



REGIONAL POLICY FORUM

From Farms to Schools:

Towards Sustainable and Inclusive School-Based
Food and Nutrition Programs in Southeast Asia

Crimson Hotel, Alabang, Munxtinlupa City, Philippines
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School-plus-Home Gardens Program

Gerlie T. Tatlonghari
Program Head
Research and Thought Leadership Department



SEARCA's 11th Five-Year Plan



A T T A I N



PRIORITY AREAS

- Agri-Business Models for Increased Productivity and Income
- Sustainable Farming Systems and Natural Resource Management
- Food and Nutrition Security
- Transformational Leadership for ARD
- Gender and Youth Engagement in ARD
- Enhanced ARD towards Climate Resilience
- EcoHealth/One Health Applications to ARD

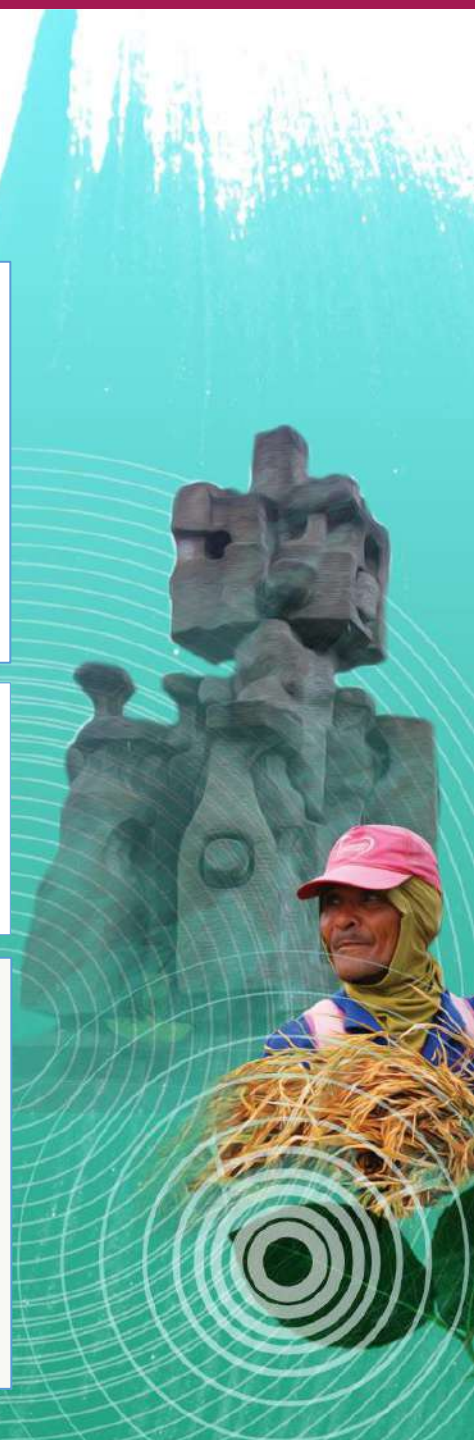
MISSION

To elevate the quality of life of agricultural families through sustainable livelihoods and access to modern networks and innovative markets

VISION

A leading enabler and champion of excellence in agricultural and rural development in Southeast Asia

SEARCA aims to provide **more context-relevant and valuable services (BETTER)**, to **more stakeholders (BIGGER)**, in more **effective and efficient ways (SMARTER)**.





