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Final Evaluation

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Final Evaluation for the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project in the Philippines

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List of Acronyms

Acronym	Full Term
<i>AI</i>	Artificial Insemination
<i>AMCI</i>	Agay-ayan Multipurpose Cooperative Inc.
<i>ArcGIS</i>	Geographic Information System
<i>ASEAN</i>	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
<i>ASF</i>	African Swine Fever
<i>ASPSI</i>	Asian Social Project Services, Inc.
<i>BAI</i>	Bureau of Animal Industry
<i>BFAR</i>	Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
<i>BIDA</i>	Biotechnology Industry Development Act
<i>BOI</i>	Board of Investments
<i>BPI</i>	Bureau of Plant Industry
<i>B-SAFE</i>	Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises
<i>CI</i>	Custom Indicator
<i>CJ</i>	CheilJedang (CJ Philippines Inc.: a feed miller)
<i>COP</i>	Chief of Party
<i>CPFMPC</i>	Cabanglasan, Paradise, Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative
<i>CPR</i>	Certificate of Product Registration
<i>DA</i>	Department of Agriculture
<i>DCOP</i>	Deputy Chief of Party
<i>DTI</i>	Department of Trade and Industry
<i>FAO</i>	Food and Agriculture Organization
<i>FDA</i>	Food and Drug Administration
<i>FDC</i>	Food Development Center
<i>FE</i>	Final Evaluation
<i>FFPr</i>	Food for Progress
<i>FGD</i>	Focus Group Discussion
<i>FPA</i>	Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority
<i>FSRA</i>	Food Safety Regulatory Agency
<i>FSSC</i>	Food Safety Scheme Certification
<i>FY</i>	Fiscal Year
<i>GAHP</i>	Good Animal Husbandry Practices
<i>GAP</i>	Good Agricultural Practices
<i>GAPA</i>	Gayaman Aqua Processors Association
<i>GAqP</i>	Good Aquaculture Practices
<i>GM</i>	Genetically Modified
<i>GMAV</i>	Global Mindanaw Agri-Ventures Corporation
<i>GMP</i>	Good Manufacturing Practices
<i>GOV</i>	Government of the Philippines
<i>GP</i>	Good Practices
<i>HACCP</i>	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points

<i>ISFOL</i>	Integrated Small Fishpond Owners and Lessees
<i>ISO</i>	International Organization for Standardization
<i>ISO/IEC</i>	International Organization for Standardization/ International Electrotechnical Commission
<i>JDC</i>	Joint Department Circular
<i>KAPARBBA</i>	Kadilingan Pay as Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association
<i>KII</i>	Key Informant Interview
<i>LAMCO</i>	Linabu Agrarian Multipurpose Cooperative
<i>LARBPMPC</i>	Lunocan Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative
<i>LGU</i>	Local Government Unit
<i>LLP</i>	Low Level Presence
<i>LOP</i>	Life of Project
<i>LTO</i>	License to Operate
<i>MARBFC</i>	Maramag Buffalo Farmers' Cooperative
<i>MC</i>	Memorandum Circular
<i>MTE</i>	Midterm Evaluation
<i>NGO</i>	Non-Governmental Organization
<i>NMIS</i>	National Meat Inspection Service
<i>NSDP</i>	National Strategic Development Plan
<i>OECD-DAC</i>	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development - Development Assistance Committee
<i>OIE</i>	World Organization for Animal Health ¹
<i>OSHA</i>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
<i>PBI</i>	Plant Breeding Innovations
<i>PBS</i>	Participant -Based Survey
<i>PhilGAP</i>	Philippine Good Agricultural Practices
<i>PIA</i>	Preliminary Impact Assessment
<i>RF</i>	Results Framework
<i>RFP</i>	Request for Proposal
<i>RIA</i>	Regulatory Impact Assessment
<i>RMP</i>	Risk Management Plans
<i>SI</i>	Standard Indicator
<i>SIDC</i>	Soro-Soro Ibaba Development Cooperative
<i>SME</i>	Small and Medium Enterprise
<i>SMMFFAI</i>	St. Michael Manolo Fortich Farmers' Association Inc.
<i>SPS</i>	Sanitary and Phytosanitary
<i>SSOP</i>	Sanitation Standard Operating Procedure
<i>T2G</i>	Trunk to Gold
<i>TA</i>	Technical Assistance
<i>TACCP</i>	Threat Assessment and Critical Control Points
<i>TOC</i>	Theory of Change
<i>UNIBAT</i>	United Batangas Hog Farmers, Inc.

¹ Originally called Office International des Epizooties (OIE) until May 2022

<i>USAID</i>	United States Agency for International Development
<i>USDA</i>	United States Department of Agriculture
<i>USG</i>	United States Government
<i>USTP</i>	University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines

Executive Summary

Project Background and Purpose

The Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) is a five-year project of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) in the Philippines under its Food for Progress Program (October 1, 2019, to March 31, 2025). The project is implemented by Winrock International and contributes to the two following USDA Food for Progress Strategic Objectives:

- Increase agricultural productivity by improving the SPS in production and management of supply chains; and
- Expand trade of agricultural products by improving the Government of the Philippines regulatory agencies to manage risk-based systems, promoting awareness of biotechnology, enhancing regulatory standards and processes, enhancing domestic and export market linkages, and building the capacity of the private sector to leverage investment.

B-SAFE has five key activities: **Activity 1:** Conduct Sanitary and Phytosanitary Gap Assessment and Benchmark Capacity Needs; **Activity 2:** Enhance Government of Philippines Capacity in Risk-Based Systems; **Activity 3:** Support Biotechnology Decision-Making and Awareness-Building; **Activity 4:** Build Technical Capacity of the Private Sector to Meet International Standards; and **Activity 5:** Build Cold Chain Systems. The project activities are carried out in different regions in the Philippines, focusing on four target value chains that produce major volumes of products, particularly swine in Batangas, milkfish in Pangasinan, corn in Bukidnon, and coconut sugar in Misamis Oriental.

Evaluation Questions, Design, Methods and Limitations

The final evaluation was carried out by Asian Social Project Services Inc. to gauge project accomplishments in relation to targets and examine the project's performance against the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability, and impact.

The evaluation employed a mixed methods design to dive deep into the set of evaluation questions specified in the Request for Proposal. This entailed the collection and analysis of qualitative data gathered through Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) as well as quantitative data gathered from the Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) annual participant-based survey. The study employed the Cochran formula to determine the sample size at 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error.

The data collection process highly dictated the timeline of the evaluation. The challenges were mostly on the time it took to get confirmations from participants for the schedule of the KIIs and FGDs. In response to this challenge, Winrock's B-SAFE team provided additional support in connecting the evaluation team with the participants. The evaluation team consistently made follow-ups to complete the data collection.

The indicator values in the final report reflect progress through September 2024; however, B-SAFE anticipates additional progress versus LOP targets over the October 2024 to March 2025 period. This progress is not reflected in the final evaluation report.

Findings and Conclusions

The evaluation team noted impressive project accomplishments as evidenced by the extent to which most targets have been exceeded as of September 2024. Eleven out of 14 of B-SAFE's indicator targets have been successfully met. The project targeted 10 host government or community-derived risk management plans and delivered 35 (SI-11). It leveraged USD \$2.4 million of new public and private sector investments against the LOP target of USD \$1.1 million (SI-14). The targeted number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation or cold storage was 319, yet the interventions of the project led to 2,427 individuals using these improved practices. The project is slightly short (94%) of its target on the volumes of commodities sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance (SI-19) but exceeded by 16% the aggregate targeted value of these commodities (SI-18). It should be noted that the remaining gap in volume of production could easily be met during the no-cost extension period.

B-SAFE significantly improved the technical capacities of the food safety regulatory agencies (FSRAs) through the various activities pursued which include: (1) capacity building for individual agencies; (2) assistance on international standard certifications (ISO 17020:2012; ISO 17025:2017; and FSSCv.5.1)²; (3) training and workshops; and (4) agency-specific technical assistance. In collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute, the project also developed an online SPS training platform which broadened access to training on food safety and animal health. It likewise developed online courses for FSRAs such as foundational courses on GAP, GAqP, GHP and food safety risk.

The evaluation found capacity improvements across the board, with agencies such as the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) and Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) reporting improved scores in surveillance and laboratory practices, reflecting advancements in their operational effectiveness. Significant progress was achieved by the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) in a risk-based approach to inspection, particularly through its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) model. It also expanded its data collection systems under the One Health Approach³. Both BAI and BFAR adopted the World Organization for Animal Health assessment tool for their risk analysis and laboratory quality assurance, resulting in notable improvement in surveillance capacities and laboratory practices. In the case of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), improved functioning of its food safety certification systems and laboratory capabilities was noted. The FDA's laboratory now has better diagnostic and analytical capabilities, and they established a system for data collection on food safety issues.

For the Bureau of Plant Industry, the area of collection, collation, and interpretation of data on food safety increased by one level since 2022 and almost all dimensions of risk analysis and inspection and laboratory quality assurance have been maintained. The Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority renewed its

² ISO 17020:2012 is a conformity assessment which is required for the organizations that perform inspection. Other organizations and clients of food business operators may look for this accreditation if the FSRA as inspection body conformed with the requirements and reported it as such. ISO 17025:2017 is a standard on the general requirements for 'the competence, impartiality, and consistent operations of laboratories.' FSSC 22000 v 5.1 is a certification commonly used by the food industry ensuring that food safety management systems and quality management systems are in place within the food supply chain or organizations. B-SAFE assisted in ISO 17025:2017 certification and provided training and workshop ISO 17020:2012 and FSSC v5.1

³ NMIS utilizes a "One Health" approach by actively collaborating with other agencies within the agricultural and public health sectors to ensure food safety and animal health, recognizing that human health is interconnected with animal health and the environment, thus monitoring and managing potential zoonotic diseases through comprehensive meat inspection practices across the livestock production chain.

ISO 17025:2017 certification, albeit formal re-certification is yet to be received considering the pending resolution of compliance requirements. Finally, in the case of FDA all dimensions of laboratory capacity improved by one level while maintaining levels of risk analysis and inspection from the 2022 figures.

On biotechnology, B-SAFE successfully helped advance decision-making and awareness in at least three important areas: streamlining the review and approval process, supporting the development of new laws and regulations, and providing evidence-based information to policymakers and consumers. The project assisted private sector stakeholders to participate in the consultations conducted on Plant Breeding Innovations, streamlining genetically modified (GM) plant regulatory policy, and GM animal product regulation. B-SAFE provided technical inputs in the formulation of the proposed Biotechnology Industry Development Act, the Administrative Circular on Low Level Presence, and the Local Government Unit circular on the coexistence of organic and transgenic farming. B-SAFE also co-developed the plan to set up biotechnology offices in the BAI and BFAR, which will receive and process applications for approval and renewal of GM applications in animal industries. Lastly, the project, in partnership with International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications, hosted six webinars to disseminate accurate information about modern biotechnology and three stakeholder consultations.

B-SAFE's supply chain related accomplishments were also impressive. In swine in Batangas, B-SAFE mainly worked with 15 private and public sector partners in 31 cities and municipalities of the province. Additionally, there are more than 210 firms, farms, and individual entrepreneurs who benefitted from cascaded training activities, market linkages, and other technical assistance. The project directly assisted key industry players namely, Europhil Swine Genetics, Bauan Slaughterhouse, Rosario Slaughterhouse, *Buklod Unlad* Cooperative, Soro-Soro Ibaba Development Cooperative, *Yakap at Halik* Cooperative, Lian Hog Raisers and Esguerra Farm, as well as public markets in the province. B-SAFE's interventions were tailored to address swine disease prevention, food safety, compliance to regulatory requirements, and enhancing infrastructure facilities. The interventions included: (1) biosecurity training/capacity building; (2) Artificial Insemination; (3) training on Good Animal Husbandry Practices and HACCP; (4) provision of equipment and supplies; (5) assistance in certification and licensing application and compliance; and (6) technical support on financial management as well as in monitoring equipment and facilities.

In corn, B-SAFE mainly engaged 54 corn farmers associations, cooperatives, and other organized groups in 12 cities and municipalities in the Province of Bukidnon. B-SAFE trained 2,501 corn farmers on improved corn production and post-harvest technologies and provided inputs, tools and equipment (improved seeds, fertilizer, plastic cover, pallets, etc.) to boost yield and product quality. From February 2022 to March 2024, the evaluation found that yield increased by as much as 20% and farmgate price had a markup of Php1/kg at Php16/kg compared to local trader price at Php15/kg. The positive impacts were not confined to corn growers. As claimed by CJ Philippines, the interventions provided by B-SAFE to the corn growers and the assistance provided to forge direct market linkages enabled their company to minimize corn importation and to achieve a more stable supply chain as almost 100% of their corn requirement can now be sourced locally.

In coconut sugar, B-SAFE's interventions focused on addressing the non-compliance of producers with food safety standards and provision of services towards securing the FDA's License to Operate and Certificate of Product Registration, and international standards like Halal and Organic Certification. The project worked with private sector groups in Misamis Oriental, namely: (1) Agay-ayan Multipurpose Cooperative; (2) Global Mindanaw Agri-Ventures Corporation; (3) Linabu Agrarian

Multipurpose Cooperative; and (4) Trunk 2 Gold. FY24 annual survey results showed significant adoption of specific practices and technologies. Adoption of sanitary handling of raw materials (coconut sap) and coconut sugar products compliant with food safety standards was high at 69%. Other food safety-related technologies that were adopted include the use of improved dry storage (24%), improved tools and equipment for coconut sugar processing, such as water storage and filtration systems (46%), and improved preservation (42%).

In milkfish in Pangasinan, B-SAFE focused on addressing the problems of: (1) high reliance on imported milkfish fry, (2) non-compliance of identified processing facilities to food safety standards like Good Manufacturing Practices and HACCP, and (3) non-compliance of fish farmers to Good Aquaculture Practices. The project addressed these by facilitating the establishment of milkfish nurseries, supporting the certification processes of processors, and conducting food safety training. In addition, B-SAFE provided critical tools and machinery such as vacuum sealers, fish dryers, sun-drying beds, retort claws, and kitchen sinks. Results of the FY24 annual survey showed high adoption of the technologies and practices among milkfish farmers, such as proper icing application, packing and transport (88%), improved preservation technologies (51%); use of improved food processing techniques (53%); application of improved dry and cold storage, logistics and distribution (83%); and aquaculture management such as improved feed and feeding practices and housing (82%); fish health and disease control (73%); and improved water quality monitoring (80%). Results of KIIs and FGDs indicated positive results across firms in terms of product safety, market access, and more streamlined operations.

The evaluation found that across all four commodities, the majority (typically higher than 75%) of participants view the assistance provided by B-SAFE as relevant and effective when considering the timeliness of interventions (73%), ease of access (68%) and participation (84%), fairness in access and distribution of project resources (67%), and the speed by which the B-SAFE team responded to feedback or specific request for assistance (68%). Overall, the majority of B-SAFE participants were satisfied with the assistance provided by the project and were willing to continue adopting the technologies and practices they learned.

The evaluation concludes that **B-SAFE's objectives, priority interventions, and approach were highly relevant to the situation of the participants.** The focus on improving food safety and productivity through training, grants and capacity building aligned well with participant needs, particularly in processing and supply chain development. The project is effective as it has significantly improved the productivity and trade practices of targeted private sector participants and enhanced the capacity of regulatory agencies. The project management is efficient and characterized by a lean structure, highly effective leader and competent staff with constant interactions, consultations and cross-learning. In addition, project benefits will likely be sustained as the individual and institutional participants have already co-owned and internalized the project's interventions. Finally, the impact is evident in B-SAFE's legacy areas of (1) improved food safety and quality standards; (2) enhanced market access and trade; (3) strengthened and national food safety regulatory capacity; (4) adoption of sustainable agricultural practices; (5) capacity development for the farmers and private sector; (6) strengthened value chain coordination; and (7) promotion of best practices in agricultural production.

The lessons learned and recommendations drawn from the implementation experience of B-SAFE can guide the design and implementation of similar future initiatives. These lessons include that the quick leadership turnover in FSRAs or government agencies poses significant challenge to sustainability of introduced changes. As their leaders move from one position to another, the retention of practices may not be prioritized, leading to ineffective transitioning. With the help of the findings from B-SAFE,

it revealed the importance of incorporating the changes within the policies and practices for sustainability and retention. To maximize the potential effects of the interventions, it is significant to tailor the interventions according to the needs of producers, processors, and FSRAs. This was successfully done by B-SAFE through intensive needs assessment and examination of opportunities and constraints. The high degree of alignment achieved between the needs and interventions drove positive perceptions of project delivery and technical assistance among participants and partners. B-SAFE was also able to exhibit agility by shifting its focus mid-implementation, particularly through increased private sector engagement. Oriented and involved iterative decision-making was a significant realization allowing adaptive modifications in strategies depending on field circumstances. Another lesson learned is the importance of leveraging partnerships. The project's initiative was able to establish connections with key players from public and private sectors which helped in achieving its objectives effectively. Moreover, the project's experience highlighted the need for strategic focus to maximize resource efficiency and impact. Overall, B-SAFE's, conduct of trainings, provision of targeted technical assistance, input/equipment support, and provision of grants were crucial in capacitating farmers to meet the product requirements of quality institutional markets.

Based on these lessons, it is recommended that the changes are embedded within institutional policies (e.g., regulatory reforms and capacity building initiatives) when targeting government institutions for change or interventions to ensure long-term sustainability. These development interventions must be appropriately designed and adequately informed by a thorough and systematic identification and analysis of clients' needs, constraints, and opportunities.

During project implementation, it is suggested to employ adaptive management which will help in achieving targets despite unexpected circumstances. Based on the project's findings, it is recommended to aim for strategic focus on commodities and geographic coverage to maximize resource efficiency and impact.

Additionally, catalyzing direct farmer-to-market linkages, compliance to various certifications on food safety, strategic use of grants, and strengthening mutually beneficial relationships between farmer groups and institutional buyers will ensure demand for producers and in return, will provide a reliable supply of high-quality products.

1. Introduction and Purpose

This report presents the results of the final evaluation of the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project. Winrock International contracted Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI) to conduct the final evaluation. ASPSI was the same evaluator contracted by Winrock International for the baseline and midterm evaluation. Section 1 provides the context and overview of B-SAFE, outlining its theory of change (TOC), results framework (RF), and project activities. Section 2 lays down the purpose of the evaluation, describing its design, data collection and methods of analysis in answering the questions raised in this assessment and highlighting its limitations. Section 3 discusses the findings of the evaluation. Section 4 answers the evaluation questions while Sections 5 and 6, respectively, provide the summary and conclusions of the study.

1.1. Project Context

Agricultural food safety is a critical concern in the Philippine food system, where smallholder farmers and food enterprises play a significant role in the nation's food supply. The country faces persistent challenges in ensuring the safety and quality of agricultural products due to gaps in compliance with food safety standards, inadequate post-harvest practices, and limited technical capacity of producers and regulatory agencies. Producers, especially smallholder farmers and small processors struggle to comply with Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP) due to insufficient training, capital constraints, and limited access to resources and technologies.

The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has committed to improve domestic food safety systems and adhere to its international trade treaty obligations, which are expected to advance consumer health and strengthen multilateral and bilateral trade relationships, particularly with the United States. At the food system level, it enacted the Food Safety Act in 2013 and subsequent Implementing Rules and Regulations (2015), which among others are consistent with the standards and technical regulations of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the International Plant Protection Convention, and the World Organization for Animal Health⁴ (OIE). At the trade level, the GOP's commitment extends to adhering to its farm and food trade related obligations, particularly those on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures, agriculture, and trade facilitation.

However, this political will is impaired by the limited capacity of its food safety regulatory agencies (FSRAs). Moreover, sustained government action on food safety needs to be complemented by private sector investment in upgrading food safety systems. The cost of complying with improved domestic and export market food safety standards is a constraint for farmers and small businesses when the market incentives for upgrading production and processing practices are unclear and relevant business support services (i.e., laboratories and cold chain) are inefficient, insufficient, or inaccessible. Lack of cold chain infrastructure, an essential element to food safety compliance, drives up transaction costs and contributes to food losses of up to 50 percent from the point of production to distribution to consumers. On the other hand, a burgeoning Filipino middle class is demanding safe food and is willing to pay a premium for it.

1.2. Project Description

Project Overview. B-SAFE is a five-year project (October 1, 2019, to March 31, 2025) funded at \$13.3 million by the Food for Progress (FFPr) Program of the United States Department of Agriculture

⁴ Originally called Office International des Epizooties (OIE) until May 2022.

(USDA). The project is implemented by Winrock International and contributes to two USDA FFPr Strategic Objectives:

- Increase agricultural productivity by improving the SPS in production and management of supply chains; and
- Expand trade of agricultural products by improving the GOP regulatory agencies to manage risk-based systems, promoting awareness of biotechnology, enhancing regulatory standards and processes, enhancing domestic and export market linkages, and building the capacity of the private sector to leverage investment.

1.3. Participant Description

B-SAFE activities were conducted in different regions in the Philippines, focusing on four target value chains, particularly swine in Batangas, milkfish in Pangasinan, corn in Bukidnon, and coconut sugar in Misamis Oriental, targeting the following actors:

1. **Pillar I direct participants**, who included GOP regulatory agencies, particularly Manila-based and targeted frontline regional staff of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and Local Government Units (LGUs). The target number of direct participants over the life of project under Pillar I was 2,741 individuals.
2. **Pillar II direct participants**, who included private sector trade associations and agribusinesses with the incentives and resources to invest in SPS compliant supply chains (both lead firms and Small and Medium Enterprises [SMEs] – with a focus on identifying at least 40 percent women-owned or those employing high numbers of women), training service providers with the proven capacity and willingness to respond to dynamic market requirements, and business service providers (i.e., refrigerated trucking and packaging companies) with the ability to invest their resources in testing and scaling smallholder-oriented cold chain services. The target number of direct participants over the life of project under Pillar II was 8,002 individuals.
3. **Indirect participants**, who included GOP regulatory agency departments and officials not directly supported by the project but who benefit from improved policies and procedures; SMEs and producers not directly supported by the project or project-assisted institutions but who benefit from stronger supply chains and cold chains; domestic retailers who receive higher quality products; trade associations and alliances not directly supported by the project but benefiting from a streamlined policy and regulatory system; consumers who have access to safer foods, and household members of direct participants. The target number of indirect participants over life of project was 40,968 individuals.

1.4. Results Framework

The project's theory of change narrative and results framework, including critical assumptions, are provided in **Annex B**. In summary, the project theorizes that increased trade of agricultural products compliant with SPS and regulatory requirements in the local and international markets can be achieved if: (1) the GOP and the private sector use risk-based management approaches to guide their use of relevant SPS-related technical assistance that build capacity; (2) the GOP and private sector become stronger at capturing information and decision making to meet SPS and regulatory requirements for export and import markets, in market situations that change quickly; and (3) the GOP and private sector adopt and invest in SPS systems and have adequate facilities and equipment to use. The theory is

therefore built on two distinct but mutually reinforcing pillars: (1) GOP regulatory agencies' capacity in risk-based SPS systems; and (2) SPS-compliant supply chain linkages.

1.5. Activities

Following its TOC, B-SAFE pursued five strategic activities:

Activity 1: Conduct Sanitary & Phytosanitary Gap Assessment and Benchmark Capacity Needs

B-SAFE conducted a participatory needs assessment that identified capacity-building priorities and technical assistance (TA) strategies for the SPS and food safety regulatory agencies of the GOP. The assessment covered the Center for Food Regulation and Research of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the six regulatory agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA). The work benchmarked the respective capacities of these agencies to perform their technical functions against international best practices. The work also assessed the quality and strength of their respective organizational capabilities to support the administration of their regulatory tasks.

Activity 2: Enhance Government of Philippines Capacity in Risk-Based Systems

B-SAFE worked with the FDA and DA on their capacity-building program in support of the development of evidence-based standards and management procedures, training staff, and expanding laboratory capacities to contribute to an enabling environment for SPS-compliant domestic and international trade. Assistance was demand-driven through three lenses: 1) GOP-driven via self-identified need for improvements, 2) market-driven in line with international standards requirements, and 3) risk-driven based on emerging food security threats.

Activity 3: Support Biotechnology Decision-Making and Awareness-Building

As an effort to enhance the use of biotechnology, B-SAFE supported a process for streamlining the review and approval process with strengthened capacity in each governing agency; assisted the development of new or amended laws, regulations, or administrative procedures the GOP deems necessary to aid in biotechnology-related food safety issues; and provided evidence-based information to policymakers and consumers on benefits/risks of genetically modified organisms, plant breeding innovations, and new breeding techniques.

Activity 4: Build Technical Capacity of the Private Sector to Meet International Standard

B-SAFE supported private sector agricultural and food enterprises in their efforts to increase their domestic and international sales by improving their competitiveness as a source of high-quality food items and agricultural commodities which comply with international SPS standards. The project worked with micro, small and medium enterprises to invest in upgrading production and processing practices and to strengthen supply chain linkages and services to comply with international market quality requirements. B-SAFE worked with supply chain actors to build their capacity and facilitate investment in supply chain services that will increase their ability to seize these domestic and international market opportunities.

Activity 5: Build Cold Chain Systems

B-SAFE facilitated private sector investment in cold storage solutions and services, complementing work in Activity 4 to facilitate and scale up SPS-compliant and integrated supply chains. B-SAFE conducted a registry of supply chain facilities along specific supply chains in Batangas for hogs and products derived thereof, and in Pangasinan for milkfish and products derived thereof. The project

worked with government agencies to disseminate information on investment opportunities to help close cold chain system gaps.

1.6. Purpose of the Evaluation

The purpose of this Final Evaluation (FE) is to gauge project accomplishments as of September 2024 in terms of the extent of adoption of technologies promoted; increment in volume and value of production and trade of commodities covered; improvement in capacity of FSRAs; generation of leveraged investments, and document and draw lessons learned through specific learning briefs. The final evaluation also intended to make a final assessment of the extent of technology adoption, increment in volume and value of production and trade, value of leveraged investments, and examine the project performance against the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.

The intended audience of the evaluation is the project implementing team, Winrock International, and USDA. The evaluation findings may be used by Winrock and other implementers in the Philippines for future work. The evaluation may contribute to informing the FFPr learning agenda, especially with regard to the question of what point in the value chain should be targeted to have a sustainable impact on value chain creation and which policies enhance value chains and improve the enabling environment.

1.6.1. Evaluation Objectives

In accordance with the purpose of evaluation, the assessment focused on the following:

1. For the FY24 Participant-Based Survey (PBS)
 - Determine project accomplishments as of September 2024 in terms of technology adoption, volume and value of production and trade, value of leveraged investments, and other relevant standard and custom indicators of the project as well as the improvement achieved in FSRA's capacity;
2. For the Learning Products
 - Document and derive lessons learned through the preparation of four learning briefs on pre-identified learning topics; and
3. For the Final Evaluation
 - Examine the final project performance as gauged against the OECD-DAC criteria of relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, sustainability and impact.

2. Evaluation Design and Methodology

2.1. Assessment of Project Performance against the OECD-DAC Criteria

This evaluation is guided by a set of evaluation questions to assess project performance against the OECD-DAC Criteria (**Annex A**). The evaluation assessed the following:

Relevance: The extent to which project interventions meet the needs of B-SAFE participants and is aligned with the country's agriculture and/or development investment strategy and with USDA and US Government's development goals, objectives, and strategies. Relevance should also address the extent to which B-SAFE was designed considering the economic, cultural and political context, and existing relevant program activities.

Effectiveness: The extent to which B-SAFE has achieved its objectives. Effectiveness should also assess the extent to which the interventions contributed to the expected results or objectives.

Efficiency: The extent to which B-SAFE resources (inputs) have led to the achieved results. An assessment of efficiency should also consider whether the same results could have been achieved with fewer resources or whether alternative approaches could have been adopted to achieve the same results.

Impact: Assessment of the medium and long-term effects, both intended and unintended, of project interventions. Effects can be both direct or indirect and positive or negative. To the extent possible, the evaluation should assess the extent to which the effects are due to B-SAFE interventions and not other factors.

Sustainability: Assessment of the likelihood that the benefits of the project will endure over time after the completion of B-SAFE. Sustainability should also assess the extent to which the project has planned for the continuation of project activities, developed local ownership for the project, and developed sustainable partnerships.

2.2. Evaluation Design

The evaluation approach was designed to be completely responsive to the evaluation objectives and set of evaluation questions specified in the Request for Proposal (RFP) for this assignment. The approach consisted primarily of four parts. The first part reviewed the project's TOC and results framework (RF) to incorporate significant developments which have transpired since the midterm assessment was completed. The second part involved the determination of actual accomplishments by gauging the extent to which indicator-based targets have been achieved (as of September 2024) and analyzing the improvement in the organizational and technical capacity of relevant regulatory agencies. The third part dives deeply into the set of evaluation questions specified in the RFP, while the fourth part involves the preparation of four technical learning briefs, which were identified together with the B-SAFE team.

2.2.1. Review of Project-Level Results Framework and Assumptions

B-SAFE's results framework and assumptions were examined. While the project's logic model had already been thoroughly assessed during the mid-term evaluation, the final evaluation yielded

significant insights as significant developments internal and external to the project which transpired after the completion of the mid-term evaluation are taken into account.

2.2.2. Assessment of Accomplishments vs. Targets

B-SAFE has twelve FFPR indicators and two custom indicators (**Annex C**). The project has set quantitative targets for each indicator, which it aims to achieve over the life of the project (LOP). The final evaluation gauged the extent to which the targets were achieved. The assessment was straightforward and involved the examination of objectively verifiable evidence of accomplishments vis-à-vis targets. The project participants were the primary source of data/information regarding the project outcomes through the conduct of the FY24 PBS, KIIs, and FGDs. The available project documents were also reviewed for a more thorough understanding of project activities and accomplishments.

2.2.3. Participant-Based Survey

Apart from using the available data in B-SAFE's database, the FY24 PBS was carried out to measure outcome indicators such as technology adoption (i.e., SI-4), volume and value of sales (SI-19 and SI-18, respectively), and investment leveraged (SI-14) over the September 2023 to August 2024 period. Given B-SAFE will officially end in March 2025, the final values of several output and outcome indicators will likely increase by the end of the project.

The survey covered both people in production and trade primarily for the purpose of estimating the number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USDA assistance (SI-4), the value of new USG commitments and new public and private sector investment leveraged by USDA to support food security and nutrition (SI-14), the value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance (SI-18), the volume of commodities sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance (SI-19), and the number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation, or cold storage as a result of B-SAFE investment (CI-1).

The study employed random sampling, stratified first by commodity and second by individual type, using the list of B-SAFE individual private sector participants as the sampling frame. As of July 2024, B-SAFE reported the following populations of participants per commodity (**Table 1**):

Table 1. Number of B-SAFE participants as of July 2024

Commodity	People in Firms/Trade	Producers	Total
Coconut sugar	108	584	692
Corn	139	2,418	2,557
Milkfish	388	1,619	2,007
Swine	947	1,061	2,008
Total	1,582	5,682	7,264

Using the Cochran formula for determining sample size at 95% confidence level and 5% margin of error and adjusted for finite sample and non-response, the calculated sample size per commodity is given in **Table 2**.

As mentioned, random sampling was completed in September 2024 using the master list of B-SAFE participants disaggregated by organizations/firms/cooperatives and by participant type, i.e., producers and people in firm/trade of the four target commodities. This in effect distributed the samples to each participant organization/ firm/cooperative dispersed in the different communities of the four provinces where commodity-based, value chain-oriented services were focused on.

Table 2. Sample Calculation

	Province	Misamis Or	Bukidnon	Pangasinan	Batangas	Total
	Commodity	Coconut sugar	Corn	Milkfish	Swine	
	Total Survey population	692	2,557	2,007	2,005	7,261
Producers Sample Size	Survey population	584	2,418	1,619	1,061	5,682
	Sample Size, individual respondents (5% MOE; 95% CI)	232	332	311	283	1,158
	FPC - Finite Population Correction Factor	0.78	0.93	0.90	0.86	--
	Sample Size, individual respondents: (5%MOE; 95%CI) - Finite pop. corrected	180	308	280	242	1,011
	Anticipated non-response @ 5%	10	16	14	13	53
	Sample Size, adjusted for finite population and non-response	190	324	294	255	1,064
People in Firms/ Trade Sample size	Survey population	108	139	388	947	1,582
	Sample Size, individual respondents: (5% MOE; 95% CI)	85	103	194	274	656
	FPC - Finite Population Correction Factor	0.46	0.51	0.71	0.84	
	Sample Size, individual respondents: (5%MOE; 95%CI) - Finite pop. corrected	39	53	137	231	460
	Anticipated non-response @ 5%	2	3	7	12	24
	Sample Size, adjusted for finite population and non-response	41	56	144	243	484
Total Sample Size	Sample Size, individual respondents: Total	232	380	438	499	1,548
	Add: Firm/organization respondents	7	54	23	15	99
	Total target # respondents	239	434	461	513	1,647

Data collection was conducted on-site. The PBS employed computer-assisted personal interview using ArcGIS Survey123 Software. ASPSI used the existing B-SAFE annual survey questionnaire in Survey123. Winrock provided the Survey123 accounts to the ASPSI data collectors for the conduct of the PBS.

To ensure that ASPSI's survey team was equipped with the knowledge and understanding of the PBS questionnaire as well as the proper use of Survey123, ASPSI provided the survey team with a thorough two-day face-to-face orientation and training covering relevant lectures. The lectures focused on key topics discussing the following: (1) overview of the annual outcome survey; (2) components and detailed walkthrough of the questionnaire; (3) the above-stated indicators for which data were to be collected; and (4) pointers and effective interviewing techniques. The training also served as the avenue for field work planning.

2.2.4. Key informant interviews (KIIs) and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)

Part of the qualitative component is the desk review of secondary data and gathering of primary data through the conduct of key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs). KIIs were carried out with individual representatives from different government agencies (DA-FDC, DA-PRS, DA-OASR, Philippine Coconut Authority, FDA-FROO, ITCPH, BFAR Region 1, PAO-Bukidnon, DAR Misamis Oriental, and DA-BPO), a representative from civil society (USTP), representatives from the different cooperatives and associations of the four focus commodities, Winrock staff, USDA staff, representatives of the Steering Committee led by DA and FDA, and other respondents that were suggested by the B-SAFE technical team.

FGDs were conducted involving Winrock staff, GOP/FSRA representatives, farmer participants, farmer groups and cooperatives. Six FGDs involving people in government (BAI, BFAR, BPI, FDA, FPA, NMIS) were conducted using B-SAFE's reassessment tools.

While some KIIs and the FGDs were conducted face-to-face (FGDs with FSRAs and people in production and trade), the majority of the KIIs were conducted via the online platform Zoom. In total, 42 KIIs and 18 FGDs were conducted. **Table 3** presents the number of actual respondents for the KIIs and FGDs.

Table 3. Number of conducted KIIs and FGDs, 2024

Participant/Stakeholder	Key Informant Interview	Focus Group Discussion
FSRA (for reassessment)	4	6
People in Government	6	n/a ⁵
People in Civil Society	1	n/a ⁶
Producers: Swine	2	1
Producers: Milkfish	4	2
Producers: Corn	5	2
Producers: Coconut sugar	3	2
Cold chain players	2	n/a ⁷
Traders	12	4
USDA staff	2	n/a ⁸
Winrock/B-SAFE staff	1	1
TOTAL	42	18

2.2.5. Organizational and Technical Capacity Assessment

The improvements in the technical capacity of FSRAs were assessed using a progression scale based on the modified FAO tool and World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) assessment tool, which were both used in the capacity needs assessment at baseline. The OIE tool was used for BAI and BFAR, while the modified FAO tool was used for FDA, NMIS, BPI, and FPA.

2.2.6. Data Analysis Methods

Quantitative data were reviewed and validated for consistency and completeness of information. The B-SAFE MEL team conducted an online data cleaning workshop with ASPSI's data collection team. ASPSI facilitated the data cleaning process and focused on the common data quality issues based on the previous FY22 and FY23 in-house annual surveys B-SAFE conducted. The data analysis involved Microsoft Excel data analysis for processing and analyzing the data derived from the Survey123 database. Qualitative data used thematic analysis as the primary method, focusing on the generation of themes to achieve a rich narrative.

2.3. Preparation of Technical Learning Briefs

From the initial assessment results and together with the B-SAFE team, the study worked on four technical learning briefs. A retrospective process documentation was done to understand how a particular approach was carried out, the results that came out of the process and the context and

⁵ Not applicable, not targeted

⁶ Not applicable, not targeted

⁷ Not applicable, not targeted

⁸ Not applicable, not targeted

circumstances within which the process and results were realized. The briefs were written in concise summaries which highlight lessons learned and key takeaways.

2.4. Ethical Evaluation Standards

The project strictly adhered to established ethical evaluation standards. All evaluation team members participated in the Winrock Ethics Training (Ethics in Human Subject Research Training). Informed consent forms were also integrated into the survey questionnaire and the interview guides. **Annex D** provides copies of the Ethics Certificates for ASPSI's data collection team.

2.5. Evaluation Limitations

The quantitative and qualitative data collection activities highly dictated the timeline of the study. Several challenges caused delays in the data collection shown in **Table 4** below.

Table 4. Evaluation limitations encountered and the corresponding actions taken during the data collection period

Evaluation Limitations	Actions Taken
High dependence on the availability of target respondents for KIIs and FGDs	Contacted target respondents ahead of time to provide extra time allowance in the event of schedule conflicts
Cancellation of scheduled KIIs and FGDs due to busy schedule of respondents	Rescheduled KIIs and FGDs according to the availability of respondents
Some target respondents involved in B-SAFE interventions already resigned or left the office/agency	Requested alternative contact persons who are knowledgeable about B-SAFE in the respective office/agencies
Limitations for the in-person conduct of survey in Batangas area for swine commodity due to outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF)	Some respondents were interviewed via phone call (i.e., remove interviews)
Cancellation or frequent interruption in fieldwork (survey) due to monsoon	Continued the field activity as soon as the weather permitted
Difficulty in locating survey respondents due to scattered distribution and lack of information about their addresses	For unreachable cases, replacements were completed according to the replacement method agreed with the B-SAFE MEL team
Poor road conditions due to ongoing construction affecting mobility of data collectors	Determined alternative routes to reach the respondents
Respondent's recall of volume and value of sales over a 12-month period	Probed for estimate values
Lack of records about respondent production and trade transactions	Requested estimated values of transactions
Matching of responses on specific technologies adopted by the respondents	Validated training information through available records

3. Findings

3.1. Assessment of Project Achievements as Outlined in the Results Framework

3.1.1. Quantitative Accomplishments vs. Targets

B-SAFE reports on 12 USDA FFPr standard indicators (SI) and two custom indicators (CI). Life of Project (LOP) targets reflect revised targets approved by USDA on August 29, 2022. The evaluation found that B-SAFE exceeded its LOP targets except for three standard indicators (SIs 12, 13 and 19) and one custom indicator (CI-2) (**Table 5**). Nevertheless, the accomplishments in these indicators may still be considered significant, exceeding 86% of the targets. In addition, B-SAFE has a no-cost extension through March 2025, thus, accomplishments for select indicators are expected to be higher by the end of project life.

The accomplishments are impressive, as evidenced by the extent to which most targets have been exceeded. The project targeted ten host government or community-derived risk management plans and delivered 35 (SI-11). It has leveraged nearly US \$2.5 million of new USG commitments and new public and private sector investments against an LOP target of US \$1.1 million (SI-14). The targeted number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation or cold storage was 319, yet B-SAFE interventions supported 2,427 individuals to adopt said improved practices. The project is slightly short (94%) of its outcome target on the volume of commodities sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance (SI-19). Disaggregating by commodity, the accomplishment in terms of the volume of production for coco-sugar was only 43% of its LOP targets, while that of milkfish was also short by 53% of its LOP targets. However, the accomplishments in volume of production for swine and corn exceeded its LOP targets by 13% and 14%, respectively. While the project is slightly short of its targets on volume of production, the aggregate targeted value of these commodities has already been exceeded (SI-18). Again, the accomplishments for value of production for coco-sugar and milkfish compared to its LOP targets were only 43% and 9%, respectively. In contrast, the accomplishments for the value of production for swine and corn exceeded its LOP targets by 84% and 24%, respectively.

Table 5. B-SAFE Project LOP targets and accomplishments as of September 2024.

No.	Indicator Title	Type	Baseline Value	LOP Target	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024
SI-22	Number of individuals participating in USDA food security programs	Output	0	10,963	13,552	124%
SI-23	Number of individuals benefiting indirectly as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	45,065	46,077	102%
SI-21	Number of individuals who have received short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	9,687	11,572	119%
SI-4	Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USDA assistance	Outcome	7,234	4,855	5,183	107%

No.	Indicator Title	Type	Baseline Value	LOP Target	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024
SI-11	Number of host government or community derived risk management plans formally proposed, adopted, implemented or institutionalized with USDA assistance	Output	16	10	35	350%
SI-12	Percent of USDA-assisted organizations with improved performance	Outcome	0	75%	71%	95%
SI-9	Number of technologies, practices, and approaches under various phases of research, development, and uptake as a result of USDA assistance	Output (phases 1-3)	0	10	11	110%
		Outcome (phase 4)				
SI-13	Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	17	15	88%
SI-17	Number of policies, regulations and/or administrative procedures in each of the following stages of development as a result of USDA assistance	Output (stages 1-)	0	6	9	150%
		Outcome (stages 3-5)				
SI-18	Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance	Outcome	USD 670,287,491	USD 90,399,240	USD 104,561,897	116%
SI-19	Volume of commodities sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance	Outcome	315,473 MT	51,960 MT	48,711 MT	94%
SI-14	Value of new USG commitments and new public and private sector investment leveraged by USDA to support food security and nutrition	Outcome	0	USD 1,100,000	USD 2,492,446	227%
CI-1	Number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation, or cold storage as a result of B-SAFE investment	Outcome	163	319	2,427	761%
CI-2	Number of farms/firms/laboratories with GAP, GMP, HACCP, or ISO certification as a result of USDA assistance	Outcome	1,292	22	19	86%

Source: FAIS Report 2024

3.1.2. Substantiating the Quantitative Results

The accomplishments of B-SAFE can be appreciated by delving into the details of the various activities carried out by the project and gauging the significance of such from the perspective of B-SAFE's partners and participants. To achieve this, the evaluation gathered the required data via KIIs, FGDs, and the FY24 participant-based survey to substantiate the quantitative results.

As discussed in section 2, B-SAFE's theory of change and results framework are built on two distinct but mutually reinforcing pillars: (1) GOP regulatory agencies' capacity in risk-based SPS systems; and

(2) SPS-compliant supply chain linkages. The works of B-SAFE involving the FSRAs were all intended to address the first pillar, while those with the various supply chain players (producers and traders) are designed to address the second pillar.

3.1.2.1. GOP Regulatory Agencies' Capacity in Risk-Based SPS Systems

The contributions of B-SAFE in this pillar are organized into three strategic activities: sanitary and phytosanitary gap assessment and benchmark capacity needs (Activity 1); strengthening risk-based approach for improving SPS and food safety measures (Activity 2); and support biotechnology decision-making and awareness building (Activity 3). These activities directly contribute to eight performance indicators, namely SIs 21, 22, 23, 11, 12, 13, 17 and 14. As shown earlier, B-SAFE exceeded its targets in almost all these indicators. Notably, the project performed exceptionally well on having risk management plans proposed, adopted or institutionalized (SI-11) and in the development of relevant policies, regulations and administrative procedures (SI-17) which reflect the achievement of B-SAFE in its interventions involving the FSRAs.

Over the life of the project, FSRAs improved risk management strategies with assistance from B-SAFE. Twenty-four Risk Management Plans (RMP) were crafted and refined, with one RMP already implemented and 14 RMPs adopted accounting the participation of BPI, PCA, FPA, and the most contribution from BFAR. These were done through a series of engagements including: (1) a course on risk management based on the ISO 31000:2018⁹ which happened on November 2023 for select BFAR personnel; (2) a course on creating Functional Quality Objectives and Risk Management for the Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Division (FIQD) and Regional Fisheries Inspection and Quarantine Unit (RFIQU) on March 2024; and (3) a course on RMP based on ISO 31000:2018 for core risk management personnel of BFAR on June 2024. B-SAFE also recently held a training session for the BFAR central office personnel, and BFAR Region 1 underwent an ISO 31000:2018 audit of its risk management implementation led by the BFAR FIQD. This experience enables BFAR to conduct audits in other regions, supporting continuous improvement of the agency's risk management process. Some of the RMPs created were still on the draft stages due to the following reasons: (1) movement of personnel (due to reassignment or retirement) who were expected to provide further input and finalize the RMPs; and (2) PCA and FPA's RMPs are still in the preliminary stages and have yet to undergo further review through public consultations with industry stakeholders.

The RMPs show that the shift from FSRAs to risk-based thinking is partly due to B-SAFE's capacity-building training on risk analysis. Government agencies have become more receptive to the importance of having risk-based thinking in response to issues affecting the country's agricultural trade performance, as this approach more effectively manages available resources while still ensuring the protection of public health. A study conducted by the Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) in 2014 noted that the SPS system in the country functions as a tool for market control and insufficiently as a system to control against health hazards and to promote market access.

B-SAFE realized significant achievement in improvement of the risk-based SPS capacities of FSRAs, particularly those within the DA and the FDA. The baseline capacity needs assessment conducted by B-SAFE in 2020 provided a starting point of technical and organizational capacities of six key FSRAs, focusing on risk assessment, inspection, and laboratory operations.

⁹ ISO 31000:2018 is an international standard that provides principles and guidelines for risk management. It outlines a comprehensive approach to identifying, analyzing, evaluating, treating, monitoring and communicating risks across an organization.

The baseline assessment revealed that most FSRAs at the DA and FDA have weak technical capacities on laboratory testing and management especially in areas such as microbiological, chemical and physical hazard analysis. The lack of ISO 17025 accreditation for laboratories, which is essential in ensuring the quality of food safety testing, was also identified as a critical limitation. As detailed in the mid-term evaluation of the project, B-SAFE conducted a series of food safety and risk-based management training courses to improve the technical capacity of FSRAs. The project also pushed the development and institutionalization of RIA to establish scientifically-based decision-making in government regulations. In terms of grants, B-SAFE's initiative to provide training and equipment to the private sector can be regarded as a support to the FSRAs given that these grants enhance their compliance to food safety regulations and standards.

The technical capacity of FSRAs was evaluated using OIE and FAO assessment tools, which were also used during the baseline and mid-term assessment. As much as possible, those who were part of the baseline and mid-term assessment were interviewed as to how they perceived their organizations fared through time.

Key informants were asked to rate their agency's technical capacity using an ascending scale from "1" (none/non-existent) to "4" (comprehensive and sustainable). In case the respondents felt that there was inadequate information from their side, the default rating was "x." This evaluation through a self-assessment process found that FSRA's have improved in key areas such as risk analysis and laboratory quality assurance (**Table 6**). The assessment highlighted improvements across the board, with agencies such as **BFAR** and **BAI** reporting improved scores in surveillance and laboratory practices, reflecting advancements in their operational effectiveness. Significant progress was achieved by NMIS in risk-based approach to inspection, with HACCP principles being adopted. It also expanded their data collection systems under the One Health Approach. Both **BAI** and **BFAR** adopted the OIE assessment tool for their risk analysis and laboratory quality assurance, resulting in a notable improvement in surveillance capacities and laboratory practices. In the case of **FDA**, improved functioning of its food safety certification systems and laboratory capabilities was noted. The FDA's laboratory now has better diagnostic and analytical capabilities, and they established a system for data collection on food safety issues.

BPI's capacity for collection, collation, and interpretation of data on food safety increased by at least one level from 2020 to 2022. Since 2022, almost all dimensions of risk analysis and inspection and laboratory quality assurance have been maintained. BPI conducts risk analysis based on established policy instruments, reference materials and procedures. GAP certification is extensively promoted, and practitioners are recognized in their PhilGAP (Philippine Good Agricultural Practices) summit to encourage more primary producers to complete GAP certification. BPI inspectors recently finished learning and development activities on risk-based assessments.

For FPA, participants mentioned that the first dimension of risk analysis and inspection of food products is not part of their mandate considering that their primary area of regulation is on the inputs that food producers use in their production process. The FPA renewed its ISO 17025:2017¹⁰ certification, albeit formal re-certification is yet to be received pending compliance to specific standards. Challenges remain for HR, equipment, and operating items. Finally, in the case of FDA, all dimensions of laboratory capacity have improved by one level while maintaining levels of risk analysis and inspection from the 2022 figures.

¹⁰ ISO 17025:2017 is a standard on the general requirements for 'the competence, impartiality, and consistent operations of laboratories.'

Table 6. Summary self-assessment levels of FSRA, 2020-2024.

Agency	Rating (2020)	Rating (2022)	Rating (2024)	Net Change since 2020
BFAR (OIE Tool)				
a) Surveillance (Risk Analysis) ¹	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
b) Laboratory Quality Assurance ²	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2	Maintained
BAI (OIE Tool)				
a) Surveillance (Risk Analysis)	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3	Improved (+1)
b) Laboratory Quality Assurance	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+2)
FDA (FAO Tool)				
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Criteria for risk categorization and prioritization established for food inspection	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2	Maintained
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Presence of functioning risk-based inspection mechanism with well-defined standard operating procedures	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2	Maintained
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Presence of functioning food safety certification systems with well-defined standard operating procedures	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3	Improved (+1)
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable diagnostic and analytical laboratories	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable testing laboratories	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
LABORATORY: Presence of institution(s) responsible for the collection, collation and interpretation of data on food safety issues (including microbiological, chemical, natural and environmental) at the national level	X	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
BPI (FAO Tool)				
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Criteria for risk categorization and prioritization established for food inspection	Level 2	Level 4	Level 4	Improved (+2)
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Presence of functioning risk-based inspection mechanism with well-defined standard operating procedures	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3	Improved (+1)
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Presence of functioning food safety certification systems with well-defined standard operating procedures	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3	Improved (+1)
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable diagnostic and analytical laboratories	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2	Maintained
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable testing laboratories	Level 2	Level 2	Level 2	Maintained
LABORATORY: Presence of institution(s) responsible for the collection, collation and interpretation of data on food safety issues (including microbiological, chemical, natural and environmental) at the national level	X	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
FPA (FAO Tool) ¹¹				
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable diagnostic and analytical laboratories	X	Level 3	Level 3	Maintained
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable testing laboratories	X	Level 3	Level 3	Maintained

¹¹ FPA participants mentioned that the first dimension of risk analysis and inspection of food products is not part of their mandate considering that their primary area of regulation are on the inputs that food producers use in their production process.

Agency	Rating (2020)	Rating (2022)	Rating (2024)	Net Change since 2020
LABORATORY: Presence of institution(s) responsible for the collection, collation and interpretation of data on food safety issues (including microbiological, chemical, natural and environmental) at the national level	X	Level 4	Level 4	Maintained
NMIS (FAO Tool)				
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Criteria for risk categorization and prioritization established for food inspection	X	Level 2	Level 4	Improved (+2)
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Presence of functioning risk-based inspection mechanism with well-defined standard operating procedures	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
RISK ANALYSIS & INSPECTION: Presence of functioning food safety certification systems with well-defined standard operating procedures	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Improved (+2)
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable diagnostic and analytical laboratories	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
LABORATORY: Accessible and capable testing laboratories	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)
LABORATORY: Presence of institution(s) responsible for the collection, collation and interpretation of data on food safety issues (including microbiological, chemical, natural and environmental) at the national level	X	Level 2	Level 3	Improved (+1)

NOTE: Levels and Ratings are further explained in Annex E

3.1.2.2. Strengthening Risk-Based Approach for Improving Food Safety

Based on the interviews, the improvement in the technical capacity of FSRAs was mainly due to the training courses and other assistance provided by B-SAFE to these agencies. The key activities and accomplishments are as follows:

Capacity Building for Individual Agencies: B-SAFE trained a total of 2,692 participants from the various FSRAs to improve the technical capacity in risk-based food safety regulation. The list of trainings is provided as **Annex F**. Key informant interviews of these participants and various FSRA representatives revealed that such trainings led to better understanding and appreciation of risk-based approaches focusing on food safety, risk assessment and risk management.

- **International Certifications:** B-SAFE facilitated access to three international certifications for FSRAs, specifically ISO 17020:2012; ISO 17025: 2017; and FSSC v.5.1¹²
- **Training and Workshops:** Training and workshop sessions were organized including an inception workshop on RMPs and training on “Measurement Uncertainty for Chemical Testing and Microbiological Testing” and “Rapid Methods for Enumeration of Microorganisms.” A risk management workshop aligned with ISO 31000 was also carried out with BPI and BFAR.

¹² ISO 17020:2012 is a conformity assessment which is required for the organizations that perform inspection. Other organizations and clients of food business operators may look for this accreditation if the FSRA as inspection body conformed with the requirements and reported it as such. ISO 17025:2017 is a standard on the general requirements for ‘the competence, impartiality, and consistent operations of laboratories. FSSC 22000 v 5.1 is a certification commonly used by the food industry ensuring that food safety management systems and quality management systems are in place within the food supply chain or organizations.

- **Technical Assistance:** Technical assistance was provided for the preparation of RMPs for partner agencies like BFAR, Philippine Coconut Authority, and FPA, addressing issues related to coconut oil, pesticides, and animal facilities, and improvement on the Risk and Opportunity register, ensuring alignment with international standards.
- **Online Training on SPS Systems.** In collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute, the project also developed four online courses, which broadened access to training on SPS and food safety standards. These included courses on food safety risk analysis, introduction to GAP, Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP) for milkfish, and Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) for coco sugar. All courses were designed to increase the knowledge of regulators and other stakeholders on Philippine National Standards.
- **Need-based Training and Technical Assistance.** The project conducted policy-related training and technical assistance, which the DA requested. These included trainings on regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and comparative advantage. Technical assistance was also requested by several DA agencies in the formulation of policy reforms. B-SAFE's work on RIA led to the issuance of Administrative Circular No. 8 series 2022 "Requiring the Conduct of Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) in the Modification, Repeal, or Formulation of Existing or New Regulations in the Department of Agriculture". The project also hosted briefings and orientations on RIA for various stakeholders, including the American Chamber of Commerce and the Philippine Chamber of Food Manufacturers, addressing key policy constraints in agricultural trade. Regarding policy reform, B-SAFE was instrumental in improving the Preliminary Impact Statements (PIA) for regulatory reforms, including BAI and BAFS. The project also assisted in the development of DA Department Circular No 06/2023, streamlining regulatory procedures and aligning them with international standards.

Cognizant of the crucial role that food safety testing laboratories play in the food safety regulatory environment, B-SAFE helped craft the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), which is designed to provide a framework to improve the capacity of DA laboratories in terms of infrastructures, information sharing, and human resources over a ten-year period. The project facilitated the accreditation of the DA Food Development Center (FDC) microbial and chemical laboratories for ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and helped provide the necessary training on laboratory management, rapid methods for microorganism enumeration, and pathogen detection to prepare the FDC laboratories for the said accreditation. In addition, B-SAFE collaborated with the Department of Science and Technology to provide specialized training to FDA staff on the analysis of trans-fatty acid.

3.1.2.3. Support Biotechnology Decision-Making and Awareness Building

B-SAFE helped advance biotechnology decision-making and awareness in at least three important areas: streamlining the review and approval process, supporting the development of new laws and regulations, and providing evidence-based information to policymakers and consumers. The project helped private sector stakeholders provide their input in the formulation of key biotechnology reforms including (a) Plant Breeding Innovations (PBI), (b) streamlining genetically modified (GM) plant regulatory policy and (c) GM animal product regulation. Technical inputs were provided in the drafting of the proposed Biotechnology Industry Development Act (BIDA), the Administrative Circular on Low Level Presence (LLP) and proposed LGU circular on the coexistence of organic and GM farming.

The project provided technical assistance in the consultations conducted in support of the Joint Department Circular (JDC) on regulatory reforms on the approval and renewal of GM plants as well as the DA memorandum circular on PBI. These reforms promoted a more investment friendly regulatory

environment for GM plants and plant breeding innovations. The JDC No. 1 s2022, which streamlined the regulatory process for GM plants, shortened the approval timelines, and reduced compliance costs. The circular on PBI was released in May 2022. Upon approval of the PBI circular, the project trained 24 BPI staff for its implementation. With the circular enabled, three PBI certificate applications were filed, introducing innovations such as reduced browning bananas and high-antioxidant tomatoes.

Having successfully completed its work on regulation of GM plants, B-SAFE then focused on the preparation of JDC for the agricultural application of GM animal products. It collaborated with International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications for the conduct of an information campaign on animal biotechnology. This foundational work assisted the campaign which broadened and deepened the understanding and appreciation of various stakeholders on the potential of animal biotechnology. The four webinars related to animal biotech and 3 stakeholder consultations co-sponsored by B-SAFE with International Service for the Acquisition of Agri-biotech Applications were attended by over 900 participants, receiving close to 47,000 media impressions. The JDC on GM animals developed through stakeholders' consultations is ready for signature by the relevant Department Secretaries after passing the required RIA.

B-SAFE has also participated actively in the formulation of the BIDA, the LGU circular on coexistence of organic and GM farming, and the Administrative Circular on LLP. It provided technical assistance in the development and review of BIDA and facilitated the quarterly meetings required in the development phase of this proposed legislative instrument. Likewise, the project provided technical support on the development of the Administrative Circular on LLP which is a crucial measure to address trade concerns of unapproved GM products.

Through these efforts, B-SAFE significantly contributed to enhancing the regulatory framework for biotechnology, supporting innovation, and building awareness among stakeholders, ensuring a more conducive environment for the adoption of modern biotechnologies in the Philippines.

The project enhanced the technical capacity of key food safety regulatory bodies, which heretofore was a crucial hindrance to the development and effective implementation of risk-based food safety regulatory system. Although challenges persist especially in areas of resources and infrastructure specifically laboratories, the improvements achieved provide a strong foundation for the continued improvement of food safety regulation in the Philippines.

3.2. SPS-Compliant Supply Chain Linkages

This pillar covers B-SAFE's work with 474 organizations in the value chains of corn in Bukidnon, coconut sugar in Misamis Oriental, milkfish in Pangasinan, and swine in Batangas. One hundred and three organizations were major partners that participated in targeted direct interventions; 303 were minor partners that were either engaged at least once by B-SAFE or by major partners through cascaded trainings or engaged through market linkages; and 68 others were from government or civil society that were tapped to support in the conduct of activities. **Table 7** summarizes the total number of organizations reached by B-SAFE interventions.

Table 7. Number of organizations/associations reached by B-SAFE

Commodity	Major Private Sector Partners	Minor Private Sector Partners	Other Partners
Corn in Bukidnon	54	27	9
Milkfish in Pangasinan	27	86	22
Swine in Batangas	15	184	30
Coconut sugar in Misamis Oriental	7	6	7
Total	103	303	68

As of September 2024, B-SAFE had reached 13,552 individuals who participated in the B-SAFE program (SI-22). Almost half of these (48%) were producers, 23.8% were people in government, and the rest were proprietors of private sector firms (15.8%) and people in civil society (12%). Of these 13,552 individuals, the project trained a total of 11,572 individuals on various topics (SI-21). Distribution of the participants according to type of training is presented in **Table 8**.

Table 8. Distribution of individuals trained, by training type (n=11,572)

Training Type	Percent	No. of participants trained
Food Control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring	27%	3,098
Post-Harvest, Value Addition, and Marketing	20%	2,290
Crop Management	17%	1,977
Livestock Management	16%	1,813
Aquaculture Management	13%	1,459
Agri-Economic Policies and Regulations	10%	1,136
Laboratory and Big Data Management	4%	422

Source: B-SAFE Indicator Table 2024. The total of the numbers in the “No. of participants trained” column does not match with the value of n because of double/multiple counting of individuals when individuals attend multiple training types.

To delve into the outcomes of B-SAFE’s work with the private sector in terms of adoption of technology and management practices, volume and value of sales of commodities, and leveraged investments, the Participant-Based Survey was conducted and triangulated through KIs and FGDs. The survey population was placed at the end of July 2024 cut-off date. At such a stage, a total of 7,261 producers and people in trade participated in the value chain works of B-SAFE in the four provinces. **Table 9** summarizes the characteristics of these private sector participants.

Table 9. Private Sector Participants and Characteristics

Commodities	Sex of Farm/ Firm Leads		Age Range of Farm/Firm Leads		Farm/Firm Lead VC Actor Type						
					People in Trade/Private Sector Firms				Producer		
	Male	Female	15-29	30+	Micro Enterprise	Small Enterprise	Medium Enterprise	Large Enterprise	Small-holder	Non-Small holder	Milkfish Producer
Coconut sugar (N= 692)	275 40%	417 60%	69 10%	624 90%	6 1%	125 18%	3 0%	0 0%	553 80%	6 1%	0 0%
Corn (N=2,577)	929 36%	1,628 64%	109 4%	2,448 96%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	2,516 98%	41 2%	0 0%
Milkfish (N=2,007)	836 42%	1,172 58%	158 8%	1,850 92%	149 7%	1,115 56%	121 6%	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%	624 31%
Swine (N=2,005)	947 47%	1,056 53%	121 6%	1,882 94%	879 44%	121 6%	8 0%	8 0%	782 39%	206 10%	0 0%
Total	2,987	4,274	456	6,805	1,034	1,361	132	8	3,851	253	624
(N=7,261)	41%	59%	6%	94%	14%	19%	2%	<1%	53%	3%	9%

Work with the private sector contributed both directly or indirectly to ten standard indicators (SIs 21, 22, 23, 4, 9, 11, 13, 18, 19 and 14) and two custom indicators (CI-1 and CI-2). As discussed earlier, B-SAFE's performance was generally significant when gauged against these indicators' targets, having exceeded its LOP targets in all but three indicators, namely SI-13, SI-19 and CI-2, where B-SAFE has achieved at least 86% of its targets. In addition, B-SAFE recently received a no-cost extension up to March 2025, thus, accomplishments are expected to be higher by the end of project life.

The participation in project activities and trainings resulted in 19 farms, firms, and laboratories with certifications for GMP, HACCP or ISO (CI-2) and regulatory certification such as LTO and CPR. The volume and value of sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance (SI-19) are presented in **Table 10**. The volume of sales is 94% of the target (SI-19), while the value of sales (SI-18) exceeded by 16%. In terms of commodity, the LOP target for volume of swine production was exceeded by 14% while that for corn was exceeded by 13%. For coco-sugar the LOP volume of production target was short by 43% while that for milkfish was short by 53%. In terms of value of production, the LOP target for swine was exceeded by 84% while that for corn was exceeded by 24%. In milkfish, the realized value of production was only 43% of its LOP target while coco-sugar was at only 9% of the LOP target.

The significant overachievement for swine and corn was the resulting output of increased productivity at both individual and firm levels. This can also be attributed to the greater adoption of improved technologies brought about by the cascading effect of training programs. For swine, this sector provided significant contributions, especially at the firm level joined by B-SAFE supported slaughterhouses and meat processing plants through enhanced post-harvest processing techniques and compliance with meat handling and cooling standards. Similarly, the target volume and value for corn were surpassed due to considerable improvement in productivity of corn farms covered in the B-SAFE project. KIIs revealed that corn yield increased by as much as 20%. In addition, the farm price of corn also improved as farmers were able to access institutional markets that provide premium price for better quality corn harvest.

However, contrary to the cases of corn and swine, the volume and value targets for coco sugar and milkfish were not achieved mainly because of factors beyond the control of the B-SAFE project. An example of this in the case of milkfish were the extreme climate events, such as two severe typhoons that flooded aquaculture sites and periods of intense heat that devastated aquaculture farms especially in Pangasinan. In one typhoon alone, an estimated loss in fisheries was estimated at almost Php64M (\$1.12M¹³) during the 3rd quarter of 2024. Furthermore, reports of extreme conditions have prompted many farmers to harvest prematurely, driving the market price for milkfish down to a startling Php20 per kilo, a sharp decline from the average farm gate price of Php80.

It should also be noted that B-SAFE has strategically focused on empowering micro, small, and medium enterprises in the milkfish sector, where food safety concerns around hygienic processing are paramount. In the wake of the pandemic, with lingering apprehensions about larger gatherings, B-SAFE has prioritized collaboration with smaller facilities, allowing for established partnerships and tailored support. Understanding that the certification process can be time-consuming, the Project has proactively aimed to accelerate these efforts.

In the case of coco sugar from late 2023 through June 2024, the industry faced considerable challenges, including decreased sales and rising inventory levels due to a dip in market demand from market partners. Additionally, there was a noticeable shift in livelihood opportunities for tappers, as many producers stopped sourcing from them. The situation significantly improved starting from the 2nd semester of 2024 as targeted market promotions both locally and internationally paved the way

¹³ At Php57/USD in October 2024

for recovery in sales. Successful connections with local grocery stores and international buyers are revitalizing the market. This positive trend is gradually enticing tappers to resume their supplies to processors, signaling hope for the industry's future.

Table 10. Volume and value of sales of firms & farms with USDA assistance by commodity

Commodity	Volume			Value		
	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024
Total	51,960 MT	48,711 MT	94%	\$90,399,240	\$104,561,897	116%
Swine	16,023 MT	18,299 MT	114%	\$45,012,401	\$82,810,114	184%
Milkfish	15,094 MT	7,159 MT	47%	\$33,980,983	\$14,747,415	43%
Coconut sugar	1,221 MT	709 MT	58%	\$6,239,147	\$583,824	9%
Corn	19,623 MT	22,215 MT	113%	\$5,166,709	\$6,420,545	124%

3.2.1. B-SAFE's Works and Accomplishments: Swine Industry in Batangas

Baseline assessment of the gaps and challenges in the swine industry in Batangas indicated low adoption of improved practices in postharvest handling, sanitation, and value-added processing among hog raisers in the province; limited use of carcass chillers, blast freezers and improved equipment and minimal adoption of certifications such as GAP, GMP, and HACCP. Among the challenges were high production losses due to ASF, reaching up to 74% in 2021, forcing 50-70% of smallholders to cease operations due to restrictions and fear of ASF recurrence.

To address these challenges, B-SAFE proposed collaborating with LGUs and the DA for repopulation program, artificial insemination (AI) programs and biosecurity programs, encouraged investments for providing cold storage, transport facilities, and related infrastructure, and conducting consumer and producer awareness on food safety and food safety compliance.

B-SAFE identified 229 stakeholders from 31 municipalities as project partners. Of these, 15 are major partners, ten of which were provided with grants, and five were provided with technical assistance and training. Others were classified as minor partners that includes multipurpose cooperatives, swine producer groups, meat traders, and local government units.

B-SAFE partnered with Europhil Swine Genetics on capacity building activities in AI, and together they conducted a seminar on the fundamentals in swine genetics, breeding, selection, and artificial insemination for swine producers in the area. Both parties agreed that Europhil will supply the cooperatives with semen for their AI program. One of the collaboration's successes is that one participant of the training immediately applied the techniques learned and was able to get a litter size of 14, the highest litter size he has produced so far. B-SAFE also conducted webinars and in-person training on swine genetics, breeding, AI, hygienic meat handling, and GMP. The trainings were highly rated by participants for their relevance, effectiveness, and efficiency. B-SAFE also conducted audits on meat cutting facilities to ensure compliance with NMIS licensing requirements and coordination with LGUs for grants supporting food safety initiatives in local markets, provided tools and equipment as needed by its partners.

In this final evaluation report, KIIs were conducted with eight partners to validate project performance. These are Europhil Swine Genetics, Bauan Slaughterhouse, Rosario Slaughterhouse,

Buklod Unlad Cooperative, Soro-Soro Ibaba Development Cooperative, Lian Hog Raisers, Pinagbuklod Multipurpose Cooperative, and Esguerra Farm.

These players were identified through strategic targeting aimed at focusing the project's assistance and resources through channels where these would have maximum impact, especially amid the serious challenges brought about by ASF. This includes biosecurity risks due to ASF, lack of equipment and tools, limited market access and the challenge of meeting regulatory standards due to high investment required.

In particular, Europhil and Esguerra farms needed to enhance their genetic stock to improve herd productivity amidst the constant threat of ASF. Strict biosecurity protocols must be implemented which also entails continuous monitoring, investment in protective gear, and adherence to hygienic practices. Similarly, Lian Hog Raisers and Pinagbuklod Multipurposed Cooperative prioritized ASF and disease prevention but many swine producers lacked the knowledge and resources to implement stringent biosecurity measures.

The partner firms also faced market access limitations. Buklod Unlad lacked the necessary permits and certifications thus their inability to offer a wider product range and reach larger markets. They also lacked processing equipment, particularly a meat grinder and chopper, which are important for efficient and hygienic handling of meat products. Similarly, the slaughterhouses in Bauan and Rosario were operating using old and inefficient equipment. Maintaining high standards in meat handling and hygiene was a challenge. In the case of the Bauan Slaughterhouse, the absence of humane handling tools raised issues related to animal welfare and meat quality.

The evaluation validated B-SAFE's interventions along the swine value chain in Batangas. Based on interviews with selected B-SAFE partners, interventions included training and capacity building, provision of equipment and supplies and technical support (**Table 11**). At the production level, training and capacity building focused on biosecurity and artificial insemination, provision of equipment, genetic materials and disease-free kits, as well as dissemination of protocols and guidelines for ASF prevention. At the processing level, interventions included training on product and facility authorizations or certifications such as Certificate of Product Registrations (CPR), License to Operate (LTO), compliance to HACCP and NMIS guidelines to capacitate partners to meet regulatory standards and enable access to a wider market; provision of meat processing equipment as well as handling equipment in slaughterhouses; and technical support such as financial management.

Table 11. B-SAFE interventions and swine partner firms included in the final evaluation in Batangas

Firm	Training/Capacity Building Received	Resources Received	Results of the Intervention
Europhil	Biosecurity practices training Artificial insemination training	Improved boar for genetic enhancement, cooling fans, sludge pump	Strengthened ASF prevention efforts
SIDC	Biosecurity practices training Meat handling, meat processing techniques, NMIS guidelines on meat safety standards Assistance for certification and licensing requirements of NMIS, GMP by FDA	Digital weighing scales and chillers Stainless steel tables and meat slicers	Continuous supply of piglets

Firm	Training/Capacity Building Received	Resources Received	Results of the Intervention
	Assistance on facilities monitoring		
Esguerra Farm	Biosecurity practices training HACCP training including development of manual Assistance for Certification and licensing requirements of NMIS, GMP by FDA	Quality assurance monitoring equipment including metal detector to prevent meat contamination	Adoption of HACCP and GMP increased appeal to high end clients thereby commanding high prices for its products
Buklod Unlad Cooperative	Biosecurity practices Meat handling, meat processing techniques, NMIS guidelines on meat safety standards Assistance for Certification and licensing requirements of NMIS, GMP by FDA Assistance on financial management	Chiller and meat grinder, <i>sisig</i> chopper, air conditioner	Led to faster production and improvement of output quality, expansion of product offering, and helped meet customer demand, broader market access, strengthened reputation in the local market
Bauan Slaughterhouse	Biosecurity practices Meat handling, meat processing techniques, NMIS guidelines on meat safety standards Assistance on facilities monitoring	Hog stunner, roller, stunning box, hog roller Gambrel stunning box Sanitation equipment	Reduced labor-intensive tasks and ensured a more hygienic product; Improved humane handling and processing efficiency
Rosario Slaughterhouse	Biosecurity practices Meat handling, meat processing techniques, NMIS guidelines on meat safety standards Assistance on facilities monitoring	Digital weighing scale, elevated stainless platform, chiller	Stricter sanitation and hygienic practices that prevent potential contamination of meat
Lian Hog Raisers	Biosecurity practices Artificial insemination	AI supplies (semen vials, bio-refrigerators, portable cooler, catheter)	Continuous supply of piglets
Pinagbuklod Multipurpose Cooperative	Artificial insemination	AI supplies (semen vials, bio-refrigerators, portable cooler, catheter)	Continuous supply of piglets

Based on the KII results, B-SAFE's interventions led to improvements in operational, biosecurity and market-related aspects of the swine business among the project's partner firms including the following:

- Improvement in operational efficiency. The provision of meat processing equipment for Buklod Unlad Cooperative led to faster production and improvements to output quality. It helped the cooperative meet customer demand and expanded its product offerings. For Bauan Slaughterhouse, equipment like electric hog stunners reduced the labor-intensive tasks and ensured a more hygienic product. It also improved humane handling and processing efficiency.
- Enhanced biosecurity and disease control. The biosecurity training and equipment provided by B-SAFE strengthened the ASF prevention efforts of Europhil. B-SAFE's support to Rosario Slaughterhouse enabled the implementation of stricter sanitation and hygienic practices that prevent potential contamination of the meat product.
- Increased market access. Esguerra Farm's adoption of HACCP and GMP standards increased its appeal to high-end clients thereby commanding higher prices for its products. On the other hand, B-SAFE's assistance in obtaining necessary certifications enabled Buklod Unlad to access broader markets and strengthened its reputation in the local market.
- Continuous supply of ASF-free piglets. Supply of piglets in SIDC and other farm associations, cooperative and individuals catered to by Europhil has become continuous, bolstering the livelihoods of its members and community members in providing a stable and profitable source of income.
- Increased product quality. The adoption of humane handling and sanitation practices helped Bauan Slaughterhouse improve product quality. Equipment upgrades in Rosario Slaughterhouse led to increased demand for the product.

Providing specific assistance to key players, B-SAFE also embarked on a massive capacity building program designed to improve the knowledge and skills of those in the swine raising business in Batangas. The trainings are classified into three categories: (1) food control, inspection, surveillance and monitoring encompassing modules on food safety and hygienic meat handling, responsible use of veterinary drugs, HACCP and risk management planning; (2) livestock management covering modules on swine genetics, breeding systems and selection, biosecurity and GAHP; and (3) post-harvest, value addition, and marketing (**Table 12**).

As of September 2024, the project has trained a total of 2,177 majority of which (49%) were on livestock management, almost 36% were on food control, inspection, surveillance, and monitoring, and almost 15% were on post-harvest, value addition, and marketing (**Table 12**). Table 13 showed the different levels of adoption as validated during the survey. The evaluation found high levels of adoption of technology/practices on livestock management (59% to 96%), disease management (almost 76%), post-harvest handling and storage (84%), and value-added processing (46% to 100%).

The relevance, effectiveness, and impact of the support carried out by B-SAFE in the swine industry in Batangas are obvious from the fact that the interventions were designed to address the pressing problems which the stakeholders themselves have identified, actual improvements have been realized in the operation of the project's partner firms, and the technologies/practices promoted by B-SAFE were widely adopted by project participants.

Table 12. Swine training participants by training type, FY24

Commodity/ Type of Training	Number	Percent
Swine		
Food control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring	775	35.60%
Livestock Management	1,080	49.61%
Post-Harvest, Value Addition, and Marketing	322	14.79
Total	2,177	100%

Source: 2024 B-SAFE Training Database

Table 13. Swine participants applying technologies as a result of B-SAFE and its partner's trainings (% reporting)

Commodity/ Technology	Number	Percent
Swine		
Livestock Management		
Improved livestock breeds (n= 202)	130	64.36%
Improved livestock handling practices and housing (n=249)	194	77.91%
Improved feeding practices (n=183)	170	92.90%
Improved waste management practices (n=249)	239	95.98%
Application of Artificial Insemination techniques in breeding (n=202)	119	58.91%
Disease Management		
Testing and disease surveillance (n=116)	88	75.86%
Clustering of smallholder farms into centralized management compliant to biosecurity protocols and measures (n=249)	60	24.10%
Marketing and Distribution		
Clustered farming or contract growing scheme	77	
Application of improved dry and cold storage, logistics and distribution systems (n=228)	80	35.09%
Post-Harvest Handling and Storage		
Humane handling of hogs during loading from the farm to unloading at the slaughterhouses or live hog consolidation areas (n=103)	87	84.47%
Value-added Processing		
Improved preservation technologies and practices (n=228)	106	46.05%
Improved slaughterhouse, meat cutting facilities management (n=103)	103	100%
Improved butchering techniques (off-floor system) (n=228)	208	91.23%
Improved techniques and technologies in meat fabrication and processing, branding and packaging (n=228)	153	67.11%
Use of cold chain systems and application of GMP and HACCP (n=107)	98	91.59%
Others		
Improved record keeping (e.g., production records; sales and financial records)	184	
Improved budgeting and financial management (e.g., production and financial plans; installed financial system)	151	

Note: "n" refers to the number of individual respondents trained per topic; does not include representatives from the firms

Practices without percentages means they were not part of the training included in the FY24 PBS; Source: FY24 PBS

Onsite ASF testing using mobile PCRs. The project conducted two trainings of LGU personnel on the use of mobile PCRs to test the presence or absence of ASF in each sample. Onsite testing can be completed in two hours and thus offers a significant cost and time savings over the surveillance methods prescribed by the BAI, which depends on observations of clinical signs of the disease. With onsite testing, only those with positive results are confirmed and analyzed for the viral load and virulence of the virus.

It is clear that the stakeholders in the B-SAFE's work on swine viewed the interventions as crucial based on the level of co-investment realized in the process (Table 14). The various private sector

partners of B-SAFE invested almost \$ 910,000 while the host government agencies invested more than \$ 23,000 dollars

Table 14. Investment of swine participants as a result of B-SAFE

Participants	Sum of Investments
Host Government	\$23,039
Private Sector	\$909,862
TOTAL	\$932,901

Source: PBI Leveraged Investments by Commodity

The volume and value of sales from swine and swine related products sold by B-SAFE participants as of September 2024 is presented in **Table 15**. As shown, the LOP target for volume of production was exceeded by 14% while that for value was exceeded by 84%. The volume and value of production generated by micro-enterprises engaged in meat processing and trade were particularly impressive, with LOP targets exceeded by about eight folds.

Table 15. Volume and value of swine and related products produced and sold by B-SAFE participants, as of September 2024

Producers/Firms	Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance			Volume of swine sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance		
	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024
TOTAL	\$45,012,401	\$82,810,114	184%	16,023 MT	18,299 MT	114%
Smallholder producers	\$20,404,573	\$18,361,721	90%	8,064 MT	4,400 MT	55%
Non-smallholder producers	\$13,603,049	\$9,213,801	68%	5,376 MT	878 MT	16%
Microenterprises	\$3,301,434	\$26,872,817	814%	775 MT	6,029 MT	778%
Small and medium enterprises	\$3,829,365	\$22,184,576	579%	1,808 MT	6,272 MT	347%
Large enterprises and corporations		\$4,574,702	N/A		720 MT	N/A

Source: 2024 FAIS Report

3.2.2. B-SAFE's Works and Accomplishments: Corn Industry in Bukidnon

B-SAFE worked on the yellow corn value chain in Bukidnon. Common challenges in the corn production system included low yields, poor postharvest handling, and limited access to quality markets. Farmers often have no other choice but to sell to intermediaries at lower prices, squeezing their already slim profit margins. In addition, poor postharvest practices characterized by insufficient drying and storage often result in quality degradation and poor marketability of their corn. Faced with low returns from corn farming, many corn farmers contemplated or began shifting to other crops, such as cassava, which offered more stable income prospects. This trend threatened the sustainability of corn production in the area and highlighted a critical gap—smallholder farmers needed better access to markets to reward quality with more favorable terms.

The project carried out several exploratory and preparatory activities to define its interventions in the corn industry in Bukidnon. Eventually, the interventions were implemented in 12 municipalities

involving 91 partners that included government agencies, farmers' organizations, cooperatives and other producer groups. Of the total, nine were government agencies (LGUs, DA and DAR), nine received grants, while the remaining were provided with technical assistance/and or training.

To address low productivity and poor post-harvest processing, B-SAFE trained corn farmers on improved production and post-harvest technologies. As of July 2024, a total of 2,501 farmers participated in the various training conducted by the project. In addition, the project provided inputs, tools and equipment (improved seeds, fertilizer, plastic cover, pallets, etc.) to boost yield and product quality (**Table 16**).

Table 16. Training and illustrative equipment received and results of the interventions.

Firm	Training Received	Resources Received	Result of the Intervention¹⁴
Cabanglasan, Paradise, Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CPFMPC)	Corn production and soil analysis	moisture meters, walk-behind corn harvesters, moisture meter, hybrid seeds and fertilizer (though only 10% of the members are provided with these inputs on the 1st production cycle, other members can avail the inputs from the repayment of the 1st cycle)	Corn production exceeded 5 metric tons with the use of hybrid seeds. Quality of corn improved
Kadilingan Pay-as Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (KAPARBBA)	Pest management, crop production	sprayer, grass cutter, plastic drums, laminated sacks, seeds and fertilizer	Increase in knowledge and capacity to handle pests and maintain corn quality
Migcawayan Tribal Agriculture Cooperative (MTAC)	Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), integrated pest management, post-harvest handling	corn shredder, plastic pallets, vascular weighing scales, moisture meter, laminated sacks, UV Plastic sheets/plastic tunnel, heavy duty sack sealer, heavy duty plastic crates	Achieved corn Class A standards
Lunocan Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LARBPMPC)	GAP, corn production practices, soil analysis	moisture meters, knapsack sprayer, laminated sacks, seeds and fertilizer	Increase in quality from 75% to 90% ¹⁵
Matibugao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers' Cooperative (MARBFC)	Farm technology orientation, soil analysis	plastic pallets and plastic covers to protect crops from rain, inputs seeds and fertilizer	20% increase in yield, Class A quality standard achieved; secured long-standing relationship with CJ Philippines
St. Michael Manolo Fortich Farmers'	GAP, post-harvest handling	moisture meter, weighing scale, laminated sacks, seeds and fertilizers	Achieved 13% moisture content requirement by CJ Philippines

¹⁴ Based on KII results conducted from September to October 2024

¹⁵ Based on moisture content

Firm	Training Received	Resources Received	Result of the Intervention ¹⁴
Association Inc. (SMMFFAI)			
Minsuro Farmers Association (MFA)	Soil Fertility and Conservation Management for Corn Post-Harvest Handling & Processing Technologies	corn sheller, moisture meter, vascular weighing scale, laminated sacks, hybrid corn seeds and fertilizers	90% increase in production volume; 90% increase in quality; produced Class A corn but not sustained (seeds from Winrock); Php2 increase in price from Php12/kg (2022-2023) to Php14/kg (2024)
Minsuro Integrated Crops Farmers Association (MICFA)	Soil Fertility and Conservation Management for Corn Post-Harvest Handling & Processing Technologies	moisture meter, corn sheller, laminated sacks, vascular weighing scale, hybrid corn seeds and fertilizers	80% to 90% increase in production volume; 80% increase in quality from Class B to Class A corn (sold to MARBFC); Php5 increase in price from Php10/kg (2022-2023) to Php15/kg (2024)
Sto. Nino Farmers Association (SNFA)	Post-Harvest Handling & Processing Technologies	plastic cover, moisture meter, vascular weighing scale and laminated sacks	30%-50% increase in production volume (varies on different climatic conditions); 30% increase in quality (depends on land conditions); Php4 decrease in price from Php19/kg (2022) to Php15/kg (2025) due to competition with imported corn; produces Class A and B corn sold to local traders mainly to MARBFC

As of September 2024, B-SAFE has trained a total of 2,636 corn farmers in Bukidnon. Out of the total number of training participants, 75% were on Crop Management Training while the rest were on Post-Harvest, Value Addition and Marketing Training (**Table 17**). The evaluation found a high level of adoption (close to 90%) of technologies/practices on crop genetics, pest and disease management, soil related fertility and conservation, post-harvest handling and storage (**Table 18**).

Table 17. Corn training participants by training type, FY24

Commodity/ Type of Training	Number	Percent
Corn		
Crop Management training	1,982	75.19%
Post-harvest, value addition and marketing training	654	24.81%
Total	2,636	100.00%

Source: 2024 B-SAFE Training Database

Table 18. Corn participants applying technologies as a result of B-SAFE and trainings

Commodity/ Technology	Number	Percent
Corn		
Crop Genetics		
Proper handling, treatment and use of improved corn seed varieties (n=350)	305	87.14%
Pest and disease management		

Commodity/ Technology	Number	Percent
Integrated Pest Management in the prevention and control of Fall Armyworm and other corn pests (n=351)	311	88.60%
Weed Control (n=351)	316	90.03%
Soil-related fertility and conservation		
Improved fertilization (n=351)	304	86.61%
Post-Harvest handling and storage		
Variety classification (n=351)	296	84.33%
Crop maturity indexing (n=351)	296	84.33%
Shelling, drying and storage technologies using improved equipment and facilities (n=353)	292	82.72%
Improved classification, sorting, grading techniques (n=353)	164	46.46%
Value-added processing		
Hammer-milled corn processing	9	

Note: "n" refers to the number of individual respondents trained per topic; does not include representatives from the firms
Practices without percentages means they were not part of the training included in the FY24 PBS; Source: FY24 PBS

Results of the KIIs indicated that the interventions were generating positive impact. For instance, members of MARBFC claimed their corn yield increased by as high as 20% (from 5 mt/ha to 6 mt/ha) due to the interventions provided by B-SAFE (based on the 2024 cropping period). In addition, the farmgate price of their corn output increased from PhP 15/kg to PhP 16/kg owing to the direct market linkage established with CJ Philippines, which is a large feed miller in Bukidnon. Consequently, net farm income increased considerably from PhP 35,000/ha to PhP 51,000/ha (**Table 19**).

The positive impact was not just confined to corn growers. As claimed by CJ Philippines in an interview, B-SAFE interventions of corn growers and the assistance provided to forge direct market linkages enabled their company to minimize corn importation and achieve a more stable supply chain as almost 100% of their corn requirement can be sourced locally. The market linkage also demonstrated the ability of the corn farmers to adhere to strict market standards, including moisture content, which is a key factor in aflatoxin contamination. Potential post-harvest losses may also be lower due to such compliance.

Table 19. Cost and return analysis of pre-linkage and post-linkage scenarios of cooperatives with CJ Philippines.

