

CURRENT STATE OF GOVERNMENT LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE TO THE PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION IN KALINGA: AN ASSESSMENT

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Abstract

This study evaluates the effectiveness and sustainability of government livelihood assistance programs provided to the People's Organizations (POs) in Kalinga, Philippines. The study examines the current state of these programs, identifies the challenges the beneficiaries face, and provides recommendations for improvement. The research utilizes a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative interviews and surveys with key stakeholders, including government officials, PO leaders, and program beneficiaries. Data analysis identifies patterns, themes, and common issues in implementing government livelihood assistance programs. Preliminary findings indicate that the status of livelihood assistance programs in Kalinga is still being developed to ensure their sustainability. Challenges identified include: 1) Need for more support in sustaining the programs. 2) Need for more funding. 3) Inadequate program design. 4) Limited capacity and skill development among the beneficiaries. The lack of hands-on monitoring by funding agencies and limited technical knowledge of the machinery provided are also significant concerns. The recommends enhancing and capacitating the leadership and business-oriented skills of the POs, improving the planning and distribution of livelihood assistance, implementing proper turnover processes, requiring stringent evaluation of aid recipients, and establishing regular monitoring and reporting mechanisms. This study contributes to understanding the current state of government livelihood assistance programs in Kalinga. It provides valuable insights for policymakers, government agencies, and stakeholders in poverty alleviation efforts. The findings and recommendations can inform the design and implementation of more effective and sustainable livelihood assistance programs, ultimately leading to improved socio-economic conditions for the beneficiaries and the overall development of Kalinga province.

Keywords: Livelihood assistance; Sustainability; Poverty Alleviation

1. INTRODUCTION

The government aims to provide financial and assistance to individuals and groups to equalize socio-economic stability. The Sustainable Livelihood Program aims to reduce poverty and inequality by generating employment among poor households and moving highly vulnerable households towards sustainable livelihoods and economic stability. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the nation's economy, health, nutrition, and food security. To achieve sustainable development goals, livelihood programs play a vital role in the environment and sustainable trade. Government line agencies determine eligibility for programs and monitor assistance recipients to ensure they achieve their goals. As of January 2021, 8.7% of Filipinos aged 15 and older are unemployed, and the Rapid Nutrition Assessment Survey (RNAS) revealed that families face long-term unemployment, hunger, and dietary insecurity, leading to malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies.

The National Nutrition Council (NNC) advises local government units (LGUs) to invest in livelihood and employment generation programs targeting nutritionally vulnerable families and impoverished households. LGUs collaborate with the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) and TESDA to provide livelihood training, skills enhancement programs, and other employment-related activities. Access to sustainable income sources will help families meet basic requirements, reduce poverty and inequality, and contribute to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. However, the viability of these programs is questioned, as most programs are not sustained by their beneficiaries, making their ultimate objective of lifting people out of poverty and economic growth unattainable.

2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Understanding the intersection between the needs and wants of every individual with the aim of alleviating the poverty that they face from day to day is crucial. Hence understanding and addressing individuals' hierarchical needs can inform strategies and interventions aimed at reducing poverty and promoting well-being.

Basic Needs and Poverty Alleviation:

Research has highlighted the importance of meeting individuals' basic physiological and safety needs as a foundational step in poverty alleviation. Studies emphasize the significance of providing access to essential resources such as food, clean water, healthcare, housing, and social safety nets to lift individuals out of poverty and enable them to progress to higher levels of the hierarchy.

Psychological Well-being and Poverty Reduction:

Addressing higher-level needs, such as love, belonging, esteem, and self-actualization, can play a crucial role in breaking the cycle of poverty. Studies indicate that interventions that promote social connections, cultivate a sense of community, offer educational opportunities, and support personal development can have a positive effect on the psychological well-being of individuals and contribute to the reduction of poverty.

Empowerment and Self-Actualization:

Empowering individuals living in poverty to achieve self-actualization is an essential component of sustainable poverty alleviation. The literature emphasizes the importance of promoting agency, autonomy, and empowerment through initiatives such as skills training, entrepreneurship programs, and community development projects. Enabling individuals to pursue their goals, develop their talents, and contribute to their communities can lead to long-term poverty reduction.

Contextual Factors and Cultural Considerations:

The literature acknowledges the influence of contextual factors and cultural considerations in the application of Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs to poverty alleviation. Different cultural contexts, social norms, and individual aspirations may shape how needs are prioritized and addressed. Studies emphasize the need for culturally sensitive and context-specific approaches

to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of poverty reduction efforts.

Integrated Approaches and Policy Implications:

Scholarly discussions emphasize the importance of integrated approaches and policy implications in linking Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs with poverty alleviation strategies. Adopting multidimensional approaches that address multiple levels of the hierarchy simultaneously can lead to more comprehensive and sustainable outcomes. Furthermore, research highlights the significance of policy frameworks that promote inclusive economic growth, social protection, and equitable access to resources and opportunities.

Furthermore, the need to address individuals' basic needs while also recognizing the significance of higher-level needs for long-term well-being and sustainable development. By integrating the principles of Maslow's theory into poverty reduction strategies, policymakers, practitioners, and organizations can design more effective interventions that holistically address the diverse needs of individuals and communities living in poverty.

