

# Community Participation of Beneficiaries, Institutional Support, And Implementation of Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office

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## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, theoretical and conceptual frameworks, statement of the problem, research hypotheses, significance of the study, scope and limitations, and definition of terms.

### Background of the Study

The Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) is one of the Philippine government's community-based forestry initiatives established to address forest degradation while improving the socio-economic conditions of upland communities. Established through Letter of Instructions (LOI) No. 1260 in 1982, the program recognizes upland communities as partners in the protection, rehabilitation, and sustainable management of forest resources (Republic of the Philippines, 1982). Qualified beneficiaries are granted Certificates of Stewardship Contracts (CSCs), which provide stewardship rights and responsibilities and encourage sustainable land development, environmental protection, and livelihood improvement (DENR Administrative Order No. 04, s. 1991).

Despite its long implementation, the ISFP continues to encounter challenges related to forest degradation, unsustainable land use, limited resources, and effective forest management. Addressing these concerns requires not only appropriate environmental policies but also the active participation of beneficiaries and sustained institutional support. Recent literature emphasizes that community involvement and institutional support are important in strengthening local capacity, shared responsibility, and sustainable management of forest resources (Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO], 2024; United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2024).

Community participation of beneficiaries is fundamental to the ISFP because beneficiaries are directly involved in managing and protecting the forest resources entrusted to them. Their participation in planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation provides opportunities to contribute local knowledge, participate in activities, and assess program progress. Meaningful participation promotes ownership, accountability, and commitment to sustainable resource management (FAO, 2024; United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], 2023). However, the ability of beneficiaries to perform these responsibilities may also depend on the support provided by concerned institutions.

Institutional support is therefore an important component of ISFP implementation. The concerned public office and partner institutions provide technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision to strengthen the capabilities of beneficiaries. These forms of assistance provide the knowledge, skills, resources, and guidance necessary for beneficiaries to carry out program activities and fulfill their stewardship responsibilities (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2023; UNDP, 2024). The role of public institutions is further supported by Republic Act No. 7160, or the Local Government Code of 1991, which devolved selected environmental management functions to local government units and strengthened their participation in forestry and environmental management.

The implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a public office is assessed in this study in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection. Lot development involves the productive and

sustainable utilization of stewardship areas; land tenure concerns beneficiaries' stewardship rights and corresponding responsibilities; and environmental protection involves the conservation, rehabilitation, and responsible management of forest resources. These dimensions reflect important aspects of how beneficiaries perform their stewardship responsibilities within the program.

In the local context, ISFP beneficiaries and their People's Organizations continue to participate in agroforestry development, forest rehabilitation, environmental protection, and related activities in coordination with the concerned public office and partner institutions. However, the extent of community participation and institutional support may vary depending on organizational capacity, available resources, local conditions, and institutional assistance. Examining these conditions is important in determining how community and institutional factors are associated with ISFP implementation.

Although previous studies have examined community-based forestry, community participation, and sustainable forest management, there remains a need for empirical evidence that simultaneously examines community participation of beneficiaries and institutional support in relation to the implementation of the ISFP of a public office. Specifically, there is a need to examine community participation in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation; institutional support in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision; and ISFP implementation in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection. Examining these variables together may provide a clearer understanding of the community and institutional conditions associated with program implementation.

Hence, this study sought to determine the community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a public office. Specifically, it examined the relationship between community participation and ISFP implementation and between institutional support and ISFP implementation. The findings may provide useful information to the concerned public office, partner institutions, local government units, and People's Organizations in strengthening institutional support, enhancing beneficiary participation, and improving the implementation and sustainability of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

## **Theoretical Framework**

This study was anchored on the Participatory Development Theory of Robert Chambers (1994) and the Institutional Theory of W. Richard Scott (2014). These theories provided the foundation for understanding how community participation of beneficiaries and institutional support are related to the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). Although these theories are foundational, their principles remain relevant and are supported by recent literature on community participation, institutional governance, and sustainable forest management (Wiset et al., 2023; FAO, 2024).

The Participatory Development Theory, advanced by Robert Chambers (1994), emphasizes that people should be active participants rather than merely recipients of development programs. It recognizes the importance of involving communities in identifying needs, planning, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation. Meaningful participation promotes ownership, shared responsibility, accountability, and commitment to development initiatives. Recent evidence supports this perspective. Wiset et al. (2023), in their study of forest landscape restoration in Leyte and Biliran, Philippines, emphasized the importance of meaningful engagement of local people in decision-making and implementation. Similarly, FAO (2024) recognizes community participation as an important component of sustainable forest management.

In the present study, Participatory Development Theory provides the theoretical basis for examining the community participation of ISFP beneficiaries in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. The theory supports the view that beneficiaries' involvement may be associated with how effectively they perform their responsibilities in the program, particularly in relation to lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection.

The Institutional Theory, advanced by W. Richard Scott (2014), explained how institutional structures, policies, rules, resources, and established practices influence the implementation of programs. Scott emphasizes the regulative, normative, and cultural-cognitive elements of institutions that guide organizational and individual behavior. In public programs, institutions provide the structures and support necessary for beneficiaries to perform their responsibilities. Recent governance literature similarly emphasizes the importance of institutional capacity, resources, coordination, and accountability in effective public program implementation (OECD, 2023).

In this study, Institutional Theory provides the foundation for examining institutional support in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision. These forms of support provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions are intended to strengthen the capacity of ISFP beneficiaries to carry out program activities and fulfill their stewardship responsibilities.

The two theories complement each other in explaining the variables of the study. Participatory Development Theory explains the role of beneficiaries and their participation, while Institutional Theory explains the role of institutional support provided by the public office and concerned institutions. Accordingly, community participation of beneficiaries and institutional support serve as the independent variables, while ISFP implementation in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection serves as the dependent variable. Together, these theories provide the theoretical basis for examining the relationship between community participation and ISFP implementation and between institutional support and ISFP implementation.

### **Conceptual Framework**

This study, entitled “Community Participation of Beneficiaries, Institutional Support, and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office,” was guided by the premise that community participation and institutional support are important factors associated with the implementation of community-based forestry programs. Recent studies emphasize that meaningful participation of local communities and adequate institutional mechanisms are important in strengthening community-based natural resource management and sustainable forest governance (Wisnet et al., 2023; FAO, 2024).

The conceptual framework consists of two independent variables and one dependent variable. The first independent variable is community participation of beneficiaries, which is assessed in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. These dimensions represent the different ways through which ISFP beneficiaries participate in identifying needs, making decisions, carrying out program activities, and assessing program progress. Recent research highlights that meaningful community engagement, particularly in decision-making and implementation, strengthens local involvement and responsibility in forest landscape restoration and management (Wisnet et al., 2023).

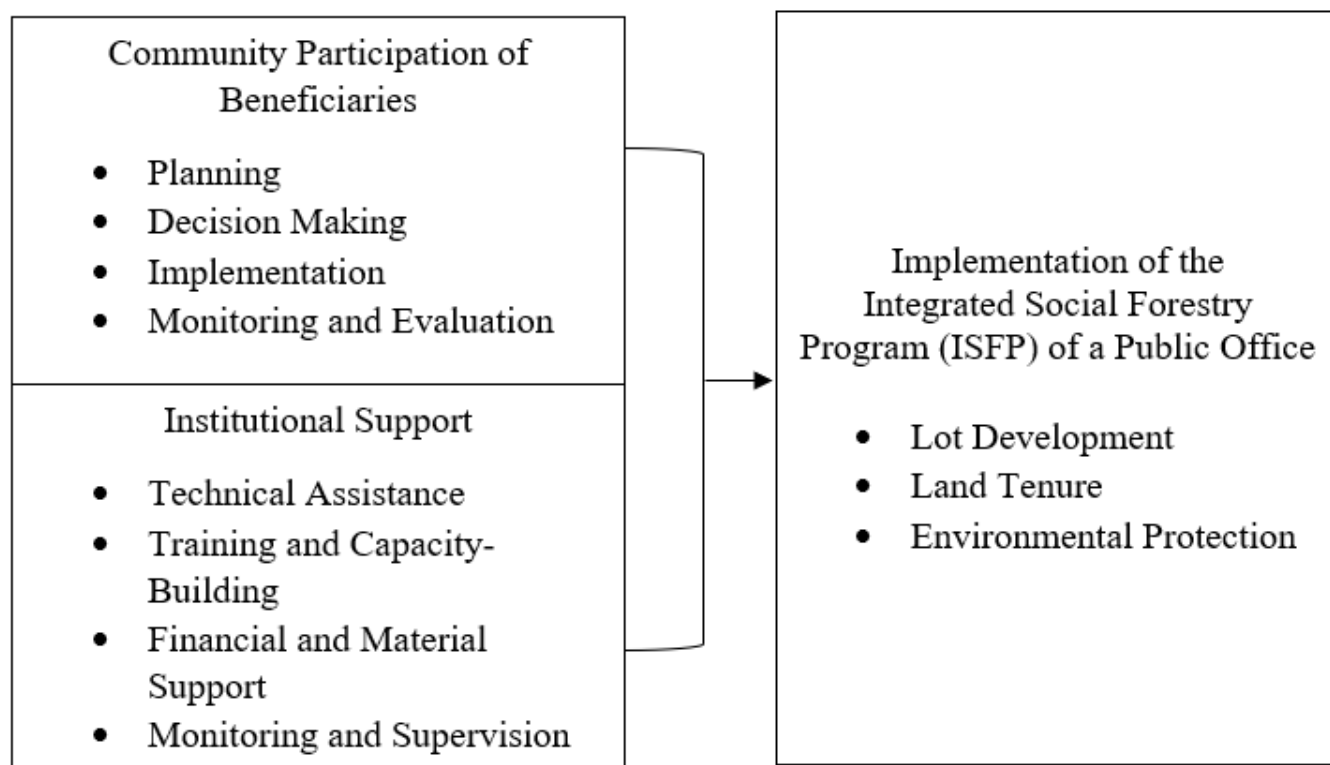
The second independent variable is institutional support, which is assessed in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision. These forms of assistance represent the support mechanisms provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions to enhance the capacity of beneficiaries to perform their responsibilities under the program. Institutional capacity, adequate resources, coordination, and effective governance mechanisms remain important elements in the implementation of public programs and sustainable development initiatives (OECD, 2023; FAO, 2024).

The dependent variable is the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) of a public office, which is assessed in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection. These dimensions reflect the implementation of major program responsibilities related to the productive and sustainable use of stewardship areas, tenure-related responsibilities of beneficiaries, and the protection and rehabilitation of forest resources.

The framework proposes that community participation of beneficiaries and institutional support may be associated with ISFP implementation. Accordingly, the study examines whether the level of community participation of beneficiaries is significantly related to ISFP implementation and whether institutional support is significantly related to ISFP implementation. Thus, the framework establishes the relationship between the

independent variables—community participation of beneficiaries and institutional support—and the dependent variable—implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a public office, without assuming a causal relationship among the variables.

Figure 1. Schematic Diagram of the Study .



### Statement of the Problem

This study determined the levels of community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) of a public office, as well as the relationships among these variables.

Specifically, it sought to answer the following questions:

What is the level of community participation of beneficiaries in the Integrated Social Forestry Program in terms of:

- planning
- decision-making
- program implementation
- monitoring and evaluation

What is the level of institutional support provided to the Integrated Social Forestry Program in terms of:

- technical assistance
- training and capacity-building
- financial and material support

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d. monitoring and supervision

What is the level of implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program in terms of:

a. Lot Development

b. Land Tenure

c. Environmental Protection

Is there a significant relationship between community participation of beneficiaries and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program?

Is there a significant relationship between institutional support and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program?

### **Hypotheses of the Study**

Based on the research problem, the following hypotheses were formulated:

1. There is no significant relationship between community participation of beneficiaries and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.
2. There is no significant relationship between institutional support and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

### **Significance of the Study**

The findings of this study are expected to provide valuable information on the relationship between community participation, institutional support, and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). Specifically, the study may benefit the following:

ISFP Beneficiaries and People's Organizations (POs). The findings may help ISFP beneficiaries and People's Organizations better understand the importance of active participation and institutional support in successful program implementation. The study may encourage greater involvement in planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, thereby strengthening their commitment to sustainable forest management, environmental conservation and community development.

Program Implementers and Partner Institutions. The results may provide program implementers and partner institutions with relevant information that can be used to improve the delivery of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision. The study may also strengthen coordination and collaboration among government agencies, local government units, People's Organizations, and other stakeholders involved in ISFP implementation.

Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO). The findings may provide the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO) with empirical evidence regarding the levels of community participation, institutional support, and ISFP implementation. The results may serve as a basis for strengthening existing extension services, improving program monitoring, enhancing capacity-building activities, and developing interventions that promote sustainable forest management in Negros Occidental.

Local Government Units (LGUs). The findings of the study may provide Local Government Units (LGUs) with evidence-based information that can guide the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of programs related to the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). The results may assist LGUs in developing policies, strengthening partnerships with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), and People's Organizations (POs), and enhancing community participation and sustainable forest management initiatives within their respective jurisdictions.

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The findings may assist the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in assessing the effectiveness of its policies, technical guidance, and support mechanisms for the Integrated Social Forestry Program. The results may also contribute to strengthening partnerships with local government units, PEMO, People's Organizations, and other stakeholders in implementing community-based forest management initiatives.

**Policymakers.** The findings may provide evidence-based information that can support the formulation, review, and enhancement of policies, programs, and strategies related to social forestry, community participation, institutional support, environmental governance, and sustainable natural resource management.

**Upland Communities.** The study may contribute to the improvement of programs and interventions that enhance community participation, strengthen institutional support, promote sustainable livelihood opportunities, conserve forest resources, and improve the overall well-being of upland communities.

**Future Researchers.** The findings may serve as a valuable reference for future studies related to community participation, institutional support, Integrated Social Forestry Program implementation, environmental governance, and sustainable forest management. The study may also provide baseline information for similar research conducted in other geographical settings.

**Researcher.** As a student pursuing the degree of Master in Public Administration, the researcher will gain a deeper understanding of community participation, institutional support, environmental governance, and the implementation of community-based forestry programs. The study will likewise enhance the researcher's competencies in conducting scientific research, analyzing public sector programs, and developing evidence-based policy recommendations.

### **Scope and Limitation of the Study**

This study focused on determining the levels and relationships among community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP).

Specifically, community participation of beneficiaries was assessed in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Institutional support was assessed in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision. The implementation of the ISFP was assessed in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection. The study further examined the relationship between community participation and ISFP implementation and between institutional support and ISFP implementation.

The study was conducted in 2026 among qualified beneficiaries of the three selected People's Organizations in the Negros Island Region. It employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design and utilized a researcher-made questionnaire as the primary data-gathering instrument. The study was limited to qualified ISFP beneficiaries who met the established criteria and participated during the data-gathering period.

The study was further limited to the variables and indicators specified in the research and to the respondents' perceptions and experiences at the time the study was conducted. It did not cover other forestry programs or other factors outside the identified variables that may be associated with program implementation. Moreover, since the study involved only qualified beneficiaries from three selected People's Organizations, the findings are specific to the respondents and context covered by the study and should be interpreted within these boundaries. Thus, the results may not necessarily represent all ISFP beneficiaries or People's Organizations in other areas.

### **Definition of Terms**

The following terms are conceptually and operationally defined to provide a common understanding of the key concepts used in this study.

**Beneficiaries.** Conceptually, beneficiaries refer to individuals or groups who receive the intended benefits of a government program, project, or development intervention (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], 2022).

Functionally, beneficiaries are the qualified members of the three selected People's Organizations in the Negros Island Region that are participating in the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) and who served as respondents in this study.

**Certificate of Stewardship Contract (CSC).** Conceptually, a Certificate of Stewardship Contract refers to a tenure instrument issued by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) granting qualified forest occupants the right to occupy, develop, manage, and protect designated portions of public forestlands under prescribed terms and conditions (DENR Administrative Order No. 04, s. 1991).

Functionally, CSC refers to the stewardship agreement granted to qualified ISFP beneficiaries that defines their rights, responsibilities, and obligations over designated forestlands.

**Community Participation.** Conceptually, community participation refers to the active involvement of community members in identifying needs, planning, decision-making, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development programs that affect their livelihoods and well-being (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations [FAO], 2024).

Functionally, community participation refers to the extent of ISFP beneficiaries' involvement in planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, as measured by the survey questionnaire.

**Decision-Making.** Conceptually, decision-making refers to the process of selecting appropriate actions or alternatives through consultation and participation to achieve program objectives.

Functionally, decision-making refers to the involvement of beneficiaries in making decisions concerning activities related to the implementation of the ISFP.

**Environmental Protection.** Conceptually, environmental protection refers to actions and measures undertaken to conserve natural resources, protect ecosystems, prevent environmental degradation, and promote sustainable development (United Nations Environment Programme [UNEP], 2023).

Functionally, environmental protection refers to conservation and environmental management activities undertaken by ISFP beneficiaries, including reforestation, forest protection, and responsible use of natural resources, as measured through the survey questionnaire.

**Financial and Material Support.** Conceptually, financial and material support refers to the provision of funds, equipment, materials, and other resources necessary for the effective implementation of development programs (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development [OECD], 2023).

Functionally, financial and material support refers to the financial assistance, planting materials, tools, and other resources provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions to ISFP beneficiaries.

**Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP).** Conceptually, implementation refers to the process of carrying out policies, programs, or projects through planned activities to achieve intended goals and objectives (OECD, 2023).

Functionally, implementation of the ISFP refers to the extent to which the program is carried out in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection, as assessed through the responses of the qualified beneficiaries.

**Institutional Support.** Conceptually, institutional support refers to the technical, financial, administrative, and capacity-building assistance provided by concerned institutions to facilitate program implementation.

Functionally, institutional support refers to the technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions to ISFP beneficiaries.

Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). Conceptually, the Integrated Social Forestry Program refers to a government program established through Letter of Instructions No. 1260 in 1982 to improve the socio-economic conditions of upland communities while promoting the protection, rehabilitation, and sustainable management of forest resources through community participation and sustainable forest management practices.

Functionally, the ISFP refers to the program implemented among the three selected People's Organizations in the Negros Island Region and examined in this study in relation to community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection.

Land Tenure. Conceptually, land tenure refers to the rights, responsibilities, and institutional arrangements governing access to, use of, management of, and control over land and natural resources (FAO, 2022).

Functionally, land tenure refers to the beneficiaries' security of tenure, understanding of stewardship rights and responsibilities, and compliance with the provisions of their Certificate of Stewardship Contract.

Lot Development. Conceptually, lot development refers to the productive development and sustainable utilization of forestlands through agroforestry, reforestation, soil conservation, and other appropriate land-management practices. Operationally, lot development refers to the extent to which beneficiaries develop, maintain, and productively utilize their stewardship areas under the ISFP, as measured through the survey questionnaire.

Monitoring and Evaluation. Conceptually, monitoring and evaluation refer to the systematic process of assessing program implementation, measuring progress, and determining whether program objectives are achieved (OECD, 2023). Operationally, monitoring and evaluation refer to the participation of beneficiaries in assessing ISFP activities, accomplishments, progress, and program implementation.

Monitoring and Supervision. Conceptually, monitoring and supervision refer to the continuous process of tracking program implementation, assessing progress, ensuring compliance with established standards, and providing feedback to improve program effectiveness (OECD, 2023). Operationally, monitoring and supervision refer to regular field visits, inspections, evaluations, technical monitoring, and guidance provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions to ISFP beneficiaries.

People's Organization (PO). Conceptually, a People's Organization refers to a community-based association voluntarily organized by local residents to pursue common social, economic, and environmental objectives and participate in community and government development initiatives. Operationally, People's Organizations refer to the three selected organizations in the Negros Island Region participating in the ISFP whose qualified beneficiaries served as respondents in this study.

Planning. Conceptually, planning refers to the process of identifying needs, setting objectives, and determining appropriate strategies and activities to achieve program goals (FAO, 2024). Operationally, planning refers to the participation of beneficiaries in identifying needs, setting priorities, and preparing activities related to the implementation of the ISFP.

Program Implementation. Conceptually, program implementation refers to the process of translating planned programs and policies into actual activities and interventions to achieve intended objectives. Operationally, program implementation, as an indicator of community participation, refers to the involvement of beneficiaries in carrying out activities and responsibilities under the ISFP.

Public Office. Conceptually, a public office refers to a government agency or institution established to perform public functions and deliver programs and services for the welfare of the public. Operationally, public office refers to the concerned government institution responsible for the implementation of and provision of institutional support to the Integrated Social Forestry Program covered in this study.

Technical Assistance. Conceptually, technical assistance refers to the provision of expert advice, technical guidance, and professional support to improve the implementation of programs and projects (OECD, 2023). Operationally, technical assistance refers to the technical guidance and services provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions to ISFP beneficiaries.

Training and Capacity-Building. Conceptually, training and capacity-building refer to activities designed to enhance the knowledge, skills, competencies, and organizational capabilities of individuals and organizations for improved program implementation. Operationally, training and capacity-building refer to seminars, workshops, orientations, and other learning activities provided to ISFP beneficiaries to improve their knowledge and skills in program implementation and sustainable forest management.

## REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND STUDY

This chapter presents the related literature and studies that provide the theoretical and empirical foundation of the study entitled “Community Participation of Beneficiaries, Institutional Support, and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office.” The review is organized according to the variables and indicators identified in the Statement of the Problem. It discusses community participation of beneficiaries in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation; institutional support in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision; and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection. It further presents literature and studies concerning the relationships between community participation and ISFP implementation and between institutional support and ISFP implementation. Recent literature published primarily from 2022 to 2026 is utilized, while older legal and foundational sources are retained when necessary.

### Community Participation of Beneficiaries

Community participation is an essential component of community-based forestry because it recognizes beneficiaries as active partners rather than passive recipients of government programs. Meaningful participation involves engagement in planning, decision-making, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation and enables beneficiaries to contribute their knowledge and experiences to the management of forest resources. Recent literature emphasizes that participatory approaches strengthen local ownership, accountability, collaboration, and commitment to sustainable resource management (FAO, 2024; UNDP, 2024; CIFOR-ICRAF, 2024).

In the Philippine context, community participation remains central to community-based forest management. Government forestry initiatives encourage People's Organizations and beneficiaries to participate in activities related to sustainable land management, forest rehabilitation, and environmental protection. Such involvement strengthens partnerships between communities and public institutions and supports the long-term sustainability of forest resources (DENR, 2024; FMB, 2024; NEDA, 2023). In the present study, community participation of beneficiaries is assessed in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

### Planning

Planning provides beneficiaries with opportunities to identify needs, establish priorities, contribute local knowledge, and participate in developing appropriate strategies for their stewardship areas. Participatory planning can improve the responsiveness of programs because interventions are developed with consideration of local conditions and community priorities. Recent literature emphasizes that collaborative planning promotes shared ownership, strengthens relationships among stakeholders, and increases commitment to program activities (FAO, 2024; Natarajan & Hassan, 2024).

Within community-based forestry, beneficiary participation in planning may include identifying appropriate forestry activities, livelihood interventions, resource requirements, and environmental management strategies. Such participation allows beneficiaries and concerned institutions to align community needs with program objectives and promotes shared responsibility in managing forest resources.

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## Decision-Making

Decision-making enables beneficiaries to participate in determining priorities and actions that directly affect their communities and stewardship areas. Meaningful participation in decisions encourages transparency, accountability, collective responsibility, and greater ownership of program activities. Recent literature recognizes inclusive decision-making as an important element of effective community engagement and sustainable natural resource management (Natarajan & Hassan, 2024; FAO, 2024).

In the ISFP, beneficiary participation in decision-making may involve decisions concerning forest protection, resource utilization, livelihood activities, and organizational concerns. Allowing beneficiaries to express their views and contribute their experiences strengthens their role as partners in the implementation of community-based forestry programs.

## Program Implementation

Program implementation translates plans and decisions into actual activities. In community-based forestry, beneficiaries may participate in agroforestry development, reforestation, tree planting, forest protection, nursery activities, soil and water conservation, and livelihood interventions. Active involvement strengthens beneficiaries' stewardship responsibilities and allows them to directly contribute to the achievement of program objectives (FAO, 2024).

Wiset et al. (2023), in their study of forest landscape restoration in Leyte and Biliran, emphasized that meaningful community engagement should extend beyond labor contributions and include involvement in project decisions and implementation. Their findings underscore the importance of recognizing People's Organizations as active partners in forest restoration. In the present study, program implementation represents the extent to which ISFP beneficiaries actively participate in carrying out program activities.

## Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation allow beneficiaries to assess activities, identify implementation concerns, provide feedback, and contribute to program improvement. Participatory monitoring promotes transparency and accountability by involving community members in assessing accomplishments and the condition of resources under their stewardship (UNEP, 2023; FAO, 2024).

