

## Agroforestry Dissemination Pathways: Claveria Landcare Experiences and Some Lessons Learned<sup>1</sup>

Agustin R. Mercado, Jr.,<sup>2</sup> Marcelino Patindol<sup>3</sup> and Dennis P. Garrity<sup>4</sup>

### Abstract

There are two broad components of sustainable watershed management: appropriate land management technology, and active people's participation. Appropriate technology calls for a balance between production goals and conservation goals. Farmers are biased toward production goals while most development projects and government agencies promoting watershed management are biased toward conservation goals to benefit people living outside the watershed. Appropriate land management technology centers on this balance between production goals and conservation goals that should be within the socio-economic and bio-physical environments of the resource poor farmers living most in the upland areas in the Philippines.

ICRAF for years has developed various conservation farming and agroforestry technologies that dwell within the balance between farmers' production and conservation goals. Technologies that are simple to establish, easy to maintain and provide a mechanism for farmers to innovate or evolve to depending on their socio-economic and bio-physical environments while enhancing farmers productivity and profitability.

Appropriate land management technology is not enough, but people's active participation to effectively adopt and disseminate the technology is equally essential. Landcare model is an approach to effectively and inexpensively diffuse conservation farming and agroforestry technologies. This is based on farmer's innate interest in adopting and sharing new technologies that enhance farm income and profitability while protecting the environment. Landcare is a consciousness and act of protecting the lands against depletion to attain production sustainability and rural development. The Landcare approach spouses on collaboration, partnership and convergence between stakeholders.

This partnership is expressed in the triangulation between: farmers grassroot organization, government and technologist. The center of which are resource poor farmers who formed themselves into self-help organization – Claveria Landcare Association. The approach has developed into a dynamic voluntary movement called the Landcare movement. As the Landcare groups began to grow, the local government units (municipal and barangay) have given enthusiastic support. This has involved the contribution of funds, technical assistance and policy support to the movement.

---

<sup>1</sup> Paper presented during the Training Course on Participatory R & D Methods for Upland Agroforestry Systems and Watershed Resources Management in Southeast Asia held at SEARCA, Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines on 14-28 November 1999.

<sup>2</sup> Associate Research Officer, International Centre for Research in Agroforestry, Claveria, Misamis Oriental, Philippines

<sup>3</sup> President, Claveria Landcare Association, Claveria, Misamis Oriental, Philippines

<sup>4</sup> Principal Agronomist and Regional Coordinator, Southeast Asian Regional Research Programme, Bogor, Indonesia.