This universal dilemma of lifting the life of every Filipino drives the government to come up with a plan to address this condition, which is very vital to the economic growth that the government aims to attain. As such, livelihood assistance programs are one of the best remedies that the government determines to address the gap between poverty and economic growth. Various dimensions of government support, including program design, implementation challenges, impacts on livelihoods, and the role of stakeholders in promoting sustainable development, are stringent in the attainability of the government's ultimate goal of poverty reduction.

Program Design and Framework:

Livelihood assistance programs in the Philippines often follow a comprehensive framework that integrates poverty reduction, economic development, and social inclusion. Studies have highlighted the importance of participatory approaches, ensuring the involvement of beneficiaries in program design and decision-making processes (Alegado et al., 2018). Additionally, the use of sustainable livelihood frameworks, such as the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA), has been advocated to guide program design and prioritize interventions that address the specific needs and assets of target communities (Hutchinson et al., 2015).

Implementation Challenges and Lessons Learned:

Research has identified various challenges in the implementation of livelihood assistance programs in the Philippines. These challenges include inadequate coordination among government agencies, lack of access to financial resources, limited technical and entrepreneurial skills among beneficiaries, and difficulties in sustaining livelihood activities beyond program duration (Soriano, 2014). Studies have emphasized the need for capacity-building initiatives, enhanced monitoring, and evaluation, and strengthened collaboration between government agencies and civil society organizations to address these challenges effectively (Garcia, 2017).

Impacts on Livelihoods and Poverty Reduction:

Livelihood assistance programs in the Philippines have shown positive impacts on income generation, poverty reduction, and overall livelihood improvements. Evaluations of government initiatives, such as the Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP), have indicated increased income levels, improved access to basic services, and enhanced socio-economic well-being among program participants (Pernia et al., 2016). Moreover, studies have highlighted the multiplier effects of livelihood interventions, including job creation, market linkages, and improved social capital within communities (Corong et al., 2017).

Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships:

The participation of diverse stakeholders, such as government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and community-based organizations (CBOs), is crucial to the success and sustainability of livelihood assistance programs. Studies have highlighted the significance of bolstering partnerships and fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration in order to leverage resources, expertise, and local knowledge (Delica-Wilson, 2016). Furthermore, participatory approaches that empower beneficiaries and promote their active involvement in program implementation have been found to enhance program effectiveness and sustainability (Aquino & Gallardo, 2013).

Policy Framework and Institutional Support:

The policy framework and institutional support provided by the Philippine government significantly influence the implementation and sustainability of livelihood assistance programs. Studies have highlighted the importance of policy coherence, consistency, and long-term commitment to ensuring program effectiveness (Ambe et al., 2019). Additionally, institutional arrangements, such as the Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Integrated Livelihood and Emergency Employment Program (DILEEP), have been established to provide institutional support, promote convergence among programs, and enhance the overall impact of livelihood assistance initiatives (Tan & Javier, 2016).

Furthermore, for the said aid extended by the government to achieve its objective of reducing poverty, the need to secure its sustainability is vital. Hence, there are different paces measuring the sustainability of these livelihood programs of the government; these are the following:

Economic Sustainability:

Economic sustainability refers to the capacity of livelihood assistance programs to generate lasting economic benefits for beneficiaries. Studies have shown that access to financial resources, such as microcredit and grants, significantly contributes to income generation and poverty reduction (Banerjee et al., 2015). Additionally, vocational training programs and entrepreneurship development initiatives have been found to enhance the long-term sustainability of livelihood activities (Kabeer & Mahmud, 2004). Moreover, market linkages and business development support play a crucial role in ensuring the viability and growth of income-generating ventures (Prowse, 2005).

Social Sustainability:

Social sustainability emphasizes the importance of inclusion, social cohesion, and empowerment within livelihood assistance programs. Studies have highlighted the significance of gender-responsive approaches, ensuring the active participation and empowerment of women in decision-making processes (Mayoux, 2009). Inclusive program design and implementation that addresses the needs of marginalized populations, such as youth and persons with disabilities, contribute to social equity and sustainability (Klingebiel et al., 2017). Social networks, community engagement, and the promotion of local ownership are also essential factors for the long-term success of livelihood initiatives (Ellis, 2000).

Environmental Sustainability:

Environmental sustainability entails considering the ecological impact of livelihood assistance programs and promoting environmentally friendly practices. Studies have emphasized the importance of sustainable natural resource management, such as promoting agroecological approaches and climate-smart agriculture (Ponte, 2014). The integration of environmental considerations within program design, such as promoting sustainable livelihood activities that minimize resource depletion and environmental degradation, contributes to long-term sustainability (Scoones, 2009).

Governance and Policy Frameworks:

The role of governance and policy frameworks cannot be overlooked in ensuring the sustainability of government livelihood assistance programs. Effective governance structures, including transparent decision-making processes and accountability mechanisms, enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of program implementation (De Herdt & Olivier De Sardan, 2015). Studies have emphasized the need for adaptive management approaches, which allow for regular monitoring, evaluation, and learning, leading to program improvements and increased sustainability (Pretty et al., 2010). Furthermore, policy support and integration of livelihood assistance programs within broader development strategies contribute to long-term impact and sustainability (Carney, 1998).

Furthermore, the status of the programs/aid extended by the government amongst the beneficiaries identified by the line agencies is a glimpse of the attainability of the goals of the government in implementing the said programs. This is very crucial in the continuity and the success of the plan of the government in attaining economic growth for the whole province.