Within the ISFP, beneficiaries may participate in monitoring forestry activities, reporting concerns, assessing accomplishments, and providing feedback regarding program implementation. Their participation creates opportunities for continuous learning and improvement and therefore constitutes an important dimension of community participation.

## Institutional Support

Institutional support refers to the assistance provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions to enable beneficiaries to effectively perform their responsibilities under the ISFP. Community-based forestry requires not only beneficiary participation but also an institutional environment that provides knowledge, resources, capacity development, and continuing guidance. Recent literature emphasizes the importance of institutional capacity and sustained support in strengthening community organizations and sustainable forest management (CIFOR-ICRAF, 2023; FAO, 2024).

In the present study, institutional support is assessed in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision.

## Technical Assistance

Technical assistance provides beneficiaries with professional guidance, technical knowledge, extension services, and practical support needed to undertake sustainable forestry activities. Continuous technical guidance can

strengthen local capacity and assist beneficiaries in applying appropriate agroforestry, rehabilitation, and conservation practices (CIFOR-ICRAF, 2023; FAO, 2024).

In the ISFP, technical assistance may include field consultations, technical guidance, demonstrations, and advisory services provided by the concerned public office and partner institutions. Such assistance supports beneficiaries in fulfilling their stewardship responsibilities and implementing program activities.

### **Training and Capacity-Building**

Training and capacity-building strengthen the knowledge, skills, leadership, and organizational capabilities of beneficiaries. Capacity development is particularly important in community forestry because beneficiaries perform responsibilities involving resource management, organizational governance, livelihood development, and environmental conservation (FAO, 2024).

Within the ISFP, capacity-building may include seminars, workshops, technical demonstrations, organizational development activities, and other learning opportunities. These activities equip beneficiaries with knowledge and competencies necessary for sustainable forest management and effective participation in program implementation.

### **Financial and Material Support**

Financial and material support provides resources necessary for carrying out forestry and livelihood activities. Community-based programs often require planting materials, tools, equipment, farm inputs, financial assistance, and other logistical resources. Adequate resources can reduce implementation constraints and strengthen beneficiaries' capacity to undertake program activities (World Bank, 2022; CIFOR-ICRAF, 2024).

In the ISFP, financial and material assistance may support agroforestry development, forest rehabilitation, livelihood activities, and other interventions within stewardship areas. It therefore represents an important dimension of the institutional support received by beneficiaries.

### **Monitoring and Supervision**

Monitoring and supervision enable the concerned public office to assess program progress, identify implementation concerns, provide guidance, and ensure that activities are consistent with program requirements. Regular monitoring promotes accountability, communication, and timely response to problems encountered during implementation (FAO, 2024).

Within the ISFP, monitoring and supervision may include field visits, inspections, progress assessments, consultations, and technical monitoring. These mechanisms enable institutions to provide continuing guidance while helping beneficiaries comply with their stewardship responsibilities.

### **Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office**

The implementation of the ISFP reflects how program objectives and responsibilities are carried out among beneficiaries with the support of the concerned public office. Community-based forestry seeks to combine productive use of forestlands, tenure security, livelihood improvement, and environmental conservation. Recent literature emphasizes that sustainable forest management requires appropriate land-use practices, secure tenure arrangements, community engagement, and continuing institutional support (FAO, 2024; CIFOR-ICRAF, 2024).

In the present study, ISFP implementation is assessed in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection.

### **Lot Development**

Lot development refers to the productive and sustainable utilization of stewardship areas. It may involve agroforestry, reforestation, soil and water conservation, assisted natural regeneration, and other appropriate land-

management practices. Sustainable land development allows beneficiaries to improve productivity while maintaining the ecological functions of forestlands (FAO, 2024).

Within the ISFP, land development reflects how beneficiaries develop, maintain, and productively utilize their stewardship areas while complying with sustainable forest management practices. It therefore serves as one of the indicators of program implementation.

### **Land Tenure**

Land tenure concerns the rights and responsibilities of beneficiaries over their stewardship areas. Secure tenure can encourage long-term investment in sustainable land management because beneficiaries have recognized rights to use and manage designated forestlands while fulfilling corresponding stewardship responsibilities (FAO, 2022; FAO, 2024).

Under the ISFP, tenure is associated with the Certificate of Stewardship Contract, which defines beneficiaries' rights and responsibilities in managing designated forestlands. Although the legal foundation of the CSC predates the five-year literature period, it remains necessary for explaining the original tenure mechanism of the program. In the present study, land tenure is assessed through beneficiaries' security of tenure, understanding of their rights and responsibilities, and compliance with stewardship requirements.

### **Environmental Protection**

Environmental protection is a central objective of community-based forestry and involves conserving, rehabilitating, and sustainably utilizing forest resources. Contemporary environmental governance recognizes the importance of collaboration between communities and public institutions in addressing forest degradation, biodiversity loss, and other environmental concerns (UNEP, 2024; FAO, 2024).

Within the ISFP, environmental protection may include reforestation, forest protection, watershed conservation, responsible resource utilization, and compliance with environmental requirements. Beneficiaries' stewardship responsibilities therefore involve both productive use of their areas and protection of forest resources for long-term sustainability.

### **Relationship Between Community Participation of Beneficiaries and ISFP Implementation**

Recent studies indicate that meaningful community participation can strengthen ownership, responsibility, and commitment in community-based natural resource management. Participation in planning, decision-making, implementation, and monitoring provides communities with opportunities to influence activities and assume greater responsibility for resource management. Wiset et al. (2023) emphasized that meaningful engagement of People's Organizations in forest restoration should extend beyond participation in physical activities to include involvement in decisions and implementation processes. FAO (2024) likewise emphasizes participatory approaches in sustainable forest management.

However, participation alone does not necessarily guarantee effective program implementation because outcomes may also depend on institutional arrangements, resources, tenure conditions, and other contextual factors. Thus, rather than assuming a causal effect, the present study examines whether community participation of beneficiaries is significantly related to ISFP implementation.

### **Relationship Between Institutional Support and ISFP Implementation**

Institutional support provides beneficiaries with the resources, knowledge, capacity, and continuing guidance necessary to undertake program responsibilities. Technical assistance and training strengthen competencies, financial and material assistance addresses resource requirements, while monitoring and supervision provide mechanisms for accountability and continuous improvement (CIFOR-ICRAF, 2023; OECD, 2023; FAO, 2024).

Recent literature suggests that stronger institutional capacity and sustained collaboration between institutions and communities create more favorable conditions for implementing sustainable forest management programs.

Accordingly, the present study examines whether institutional support is significantly related to the implementation of the ISFP, rather than presuming that institutional support automatically results in effective implementation.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter presents the research methodology employed in the study. It discusses the research design, subject and respondents of the study, population and sample size, sampling technique, research instrument, validity and reliability of the instrument, data gathering procedure, statistical treatment of data, and ethical considerations. These procedures serve as the basis for gathering and analyzing the data needed to achieve the objectives of the study.

### Research Design

This study employed a quantitative descriptive-correlational research design. The descriptive approach was used to determine the level of community participation of beneficiaries in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation; institutional support in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision; and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) of a public office in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection.

The correlational approach was used to determine whether significant relationships existed between community participation of beneficiaries and ISFP implementation, and between institutional support and ISFP implementation. Since the study described the existing conditions of the variables and examined their relationships without manipulating them, the descriptive-correlational research design was considered appropriate and consistent with the objectives of the study (Creswell & Creswell, 2018).

### Subject and Respondents of the Study

The subjects and respondents of the study were ISFP beneficiaries who were members of three People's Organizations (POs): Barangay Patag Livelihood Integrated Growers' Association, Inc. (BPLIGAI), Lantawan Upland Farmers ISF Association (LUFISFA), and Tayap ISF Farmers Association, Inc. (TISFFAI).

### Population and Sample Size

The total population consisted of qualified beneficiaries of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) from the three selected People's Organizations in Negros Island Region. Quota sampling was employed in selecting the respondents to ensure that each People's Organization was adequately represented in the study. Only qualified beneficiaries who met the inclusion criteria and voluntarily agreed to participate were included in the study.

### Sampling Technique

Quota sampling was employed in selecting the respondents for the study. This non-probability sampling technique was used to ensure adequate representation of qualified beneficiaries from the three selected People's Organizations implementing the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP), namely, Barangay Patag Livelihood Integrated Growers' Association, Inc. (BPLIGAI), Lantawan Upland Farmers ISF Association (LUFISFA), and Tayap ISF Farmers Association, Inc. (TISFFAI), in the Negros Island Region. Respondents were selected from each organization based on the predetermined quota allocation. Only qualified beneficiaries who met the inclusion criteria and voluntarily agreed to participate in the study were included.

### Data-Gathering Instrument

The data-gathering instrument used in this study was a researcher-made questionnaire developed based on the objectives of the study and a review of related literature and studies. The questionnaire was designed to determine the levels of community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) of a public office.

The questionnaire consisted of three (3) parts. Part I measured community participation of beneficiaries in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. Part II measured institutional support in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision. Part III measured the implementation of the ISFP of a public office in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection.

Responses were measured using a five-point Likert scale with the following response categories: (5) Strongly Agree, (4) Agree, (3) Neutral, (2) Disagree, and (1) Strongly Disagree. Higher scores indicated higher levels of community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

### Validity and Reliability of the Instrument

The content validity of the researcher-made questionnaire was established using the Content Validity Ratio (CVR) developed by Lawshe (1975). The instrument was evaluated by a panel of five (5) experts with extensive knowledge and experience in environmental management, forestry, research, and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). The panel comprised specialists from the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the academe, and a recognized Integrated Social Forestry People's Organization (PO).

The validators evaluated the questionnaire in terms of clarity, relevance, adequacy, organization, and alignment with the objectives of the study. Their comments, suggestions, and recommendations were carefully considered and incorporated into the final version of the research instrument before pilot testing.

Following Lawshe's (1975) criterion, all thirty-three (33) questionnaire items were unanimously rated as essential by the five expert validators, resulting in an overall Content Validity Ratio (CVR) of 1.00. This finding indicated excellent content validity and demonstrated that the questionnaire was appropriate for measuring community participation, institutional support, and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program. Consequently, the instrument was considered valid for pilot testing and subsequent administration to the actual respondents.

The reliability of the research instrument was established through a pilot test involving thirty (30) respondents who possessed characteristics similar to those of the target population but were not included in the actual study. Cronbach's Alpha was employed to determine the internal consistency of the questionnaire and assess the extent to which the items within each construct consistently measured the intended variables.

Cronbach's Alpha is one of the most widely used measures of internal consistency for Likert-scale instruments because it determines the extent to which the items in a questionnaire consistently measure the same construct. The coefficient ranges from 0 to 1, with higher values indicating greater internal consistency.

The Cronbach's alpha coefficient is computed using the following formula:

$$\alpha = \frac{K}{K - 1} \left( 1 - \frac{\sum S_i^2}{S_t^2} \right)$$

where:

- $\alpha$  = Cronbach's alpha coefficient
- $k$  = number of items in the scale
- $\sum \sigma_i^2$  = sum of the variances of all individual items
- $\sigma_t^2$  = variance of the total score obtained by summing all items

The reliability coefficients were interpreted using the following guidelines:

| Cronbach's Alpha ( $\alpha$ ) | Interpretation |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| $\geq 0.90$                   | Excellent      |
| 0.80–0.89                     | Good           |
| 0.70–0.79                     | Acceptable     |
| 0.60–0.69                     | Questionable   |
| 0.50–0.59                     | Poor           |
| $< 0.50$                      | Unacceptable   |

Participation scale, consisting of 12 items, obtained a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.943, indicating excellent reliability. Similarly, the Institutional Support scale, which also consisted of 12 items, yielded a Cronbach's alpha of 0.951, interpreted as excellent reliability. The Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) scale, composed of nine items, obtained a Cronbach's alpha of 0.938, which likewise indicates excellent reliability. Overall, the entire 33-item research instrument achieved a Cronbach's alpha coefficient of 0.946, demonstrating excellent internal consistency. These findings indicate that the questionnaire items consistently measured their respective constructs and were highly reliable for data collection.

Table 1 presents the reliability coefficients of the researcher-made questionnaire as determined through Cronbach's Alpha. The results showed that the Community Participation scale obtained a Cronbach's Alpha of 0.943, Institutional Support obtained 0.951, and the Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program obtained 0.938. The overall questionnaire yielded a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.946, indicating excellent internal consistency. These results suggest that the instrument was reliable and suitable for the actual conduct of the study.