Scenarios	Yield (mt/ha)	Farmgate Price (Php/kg)	Gross Income (Php/ha)	Total Cost (Php/ha)	Net Income (Php/ha)
Pre-Linkage	5	15	75,000	40,000	35,000
Post-Linkage	6	16	96,000	45,000	51,000

About 28% of the survey respondents said that they invested in various capital equipment for corn and corn related products as a result of the project (**Table 20**). Of these, 94% invested in tools/equipment; 11% on the purchase of new vehicles in the form of a motorcycle, van and/or truck, and one respondent bought a carabao for his farm.

Table 20. Investment of corn participants as a result of B-SAFE

Investments	Number	Percent
With investment due to B-SAFE (n=423)	120	28%
Type of investment*		
Tools/equipment	113	94%
Vehicles	13	11%
Animals	1	1%
Total cost of investment (US\$)	521,832	

*multiple response option; Source: FY24 PBS

**PBI Leveraged Investments by Commodity

Table 21 shows that B-SAFE’s LOP targets for volume and value of production have been surpassed by 13% and 24% respectively. The performance of smallholder farms was particularly remarkable as the LOP target volume of production was exceeded by 77% while that for value of production exceeded by 102%. Much of the work of B-SAFE on the corn value chain was focused on smallholder farms and involved the conduct of technical trainings, provision of farm input support and forging direct farm to market linkages, among others.

Table 21. Volume and Value of corn and corn-related products produced and sold by B-SAFE participants, as of September 2024

Producers/Firms	Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance			Volume of corn sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance		
	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024
TOTAL	\$5,166,709	\$6,420,545	124%	19,623 MT	22,215 MT	113%
Smallholder producers	\$2,839,801	\$5,724,624	202%	11,263 MT	19,933 MT	177%
Non-smallholder producers	\$1,893,200	\$510,721	27%	7,508 MT	1,686 MT	22%
Microenterprises	\$130,112	\$36,364	28%	256 MT	123 MT	48%
Small and medium enterprises	\$303,595	\$148,834	49%	596 MT	473 MT	79%
Large enterprises and corporations	\$0	\$0	N/A	0	0	N/A

Source: 2024 FAIS Report

3.2.3. B-SAFE’s Works and Accomplishments: Coconut Sugar in Misamis Oriental

Baseline assessment of the coconut sugar industry in Misamis Oriental indicated certification deficiencies, gaps in packaging and equipment requirement, post-harvest losses due to delayed sap harvesting, production losses due to poor hygiene, and low adoption of improved practices such as improved marketing and distribution techniques and better packaging and labeling. While technical capacity among government agencies exists, financial constraints hinder their ability to provide adequate support for training, facilities, and equipment.

The baseline assessment successfully identified key supply chain locations, enabling B-SAFE to partner with 20 stakeholders across nine municipalities of Misamis Oriental to address the constraints identified. These partners included producer groups, LGUs, the DA and the University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP). Three major partners were recipients of grants from the project while others were provided with targeted trainings and technical assistance.

B-SAFE's intervention in coconut sugar focused on addressing the issue of non-compliance of producers with food safety standards in production and the provision of services towards securing FDA's LTO and CPR and international standards like Organic Certification.

In collaboration with USTP, B-SAFE conducted several training and capacity building activities to improve the production and processing practices of the cooperating firms. Aside from USTP, there are also other technical training service providers that provided training to support coco sugar producers which are the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAGRO) Misamis Oriental and BPI. Cognizant that training alone would not be enough to encourage the growth of the coconut sugar industry in the province, the project also provided equipment support and assistance to the firms in relation to their application for certain licenses (e.g. FDA's LTO and CPR) and compliance to international standards.

Aside from conducting training and provision of resources, B-SAFE provided a research grant to USTP to undertake a study titled "Development of Quality Parameters for Improvement of Coconut Sugar Producers and Products." The research was conducted in collaboration with the Linabu Agrarian Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LAMPCO), with the objective of enhancing food safety and product quality in coconut sugar production. USTP identified deficiencies in GMP compliance of LAMPCO, introduced specific interventions like using sanitized High-Density Polyethylene containers for sap collection, and teaching sap collectors to monitor pH levels and adjusting the cooking temperatures to develop light-colored coconut sugar. The results were immediately transferred to local producers through a training session involving 23 participants from 12 cooperatives. The improved practices created a ripple effect across the local coconut sugar industry, as cooperatives shared the knowledge within their network. The project team recommended incorporating the study findings into the Philippine National Standards for coconut sugar products to strengthen quality grading assessment.

To assess project performance, KIs were conducted with B-SAFE's private partners engaged in coconut sugar production and trade focused on production capacity, market access and certification issues and how B-SAFE has addressed these issues. Private partners included Agay Ayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative (AMPC), LAMPCO, Trunk-to-Gold Agribusiness Corporation (T2G), and PAGSAKA Cooperative. Specific issues identified by these partners were:

- Production constraints. All firms struggle with limited production capacity, which affects their ability to meet demand. Both AMPC and PAGSAKA, for instance, have low daily output while LAMPCO and T2G faced occasional backlogs due to limited capacity.
- Certification and compliance costs. Meeting export standards and obtaining certifications like LTO, HACCP and Organic were financially challenging. LAMPCO and T2G found the high costs and rigorous requirements for certifications as barriers to market expansion. Both had to self-finance their certification compliance needs.
- Market access and marketing constraints. All had limited access to larger markets, relying heavily on local trade fairs and support from the local government.
- Technical skills and training. Additional training was needed to improve technical skills and standardize practices, especially in GMP. Many farmers were also hesitant to travel for training sessions.
- Management and organization. LAMPCO had issues with past management which affected its operations. Following reorganization, membership dropped significantly from 415 to 35 for

better operational efficiency. This means less administrative work, allowing LAMPCO to concentrate on core operational functions such as production and marketing.

- Packaging and standardization. Challenges in packaging limited competitiveness in larger markets.

B-SAFE provided a general training program to improve the knowledge and skills on production and processing and specific interventions tailored to the needs of its client firms, notably:

- Training. All firms received training on GMP, food safety, and Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) standards, and HACCP standards. Emphasis was placed on hygienic practices, ensuring standardized and safe production processes. T2G received hands-on training on pH measurement to measure sap acidity. Participants in the training are the tappers and all those involved in the production and post-production processes.
- Equipment and infrastructure support. LAMPCO received solar panels to support energy needs during production, a water refilling station to ensure clean water source, stainless steel tables and plastic panels for more hygienic processing, and moisture measurement equipment. T2G received pH and refractometer while AMCI received testing equipment and hygienic processing tools along with emphasis on handwashing to ensure cleaner production practices.
- Market access and product presentation. AMCI was assisted with packaging technology to improve product presentation. T2G was supported in accessing new markets thereby increasing its products presence in several regions in the country.

Table 22 presents the specific training and resources received and results of the intervention.

Table 22. B-SAFE training and illustrative equipment support and results of the intervention

Firm	Training Received	Resources Received	Results of the intervention
AMCI	GMP Improved Packaging, Labeling, and Storage Techniques RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar Technology Transfer of the “Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing” Training on Good Hygienic Practice	Provided a pH meter, refractometer, moisture meter, stainless steel cooker mixer, food grade wok, and stainless washing sink with faucet and other accessories. Was assisted with packaging technology to improve product presentation. Hygienic tools like aprons and hairnets along with emphasis on handwashing to ensure cleaner production practices.	With the assistance of B-SAFE and the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), they gained access to new markets by securing sales channels in local malls. B-SAFE inspired AMCI to consider product diversification.
LAMPCO FDA approval, Organic and Halal certified	Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar GMP, OSH, Sanitation Standard Operation Procedures (SSOP),	Materials for solar dryers to support energy-efficient drying methods, water filtration facility to ensure a clean water source, stainless tables and plastic	Opened new market opportunities as they are now able to sell in local malls

Firm	Training Received	Resources Received	Results of the intervention
	<p>Business Planning Workshop</p> <p>RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar Technology Transfer of the “Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing”</p> <p>GMP with focus on Improved Techniques on Toddy Tapping</p> <p>GAP Internal Control System</p> <p>Technology Transfer and Quality Standards</p> <p>Risk Management Planning</p> <p>Business Planning and Enterprise Development</p>	<p>panels for more hygienic processing, moisture meter, food grade wok, stainless container, and pH meter</p>	
T2G	<p>HACCP, GMP and OSH Training on Sustainable Coconut Farming, Coconut sap Tapping, Traceability, Documentation and Financial Literacy</p> <p>T2G was supported in accessing new markets thereby increasing its products presence in several regions in the country</p>	<p>pH meter, refractometer, improved packaging materials, water tank and filtration system, automatic cooker mixer, food grade wok, food grade barrel, stainless steel, and vacuum sealer</p>	<p>Compliance to local and international standards significantly enhanced its products, leading to new market opportunities for their coconut sugars.</p> <p>T2G was recognized as the most improved product during DTI’s first MSME One Expo in 2023, which is a regional trade fair held in Cagayan de Oro City in collaboration with the local government.</p>
PAGSAKA Cooperative	<p>GMP, HACCP, Training on Sustainable Coconut Farming, Coconut sap Tapping</p> <p>Financial Literacy</p>		<p>Abiding to quality control, members committed to produce high quality sap. The rejection rate was minimal.</p> <p>Income stability for members being a regular supplier of good quality coconut sap to T2G</p>

B-SAFE’s support laid the foundation for food safety and operational practices among the partner firms under study. The training aligns well with the unique needs of each cooperative, particularly in quality control, food safety, and GMP, which are crucial in meeting local and international market standards. T2G’s aspiration to expand to international markets was well supported by the GMP training. T2G feels empowered to pursue further growth, confident that their products can compete and be accepted in the export market. Its partner firm, PAGSAKA, became committed to producing

good quality coconut sap with minimal rejection. As a regular supplier to T2G, income stability for its members is assured. Compliance to food safety regulations has opened new market opportunities for AMPC, LAMPCO and T2G.

Despite improvements in product quality, achieving certification such as organic, LTO, and Halal remains a challenge due to high cost and resource limitations. T2G handles HACCP certification compliance independently with B-SAFE technical guidance.

As of September 2024, B-SAFE trained a total of 1,290 coco sugar producers, 61% of which were on Post-Harvest, Value Addition and Marketing and 39% were on Food Control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring (**Table 23**). The evaluation found that in contrast to corn and swine, the adoption level was relatively moderate at around (23% to 68%) (**Table 24**).

Based on KII, the factors constraining adoption are: (1) lack of prior knowledge since many individuals enter production without foundational knowledge making it difficult to fully grasp or implement the training; (2) informal manufacturing settings often lacking the infrastructure or resources to meet food safety standards; (3) market barriers wherein unlicensed products can still find buyers reducing the incentive for producers to comply with formal standards and training outcomes.

Interestingly, adoption of sanitary handling of raw materials (coconut sap) and coconut sugar products compliant to food safety standards is high at 68%. Other food safety related technologies that were reported as adopted include use of improved dry storage (22%), improved tools and equipment for coconut sugar processing such as water storage and filtration system (44%), and improved preservation (41%).

B-SAFE supported training which enhanced the technical capabilities of the partner firms. They adopted the standard practices and knowledge acquired to enhance food safety and product quality. The hands-on training in quality control has reduced rejection rates among the tappers who play a crucial role in this industry. However, despite quality improvements, their lack of funds in acquiring certification and absence of direct market linkages limit their growth potential.

The relevance, effectiveness and impact of B-SAFE among coconut sugar producers are evident as interventions were tailored to the needs of specific firms, the trainings enhanced the skills and knowledge of the coconut sap tappers and coconut sugar processors and supported a significant rate of technology adoption and improved compliance with food safety standards.

Table 23. Coconut sugar training participants by training type, FY24

Commodity/ Type of Training	Number	Percent
Coconut sugar		
Post-Harvest, Value Addition and Marketing	787	61.01%
Food Control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring	503	38.99%
Total	1,290	100.00%

Source: 2024 B-SAFE Training Database

Table 24. Coconut sugar participants applying technologies as a result of B-SAFE and partner trainings.

Commodity/ Technology	Number	Percent
Coconut sugar		
Post-harvest Handling and Storage		
Improved classification, sorting, grading techniques (n=126)	49	38.89%
Sanitary handling of raw materials (coconut sap) and coconut sugar products compliant to food safety standards (n=158)	108	68.35%
Use of improved dry storage (n=178)	40	22.47%

Commodity/ Technology	Number	Percent
Value-added Processing		
Improved tools and equipment for coconut sugar processing (Water storage and filtration system, tunnel type solar dryer) (n=122)	54	44.26%
Improved preservation technologies and practices (n=122)	50	40.98%
Improved packaging materials and design (n=126)	38	30.16%
Others		
Improved record keeping (Production records, sales and financial records)	79	
Improved budgeting and financial management (Production and financial plans, installed financial system)	54	

Note: “n” refers to the number of individual respondents trained per topic; does not include representatives from the firms
Practices without percentages means they were not part of the training included in the FY24 PBS; Source: FY24 PBS

About 14% of survey respondents stated that they invested in various equipment for the production of coconut sugar and related products as a result of the project (**Table 25**). Of these, 100% invested in tools/equipment; 27% in infrastructure (e.g., storage areas); and one purchased a motorcycle for his coconut sugar business.

Table 25. Investments of coconut sugar participants as a result of B-SAFE

Investments	Number	Percent
With investment due to B-SAFE (n=229)	41	14%
Type of investment*		
Tools/equipment	41	100%
Infrastructure	27	66%
Vehicle	1	2%
Total cost of investment (US \$)**	456,593	

*Multiple response option; Source: FY24 PBS

**PBI Leveraged Investments by Commodity

The volume and value from coconut sugar and coconut sugar related products sold by B-SAFE participants as of September 2024 is presented in **Table 26**. There were four types of products sold which include coconut sap, coconut syrup, coconut sugar, and coconut aminos. However, among the four commodities covered by B-SAFE, it is in coconut-sugar where the project is still significantly short of its volume and value LOP targets. As of September 2024, the volume of production was just 58% of the target while the value of production was much lower at just 9% of the LOP target. The performance of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) was encouraging as the volume and value targets of B-SAFE have already been achieved. These SMEs comprise the majority of players in coconut-sugar related products. The volume and value of production from smallholder producers remain depressed as the project achieved only 4% of its LOP target on value of production, albeit 65% of the LOP volume target has already been achieved.

Table 26. Volume and Value of coconut sugar and coconut sugar related products produced and sold by B-SAFE participants, as of September 2024

Producers/Firms	Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance			Volume of coconut sugar sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance		
	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024
TOTAL	\$6,239,147	\$583,824	9%	1,221 MT	709 MT	58%
Smallholder producers	\$3,453,421	\$140,427	4%	683 MT	443 MT	65%
Non-smallholder producers	\$2,302,281	\$8,457	0%	455 MT	37 MT	8%
Microenterprises	\$145,033	\$56,559	39%	25 MT	26 MT	104%
Small and medium enterprises	\$338,412	\$378,382	112%	57 MT	204 MT	355%
Large enterprises and corporations	\$0	\$0	N/A	0	0	N/A

Source: 2024 FAIS Report

3.2.4. B-SAFE's Works and Accomplishments: Milkfish in Pangasinan

The baseline assessment study identified several issues and challenges facing the milkfish industry in Pangasinan. These are production related issues, post-harvest constraints, market and value chain limitations, and institutional and technical constraints. Production-related issues include high reliance on imported milkfish fry, limited adoption of recommended feeding methods despite proper stocking density, low compliance with GAqP and food safety certification like GMP and HACCP due to lack of financial resources.

Post-harvest and processing constraints include inadequate infrastructure such as freezing and blast facilities, minimal access to modern packaging and transportation technologies and limited HACCP and LTO certifications among processors. In terms of market and value chain limitations, there is lack of incentives for compliance with food safety standards due to low premium for certified products. Market linkages between producer, traders, and processors are weak and there is no structured processing and trading system. The industry is also constrained with low access to extension services and training on food safety and productivity.

Given these challenges, B-SAFE has identified 135 partners across 25 municipalities and cities in the province for targeted project interventions. Among these, 114 are firms, small producer groups, associations, and cooperatives engaged in milkfish production, processing, and trading. The remaining partners include LGUs, BFAR, DA, and academic institutions providing technical assistance in implementing B-SAFE interventions.

Interventions implemented, as identified in the midterm evaluation report, include support for the establishment of community-based nursery in Binmaley, training of cooperative members on fry-to-fingerling production technique (locally termed Garungan system) and GAqP. On post-harvest and

processing support, B-SAFE assisted toll processing facilities in obtaining HACCP certification, and supported packaging, labelling, and GMP. On market and value chain development, the project facilitated linkages between producers and major market centers and supported creation of milkfish processing enterprises focusing on deboning and marinating.

On capacity building and technical assistance, B-SAFE conducted trainings on food safety standards, GMP, and processing methods, partnering with LGUs and BFAR for skills development program and provided technical assistance on regulatory compliance, including obtaining LTO, CPR, and HACCP certification. These interventions aimed to strengthen the entire milkfish value chain from production to market, ensuring improved productivity, food safety compliance, and sustainable industry growth.

To assess project performance, KIIs were conducted with 12 major partners and a minor partner who received training on GAqP. Partners include Gayaman Aqua Processors Association (GAPA), Ladies Group of Caloocan Norte, Small Anchor Fishermen Association, Estancia Lingayen Pangasinan Farmers, Fisherfolks, and Livestock Raisers Association, Inc., Freshious Inc., West Fil Sea Bounty Corp., Salapingao Fisherfolks Association, Elisha Bay Dagupan Bangus and Seafoods, Mama Cili Enterprises, Integrated Small Fishpond Owners and Leases (ISFOL), Korea Philippines Seafood Processing Complex, and Malimgas Market.

The major supply chain constraints in the milkfish value chain in Pangasinan are the (1) high reliance on imported milkfish fry, (2) non-compliance of identified processing facilities to food safety standards like GMP and HACCP, and (3) non-compliance of fish farmers to GAqP. B-SAFE addressed these key challenges by facilitating the establishment of milkfish nurseries, supporting certification processes, and conducted food safety and GAqP training (**Table 27**). Key highlights include the following:

- Equipment provision: B-SAFE provided critical processing tools and machinery such as vacuum sealers, fish dryers, sun-drying beds, retort claws, and kitchen sinks. These items allowed firms to improve their product safety, increase shelf life, ensure year-round processing, and meet higher food safety standards. This equipment was necessary to ensure that the facilities were fully compliant, which is an important requisite for certification.
- Documentation and certification support: B-SAFE guided the firms in preparing and maintaining proper documentation and meeting standards for certifications like GMP, HACCP, and FDA compliance. The support includes covering testing costs and preparation of GMP and HACCP Manual.
- Product safety and market readiness: B-SAFE facilitated improvements in food safety, product quality, and shelf life, all necessary for accessing broader markets.

Table 27. Training/technical support and illustrative equipment provided to milkfish firms

	Training/Technical Support	Equipment provided to firms	Results of the Intervention
Private Firms			
GAPA	Deboning, smoking, pickling techniques for milkfish, food safety standards and HACCP principles to ensure product safety, GAP, price-setting basics and marketing strategies	Two coolers, forceps, one weighing scale, oblong basin for processing	Expanded product offerings such as smoked and marinated milkfish. Positive impact from customers boosted economic well-being
Ladies Group of Caloocan Norte	GMP, Food safety and specific skills for food processing and deboning	Vacuum sealer, pressure cooker, food processor, cooler, chiller, freezer, wall fans	Scaled up operation and met market standards; diversified product offering to include

	Training/Technical Support	Equipment provided to firms	Results of the Intervention
			marinated and smoked boneless milkfish
Small Anchor Fishermen Association	Deboning and processing of products like tocino (a Filipino cured meat) and food safety processes	Essential tools for deboning (forceps and knives)	Enhanced association's capacity in milkfish processing, promoted safety and efficiency in operations Participants shared skills with family and community members, fostering knowledge transfer and broader community benefit.
Estancia Lingayen Pangasinan Farmers Fisherfolks and Livestock Raisers Association Inc.	Fishpond management practices such as feeding schedule		Adopted recommended feeding practices but unable to increase production due to water pollution
Freshious, Inc.	Cold chain management Support in certification process	Technical support for laboratory testing needed for certification renewal and regulatory compliance	Streamlined operational process to achieve compliance with standards
West Fil Corp	Assisted in GMP preparation, helping them meet certification standards and improving food safety practices		GMP manual prepared for approval by management
Salapingao Fisherfolk	Fishpond management		Adopted recommended practices but water pollution hindered growth of stock
Elisha Bay	HACCP, GMP, Threat Assessment and Control Points, Bioterrorism Assessment Control Point	Retortclave	Reduced bottling time from 90 to 60 minutes; overall monthly production increased by 25% and reduced production expenses by 20%
Mama Cili	HACCP, GMP and SSOP Assistance in heat penetration test	Sun-drying beds, kitchen sinks	Improved sanitation of processing area and reduced spoilage for processed product
ISFOL	GMP, GAqP	Fish dryer, vacuum sealer	Enhanced production operation, supporting consistent production during rainy season; 30% increase in clients

	Training/Technical Support	Equipment provided to firms	Results of the Intervention
Government Entities			
Korea Philippines Seafood Processing Complex	Food Safety Act Seminar, HACCP, GMP and SSOP		Secured class B HACCP certification
Malimgas Market	Good Hygiene Practices, food safety procedures, quality control and contamination procedure, product handling standard		Participants learned to adhere to safety protocols on deboning milkfish protocols, enhancing product safety and customer trust

As of September 2024, B-SAFE trained a total of 2,147 milkfish growers and processors, 68% of which were on aquaculture management, 17% were on food control, inspection surveillance and monitoring, and 14% were on Post-Harvest, Value Addition, and Marketing (**Table 28**). The validation survey showed moderate to high level of adoption (**Table 29**).

The interventions led to practical improvements in food safety practices as evidenced by members applying skills which allowed them to expand product offerings. The training proved effective in equipping the partners with actionable skills that increased product diversity and market reach.

Training/technical assistance in obtaining certifications like GMP and LTO helped companies like Freshious and West Fil-Sea enhance their production operation as they apply the food safety procedures.

Overall, B-SAFE intervention initiated a process improvement within firms, focusing on achieving GMP certification for West Fil-Sea, HACCP certification for Elisha Bay, and LTO certification for ISFOL and Ladies Group of Caloocan Norte. The training empowered village groups like GAPA and Small Anchor to learn and improve their processing practices and product quality that has led to better acceptance in the market.

Table 28. Milkfish training participants by training type, FY24

Commodity/ Type of Training	Number	Percent
Milkfish		
Aquaculture Management	1,468	68.37%
Post-Harvest, Value Addition, and Marketing	306	14.25%
Food Control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring	373	17.37%
Total	2,147	100.00%

Source: 2024 B-SAFE Training Database

Results of the survey showed high adoption of the technologies and practices promoted in the trainings, such as proper icing application, packing and transport (85%), and use of improved food processing techniques (50%); application of improved dry and cold storage, logistics and distribution (79%); and aquaculture management such as improved feed and feeding practices and housing (79%); fish health and disease control (72%); improved stocking density (76%); improved cage culture (86%); sampling and harvesting (82%); and improved water quality monitoring (76%) (**Table 29**).

Results of KIIs and FGDs indicated the interventions yielded positive results across firms. These resulted in increased product safety and market access and streamlining of their operations. Key results are as follows:

- Improved product quality and safety. The new equipment and adherence to food safety standards resulted in higher product quality. There were fewer production errors and spoilage resulting in increasing product safety.
- Increase operational efficiency. Partner firms benefited from faster processing times and streamlined operations. For instance, the retort clave reduced Elisha Bay's bottling time, and the fish dryer enabled ISFOL to produce during the rainy season.
- Market expansion. With improved product quality and compliance with regulatory standards, the firms can broaden their access to new markets. Elisha Bay, for instance, prepared to enter the US market with enhanced food safety protocols and ISFOL experienced a 30% increase in clients due to reliable year-round production.
- Certification Requirements. Firms were better equipped to meet certification requirements (e.g. HACCP and GMP), which improved their credibility to attract clients who require high safety standards.

Table 29. Milkfish participants applying technologies as a result of B-SAFE and partner trainings

Commodity/ Technology	Number	Percent
Milkfish		
Aquaculture Management		
Improved fingerlings (n=189)	108	57.14%
Improved feed and feeding practices and housing (n=189)	154	81.48%
Fish health and disease control (n=189)	136	71.96%
Improved cage culture (n=110)	97	88.18%
Sampling and harvesting (Use of Kalokor in harvesting milkfish) (n=110)	93	84.54%
Improved stocking density (n=110)	86	78.18%
Application of improved water quality monitoring techniques in ponds and fish cages (n=110)	86	78.18%
Marketing and distribution		
Application of improved dry and cold storage, logistics and distribution systems (n=161)	134	83.22%
Post-harvest handling and storage		
Classification, sorting and grading fresh milkfish (n=194)	132	68.04%
Maturity indexing (n=194)	102	52.57%
Application of proper icing, packing and transport using improved tools, equipment and cold chain system (n=194)	171	88.14%
Value-added Processing		
Improved preservation technologies and practices (n=263)	134	50.95%
Use of improved food processing techniques and technologies such as but not limited to deboning, smoking, drying, canning and bottling branding, labeling and packaging (n=263)	137	52.09%
Others		
Improved record keeping (e.g., production records; sales and financial records)	20	
Improved budgeting and financial management (e.g., production and financial plans; installed financial system)	18	

Note: "n" refers to the number of individual respondents trained per topic; does not include representatives from the firms
Practices without percentages means they were not part of the training included in the FY24 PBS; Source: FY24 PBS

B-SAFE's interventions in the milkfish industry in Pangasinan are relevant, effective, and impactful. The needs were identified by the clients themselves; the interventions were designed to address the

specific needs, and the actual implementation resulted in the adoption of technologies/practices and improvement in outcomes in terms of better yield and compliance to food safety standards. About 24% of the survey respondents said that they provided capital investments for the production of milkfish and milkfish by products as a result of the project (**Table 30**). Of these, 79% invested in tools/equipment; 52% invested in infrastructure (i.e., installation of water pumps and repairs of production facilities including fish pens); and 5% purchased a motorboat for milkfish production.

Table 30. Investment of milkfish participants as a result of B-SAFE

Investments	Number	Percent
With investment due to B-SAFE (n=446)	108	24%
Type of investment*		
Tools/equipment	85	79%
Infrastructure	56	52%
Vehicle	5	5%
Total cost of investment (US \$)**	581,120	

*Multiple response option; Source: FY24 PBS

**PBI Leveraged Investments by Commodity

The volume and value sold from milkfish and milkfish products sold by B-SAFE participants as of September 2024 is presented in **Table 31**. There were four types of products sold which are fries or fingerlings, fresh whole milkfish, semi-processed milkfish, and processed milkfish. As of September, 2024, B-SAFE has achieved 47% of its LOP production volume target and 43% of LOP value of production target. The performance of SMEs was impressive as LOP targets for volume and value have been exceeded by three to four folds. These are mostly those engaged in fish processing. However, B-SAFE is still significantly short of its volume and value targets for producers or milkfish growers.

Table 31. Volume and Value of milkfish and milkfish products related products produced and sold by B-SAFE participants, as of September 2024

Producers/Firms	Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance			Volume of milkfish sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance		
	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024	LOP Targets	Cumulative Performance as of Sep 2024	% of LOP Target Achieved as of Sep 2024
TOTAL	\$33,980,983	\$14,747,415	43%	15,094 MT	7,159 MT	47%
Producers	\$29,906,809	\$5,591,459	19%	13,624 MT	2,454 MT	18%
Microenterprises	\$1,222,252	\$1,216,952	100%	441 MT	375 MT	85%
Small and medium enterprises	\$2,851,922	\$7,921,000	278%	1,029 MT	4,300 MT	418%
Large enterprises and corporations	\$0	\$18,005	N/A	0	30 MT	N/A

Source: 2024 FAIS Report

3.2.5. Participant Feedback on the Relevance, Effectiveness and Sustainability of the B-SAFE Interventions

Apart from examining the specific interventions and accomplishments of B-SAFE in each of the commodities as a means of drawing insights on the relevance, effectiveness, and sustainability of project interventions, the evaluation also gathered participant survey feedback. This was done using a five-point Likert Scale designed to gauge the respondent's level of agreement or disagreement to positive statements or descriptions of project interventions.

To gauge relevance, the respondents were asked to indicate their agreement/disagreement to a straightforward statement that the interventions were relevant to them while effectiveness was gauged using internally consistent statements that have the same underlying construct for measuring this parameter. The survey instrument considered timeliness of assistance, ease of access to assistance and resources, ease of participation in trainings and other project activities, fairness in access/distribution of resources and speed of project response to client's feedback as internally consistent concerns that correlate well with effectiveness. To gauge sustainability, the respondents were simply asked to indicate their level of agreement/disagreement to the statement that they will continue using the technologies/practices learned from the project.