3. OBJECTIVES

General Objective: By achieving the following goals, this study intends to contribute to evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, and program enhancements, ultimately fostering the long-term sustainability and positive impact of government assistance programs in the community, bridging the gap between poverty and economic growth in the entire province.

- Identify the livelihood assistance, the beneficiaries, and the status of the

- project/program;
- Identify the modes of beneficiary selection;
 - To identify various problems encountered by the line agencies DURING the implementation process.
 - Examine the monitoring schemes used to assess the long-term viability of these programs;
 - Identify the suggestions made by these agencies to further improve the planning of these livelihood assistance programs to ensure the long-term viability of the aid provided to the community.

4. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

- What are the assistance and status given by these NGAs to the different POs?
- What are the modes of which these various assistance are given to the beneficiaries?
- What are the problems that they encountered?
- What are their monitoring schemes used to check on the sustainability of these programs given?
- What are the suggestions that they can give to enhance the planning of these assistance distributed amongst the POs in Kalinga?

5. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study will employ an exploratory qualitative semi-structured research method. This method seeks to define and elaborate on the conditions of the livelihood assistance provided in the community by the identified national government agencies with which the College of Business Administration and Accountancy (CBAA) has partnered.

5.1 Data Collection

This exploratory qualitative research will collect data using a semi-structured questionnaire after consolidating documents from the agencies, these agencies are the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the data collected from these agencies are the inventory of livelihood assistance, the beneficiaries, and the status of the provided assistance. For the interview, the proponents made a personal appearance before the heads of the identified NGAs, and a letter requesting permission to acquire documents related to the required data for this study will be submitted to the same agencies. The letter discussed the importance of this study.

6. DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

For this study, a semi-structured interview was conducted with representatives from various line agencies, and documents were also collected. In addition, a documentary analysis was conducted and triangulated with the previously conducted interview. A documentary analysis is a procedure for systematically examining or evaluating documents. This technique entailed a thorough examination of the documents to extricate themes or patterns pertinent to the research topic.

Livelihood assistance programs designed to improve people's means of subsistence—such as employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, access to medical care, and other assistance forms—are called "livelihood" programs. These programs intend to improve the capacity of local communities to deal with the problems caused by poverty. It may take the form of enacting laws and developing programs, or it could provide individuals with training in various skills to assist them in becoming more productive members of society. Other program directors can also consider forming partnerships with public and private sectors to expand their audience base and attract new sponsors.

Table 6.1: DOLE Integrated Livelihood Programs

DOLE INTEGRATED LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM							
No	Barangay /municipality	ACP	Project title	Project type	Group/ individual beneficiary	Status	
2022 LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS							
1	Tulgao West, Tinglayan, Kalinga	Barangay Tulgao West	Post Harvest Facility (Rice Mill)	Enhancement	Maigawan Eco Watch	Check Awarded Nov, 2022	
2	Calaoacan, Rizal, Kalinga	LGU Rizal	Hand Loom Weaving Project	Formation	Cari Loom Weaving Association	Check Awarded Sept, 2022	
3	San Pedro, Rizal, Kalinga	LGU Rizal	Post Harvest Facility (Rice Mill)	Formation	Greenhills Stewards and Farmers Association	Check Awarded Sept, 2022	
4	Ba-ay, Pinukpuk, Kalinga	Barangay Ba-ay	Post Harvest Facility (Rice Mill)	Formation	Ba-ay Indigenous People Farmers Association	Check Awarded Nov, 2022	
2021 LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS							
1	Barangay Poblacion, Tinglayan, Kalinga	Barangay Poblacion	Sewing Project	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	La'Chaw Rural Development Association	Check Awarded	
2	Barangay Western Uma, Lubuagan, Kalinga	Barangay Western Uma	Post Harvest Facility (Rice Mill, 2 units of Thresher, 2 units of Hand Tractor)	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Latawan Christian Farmers Organization	Check Awarded	

3	Barangay Western Uma, Lubuagan, Kalinga	Barangay Western Uma	Coffee Processing Project	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Mallongan Farmers Association	Check Awarded
4	Barangay Western Uma, Lubuagan, Kalinga	Barangay Western Uma	Post Harvest Facility (Solar Tunnel Dryer)	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Ag-Agama Farmers Association	Check Awarded
5	Barangay Dananao, Tinglayan	Barangay Dananao	Common Service Facility (Provisiion Of A Combined Grain Grinding, Crushing and Pulverizing Machine) Cum Flour Making	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Multi-Sectoral Association Of Danano Tribe	Check Awarded
7	Barangay Ipil, Tabuk City, Kalinga	LGU Tabuk City	Post Harvet Facility	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	United Ileb Farmers Irrigators Association	Check Awarded
2020 LIST OF APPROVED PROJECTS						
1	Barangay Magnao, Tabuk City, Kalinga	Barangay Magnao	Broom And Handicraft Making Project	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Pinalo Bunggoy Immigrant Farmers And Handicraft Association	Operational as of Oct. 2022
2	Barangay Asibanglan, Pinukpuk, Kalinga	Barangay Asibanglan	Sugarcane Juice Extractor Wine, Vinegar And Muscovado Processing Project	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Asibanglan Farmers Association	Operational as of Oct. 2022
3	Barangay Laya West, Tabuk City, Kalinga	Barangay Laya West	Mushroom Production and Processing Project	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	YTabuk Agri-Growers Association	Operational as of Oct. 2022
4	Barangay Apatan, Tabuk City, Kalinga	Direct Admin	Post Harvest Facility (1 Rice Thresher and 2 Hand Tractor)	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Apatan Farmers Association	Operational as of Oct. 2022
5	Barangay Dangtalan, Pasil, Kalinga	Barangay Dangtalan	Processing and Marketing of Heirloom Rice	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Dangtalan Organic Unoy Farmers Association	Operational as of Oct. 2022
6	Barangay Pantikian, Balbalan, Kalinga	Barangay Pantikian	Coffee Processing Project	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Papaltongon Coffee Producers Association	Operational as of Oct. 2022
7	Barangay New Tanglag, Lubuagan, Kalinga	Barangay New Tanglag	Post Harvest Facility (1 Rice Thresher and 2 Hand Tractor)	Kabuhayan Program - Group (Formation)	Tanglag Community Organization And Unity For	Operational as of Oct. 2022