School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP): QUICK HISTORY

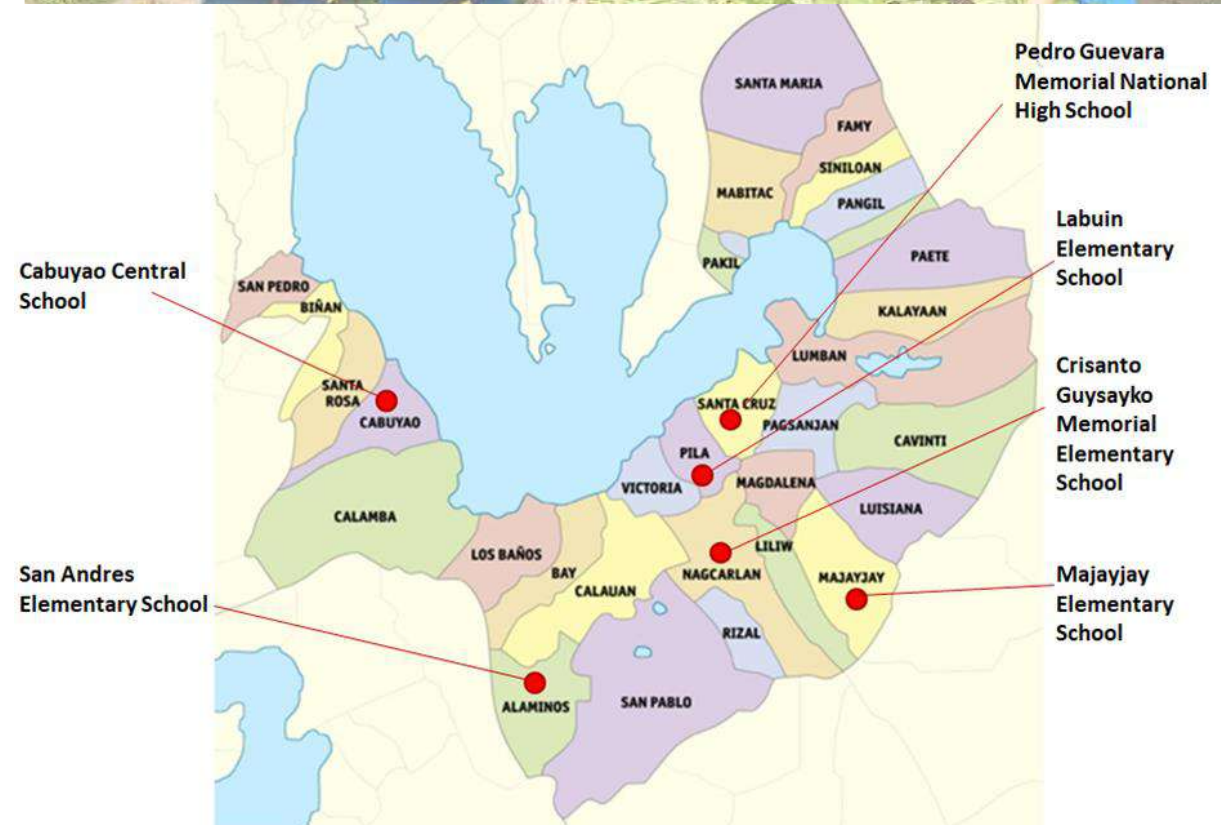
A Participatory Action Research on School and Community-Based Food and Nutrition Program for Literacy, Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in 2016-2017 by the:

- Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA),
- University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB)
- Department of Education (DepEd), Philippines Laguna Office

Three-pronged objective: to improve school children's **nutrition, education, and economic well-being**

Supported DepEd's two programs

- Gulayan sa Paaralan Program (GPP)
- School-based Feeding Program (SBFP)



Piloted in **5 elementary schools and 1 high school**



School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP): OBJECTIVES

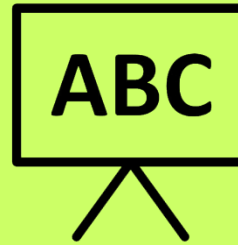


Improve the **nutritional condition and dietary habits** of school-aged children by **increasing production** of locally adapted vegetables through **school gardening** and consequently contribute to the **community's food and nutrition security**.



NUTRITION

Increase diversity and availability of food within the local community that will meet the nutritional needs of children



EDUCATION

Increase knowledge and improve skills of students and teachers on food production and nutrition through experiential learning activities



ECONOMICS

Reduce food expenses, create savings, and provide an alternative source of income for families





Prevent hunger and malnutrition among school children

DEPED

DepEd's Food and Nutrition Programs

GPP

SEARCA's S+HGP



NUTRITION

Increase diversity and availability of food within the local community that will meet the nutritional needs of children