The reliability coefficients were interpreted using the guidelines proposed by George and Mallery (2019), wherein coefficients of 0.90 and above indicate excellent reliability, 0.80–0.89 indicate good reliability, 0.70–0.79 indicate acceptable reliability, 0.60–0.69 indicate questionable reliability, 0.50–0.59 indicate poor reliability, and values below 0.50 indicate unacceptable reliability.

The Community Participation scale, consisting of twelve (12) items, obtained a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.650, which falls within the questionable range based on the guidelines of George and Mallery (2019). Nevertheless, the coefficient was considered acceptable for a newly developed research instrument undergoing pilot testing because it demonstrated reasonable internal consistency among the questionnaire items.

The Institutional Support scale, composed of twelve (12) items, obtained a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.828, indicating good internal consistency. This result demonstrated that the items consistently measured the construct of institutional support and exceeded the minimum acceptable reliability threshold for research purposes.

Similarly, the Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) scale, consisting of nine (9) items, obtained a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.616. Although this coefficient fell within the questionable range, it was considered acceptable for an initial pilot test of a newly developed questionnaire, indicating that the items generally measured the intended construct with reasonable consistency.

Overall, the thirty-three (33)-item research instrument achieved a Cronbach's Alpha coefficient of 0.779, indicating acceptable internal consistency. The established content validity and satisfactory reliability of the research instrument provided sufficient evidence that the questionnaire was appropriate for gathering data on community participation, institutional support, and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP).

## Data-Gathering Procedures

Prior to the conduct of the study, the researcher secured the approval of the research adviser and the Graduate School to conduct the research. Thereafter, the researcher sought permission from the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the concerned

Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO), and the officers of the selected People's Organizations (POs) implementing the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) in the identified study sites.

Upon obtaining the necessary approvals, the researcher conducted the content validation of the researcher-made questionnaire through a panel of five (5) expert validators. The comments and recommendations of the validators were carefully considered and incorporated into the revision of the instrument. The revised questionnaire was subsequently subjected to pilot testing involving thirty (30) respondents who possessed characteristics similar to those of the target population but were not included in the actual study. The pilot test results were analyzed using Cronbach's Alpha to establish the reliability of the instrument.

After the questionnaire had been validated and found to be reliable, the researcher personally administered the questionnaires to the actual respondents. Before distributing the questionnaires, the researcher explained the purpose of the study and informed the respondents that their participation was entirely voluntary. The respondents were likewise assured that all information gathered would be treated with strict confidentiality and would be used solely for academic purposes. They were also informed that they could decline to participate or withdraw from the study at any time without any adverse consequence.

After all completed questionnaires had been retrieved, the researcher examined each questionnaire for completeness and accuracy. The accomplished questionnaires were then encoded, organized, tabulated, and analyzed using the appropriate statistical tools to answer the research questions and achieve the objectives of the study.

### **Data Analyses**

The data gathered in this study were analyzed using appropriate descriptive and inferential statistical tools.

To answer Problem No. 1, which sought to determine the level of community participation of beneficiaries in the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, the mean and standard deviation were used.

To answer Problem No. 2, which sought to determine the level of institutional support for the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision, the mean and standard deviation were likewise used.

To answer Problem No. 3, which sought to determine the level of implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection, the mean and standard deviation were also used.

To answer Problem No. 4, which sought to determine whether there was a significant relationship between community participation of beneficiaries and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP), Spearman's Rank-Order Correlation Coefficient (Spearman's rho) was employed.

To answer Problem No. 5, which sought to determine whether there was a significant relationship between institutional support and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP), Spearman's Rank-Order Correlation Coefficient (Spearman's rho) was likewise employed.

For all inferential statistical analyses, the level of significance was set at 0.05. The null hypotheses were rejected when the  $p$ -value was less than 0.05 and failed to be rejected when the  $p$ -value was greater than or equal to 0.05.

### **Presentation, Analysis, And Interpretation Of Data**

This chapter presents, analyzes, and interprets the data gathered from the respondents in accordance with the objectives of the study. The presentation of the findings follows the sequence of the Statement of the Problem. Specifically, it discusses the levels of community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). Furthermore, it examines the significant

relationships between community participation of beneficiaries and ISFP implementation and between institutional support and ISFP implementation.

### Level of Community Participation of Beneficiaries in the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office

Table 2 below shows the level of Community Participation of Beneficiaries in the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office.

Table 2. Level of Community Participation of Beneficiaries in the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

| Statements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Mean        | SD          | Interpretation   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>A. Participation in Planning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <b>4.68</b> | <b>0.32</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 1.I actively participate in meetings concerning ISFP activities. (Aktibo ako nga nagapartisipar sa mga miting nga may kaangtanan sa mga kalihokan sang ISFP.)                                                                                                                                         | 4.98        | 0.13        | Very High        |
| 2.I am consulted during the planning of ISFP programs and projects. (Ginapangayuan ako sang akon opinyon sa pagplano sang mga programa kag proyekto sang ISFP.)                                                                                                                                       | 4.61        | 0.52        | Very High        |
| 3.I contribute ideas and suggestions during planning activities. (Nagahatag ako sang mga ideya kag suhestyon sa tion sang pagplano sang mga kalihokan sang ISFP.)                                                                                                                                     | 4.44        | 0.54        | Very High        |
| <b>B. Participation in Decision-Making</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>4.90</b> | <b>0.29</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 4.I participate in discussions before decisions are made. (Nagapartisipar ako sa mga paghinun-anon antes himuon ang mga desisyon.)                                                                                                                                                                    | 4.87        | 0.46        | Very High        |
| 5.I am given opportunities to express my views regarding ISFP activities. (Ginahatagan ako sang kahigayunan nga mapahayag ang akon mga opinyon nahanungod sa mga kalihokan sang ISFP.)                                                                                                                | 4.88        | 0.35        | Very High        |
| 6.ISF People's Organizations decisions involve the members participation.(Ang mga desisyon sang ISF People's Organizations nagalakip sang aktibo nga pagpartisipar sang mga miyembro)                                                                                                                 | 4.94        | 0.27        | Very High        |
| <b>C. Participation in Program Implementation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>4.99</b> | <b>0.07</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 7.I actively participate in tree growing activities. (Aktibo ako nga nagapartisipar sa mga kalihokan sang pagtanom sang mga kahoy.)                                                                                                                                                                   | 4.97        | 0.16        | Very High        |
| 8.I participate in agroforestry development activities. (Nagapartisipar ako sa mga kalihokan para sa pagpalambo sang agroforestry.)                                                                                                                                                                   | 4.99        | 0.07        | Very High        |
| 9.I support forest protection and conservation initiatives. (Nagasuporta ako sa mga kalihokan para sa pagpanalipod kag pagkonserbar sang kagulangan.)                                                                                                                                                 | 5.00        | 0.00        | Very High        |
| <b>D. Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <b>4.99</b> | <b>0.10</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 10. I participate in monitoring project activities ; such as patrol works/bantay bukid, nursery monitoring and livelihood. (Nagapakigbahin ako sa pagmonitor sang mga aktibidad sang proyekto, pareho sang pagpangpatrolya (Bantay Bukid), pagmonitor sang nursery, kag mga programa sa pangabuhian.) | 4.99        | 0.10        | Very High        |
| 11. I help identify problems encountered during implementation. (Nagabulig ako sa pag-ila sang mga problema nga naagyan sa pagpatuman sang programa.)                                                                                                                                                 | 4.99        | 0.10        | Very High        |
| 12. I provide feedback regarding project implementation. (Nagahatag ako sang akon mga opinyon kag suhestyon nahanungod sa pagpatuman sang proyekto.)                                                                                                                                                  | 4.99        | 0.10        | Very High        |
| <b>Community Participation of Beneficiaries Overall Mean</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>4.89</b> | <b>0.13</b> | <b>Very High</b> |

Legend: (4.21 – 5.00)-Very High; (3.41 – 4.20)-High; (2.61 – 3.40)-Moderate; (1.81 – 2.60)-Low; (1.00 – 1.80)-Very Low

Table 2 presents the level of community participation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) beneficiaries in terms of participation in planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Participation in Planning obtained a composite mean of 4.68 (SD = 0.32), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that the respondents are actively engaged during the planning phase of the ISFP.

Among the indicators, "I actively participate in meetings concerning ISFP activities" received the highest mean of 4.98 (SD = 0.13). This suggests that beneficiaries regularly attend meetings and recognize these gatherings as important venues for discussing program activities, identifying community concerns, and planning future initiatives.

Similarly, respondents strongly agreed that they are consulted during the planning of ISFP programs and projects, obtaining a mean of 4.61 (SD = 0.52). This indicates that beneficiaries believe their opinions are considered before major activities are implemented, reflecting a participatory planning process.

Meanwhile, the statement "I contribute ideas and suggestions during planning activities" obtained the lowest mean within the dimension (4.44, SD = 0.54), although it remained within the Very High category. This may indicate that while beneficiaries regularly attend meetings, some may still be hesitant to openly express their ideas, possibly

due to differences in confidence, educational background, or leadership dynamics. Nevertheless, the result still reflects a healthy level of stakeholder engagement.

Overall, community participation obtained a grand mean of 4.89 (SD = 0.13), interpreted as Very High. This result indicates that the respondents consistently participate in the various activities of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP). The findings suggest that the beneficiaries are not merely passive recipients of government assistance but are actively involved throughout the implementation of the program. Such a high level of participation demonstrates the effectiveness of the ISFP in promoting collaborative governance and encouraging beneficiaries to take ownership of program activities.

The results further imply that the program has successfully cultivated a strong sense of responsibility, commitment, and cooperation among the beneficiaries. When community members actively participate in planning, implementation, and evaluation, they are more likely to support program objectives and contribute to the program's long-term sustainability.

The findings of the present study are consistent with the literature reviewed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2024), which emphasized that meaningful community participation strengthens local ownership, accountability, and sustainable forest management. Likewise, the findings support those of Pulhin et al. (2024), who reported that active participation of People's Organizations enhances collaboration with government agencies and contributes to the effective implementation of community-based forestry programs. Similarly, the World Bank (2023) highlighted that participatory approaches improve governance, strengthen institutional trust, and promote long-term sustainability of development initiatives.

Specifically, the findings demonstrate that planning under the ISFP is highly participatory, allowing beneficiaries to become active partners in identifying priorities and developing community-based interventions. This finding supports the work of FAO (2024), which emphasized that participatory planning empowers local stakeholders by involving them in the formulation of forest management plans. It also agrees with Natarajan and Hassan (2024), who concluded that collaborative planning strengthens stakeholder commitment, improves resource allocation, and enhances the effectiveness of community-based forestry programs.

Participation in Decision-Making recorded a composite mean of 4.90 (SD = 0.29), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that beneficiaries are significantly involved in making decisions related to ISFP activities.

The highest-rated indicator was "ISF People's Organization decisions involve the members' participation," with a mean of 4.94 (SD = 0.27). This finding reflects that organizational decisions are generally reached through collective discussion rather than being imposed solely by officers or project implementers.

Likewise, respondents strongly agreed that they are given opportunities to express their views regarding ISFP activities (M = 4.88, SD = 0.35) and that they participate in discussions before decisions are made (M = 4.87, SD = 0.46). These results demonstrate that democratic decision-making practices are consistently observed within the people's organizations.

The consistently high ratings indicate that beneficiaries feel valued and respected as stakeholders. Their participation in decision-making strengthens transparency, accountability, and collective ownership of the program.

Participation in Program Implementation registered the highest composite mean of 4.99 (SD = 0.07), interpreted as Very High. This suggests that beneficiaries demonstrate an exceptional level of involvement during the actual implementation of ISFP activities.

The indicator "I support forest protection and conservation initiatives" obtained a perfect mean score of 5.00 (SD = 0.00). This means that every respondent strongly agreed with the statement, indicating complete consensus regarding their commitment to environmental conservation. Such a result reflects the success of the ISFP in fostering environmental stewardship among its beneficiaries.

Likewise, respondents strongly agreed that they actively participate in agroforestry development activities (M = 4.99, SD = 0.07) and tree-growing activities (M = 4.97, SD = 0.16). These findings indicate that beneficiaries actively translate plans into actual field activities, contributing directly to forest rehabilitation and sustainable resource management.

The almost perfect ratings in this dimension suggest that ISFP beneficiaries possess a high level of commitment to implementing the objectives of the program and recognize their role in protecting natural resources.

Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation also recorded a composite mean of 4.99 (SD = 0.10), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that beneficiaries remain actively involved even after project implementation by monitoring activities and providing feedback for program improvement.

All three indicators obtained identical mean scores of 4.99, namely: participating in monitoring project activities, helping identify implementation problems, and providing feedback regarding project implementation. These findings suggest that beneficiaries consistently monitor project progress, identify issues encountered during implementation, and communicate recommendations to improve future activities.

The results imply that monitoring and evaluation within the ISFP are participatory rather than solely conducted by government agencies. Such active involvement promotes transparency, strengthens accountability, and enables the continuous improvement of program implementation. This finding is consistent with the study of Poudyal et al. (2025), who reported that participatory monitoring systems strengthen accountability, improve governance, and encourage sustained community participation in forest management. Similarly, Ahmad et al. (2024) found that beneficiaries who actively participated in monitoring and evaluation demonstrated greater awareness of forest conditions and stronger commitment to conservation activities, resulting in improved program performance. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO, 2024) likewise emphasized that involving communities in monitoring and evaluation promotes transparency, adaptive management, and continuous learning, which are essential for sustainable forest management.

Overall, the findings reveal that ISFP beneficiaries demonstrate an exceptionally high level of community participation across all four dimensions. While participation is consistently high in planning and decision-making, the highest levels are observed in program implementation and monitoring and evaluation, indicating that beneficiaries are highly committed to carrying out and sustaining ISFP activities.

The present findings support those of Pulhin et al. (2024), who concluded that active participation of People's Organizations strengthens stewardship responsibilities and contributes to the successful implementation of community-based forestry programs in the Philippines. Likewise, the World Bank (2023) reported that strong community engagement enhances local ownership, improves collaboration among stakeholders, and promotes the long-term sustainability of development programs. These findings also agree with FAO (2024), which emphasized that meaningful community participation is a key factor in achieving sustainable forest management because it encourages beneficiaries to become active partners in protecting and managing forest resources.

### Level of Institutional Support received by ISFP Beneficiaries

Table 3 below shows the level of institutional support received by ISFP beneficiaries.

Table 3. Level of Institutional Support Received by ISFP Beneficiaries

| Statements                                                                                                                                                                                         | Mean        | SD          | Interpretation   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>A. Technical Assistance</b>                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>4.61</b> | <b>0.35</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 1. Technical guidance is regularly provided by implementing agencies such as PEMO. (Ang teknikal nga giya regular nga ginahatag sang mga ahensya nga nagapatuman sang programa, pareho sang PEMO.) | 4.99        | 0.10        | Very High        |
| 2. Technical concerns are addressed promptly by program implementers. (Ang mga teknikal nga problema ginasolbar dayon sang mga nagapatuman sang programa.)                                         | 4.42        | 0.52        | Very High        |
| 3. Technical Expert on Environmental Management assists when needed. (Ang mga eksperto sa pagdumala sang palibot (Environmental Management) nagahatag sang bulig kon kinahanglan.)                 | 4.41        | 0.52        | Very High        |
| <b>B. Training and Capacity-Building</b>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>4.42</b> | <b>0.49</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 4. Relevant trainings and seminars are regularly conducted. (Regular nga ginahiwat ang mga angay nga pagbansay kag seminar para sa mga benepisyaryo.)                                              | 4.50        | 0.52        | Very High        |
| 5. Trainings improve my knowledge of forest management. (Ang mga pagbansay nagapauswag sang akon ibibalo sa husto nga pagdumala sang kagulangan)                                                   | 4.39        | 0.51        | Very High        |
| 6. Training enhances my skills in livelihood and agroforestry activities. (Ang mga pagbansay nagapauswag sang akon mga abilidad sa pangabuhian kag sa mga kalihokan sang agroforestry.)            | 4.38        | 0.51        | Very High        |
| <b>C. Financial and Material Support</b>                                                                                                                                                           | <b>4.79</b> | <b>0.16</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 7. Planting materials are provided when needed. (Ginahatag ang mga kinahanglanon nga materyales para sa pagtanom kon kinahanglanon.)                                                               | 5.00        | 0.00        | Very High        |
| 8. Approved project proposals are made available for project implementation.                                                                                                                       | 5.00        | 0.00        | Very High        |
| 9. Project inputs are distributed fairly among beneficiaries. (Ang mga kagamitan kag materyales sang proyekto ginapanagtag sing patas sa mga benepisyaryo.)                                        | 4.37        | 0.48        | Very High        |
| <b>D. Monitoring and Supervision</b>                                                                                                                                                               | <b>4.51</b> | <b>0.43</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 10. Implementing agencies regularly monitor project activities. (Regular nga ginamonitor sang mga ahensya nga nagapatuman sang programa ang mga kalihokan sang proyekto.)                          | 4.83        | 0.40        | Very High        |
| 11. Monitoring visits help improve project implementation. (Ang regular nga pagbisita para sa pagmonitor nagabulig sa pagpauswag sang pagpatuman sang proyekto.)                                   | 4.41        | 0.49        | Very High        |
| 12. Problems identified during monitoring are addressed appropriately. (Ang mga problema nga nabantayan sa pagmonitor ginasolbar sang husto.)                                                      | 4.27        | 0.74        | Very High        |
| <b>Institutional Support Overall Mean</b>                                                                                                                                                          | <b>4.58</b> | <b>0.27</b> | <b>Very High</b> |

Legend: (4.21 – 5.00)-Very High; (3.41 – 4.20)-High; (2.61 – 3.40)-Moderate; (1.81 – 2.60)-Low; (1.00 – 1.80)-Very Low

Table 3 presents the level of institutional support received by the beneficiaries of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision.

Overall, institutional support obtained a grand mean of 4.58 (SD = 0.27), interpreted as Very High. This finding indicates that the beneficiaries strongly perceive that the implementing agencies consistently provide the

necessary assistance needed for the successful implementation of the ISFP. The result suggests that government institutions, particularly PEMO and its partner agencies, have effectively fulfilled their responsibilities by extending technical guidance, training opportunities, material resources, and regular monitoring support to the beneficiaries.

The consistently high ratings further imply that institutional support has contributed significantly to strengthening the beneficiaries' capacity to manage their agroforestry activities and sustain program implementation. Strong institutional support is essential because community participation alone may not be sufficient without continuous guidance, resources, and technical expertise from implementing agencies.

Technical Assistance obtained a composite mean of 4.61 (SD = 0.35), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that beneficiaries consistently receive technical guidance and professional assistance from the implementing agencies.

Among the indicators, "Technical guidance is regularly provided by implementing agencies such as PEMO" received the highest mean of 4.99 (SD = 0.10). This finding suggests that beneficiaries highly recognize the active presence of implementing agencies in providing technical advice and support throughout project implementation. Regular technical guidance enables beneficiaries to properly implement agroforestry practices while addressing issues encountered in the field.

Meanwhile, the indicators "Technical experts on environmental management assist when needed" (M = 4.41, SD = 0.52) and "Technical concerns are addressed promptly by program implementers" (M = 4.42, SD = 0.52) both received slightly lower, yet still Very High, ratings. These findings indicate that although beneficiaries generally receive adequate assistance, there may be instances where access to technical experts or immediate responses to concerns can still be further strengthened.

Overall, the results demonstrate that technical assistance remains one of the program's major strengths, ensuring that beneficiaries receive the professional guidance necessary for effective implementation of ISFP activities.

Training and Capacity-Building obtained a composite mean of 4.42 (SD = 0.49), interpreted as Very High. Although this dimension recorded the lowest composite mean among the four components of institutional support, it still indicates that beneficiaries perceive the training provided as highly beneficial.

The highest-rated indicator was "Relevant trainings and seminars are regularly conducted", which obtained a mean of 4.50 (SD = 0.52). This suggests that implementing agencies consistently organize capacity-building activities that enhance the beneficiaries' knowledge and skills.

Similarly, respondents agreed that trainings improve their knowledge of forest management (M = 4.39, SD = 0.51) and enhance their livelihood and agroforestry skills (M = 4.38, SD = 0.51). These findings imply that the training programs are effective in improving beneficiaries' competencies, enabling them to implement sustainable forestry practices more efficiently.

Although this dimension received the lowest mean among the four areas, the result should not be interpreted negatively. Rather, it indicates a potential opportunity for implementing agencies to provide more specialized, frequent, or advanced training programs that respond to the evolving needs of the beneficiaries.

Financial and Material Support recorded the highest composite mean of 4.79 (SD = 0.16), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that beneficiaries strongly acknowledge the consistent provision of resources necessary for implementing program activities.

Two indicators obtained a perfect mean score of 5.00 (SD = 0.00): "Planting materials are provided when needed," and "Approved project proposals are made available for project implementation."

These perfect ratings indicate complete agreement among all respondents, suggesting that implementing agencies consistently provide the essential resources required for program implementation. The availability of

planting materials and project funding plays a crucial role in ensuring that beneficiaries can successfully carry out agroforestry activities without significant resource constraints.

Meanwhile, the statement "Project inputs are distributed fairly among beneficiaries" obtained a mean of 4.37 (SD = 0.48), which remains within the Very High interpretation. Although respondents generally perceive resource distribution as fair, the slightly lower score suggests that perceptions regarding equity in the distribution of project inputs may still vary among some beneficiaries.

Overall, these findings indicate that financial and material assistance has become one of the strongest support mechanisms of the ISFP, enabling beneficiaries to actively implement program activities.

Monitoring and Supervision obtained a composite mean of 4.51 (SD = 0.43), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that the implementing agencies regularly monitor project implementation and provide supervision to ensure that program objectives are achieved.

The highest-rated indicator was "Implementing agencies regularly monitor project activities", with a mean of 4.83 (SD = 0.40). This finding demonstrates the active commitment of implementing agencies in overseeing project implementation and ensuring that activities are conducted according to established plans.

Likewise, respondents agreed that monitoring visits help improve project implementation (M = 4.41, SD = 0.49). Regular monitoring not only evaluates project progress but also provides opportunities for coaching, technical advice, and problem-solving.

Among all indicators under this dimension, "Problems identified during monitoring are addressed appropriately" obtained the lowest mean (M = 4.27, SD = 0.74), although it still falls under the Very High category. The relatively larger standard deviation suggests that respondents had more varied perceptions regarding how quickly or effectively identified concerns are resolved. This may indicate that while monitoring activities are consistently conducted, there remains room to improve the responsiveness and timeliness of corrective actions.

The findings demonstrate that monitoring and supervision serve as effective mechanisms for maintaining program quality and ensuring continuous improvement of ISFP implementation.

Overall, the findings reveal that the beneficiaries perceive the institutional support provided under the Integrated Social Forestry Program as Very High. Among the four dimensions, Financial and Material Support emerged as the strongest area, followed by Technical Assistance, Monitoring and Supervision, and Training and Capacity-Building.

These results indicate that the implementing agencies have established a strong support system by providing technical expertise, essential resources, regular capacity-building activities, and continuous monitoring. Such institutional support complements the beneficiaries' active participation and contributes to the effective implementation and sustainability of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

The findings further emphasize that successful community-based forestry programs depend not only on the commitment of beneficiaries but also on the sustained support of government institutions. The combination of active community participation and strong institutional support creates an enabling environment that promotes responsible forest management, livelihood improvement, and long-term environmental sustainability.

### Level of Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP)

Table 4 below shows the level of implementation of the integrated social forestry program (ISFP).