					Development (TACOUD)	
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Table 6.2 DTI-KALINGA Summary of Shared Service Facilities

REGULAR SSF				
SSF Project	Cooperator	Location	Actions Taken	Next Actions
SSF for Organic Products Depot and Processing Center	Kalinga Tawid Development Cooperative (KTDC)	FF Cruz, Bulanao, Tabuk City	-Contacted the KTDC President for inspection of the machines to determine which machines are for disposal but he is always unavailable.	-To coordinate with the President for the disposal and transfer of the machines to new cooperator.
SSF on Peanut Processing	Bugnay Farmers Consumers Coop. (BFCC)	Bugnay, Tinglayan, Kalinga	-Monitoring of the SSF. -Informed the cooperator to ready their financial statements and other documents required.	-Cooperator to prepare financial statements and other requirements to transfer of the SSF to their new Association. -To prepare proposal documents for the transfer of SSF to new association.
SSF on Coffee Processing	Tanudan Savings and lending Cooperative (TASALECO) Phase 2	Ammaboy, Lay-asan, Tanudan, Kalinga	-Monitoring of the SSF. -Informed the cooperator to ready their financial statements from 2019-2022 as a basis for the criteria for transfer.	-Preparation of requirements for transfer (Usufruct expired)
SSF for Herbal Tea Processing	Umos Bayabat RIC marketing Cooperative (URBARMCO) Phase 2	Bayabat, Dilag, Tabuk City, Kalinga	-Monitoring of the SSF.	-Assist the cooperator for the reproduction of their product label.
SSF on Feed Mill Processing	Bakir Vegetable and Corn Farmers Association	Sitio Bakir, Liwan West, Rizal, Kalinga	-Monitoring of the SSF. -The machines were assessed for possible reader. -Recommendations of Engr. Rod Dumanog were taken. -The corn mill with two main functions of shredding and milling, was tested and assessed for possible improvement. The shredder of the machine is inconvenient to be used since the built-in screen is too fine. Shredders are also best used outdoor. -It is found out that the hammer blades of the milling machine is too wide and inefficient since only the sides were most hit by corn. The middle part of the hammers is	Improvement of the Feedmill Grinder: -It is also recommended to remove the shredder to lessen power loss. The shredder is useless for the production of feeds and only consume useful power to be used by the grinder. -The wide hammer blades (grinding mechanism) of the grinder is recommended to be made smaller for more efficient and faster grinding. -Fabrication of a oscillating or rotating sieve (with different

			<p>less hit by corn due to spreading effect during rotation.</p> <p>-It is also found that the very fine screen of the machine causes stalling of the engine when the miller is filled with corn since it is fixed and powdered corn is stuck on it.</p> <p>-The starter batteries are also under designed.</p>	<p>sizes of screen in series) including its power transmission which separates the different sizes of corn grits used as poultry feeds. The power to run the siever will be drawn from the main engine of the corn mill.</p> <p>-The starter batteries of the engines to be replaced with larger capacities.</p>
SSF on Mechanization on Organic Flour Processing	Balong Credit Cooperative (BCC)	Belong, Tinglayan, Kalinga	<p>-Monitoring of the SSF.</p> <p>-Repaired the damaged hopper connector of the 3 grinders and replaced with stainless steel.</p>	<p>-To consolidate requirements such as financial statements to be used for the transfer of the SSF to the cooperator since its usufruct expired.</p> <p>-Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.</p>
SSF on Food Processing	Kalinga State University	Bulanao, Tabuk City, Kalinga	<p>-Monitoring of the SSF.</p> <p>-Assisted the food processing staff in determining the electrical specifications of the equipments to be used in the design of the rewiring of the facility.</p> <p>-Assessed some equipment that is safe to be used with the existing electrical system.</p>	<p>-To follow up the rewiring of the facility.</p> <p>-The facility should be rewired before simultaneous operations of the machines due to the experienced low voltage. The wires should be replaced with bigger sizes to account for higher current during voltage fluctuations (current increases as voltage decreases)</p> <p>-Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.</p>
SSF on Food and Analytical Laboratory	Kalinga State University	Bulanao, Tabuk City, Kalinga	<p>-Monitoring of the SSF.</p>	<p>Property markings.</p> <p>-Prepare Manual of Operations.</p> <p>-To procure a Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) for the computer set of the Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometer (AAS)</p> <p>-Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.</p>

