



Monday, July 16, 2012

Hybrid Corn In Sloping Fields



Felicisimo Inocando (left) and Zac B. Sarian in front of Bioseed Healer 101 corn planted on sloping field in Brgy. Miglamin, Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

In Mindanao, particularly in Bukidnon and other areas in the North, even the steep hillsides are planted to hybrid corn. No plowing of the soil is usually practiced.

The farmers practice what they call zero-tillage whereby they spray herbicide to kill the grasses. A week after the grasses have been sprayed, they dibble their seeds in the cleared ground, one or two seeds per hole.

Photo shows Felicisimo Inocando (left) with Zac B. Sarian before a sloping field in Brgy. Miglamin, Malaybalay, Bukidnon, planted to **Bioseed Healer 101**, a high-yielding genetically engineered variety. The farmers usually harvest at least 6 tons of dried grains per hectare which are sold currently at P12.30 per kilo. Inocando is a pioneer hybrid corn planter in Malaybalay.

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

Batanes Kids Succeed In Mindanao



The Loor couple in their corn field.



Pedro and Aida Loor posing with their giant Ford tractor.

Many years ago, a young girl from Basco and a boy from Itbayat were brought by their parents to Wao in Lanao del Sur, most probably to escape the frequent

typhoons that brought destruction to the Batanes Islands year after year.

The girl and the boy spent their teenage years in Wao and got married to different spouses. The girl, Aida, became Mrs. Villamor while the boy, Pedro Loor married another young lady. Then when peace and order was a problem in 1975 in Wao, Aida and her husband resettled in Baungon, Bukidnon while Pedro Loor and his family settled in Valencia, also in Bukidnon.

Their respective families had become successful farmers growing hybrid corn and other crops. Aida and her family in Baungon and Pedro in Valencia. Then Aida became a widow in 1995 and Pedro's wife died in 1999. In 2001, the two got married, turning over their respective assets to their respective children in their previous marriages. She has five and he has seven who are all on their own as farmers, too.

Starting farming on their own as new couple was fairly smooth because they know the ins and outs of corn farming. Although they started again from scratch after their marriage, they have become rich once more because of their keen agribusiness sense.

They didn't have to buy many hectares of land to produce corn. Up to this day, they just own four

hectares of the 30 hectares that they are planting to corn in Baungon. The 26 hectares are either rented at P8,000 to P9,000 per hectare a year or are mortgaged to them. The thing is that they have a big area for growing corn so they can make more income. With the **Bioseed Healer 101, Bioseed 9909** and other hybrids, farmers in Bukidnon can make a profit of about P40,000 per hectare per cropping.

It is not surprising therefore for Pedro and Aida Loor, now both senior citizens, to be able to buy a big tractor that costs at least a million pesos, a big truck for hauling their harvests, and to buy on installment a 28-hectare farm in Casisang for P8 million. They have already paid P5.5 million and expect to fully pay the farm in a couple of years.

The 28-hectare property is being used for sugarcane production. Using their income from corn to buy the property, the couple believes that growing sugarcane is also a good strategy. Pedro reasons out that although sugarcane takes at least one year to mature, it is less problematic to produce. And if the price of sugar goes up, one could hit the jackpot.

Pedro adds that in sugarcane, you don't have to plant every year. The crop could be ratooned not just once but twice or even thrice. And so there is less cost on seed materials.