

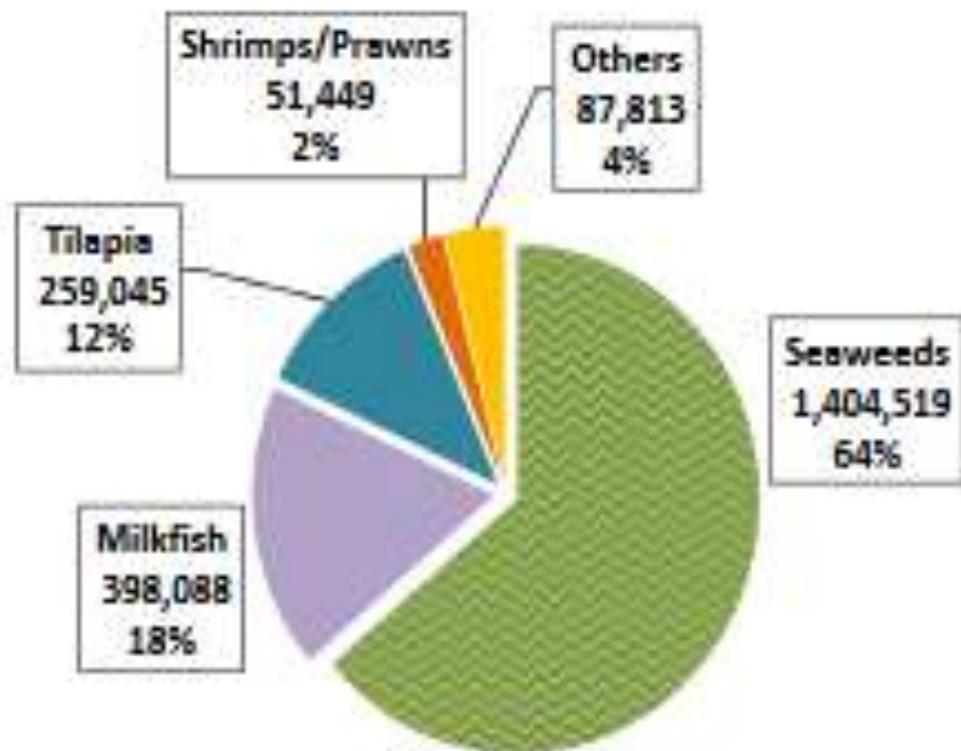
# **SEAWEED FARMING IN WESTERN VISAYAS: STRENGTHENING THE ROLES OF THE WOMEN OF SABANG, GUIMARAS**



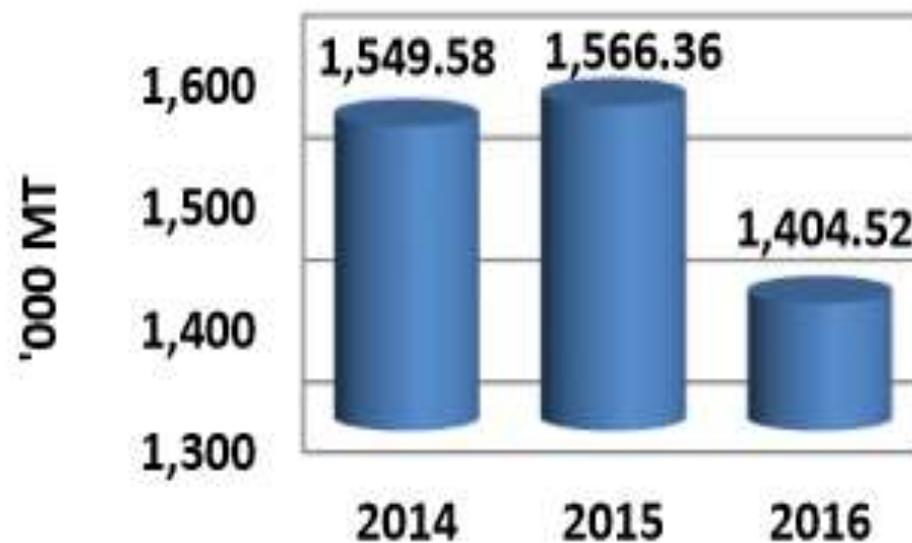
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# Objectives