SSF on Water Filtration in Support to Food Industry	Holy Trinity Multi-purpose Cooperative (HTMPC)	Bulanao, Tabuk City, Kalinga	<p>-Monitoring of the SSF.</p> <p>-Donated 2 reams bond paper and 1 set ink for the reproduction of flyers used for marketing.</p> <p>-Assessed the volume flow rate of the product water and it is more than enough to meet the minimum sales to break-even, They just need to attract more customers to increase their sales.</p> <p>-Assessed the UV light ballast and found that the resistor in series with the indicator led is burnt. The nonfunctional indicator light does not affect operation and only indicates that the UV light is switched on.</p>	<p>-To assist the cooperater if they wish to install water flow meter in the output pipes to monitor the actual volume of sold product and actual volume of water used for cleaning.</p> <p>-Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.</p>
INREMP SSF				
SSF Project	Cooperator	Location	Actions taken	Next actions
Coffee Processing	Belong Man-ubal Farmers Association (BELMAFA)	Belong Man-ubal, Tinglayan, Kalinga	<p>-Monitoring of the SSF.</p> <p>-Reoriented the cooperater on the processes especially the use of the coffee huller since they were using it incorrectly by using it as a pulper for dried coffee cherries.</p>	-Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.
Coffee Processing	Maling Farmers Savings Livelihood Association (MAFASLA)	Maling, Balbalan, Kalinga	<p>- Monitoring of the SSF.</p> <p>-Repaired/Replaced the rusted bearing of the roller of the coffee roaster.</p> <p>-Repaired the damaged push button switch of the coffee grinder.</p>	<p>-Repair the vacuum sealer cover latching mechanism if they wish to vacuum seal their products.</p> <p>-Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.</p>
Organic Fertilizer Making	Bibbila Timpuyong Farmers Association	Taggay, Pinukpuk, Kalinga	<p>- Monitoring of the SSF.</p> <p>-Assessed and determined that the screen of the vermicast separator is very rough that can kill the night crawlers.</p>	<p>-To improve the Vermicast separator by replacing the rough screen with smoother screen and adding additional speed reducing pulley to reduce its operating speed. The night crawlers weakens at high speed.</p> <p>-Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.</p>

White Corn Processing	Cabaritan Association Rural Development to Empowered Sustainability (CARDES)	Cabaritan, Tabuk City, Kalinga	- Monitoring of the SSF.	-The cooperator to source out funds to complete the doors and windows of their processing center. -Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines. Full operation of the equipment.
Heirloom Rice Processing	Gang Tribal Unity for Development (GATUD)	Gaang, Tanudan, Kalinga	- Monitoring of the SSF. -Completed the installation of the ricemill electric motor circuit and orientation of the operators on the basic current adjustments and resetting of the motor control. -Replaced the capacitors that blown up during operation due to overloading and power fluctuations.	-Full operation of the facility. -Assist the cooperator in pricing their product. -Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.
Coffee Processing	Manangol Farmers Organization (MFO)	Mabilong, Lubuagan, Kalinga	- Monitoring of the SSF.	-The cooperator to source out funds to complete the windows of their processing center. -Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.
Coffee Processing	Nambucayan Agricultural Cooperative (NACO)	Nambucayan, Tabuk City, Kalinga	-Conducted corrective maintenance on the nonfunctional exhaust blower of the coffee roaster. -Replaced the worn-out bearing of the roller of the coffee roaster.	- Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.
Heirloom Rice Processing	Tinanang Incorporated (TI)	Anggacan, Tanudan, Kalinga	-Completed the installation of the ricemill electric motor circuit and orientation of the operators on the basic current adjustments and resetting of the motor control.	-Full operation of the facility. - Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.
Banana Chips Making	Taggay Upland Farmers Association	Taggay, Pinukpuk, Kalinga	- Monitoring of the SSF. -Instructed the cooperator during monitoring to always clean the equipment every after use to avoid damage and rusting.	-To assist the organization in marketing their products. - Regular assessment and maintenance of the machines.

Table 6.3: Department of Science and Technology List of Project and Beneficiaries

No.	Project	Name of firm/beneficiary
LGIA 2020		
1	S&T Intervention for the Establishment of Rice Milling Equipment for Gimpong Organizations	Gimpong Organizations
2	S&T Assistance to Community Based Livelihood Project of Lin-awa Rehabilitation and Development Center	Lin-awa Rehabilitation and Development Center
3	S&T Intervention for the Improvement of Meat Processing Center in Tabuk City	Bulanao Multi-purpose Cooperative
4	S&T Intervention on the Community Based Project on Coffee Processing	Tinglayan Coffee Growers Association
5	S&T Intervention for the Establishment of Brown Rice Processing for Along the Road Farmers and Handicraft Makers Association	Along the Road Farmers and Handicraft Makers Association
6	S&T Intervention on the Community Based Project on Furniture Production for Sotto-Bulo Farmers Association	Sotto-Bulo Farmers Association
7	Improvement of the Sugarcane Processing Community based Livelihood Project in Ambato, Tinglayan	Ambato Rural Workers Association
8	S&T Intervention on the Quality Improvement of Coffee Products for CEST Balbalan	CEST Balbalan
LGIA 2021		
1	Establishment of Fruit Wine Processing Center at Balinciagao, Norte, Pasil, Kalinga	Bamgat Farmers Multi-purpose Association
2	Science, technology and Innovation in the Establishment of Coffee Processing Industry in Balbalan Agro-Industrial High School (BAIHS), Balantoy, Balbalan, Kalinga	Balbalan Agro-Industrial High School (BAIHS)
3	S&T Intervention for the Improvement of Chogway Wine Processing of Lubuagan, Kalinga	Kalasag Farmers and Irrigators Association
4	Science, and Technology Intervention on Community Based Project on Banana Processing	KALIPI-Malagnat
5	Community Empowerment through Science and Technology (CEST) Project for Lubuagan, Kalinga	LGU-Lubuagan
6	Upgrading of the Food Production Facility of Challengers' Agriculture Cooperative (CAC) through S&T Intervention	Challengers' Agriculture Cooperative
7	Enhancement of Coffee processing and Packaging of Guilayon Processed Coffee in Tabuk City	Guilayon Growers Credit Cooperative
LGIA 2022		
1	Establishment of Wood and Metal Works Production Center of Pasil Consolidators and Eco-Farmers Association (PACEFA)	Pasil Consolidators and Eco-Farmers Association (PACEFA)
2	Improvement of the Carpentry Facility of the Belong Famers Irrigators Association	Belong Famers Irrigators Association
3	Upgrading of the Production for DOST-FNRI's Enhanced nutribun Products of the Kajchilan Multipurpose Cooperative	Kajchilan Multipurpose Cooperative
4	Establishment of a Baking Facility of the Dananao Multisectoral Association	Dananao Multisectoral Association
5	S&T Intervention for the Establishment of Production Facility of Baked Products Enriched with Vegetable for Guilayon Mampiyaan Association	Guilayon Mampiyaan Association (GMA)