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SEARCA

SBFP

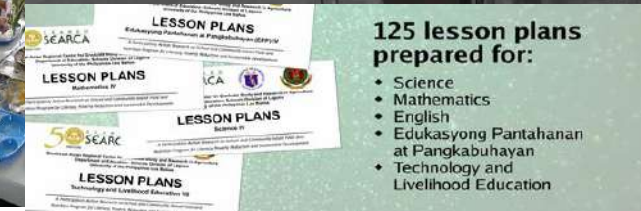
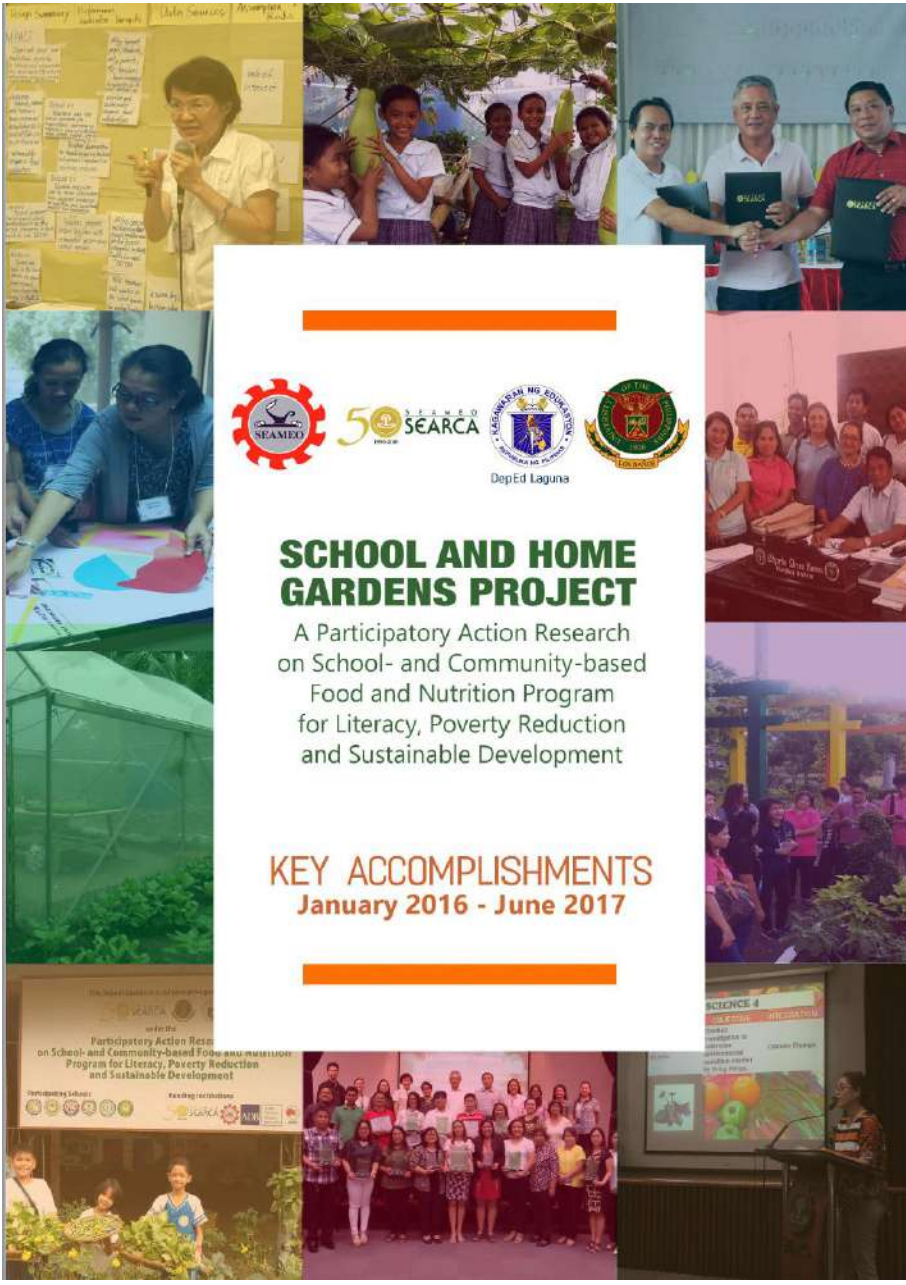
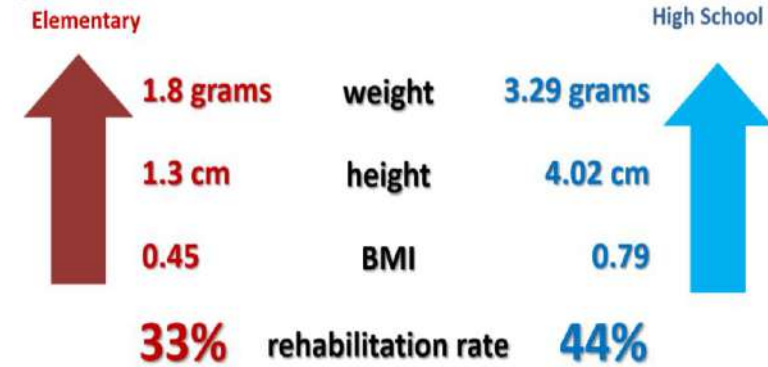
The PLUS (+) Factors in school and home gardens:

1. promotion of year-round food production in both schools and home;
2. mobilization of parents in the school gardening activities;
3. allocation of funds by the LGUs;
4. multifunctionality of the school gardens as source of food, nutrition, additional income, and learning gardens;
5. stimulation of the children's interest in agriculture`



School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP): IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

- Improved nutrition, KAP towards vegetable consumption and production
- Enhancement of school gardens
- Lesson integration into school curricula
- Improved supply and quality of fresh vegetables for SBFP





Project Milestones

School-Plus-Home Gardens: Self-Propelling Model

Enabling environment and support from relevant institutions

DepEd + DA + Provincial/Regional Government Units

Provincial/ Local Gov't Unit

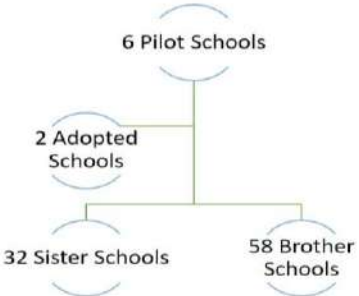
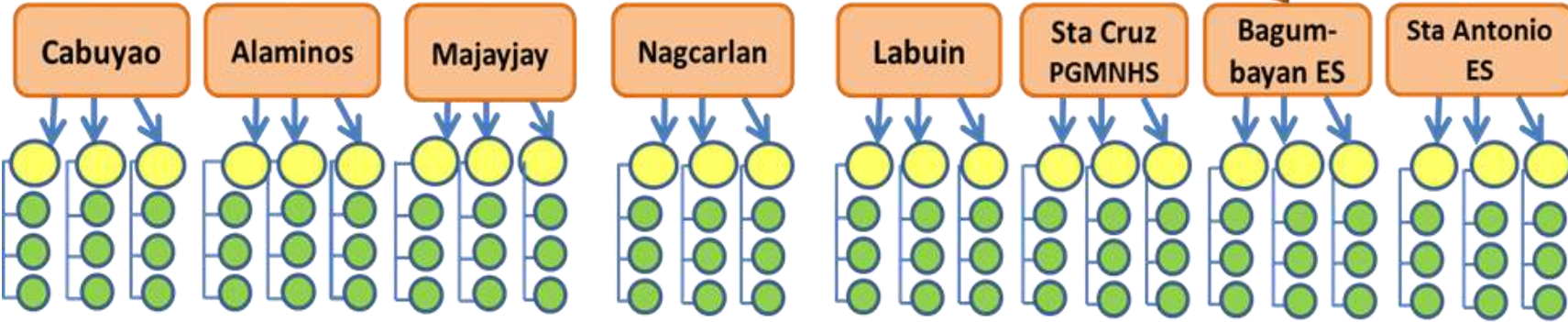
DepEd (Province)

Project Management Team (SEARCA-UPLB-DepEd)