Table 4. Level of Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP).

| Statements                | Mean        | SD          | Interpretation   |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| <b>A. Lot Development</b> | <b>4.98</b> | <b>0.10</b> | <b>Very High</b> |

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |             |             |                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. ISF Program implementation contributes to the improvement of land productivity. (Ang pagpatuman sang ISF Program nagabulig sa pagpaayo sang produktibidad sang duta)                                                                                     | 4.99        | 0.07        | Very High        |
| 2. Agroforestry projects are effectively implemented within the ISF sites. (Ang mga proyekto sang agroforestry epektibo nga ginapatuman sa mga lugar sang ISF.)                                                                                             | 4.98        | 0.13        | Very High        |
| 3. ISF program promotes the productive utilization of forest resources. (Ang ISF Program nagapadasig sa mapuslanon nga paggamit sang mga kahinguhaan sang kagulangan.)                                                                                      | 4.97        | 0.18        | Very High        |
| <b>B. Land Tenure</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>4.97</b> | <b>0.12</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 4. ISF program provides beneficiaries with a sense of security over their stewardship areas. (Ang ISF program nagahatag sang kasiguruhan sa mga benepisyaryo sa ila mga lote nga sakop sang CSC.)                                                           | 4.96        | 0.21        | Very High        |
| 5. Beneficiaries are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Certificate of Stewardship Contract. (Ang mga benepisyaryo may ihibalo sa ila mga kinamatarong kag mga responsibilidad sa idalom sang Certificate of Stewardship Contract (CSC).) | 4.97        | 0.18        | Very High        |
| 6. Stewardship agreements encourage beneficiaries to develop and protect their assigned areas. (Ang Stewardship Agreement nagahatag sang responsibilidad sa mga benepisyaryo nga palambuon kag panalipdan ang ila mga gintugyan nga lugar.)                 | 4.97        | 0.16        | Very High        |
| <b>C. Environmental Protection</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>4.96</b> | <b>0.12</b> | <b>Very High</b> |
| 7. ISFP contributes to the protection and conservation of forest resources. (Ang ISFP nagabulig sa pagpanalipod kag pagkonserbar sang mga manggad sang kagulangan.)                                                                                         | 4.95        | 0.22        | Very High        |
| 8. Environmental protection activities are effectively implemented within the ISF sites. (Ang mga                                                                                                                                                           | 4.99        | 0.10        | Very High        |
| 9. kalihokan para sa pagpanalipod sang kalikupan epektibo nga ginapatuman sa mga lugar sang ISFP.)                                                                                                                                                          |             |             |                  |
| 10. ISFP promotes environmental awareness among beneficiaries. (Ang ISFP nagapauswag sang kahibalo sang mga benepisyaryo bahin sa pagpanalipod sang kalikupan.)                                                                                             | 4.95        | 0.22        | Very High        |
| Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) Overall Mean                                                                                                                                                                                | 4.97        | 0.07        | Very High        |

Legend: (4.21 – 5.00)-Very High; (3.41 – 4.20)-High; (2.61 – 3.40)-Moderate; (1.81 – 2.60)-Low; (1.00 – 1.80)-Very Low

Table 4 presents the level of implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) as perceived by the beneficiaries in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection.

The implementation of the ISFP obtained a grand mean of 4.97 (SD = 0.07), interpreted as Very High. This finding indicates that the beneficiaries perceive the program as being implemented effectively across its major components. The consistently high ratings suggest that the objectives of the ISFP are successfully translated into concrete actions that promote sustainable land management, secure land tenure, and environmental conservation.

The result further implies that the combined efforts of the implementing agencies and the active participation of the beneficiaries have contributed to the successful implementation of the program. Effective implementation is reflected not only in the provision of services but also in the beneficiaries' ability to apply the knowledge, resources, and responsibilities gained through the program.

Lot Development recorded the highest composite mean of 4.98 (SD = 0.10), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that beneficiaries strongly agree that the ISFP has significantly improved the development and productive use of their stewardship areas.

Among the indicators, "ISFP Program implementation contributes to the improvement of land productivity" obtained the highest mean of 4.99 (SD = 0.07). This finding suggests that beneficiaries recognize the positive impact of the program on increasing the productivity of their land through agroforestry practices and sustainable land management techniques.

Likewise, the statement "Agroforestry projects are effectively implemented within the ISF sites" received a mean of 4.98 (SD = 0.13), indicating that beneficiaries perceive agroforestry activities as being carried out successfully and according to program objectives.

Meanwhile, "ISFP program promotes the productive utilization of forest resources" obtained a mean of 4.97 (SD = 0.18), which also falls within the Very High interpretation. Although it received the lowest score within the dimension, the result still demonstrates that beneficiaries highly appreciate the program's role in encouraging the sustainable use of forest resources.

These findings indicate that the ISFP has effectively enhanced land productivity while promoting environmentally sustainable agricultural practices that support both livelihood improvement and forest conservation.

Land Tenure obtained a composite mean of 4.97 (SD = 0.12), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that the beneficiaries strongly recognize the importance of secure land tenure in achieving the goals of the ISFP.

The highest-rated indicator was "Beneficiaries are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Certificate of Stewardship Contract (CSC)", which obtained a mean of 4.97 (SD = 0.18). This finding demonstrates that beneficiaries possess a strong understanding of the obligations and privileges associated with their stewardship agreements, enabling them to responsibly manage their assigned forest lands.

Similarly, respondents strongly agreed that stewardship agreements encourage beneficiaries to develop and protect their assigned areas (M = 4.97, SD = 0.16). This suggests that the Certificate of Stewardship Contract serves not only as a legal document but also as a motivating factor that encourages beneficiaries to invest in long-term land development and environmental protection.

The statement "ISFP provides beneficiaries with a sense of security over their stewardship areas" received a mean of 4.96 (SD = 0.21). Although this is the lowest within the dimension, it remains interpreted as Very High, indicating that beneficiaries generally feel secure in managing the land entrusted to them under the program.

The findings highlight that secure land tenure strengthens beneficiaries' confidence, promotes responsible resource management, and encourages long-term investment in sustainable agroforestry practices.

Environmental Protection recorded a composite mean of 4.96 (SD = 0.12), interpreted as Very High. This indicates that environmental conservation remains a major outcome of the ISFP implementation.

Among the indicators, "Environmental protection activities are effectively implemented within the ISF sites" obtained the highest mean of 4.99 (SD = 0.10). This finding reflects the beneficiaries' strong agreement that conservation initiatives are consistently implemented within their communities.

Likewise, respondents agreed that the ISFP contributes to the protection and conservation of forest resources (M = 4.95, SD = 0.22) and promotes environmental awareness among beneficiaries (M = 4.95, SD = 0.22). These findings indicate that the program has successfully increased environmental consciousness while encouraging responsible forest management practices.

The consistently high ratings suggest that beneficiaries recognize the ISFP as an effective mechanism for balancing livelihood development with environmental protection. Through active participation in conservation

activities, beneficiaries contribute to preserving forest ecosystems while ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.

The findings reveal that the Integrated Social Forestry Program is implemented at a Very High level, with all three dimensions—Lot Development, Land Tenure, and Environmental Protection—receiving consistently high evaluations from the beneficiaries.

Among the three dimensions, Lot Development obtained the highest rating, followed closely by Land Tenure and Environmental Protection. These findings suggest

that the program has been effective in improving land productivity, strengthening tenure security, and promoting environmental stewardship among ISFP beneficiaries.

The results further demonstrate that the success of the ISFP is largely attributed to the combined influence of active community participation and strong institutional support. Beneficiaries not only receive assistance from implementing agencies but also actively apply the knowledge, skills, and resources provided to them. Consequently, the program has fostered sustainable land management, increased beneficiary commitment, and strengthened environmental conservation efforts within the ISF communities.

Ultimately, the findings affirm that the Integrated Social Forestry Program continues to serve as an effective community-based forestry initiative that supports both rural livelihood development and the long-term protection of forest resources.

### Relationship between Community Participation of Beneficiaries and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office

Table 5 relationship between , community participation of Beneficiaries and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office

Table 5. Relationship between Community Participation and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

| Variable                                                                                   | Test Statistics ( $r_s$ ) | p-value | Decision for $H_0$   | Interpretation     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Community Participation vs.<br>Implementation of the Integrated Social<br>Forestry Program | 0.097                     | 0.193   | Fail to Reject $H_0$ | Not<br>Significant |

Table 5 presents the relationship between community participation and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) among the beneficiaries.

The results revealed a Spearman's rank correlation coefficient ( $r_s$ ) of 0.097 with a corresponding p-value of 0.193. Since the obtained p-value is greater than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was not rejected. Therefore, the findings indicate that there is no statistically significant relationship between community participation and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

Although the computed correlation coefficient is positive, its value is very close to zero, indicating a very weak positive relationship between the two variables. This suggests that variations in the level of community participation were not significantly associated with differences in the level of ISFP implementation among the respondents.

One possible explanation for this finding is that both variables already obtained consistently Very High ratings, resulting in minimal variation among the respondents' answers. Because nearly all beneficiaries reported high levels of participation and perceived program implementation positively, there was little variability for the statistical analysis to detect a meaningful relationship. In other words, when responses are clustered at the upper end of the scale, the correlation coefficient tends to become smaller even if both variables receive favorable evaluations.

Furthermore, the findings imply that the successful implementation of the ISFP may not depend solely on community participation. Other factors, such as institutional support, effective program management, adequate financial and technical assistance, leadership of people's organizations, and policy implementation, may have played equally important roles in achieving the program's objectives.

The findings suggest that while community participation remains an essential component of community-based forestry programs, it alone does not significantly influence the perceived level of ISFP implementation in this study. The effectiveness of the program is more likely the result of the combined contributions of active beneficiaries, strong institutional support, and consistent implementation by the responsible agencies.

The statistical analysis indicates that community participation is not significantly related to the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program based on the data gathered from the respondents. Consequently, the study failed to reject the null hypothesis, confirming that no significant relationship exists between the two variables at the 0.05 level of significance.

This result should not be interpreted as community participation being unimportant. Rather, it suggests that because both community participation and program implementation were already perceived to be consistently very high, community participation alone did not account for differences in implementation. The findings highlight the importance of considering other organizational, institutional, and program-related factors that collectively contribute to the successful implementation of the ISFP.

### **Relationship between Institutional Support and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office**

Table 6 relationship between institutional support and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

Table 6. Relationship between Institutional Support and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office

| Variable                                                 | Test Statistics ( $r_s$ ) | p-value | Decision for $H_0$ | Interpretation |
|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------|
| Institutional Support vs.                                | 0.247**                   | <0.001  | Reject $H_0$       | Significant    |
| Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program |                           |         |                    |                |

Table 6 presents the relationship between institutional support and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP).

The results revealed Spearman's rank correlation coefficient ( $r_s$ ) of 0.247 with a corresponding p-value of less than 0.001. Since the obtained p-value is lower than the 0.05 level of significance, the null hypothesis was rejected. Therefore, the findings indicate that there is a statistically significant positive relationship between institutional support and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

The positive correlation coefficient suggests that as the level of institutional support increases, the level of implementation also tends to improve. Although the magnitude of the correlation ( $r_s = 0.247$ ) is considered weak, it is statistically significant, indicating that institutional support contributes meaningfully to the successful implementation of the ISFP.

This finding highlights the important role of implementing agencies in ensuring the effectiveness of the program. Institutional support in the form of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material resources, and regular monitoring provides beneficiaries with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to implement program activities successfully. These forms of support create an enabling environment that allows beneficiaries to perform their responsibilities more effectively while promoting sustainable forest management practices.

The results further suggest that beneficiaries who perceive stronger institutional support are more likely to report higher levels of program implementation. This underscores the importance of maintaining continuous collaboration between government agencies and people's organizations to sustain the gains of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

The statistical analysis confirms that institutional support has a significant positive relationship with the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program. Consequently, the null hypothesis was rejected, indicating that institutional support is significantly associated with how effectively the program is implemented.

Although the relationship is statistically significant, the correlation coefficient indicates that it is weak rather than strong. This means that institutional support is one important factor influencing program implementation, but it is not the only factor. Other variables, such as beneficiary commitment, leadership within people's organizations, community participation, availability of resources, and local environmental conditions, may also contribute to successful implementation.

Nevertheless, the findings emphasize that strengthening institutional support remains essential for improving program implementation. Continued provision of technical guidance, relevant training, adequate financial and material assistance, and effective monitoring can enhance beneficiaries' capacity to carry out ISFP activities and sustain the long-term objectives of the program.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Summary of Findings**

This study determined the community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP) of a public office among qualified beneficiaries of three selected People's Organizations in the Negros Island Region. Specifically, it assessed the levels of community participation of beneficiaries, institutional support, and ISFP implementation and examined the relationships among these variables.

### **Community Participation of Beneficiaries**

The respondents demonstrated a very high level of community participation among

ISFP beneficiaries ( $M = 4.89$ ,  $SD = 0.13$ ). Among its dimensions, Program Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation both obtained the highest composite mean ( $M = 4.99$ ), followed by Decision-Making ( $M = 4.90$ ) and Planning ( $M = 4.68$ ).

### **Institutional Support**

The level of institutional support was likewise assessed as Very High ( $M = 4.58$ ,  $SD = 0.27$ ). Among its dimensions, Financial and Material Support received the highest rating ( $M = 4.79$ ), followed by Technical Assistance ( $M = 4.61$ ), Monitoring and Supervision ( $M = 4.51$ ), and Training and Capacity-Building ( $M = 4.42$ ).