The evaluation found that across all four commodities, most participants view the assistance provided by B-SAFE as relevant (**Annex G. Figure 1**). Only very few (less than 10%) coconut sugar and milkfish growers were unsure or believed that the interventions were not relevant. However, while the majority of corn and swine farmers view the B-SAFE's interventions as relevant, a significant percentage (35% and 30%, respectively) were unsure. This indicates a possible weakness in the targeting of corn and swine participants or exceedingly high participant expectations of the project.

The evaluation also found that across commodities, B-SAFE interventions were considered effective by the majority of participants as gauged by the positive response on timeliness (**Annex G. Figure 2**), the ease of access and participation to these (**Annex G. Figure 3** and **Annex G. Figure 4**), the fairness in accessing and distribution of project resources (**Annex G. Figure 5**) and the speed by which B-SAFE responded to feedback or specific request for assistance (**Annex G. Figure 6**). Overall, most B-SAFE participants were satisfied with the assistance provided by the project (**Annex G. Figure 7**) and are willing to continue adopting/practicing what they have learned (**Table 32**).

Table 32. Respondent's response on the statement that they will continue to apply the learnings/ technologies derived from B-SAFE technical assistance

Commodity/ Rating	Highly Agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Highly Disagree	Average Rating
Milkfish	153	227	39	4	-	1.75
Swine	32	312	128	19	1	2.28
Corn	64	276	71	-	-	2.02
Coconut sugar	83	102	44	12	-	1.94
ALL	332	917	282	35	1	2.01

3.2.6. B-SAFE's Works and Accomplishments: Building Cold Chain Systems

Cold chain systems are one of B-SAFE's major activities falling under Pillar 2 (i.e. SPS compliant supply chain linkages) as it is intended to support the supply chains especially for swine and milkfish. However, B-SAFE's works and accomplishments on this may still be regarded as preliminary or foundational at best.

The project completed field surveys on milkfish and hogs value chain-related cold chain in Pangasinan and Batangas, respectively, in collaboration with the Board of Investments (BOI) of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

The B-SAFE intervention in milkfish cold chain focuses on improving their practices and technologies in harvest and post-harvest handling operations, particularly sorting, grading, icing, packing, cold storage, and transport of fresh and processed milkfish. However, the findings revealed several problems such as: (1) some producers, especially local milkfish processors, decommissioned their cold storage facilities due to bankruptcy and decline in the number of clients; (2) some producers only used ice blocks and crushed ice for their fresh milkfish; (3) the ice plants required deep wells and piped in water; (4) high electricity costs and power outages; and (5) most of milkfish processors do not have a LTO and only use insulated/cooler boxes.

Meanwhile, most LGUs take action by improving the slaughterhouses and supporting the local livestock production industry. The problem is that production of pork was not able to meet the local demand in their municipalities due to the impact of ASF. B-SAFE held initial discussions with the swine farmer's association which are partnered with LGU of Tanauan, wherein they plan to operate a "AAA" Slaughterhouse with a meat cutting facility and cold storage. One slaughterhouse was found to have an "AAA" NMIS Rating.

Following the initial results of the cold chain study, B-SAFE conducted a validation and scoping workshop on potential investments with local governments of Pangasinan and Batangas. The results were presented to the provincial government to 1) validate the results, 2) initiate discussion in convening a bigger investment forum to encourage private investors for cold chain, and 3) identify initial investments that can be provided by the project in collaboration with local partners. A series of site visits in major milkfish producing areas were undertaken to scope out potential grants to improve cold chain equipment of ice traders, milkfish vendors, processors, public markets, and shared service facilities for milkfish deboning and processing.

Upon conducting meetings, preliminary scoping, and validation for the slaughterhouses of the municipalities of Rosario, Balayan, and Sto. Tomas in Batangas, the LGUs expressed interest in improving their meat processing operations and application of cold chain systems and agreed collaboration with the project. The Rosario slaughterhouse butchers, animal technicians, meat and sanitary inspectors received training on food safety practices, hygienic meat handling, and slaughterhouse operation and management as part of this process.

In Q1-Q2 of 2024, B-SAFE hosted two Cold Chain Investment Forums in Pangasinan (for Milkfish) and in Batangas (for Swine). The cold chain forum in Pangasinan was held on February 28, 2024, and in Batangas on March 20, 2024, in partnership with the BOI, DTI, DA, NMIS, BFAR, the Cold Chain Association of the Philippines, and the respective provincial LGUs of Pangasinan and Batangas. In these forums, the findings of the project's cold chain registry study were presented to the LGUs and partner agencies. Cold chain gaps in the milkfish and swine industries were highlighted among the topics in the forums to serve as springboards for discussions on investment opportunities that included new supply chain technologies and financial packages from financing institutions. The forums were attended by a total of 228 individuals and included participants from milkfish and swine producers, processors and exporters, feed companies, logistics and cold chain companies, and B-SAFE partners. This also facilitated networking and linkages among stakeholders for potential investments.

In November 2024, the project partnered with the Cold Chain Association of the Philippines and organized a training of milkfish and swine producers and processors, LGUs in the provinces of

Pangasinan and Batangas, and cold chain service providers. The training focused on the cold chain facilities available on the market which small and medium enterprises in milkfish and swine industries can use.

B-SAFE is currently monitoring nine grants for cold chain projects in Pangasinan and Batangas. These grants primarily focus on post-harvest processing and involve the use of an improved cold chain system. The grants have attracted investments totaling \$172,172 this semester. The combined resources have significantly enhanced the processing of food-safe pork and milkfish, resulting in a substantial estimated volume of 398 MTs. The value of the milkfish and pork produced at slaughterhouses, meat-cutting plants, and small cold storage facilities is estimated at \$475,579 in the last semester of FY24.

Cold Chain Support for Pork Processing. B-SAFE provided technical support for the installation of food-grade cold chain equipment at SIDC Meat Cutting Hub and Rosario Slaughterhouse. As of September 30, 2024, the SIDC meat cutting hub is fully operational, producing 900 kilos of meat per day and distributing to 11 outlets in Batangas province. SIDC has obtained the necessary business permits and certifications from the local government and NMIS and has invested a total of \$20,535 in the meat cutting hub.

Cold Chain for Milkfish. B-SAFE extended technical support through a grant to facilitate the comprehensive operation of six retailers in Lingayen, Pangasinan. This support entailed the installation of six food-grade stainless steel ice crushing machines, resulting in the production of 32,400 blocks of ice or an equivalent to 4,860 MTs valued at \$168 in the last semester of FY24. The substantial augmentation in volume and value of sales were supported using potable water for ice production and the deployment of food-grade ice crusher machines for icing milkfish. This product was used by 35 public market fish vendors, who were also beneficiaries of food-grade ice cooler boxes from B-SAFE. The adoption of hygienic ice for storing milkfish in food-grade cooler boxes has supported a marked improvement in hygienic processing, packaging, transport, and storage within the public wet market of Lingayen. This improvement resulted in a volume of 182 MTs of properly iced milkfish valued at \$412,168 in the last semester of FY24.

4. Conclusion: Answer to Evaluation Questions

4.1. Relevance

4.1.1. How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for?

The critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proved to be generally accurate, albeit tested by unforeseen challenges. In summary, the project assumed that over its life, the public sector would remain committed to harmonizing the food safety regulatory framework; there will be sufficient trade (export/import) opportunities; the country's major markets would refrain from imposing unjustified export bans; trade relations especially with the US, Europe, and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) remain stable; applicable international standards remain consistent; and the GOP can establish itself as an honest broker to deliver an evidence-based information campaign on the safety of biotechnology.

Excluding the assumption on biotechnology, there appears to be no major developments during the last five years that would suggest that the assumptions did not hold true. Despite the operational

issues specifically on leadership turnover, the commitment of the public sector to improving the regulatory environment and compliance to food safety standards appears undiminished as evidenced by the active participation of FSRAs on B-SAFE and the continued efforts of DA and FDA to harmonize food safety regulation with international standards. Trade opportunities have started to flourish following the easing of the pandemic and trade relations with US, Europe, and ASEAN remain strong as evidenced by the ongoing Philippines-EU Free Trade Agreement, ongoing initiatives to enhance bilateral trade agreement with the US and the further strengthening of Philippine collaboration with neighboring countries under the ASEAN framework. There have also been no major cases of export bans and no major changes in international food safety standards.

The assumption that the GOP can establish itself as an honest broker to deliver evidence-based information campaign on the safety of biotechnology appears inaccurate. Developments over the last five years tend to show mixed results. While there has been ongoing advocacy for biotechnology, certain government branches such as the judiciary (i.e., the case of the Writ of *Kalikasan*) apparently render less-evidence based judgment/decisions which unfortunately bolster the cause of anti-biotechnology groups. The inaccuracy in this assumption seems to be the reason why the initiatives of B-SAFE on biotechnology appear “overly cautious”.

There were critical factors which were not foreseen, thus, have not been taken into consideration during the project design. First, during the early phase of the project, the Covid-19 pandemic seriously dragged the project’s pace and severely limited physical interaction with the project partners and participants. The ASF outbreak was a second crucial factor that adversely impacted the project’s ability to improve swine production practices. While biosecurity measures were implemented, the severity of the disease hampered project activities.

In the selection of commodities, potential for scalability was not adequately considered. For instance, coconut sugar is a niche commodity that has limited scalability due to low local demand and the challenge of meeting international standards. As another case, the project initially attempted to focus on food-grade corn only to realize that volume requirements of institutional buyers would be unrealistic to meet as the lack of price premium disincentivizes farmers from changing their process to make their product food grade. For swine, early plans to support UNIBAT’s (United Batangas Hog Farmers, Inc.) breeding center and artificial insemination set up did not move forward. The project instead provided a grant to Europhil as a partner in artificial insemination and provision of high-quality semen.

Another critical factor was the diverse geographic focus of B-SAFE which stretched resources and necessitated frequent adaptive measures. Commodities far from Manila such as coconut in Misamis Oriental and corn in Bukidnon required additional logistic support, limiting technical assistance to these areas.

4.1.2. How relevant has B-SAFE’s objectives, priority interventions, and the approach been to the situation of the participants?

B-SAFE’s objectives, interventions, and approach were broadly relevant but encountered context-specific limitations. The focus on improving food safety and productivity through training, grants, and capacity building aligned well with participant needs, particularly in processing and supply chain developments. Results from the FY24 participant-based survey showed that most of B-SAFE’s participants view the project interventions as relevant. The use of grants to provide equipment and technology proved critical, as training alone was insufficient to enable participants to adopt practices.

B-SAFE's approach involved an intensive exploratory process in the selection of commodities and specific interventions. The process may be tedious and time-consuming but ensures the relevance of the project activities. For instance, in the case of corn, it took almost a year before the project finally settled on yellow corn for feed, as it first explored the potential of food grade corn, corn on the cob and even corn silage as products. B-SAFE employed adaptive management with enough flexibility to respond to emerging developments and challenges during implementation.

For context-specific limitations, the relevance of niche commodities like coconut sugar was limited by local demand and the stringent requirements for international markets. For swine, original plans to cluster backyard raisers faced challenges. The clustering approach did not push through due to ASF concerns. Backyard producers were also shut down due to non-compliance for waste management, as new regulations were established by the province for septic tanks.

Results of KIIs also revealed that B-SAFE interventions aligned well with the regulatory mandate of the DA (Anonymous, DA KII response, 2024); relevant for educating stakeholders on biotechnology regulations (Anonymous, DA-Biotech KII response, 2024); helped improve compliance to food safety standards for coconut sugar which is important for ARBOs (Anonymous, Department of Agrarian Reform – Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Organization, KII response, 2024); helped address food safety practices and sanitation issues in coconut sugar (Anonymous, USTP KII response, 2024). Results of KIIs revealed that all FSRAs considered the interventions of B-SAFE as highly relevant in addressing the current regulatory weaknesses of these agencies.

4.1.3. How has the original design evolved during B-SAFE's implementation, particularly in response to the findings from the Midterm Evaluation (MTE)?

The MTE recommended greater involvement of the private sector and in response, B-SAFE adjusted its strategy to prioritize private sector activities in the latter half of the project. This shift aimed to enhance the adoption of food safety practices and technology advancements within the private sector, specifically processing firms and producer groups.

A no cost extension was requested and granted (through March 2025) in line with the MTE recommendation for extended period of implementation to catch-up with the delays brought about by COVID-19 and the late release of implementation clearance from the GOP. However, an application for a merit extension was unsuccessful. Nevertheless, the HO team integrated the evaluation's recommendations into the project strategy. In addition, as recommended in the MTE, the project prioritized intensification of interventions for the various value chains emphasizing private sector collaboration and sustainable outcomes.

4.1.4. Were existing relevant USDA and U.S. government activities leveraged?

Except for the work with USAID RESPOND on the RIA training, the evaluation did not find any significant collaboration with USDA or other U.S. government activities. The training and support provided to farmers were largely funded by B-SAFE and implemented by local agencies, such as the DA and its regional centers, the Department of Agrarian Reform as well as LGUs. There was no explicit mention of leveraging USDA's technical assistance programs, funding, or expertise in this case.

It is worth noting that even though the evaluation did not find significant collaboration with other USDA/US government activities, the project itself leveraged its resources to generate investments of private and public sector partners, with its LOP target exceeded by 127% as of September 2024.

4.2. Effectiveness

4.2.1. What were the major factors—including project design, implementation, and the operating environment—which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of the objective targets?

On project design, the selection of commodities, geographic focus, and indicator design appear to be the major factors. Choosing commodities like coconut sugar with limited market scalability and high international standards impacted the achievement of objectives. The project made significant achievements with yellow corn for feed, but work related to food-grade corn would have aligned much better and more directly with the concerns on food safety. The highly diverse geographic scope is another factor as it stretched resources and logistic support. On indicator design, custom indicators, such as counting the number of organizations receiving certifications rather than the certification themselves may not fully capture the detailed achievements of the project.

On implementation, delays in decision-making due to reliance on specific partnership (e.g., UNIBAT) slowed the pivot to alternative strategies in the swine sector. On the other hand, positive factors include the grant program as it enhanced adoption of technologies and food safety practices and the focus on the private sector in the latter phase of the project.

The COVID-19 pandemic, ASF outbreak, and leadership changes in the government are among the factors within the operating environment which initially dragged down the achievement of objectives and targets.

4.2.2. How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?

The evaluation found several ways by which the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies. Foremost of these was that the training directly enhanced the knowledge and skills of FSRAs as claimed by FSRA KII respondents interviewed in the study. Second, the development and institutionalization of RIA is a significant step towards establishing scientifically based decision making in government regulations. Third, B-SAFE's support to the private sector in terms of training and equipment grants can be viewed also as an indirect support to FSRAs as such assistance enhances compliance to food safety regulations and standards. It is worth mentioning that the KIIs carried out with FSRAs as part of the current evaluation and even those conducted earlier as part of the mid-term evaluation clearly indicated an equivocal view among FSRAs that the technical assistance provided by B-SAFE enhanced the regulatory capacity of FSRAs.

4.2.3. How has it affected productivity and expansion of trade?

The focus on improving food safety standards and risk management under B-SAFE has significantly improved productivity and trade practices of targeted private sector participants. The grant program resulted in greater access to equipment and technologies which improved productivity. In corn, KIIs revealed that yield increases of as high as 20% per hectare were achieved by farmer participants. Direct linkages with large feed milling company (CJ Philippines) also expanded trade between cooperatives (e.g., MARBFC) and CJ Philippines. Similarly, targeted producer groups engaged in the production and processing of coconut sugar and milkfish adopted better handling, treatment and

processing practices resulting in higher quality products. The emphasis on biosecurity measures in swine production, although constrained by ASF introduced more stringent risk management practices which reduced incidence of infection and minimized production loss.

By improving the processes of partners, providing access to equipment to improve productivity, avoiding wastage, and improving market access, incentives to comply with SPS and food safety standards were provided through market linkages, enabling farmers and processors to access higher-value markets for their processed products.

4.2.4. Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct participants? In what ways are they considered effective?

The most effective activities were the provision of grants, training on improved practices, biosecurity measures in swine, and RIA. The grants provided enabled participants to adopt improved food safety and processing practices. Training played a key role in improving the knowledge and skills of players across value chains on SPS compliant practices (e.g., GAP, GAHP, GAqP) while improving their productivity. In corn, the use of improved seeds coupled with soil fertility management increased yield significantly. In addition, adoption of integrated pest management helped control pests such as Fall Army Worm. In milkfish, training on GAqP and processing techniques improved production efficiency and product quality. In swine, biosecurity measures reduced disease risk and collaboration with EuroPhil facilitated artificial insemination services and improved genetics. With regards to RIA, this instrument strengthens, albeit indirectly, the policy environment for SPS compliance and standard enforcement.

4.2.5. For each of the four supported commodities, have B-SAFE interventions helped partners access new domestic and/or international markets? If so, what enabled them to access these markets? If not, what were the constraints and bottlenecks?

In corn, B-SAFE interventions enabled farmers through their cooperatives (e.g., MARBFC) to directly supply to CJ Philippines, which is a large feed milling firm which procures quality corn in large volumes and better prices. This was made possible through training on improved production and postharvest practices, the provision of improved seeds and fertilizer and the provision of equipment (e.g. moisture meter, pallets, plastic covers, etc.). The assistance provided by B-SAFE to forge direct market linkage between the cooperatives and CJ Philippines was also key in realizing this achievement.

In milkfish, improved processing techniques and grants received from B-SAFE enabled some processing firms to increase purchases from growers. In addition, adoption of GAqP and HACCP positioned the industry closer to international standards.

In coconut sugar, firms such as T2G were able to sustain their markets despite COVID-19 pandemic, taking advantage of emerging market opportunities when the market started bouncing back with the easing of the pandemic.

B-SAFE helped partners increase access to local markets by supporting 19 organizations to receive product and facility authorizations/certifications. This would have otherwise not been possible due to limited technical knowledge of processes and requirements among enterprises, associations, and cooperatives. B-SAFE also facilitated the participation of these businesses in international and local

expos in collaboration with DTI, enabling them to meet buyers that would otherwise not have been possible as linkage to international buyers is limited, especially for small players.

One of the barriers is that the terms of trade are less favorable to small players as payment for products is usually released within 2-3 months, thereby reducing capital among these partners. B-SAFE is currently working with market linkage specialists to match demand from other players, such as coffee shops for coconut sugar, and exploring markets within the immediate vicinity of the products, such as milkfish, to reduce transport costs. Another limitation is that since some of these enterprises were recipients of grants, the pricing structure was not properly considered. B-SAFE conducted individual workshops with these enterprises and associations to help them with pricing structure to ensure price competitiveness, and entrepreneurship training to ensure the sustainability of businesses.

In swine, B-SAFE's partnership with EuroPhil for AI services and improved genetics laid the foundation for potential market improvements especially during the ASF problem. In addition, the assistance provided to some farms and slaughterhouses in terms of training and provision of meat processing and handling equipment enabled these firms to continue catering to market demand and customer requirements.

Despite the success of B-SAFE, some bottlenecks remain. In corn, the attempt to achieve food grade level is constrained by inadequate market incentives as absence of quality premium disincentivizes farmers to invest in practices that would elevate their product from feed to food grade. In milkfish, scalability is constrained by the continuing challenge of fry availability. In the case of coconut sugar, scalability is challenged by limited local demand due to the niche nature of coconut sugar market. In swine, the ASF problem is the single most important bottleneck as it continues to threaten the viability of swine raising in the country.

4.2.6. Which project activities made the most and least significant contribution to intended strategic objectives?

The activities that made the most contribution was the grant program for equipment and technology, training and capacity building, and collaboration with regulatory agencies (DA and FDA). The least would be the work on cold chain. As mentioned, the grant program was key in the adoption of technologies and improved practices. With merely USD 425,000 of grant assistance, the operation of 32 organizations have been enhanced. Corn farmers were motivated to attend the technical training as they knew that support on seeds, fertilizer, and other inputs and services (e.g. free-soil testing) were also made available. They adopted what they have learned as their fundamental constraint (i.e. lack of capital) is somehow taken care of. The same is the case with the other commodities.

The training and capacity building are keys to improving the knowledge and skills of value chain players for more food safety compliant value chains as well as the regulatory capacity of FSRAs for a more risk-based approach to regulation. The collaboration with DA and FDA and the provision of trainings and other assistance to improve the food safety policy environment and improve the appreciation and policy on biotechnology are activities projected to have an impact that could last long after the conclusion of B-SAFE. The work on cold chain is still very preliminary and foundational at best, thus this is considered to have the least contribution to the strategic objectives.

4.2.7. How do B-SAFE participants perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?

The survey, KII, and FGD results showed that the value chain players (people in production and trade) view the project delivery and technical assistance as relevant and effective. They appreciated the grant program that provided essential input and equipment which improved their productivity and adherence to food safety practices. Interventions were aligned with the needs of producers and processing firms. Similarly, the FSRAs appreciated the assistance provided by the project. All FSRAs and other institutional partners rated the project close to 5 from a scale of 1 to 5 when it comes to relevance and effectiveness as this aligned very well with their organizational mandates.

4.2.8. Have intended participants received services as planned?

Intended participants received services largely as planned, although there were some challenges. There were delays especially in corn, as it took a while before the project finally figured out its focus in this commodity; and swine due to the long period of waiting for the partnership with UNIBAT, which eventually did not fully materialize.

4.2.9. How well has the project met its targets? If targets are not met, why not? If targets are exceeded, how were these achieved and why?

The accomplishments as of September 2024 are impressive as evidenced by the extent to which most targets have been exceeded. The project targeted 10 host government or community derived risk management plans and delivered 35 (SI-11). It has leveraged USD 2.4 million of new USG commitments and new public and private sector investments against an LOP target of just USD 1.1 million (SI-14). The targeted number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation or cold storage was 319, yet the interventions of the project led to 2,427 individuals using these improved practices. The project is slightly short (94%) of its outcome target on the volumes of commodities sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance (SI-19) but exceeded by 16% the aggregate targeted value of these commodities (SI-18). It should be noted that the target on volume of commodities can still be fully accomplished in view of the extended period of project implementation.

The achievement of targets was due to adaptations made in the latter half of the project, such as focusing more on private sector engagement and adjusting strategies to fast-track project activities.

4.2.10. Were recommendations from B-SAFE's midterm evaluation addressed by the project team? If not, why?

Most recommendations from the MTE were addressed by the project team with some required adjustments in strategy. These include increased private sector engagement in the latter half of the project period; extended implementation period (i.e. no cost extension) and application for merit extension, albeit unsuccessful. The MTE raised concerns regarding the low achievement of targets especially those pertaining to people in production and trade (i.e., supply chain related activities) thus, the recommendation to focus on this area. It is remarkable that the project was able to catch up and even exceeded especially its outcome targets.

4.3. Efficiency

4.3.1. To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning, and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?

The management structure has generally been supportive of efficient implementation, learning, and reflection. The project has a well-defined management structure headed by the Chief of Party (COP) and Deputy Chief of Party (DCOP). There are also focal personnel for each commodity as well as for the coordination works with FSRAs. Management strategies are adaptive in nature with adequate flexibility and agility to respond to challenges in the field. The organizational structure is lean and manned by highly competent personnel. The small size of the implementing team enabled constant interactions, consultations and cross-learning.

The first COP is highly respected in the agricultural policy space, which was crucial in effectively initiating and leading certain policy initiatives and collaboration with the FSRAs and other institutional partners of the project, which defined the success of the project in the first half of the implementing period. Interestingly, the project is now led by a new COP (formerly the DCOP) who has considerable practical experiences in actual field work, which is crucial for the more private sector focused engagement in the latter half of the project period.

4.3.2. What steps have B-SAFE taken to address low performance areas reported in the midterm evaluation and fast-tracked progress toward LOP targets?

The project increased private sector engagement to drive both food safety improvements and market access. It prioritized engagement with processing firms and agribusinesses including cooperatives, fostering stronger partnerships with private sector stakeholders to help scale interventions. This shift helped boost both productivity and market access for targeted participants, particularly in the milkfish and corn sectors.

4.3.3. What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends?

The likelihood is high based on several key factors. First, the project carried out a significant number of trainings and technology transfer activities. Improved knowledge and skills are guaranteed to last a lifetime as this is already etched in the minds of the participants. Adoption of technologies/practices will likely continue as expressed by the farmer participants themselves during the survey (see results of participant-based survey). The large number of FSRAs staff would likely continue applying what they have learned from the various trainings in the performance of their regulatory functions.

Second, the project achieved significant success in initiating regulatory policy reforms such as the institutionalization of RIA and the various policy instruments (e.g., Department Memoranda and Circulars) related to food safety and biotechnology. Policies are generally difficult to change, at least in the short-term once they have been instituted.

Finally, capacity that has improved across the value chains and among the FSRAs can be guaranteed to last as this has become systemic and integral to the fabric of how individuals and organizations operate.

4.4. Sustainability

4.4.1. What are the factors that could limit long-term sustainability?

The factors that could limit sustainability are external shocks and the rapid change in the leadership of FSRAs. The project itself has experienced disruptions brought about by external shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and ASF outbreaks. Natural calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions, among others, could disrupt or completely alter livelihoods and the way farmers operate. However, barring these events the benefits and opportunities that the project has created in the four supply chains would likely persist for a long time.

The situation seems more fragile in the case of FSRAs, and other government agencies assisted by the project. The rather quick or abrupt leadership turnover in many of these agencies threatens the long-term sustainability of policy changes initiated by B-SAFE. Key informant interviews with representatives of these agencies already hinted at the reluctance of some new leaderships to adopt or fully implement certain policy initiatives, either because they were not part of the earlier consultations or are not convinced with the premise or assumptions on which such reforms are based.

4.4.2. What are the key indicators of local ownership and sustainable partnerships?

The indicators include the active participation of farmer organizations, particularly cooperatives and associations; the partnership agreements forged between trading parties (e.g., MARBFC and CJ Philippines) and project partners (e.g., EuroPhil, UNIBAT, etc.) and collaboration agreements with numerous public sector partners (e.g., DA, FDA, etc.). The cooperatives and agribusiness firms assisted by the project have already co-owned and internalized the improvements needed to make their operation more productive and aligned with food safety regulations and standards. In the case of FSRAs, their accreditation to certain standards (e.g., ISO) facilitated by the project, especially with respect to laboratory operations guarantees that the improvements will be sustained.

Indicators of commitment at the LGU level is seen in view of the participation of Provincial Agriculture Office – Bukidnon, wherein the office is committed to implement their mandate for food-safe and high-quality corn production while increasing volume. The LGU provides training sessions to the farmers covering topics regarding aflatoxin and safety protocols in processing. These activities align with the initiatives provided by B-SAFE. Given the LGU is only limited to conducting training sessions, important post-harvest equipment provided by B-SAFE including mechanical dryers allowed improvements and helped to sustain the volume and quality of production.

Department of Agrarian Reform – Misamis Oriental, on the other hand, conducts capacity development on business operations that is focused on cooperative management and enterprise development along with the assistance provided by B-SAFE to promote the production of high-quality products. The coconut sugar enterprise showed visible improvements as the producers were able to capture the market and extend the shelf-life of their coconut sugar product. To ensure sustainability of their operations, the LGU performs continuous monitoring activities on the enterprises and cooperatives twice a month for updates.

4.4.3. What are the challenges and limitations to local ownership and sustainability?

Based on the KIIs, one of the challenges noted was the issue of capital access. Although the project provided some financial support for inputs and equipment, sustaining these would be difficult as farmers are always cash strapped. To ensure sustainability beyond the project life, B-SAFE included the following strategies:

- Setting up a revolving fund for single use supply items like seeds and fertilizer provided to producer groups. They had to recoup the cost to be able to buy supply again for the future production cycle.
- Requiring the training participants to cascade them so all members of the producer group or those who worked with a particular firm can receive the same knowledge. This “cascaded” training ensured all members had the skill to maintain practices post-grant.
- As a final project activity, the team emphasized entrepreneurship and financial management training, helping grantees manage their operations sustainably even after the project ends.

4.4.4. Which, if any, improved institutions or processes are likely to continue after completion of B-SAFE?

The project brought about institutional improvements and process enhancements that are likely to continue. These improvements are anchored in the strengthening of local institutions, the integration of new practices into regulatory frameworks and the establishment of sustainable partnerships. These include strengthened regulatory frameworks and policies (e.g., ISO certifications, RIA, risk-based plans, etc.); improved agricultural practices and standards; strengthened private sector linkages; and institutionalized training and capacity building programs, among others.

4.4.5. What are the changes in the enabling environment resulting from B-SAFE?

Owing to the nature of interventions provided by the project, the changes encompass a range of areas including attitudinal shifts, new regulations, market linkages, and the adoption of best practices. The improvements in the capacity of the FSRAs and the value chain players across the four commodities covered are enabling drivers to enhance food safety compliance.

4.4.6. What evidence exists of local ownership (individuals, private sectors, associations and government partners) the result achieved, and of efforts to establish the partnership with relevant stakeholders and strengthen local capacities?

The evidence includes the active involvement in project activities, capacity building, and the sustained engagement of stakeholders in the project’s results and outcomes. A core element of local ownership is the active participation of farmers and agricultural workers in B-SAFE’s training programs and the decision to adopt the technologies and practices promoted by B-SAFE. As evidenced, many of those trained by the project across the four value chains have adopted the technologies and practices promoted. With regard to people in government (e.g., FSRAs), KII results and even the results of capacity reassessment showed that those who have been trained cascaded their learnings and stated they have already started applying the knowledge in their performance of regulatory works.

4.5. Impact

4.5.1. How were successful interventions optimized and/or scaled up during B-SAFE implementation?

B-SAFE utilized a range of strategies to optimize and scale up successful interventions, ensuring that the project’s impact was maximized and could be sustained long after its completion. These strategies included the requirement for training participants to cascade the learnings to ensure more widespread

application; the requirement for farmer cooperatives to recoup the cost of inputs and equipment support initially provided by B-SAFE so this could be used to fund and scale-up succeeding operations; and the close collaboration with local governments and national government (e.g., DA and Department of Agrarian Reform) so that continuing assistance can be provided as B-SAFE phases out of the project sites.

4.5.2. What is B-SAFE's main legacy areas across its four focus commodities?

The main legacy areas are: (1) improved food safety and quality standards; (2) enhanced market access and trade; (3) strengthened and national food safety regulatory capacity; (4) adoption of sustainable agricultural practices; (5) capacity development for the farmers and private sector; (6) strengthened value chain coordination; and (7) promotion of best practices in agricultural production.

The evaluation concludes that B-SAFE's objectives, priority interventions, and approach were highly relevant to the situation of the participants. The focus on improving food safety and productivity through training, grants, and capacity building aligned well with participant needs, particularly in processing and supply chain development. The project is effective as it significantly improved productivity and trade practices of targeted private sector participants and enhanced the capacity of regulatory agencies. The project management is efficient and characterized by a lean structure, highly effective leader and competent staff with constant interactions, consultations and cross-learning. In addition, project benefits will likely be sustained as the individual and institutional participants have already co-owned and internalized the project's interventions. Impact is evident in project partners' improved understanding of the importance of obtaining marketing permits as their key to accessing new markets for their products, and willingness to invest in meeting food safety standards to secure such permits.

5. Lessons Learned and Recommendations

The lessons learned and recommendations drawn from the implementation experience of B-SAFE can guide the design and implementation of similar future initiatives. Among these are the importance of embedding changes within institutional policies for sustainability, tailoring interventions to well-identified client needs, employing adaptive management strategies, leveraging partnerships, maintaining strategic focus in commodities and geographic coverage, and catalyzing direct farmer-market linkages. By drawing on these insights, future projects can enhance their impact, efficiency, and long-term sustainability.

Lessons Learned:

- 1. When government institutions are the target of change or interventions, embedding such changes within policies and practices of targeted institutions helps ensure better sustainability.**

The quick leadership turnover in FSRA or government agencies poses significant challenge to sustainability of introduced changes. Lessons from B-SAFE underscore the importance of embedding changes within policies and practices (e.g., regulatory reforms and capacity building initiatives) to ensure long-term sustainability. In the case of B-SAFE, specific examples of this include the regulatory impact assessment (RIA) policy, compliance to various ISO and other international standards, among others. In addition, cascading training

to reach broader audiences such as the online training courses which may help ensure the internalization of improved practices and skills among participants.

2. Design of development interventions should be adequately informed by a thorough and systematic identification and analysis of client's needs, constraints and opportunities.

B-SAFE was able to successfully tailor its interventions to the needs of producers, processors, and FSRAs through intensive needs assessment and examination of the opportunities and constraints associated with meeting those needs. The high degree of alignment achieved between the needs and interventions drove positive perceptions of project delivery and technical assistance among participants and partners.

3. Employ adaptive management and leverage partnerships to achieve flexibility and agility in project implementation.

B-SAFE exhibited agility by shifting its focus mid-implementation, particularly through increased private sector engagement. This adaptability was critical to catching up with and exceeding most targets despite initial delays. Project management was learning oriented and involved iterative decision-making, which allowed modifications in strategies as warranted by the circumstances in the field.

Leveraging partnership was another key to B-SAFE's success and an important lesson for future projects. The partnerships which B-SAFE forged especially with local players, both in the public and private sectors enabled the project to achieve its objectives more effectively by pooling resources, expertise, and networks.

4. Aim for strategic focus on commodities and geographic coverage.

The experience of B-SAFE highlights the need for strategic focus to maximize resource efficiency and impact. Covering four commodities across widely dispersed geographic areas resulted in dilution of efforts and considerable adaptive measures.

A piloting approach can be employed on similar future projects to test and refine interventions in focused areas. These can then be scaled out ensuring that learnings are incorporated, and resources are efficiently utilized.

5. Catalyze direct farmer-to-market linkages and strengthen mutually beneficial relationships between farmer groups and institutional buyers.

B-SAFE demonstrated that establishing direct farmer-to-market linkages is essential to create a mutually beneficial relationship where farmers gain access to premium prices and consistent demand, while institutional markets secure a reliable supply of high-quality products. From B-SAFE's experience, conduct of trainings, provision of targeted technical assistance, input/equipment support and provision of grants were crucial in capacitating farmers to meet the product requirements of quality institutional markets. Facilitating the negotiation between the farmers via farmer groups and institutional buyers is also important.

The accomplishments of B-SAFE in assisting the clients comply with various certifications was impressive. The provision of grants played a crucial role in this process as the clients were able to upgrade their facilities and equipment.

Recommendations:

Based from these lessons, it is recommended that the changes are embedded within institutional policies (e.g., regulatory reforms and capacity building initiatives) when targeting government institutions for change or interventions to ensure long-term sustainability. These development interventions must be appropriately designed and adequately informed by a thorough and systematic identification and analysis of clients' needs, constraints, and opportunities.

During project implementation, it is suggested to employ adaptive management which will help in achieving targets despite unexpected circumstances. Based on the project's findings, it is recommended to aim for strategic focus on commodities and geographic coverage to maximize resource efficiency and impact.

Additionally, catalyzing direct farmer-to-market linkages, compliance to various certifications on food safety, strategic use of grants, and strengthening mutually beneficial relationships between farmer groups and institutional buyers will ensure demand for producers and in return, will provide a reliable supply of high-quality products.

6. Annexes

Annex A. Evaluation Questions

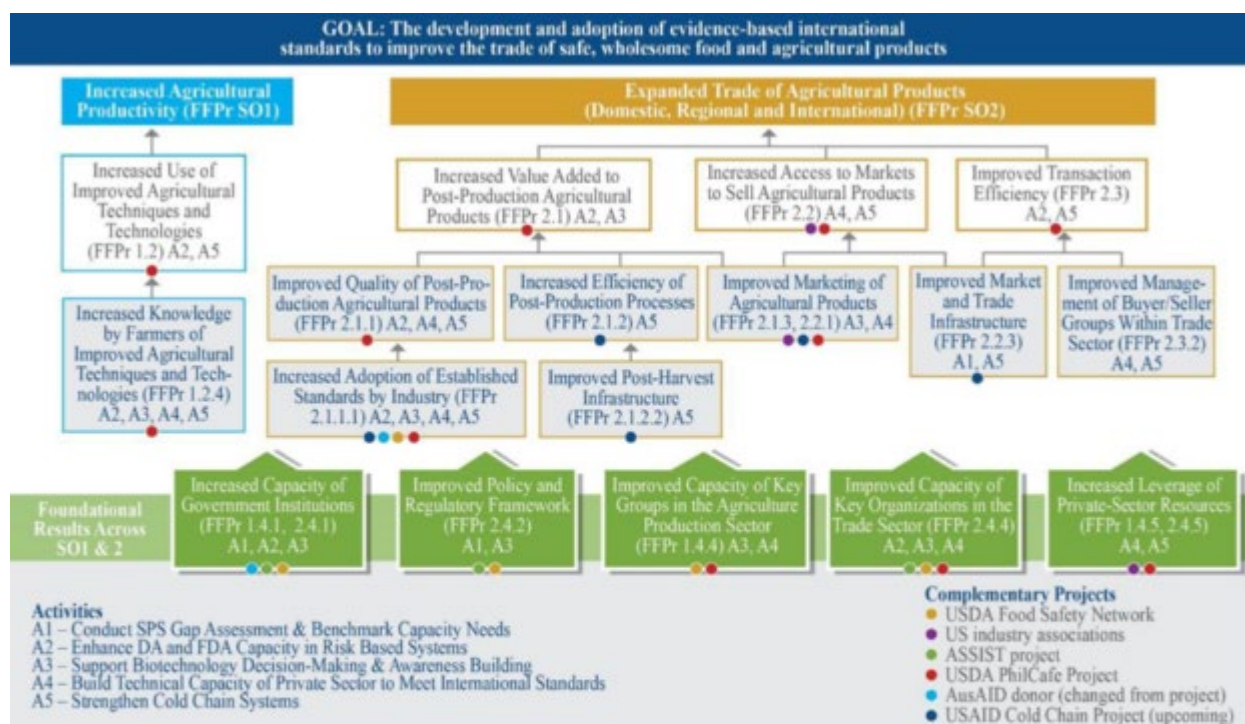
Evaluation Criteria	Suggested Evaluation Questions	Data Collection Method and Respondents
<i>Relevance</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for? 	<p>KIIs of People in Government and People in Trade (B-SAFE partners); Survey and FGDs of People in production and trade from the 4 supply chains; KIIs of B-SAFE staff; KII of Winrock and USDA relevant staff.</p> <p>Qualitative/thematic analysis will be employed; Likert Scale will be used for perception-based response. The intent is to generate substantive narrative on relevance with adequate qualitative and quantitative evidence.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the participants? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the original design evolved during B-SAFE's implementation, particularly in response to the findings from the MTE? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Were the existing relevant USDA and U.S. government activities leveraged? 	
<i>Effectiveness</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What were the major factors—including project design, implementation, and the operating environment—which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of the objective targets? 	<p>KIIs of B-SAFE staff focused on identifying factors affecting effective operation and determining the context and circumstances (both internal and external) of B-SAFE operation.</p> <p>Organizational Capacity Assessment of FSRAs to gauge extent of capacity improvement, probing particularly on the question of how the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of FSRAs.</p> <p>FGDs of People in Government and Firm participants; Survey and FGDs of people in production and trade; Effectiveness will be gauged in terms of the extent B-SAFE interventions led to improvement in production and trade; Probing will be on how improving food safety standards and risk management affected production and trade; access to new domestic and international markets and what enabled access to these markets; Likert Scale will be employed for</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has the focus on improving food safety standards and risk management affected the production and trade practices of the targeted private sector participants? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How has it affected productivity and expansion of trade? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct participants? In what ways are they considered effective? 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each of the four supported 	

Evaluation Criteria	Suggested Evaluation Questions	Data Collection Method and Respondents
	commodities, have B- SAFE interventions helped partners access new domestic and/or international markets? If so, what enabled them to access these markets? If not, what were the constraints and bottlenecks?	perception-based response;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which project activities made the most and least significant contribution to intended strategic objectives? 	KII of B-SAFE staff; In-depth analysis of B-SAFE results framework/logic model and examining how the different activities contributed to project outputs and outcomes;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How do B-SAFE participants perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance? 	<p>KIIs of firm participants; FGDs and survey of people in production and trade. Questions on the quality of project delivery/technical assistance will be included in the research instruments; Likert Scale will be employed for perception-based response.</p> <p>Comparison of final and baseline values of indicators, especially the volume of production and values of trade as well as technology adoption;</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have intended participants received services as planned? How well has the project met its targets? If targets are not met, why not? If targets are exceeded, how were these achieved and why? Were recommendations from B-SAFE's midterm evaluation addressed by the project team? If not, why? 	Interview: B-SAFE staff
<i>Efficiency</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management? What steps have B-SAFE taken to address low performance areas reported in the Midterm Evaluation and fast-tracked progress toward LOP targets? 	<p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Suggested Evaluation Questions	Data Collection Method and Respondents
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B- SAFE ends? 	<p>Interview: Government, B- SAFE staff FGD: Participants Survey of people in production and trade (to be included in the questionnaire)</p>
<i>Sustainability</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships? 	Interview: Government, B- SAFE staff FGD: Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Which, if any, improved institutions or processes are likely to continue after completion of B-SAFE? 	Interview: Government, B- SAFE staff
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What changes in the enabling environment that support food safety, improved agricultural productivity or trade have resulted from B-SAFE (e.g., accessibility to strategic resources, attitudinal shifts among key actors; new rules, standards or regulations; formalized relationships or market linkages; widespread adoption of introduced practices)? 	Interview: Government, B- SAFE staff FGD: Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What evidence exists of local ownership (individuals, private sectors, associations and government partners) the result achieved, and of efforts to establish the partnership with relevant stakeholders and strengthen local capacities? 	Interview: Government, B- SAFE staff FGD: Participants
<i>Impact</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How were successful interventions optimized and/or scaled up during B-SAFE implementation? 	Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff FGD: Participants
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are B-SAFE's main legacy areas across its four focus commodities? 	Interview: B-SAFE Staff, Government, Private Sector Partners
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent has B-SAFE contributed to strengthening the 4 value chains (corn, coconut sugar, swine, and milkfish in the target provinces) beyond its direct participants? 	<p>Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff FGD: Participants</p> <p>Survey of people in production and trade; comparison of final and baseline values of productivity and farm income; Likert Scale will be</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Suggested Evaluation Questions	Data Collection Method and Respondents
		employed for perception-based response.

Annex B. B-SAFE Results Framework



B-SAFE Critical Assumptions

1. The current public sector commitment to harmonize the regulatory framework and strengthen and invest in enforcement mechanisms will remain strong.
2. Expanded domestic and import/export market opportunities are sufficient (and perceived to be sufficient) to incentivize the private sector to invest in food safety and SPS compliance.
3. The GOP can establish itself as an honest broker to deliver evidence-based information campaigns on the safety of biotechnology.
4. A significant outbreak of food borne disease can be competently managed and contained by GOP regulatory agencies, maintaining public and international buyer confidence in food safety systems.
5. Philippine's major trading partners don't impose unjustified export bans on key traded commodities.
6. Trade relations with the US, Europe and ASEAN countries remain stable.
7. Applicable international standards remain consistent during the life of the project.

Assumptions 1-4 are considered "killer assumptions." B-SAFE focus on improved coordination and communication is intended to support these assumptions.

Annex C. B-SAFE's Life of Project (LOP) Indicator Targets

No.	Indicator Title	Type	Baseline Value	LOP Target
SI-22	Number of individuals participating in USDA food security programs	Output	0	10,963
SI-23	Number of individuals benefiting indirectly as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	45,065
SI-21	Number of individuals who have received short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	9,687
SI-4	Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USDA assistance	Outcome	7,234	4,855
SI-11	Number of host government or community derived risk management plans formally proposed, adopted, implemented or institutionalized with USDA assistance	Output	16	10
SI-12	Percent of USDA-assisted organizations with improved performance	Outcome	0	75%
SI-9	Number of technologies, practices, and approaches under various phases of research, development, and uptake as a result of USDA assistance	Output (phases 1-3) Outcome (phase 4)	0	10
SI-13	Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	17
SI-17	Number of policies, regulations and/or administrative procedures in each of the following stages of development as a result of USDA assistance	Output (stages 1-) Outcome (stages 3-5)	0	6
SI-18	Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance	Outcome	USD 670,287,491	USD 90,399,240
SI-19	Volume of commodities sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance	Outcome	315,473 MT	51,960 MT
SI-14	Value of new USG commitments and new public and private sector investment leveraged by USDA to support food security and nutrition	Outcome	0	USD 1,100,000
CI-1	Number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation, or cold storage as a result of B-SAFE investment	Outcome	163	319
CI-2	Number of farms/firms/ laboratories with GAP, GMP, HACCP, or ISO certification as a result of USDA assistance	Outcome	1,292	22

Annex D. Ethics Certificates

Removed.

Annex E. Methodology/Process of the technical capacity assessments

The technical capacity assessment assessed the capacity of the agencies based on technical functions performed by the agencies and where previous reports are available, made use of the assessments and updated the assessments done. This portion uses different tools but essentially looking at almost similar technical functions.

Process for Veterinary and Aquatic Animal Health-related FSRAs

This process applies to BAI and BFAR. International SPS-bodies like the OIE had conducted capacity assessments for BAI and BFAR. Local researches likewise had been conducted particularly after the passage of the Food Safety Act of 2013. Commissioned by the OIE, a team of veterinary experts did two appraisals in 2013 and 2016 using the Performance of Veterinary Services (PVS) Evaluation Tool and Gap Analysis. The reports particularly pertain to Philippine Aquatic PVS Evaluation Report (2013) and PVS Gap Analysis Mission Report on the Aquatic Animal Health Services (2016). B-SAFE updates the knowledge that had been gathered regarding the respective technical capacities of the country's FSRAs. The B-SAFE project interviewed officials and technical staff of the Bureaus and reviewed various online sources of related analyses and information in an effort to bring the findings of the OIE assessments to bear on the current challenges and opportunities faced by the Bureaus.

This assessment followed similar process used in the OIE PVS Evaluation Tool. In that, critical competency areas were identified, and data and information were gathered to calibrate the bureaus' respective capacities in undertaking the selected key technical functions.

Each capacity area has five possible progression steps with each step assigned a grade indicating the competency level of each bureau in undertaking a technical function. The assessment grades range from 1 to 5, where 1 indicates a lack of capacity and 5 suggesting a competency recommended by the OIE. A higher level of advancement assumes that the bureau is complying with the preceding levels. Hence, higher levels of advancement are indicative of strong and effective veterinary and aquatic animal health services. The assessment scale makes allows evaluators to identify areas of relative strength and weakness within a particular national veterinary service, against relevant international standards (OIE, 2019).

For this, the critical capacity areas were further categorized into themes derived from the PVS Gap Analysis Pillars. The selected capacity areas include: (1) international trade; (2) veterinary public health; (3) animal health; and (4) laboratory diagnosis—all aligned with the national priorities of the Philippine government. The thematic approach was also done to facilitate the identification of CapDev measures for raising capacity levels.

Process for Plant Health, Food Control, and Other Food Safety-related Agencies

For BPI, NMIS, and FDA. The specific technical capacity indicators covered by these agencies are selected from a list of forty indicators which the FAO identified for Asia and the Pacific. The indicators are dimensions of five key capacity areas of a national food control system, which are on food control management, food legislation, food inspection, official food control laboratories; and food safety and quality information, education and communication (IEC).

These food-safety capacity areas are consistent with the Department of Agriculture's Food Safety Strategy with the following areas of concern:

1. Rules and Regulations
2. Food Control Management
3. Inspection Services
4. Laboratory Services and Epidemiological Data
5. Information, Education, Communication and Training and Advocacy

Capacity areas 2, 3, and 4 are taken up in the next section of the report. The capacity indicators on rules and regulations as well as information, education, communication, training and advocacy are discussed under the organizational capacity assessment section of this report.

The technical capacity progression scale used for the technical capacity is based on FAO's quick guide. It identifies the following grades of capacities as follows:

- X - insufficient information to assess;
- 1 - non-existent;
- 2 - partially in place;
- 3 - mostly in place; and
- 4 - comprehensive and sustainable.

For FPA. There has not been any assessment of FPA's capacity, unlike that SPS capacity of BAI or BFAR. The study saw the need to develop a capacity assessment framework and that was developed with the following considerations. While there exists the PCE tool of IPPC, however, its focus is more on the plant health. Moreover, none had been done in the Philippines using the tool.

The framework used in the assessment is anchored on the agency's mandate to protect the public from the risks inherent in the use of fertilizer and pesticide inputs in growing crops. This concern eventually requires undertaking laboratory examinations to check on fertilizer and pesticide components. Thus, the technical capacity areas selected came from the PVS evaluation tool namely (1) capacity for public health and (2) capacity for laboratory diagnosis.

The assessment scale however was taken from FAO's Food Control Assessment Tool. It comprises 4 steps, namely:

- 1 - non-existent;
- 2 - partially in place;
- 3 - mostly in place; and
- 4 - comprehensive and sustainable.

This scale provides more flexibility than IPPCs which has only two binary choices, and that is whether (1) it has or no capacity; and (2) whether its capacity is at par or not with international standards.

Annex F. B-SAFE List of Trainings

CORN Trainings

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
May 19, 2022	Corn Silage Production Technology and Enterprise	Municipal Agriculture Office, Spring Dairy Farm, Kauyagan Savers Multipurpose Cooperative
Sept 27, 2022	Corn Harvest and Post Harvest Training and GAP Orientation	Mantibugao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers Cooperative (MARBFC)
Sept 28, 2022		Cabanglasan, Paradise, Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CPFMPC)
Jun 22, 2022	Corn Silage Production	Municipal Agriculture Office, Spring Dairy Farm, Kauyagan Savers Multipurpose Cooperative
May 17-18, 2022	Training on the Improved Corn Production: Session on Proper Handling, Treatment and Use of Improved Corn Seed Varieties and Session on Land Preparation, Planting Fertilization, Weed Control	Cabanglasan Paradise Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CPFMPC)
Jul 26, 2022		Pay-as corn farmers
Jul 28, 2022		Mantibugao corn farmers
Nov 15, 2022		Kitobo Multi-Purpose Cooperative (KMPC)
Nov 16, 2022		Talahiron Multi-Purpose Cooperative (TMPC)
Feb 2-3, 2023		Balangigay San Lorenzo Tandong Corn Cluster (BSLTCC)
Feb 8, 2023		Kadingilan Pay-as Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (KAPARBA)
Feb 9, 2023		Mantibugao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers' Cooperative (MARBFC)
Mar 1-3, 2023	Training of Trainers on Corn Production	Training Service Providers, Agricultural Extension Workers and Corn Technicians, Government extension workers
May 5, 2023	Corn Post-Harvest Handling and Management	Patpat Corn Growers Association (PCGA)
May 9, 2023		Minsuro Integrated Corn Farmers Association (MICFA)
Jul. 11, 2023		San Jose Corn Growers Association (SJCGA)
Jul. 12, 2023		Balocbocan Corn Farmers Association (BCFA)
Jul. 20, 2023		San Jose Multi-Purpose Cooperative (SJMP)
May 11, 2023	Soil Fertility and Conservation Management	Community Participatory Action Research – Farmers Partner Association (CPAR)
Jul. 14, 2023		Cabulohan Farmers Association (CFA)
Jul. 25, 2023		Tagiptip Lagonglong Farmers Association (TLFA)
Jul. 28, 2023		Minsuro Farmers Association (MFA)
Jul. 26, 2023		Pagan Corn Farmers Association (PCFA) and BCFA
Jul. 27, 2023	Corn Pest and Disease Management	Magsaysay Corn Growers Association (MCGA)
Jul. 28, 2023		Mandahican Corn Growers Association (MCGA)
Jul. 31, 2023		Lunocan Agrarian Reform Beneficiary Primary MPC (LARBPMP)
Jun. 26, 2023	Good Agricultural Practices for Corn and Aflatoxin Control and Prevention Strategies	St. Michael Manolo Fortich Farmers Association Inc (SMMFFAI)
Aug. 11, 2023	Training on Soil Fertility and Conservation Management	Imbayao Corn Growers Association (ICGA)
Aug. 15, 2023	Training on Integrated Pest and Disease Management for Corn	Umayamnon Catablaran Farmers Association (UCFA)
Aug. 17, 2023	Integrated Nutrient Management Training for Corn	Buhanginon Cananga-an Farmers Association (BUCAFA)
Aug. 18, 2023	Training on Integrated Nutrient Management	Cabanglasan Farmers Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CFMPC)

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
Aug. 18, 2023	Training on Corn Post-Harvest Handling and Management	Managok Corn Growers Association (MCGA)
Aug. 23, 2023	Training on Corn Post-Harvest Handling and Management	East Dalurong Corn Farmers Association (EDCFA)
Aug. 30, 2023	Training on Corn Pest and Disease Management	Sinaysayan Farmers Association (SINFARAS)
Aug. 31, 2023	Training on Good Agricultural Practices	West Dalurong Gabay Multi-Sectoral Federation for Farmers
Sep. 18, 2023	Training on Post-Harvest Handling and Post-Harvest Processing in Corn	Mahayahay Don Carlos Bukidnon Farmers Association, Inc. (MDCBFAI)
Sep. 20, 2023	Training on Improved Corn Production including Proper handling, treatment and use of improved Corn Seed Varieties	Kauban Multi-Purpose Cooperative (KMPC)
Sep. 26, 2023	Training on Good Agricultural Practices in Corn Production	Bismartz Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Cooperative (BARBCO)
Sep. 27, 2023	Training on Corn Pest and Disease Management or Integrated Pest Management	Sikap San Roque Farmers Association (SSRFA)
Aug. 31, 2023	Training on Soil Fertility and Conservation Management	Cabangahan Corn Growers Association (CCGA)
Sep. 15, 2023	Training on Soil Fertility and Conservation Management	Kulaman Corn Growers Association (KCGA)
Sep. 20, 2023	Training on Corn Soil Fertility and Conservation Management	San Isidro Farmers Association (SIFA)
Oct. 17, 2023	Training on Integrated Pest Management	Migcawayan Tribal Agriculture Cooperative (MTAC)
Oct. 18, 2023	Training on Integrated Pest Management	Omonay Active Farmers Association (OAFA)
Oct. 19, 2023	Training on Integrated Pest Management	Kipantaon Farmers Association (KFA)
Nov. 15, 2023	Training on Pest and Disease Management or Integrated Pest Management	New Compostela Small Coconut Farmers Organization (NCSCFO)
Nov. 17, 2023	Training on Pest and Disease Management or Integrated Pest Management	Farmers Livelihood Association (FLA)
Nov. 22, 2023	Training on Pest and Disease Management or Integrated Pest Management in Corn	Maican Kalinaw Farmers Cooperative (MAKAFCO)
Nov. 23, 2023	Corn Pest and Disease Management Training	Silae Corn Growers Association (SCGA)
Dec. 7, 2023	Corn Post-Harvest Handling, Processing and Management	Maligaya Corn Growers Association (MCGA)
Dec. 11, 2023	Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	Migcawayan Tribal Agriculture Cooperative (MTAC-Batch 1)

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
Dec. 12, 2023	Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	Migcawayan Tribal Agriculture Cooperative (MTAC-Batch 2)
Dec. 20, 2023	Corn Pest and Disease Management	Kadingilan Pay-as Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Association (KAPARBA)
Dec. 12, 2023	Corn Post-Harvest Handling, Processing and Management	Gutalid Farmers Association (GFA)
Dec. 13, 2023	Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	Metebagao Farmers and Workers Multi-Sectoral Association (MFWMSA)
Dec. 27, 2023	Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)	Capinonan Community-Based Participatory Action Research Farmers Association (CCPARFA)
Dec. 28, 2023	Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)	Mauswagon Farmers Association (MAFA)
Dec. 29, 2023	Integrated Nutrient Management (INM)	Mauswagon Dalacutan Freedom Farmers Association (MADAFREFA)

COCONUT SUGAR

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
May 18, 2022	Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) for Coconut sugar	Global Mindanaw Agri-Ventures Corp. (GMAV) and Global Mindanaw Polytechnic, Inc. (GMPI)
May 20, 2022	Sanitation Standard Operation Procedures (SSOP) of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)	
July 25-26, 2022	Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)	Agay-ayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Dec 6-7, 2022		Tinagaan Women & Farmers Association
Jan 31, 2023		Kalabaylabay Community Multi-purpose Cooperative
Mar 28-29, 2023		Mindulao Farmers Agrarian Reform Community Cooperative (MINFARCO)
May 24-25, 2023		
July 27, 2022		HACCP Training
May 26, 2022	Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar	Linabu Agrarian Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LAMPCO)
July 28-29, 2022		
Nov 4-6, 2022		
January 27, 2022	GMP & OSH Training	Linabu Agrarian Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LAMPCO)
February 22, 2022		Trunk to Gold (T2G) Agri-Business Corporation
June 22, 2023	Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)	Kalabaylabay Community Multi-Purpose Cooperative
July 6-7, 2023	Business Planning Workshop	Linabu Agrarian Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LAMPCO)
July 26, 2023	Improved Packaging, Labeling, and Storage Techniques	
July 27, 2023		Agay-ayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Aug. 17-18, 2023	RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar	Coconut sugar (12):
		Kalabaylabay MPC, Agay-ayan MCI Coop, LAMPCO,
		Corn (10):
		Migcawayan Tribal Agriculture Cooperative, Mantibugao Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Farmers Cooperative
Nov. 23, 2023	Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"	MINFARCO, Agay-ayan MPC, LAMPCO, Odiongan MPC, Tup-on MPC, and some Misamis Occidental and Bukidnon coconut value chain players

