

BEST PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION FOR THE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS BANK

1. TITLE

Green Governance

LGU-Villaverde's 555, 555 trees project

2. SUMMARY

LGU-Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya conceptualized the 555, 555 trees project in compliance with Memorandum Circular 2011-21 issued by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, encouraging LGUs to support the Billion Trees Program. More than the compliance to a directive, the program seeks to further transform this local government unit and its villages into a fully developed and responsive environment.

Villaverde was named through Republic Act 2515 changing the name of the town from Ibung to Villaverde in honor of the name of the father Juan Villaverde. Bounded by the municipality of Lamut, province of Ifugao in the north; Solano in the south, Bagabag on the east. Villaverde is a fifth class municipality in the province of Nueva Vizcaya.

Being a fifth class municipality with nine (9) barangays and a population of 18, 507 in 2015, the Local Government institutionalized the 555, 555 trees project to strengthen camaraderie between and among the officials and constituents. Also, the LGU envisioned this project as a strategy that encourages participation between and among municipal officials and employees, barangay councils, schools, private and non-government organizations and local residents of the municipality.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

At first, the Local Government Unit considered meager funds as their biggest challenge but governed by convergence, multi-stakeholdership and innovation as the main principles of good governance, they believed that to bring back the green beauty of their verdant town, as the name *Villaverde* suggests is never impossible.

LGU-Villaverde implemented 555, 555 trees project by mainstreaming it to the different programs, projects and activities in the LGUs, such as:

- i. TREE FOR LIFE: for 100 pesos aid from the LGU, a beneficiary shall plant one (1) tree;

- ii. TREE-MITS: an applicant for Mayor's permit are required to plant one (1) tree before the issuance of the permit;
- iii. TREE OF LOVE: an applicant for marriage license are required to plant one (1) tree;
- iv. TREE FOR THE FUTURE: Parents must plant 1 tree before registering their child at the Municipal Civil Registrar;
- v. TREE FOR EXCELLENCE: Every enrollee in a private or public school shall plant one (1) tree;
- vi. COMMUNI-TREES: Every household in the municipality shall plant one (1) tree;
- vii. TREE OF PEACE: Parties in every case settled in the barangay or in the municipality are required to plant trees.

In support to these project, are the search for the *MAKA-KALIKASANG BARANGAY* in 2014 and 2015 and the search for the cleanest and greenest barangay, highlighting the barangay's pocket garden.

4. IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES

Love for Nature. As emphasized by the Local Chief Executive, Atty. Ronelie U. Valtoribio, the local officials love for nature is bigger than their aspirations, hence, it was not difficult for them to implement programs on solid waste management, anti-mining practices, and adaption of climate adaptation and mitigation practices.

Pillared on R.A. 9003 also known as **ecological solid waste management act of 2000**, this municipality hosted the search for model barangay on ESWM implementation 2015. Other support mechanisms include:

- a. Low emission development strategies were used as a driving tool to the different offices and schools to practice lesser energy consumption and improve energy efficiency as answer to the world problem climate change.
- b. Having known of the activity mining, Villaverde issued Executive Orders and Resolutions declaring "*NO TO MINING*" in the municipality.
- c. The implementation of Executive Order Numbers 16, 17, 18, series of 2011 and Executive Order number 24, series of 2013 along with the *Smoke Free*

Villaverde Ordinance is strengthened through the *Public service on wheels*. It is during this mobile Information-Education campaign that distribution of green bags or the eco-bags flyers, pamphlets for the proper segregation of wastes and other services from the different offices in the municipality were conducted.

- d. Villaverde constituents believed that adaptation is the answer to climate change. Hence, the LGU distributed varieties of seeds, introduced organic farming methods and production of bio organic fertilizer such as BIO-N and implemented vermicasting as an aid to lessen the use of chemicals or non-organic matters.
- e. sustainable corn production on sloping areas (SCOPSA) was introduced to the farmers of Villaverde.

Live with nature. Disasters are indispensable, hence, it is assured that the Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (MDRRMC) is strengthened and well-equipped. Despite meager local funds, the LGU, in partnership with national government agencies and local partners for development, MDRRMC and the entire Villaverde community is trained and prepared to face any disaster.

Construction of flood control projects especially in the low lying areas of the town were being implemented believing that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure. Villaverde's water shed plays an important role to its agricultural and industrial economy. The LGU's Comprehensive Land Use Plan is also approved for everybody's reference.

5. PROJECT IMPACT

Villaverde as a premiere and excellent catalyst for green revolution, garnered the following awards:

- a. 2011-2012 National Winner Presidential Search For The Most Child Friendly Municipality (4th-6th class category);
- b. 2011 Seal Of Good Housekeeping;
- c. 2012 Regional Runner Up Gawad Pamana ng Lahi;
- d. 2012-2013 Red Orchid Award;
- e. 2013-2015 National Quality Corn Achievers Award;
- f. 2015 Regional And National Winner On Gawad KALASAG;
- g. 2015 recipient of the Seal Of Good Local Governance

Aside from these awards, the LGU is thankful to their constituents who are very receptive to the LGU's implemented programs, projects and

activities that will live on whoever will serve as Local Chief Executive of their municipality.

Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya is Love for nature and living with nature are the key principles of the Local Government Unit in governing their hometown.

Today, there are 321, 000 trees planted in Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya.