IMPACT OF NATIONAL GREENING PROGRAM (NGP): THE BARANGAYS SALASANG AND SUMALILI'S EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT

By virtue of Executive Orders no. 26 series of 2011 and no. 193 series of 2015, (Expanded) National Greening Program was conceptualized as a government priority program to reduce poverty, promote food security, environmental stability and biodiversity conservation, and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation. Thus, this study surveyed the socio-economic profile of the beneficiaries of National Greening Program (NGP) at Barangays Sumalili and Salasang to evaluate the impact of NGP to the two (2) barangays after it has been implemented, it also aimed to assess NGP's impact to the biophysical condition of the study areas. The study employed descriptive survey method to describe the socioeconomic and biophysical condition of the study areas, it also employed frequency and percentage in treating the responses of the respondents. The result of the study revealed that National Greening Program (NGP) has affected the socio-economic condition of the beneficiaries and the biophysical condition of the study areas. It was shown on their responses at figures 2 and 3 in which they checked all 13 options with an average of 7-8 times per respondent and all 10 options with an average of 6-7 times per respondent, respectively. This implicates the positive effect of National Greening Program to their daily lives and to the biophysical condition of the area since options provided were all positive impacts of NGP. Further investigation to fill in gaps of this paper is highly recommended like in-depth interview and focus group discussions to document the limitations of the program as well.

KEYWORDS: *National Greening Program; Socio-Economic Condition; Biophysical condition; Impact Assessment; Barangays Sumalili &Salasang*

INTRODUCTION

On February 24, 2011, President Benigno S. Aquino III issued Executive Order (EO) 26, declaring the implementation of the National Greening Program as a government priority program to reduce poverty, promote food security, environmental stability and biodiversity conservation, and enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation. It is, therefore, not a straightforward reforestation effort but a larger program intended to attain other important national objectives as well.

The Executive Order supports and complements EO No. 23, an earlier directive of President Aquino, which bans logging in natural and residual forests, as well as Proclamation No. 125, declaring 2011 as the National Year of Forests in the Philippines. It mandates the DA-DAR-DENR Convergence Initiative to be the oversight committee for the program, with DENR as the lead agency. The NGP specifically seeks to plant 1.5 billion seedlings in 1.5 million of land nationally within (6) six years, from 2011 to 2016. The target hectare to be reforested is more than double the target in the Philippine Development Plan 2011-2016 of 600,000 of hectares of increased forest cover by 2016 (NEDA 2011). The NGP has an estimated total budget of PHP 30.000 billion. Areas for planting under the program include forestlands, mangrove and protected areas, ancestral domains, civil and military reservations, urban areas under the greening plan of LGUs, inactive and abandoned mine sites, and other suitable lands of the public domain. (www.ngp.denr.gov.ph).

Significance of the Study

The NGP aims to plant 1.5 billion trees in 1.5 million hectares within six years, from 2011 to 2016. Lands of public domains such as forest lands, ancestral domains, mangrove areas, urban parks and open spaces, inactive and abandoned mine sites river banks and streams and all other suitable public land are all subject for development.

Methods of NGP follow development of upland farms through agroforestry and rain forestation, rehabilitation of open areas and grasslands, mangrove and coastal areas in close implementation with partner agencies and community based organization. Incentivizing production of planting materials and planting were identified to run the project. Executive order 193 that states for the extension of the NGP from 2016 – 2028.

In its eight years (8) of implementation it is deemed necessary to research if the program has significant impact to the various aspect of life of the community of Barangay Sumalili specifically on their Socio-economic condition and the Biophysical condition of the area. Changes in their Socio-economic condition Biophysical condition of the area would serve as bases for significant impact of the program.

Statements of the Problem

This study sought to answer the following questions:

1. What are the experiences of the community before NGP was implemented?
2. Is national greening program has impact in the Socio-economic condition of the beneficiaries?
3. Is national greening program has impact in the biophysical condition of the area?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design and Instrument

Descriptive research design was used in the study with the aid of a structured, open-ended questionnaire incorporating a semi-interview to the respondents.

Research Subject

There were a total of 68 and 100 households in Barangays Sumalili and Salasang, respectively who were beneficiaries of NGP. They were all chosen as respondents of the study.

Data Gathering Procedure

In gathering the data on the experiences of the community before the NGP implementation, respondents were allowed to answer the open-ended questionnaire multiple times to tabulate their experiences before NGP implementation, and to determine which among the socio-economic impacts and biophysical impacts of NGP mostly concerns them.