Pilot Schools

Sister Schools

Brother Schools

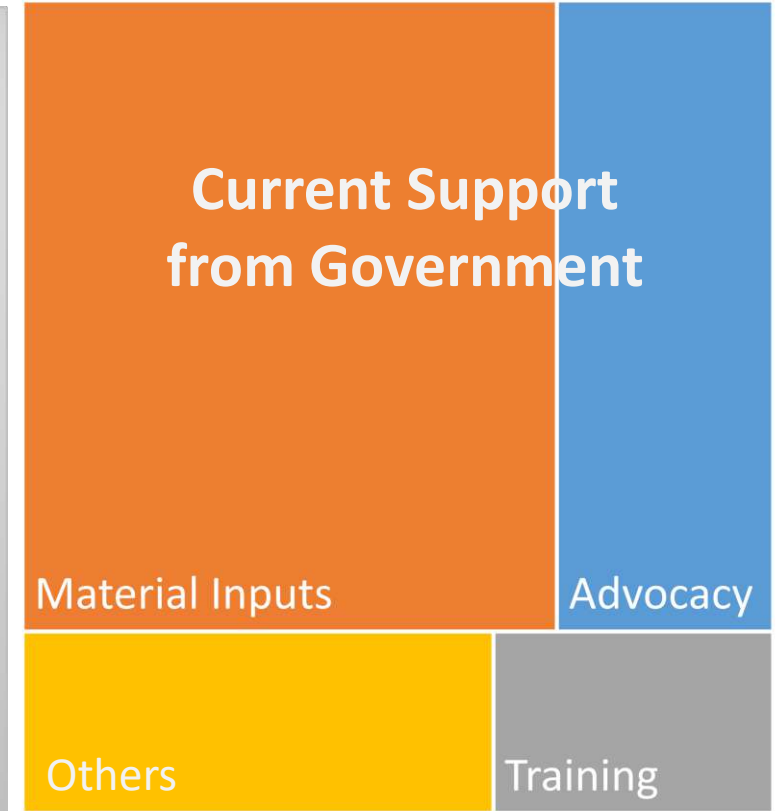
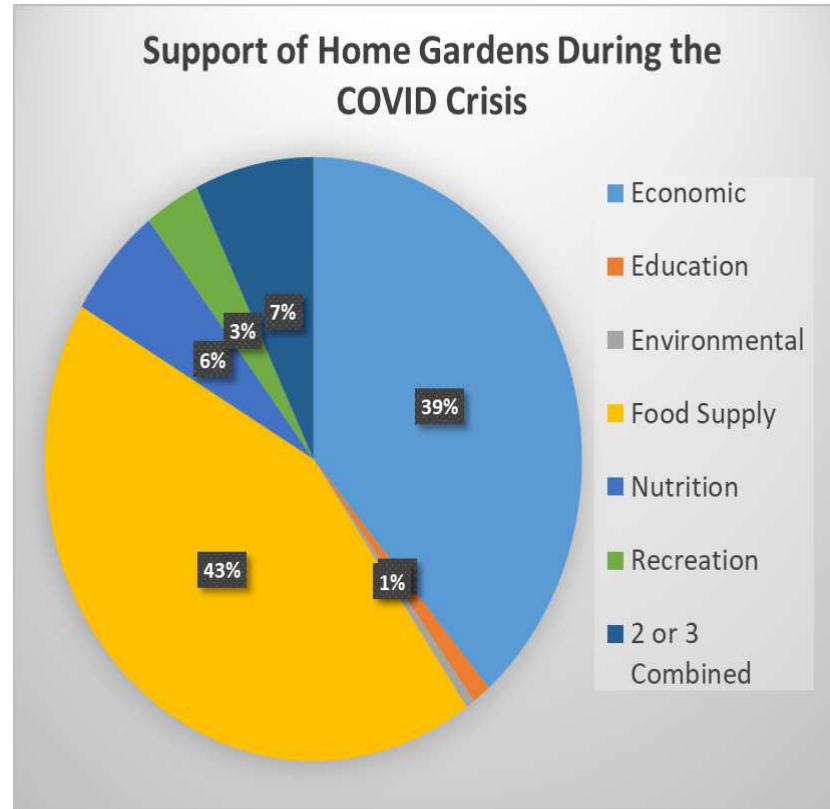
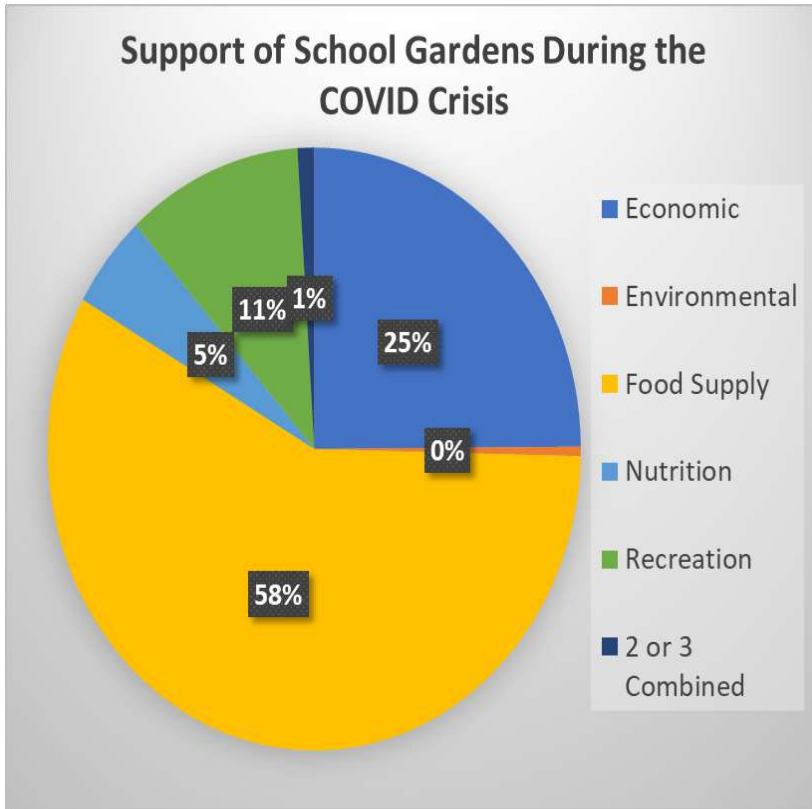


