare Association in Bukidnon learn how to handle and sow seeds.

## Municipal landcare associations

When a number of landcare groups within a municipality develop a degree of self-sufficiency and have strong leaders and active programs, they may consider forming a municipal landcare association. The advantages include the pooling of resources and skills, greater collective potential to link with external agencies and funders, and a higher profile in the municipal community.

With an association, representation on the municipal development council may be possible; landcare issues reach a wider audience; and the potential for accessing provincial projects and funds increases.

## Farmer research committees

When a municipal landcare federation or a large landcare group reaches the stage where it is capable of strategically analysing its members' needs and identifying inputs, it may wish to form a farmer research committee.

The committee is designed to initiate research by farmers on their own farms. It liaises with research providers on small farmer-led research projects, and interacts with farmer research programs such as the government's PCARRD Magsasaka–Siyentista (Farmer–Scientist) Program.

## Strategic plans

The development of a higher-level structure such as a municipal landcare association or a farmer research committee requires a strategic plan that identifies the vision, mission, goals and objectives of the organisation. The plan may be for the long term (5+ years), the medium term (3–5 years) or the short term (up to 3 years).

To develop a strategic plan, you need:

- strategic planning expertise, and funding; there may be opportunities for support from the LGU or local participating non-government organisations
- commitment from the group's members, particularly from leaders, office-bearers and long-serving members
- up to 2 days of time to see the process through to completion.

Useful strategic planning activities include:

- analysing the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of strategies, policies or institutional set-ups
- exploring relationships among stakeholders and communities
- discussing priorities for development and land use
- identifying causes and effects of problems.





Students from Gerardo Astilla Sr. High School of Malamba, Marilog, Davao City, take part in landcare activities.

## Tips for strategic planning

- Make sure everyone has the opportunity to speak.
- Make sure an action plan forms part of the final strategic plan.
- Before the group disperses, make sure that everyone understands their responsibilities, including who is responsible for distributing the results of the planning.
- Celebrate the completion of the planning—throw a party!
- Proudly display the vision and mission in the group's office or in a suitable public area.
- Remind the group to respect the result of the planning and that it should be changed only if absolutely needed.

## Links with community organisations

Community groups can play a valuable role in expanding landcare in the local community. They can support farmers directly in implementing landcare, and indirectly by promoting landcare's principles to the broader community. The landcare facilitator is important for brokering linkages and getting the community involved.

You can connect with schools through both teachers and students—teachers from the perspective of getting landcare included in school curricula, and students from the perspective of experiencing landcare on a practical level in the school grounds and positively influencing their parents. Parent-teacher associations can also be involved.

Local church leaders can play an important role by introducing to their congregations the principles of landcare and how to apply them on farm.

Professional groups in major rural towns and cities are often interested in environmental advocacy and may be able to actively promote the concept of landcare within government, private industry and non-government organisations.



## Staying strong as a landcare facilitator

The role of the landcare facilitator is always challenging and can, at times, be very trying. You need patience, endurance and a willingness to continually explore new horizons.

To keep you strong as a landcare facilitator, you need:

- monitoring and evaluation of the landcare program
- a phase-out plan for how you will withdraw from landcare groups
- professional development and networks.

### Monitoring and evaluation of the landcare program

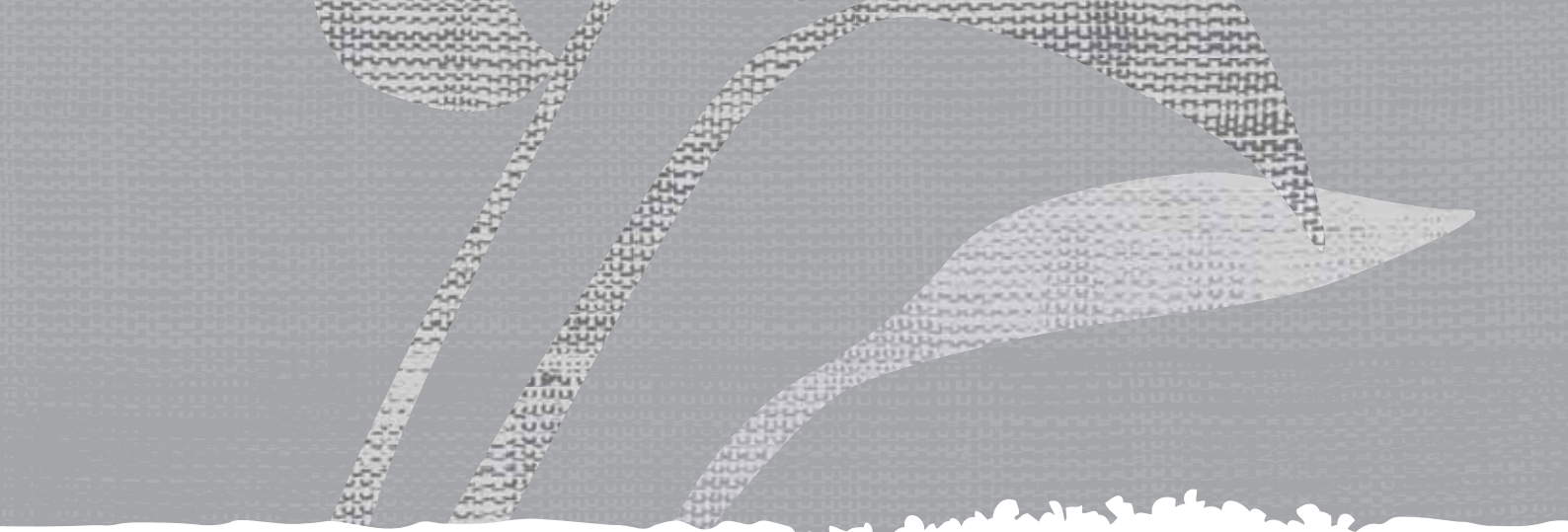
The better you can demonstrate the outcomes and benefits of the landcare program, the more knowledgeable you will be of the best processes to use, and the more confident you will be in the success of the program. It is also more likely that funds will continue to be made available. Overall, your role will be more rewarding.

