



# PCAF Express

Providing streamlined and updated account on PCAF and its **Advisory Special Bodies'** resolutions and policy studies

## Marking PCAF's History

*Celebrating the First Outstanding AFC Chairpersons and Coordinators' remarkable moment*

In 2015, the Philippine Council for Agriculture and Fisheries (PCAF) spearheaded the selection of the Agricultural and Fishery Council's (AFC) Outstanding Chairpersons and Coordinators for the

agency's first National Volunteers' Day.

It has been three years now since the first search started. It aimed to recognize and commend the remarkable contributions and efforts of the AFCs in the development of the

agriculture and fishery sector.

Once again, let us relive the reasons behind the first achievers' winning moment and how the award changed the way they serve in the challenging world of the volunteers in agri-fishery sector.



**VINCENT A. ADORNA**  
Ilocos Region  
RAFC Chairperson

"Unceasing service and an insightful leadership."

This is how Vincent Adorna spent his service in the AFC as a member for 15 years and as a Chairperson for a decade.

Vince's leadership revolves in re-focusing the meaning of volunteerism in the "RAFC way" by institutionalizing the AFCs as a member of the Local Development Councils (LDCs).

He also lobbied for the recognition and membership of MAFC Chairpersons in their respective LGUs.

As a Chairperson of RAFC Region 1,

one of his significant contributions was the recommendation of the conduct of investigation of oil spill along the coastal area of Pangasinan and La Union which have greatly affected the livelihood of the farmers and fisherfolk.

He ensures that RAFC meetings are regularly conducted and sees to it that there are significant policy resolutions passed despite the limited fund support from the government.

Aside from these, Vince is also well recognized by other government agencies, non-government organizations and rural-based organizations as a hardworking representative of the AFCs in the regions.

Up to know, he remains a member of the LDC, a leader of different local organizations, and most importantly, he maintains a good working relationship with the LGUs including lower house representatives, governors and mayors. ♥

### Lessons and changes

The most important lessons I've learned

after winning are mutual trust and confidence building. These two led to an increased interaction on many levels in the AFC.

I've also want to stress on the resilience and innovation to keep the AFC as the central force that can deal with challenges and opportunities.

### Continuous contribution

Under my leadership and as a volunteer-partner, I would continue to work for better relations with external partners, LGUs and other stakeholders.

There is a need to establish a dynamic and strong partnership between and among the Regional Field Officers (RFOs). The AFC should not be politicized. As an AFC, our goal is to extend help as much as we can in our own efforts. Sometimes, we need to sacrifice because that is what volunteerism is all about. We need to stand on our own two feet and establish a bridge to the other side of the river where we can make our own path.



**MILAGROS G. DELA ROSA**  
Ilocos Region  
RAFC Coordinator

Commitment and efficiency. These are the outstanding traits that molded Milagros Dela Rosa as an effective RAFC Coordinator for twelve years.

As a wife and a mother, she is able to juggle her role as a coordinator, organizer, outreach worker, research assistant, development coordinator, integrator, networker, analyst, and trainer of the council. She ensures the conduct of regular RAFC meetings and maintains good partnership of RAFC with the DA.

Mila also sees to it that all activities of RAFC and the PAFCs are done as planned.

Part of her tasks are to facilitate smooth conduct of RAFC/PAFC monitoring and evaluation activities and provide logistical support.

As a RAFC coordinator of Ilocos Region, Mila renders technical assistance in the formulation of resolutions, project proposals, and endorsement of letter of intent for numerous projects. She also facilitated the creation of provincial and regional monitoring team.

She ensures that there is a direct coordination with the LGUs regarding AFC activities down to the municipal level. Mila also acts as Regional Livelihood Enhancement for Agricultural Development (LEAD) and Agrikultura: Kaagapay ng Bayang Pinoy (AKBAY) Program Coordinator. ♥

### Lessons and changes

Winning the Outstanding RAFC Coordinator is a privilege and a challenge. To have the title is not easy.

You need to understand that you can't do all things and not everything as planned is done. Sometimes, we fail, hurt, and gets disappointed. All we need to do is to accept the inevitability of trials and tribulations to become more determined, hard working, and successful.