Table 6.4: Department of Agriculture List of Programs/Assistance

Project		Beneficiaries
Vegetable Seed Production Project		These packs of seeds were distributed to the Municipal & City Agriculture Offices to be distributed to interested farmer-clients in their coverage areas, PLGU employees and walk-in farmers for free.
Vermicompost Production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Producing more than 200 bags/year of vermicompost fertilizers for sale at a subsidized price of ₱ 15/kg 	KALINGA FARMERS
Harvesting and Tractor Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The office render harvesting services using the 2 units Combine Harvesters, 3 units Rotavators, 3 units 4WD Tractors to requesting farmers at a subsidized service fee 	KALINGA FARMERS
Rice Development Program including Heirloom Rice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RCEF Seed Program (PhilRice) Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA) Rice Seed Production(BPI-NSQCS) RCEF Mechanization Program (PhilMech) 	KALINGA FARMERS
Corn Development Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cash and Food Subsidy for Marginal Farmers and Fisherfolks (CFSMFF) Program 3rd Corn derby Project FARMERS SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAM 	KALINGA FARMERS
Organic Agriculture Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribution of Production Inputs like seeds, soil ameliorants, fertilizers Agricultural Machinery, Equipment and Facilities Support Services Extension Support, Education and Training Services 	KALINGA FARMERS
Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Support PROGRAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support program for the Philippine Good Agricultural Practices (PhilGAP) Certification by the Bureau of Plant Industry-Plan Product Safety and Services Division (BPI-PPSSD) 	KALINGA FARMERS
4-H Club Development Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist Young Farmers of Kalinga in the following projects: 50k project grant assistance for the Young Farmers Challenge Program Provincial, Regional 4-H Club Conventions 	Young Farmers of Kalinga
PHILIPPINE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (PRDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rice Farm Mechanization Program – Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) – under the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) 	KALINGA FARMERS
Inbred Rice Seed Development Program-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 162,561 bags (40 kgs/bag) of Certified Seeds were distributed to around 20,000 farmers of 	KALINGA FARMERS

RCEF under PhilRice	Kalinga for six consecutive Cropping Seasons 2019 to 2022	
Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA)-RCEF under the Department of Agriculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of ₱ 67,875,000.00 financial assistance was distributed to 13,575 Rice Farmers in Kalinga at ₱ 5,000.00 each farmer-beneficiary 	Rice Farmers in Kalinga
RCEF-Extension Program under the Agricultural Training Institute and TESDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of Nine (9) Farm Schools were established under the program • 4 in Tabuk City (Clemencia, Lumas-i, Kub-ao, Shavcers) • 3 in Rizal (Bacayan, Greenvalley, FPJ) • 2 in Pinukpuk (Healthy Harvest, Dumagay's Farm) 	Rice Farmers in Kalinga

The NGAs have formulated and identified the various livelihood assistance programs developed by the government to alter the economic landscape and have proposed the plan for approval based on the needs of the intended recipients. After identifying the intended recipients, a memorandum of understanding is drafted to strengthen the partnership and ensure the commitment of both parties. This ensures that the assistance provided will achieve its intended purpose and contribute to the government's efforts to alter the economic landscape, alleviate poverty, and promote economic growth.

Most of the assistance is based on the community's identified requirements in Kalinga, as determined by the data presented above. The formulation strengthens the value chain of locally produced goods such as coffee, maize, cacao, bananas, and rice. This is the province's primary area of production. This is the reason why these main agencies support the People's Organization.

As long as the LGUs submit a liquidation and status report, Mrs. Catacutan explained, their partner agency will perform monitoring now that the responsibility has been transferred to the LGUs. As a result, most of them are still operational, as they adhere to a monitoring schedule. Due to the transfer of responsibility, they are dubious of the operation of their machines or the assistance. The DTI is more hands-on with its monitoring, which is why they have direct records of the activities and status, and it appears that most POs are operational. However, when it comes to assistance, the primary concern of the majority of NGAs is the ability of these POs to sustain themselves. Mrs. Catacutan also emphasized during the interview that if the data is on during Covid, the whole assistance ceased because of the protocols and the lockdown. It was only in 2021 that the government lifted the restrictions, and the status of the beneficiaries was deemed RE-OPERATIONAL, which means that the program's unsustainability is due to the pandemic. But to date, they can slowly pull strings together and try to bounce back.