Remember that, while it is important to have an effective monitoring and evaluation program in place, it is also important not to over-monitor. Just measure the things that you need to measure in order to clearly show the outcomes and benefits.

Here are some indicators of success for a landcare program:

- The landcare facilitator is socially and professionally accepted in the community.
- Community members are working together cohesively to address their local issues.
- Landcare group members are building their capacity and adopting landcare technologies related to natural resource management.
- Landcare group members are increasing their income through diversified farming systems promoted through landcare.
- Social capital within the landcare group and the broader community is improving.



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- The community's interest in landscape issues outside of their immediate locale, for example in downstream areas, is increasing.
  - The community's interest in sustainable use of natural resources is increasing.
  - The community or landcare group is sharing its knowledge with other farmers in the community.
  - The LGU is supporting landcare programs.
  - The community or landcare group acknowledges LGU support for landcare activities.
  - The community or landcare group is accessing support from service agencies such as the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Agrarian Reform.

### **A phase-out plan**

Once the landcare group is established, it is important to develop a phase-out plan for how you will eventually withdraw from the group. You can carry out the plan when the farmers are self-sufficient, when you believe the facilitation service is no longer required, or when the resources run out. The plan helps to clearly set the terms of your role as landcare facilitator in the minds of the farmers.

### **Professional development and networks**

Maintain an active professional development program by attending any extension or landcare training that becomes available, and by reading and researching the literature.

Develop a close network with other landcare facilitators in the region. You can jointly participate in training and, where appropriate, help each other out in your respective landcare projects.

Become a member or associate of LFPI so that you receive advice on events of interest.



Developing a network of landcare facilitators can help you support each other.

## Supporting the expansion of landcare to new sites

This manual provides a plan for getting landcare started and for keeping it going at new sites. We hope that the contents are clear enough to allow you to understand and work through the process with a minimum of outside help.

However, we understand that there will be instances where you need additional mentoring and advice. For example, when a new site is remote from existing landcare sites, you may find it hard to meet other landcare facilitators face to face and to arrange the logistics of cross-visits to other landcare sites. Or perhaps you want to try landcare in a completely different farming or community development situation to those that we have described in this manual.

In these situations, LFPI is willing to help wherever our resources permit. Some ways we can help are by:

- providing advice by email on important issues in the design and implementation of a landcare program
- hosting your visit (as an interested landcare facilitator) to an appropriate landcare site in the southern Philippines to view processes and activities of interest
- sending one of our experienced LFPI staff to your site to help scope the potential for landcare (funding from your project or local agency might be required for this to occur)
- mentoring you from a distance on an ongoing basis should you get your program underway
- providing training and other services to your site, if required, on a fee-for-service basis
- including you on our email mailing list so that you hear about networking and training opportunities that we offer through our landcare facilitators' network.

If you are developing a new landcare site, please feel free to contact LFPI and provide brief details of your program so that we can keep you in touch with LFPI activities. Visit our website <<http://www.landcarephil.org>> for up-to-date contact details.