There are lots of uncertainties in life and it requires a lot of strength. When I won the award, everything counts. I felt that I need to take greater responsibilities in all the decisions and actions that I have to make. I went extra mile to act on opportunities and learn new skills that enhanced my capability and broadened my potential for greatness.

The AFCs in Region 1 always remind me the value of responsibility. As my best partner, we aim the same goal to effectively and harmoniously work together. I became more passionate in my craft because I am inspired by AFCs' dedication and commitment in serving people with a heart.



**DANTE B. TOBIAS**  
Cagayan Valley Region  
PAFC Chairperson Quirino

For almost two decades of service in the AFC, Dante Tobias has established a reputation as a dependable leader and an inspiration to his fellow farmers.

His dedication resulted in the passing of a resolution prohibiting the indiscriminate use of Glyphosate in corn areas with 18 degrees' slope and the implementation of Appropriate

Soil Conservation Management for Sustainable Corn Production in Sloping Areas or SCoPSA. Glyphosate is one of the world's most widely weed killers.

In his humble beginnings, he proved that he can be an effective tool in uplifting the condition of the farmers in Quirino. Dan is one of the people who motivated AFC members in the Barangay level to be active by creating a Barangay Mobile Meeting.

Under his leadership, BAFCs were organized and involved in different activities. From 30% participation rate when he first assumed as PAFC Chairperson, it soared high to 100%-member participation.

Alongside with these, Dan was awarded as the Best Farmer for the 3-month hands-on-training of ATI's Adopt a Youth Program. PAFC

Quirino was recently awarded as Gawad Saka 2015 Outstanding PAFC under his leadership. ♥

### Lessons and changes

As a winner of Outstanding PAFC Chairperson, I have learned that patience and commitment are the key elements for an excellent service to the community, as well as a volunteer leader. It should always be complimented with love and passion.

I have also learned that an ordinary person like me, can also do great things if we do believe in ourselves and to our Lord Almighty.

After I won, I have learned that PCAF is really our partner in the development of the countryside. The agency changes the lives of many volunteers to become better and more productive.



**DOMINGA A. CABATU**  
Cordillera Administrative Region  
Mt. Province  
PAFC Coordinator

With her untiring commitment to the AFC, Dominga Cabatu realized that the two decades of service will never impede her passion to be an instrument in empowering the farmers' cooperatives, associations and communities.

As the PAFC Coordinator of Mountain Province, Ming has been pro-active in promoting the Farmer Agri-Processing of products through local, regional and national trade fairs.

She is also an advocate of organic farming where she conceptualized a brochure about vermicomposting.

This brochure is now being reproduced and distributed to farmers as reference. To add a feather in her cap, Ming's technical assistance as the Local Provincial AKBAY Coordinator was able to help almost 500 farm households.

Ming ensures that PAFC conducts meetings regularly, where after the meeting, she immediately prepares minutes of the meetings and resolutions.

Likewise, she facilitates the incorporation of PAFC's annual plan of actions and activities in the regional and provincial plans for budget allocations.

She also provides tracking of issues, raise or discuss concerns during PAFC meetings and ensures that these will be resolved.

Ming also facilitates PAFC mobile meetings which are well supported by the LGUs and DA and its other attached agencies. ♥

Lessons and changes

After all the efforts in supporting the AFC family in Mountain Province, I am blessed to be awarded as the outstanding PAFC Coordinator in 2015. With this search, the Chairpersons and the Coordinators were being recognized for their voluntarily services in uplifting the AFCs in the provinces.

For 22 years of service to the AFC, I acquired my knowledge and skills in writing the minutes of meetings and preparation of resolutions, purchase requests, notices of meetings and other technical documents required without any trainings attended prior to my designation as PAFC Coordinator. Later, I also developed knowledge in facilitation and documentation in every AFC activity. I have also learned how to deal with different personalities that resulted tin good thoughts, nice things and good deeds.

It is indeed true that every good thing comes back when you least expect it. I am thankful to the AFC in molding me up as I am now today.

Continuous contribution

I envisioned to have a closer relationship between and among the AFC members wherein openness of ideas is encouraged. Likewise, I hope that AFC members would be recognized by the local government units and other institutions through participation in the local and national consultations.

