



AMIAHANDA

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION INITIATIVE IN AGRICULTURE (AMIA)

ISSUE NO.1

JULY-DECEMBER 2016



AMIA holds week-long exhibit, launches project outputs

In line with the celebration of the Climate Change Consciousness Week, the AMIA team held an exhibit at the Department of Agriculture building which was opened to the public on November 21, 2016.

With the theme *"Alamin @ Tugunan, Pagbabago ng Klima at Panahon: AMIA Towards Climate Resilient Livelihoods and Communities,"* the exhibit showcased the various outputs of AMIA 1 Project entitled Strengthening Implementation of Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture. These include the Color-Coded maps, guidebooks for landscape planning and disaster risk reduction and management, and policy recommendations in agriculture research and development, extension, and regulations. The AMIA 1 Project aimed to mainstream climate change in the plans, programs, and budget of the department.

On 1 December 2016, AMIA1 outputs were officially launched and presented to Secretary Emmanuel F. Piñol who led the ribbon cutting together with USec. Segfredo R. Serrano (Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, Project Development, Research and Regulation), USec. Ariel T. Cayanan (Undersecretary

for Operations) and guests, who walked through the exhibit while Dr. Alicia G. Ilaga (AMIA Director), explained the project outputs.

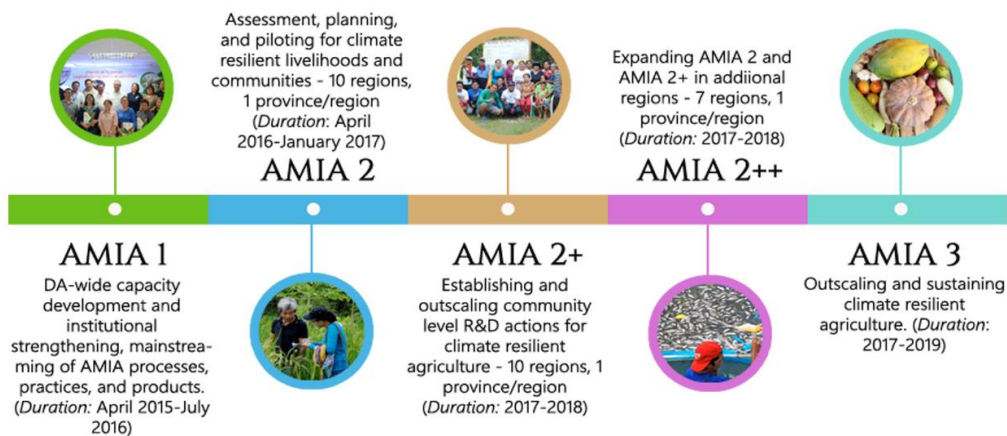
The opening ceremony was immediately followed by output presentations of AMIA 1 project at the DA Conference Hall. Dr. Rex Victor O. Cruz (Project Leader), gave the project overview whereas component leaders presented the major outputs and key recommendations of their respective components: Dr. Eliseo R. Ponce for Landscape Planning, Dr. Esteban C. Godilano for AMIA maps, Dr. Cecilio R. Arboleda for Research, Development and Extension, Dr. Tolentino B. Moya for Irrigation, Dr. Nathaniel B. Diola for Farm-to-Market Road and Dr. Saturnina C. Halos for the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management.

AMIA as a flagship program on climate change seeks to help farmers reduce climate risks while pursuing resilient yet progressive livelihoods. AMIA 1 initial project outputs will be used to guide the integrated and multi-stakeholder effort to achieve the implementation of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA) options at the community level which some of the initial activities are being carried out in different regions as part of the AMIA 2 and AMIA 2+ projects.



To respond to the challenges posed by climate change, the Department of Agriculture issued a memorandum that mandates the mainstreaming of climate change in the DA programs, plans, and budget. One of the key components of the memorandum is the national program on climate change in agriculture; hence, the creation of Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture or AMIA. The Department of Agriculture Systems-wide Climate Change Office (DA-SWCCO), under the Office of Undersecretary for Policy and Planning, was created and mandated to oversee the flagship program on climate change, that is AMIA.

THE AMIA PROGRAM



The Adaptation and Mitigation Initiative in Agriculture (AMIA) is the Department of Agriculture's flagship program in addressing climate change, envisioning the Philippine agriculture and fisheries sector to become climate-resilient yet progressive, through the provision of highly responsive integrated support services.

This would be achieved by enabling local communities to manage risks while pursuing sustainable livelihoods, and by using the outputs of community learning actions with proven Climate-Resilient Agriculture (CRA) options.

AMIA has launched an integrated and multi-stakeholder effort to implement CRA options at the community level. The AMIA framework was created to serve as a guide for communities in conducting their own participatory action researches geared toward building climate-resilient agriculture and fisheries livelihoods and communities.

The Philippines' geographical location and archipelagic formation make it one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to climate change. The agriculture and fisheries sector, where most of the country's poor are also active, bears the brunt of its adverse effects. Building the resilience of agriculture and fisheries communities to climate change is crucial in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) objectives in the country, thereby bringing us closer to ending poverty.