Dec. 6, 2023	Pre-Membership, Sustainable Coconut farming & Coconut sap Tapping, HACCP, Traceability & Documentation, and Financial Literacy (Cascaded by T2G)	T2G new and current members
Dec. 18, 2023	Cascaded Training with LAMPCO on Good manufacturing practices (GMP) focus on Improved Techniques on Toddy Tapping	LAMPCO
Mar. 22, 2024	Good Manufacturing Practices (AMCI cascade)	AMCI
Feb. 21-23, 2024	Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)	LAMPCO
Mar. 19-21, 2024	Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)	LAMPCO
August 2023 (reported April 23, 2024)	Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)	LAMPCO

MILK FISH

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
March 8-9, 2022	Training on Fingerling Production: Garungan Rearing Methods and Techniques	public sector (e.g., BFAR I, Binmaley Municipal Agriculture Office, and TESDA) and the private sector (e.g., members, fisherfolks, and fish vendors from the ISDA-AC and other associations)
May 19-20, 2022	HACCP Training	KOICA-Seafood Processing Complex
July 13, 2022		
January 18-19, 2023	Hooray for Food Safety: Training on GMP and HACCP	Various Milkfish Processors of Pangasinan
March 27-29, 2023	Training of Trainers: Dagupan River Rehabilitation Project	LGU of Dagupan – Office of City Agriculture
April 22, 2023	Webinar on Food Safety	Pangasinan State University
April 28, 2023	Food Processing and Food Safety	BOMADUS ARC
April 29, 2023		Estanza Lingayen Pangasinan Farmers and Fisherfolks and Livestock Raisers Inc
May 31, 2023		Ladies Group of Binmaley Residents, Association (LGBR)
July 27, 2023		Farmers and Irrigators Association of Wawa Lingayen Pangasinan, Inc. (FIAWLI)
July 31, 2023		Mabiskeg Fisherfolk Association (MFA)
May 4-5, 2023	Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)	Santiago Island SEA K Workers Association of Bolinao (SISWAB)
Jun. 16-30, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices on Milkfish culture in ponds (Cascaded by ISDA-AC)	Basing Fisherfolk Association; Farmers and Irrigators Association of Wawa Lingayen Inc; Aliwekwek Fisherfolk, Farmers and Irrigators Association; and Mabiskeg Fisherfolk Association of Rosario
Jun. 28, 2023	Training on Food Safety and Food Processing	Small Anchor Fishermen's Association San Fabian Pangasinan Inc. (SAFA)
Jun. 29, 2023	Training on Food Safety and Food Processing	Nagkakaisang Samahan ng Rabon inc. San Fabian, Pangasinan (NSR)
Jul. 20, 2023	HACCP Implementation and Writing Workshop for Milkfish	Elisha Bay Dagupan Bangus and Seafoods, BFAR-NFDC, Mama Cili Enterprises, Alsons Aquaculture Corp., and JB's Aquafarm and Seafoods
Jul. 27, 2023	Training on Food Processing and Food Safety	Farmers and Irrigators Association of Wawa Lingayen Pangasinan, Inc. (FIAWLI)

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
Jul. 31, 2023	Training on Food Processing and Food Safety	Mabiskeg Fisherfolk Association
Aug. 24, 2023	Training on Good Manufacturing Practices and Food Processing	Aliwekwek Fisherfolk, Farmers and irrigators association inc. (AFFIA)
Aug. 25, 2023	Training on Good Manufacturing Practices and Food Processing	Basing Fisherfolk Association (BFA)
Sep. 20, 2023	Food Safety and Current Good Manufacturing Practices Seminar (Cascaded Training by Elisha Bay)	Valledens Food Product, Gayaman Aqua Processors Association, Talogtog Food Processing Association, Mark Ka Fishpond, Ladies Group of Caloocan Norte Association Inc.
Sep. 26-29, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Salapingao fisherfolks
Sep. 25-27, 2023	Training on Good Manufacturing Processes for Milkfish	LGU Alaminos, Elisha Bay, Lucap Fisherman Fishtrap Association, etc.
Sep. 21, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Samahang Manat
Sep. 22, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	GAPA
Oct. 5, 2023	Technical Training on Good Aquaculture Practices for Dasol	Dasol fisherfolks
Oct. 5, 2023	Technical Training on Good Aquaculture Practices for Infanta	Infanta fisherfolks
Oct. 12, 2023	Technical Training on Good Aquaculture Practices for Binmaley	Binmaley fisherfolks
Oct. 12, 2023	Technical Training on Good Aquaculture Practices for Labrador	Labrador fisherfolks
Oct. 18, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Pugaro fisherfolks
Oct. 19, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	
Oct. 20, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	
Oct. 24, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Calmay fisherfolks
Oct. 25, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	
Oct. 26, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	
Oct. 27, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Carael fisherfolks
Nov. 15-17, 2023	GMP Implementation Course	Integrated Small Fishpond Owners and Lessees (ISFOL)
Oct. 10 – Nov. 30, 2023	HACCP, cGMP, and Food Safety Seminars (Cascaded Training by Elisha Bay)	Elisha Bay, Valledens Food Product, Ladies Group of Caloocan Norte Association Inc., Asinan Fisherfolks & Livestock Raisers Association Inc., Talogtog Fish Processing Association, Mark Ka Fishpond, Gayaman Aqua Processors Association, Sulong Asinan Rural Improvement Club, Eloica Seafood Processing, Espina's Tinapahan, Marqui Food Products
Nov. 28, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Lucao fisherfolks
Nov. 29, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Lucao fisherfolks
Nov. 30, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Lucao fisherfolks
Dec. 6, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Bonuan fisherfolks
Dec. 7, 2023	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	Bonuan fisherfolks
Jan. 17, 2024	Milkfish Deboning and Marination	Danglely Loving Mothers Association
Jan. 18, 2024	GMP Awareness Course	Ladies Group of Caloocan Norte
Feb. 20, 2024	Training on Good Hygienic Practice	Malingas Market vendors
Feb. 6, 2024	Training on Good Aquaculture Practices	ISFOL
Jun. 4, 2024	Training on Good Hygienic Practice	Binmaley Public Market vendors

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
Jun. 27, 2024	Good Hygienic Practices Training- Labrador	Labrador public market; San Gonzalo Sigay-Sigay Association; Uyong Fisherfolks Association
Jun. 28, 2024	Good Hygienic Practices Training- Sual	Sual Milkfish vendor

SWINE

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
September 29, 2021	Fundamentals of Swine Genetics, Breeding Systems and Selection Techniques	General public
May 24, 2022	Training on Food Safety Practices on Hygienic Meat Handling	vendors and meat inspectors in Tanauan city
August 15-16, 2022	Hygienic Meat Handling and Good Manufacturing Practices Training	individuals from the meat retail department of SIDC, including supervisors, meat choppers, and logistics personnel
September 2, 2022	Mobile Surveillance System Training with MLS Lte. Ptd.	veterinary staff from three cities (Batangas City, Lipa City, and Tanauan City) and five municipalities (Ibaan, San Juan, Nasugbu, Garcia, and Rosario), staff from Regional Animal Diseases Diagnostic Laboratory (RADDL), and representatives from the private sector
September 22, 2022	Fundamentals of Swine Genetics, Breeding System, Selection Techniques, and Artificial Insemination	General public
September 23, 2022	Artificial Insemination (AI) Technology	Pinagbuklod Multipurpose Cooperative (PMPC)
April 24-28, 2023	Artificial Insemination (AI) Technology	AI champions in PMPC
June 11, 2023	Cascade of Artificial Insemination (AI) Technology	PMPC, mostly herd custodians
Aug. 3, 2023	Hooray for Food Safety! Batangas	Esguerra Farms, Montenord Corp, LGU, City Agriculture and Veterinary Offices
Aug. 20, 2023	Pinagbuklod MPC AI Cascaded training	Pinagbuklod MPC
Aug. 23-24, 2023	Training on Sow and Piglet Management	Lipa City Community of Animal Technicians
Sep. 12, 2023	Training on Swine Artificial Insemination	Backyard Hog Raisers of Brgy. Lumbangan, Rosario, Batangas
Sep. 15, 2023	Training on Food Safety Practices and Hygienic Meat Handling, Technical Aspects on Butchering, and Slaughterhouse Operations and Management	Butchers and Meat Inspectors under Rosario Municipal Veterinary Office
Sep. 19, 2023	Training on Good Manufacturing Practices	Buklod Unlad MPC
Sep. 13, 2023	Training on Swine Management	SIDC branch operators
Sep. 15, 2023	Training on Swine Management	SIDC branch operators
Sep. 22, 2023	Training on Swine Management	SIDC branch operators
Oct. 12, 2023	Principles of Hygienic Meat Handling	Meat stall vendors and supermarket representatives
Oct. 10-11, 2023	Awareness in Swine Biosecurity and Hygienic Meat Handling	Lian hog raisers and meat vendors
Oct. 11-12, 2023	Food Safety and Basic Meat Processing Training for Buklod-Unlad Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Buklod-Unlad Multi-Purpose Cooperative (BUMPC)
Oct. 22, 2023	Cascade Training on Swine Artificial Insemination and Disease Management for Pinagbuklod Multi-Purpose Cooperative	Pinagbuklod Multi-Purpose Cooperative

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
Oct. 24, 2023	Hygienic Meat Handling: Food Safety Principles and Regulations in Pork and Pork Products Training for Slaughterhouse Staff and Meat Stall Owners of Balayan, Batangas	Slaughterhouse Staff and Meat Stall Owners of Balayan, Batangas
Oct. 24, 2023	Training on Swine Management	SIDC branch operators
Nov. 17, 2023	Risk Management Workshop	BUMPC
Nov. 21-23, 2023	Hygienic Meat Handling in Lipa	Lipa meat vendors
Nov. 24, 2023	Technical Training on Swine and Disease Management	Rosario Municipal Veterinary Office Community-Based Animal Technicians
Nov. 29, 2023	Training on NMIS Regulations, Proper Meat Handling, and Slaughterhouse Operations	Kabayan Slaughterhouse
Dec. 1, 2023	Training on NMIS Regulations, Proper Meat Handling, and Slaughterhouse Operations	Bauan Slaughterhouse
Dec. 4, 2023	Food Safety and Hygienic Meat Handling	Rosario Meat Vendors
Dec. 5, 2023	AI and Biosecurity Training	SRAP-MPC Hog Farmers
Dec. 6, 2023	AI and Biosecurity Training	Lian Hog Farmers
Dec. 7, 2023	AI and Biosecurity Training	BUMPC Hog Farmers
Oct. 1- Dec. 31, 2023	Cascaded training on sow and piglet management in Lipa	Lipa smallholder farmers
Jan. 18, 2024	HACCP Training	Esguerra Farms
Mar. 25, 2024	Training on NMIS Regulations, Proper Meat Handling, and Slaughterhouse Operations	Sto. Tomas City Slaughterhouse and Meat Vendors
Mar. 5, 2024	Training on Swine Artificial Insemination and Biosecurity	Backyard Hog Raising Members of Buklod-Unlad Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Mar. 21, 2024	Training on Swine Artificial Insemination	Tilambo Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Dec. 1-31, 2023	Training on Sow and Piglet Management (Lipa paravet cascade)	Lipa hog paravets and raisers
Apr. 11, 2024	Good Manufacturing Practices Training	Yakap at Halik MPC B2
Apr. 4, 2024	Good Manufacturing Practices Training	Sorosoro Ibaba Development Cooperative (SIDC)
May 8, 2024	Training on the use of the electric hog stunner	Sto. Tomas City Slaughterhouse
Sep. 6, 2023 (submitted May 21, 2024)	Swine Management Training (SIDC-San Juan)	SIDC branch operators
Nov. 30, 2023	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Taysan)	SIDC branch operators
Jan. 17, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Calaca)	SIDC branch operators
Jan. 23, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Agoncillo)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 2, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-San Juan)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 7, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Nasugbu)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 14, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Lipa)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 17, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Nasugbu)	SIDC branch operators

Date	Topic	Main Stakeholders Engaged
Feb. 22, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-San Pascual)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 26, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Agoncillo)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 27, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Tent Hall)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 29, 2024	Swine Management Training (SIDC-Sto. Domingo)	SIDC branch operators
Feb. 24, 2024	Training on Heat Detection and Semen Handling	Pinagbuklod MPC
Feb. 29, 2024	Training on Swine AI and Biosecurity	Tilambo Multi-Purpose Cooperative
Mar. 22, 2024	Training on Swine Breeding Management	Lipa City market vendors/raisers
Nov. 17, 2023	Swine Management (SIDC cascade)	SIDC branch operators
Apr. 11, 2024	Operations and Management Training	SIDC branch operators
Jun. 18, 2024	Swine Biosecurity Training (Prenza)	Prenza Hog Raisers Association
May 17, 2023 (late submission)	Training on the Proper Use of Bandsaw for Meat Cutting	Lipa City Public Market
Jun. 19, 2024	Training on Food Safety and Hygienic Meat Handling	BUMPC
Jul. 16, 2024	Training on Food Safety and Hygienic Meat Handling	Cuenca vendors; Emmanuel slaughterhouse; Ibabao MPC
Jul. 30-31, 2024	Training on Food Safety and Hygienic Meat Handling	Batangas city; JPMM Meat Section/ New Market vendors

FSRAs

- 1st Biotechnology Industry Development Act (BIDA) Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting
- 1st DA Evaluation Working Group meeting
- 1st DA Project Focal Group meeting
- 1st FDA Evaluation Working Group meeting
- 1st FDA Project Focal Group meeting
- 1st Project Steering Committee meeting
- 2nd BIDA Technical Working Group Meeting
- 2nd DA Evaluation Working Group meeting
- 2nd DA Project Focal Group meeting
- 2nd FDA Project Focal Group meeting
- 2nd Project Steering Committee meeting
- Animal Biotechnology Opportunities and Regulations in the Philippines
- Animal Biotechnology Symposium and Stakeholder Consultation
- BAFE Cold Chain Registry and ABEMIS discussion
- Biotechnology Applications and Impact on the Philippine Livestock Industry
- Cascaded Training on Food Safety Standard Certification v5.1
- Cascaded Training on ISO 17025:2017
- Cascaded Training on ISO:17020
- Cascaded Training on Risk Analysis
- Cascaded training on Risk Management (BFAR)
- Cascaded Trainings on Risk Management (RORAP-BPI)
- Check the Label: Webinar on Food Fraud Prevention, Overview of the Philippine Food Labeling Regulations
- DA Oversight Committee Training on Regulatory Impact Assessment

- DA Risk Training
- Development of Risk Management Plans Inception Workshop
- FDA cascading of ISO 17020:2012 (Awareness, Implementation and Internal Audit)
- FDA Food Safety Scheme Certification (FSSC) v5.1 Cascading Activity
- FDA FROO Conference ISO 17020 Training Session
- FDA North Luzon Cluster Cascaded Training on ISO 17020:2012
- FDA Organizational Assessment meeting
- Focus Group Discussion with DA Laboratories (Preliminaries)
- Foundations and Inspection Methods in GMP and HACCP
- Fundamentals of Swine Genetics, Breeding System, Selection Techniques, and Artificial Insemination
- HACCP Training of Trainers
- Hooray for Food Safety: Navigating the ABCs of Safe Food
- Implementation Course Training on Food Safety Scheme Certification
- Implementation Course Training on ISO/IEC 17020:2012
- Inception Workshop of the Technical Working Group for the Development of 5-year National Strategic Plan for DA Laboratories
- Inception Workshop on Developing the 5-year National Strategic Development Plan for DA laboratories
- Internal Audit Course Training on Food Safety Scheme Certification
- Internal Audit Course Training on ISO/IEC 17020:2012
- Introduction to Food Safety: The ABCs of Safe Food with ISKAPARATE
- Introductory Course Training on Food Safety Scheme Certification
- Introductory Course Training on ISO/IEC 17020:2012
- ISKAPARATE Featured Training on Food Safety
- ISO 17025:2017 Internal Audit Course Training
- ISO/IEC 17025 Awareness Training for PhilFIDA
- ISO/IEC 17025:2017 Training for Internal Auditors (cascade)
- Measurement Uncertainty in Chemical Testing
- Measurement Uncertainty in Chemical Testing (2nd batch)
- Measurement Uncertainty Microbiological
- Meeting with BFAR I
- Meeting with Charoen Pokphand Foods
- Meeting with Syngenta
- Meeting with Trunk-to-Gold Inc.
- Navigating the Landscape: A Look at Animal Biotech Regulations in Brazil and Canada (ISAAA Webinar)
- Online Attendance During the Management Review: Cascading of ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and ISO/TS 22000:2018
- Online consultation on the National Strategic Development Plan
- Pre-application Conference
- Presentation of the Proposed National Strategic Development Plan for DA Laboratories
- Private and Public Consultations (BFAR I, BOI, Lipa LGU, Milkfish group)
- Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Training
- Risk Management Plan on MOH
- Risk Management Workshop-ISO 31000:2018 for BFAR
- Risk-based Food Control Training
- Risk-based Plant Inspection for Compliance to the Requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (FSSC cascade)

- Risk-based Plant Inspection for Compliance to the Requirements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) (FDC cascade)
- Risk-based Training Series
- Seminar-Training on the Implementation of DA Memorandum Circular for Products of Plant Breeding Innovation (PBI)
- Streamlining of Regulatory Requirements and Processes for Licensing and Registration of Pesticides and Other Agricultural Chemicals for Use in Animal Facilities
- Technology Innovation Challenge Pre-application Conference
- Training on Comparative Advantage
- Training on Food Fraud Prevention
- Training on Good Distribution Practices
- Training on ISO 1300 and Risk Management Plan for BPI
- Training on ISO 17025:2018
- Training on ISO 17025:2018 Implementation Course
- Training on Rapid Methods for the Enumeration of Microorganisms and Detection of Foodborne Pathogens
- Training on Risk Assessment, Management and Communication & Product Recall
- Training on Trans-Fatty Acid Analysis
- Training Workshop for the Harmonization of FIQD/RFIQU Functional Quality Objectives and Risk Registry (BFAR-RMP)
- Training Workshop on Risk Management
- USDA Food Safety Network Online Course: Food Safety Module
- USDA Regional Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) Workshop Launch
- Virtual training on "International Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Food Safety Standards"
- Webinar on Biotechnology and Regulation in the Philippines
- Webinar on CREATE Opportunities for New Agribusiness Investments
- Webinar on Opportunities and Benefits of Aquaculture/Fishery Biotechnology to the Philippine Aquaculture/Fishery Industry
- Webinar on Philippine Biosafety System, Organic Agriculture, and Coexistence
- Webinar-training for PBI on conduct of the Technical Consultation for the Evaluation and Determination (TCED) on the regulatory status of a PBI product
- World Food Safety Day with FDA

Annex G. Figures for Participant Feedback on the Relevance, Effectiveness and Sustainability of the B-SAFE Interventions

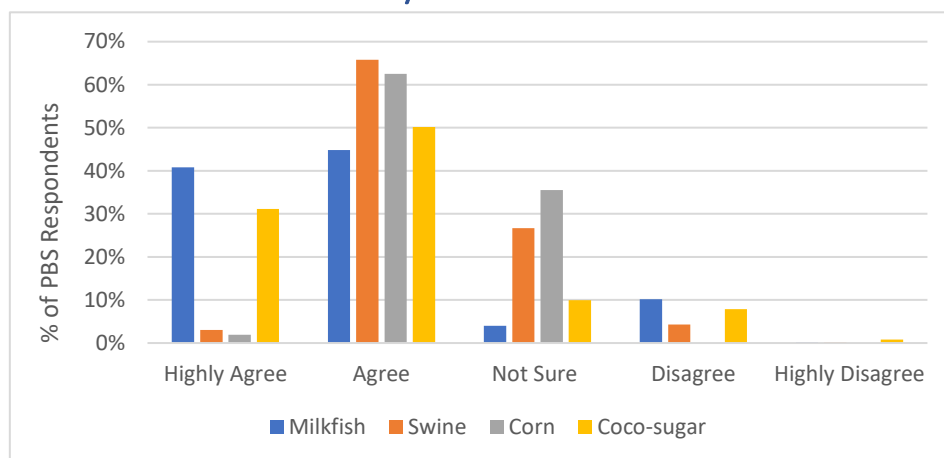


Figure 1. Respondent's rating on the relevance of training/technologies provided by B-SAFE in addressing problems and constraints in the production/processing of various commodities

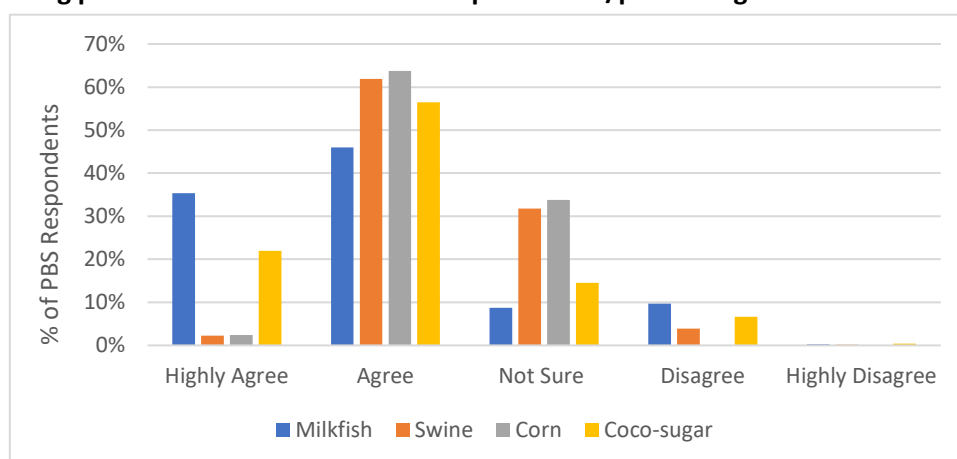


Figure 21. Respondent's rating on the timeliness of the technical assistance (training/technology transfer) provided by B-SAFE

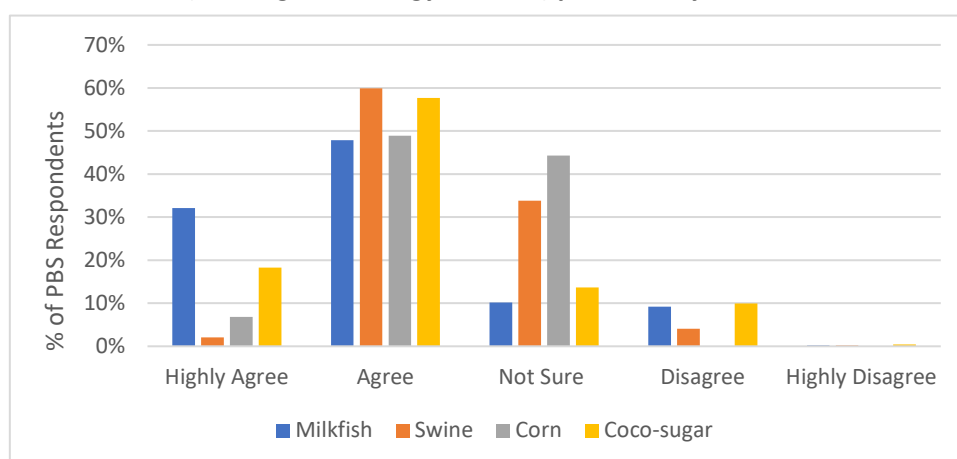


Figure 32. Respondent's rating on the ease of access of resources, training or support provided by B-SAFE

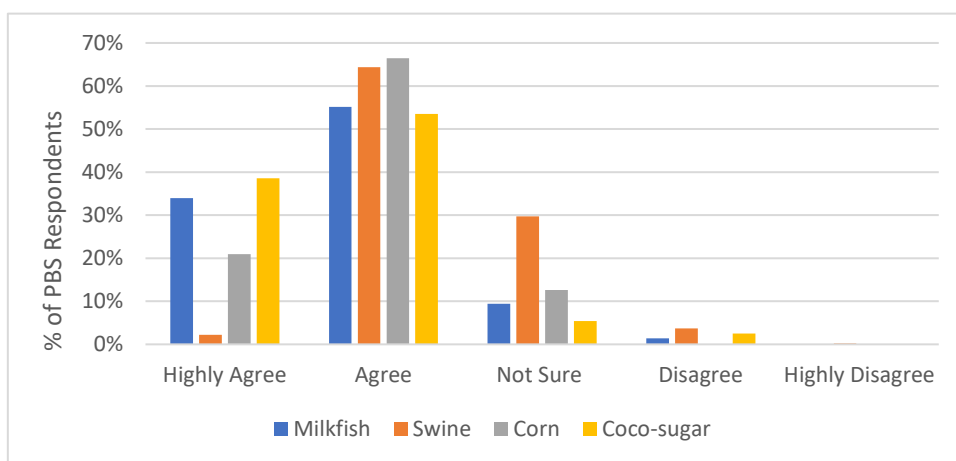


Figure 43. Respondent's rating on their ease of participation in B-SAFE activities

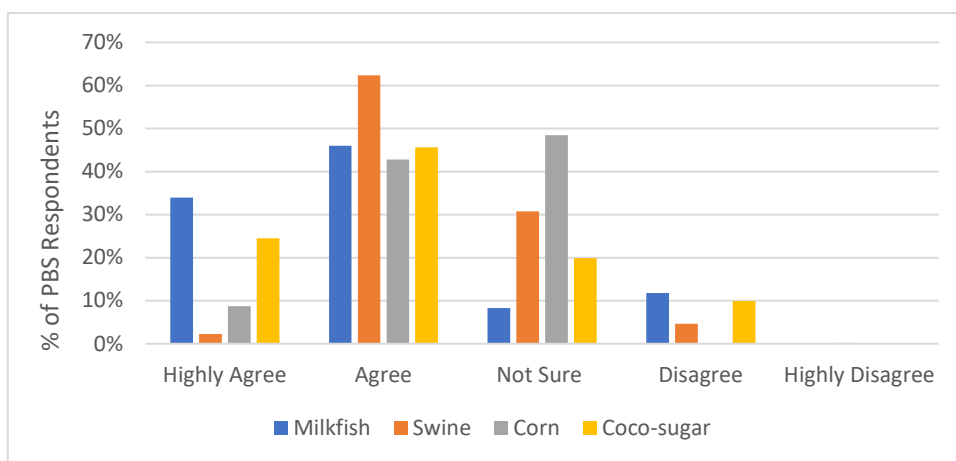


Figure 54. Respondent's rating on the fairness of distribution of B-SAFE resources

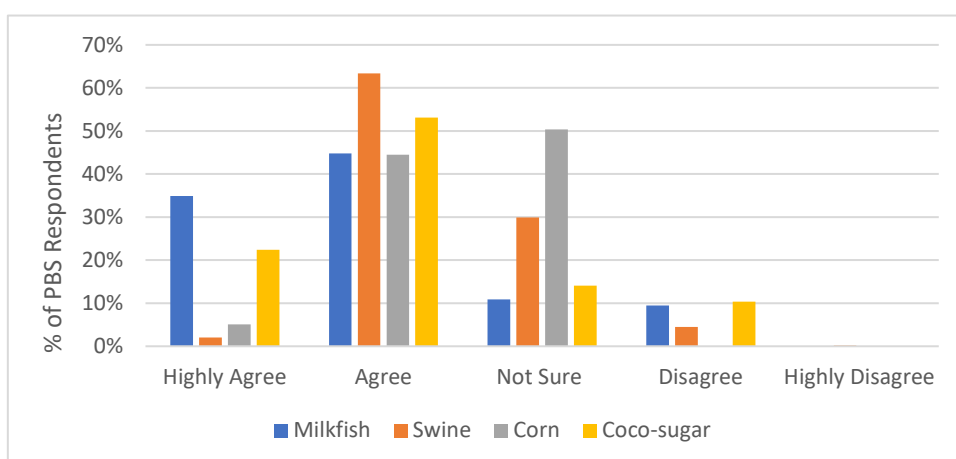


Figure 65. Respondent's rating on the speed by which B-SAFE responded to their feedback provided regarding the training/technology provided

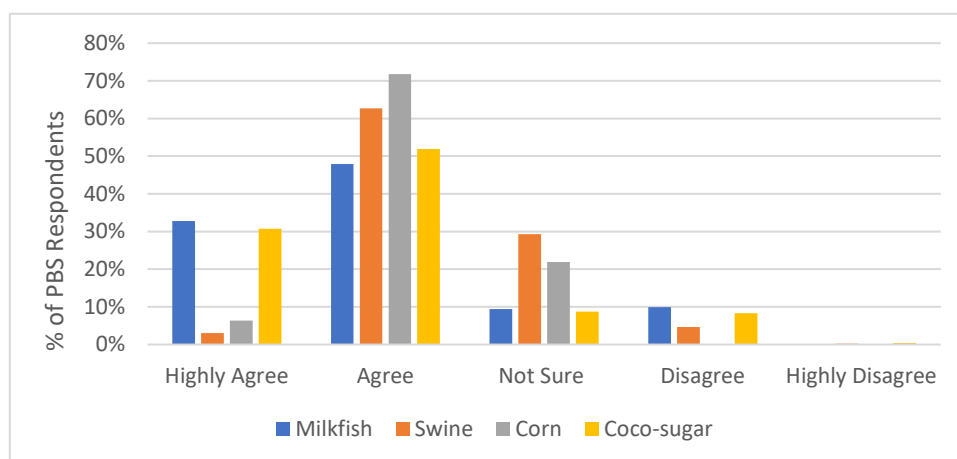


Figure 76. Respondent's rating on overall delivery of technical assistance (training/technology transfer) was of satisfactory quality

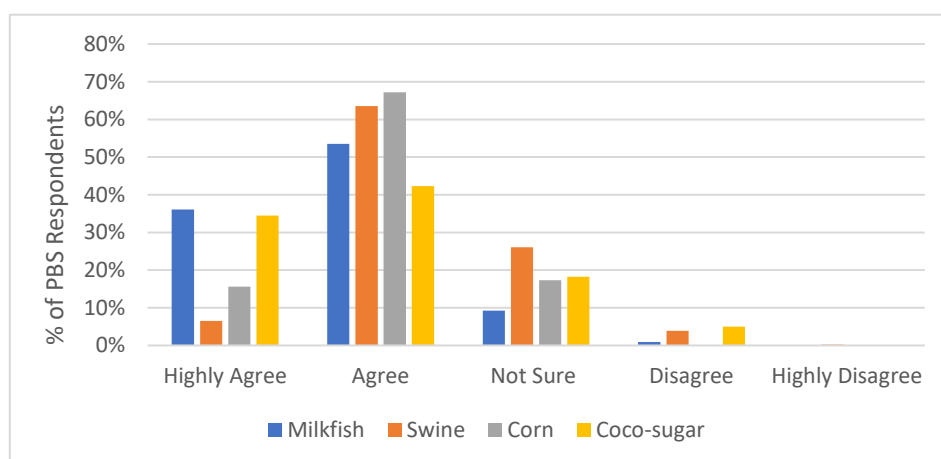


Figure 87. Respondent's rating on continuing to apply learnings from B-SAFE trainings

Annex H. Survey Questionnaires



Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)

SURVEY INSTRUMENT

Data Gathering from Human Subjects (Consent Form)

Winrock International, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is working on the **Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises Project** also known as **B-SAFE**. Winrock has engaged **Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)**, an international consultancy and training service provider in the Philippines, to lead the implementation of the research entitled **“Final Evaluation for the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project in the Philippines**. The purpose of the research is to provide in-depth assessment of the project’s performance.

