

**Goodbye Hunger!** This is the battlecry of the newest program launched to conquer the biggest challenge facing the country today - - food security. The Philippines ranks fifth in the world hunger survey, with 4.3 million households experiencing involuntary poverty in the last quarter of 2008 (Social Weather Station survey, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2008). Hence, there is an urgent need to seek new solutions to address the problem.

### Shell-GK's Bayan-anihan Program

On March 28, 2009, Gawad Kalinga (GK), launched its Bayan-anihan Program in its more than 300 sites nationwide. This hopes to provide a solution to hunger in the country. Inspired by the successful collaboration between Shell and GK in building five communal farms in Bicol, Shell supported 23 communities out of 45 GK sites in the region. Shell believes that the program offers a paradigm shift in addressing rural hunger.

The program hopes to introduce a simple model which can be easily replicated nationwide. In the identified GK sites, 30 families will construct individually 10-square meter plots. Each plot is expected to generate a minimum of 10 kilos of vegetables per month which translates to 10 days of food per month per family. The vegetables will be produced organically using open-pollinated seeds. Four vegetable mixes are expected to be grown on the plots - - sinigang, pinakbet, diningding, and laswa. Fruit trees like "moringa" or malunggay, papaya, calamansi, guava, and banana shall also be planted along the site periphery. Medicinal plants like tanglad, oregano, lagundi, taheebo, and root crops like cassava and sweet potato are also highly recommended crops.

Apart from Shell, GK also obtained the support of the Department of Agriculture (DA), State Colleges and Universities (SCUs), other corporations, and private individuals to help set up this sustainable food sufficiency program.

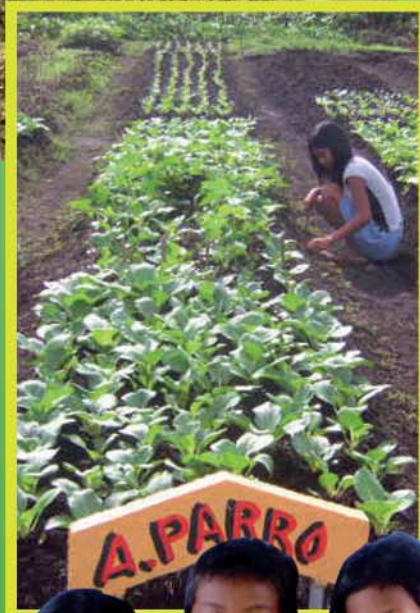


(L-R) GK National Officer Melo Villaroman, PSFI Project Officer Isagani Betchayda, Municipality of Pili, Camarines Sur Councilor Augusto Cabanero, Department of Agriculture Region IV Director Jose Dayao, and CSSAC Dean Ramon Bucad.

# Shell supports GK's BAYAN-ANIHAN Program

by Maria Pamela S. Castro





## The Bayan-anihan Sites

In the Bicol region, the center of the Shell-GK Bayan-anihan launching was in Pagkamoot GK Village in Cadlan, Pili, Camarines Sur. The launch, held on March 28, 2009, was graced by DA Region V Director Jose Dayao, GK National Officer Melo Villaroman, Camarines Sur State Agricultural College (CSSAC) Dean Roman Bucad, Pagkamoot Village GK Project Director Allan Pato, and GK Kapitbahayan officers, and PSFI Project Officer Isagani Betchayda. Among the highlights were a ribbon-cutting ceremony and the ceremonial planting done by 30 families in their respective 10-square meter plots.

About the same time, 22 other GK sites in Camarines Sur also started seeding their plots. Sites are located as near as Naga City to as far as Sipocot, Camarines Sur. As in previous Shell-supported GK communal farms, Shell and PSFI provided appropriate infrastructures in each sponsored GK site including plot markers, entrance arcs, compost sheds, and multipurpose shed. Shell and PSFI also supports the program's project development and implementation. In these sites, the organic farming technology developed by PSFI is being adopted with composting given special attention.

To date, PSFI has evaluated all 23 sites and is proud to note that support from all sector-partners are pouring in to make the program a reality. The GK Bayan-anihan (BA) Academy Training, the BA's training arm, started rolling-out its trainings for various BA coordinators and GK communities, together with PSFI and participating SUCs. All of the 23 sites already have grown crops in their vegetative stage and will be ready for harvest come June until July.

It is expected that with the continuous amalgamation of efforts from all sectors and participation of the communities, food production under the program will be sustained not only for the specified project period of three years but for a lifetime. Each community member can now completely say, "Goodbye Gutom!"



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