## Summary – How to keep landcare going

The key points to take away from this section are as follows:

1. Support landcare groups by regularly reviewing and adjusting the action plan, continually building their capacity, improving income-generating activities, keeping partnerships healthy, developing external linkages, strengthening partnerships with LGUs, and keeping up the supply of resources.
2. Build on the landcare group structure by forming farmer training groups, municipal landcare associations and farmer research committees.
3. Build confidence in what landcare can achieve and look to the future by implementing a monitoring and evaluation program, planning for landcare groups to be self-sustaining without your support, participating in professional development, and networking.
4. If you are expanding landcare to new sites, contact us at LFPI and provide brief details of your program so that we can keep you in touch with LFPI activities.









## Glossary

**agroenterprise** A business venture, typically small scale, that can be undertaken on a farm or to support an existing farm business.

**agroforestry** Land use systems where trees or other woody perennial plants are integrated with crops and/or animals on a piece of land.

**barangay** A native Filipino term for the smallest administrative/political division or district in the Philippines. A *barangay* generally has less than 1,000 inhabitants residing within the territorial boundary and is administered by a set of elected officials, headed by a *barangay* captain. There are more than 40,000 *barangays* in the Philippines.

**bayanihan** A native Filipino term for the spirit and effort of people working together as one community to achieve an objective.

**biodynamic** A method of organic farming that treats the farm as a unified and individual organism, emphasising the importance of balancing the soil, plants and animals as a closed self-nourishing system.

**biofumigation** A technique of incorporating the plant residues of selected brassica crops into the soil to suppress soil-borne diseases and pests. The brassica residues release biocides (substances that can kill living organisms) into the soil as they decay.


**cluster marketing** A system of marketing products where a group of five to 15 farmers work together to establish a market-linked agroenterprise in their district. The system's 8-step process includes partnership building, market chain study, cluster formation, product consolidation under a cluster plan, test marketing and enterprise development.

**contour farming** The practice of cultivating and growing crops across the slope following the contour lines. The resulting rows slow down water run-off, reducing soil erosion.

**cross-visit** A facilitated visit by a group of farmers to successful farms or businesses, where the visiting farmers can see innovations with their own eyes and interact with the farmers or business operators.

**institutional mapping** A visual method of identifying and representing the perceptions, relationships and importance of institutions and individuals inside and outside a community.

Opposite: Sergia Subaa farms the steep slopes of north-west Bohol.



**local government unit** The administrative structure responsible for the functions of central government agencies which were devolved by the Local Government Code of 1991 to local government agencies. LGUs, as local government units or agencies are commonly known, cover regional, provincial, municipal and *barangay* levels.

**natural vegetative strips** Narrow strips of naturally growing grasses and herbs which are left unploughed along the contours of sloping farmland. They help to control soil erosion and filter pesticides and fertilisers from water run-off.

**sitio** A native Filipino term for a local village or group of dwellings. A *barangay* is made up of a number of *sitios* (or '*puroks*' as they are more officially known).

**vermicompost** Compost (also known as 'vermicast' or 'worm castings') which is the end product of the breakdown of organic matter (such as sawdust, straw, manure, leaves) by various species of earthworms. Vermicompost is a nutrient-rich organic fertiliser and soil conditioner.

**vermicomposting** The process of producing vermicompost.



## Further reading

### Websites

- ACIAR–AusAID Philippines–Australia Landcare Project  
<http://www.landcaremates.org>  
Of particular interest are the working papers which capture the experience and impacts of landcare over the project's 10-year history.
- Landcare Foundation of the Philippines, Inc.  
<http://www.landcarephil.org>

### Books

- *Basic Things You Should Know To Save and Protect Mother Earth – Landcare in School Manual* (2007), CRS-Philippines, Davao City, Philippines.
- *International Course on Participation in Extension: Farmer Led Approaches* (2005), International Institute for Rural Reconstruction, Silang, Cavite, Philippines.
- *Landcare in the Philippines: stories of people and places* (2004), edited by J Metcalfe, Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Canberra, Australia (ACIAR Monograph No 112).
- *Scaling Up Landcare in the Philippines: Issues, Methods and Strategies* (2007), Delia Cresencio-Catacutan, World Agroforestry Centre, Nairobi, Kenya.
- *The Clustering Approach to Agroenterprise Development for Small Farmers: The CRS-Philippines Experience. A Guidebook for Facilitators* (2007), CRS-Philippines, Davao City, Philippines. Available for download from [http://www.dgroups.org/groups/cgiar/LearningAllianceEA/docs/CRS\\_AgroEnterprise\\_Guidebook.pdf](http://www.dgroups.org/groups/cgiar/LearningAllianceEA/docs/CRS_AgroEnterprise_Guidebook.pdf) [PDF 19 MB]
- *Trainers Manual on Agricultural Extension and Land Management* (2006), Department of Agriculture – Upland Development Programme in Southern Mindanao, Davao City, Philippines.







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