### **Implementation of Integrated Social Forestry Program**

The implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program was rated Very High

( $M = 4.97$ ,  $SD = 0.07$ ). Among the program components, Lot Development obtained the highest composite mean ( $M = 4.98$ ), followed closely by Land Tenure ( $M = 4.97$ ) and Environmental Protection ( $M = 4.96$ ).

### **Relationship between community participation of beneficiaries and the implementation of Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office.**

The analysis revealed no significant relationship between community participation and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program ( $r_s = 0.097$ ,  $p = 0.193$ ).

### **Relationship between institutional support and the implementation of Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office**

Institutional support showed a significant relationship with the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program ( $r_s = 0.247$ ,  $p < 0.001$ ).

## **CONCLUSIONS**

Based on the findings of the study, the following conclusions are drawn:

1. The beneficiaries of the Integrated Social Forestry Program demonstrate a very high level of community participation in terms of planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation. This indicates that the ISFP has successfully promoted active community engagement and strengthened beneficiaries' sense of ownership and responsibility in the implementation of program activities.
2. The Integrated Social Forestry Program receives a very high level of institutional support in terms of technical assistance, training and capacity-building, financial and material support, and monitoring and supervision. This demonstrates that the implementing agencies consistently provide the necessary resources and guidance that enable beneficiaries to effectively implement and sustain program activities.
3. The Integrated Social Forestry Program is implemented at a very high level in terms of lot development, land tenure, and environmental protection. This indicates that the program effectively achieves its objectives of promoting sustainable forest management while improving the socio-economic well-being of participating communities.
4. There is no significant relationship between community participation and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program. Although beneficiaries actively participate in program activities, community participation alone does not significantly influence the level of program implementation in the study area.
5. There is a significant positive relationship between institutional support and the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program. This confirms that sustained technical assistance, capacity-building, financial and material support, and effective monitoring and supervision play a vital role in enhancing the successful implementation and long-term sustainability of the program.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Considering the findings and conclusions of the study, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Since community participation was found to be very high, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Provincial Environment Management Office (PEMO), the concerned Local Government Units (LGUs), and People's Organizations (POs) should sustain and further strengthen beneficiary participation, particularly in planning, decision-making, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation, to maintain active community engagement and shared responsibility in the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP).
2. Since institutional support was assessed as very high, implementing agencies should continue providing timely technical assistance, regular training and capacity-building activities, adequate financial and material support, and effective monitoring and supervision. These support mechanisms should be

sustained and enhanced to strengthen beneficiaries' capabilities and ensure the continuous implementation of the ISFP.

3. Since the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program was rated very high, implementing agencies and People's Organizations should continue strengthening sustainable forest management practices, particularly in lot development, land tenure management, and environmental protection, to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program and its benefits to the beneficiaries.
4. Since institutional support was found to have a significant relationship with the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program, policymakers and implementing agencies should prioritize sustained institutional commitment, adequate funding, strengthened inter-agency collaboration, and responsive support services to further improve program implementation. Although community participation was not found to have a significant relationship with program implementation, beneficiaries should continue to be encouraged to actively participate in all program activities to maintain collaboration, transparency, and accountability.
5. Future researchers are encouraged to conduct similar studies in other municipalities, provinces, or regions using larger and more diverse respondent populations. They may also examine additional variables, such as organizational leadership, policy implementation, beneficiary motivation, socioeconomic conditions, environmental governance, or other factors that may influence the implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix A.1

#### Certification of Plagiarism and Grammar Check



## Appendix A.2

### Certification of Ethics Committee

Republic of the Philippines  
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La Carlota City, Negros Occidental  
RESEARCH OFFICE  
Email: [research@lacarlotacitycollege.edu.ph](mailto:research@lacarlotacitycollege.edu.ph)  
<http://www.lacarlotacitycollege.edu.ph>

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## CERTIFICATION STATISTICAL DATA ANALYSIS

This is to certify that the thesis titled **"COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION, INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT, AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM"**, a research conducted by **Scarlette Mae L. Llanes**, a Master in Public Administration, has employed appropriate statistical treatment as validated and analyzed by the undersigned.

This certification is issued upon the request of the above-named student for the purpose of the completion of the study.

Issued this 9<sup>th</sup> day of July 2026 at La Carlota City College, Research Office, La Carlota City, Negros Occidental.





  
**MA. QUINCY D. DONES, PhD**  
Statistician

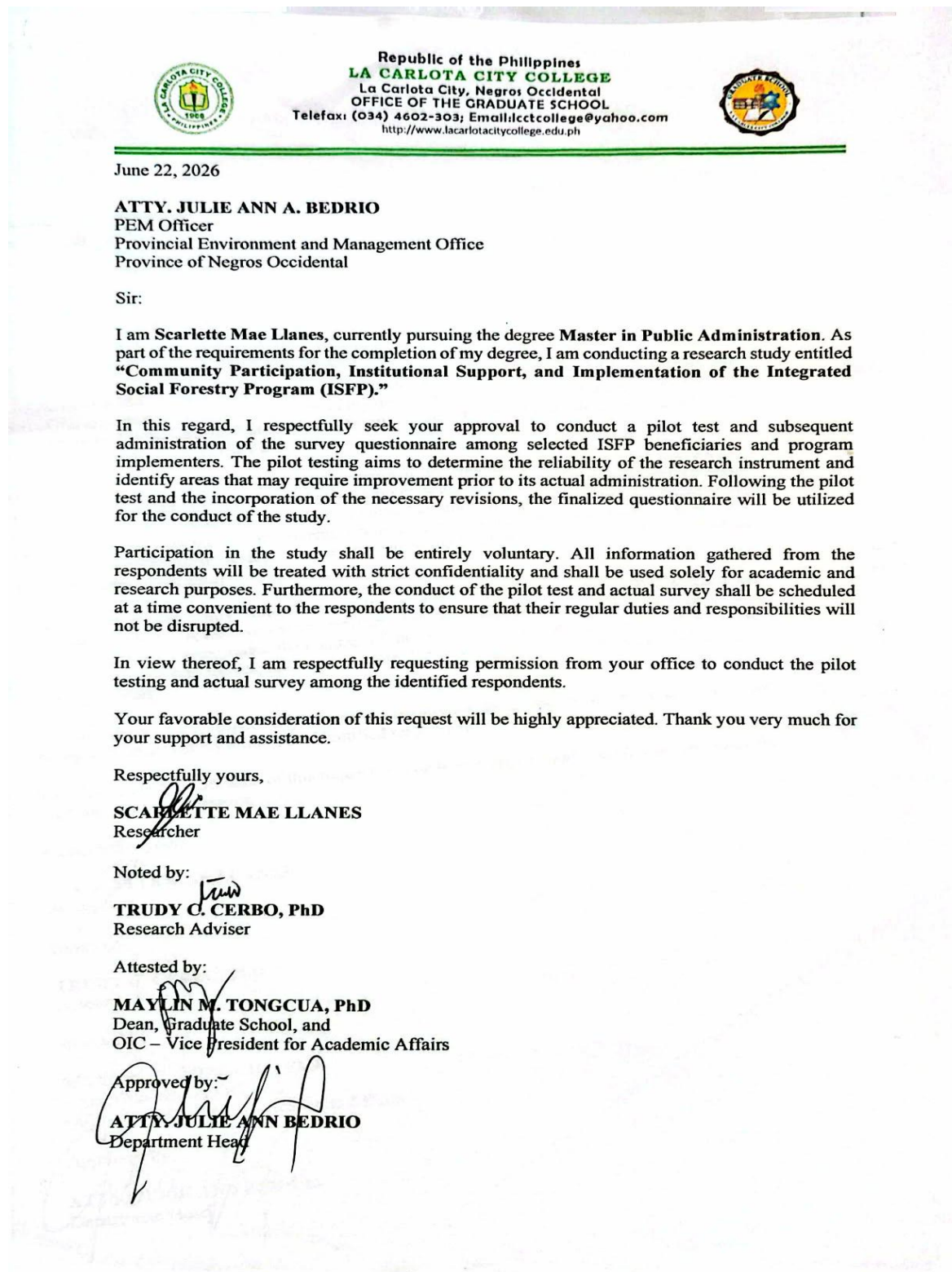
  
**SHARON L. APOHEN, PhD**  
Research Director

## Appendix A.3

### Certification of Statistical Data Analysis

## Appendix B

### Letters to Conduct Study



 **Republic of the Philippines**  
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<http://www.lacarlota-citycollege.edu.ph> 

June 22, 2026

**ATTY. JULIE ANN A. BEDRIO**  
PEM Officer  
Provincial Environment and Management Office  
Province of Negros Occidental

Sir:

I am **Scarlette Mae Llanes**, currently pursuing the degree **Master in Public Administration**. As part of the requirements for the completion of my degree, I am conducting a research study entitled **"Community Participation, Institutional Support, and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP)."**

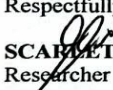
In this regard, I respectfully seek your approval to conduct a pilot test and subsequent administration of the survey questionnaire among selected ISFP beneficiaries and program implementers. The pilot testing aims to determine the reliability of the research instrument and identify areas that may require improvement prior to its actual administration. Following the pilot test and the incorporation of the necessary revisions, the finalized questionnaire will be utilized for the conduct of the study.

Participation in the study shall be entirely voluntary. All information gathered from the respondents will be treated with strict confidentiality and shall be used solely for academic and research purposes. Furthermore, the conduct of the pilot test and actual survey shall be scheduled at a time convenient to the respondents to ensure that their regular duties and responsibilities will not be disrupted.

In view thereof, I am respectfully requesting permission from your office to conduct the pilot testing and actual survey among the identified respondents.

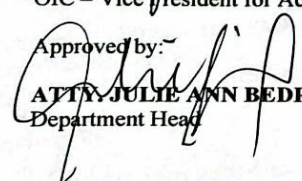
Your favorable consideration of this request will be highly appreciated. Thank you very much for your support and assistance.

Respectfully yours,

  
**SCARLETTE MAE LLANES**  
Researcher

Noted by:   
**TRUDY C. CERBO, PhD**  
Research Adviser

Attested by:  
  
**MAYLIN M. TONGCUA, PhD**  
Dean, Graduate School, and  
OIC – Vice President for Academic Affairs

Approved by:   
**ATTY. JULIE ANN BEDRIO**  
Department Head

## Appendix C

### Survey Questionnaire

#### SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

#### FOR ISFP BENEFICIARIES

Title:

#### COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION OF BENEFICIARIES, INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM OF A PUBLIC OFFICE

Dear Respondent,

The undersigned is currently conducting a research study entitled "Community Participation of Beneficiaries, Institutional Support, and Implementation of Integrated Social Forestry Program of a Public Office" in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master in Public Administration.

You are respectfully requested to answer this questionnaire honestly and objectively. Rest assured that all information you provide will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and shall be used solely for academic and research purposes. Your participation in this study is voluntary, and your responses will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you very much for your cooperation.

---

#### *Hiligaynon (Ilonggo) Translation*

Ang nagapadalagan sini nga pagtuon nagahimo sang isa ka panukiduki nga may titulo nga "Community Participation, Institutional Support, and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program (ISFP)" bilang kabahin sang kinahanglanon para sa pagkompleto sang Master in Public Administration.

Ginapangabay namon ang inyo sinsero kag matuod nga pagsabat sa ini nga palamangkutanon. Ang tanan nga impormasyon nga inyo ihatag pagatratuhon sing hugot nga kompidensyal kag gamiton lamang para sa katuyuan sang ini nga panukiduki kag sa akademiko nga katuyuan. Ang inyo pagpartisipar sa sini nga pagtuon boluntaryo kag daku ang amon pagpasalamat sa inyo kooperasyon.

Madamo gid nga salamat sa inyo oras kag pagbulig.

