



JENNELYN FRAYCO

49 years old, Demo Farmer from Barangay Concepcion, Koronadal City, South Cotabato Province, Philippines

Jennelyn joined the HOPE program in 2017 as a Demo Farmer. She has built relationships with partner farmers in her area and serves as a link between the community and the program. Unfortunately, as HOPE was getting ready to distribute seedlings in her area, almost 80% of the HOPE agriculture staff tested positive for COVID-19 and had to be quarantined, not allowing for in-person seedling distribution.

As HOPE was doing its best to think of a creative way to carry out the distribution to avoid the high mortality that would come with overgrown seedlings, borders were starting to be locked down around Koronadal. It was then that Jennelyn volunteered to facilitate the distribution herself. She coordinated with seedling growers and farmers so that from May 27 to June 2, 2021, 1,500 seedlings were delivered to 31 farmers in her community. Jennelyn even paid for the transportation and labor without an expectation to be refunded. When asked why she did it, she said, "The program has helped me so much already, and this is my own way of paying it forward." HOPE reimbursed her for the expenses.

We are thankful for Jennelyn, and farmers like her, that help us carry out our mission and are committed to helping improve their communities.



DAVID MINA

57 years old, Demo Farmer from Barangay Katangawan, General Santos City, Philippines

David joined the HOPE program as a Demo Farmer in 2018. In his 2-hectare farm, he intercroops vegetables under his coconuts. A major challenge has always been water. Although a stream runs through his property, transporting water pail by pail was not only laborious but insufficient. The vegetable crops needed more water than he could provide. As part of his farm plan from HOPE, the program provided a mechanical water pump to David.

Today, David and his family are growing more than 750 hills of ampalaya (bitter melon) intercroops and he sells these to two institutional buyers. His ampalaya alone made up 31% of his income in the first six months of 2021 and his livelihood has significantly improved. In the first half of 2021 alone, he has earned 81% more than what he was earning before joining the program and receiving the new water pump.