- **To describe the gender roles in seaweed farming for the Sabang Seaweed Growers Association**
- **To identify the issues and challenges faced by the women seaweed growers**
- **To propose strategies to address the issues and challenges**



Seaweed: Volume of Production, Philippines, 2014 - 2016



Major Species Produced in Aquaculture, 2016 (in Metric Ton) (Source: BFAR 2016)



*Eucheuma spinosum*



*E. spinosum*



*Kappaphycus. cottonii*



*K. cottonii*

# **Growth of seaweed farming in the Philippines**

- **increased demand and stable resource base for carrageenan**
- **started as simple bottom culture and evolved into floating raft**
- **individual family farms along intertidal and subtidal zones**
- **source of food, livelihood and income**



# **Sibunag Seaweed Production and Marketing Enterprise**

- **Started as Sabang Seaweed Growers Association**
  - ✓ established in 2013 with 103 members (60 active)
  - ✓ seaweed production, drying, and processing of seaweed-based products, marketing
  - ✓ sold as fresh or dried
- **Philippine Rural Development Project**
  - ✓ financial grant for the Municipality of Sibunag
  - ✓ seaweed culture, enterprise production and marketing
  - ✓ first phase: 67 members (51 females; 16 males) but only 10 completed the training (all females)

# **Seaweed Farming and Production Activities**

# Preparatory Activities

	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Purchase of materials (bamboos, ropes, monolines, nylons, etc. )</b>	√√	√
<b>Staking of bamboo poles (in the water)</b>		√√
<b>Fencing of perimeter with nets</b>	√ √	√

# Seaweed Culture

	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Tying of seedlings per monoline</b>	√√	√
<b>Tying of monolines in the water</b>	√√	√
<b>Daily monitoring (checking for parasites)</b>	√√	√
<b>Harvest</b>	√√	√
<b>Cleaning and washing of fresh seaweeds</b>	√√	
<b>Selection of seedlings/propagules for nursery and future planting</b>	√√	

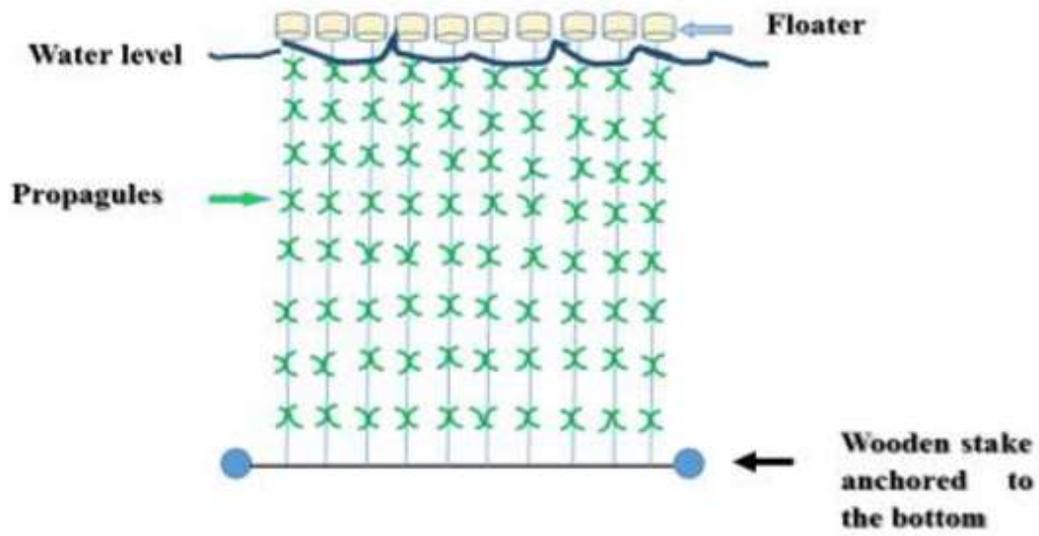
## Tying of seedlings

- 1 m monoline with 6-8 bunches per line
- hired labor -- P1/m

## Staking

- hired labor – P 150 - 200 /day





- monoline method



# Drying Activities

	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Drying (hanging method or spreading)</b>	√√	
<b>Monitoring of drying seaweeds</b>	√√	
<b>Hauling/transport of dried seaweeds to Association storage area</b>	√	√√
<b>Coordinating with the Association (costing, transport, etc)</b>	√√	