Statistical Treatment

The study employed the descriptive statistics to describe, tabulate and graph the experience of beneficiaries before NGP implementation, and the impact of NGP to their socio-economic condition and to the biophysical condition of the area.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

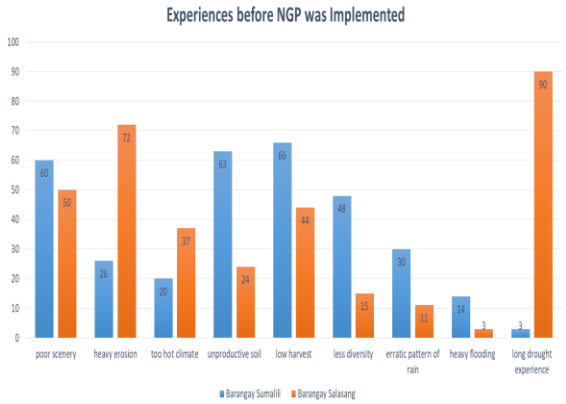

Figure 1. Community experiences before NGP implementation.

The above figure shows the bar graph of the experiences encountered by the respondents before NGP was implemented. The data also shows that the respondents ticked all of the nine (9) options at different frequencies. Among the options, long drought experience tops Barangay Sumalili while low harvest most distresses Barangay Salasang respondents.

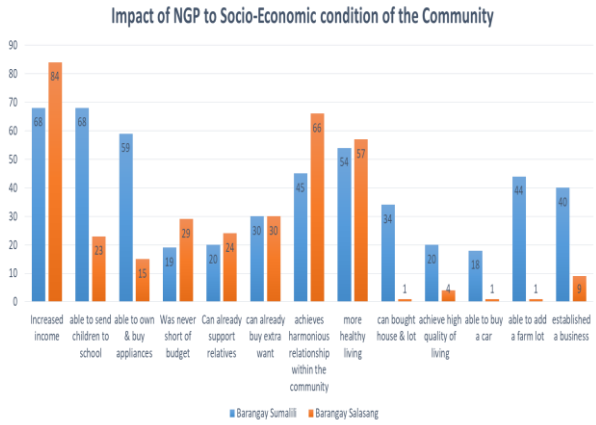

Figure 2. Socio-economic impact of NGP to the community.

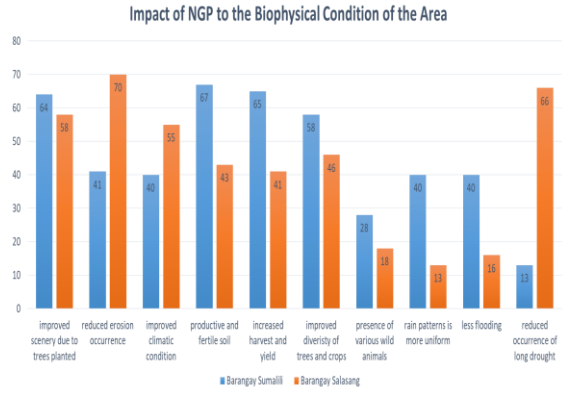

Figure 3. Impact of NGP to the biophysical condition of the area.

The above figures show the bar graph of the impact of NGP to the socio-economic condition of the community and to the biophysical condition of the area, respectively.

In figure 2, there were 13 open-ended questions for impact of NGP to socio-economic condition of the community, and all of the options were marked by the respondents at different frequencies. In Barangay Sumalili, all of the respondents agreed that increased income and able to send their children in school were the most notable impact of NGP while Barangay Salasang, 84 out of 100 respondents answered that NGP increased their income followed by achieving a harmonious relationship within the community.

In figure 3, all of the 10 options were marked by all of the respondents, improved productivity and fertility of the soil were the topmost noticeable impact of NGP to Barangay Sumalili while in Barangay Salasang, and reduced occurrence of erosion was the most evident.

CONCLUSION

Based from the results and discussions of this study, it was revealed that the community has experienced environmental challenges before NGP was implemented. Furthermore, there is an implication of the positive effect of National Greening Program to their daily lives and to the biophysical condition of the area based from respondents' answers on the impact of NGP and that all options provided were all positive impacts.

Further studies to fill in gaps of this paper is highly recommended like in-depth interview and focus group discussions to document the limitations of the program as well.

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