I also hope that the Chairpersons and Coordinators will continue to perform our tasks as AFC members. Thus, maintaining their commitment to contribute to the success of the program and projects of Mt. Province and even as a whole.



**CARLITO P. AQUINO**  
Bicol Region- MAFC Chairperson  
Ocampo, Camarines Sur

Recognized as the farmer scientist by different government agencies, Carlito Aquino proved that farming is a noble profession.

After more than two decades serving the military, Lito went back to farming where he finds absolute fulfillment.

Although he only became the MAFC Chairperson of Ocampo, Camarines Sur last 2012, he was able to accomplish significant contributions for his town as a chairperson.

In his pursuit to improve the condition of his fellow farmers, Lito remains thirsty for practical solutions that resulted to his fascination with organic farming.

With this, he spearheaded the passing of Municipal Ordinances through MAFC resolutions, namely the Development of Organic

Sustainable Agriculture in Ocampo, Camarines Sur; Crafting of Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Development Plan, and notable project proposals.

He was able to conduct regular AFC meetings despite being among the non-targeted MAFC or those that received minimal fund support from the government. To be able to do this, Lito carried out income-generating activities to support MAFC meetings and other activities.

Lito has a very good rapport with the LGU and is considered as a well-recognized partner by the DA and its other attached agencies.

Through his representations, BFAR gave the municipality 1 million worth of Tilapia fingerlings. 500,000 were dispensed to the farmers while the remaining 500,000 were dispersed in the creeks and rivers.

Also under his leadership, he formulated other ordinances like institutionalization of Municipal Tourism, and Municipal Agriculture and Fishery Development Plan. ♥

Lessons and changes

Never stop what you're doing because you are in the right track. It is helpful to always keep calm, but should be alert in leading, and think that you are the hope of the farming sector. I always remind myself that I am the voice of the small and neglected marginalized people in the community.

Another lesson that I've learned is never be affected by the political pressure. Never let political pressure distress you. We can always turn this bad events into good ones. Always remember that people in the position come and go.

Lastly, I've learned that even without entering into politics, one can still excel in serving the community.

After I've been awarded, I felt that I am more respected. People will always give a smile even if I don't know them. Rumors that I am preparing to run for political position even spread. It also developed credibility and trust, not only to me but also within the council. Because of these, I am challenged to develop next liners from the present council who have positive attitude, for the future of the vision and mission of AFC.



**LYDIA A. MONDA**  
Bicol Region- MAFC Coordinator  
Pamplona, Camarines Sur

Lydia Atienza Monda dedicated 17 years of her life as a Municipal Coordinator of Pamplona, Camarines Sur.

With her commitment and efficiency, Lydia is truly commendable in coordinating with her counterparts and keeping all the meetings well documented.

Part of her tasks are coordination and facilitation of MAFC's plan and activities with the Planning Officer of the Municipal Government for budget allocation, and ensure compensation.

One of the highlights of her service is the

facilitation of the request to have stem cuttings from Albay Experiment station for multiplication in Pamplona.

Lydia acknowledged the privilege of being part of meetings and seminars. This is why she makes sure that whatever knowledge she has acquired from those events will be properly conveyed to other employees of the local government unit through facilitating trainings. ♥

Lessons and changes

After winning the Outstanding MAFC Coordinator, I have learned that dedicated service to the council as volunteer could be rewarded.

After 17 years of assisting MAFC Pamplona, preparing and typing notices of meetings,

resolutions, profiles, monthly reports, action plans and other documents required by the council, it didn't come into my mind that I will be a National awardee.

"Darating pala ang panahon na kikilalanin ang mga nagtitiyangang magsilbi bilang Volunteer sa larangang ito."

Continuous contribution

As a MAFC Coordinator, I will serve as role model to my fellow MAFC Coordinators, and encourage them to do what should be done. I will also motivate them to be active in other activities of the council, like attending congresses, that will help uplift the status of the council.

In assisting MAFC, Pamplona, I see to it that we can conduct our regular monthly meetings with a productive resolution that could help in the development of the agricultural sector providing assistance to our farmers, rural women and the youth.

Lastly, as a volunteer, I am always ready to serve for the good of the council with 3Ts: Talent, Time and Treasure.