No school shall be left behind





The School Gardens' Operations during COVID-19



- DEPED Regional Memorandum (DEPED-4A-RM-20-255) or the **Utilization of the *Gulayan sa Paaralan* Produce**
- The Schools Division Offices in CALABARZON are directed to allow the Local Government Units (LGUs) to acquire the produce of the GPP to be included in the family food packs of the DSWD and the LGUs.

School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP): TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS

NUTRITION

- Nutrition planning and monitoring
- Improving 120-day menu for the SBFP
- Cooking demonstration of local recipes
- Standardization exercise for weight and height measurement
- Menu evaluation



EDUCATION

- School garden planning (Design, implementation, and maintenance)
- Basic gardening and planting of recommended vegetables and fruit trees, seed production, and locally adapted green technologies
- Garden plot preparation (soil restructuring/conservation techniques)
- Commodity Planning, Crop Suitability Analysis
- Integrating of gardening concepts (agriculture, nutrition, and climate change) into the curriculum
- School garden M&E
- Crafting of sustainability plan
- Developing scaling-up strategies
- Action Planning for a Better Normal (Post-COVID-19 Pandemic)

ECONOMICS/BIODIVERSITY

- Sustainable organic agriculture and crop production
- Integrated pest management
- Edible landscaping
- Soil Sampling & Analysis using STK
- Soil Conservation Techniques
- Seedling establishment and crop varieties
- Crop Cultural Management Practices (Water and Nutrient Management, IPM, Trellising, Weeding/Hill-up, Pruning, Community Seed Banking, etc.)
- Production of Organic Fertilizers, Pesticides, and Soil Amendments (vermicompost)
- Development of Annual Cropping, Farm Plans and Budget
- Natuculture
- Biodiversity Enhancement
- Environmental Sustainability