# Post Harvest Maintenance

	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Cleaning/washing of lines and ties</b>	√√	
<b>Accounting of expenses and income</b>	√√	

# Other Activities

	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>
<b>Attendance to Association and Barangay meetings</b>	√√	√
<b>PRDP Project in Sabang</b>		
<b>Involvement in seaweed raft culture</b>	√√	
<b>Food processing of seaweed products</b>	√√	



**1000 sq m area; raft method  
and with net enclosure**



**PRDP drying platform**





# **Impacts of seaweed farming and seaweed processing to the community**

- **Social Impacts**

- ✓ **farming activities serve as family bonding time**
- ✓ **more community interaction resulting to better interpersonal relations in the community, especially during monitoring activities**
- ✓ **greater and better governance in the community**

- ✓ **learn new skills**
- ✓ **recognizes the economic productivity of women and children**
- ✓ **educating the community and increasing their awareness to value the environment and themselves**

- **Socio-Economic Impacts**

- ✓ **source of livelihood and employment**

- ✓ **ability to send their children to school**

- ✓ **provide extra for their daily needs**

- ✓ **improve their houses and buy other appliances**

- ✓ **build small boats or purchase new motors for their boats**

- ✓ **money for medical bills and medications**
- ✓ **ability to earn income from farming, selling of fresh, dried and processed products; selling of seedlings**
- ✓ **children start to learn the value of work and money**
- ✓ **contributes to the steady supply of dried seaweeds to processors**

- **Environmental Impacts**

- ✓ **may result to lesser fishing effort and allow the fish stocks to recover**

- ✓ **negative effects**

- **conflict with other resource users**

- **increase in number of growers, farming units and site expansion may affect the carrying capacity of the environment**

# Issues and Concerns

- diseases
- high water temperatures
- insufficient and poor quality of seedlings
- typhoons, strong winds and waves



ice-ice disease



epiphytes

*E. spinosum* (original)



*E. spinosum* (sparkle)



- mixing of strains affect the quality of carrageenan
- fluctuating and low buying price
- fertilizer and spray run-offs from agricultural farms

- **multi-tasking for women**
  - ✓ **seaweed farming, daily monitoring, processing, care of the household and family, farming, association and community duties**
  - ✓ **health concerns**
  - ✓ **low or no valuation of work**
- **concern for the future of their farms**
  - ✓ **some children would rather have a more stable work when they graduate**

- **additional workload with the PRDP Project**
  - ✓ **deeper waters, a little farther from shoreline**
  - ✓ **but additional income**
- **PRDP Project limits age to 60 years**

- **for the Association Officers, they feel that some members do not appreciate their work contribution but expect a lot from them**
  - ✓ **the wait and see attitude of some members**
- **Ecological concern for the waters of Guimaras Strait with the increase in number of growers and culture area**

# Conclusion

- **Seaweed farming has a very big impact on the lives of the coastal community, not only economically but also socially and politically.**
- **Direct engagement of the women in culture and processing activities results to their inclusion in the economic and productive sectors.**

- **Issues and challenges faced by women seaweed growers include:**

- 1. reluctance of many women to put any monetary value on their seaweed workload and contribution, particularly when they work on their own farms (“it is ours”)**
- 2. carrying capacity of the culture area**
- 3. incentives to attract others seaweed growers to be involve in processing**

# Recommendations

- **Convert into a Cooperative for better and more financial opportunities and incentives**
- **Values orientation for both women and men on the valuation of their social and economic contributions**
- **Learn other processing methods for seaweed-based products to make it more market competitive**

- **Financial management trainings to better manage their individual incomes (per household)**
- **Zoning scheme to protect the carrying capacity of the waters (dimensions of sustainability)**



**The Sabang Community of Seaweed Growers and Food Processors**

*Thank you...*