**Scarlette Mae Llanes**

#### PART I. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Direction: Rate each statement using the scale below.

5 – Very High

4 – High

3 – Moderate

2 – Low

1 – Very Low

| <b>A. Participation in Planning</b><br>(Partisipasyon sa Pagplano)                                                                                                    | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I actively participate in meetings concerning ISFP activities.<br>(Aktibo ako nga nagapartisipar sa mga miting nga may kaangtanan sa mga kalihokan sang ISFP.)     |   |   |   |   |   |
| 2. I am consulted during the planning of ISFP programs and projects.<br>(Ginapangayuan ako sang akon opinyon sa pagplano sang mga programa kag proyekto sang ISFP.)   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 3. I contribute ideas and suggestions during planning activities.<br>(Nagahatag ako sang mga ideya kag suhestyon sa tian sang pagplano sang mga kalihokan sang ISFP.) |   |   |   |   |   |

| <b>B. Participation in Decision-Making</b><br>(Pagpartisipar sa Paghimo sang mga Desisyon)                                                                                                  | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4. I participate in discussions before decisions are made.<br>(Nagapartisipar ako sa mga paghinun-anon antes himuon ang mga desisyon.)                                                      |   |   |   |   |   |
| 5. I am given opportunities to express my views regarding ISFP activities.<br>(Ginahatagan ako sang kahigayunan nga mapahayag ang akon mga opinyon nahanungod sa mga kalihokan sang ISFP.)  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 6. ISF People's Organizations decisions involve the members participation.<br>(Ang mga desisyon sang ISF People's Organizations nagalakip sang aktibo nga pagpartisipar sang mga miyembro.) |   |   |   |   |   |

| <b>C. Participation in Program Implementation</b><br>(Pagpartisipar sa Pagpatuman sang Programa)                                                          | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7. I actively participate in tree growing activities.<br>(Aktibo ako nga nagapartisipar sa mga kalihokan sang pagtanom sang mga kahoy.)                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 8. I participate in agroforestry development activities.<br>(Nagapartisipar ako sa mga kalihokan para sa pagpalambo sang agroforestry.)                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 9. I support forest protection and conservation initiatives.<br>(Nagasuporta ako sa mga kalihokan para sa pagpanalipod kag pagkonserbar sang kagulangan.) |   |   |   |   |   |

| <b>D. Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation</b><br>(Pagpartisipar sa Pagmonitor kag Ebalwasyon)                                                     | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. I participate in monitoring project activities (such as patrol works/bantay bukid, nursery monitoring and livelihood).                               |   |   |   |   |   |
| 11. I help identify problems encountered during implementation.<br>(Nagabulig ako sa pag-ila sang mga problema nga naagyan sa pagpatuman sang programa.) |   |   |   |   |   |
| 12. I provide feedback regarding project implementation.<br>(Nagahatag ako sang akon mga opinyon kag suhestyon nahanungod sa pagpatuman sang proyekto.)  |   |   |   |   |   |

## PART II. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

| <b>A. Technical Assistance</b> (Teknikal nga Bulig)                                                                                                                                             | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 13. Technical guidance is regularly provided by implementing agencies such as PEMO.<br>(Regular nga ginahatag sang mga implementing agencies pareho sang PEMO ang teknikal nga giya kag bulig.) |   |   |   |   |   |
| 14. Technical concerns are addressed promptly by program implementers.<br>(Ang mga teknikal nga problema ginasolbar dayon sang mga nagapatuman sang programa.)                                  |   |   |   |   |   |
| 15. Technical Expert on Environmental Management assists when needed.<br>(Ang Technical Expert sa Environmental Management nagahatag sang bulig kon kinahanglan.)                               |   |   |   |   |   |

| <b>B. Training and Capacity Building</b><br>(Pagbansay kag Pagpauswag sang Abilidad)                                                                                                        | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 16. Relevant trainings and seminars are regularly conducted.<br>(Regular nga ginahiwat ang mga angay nga pagbansay kag seminar para sa mga benepisyaryo.)                                   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 17. Trainings improve my knowledge of forest management.<br>(Ang mga pagbansay nagapauswag sang akon ihibalo sa husto nga pagdumala sang kagulangan)                                        |   |   |   |   |   |
| 18. Training enhances my skills in livelihood and agroforestry activities.<br>(Ang mga pagbansay nagapauswag sang akon mga abilidad sa pangabuhian kag sa mga kalihokan sang agroforestry.) |   |   |   |   |   |

| <b>C. Financial and Material Support</b><br>(Suporta Pinansyal kag Materyal)                                                                                                                    | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 19. Planting materials are provided when needed.<br>(Ginahatag ang mga kinahanglanon nga materyales para sa pagtanom kon kinahanglanon.)                                                        |   |   |   |   |   |
| 20. Approved project proposals are made available for project implementation.<br>(Ang mga aprubado nga project proposals ginahatag kag ginahimo nga available para sa pagpatuman sang proyekto) |   |   |   |   |   |
| 21. Project inputs are distributed fairly among beneficiaries.<br>(Ang mga kagamitan kag materyales sang proyekto ginapanagtag sing patas sa mga benepisyaryo.)                                 |   |   |   |   |   |

| <b>D. Monitoring and Supervision</b><br>(Pagmonitor kag Pagdumala)                                                                                                           | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22. Implementing agencies regularly monitor project activities.<br>(Regular nga ginamonitor sang mga ahensya nga nagapatuman sang programa ang mga kalihokan sang proyekto.) |   |   |   |   |   |
| 23. Monitoring visits help improve project implementation.                                                                                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |

|                                                                                                                                                  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| (Ang regular nga pagbisita para sa pagmonitor nagabulig sa pagpauswag sang pagpatuman sang proyekto.)                                            |  |  |  |  |  |
| 24. Problems identified during monitoring are addressed appropriately.<br>(Ang mga problema nga nabantayan sa pagmonitor ginasolbar sang husto.) |  |  |  |  |  |

### PART III. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM (ISFP)

| A. Lot Development                                                                                                                                                                         | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. ISF Program implementation contributes to the improvement of land productivity.<br>(Ang pagpatuman sang ISF Program nagabulig sa pagpaayo kag pagdugang sang produktibidad sang duta.) |   |   |   |   |   |
| 26. Agroforestry projects are effectively implemented within the ISF sites.<br>(Ang mga proyekto sang agroforestry epektibo nga ginapatuman sa mga lugar sang ISF.)                        |   |   |   |   |   |
| 27. ISF program promotes the productive utilization of forest resources.                                                                                                                   |   |   |   |   |   |

| B. Land Tenure                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 28. ISF program provides beneficiaries with a sense of security over their stewardship areas.<br>(Ang ISF program nagahatag sang kasiguruhan sa mga benepisyaryo sa ila mga lote nga sakop sang CSC.)                                                           |   |   |   |   |   |
| 29. Beneficiaries are aware of their rights and responsibilities under the Certificate of Stewardship Contract.<br>(Ang mga benepisyaryo may ihibalo sa ila mga kinamatarong kag mga responsibilidad sa idalom sang Certificate of Stewardship Contract (CSC).) |   |   |   |   |   |
| 30. Stewardship agreements encourage beneficiaries to develop and protect their assigned areas.<br>(Ang Stewardship Agreement nagahatag sang responsibilidad sa mga benepisyaryo nga palambuan kag panalipdan ang ila mga gintugyan nga lugar.)                 |   |   |   |   |   |

| C. Environmental Protection                                                                                                                                                                           | 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| 31. ISFP contributes to the protection and conservation of forest resources.<br>(Ang ISFP nagabulig sa pagpanalipod kag pagkonserbar sang mga manggad sang kagulangan.)                               |   |   |   |   |   |
| 32. Environmental protection activities are effectively implemented within the ISF sites.<br>(Ang mga kalihokan para sa pagpanalipod sang kalikupan epektibo nga ginapatuman sa mga lugar sang ISFP.) |   |   |   |   |   |
| 33. ISFP promotes environmental awareness among beneficiaries.<br>(Ang ISFP nagapauswag sang kahibalo sang mga benepisyaryo bahin sa pagpanalipod sang kalikupan.)                                    |   |   |   |   |   |

## Appendix D

### Results of Statistical Data Analysis

#### SOP 1

##### LEVEL OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

|                                                   | N          | Mean        | Std. Deviation |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Participation in Planning</b>                  | <b>181</b> | <b>4.68</b> | <b>.32</b>     |
| Q1                                                | 181        | 4.98        | .13            |
| Q2                                                | 181        | 4.61        | .52            |
| Q3                                                | 181        | 4.44        | .54            |
| <b>Participation in Decision-Making</b>           | <b>181</b> | <b>4.90</b> | <b>.29</b>     |
| Q4                                                | 181        | 4.87        | .46            |
| Q5                                                | 181        | 4.88        | .35            |
| Q6                                                | 181        | 4.94        | .27            |
| <b>Participation in Program Implementation</b>    | <b>181</b> | <b>4.99</b> | <b>.07</b>     |
| Q7                                                | 181        | 4.97        | .16            |
| Q8                                                | 181        | 4.99        | .07            |
| Q9                                                | 181        | 5.00        | .00            |
| <b>Participation in Monitoring and Evaluation</b> | <b>181</b> | <b>4.99</b> | <b>.10</b>     |
| Q10                                               | 181        | 4.99        | .10            |
| Q11                                               | 181        | 4.99        | .10            |
| Q12                                               | 181        | 4.99        | .10            |
| <b>COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION</b>                    | <b>181</b> | <b>4.89</b> | <b>.13</b>     |
| Valid N (listwise)                                | 181        |             |                |

#### SOP 2

##### LEVEL OF INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

|                                       | N          | Mean        | Std. Deviation |
|---------------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Technical Assistance</b>           | <b>181</b> | <b>4.61</b> | <b>.35</b>     |
| Q13                                   | 181        | 4.99        | .10            |
| Q14                                   | 181        | 4.42        | .52            |
| Q15                                   | 181        | 4.41        | .52            |
| <b>Training and Capacity Building</b> | <b>181</b> | <b>4.42</b> | <b>.49</b>     |
| Q16                                   | 181        | 4.50        | .52            |
| Q17                                   | 181        | 4.39        | .51            |
| Q18                                   | 181        | 4.38        | .51            |
| <b>Financial and Material Support</b> | <b>181</b> | <b>4.79</b> | <b>.16</b>     |
| Q19                                   | 181        | 5.00        | .00            |
| Q20                                   | 181        | 5.00        | .00            |
| Q21                                   | 181        | 4.37        | .48            |
| <b>Monitoring and Supervision</b>     | <b>181</b> | <b>4.51</b> | <b>.43</b>     |
| Q22                                   | 181        | 4.83        | .40            |
| Q23                                   | 181        | 4.41        | .49            |
| Q24                                   | 181        | 4.27        | .74            |
| <b>INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT</b>          | <b>181</b> | <b>4.58</b> | <b>.27</b>     |
| Valid N (listwise)                    | 181        |             |                |

### SOP 3

#### LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM (ISFP)

|                                                                        | N          | Mean        | Std. Deviation |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------|
| <b>Lot Development</b>                                                 | <b>181</b> | <b>4.98</b> | <b>.10</b>     |
| Q25                                                                    | 181        | 4.99        | .07            |
| Q26                                                                    | 181        | 4.98        | .13            |
| Q27                                                                    | 181        | 4.97        | .18            |
| <b>Land Tenure</b>                                                     | <b>181</b> | <b>4.97</b> | <b>.12</b>     |
| Q28                                                                    | 181        | 4.96        | .21            |
| Q29                                                                    | 181        | 4.97        | .18            |
| Q30                                                                    | 181        | 4.97        | .16            |
| <b>Environmental Protection</b>                                        | <b>181</b> | <b>4.96</b> | <b>.12</b>     |
| Q31                                                                    | 181        | 4.95        | .22            |
| Q32                                                                    | 181        | 4.99        | .10            |
| Q33                                                                    | 181        | 4.95        | .22            |
| <b>IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM (ISFP)</b> | <b>181</b> | <b>4.97</b> | <b>.07</b>     |
| Valid N (listwise)                                                     | 181        |             |                |

### SOP 4

#### Relationship between Community Participation and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program

|                |                                                                 |                         | COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM (ISFP) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Spearman's rho | COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION                                         | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000                   | .097                                                            |
|                |                                                                 | Sig. (2-tailed)         | .                       | .193                                                            |
|                |                                                                 | N                       | 181                     | 181                                                             |
|                | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM (ISFP) | Correlation Coefficient | .097                    | 1.000                                                           |
|                |                                                                 | Sig. (2-tailed)         | .193                    | .                                                               |
|                |                                                                 | N                       | 181                     | 181                                                             |

### SOP 5

#### Relationship between Institutional Support and Implementation of the Integrated Social Forestry Program

|                |                                                                 |                         | INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM (ISFP) |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Spearman's rho | INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT                                           | Correlation Coefficient | 1.000                 | .247**                                                          |
|                |                                                                 | Sig. (2-tailed)         | .                     | <.001                                                           |
|                |                                                                 | N                       | 181                   | 181                                                             |
|                | IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM (ISFP) | Correlation Coefficient | .247**                | 1.000                                                           |
|                |                                                                 | Sig. (2-tailed)         | <.001                 | .                                                               |
|                |                                                                 | N                       | 181                   | 181                                                             |

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).