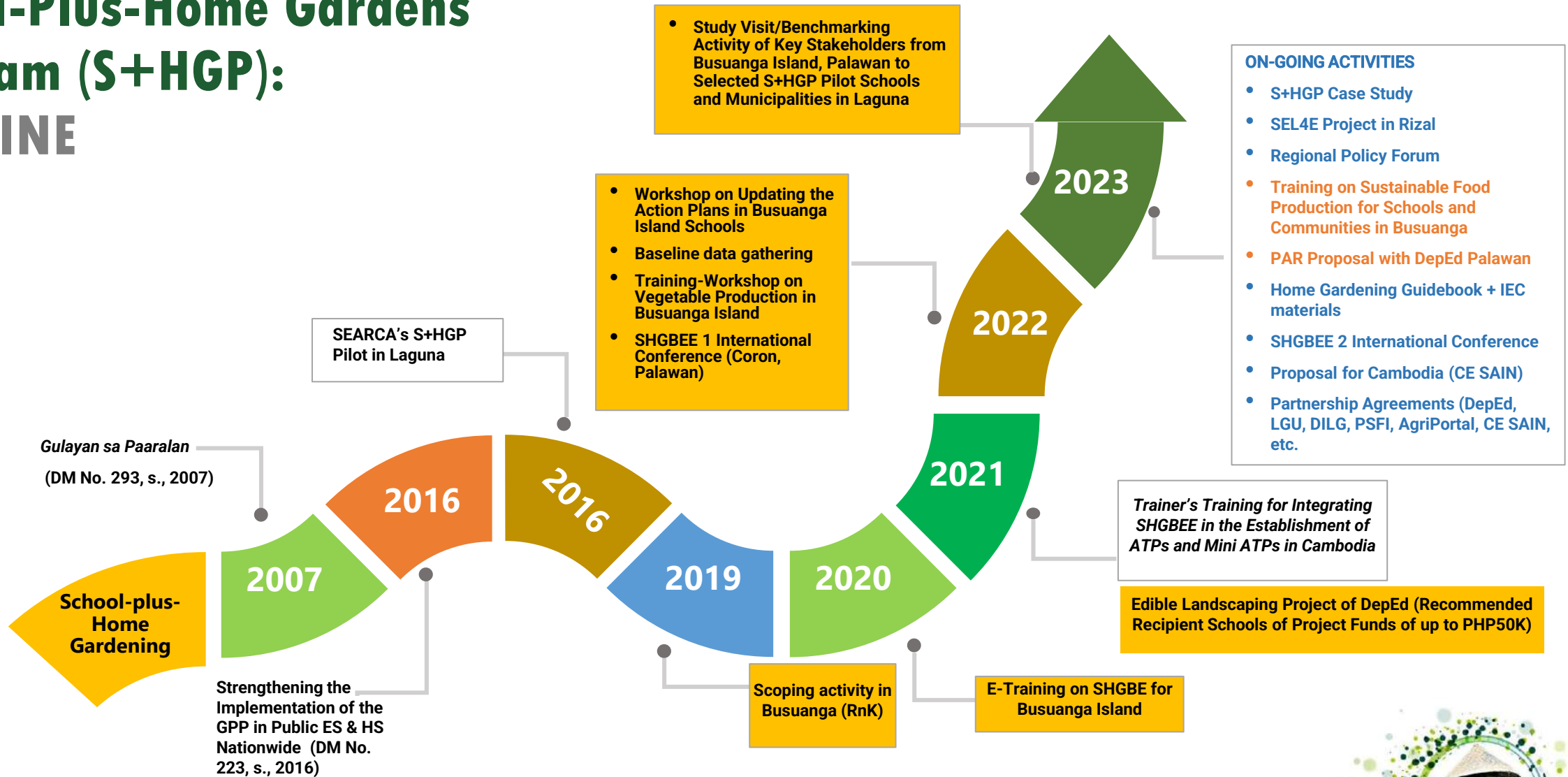
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School-Plus-Home Gardens Program (S+HGP): TIMELINE



Prospects for Further Work and Collaboration

- Expand the S+HGP in the Southeast Asian region
- Strengthen the involvement families through community gardening (e.g. Hapag Program of the DILG, Philippines)
- Involve of industries in S+HGP (e.g. adopt a school) in the sustainability of the program
- Integrate farming families and farmers' associations in the local food supply for the school-based feeding program
- Develop a general framework/mechanism for new/enhanced school-based food and nutrition programs





Thank you!



S E A M E O
SEARCA

Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
College, Los Baños, Laguna 4031, Philippines

+63 (49) 536 2554; 536 2631

post@searca.org

/seameo.searca

SEARCAseminars