Mrs. Manganip explains, however, that their records only indicate who is still active based on who submitted their report. However, they noted a downward trend in the number of POs submitting reports, indicating a decline in the number of POs that can maintain their operations. Mr. Bakilan also emphasized, on behalf of the DA, that a reduction in the number of beneficiaries who can maintain their assistance is evident, citing the preparation of documents,

particularly when it comes to preparing financial statements, as one of the reasons. He said these POs believe their operations will improve if they can afford to employ a CPA to do their bookkeeping.

What are the modes of which these various assistance are given to the beneficiaries?

Table 6.5 Mode of Distribution/ Selection of Beneficiaries

Agency	Mode of Distribution or selection of beneficiaries
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI)	Accredited Organization Selection of Partner Agencies e.g INREMP
Department of Science and Technology (DOST)	Selection of partner Agency e.g. Local Government Unit per municipality. Request by organization
Department of Agriculture (DA)	Selection of Philmec
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)	Request by partner agencies Request by organization
Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR)	Pre-identified Request by organization Subject to selection of the partner agency

The Philippine government's agencies distribute aid based on request or selection, with organizations being evaluated based on primary requirements such as a Memorandum of Agreement, a detailed project/business plan approved by authorized officials, and a profile. For Local Government Units (LGUs), a copy of their Local Development Plan pertaining to Labor and Employment/Social Services is required. The Commission of Audit has received confirmation from the DOLE Regional Office's Accountant that the earlier cash advance has been repaid. NGAs, LGUs, or SUCs must select a Focal Person to coordinate and transact with DOLE in the provision of programs and services.

The Department of Agriculture (DOLE) partners with the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization to provide assistance to rice-producing areas in the country. Beneficiaries can engage in individual or collective endeavors, and access to livelihood assistance can be gained through Direct Administration by DOLE Regional/Provincial/Field Offices or through an Accredited CoPartner (ACP) of DOLE.

The Shared Service Facility (SSF) is a pioneering DTI initiative from 2013 that seeks to close the innovation capacity gap among MSMEs. The Philippine Institute of Development Studies (PIDS) praised the SSF for its early impact on jobs and productivity. A SSF project is awarded to a qualified cooperator who must be willing to make the SSF accessible to MSMEs and other users. The DTI assesses applicants' SSF eligibility based on size, industry, location, regulatory compliance, and industry standards. After the initial evaluation and substantiation of eligibility, the DTI examines the applicant's business, assesses the potential impact of the shared facility on business operations and productivity, evaluates the capacity of applicants to utilize the shared facility, and evaluates the impact and sustainability of the shared facility on the applicant's business.

The DOST's Grants-In-Aid (GIA) Program uses science and technology to boost economic growth and development. The program funds relevant science and technology projects to increase Filipino productivity and quality of life by developing and promoting acceptable technologies. The DOST enters a grant agreement with beneficiaries, outlining the terms and conditions of the grant, including funding amount, project deliverables, reporting requirements, and duration of the grant period. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) offers livelihood assistance through various processes, including eligibility evaluation, document verification, interviews, site visits, and stakeholder consultations. Upon approval, applicants receive information about the allocated assistance, including terms and conditions, funding amount, and deliverables.

They are responsible for carrying out the project and must submit periodic progress reports and financial statements. The DENR's guidelines and environmental conservation practices are followed throughout the initiative, and open communication is crucial. The evaluation process is essential for ensuring government livelihood assistance is effectively targeted, allocated, and utilized, promoting fairness, accountability, transparency, and continuous improvement. It also helps match identified opportunities with available resources, emphasizing human and social capital. The selection of beneficiaries for government livelihood programs aims to alleviate poverty and contribute to the economy's growth. Both DENR and DOST transfer the evaluation of target beneficiaries to their partner agencies, such as the INREMP under DENR and the DTI.

What are the problems that they encountered?

- Programs are hard to sustain.
- Lack of hands-on monitoring for funding agencies
- Insufficient Funding
- Inadequate program design
- Limited Capacity and Skill Development:
 - Document preparations
 - Not Business-minded (proper mindset)
 - Availability of raw materials in the locality
 - No technical knowledge of the machineries given
- Internal/conflict of interest may arise

Government livelihood assistance programs play a crucial role in combating poverty, fostering economic empowerment, and enhancing the well-being of individuals and communities. However, these programs face numerous obstacles that can hinder their effectiveness and impact. One such obstacle is the sustainability of the projects, as only a small number of People's Organizations remain active at the beginning of the project. This is due to the demise of the organization's founder or brain, preventing the transfer of management knowledge to members.

Monitoring and evaluation are essential for determining the efficacy, efficiency, and impact of subsistence aid programs. The DOST OIC, in partnership with various municipalities in Kalinga, monitors and evaluates projects to verify compliance with the grant agreement. The DOST monitors and evaluates recipients after sharing facilities, ensuring proper use of the shared facility and desired results. Beneficiaries must communicate with the DTI and follow program reporting and performance indicators to improve the shared service facility and help recipient enterprises flourish through continuous review and feedback.

Another challenge of government livelihood assistance programs is the need for more funding. Limited financial resources can restrict the scope and reach of these programs, making it difficult to provide comprehensive support to all eligible individuals and communities. Insufficient funding can result in inadequate training, resource allocation, and capacity-building opportunities, limiting the potential impact of the programs. Innovative funding approaches, strategic resource allocation, and context-specific program designs address these challenges.

In the province of Kalinga, there are areas where accessibility is hard, but NGAs are trying to reach out no matter how hard to access the terrains, particularly in upper Kalinga. Additionally, poor program design and implementation can undermine the effectiveness of government livelihood assistance initiatives. Inadequate needs assessment, lack of clear objectives, and insufficient coordination among implementing agencies can lead to poorly targeted interventions, resulting in beneficiaries receiving assistance that does not align with their specific needs and aspirations, ultimately reducing the long-term impact and sustainability of the programs. Limited awareness of government livelihood assistance programs can create barriers to entry and prevent those who would benefit the most from accessing assistance. To enhance awareness, public awareness campaigns should be implemented, information dissemination should be improved, and eligible individuals should be well-informed about available programs.

Inadequate training opportunities and skill development initiatives can limit beneficiaries' ability to maximize the potential of assistance. Government programs should prioritize comprehensive training and capacity-building support to enhance long-term sustainability of income-generating activities. However, fragmented approaches and lack of coordination among departments, agencies, and levels of government can result in duplication of efforts, inefficient resource allocation, and confusion among beneficiaries. Addressing challenges in government livelihood assistance programs, such as inadequate funding, improved program design and implementation, enhanced awareness, robust monitoring and evaluation, capacity development, and better coordination, can strengthen these programs, provide meaningful support, foster sustainable income generation, and improve overall well-being.

What are their monitoring schemes used to check on the sustainability of these programs given?

Table 6.6 Schemes of NGAs Monitoring

Agencies	Schemes
DTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring depending on the availability of manpower.
DOST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring for 1 year, if it is not working within 6 months, transfer to other beneficiaries Coordinator under Special Order
DA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Checking of Financial Statements
DOLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring is given to partner agencies Submission of reports _____
DENR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring is given to _partner agencies _____

Monitoring and evaluating livelihood assistance is scheduled across the NGAs being investigated. DOST says that since they transferred their project to their partner agencies, they also transferred the monitoring and evaluation. Before, they hired a coordinator per program to monitor the status of their programs. DENR sends its programs to DTI and other partnering agencies. Thus, DTI hires an engineer coordinator via job order for the entire project. Job orders monitor this. Thus, they may evaluate their community programs.

DA and DOLE need organizations to submit documentation to examine their status. Since most POs lack financial statement preparation knowledge, DA head Mr. Bakilan remarked that most beneficiaries need bookkeeping help. Mrs. Manganip follows this monitoring technique, but the reports' reliability can only be verified by actual monitoring. She also noted that certain initiatives pass monitoring to partner agencies, such as TMAO and Timpuyog ti Mannalon ti Agbannawag.

What are the suggestions that they give to enhance the planning of these assistance distributed amongst the POs in Kalinga?

Government programs are essential for addressing societal challenges and improving community well-being. To maximize their impact and ensure long-term viability, stakeholders must foster mutual commitment among partner agencies, beneficiaries, and funding organizations. Strategic planning is crucial for minimizing duplication of aid and optimizing resource utilization. Capacitating people's organizations, particularly through sustainable leadership, is essential for promoting collaboration and addressing internal conflicts. Implementing a strict beneficiary selection process ensures that resources are allocated to those committed to achieving the program's long-term objectives. By adopting these suggestions, government programs can enhance their effectiveness, maximize societal impact, and pave the way for a more sustainable future.

7. FINDINGS & CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings of this study, the following conclusions were drawn:

- The status of the various livelihood assistance programs of the National Government Agencies consulted for this study is still being developed to ensure their sustainability. Sustainability of the programs also depends on their adaptability of the knowledge, skills and technical support given to them, also unavoidable circumstances also hinders the viability of the program, like pandemic.
- The mode of selection of beneficiaries by these organizations varies according to the qualifications required for the form of assistance being provided. That all applicants are evaluated with equal consideration.
- That identified problems encountered by these agencies are, programs are difficult to sustain, one reason being the lack of hands-on monitoring for funding agencies, also Insufficient funding was noted, inadequate program design and Limited Capacity and Skill Development in terms of Document preparations, the ability to adapt business mindset (proper mind set), the availability of raw materials in the locality, and the absence of technical knowledge on the machineries provided and o
- The NGAs employ coordinators on a contractual basis to monitor the status of the program, but only for the duration of the project's implementation. This is the NGAs' primary monitoring strategy. By monitoring monthly, quarterly, semi-annually, and annually, they are able to ensure the stability of the assistance, as well as the ability of the beneficiaries to maintain and sustain the project for the achievement of the universal objective.
- Based on the identified problems encountered during the implementation of the NGAs' initiative, the following recommendations are made:
 - Enhance and capacitate the leadership and business oriented skills of the POs - Improve the planning of livelihood assistance distribution
 - Proper turn-over - Provision of financial statement auditor.
 - Requirement for a stringent evaluation of aid recipients
 - Monthly, quarterly, semiannual, and annual monitoring reports

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