This research includes collecting information from you such as your name, position, organization/agency and municipality. Information on the firm/firm production, trade practices, and technologies will also be collected. While there are minimal risks of your individual responses being disclosed due to measures we are taking in collecting the data, we are committed in ensuring the following security measures to safeguard all collected information:

- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntarily, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview will take 30 to 45 minutes. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

Are you willing to participate in the interview?*

Note to data enumerator: If the respondent is unwilling to participate, thank them and end the interview

Yes ___ No ___

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this survey and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

SWINE

Production period: September 2023 to August 2024

Enumerator Name: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Questionnaire No: _____

Date and Time: _____

A. RESPONDENT’S LOCATION

1. Province	
2. City/Municipality	
3. Barangay	

B. INFORMATION ON INTERVIEW RESPONDENT

1. Respondent's Name (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)	
2. Sex	[1] Male [2] Female
3. Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	
4. Respondents' phone number	[Enter the phone number completely in the following format: +63 (XXX) YYY ZZZZ]
5. Is the respondent the same person as the sampled participant?	[1] Yes [2] No (If yes, indicate the name of sampled participant)
6. If representing the sampled participant, in what capacity?	(Enter relationship with participant: e.g., spouse of individual participant, or if firm, manager or officer of the firm)

C. DATABASE-GENERATED INFORMATION ON THE BENEFICIARY

C.I. Information on Farm/Firm Owner/Proprietor

1. Participant name	If individual participant, name of the individual (last name, first name); If participant is an organization/firm, name of farm/firm with name of representative (format: farm's/firm's name/representative's last name, first name)
2. Participant's type of enterprise benefiting from the project	[1] On-farm production [2] Off-farm production
3. Type of ownership of farm/firm	[1] Multi-owned firm [2] Cooperatives business operation [3] Individual [4] Household operation
4. Participants' sex	[1] Male [2] Female [3] Mixed
5. Participant's age	[1] 15-29 years old [2] 30+ years old [3] Mixed
6. Participant's value chain actor type	[1] Smallholder Producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops/2 sows or less [2] Non-Smallholder Producer – holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops/more than 2 sows [3] Person/People in Private Sector Firm
7. Type of producer/firm	[1] Smallholder Producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops/2 sows or less [2] Non-Smallholder Producer - holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops/more than 2 sows [3] Firm-Microenterprise - employed <10 people in the previous 12 months [4] Firm-Small Enterprise - employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months [5] Medium Enterprise - employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months [6] Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation - employed ≥250 individuals in the previous 12 months
8. Approximately how much of the participant's household total income comes from farm-based versus non-farm-based sources? (in percent)	
% farm-based source	[Please enter from 1-100 percent]
% non-farm-based sources (e.g., non-agriculture business/employment, subsidies, pension)	[Please enter from 1-100 percent]
9. Field activity participated in by the individual/firm (you can check every field activity participated in)	
a. Training	[1] Yes [2] No

b. Grant Recipient	[1] Yes	[2] No
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10. If participated in training(s), what type of training(s)? (check all training types attended)

Food Control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring	[1] Yes	[0] No
1. Training on food safety and hygienic meat handling	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. Training on Responsible Use of Veterinary Drugs Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)	[1] Yes	[0] No
3. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)	[1] Yes	[0] No
4. Risk Management Planning (RMP)	[1] Yes	[0] No

Livestock Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) Swine genetics, breeding systems and selection techniques (use of disease-free and improved genetics semen doses, Artificial Insemination techniques including heat detection, semen handling)	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Application of Biosecurity Measures (Footbath, washing, bathing and changing rooms, quarantine area, use of PPEs)		
c) Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) on Swine Production and Management Training (including proper culling techniques, improved weaning, vaccination, vitamins supplementation, deworming, feeding management, availability of water and user of pig drinkers)	[1] Yes	[0] No

Post-Harvest, Value Addition, and Marketing	[1] Yes	[0] No
1. GMP Aligned Pork Processing Techniques	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. GMP Aligned Slaughterhouse Management	[1] Yes	[0] No

11. What's your overall level of satisfaction with the B-SAFE training?	[1] Extremely Satisfied [2] Satisfied [3] Neutral	[4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied [6] Cannot Remember
12. Did you face any of the following logistical problems participating in the training?	[1] No Problem [2] Difficulty to Take Time Out for Training [3] Distance to Training venue [4] Distance to Arrange Transport [5] Others, please specify	
13. Did you face any of the following challenges while attending the training?	[1] No Challenge [2] Topics were difficult to understand [3] Topics were not relevant to my work [4] Trainer(s) was/were not responsive to the needs of the attendees [5] Training duration was too long [6] Training duration was too short [7] Training was not delivered at an appropriate time [8] Others, please specify	

D. DATA TO BE COLLECTED THROUGH FIELD WORK	
D.I. Information on Farm/Firm Location	
a) Province	
b) City/Municipality	
c) Barangay	

D.II. Information on the use of improve technology and management practices	
<p>1. What technologies have you applied as a result of B-SAFE and its partners' trainings?</p> <p>(Please only select those technologies that you were not applying before B-SAFE's training but are now applying on your farm/firm post-training)</p>	<p>(Note: Emphasize that the period covered is Sept 2023 to Aug 2024. Enumerators may read each practice area below to the respondent but check whether the technology or practice was previously used or just after learning from the B-SAFE trainings.)</p>

Livestock Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
1. Improved livestock breeds	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. Improved livestock handling practices and housing	[1] Yes	[0] No
3. Improved feeding practices	[1] Yes	[0] No
4. Improved waste management practices	[1] Yes	[0] No
5. Application of Artificial Insemination techniques in breeding	[1] Yes	[0] No

Disease Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
1. Testing and disease surveillance	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. Clustering of smallholder farms into centralized management compliant to biosecurity protocols and measures	[1] Yes	[0] No

Marketing and Distribution		
a) Clustered farming or contract growing scheme	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Application of improved dry and cold storage, logistics and distribution systems	[1] Yes	[0] No

Post-Harvest Handling and Storage	[1] Yes	[0] No

1. Humane handling of hogs techniques during loading from the farm to unloading at the slaughterhouses or live hog consolidation areas	[1] Yes	[0] No
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Value-added Processing		
1. Improved preservation technologies and practices	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. Improved slaughterhouse, meat cutting facilities management	[1] Yes	[0] No
3. Improved butchering techniques (off-floor system)	[1] Yes	[0] No
4. Improved techniques and technologies in meat fabrication and processing, branding and packaging	[1] Yes	[0] No
5. Use of cold chain systems and application of GMP and HACCP	[1] Yes	[0] No

Others	[1] Yes	[0] No
1. Improved record keeping (e.g., production records; sales and financial records)	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. Improved budgeting and financial management (e.g., production and financial plans; installed financial system)	[1] Yes	[0] No

D.III. Training Scalability		
1. Have you applied any of the learning from the trainings to any of your non-B-SAFE supported commodities (not swine, milkfish, corn, coconut sugar)?	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. If yes, what is your level of satisfaction with the results from the other commodities?	[1] Extremely Satisfied [2] Satisfied [3] Neutral [4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied	
3. Have you shared the training-related learning with other farmers?	[1] Yes	[0] No
4. If yes, approximately how many people have you shared this knowledge with?		
1. No. of Males	(Enter number)	
2. No. of Females	(Enter number)	
5. On a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being not likely at all and 10 being extremely likely), how likely are you to recommend B-SAFE-supported training to other farmers?	(Enter Number)	
6. Have you received training related to agriculture production, harvest, post-harvest, and/or marketing from any source(s) other than B-SAFE and its partners?	[1] Yes	[0] No

7. How would you rate the usefulness of those training when compared to B-SAFE supported training?	[1] Less Useful than Others [2] Equally Useful than Others [3] More Useful than Others
8. Do you plan to continue implementing the practices that you learned during the training?	[1] Yes [0] No

D.IV. Volume and Value Data			
1. Did you sell any of the following commodities within the period Sept 2023 to Aug 2024?	[1] Yes [0] No		
In what month(s) did you make the sale?			
1. Genetic materials (semen) in AI bottles	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
2. Improved hog feeds	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
3. Swine for breeding	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
4. Piglets for fattening	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
e) Hogs for slaughter	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
f) Carcass	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
g) Fresh/frozen meat	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
h) Processed pork products	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
	Production data Quantity Produced	Sales data Quantity Sold	Value of Sales (in PhP)
a) Genetic materials (semen) in AI bottles	(Enter number of units)	(Enter number of units)	(Enter number of units)
b) Improved hog feeds	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)
c) Swine for breeding	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)
d) Piglets for fattening	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)
e) Hogs for slaughter	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)
f) Carcass	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)
g) Fresh/frozen meat	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)
h) Processed pork products	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)
2. Generally, how has the price of farm inputs changed over the past 5 years?	[1] Significantly increased [2] Increased [3] Unchanged [4] Decreased [5] Significantly decreased [6] Not applicable		

a) If you experienced any production loss, what could be the reason? Please explain.		
b) If you experienced any loss in sales, what could be the reason? Please explain.		
c) Has DROUGHT affected your production and/or sales? (If YES, answer Survey Ranking I)	[1] Yes [0] No	

d) If drought was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years?		
e) Has FLOODING affected your production and/or sales? <i>(If YES, Answer Survey Ranking II)</i>	[1] Yes	[0] No
f) If heavy rain and flooding was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years?		
I. Survey Rankings	Increased	Unchanged
I. Drought		
a. <i>Drought Frequency</i>		
b. <i>Drought Severity</i>		
II. Flood		
c. <i>Heavy Rain and Flood Frequency</i>		
d. <i>Heavy Rain and Flood Severity</i>		
1. What actions have you taken to protect yourself from these economic and climate factors? (Select all that apply).	[1] Adopting new techniques & technologies [2] Shifting to alternate crop [3] Diversifying livelihoods [4] Others, please specify	
2. How have the project interventions contributed towards your preparedness to changes in economic and climate factors?		

	Well Prepared	Moderately Prepared	Under Prepared	Not Prepared	Not Applicable
a. <i>Use of improved inputs and facility</i>					
b. <i>Adoption of improved production, processing and business techniques</i>					
c. <i>Adoption of improved sanitary and phytosanitary standards</i>					
d. <i>Cooperation with other farmers and industry stakeholders</i>					
e. <i>Access to Market Information</i>					
f. <i>Relationships with Buyers</i>					
g. <i>Linkages with agriculture lenders</i>					

Data on Investment Leverage	
1. Did you purchase/procure/spend for additional breeder stocks, equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or any other business asset for production or trade enhancement/improvement resulting from/driven by what you received and/or learned from B-SAFE?	[1] Yes [0] No

2. If "yes", what are these breeder stocks, equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or business assets? How much was the cost of each of these equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or business asset?	[Name and Enter amount in PHP for each item]	
3. Total cost of all the enumerated items	[Enter amount in PHP]	
**Note: No need to directly ask the following questions to the respondent. These questions may be answered post-interview.		
4. Is the participant an adopter, i.e., already using/adopting the B-SAFE-supported technology/ management practices?	[1] Yes [0] No (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on technology adoption. One technology adopted classifies the respondent as adopter.)	
5. If yes, select the adopter unit: (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on the participant's type of enterprise.)	[1] Individual [2] Organization/Firm [3] Others, please specify	
6. To which types of technology/management practices will the adopted practices classify?		
a) Crop Genetics	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Cultural Practices	[1] Yes	[0] No
c) Livestock Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
d) Aquaculture Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
e) Pest and Disease Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
f) Soil-Related Fertility and Conservation	[1] Yes	[0] No
g) Irrigation	[1] Yes	[0] No
h) Agri Water Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
i) Marketing and Distribution	[1] Yes	[0] No
j) Post-Harvest Handling & Storage	[1] Yes	[0] No
k) Value-Added Processing	[1] Yes	[0] No
l) Other Technologies, Farm Management Practices	[1] Yes	[0] No
m) Improved Packaging	[1] Yes	[0] No
n) Improved Equipment	[1] Yes	[0] No
o) Improved Transportation	[1] Yes	[0] No
p) Cold Storage	[1] Yes	[0] No

- End of survey -

MILKFISH**Production period: September 2023 to August 2024**

Enumerator Name: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Questionnaire No: _____

Date and Time: _____

A. RESPONDENT'S LOCATION	
1. Province	
2. City/Municipality	
3. Barangay	

B. INFORMATION ON INTERVIEW RESPONDENT	
1. Respondent's Name (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)	
2. Sex	[1] Male [2] Female
3. Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	
4. Respondents' phone number	[Enter the phone number completely in the following format: +63 (XXX) YYY ZZZZ]
5. Is the respondent the same person as the sampled participant?	[1] Yes [2] No (If yes, indicate the name of sampled participant)
6. If representing the sampled participant, in what capacity?	(Enter relationship with participant: e.g., spouse of individual participant, or if firm, manager or officer of the firm)

C. DATABASE-GENERATED INFORMATION ON THE BENEFICIARY	
C.I. Information on Farm/Firm Owner/Proprietor	
1. Participant name	If individual participant, name of the individual (last name, first name); If participant is an organization/firm, name of farm/firm with name of representative (format: farm's/firm's name/representative's last name, first name)
2. Participant's type of enterprise benefiting from the project	[1] On-farm production [2] Off-farm production
3. Type of ownership of farm/firm	[1] Multi-owned firm [2] Cooperatives business operation [3] Individual [4] Household operation
4. Participant's sex	[1] Male [2] Female [3] Mixed
5. Participant's age	[1] 15-29 years old [2] 30+ years old [3] Mixed
6. Participant's value chain actor type	[1] Milkfish producer [2] Smallholder Producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops/2 sows or less [3] Non-Smallholder Producer - holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops/more than 2 sows [4] Person/People in Private Sector Firm
7. Type of producer/firm	[1] Smallholder Producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops/2 sows or less [2] Non-Smallholder Producer - holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops/more than 2 sows [3] Firm-Microenterprise - employed <10 people in the previous 12 months [4] Firm-Small Enterprise - employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months [5] Medium Enterprise - employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months [6] Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation - employed ≥250 individuals in the previous 12 months
8. Type of production area (for producers only; and only during the period covered by the survey)	[1] Pond [2] Fish Cage [3] Pond and Fish Cage
9. Approximately how much of the participant's household total income comes from farm-based versus non-farm-based sources? (in percent)	

a) % farm-based source	[Please enter from 1-100 percent]	
b) % non-farm-based sources (e.g., non-agriculture business/employment, subsidies, pension)	[Please enter from 1-100 percent]	
10. Field activity participated in by the individual/firm (you can check every field activity participated in)		
a) Training	[1] Yes	[2] No
b) Grant Recipient	[1] Yes	[2] No
11. If participated in training(s), what type of training(s)? (check all training types attended)		
Aquaculture Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) Garungan Rearing Methods and Techniques	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) GAqP Aligned Sustainable Milkfish Production in River Systems	[1] Yes	[0] No
Post-Harvest, Value Addition, and Marketing	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) GMP for Post-Harvest Facility	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) GMP Aligned and Food Safety Oriented Post-Harvest Production (e.g., deboning and other processing techniques)	[1] Yes	[0] No
c) Good Hygienic Practices	[1] Yes	[0] No
d) Marketing Principles and Entrepreneurship	[1] Yes	[0] No
Food Control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring	[1] Yes	[0] No
1. Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) for Bangus Processing Facility	[1] Yes	[0] No
12. What's your overall level of satisfaction with the B-SAFE training?	[1] Extremely Satisfied [2] Satisfied [3] Neutral [4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied [6] Cannot Remember	
13. Did you face any of the following logistical problems participating in the training?	[1] No Problem [2] Difficulty to Take Time Out for Training [3] Distance to Training venue [4] Distance to Arrange Transport [5] Others, please specify	
14. Did you face any of the following challenges while attending the training?	[1] No Challenge [2] Topics were difficult to understand [3] Topics were not relevant to my work [4] Trainer(s) was/were not responsive to the needs of the attendees [5] Training duration was too long [6] Training duration was too short [7] Training was not delivered at an appropriate time [8] Others, please specify	

D. DATA TO BE COLLECTED THROUGH FIELD WORK

D.I. Information on Farm/Firm Location

a) Province	
b) City/Municipality	
c) Barangay	

D.II. Information on the use of improve technology and management practices

1. What technologies have you applied as a result of B-SAFE and its partners' trainings? (Please only select those technologies that you were not applying before B-SAFE's training but are now applying on your farm/firm post-training)	(Note: Emphasize that the period covered is Sept 2023 to Aug 2024. Enumerators may read each practice area below to the respondent but check whether the technology or practice was previously used or just after learning from the B-SAFE trainings.)	
Aquaculture Management	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) Improved fingerlings	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Improved feed and feeding practices and housing	[1] Yes	[0] No
c) Fish health and disease control	[1] Yes	[0] No
d) Improved cage culture	[1] Yes	[0] No
e) Sampling and harvesting (Use of Kalokor in harvesting bangus)	[1] Yes	[0] No
f) Improved stocking density	[1] Yes	[0] No
g) Application of improved water quality monitoring techniques in ponds and fish cages	[1] Yes	[0] No
Marketing and distribution	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) Application of improved dry and cold storage, logistics and distribution systems	[1] Yes	[0] No
Post-harvest handling and storage	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) Classification, sorting and grading fresh milkfish	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Maturity indexing	[1] Yes	[0] No
c) Application of proper icing, packing and transport using improved tools, equipment and cold chain systems	[1] Yes	[0] No
Value-added Processing	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) Improved preservation technologies and practices	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Use of improved food processing techniques and technologies such as but not limited to deboning, smoking, drying, canning and bottling branding, labeling and packaging	[1] Yes	[0] No
a) Use of HDPE ice boxes/ice chest, tubs(banyera), freezers, chillers	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Use of stainless tables with lavatory	[1] Yes	[0] No
c) Use of plastic chopping boards, processing knives, forceps	[1] Yes	[0] No
d) Use of ice crushers and plastic pallets	[1] Yes	[0] No
e) Use of retort machine	[1] Yes	[0] No
f) Use of solar dryer	[1] Yes	[0] No
g) Use of water filtration system	[1] Yes	[0] No
Others		
a) Improved record keeping (e.g., production records; sales and financial records)	[1] Yes	[0] No
b) Improved budgeting and financial management (e.g., production and financial plans; installed financial system)	[1] Yes	[0] No

D.III. Training Scalability		
1. Have you applied any of the learning from the trainings to any of your non-B-SAFE supported commodities (not swine, milkfish, corn, coconut sugar)?	[1] Yes	[0] No
2. If yes, what is your level of satisfaction	[1] Extremely Satisfied	

with the results from the other commodities?	[2] Satisfied [3] Neutral [4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied
3. Have you shared the training-related learning with other farmers?	[1] Yes [0] No
4. If yes, approximately how many people have you shared this knowledge with?	
a. No. of Males	(Enter number)
b. No. of Females	(Enter number)
5. On a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being not likely at all and 10 being extremely likely), how likely are you to recommend B-SAFE-supported trainings to other farmers?	(Enter number)
6. Have you received training related to agriculture production, harvest, post-harvest, and/or marketing from any source(s) other than B-SAFE and its partners?	[1] Yes [0] No
7. How would you rate the usefulness of those training when compared to B-SAFE supported training?	[1] Less Useful than Others [2] Equally Useful than Others [3] More Useful than Others
8. Do you plan to continue implementing the practices that you learned during the training?	[1] Yes [0] No

D.IV. Volume Data			
1. Did you sell any of the following commodities within the period Sept 2023 to Aug 2024?	[1] Yes [0] No		
I. Commodity			
	In what month(s) did you make the sale?		
a) <i>Fries or fingerlings</i>	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
b) <i>Fresh whole milkfish</i>	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
c) <i>Semi-processed milkfish (i.e., deboned, pre-cut, etc.)</i>	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
d) <i>Processed milkfish (i.e., marinated, smoked, canned, etc.)</i>	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
	Production data Quantity Produced	Sales data Quantity Sold	Value of Sales (in PhP)
a) <i>Fries or fingerlings</i>	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
b) <i>Fresh whole milkfish</i>	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
c) <i>Semi-processed milkfish (i.e., deboned, pre-cut, etc.)</i>	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
d) <i>Processed milkfish (i.e., marinated, smoked, canned, etc.)</i>	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
2. Generally, how has the price of farm inputs changed over the past 5 years?	[1] Significantly increased [2] Increased [3] Unchanged [4] Decreased [5] Significantly decreased [6] Not applicable		

D.V. Value Data	
1. If you experienced any production loss, what could be the reason? Please explain.	
2. If you experienced any loss in sales, what could be the reason?	

Please explain.					
3. Has DROUGHT affected your production and/or sales? (Answer: If yes, survey ranking I)	[1] Yes [0] No				
4. If drought was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years?					
5. Has FLOODING affected your production and/or sales? (Answer: If yes, survey ranking II)	[1] Yes [0] No				
6. If heavy rain and flooding was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years?					
I. Survey Rankings	Increased	Unchanged	Decrease	Not Applicable	
I. Drought					
a) <i>Drought Frequency</i>					
b) <i>Drought Severity</i>					
II. Flood					
a) <i>Heavy Rain and Flood Frequency</i>					
b) <i>Heavy Rain and Flood Severity</i>					
1. What actions have you taken to protect yourself from these economic and climate factors? (Select all that apply).	[1] Adopting new techniques & technologies [2] Shifting to alternate crop [3] Diversifying livelihoods [4] Others, please specify				
2. How have the project interventions contributed towards your preparedness to changes in economic and climate factors?					
	Well Prepared	Moderately Prepared	Under Prepared	Not Prepared	Not Applicable
a) <i>Use of improved inputs and facility</i>					
b) <i>Adoption of improved production, processing and business techniques</i>					
c) <i>Adoption of improved sanitary and phytosanitary standards</i>					
d) <i>Cooperation with other farmers and industry stakeholders</i>					
e) <i>Access to Market Information</i>					
f) <i>Relationships with Buyers</i>					
g) <i>Linkages with agriculture lenders</i>					
Data on Investment Leverage					
1. Did you purchase/procure/spend for additional breeder stocks, equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or any other business asset for production or trade enhancement/improvement resulting from/driven by what you received and/or learned from B-SAFE?	[1] Yes [0] No				
2. If "yes", what are these breeder stocks, equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or business assets? How much was the cost of each of these equipment, tools,	[Name and Enter amount in PHP for each item]				

infrastructure and/or business asset?	
3. Total cost of all the enumerated items	[Enter amount in PHP]
**Note: No need to directly ask the following questions to the respondent. These questions may be answered post-interview.	
4. Is the participant an adopter, i.e., already using/adopting the B-SAFE-supported technology/ management practices?	[1] Yes [0] No (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on technology adoption. One technology adopted classifies the respondent as adopter.)
5. If yes, select the adopter unit: (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on the participant's type of enterprise.)	[1] Individual [2] Organization/Firm [3] Others, please specify
6. To which types of technology/management practices will the adopted practices classify?	
a. <i>Crop Genetics</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
b. <i>Cultural Practices</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
c. <i>Livestock Management</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
d. <i>Aquaculture Management</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
e. <i>Pest and Disease Management</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
f. <i>Soil-Related Fertility and Conservation</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
g. <i>Irrigation</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
h. <i>Agri Water Management</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
i. <i>Marketing and Distribution</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
j. <i>Post-Harvest Handling & Storage</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
k. <i>Value-Added Processing</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
l. <i>Other Technologies, Farm Management Practices</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
m. <i>Improved Packaging</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
n. <i>Improved Equipment</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
o. <i>Improved Transportation</i>	[1] Yes [0] No
p. <i>Cold Storage</i>	[1] Yes [0] No

CORN**Production period:**

Enumerator Name: _____

Questionnaire No: _____

Date and Time: _____

Reviewed by: _____

A. RESPONDENTS LOCATION	
1. Province	
2. City/Municipality	
3. Barangay	

B. INFORMATION ON INTERVIEW RESPONDENT	
1. Respondent name (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)	
2. Sex	[1] Male [2] Female
3. Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	
4. Phone number	[Enter the phone number completely in the following format: +63 (XXX) YYY ZZZZ]
5. Is the respondent the same person as the sampled participant?	[1] Yes [2] No (If yes, indicate the name of sample participant)
6. If representing the sampled participant, in what capacity?	[Enter relationship with participant: e.g., spouse of individual participant, or if firm, manager or officer of the firm]

C. DATABASE-GENERATED INFORMATION ON THE BENEFICIARY	
C.I. Information on Farm/Firm Owner/Proprietor	
1. Participant name	If individual participant, name of the individual (last name, first name); If participant is an organization/firm, name of farm/firm with name of representative (format: farm's/firm's name/representative's last name, first name)
2. Participants type of enterprise benefiting from the project	[1] On farm production [2] Off-farm enterprise
3. Type of ownership of farm/firm	[1] Multi-owned firm [2] Cooperatives business operation [3] Individual [4] Household operation
4. Participant's Sex	[1] Male [2] Female [3] Mixed
5. Participant's Age	[1] 15-29 years old [2] 30+ years old [3] Mixed
6. Participant's Value Chain Actor Type	[1] Smallholder producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops [2] Non-smallholder producer – holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops [3] Person/People in Private Sector Firm
7. Type of producer or firm	[1] Smallholder Producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops. [2] Non-Smallholder Producer - holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops [3] Firm-Microenterprise - employed <10 people in the previous 12 months. [4] Firm-Small Enterprise - employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months. [5] Medium Enterprise - employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months. [6] Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation - employed >=250 individuals in the previous 12 months
8. Approximately how much of the participant's household total income comes from farm-based versus non-farm-based sources? (in percent)	
d) % farm-based source	
e) % non-farm-based sources (e.g., non-agri business/employment, subsidies, pension)	
9. Field activity participated in by the individual/firm (you can check every field activity participated in)	

a. Training	[1] Yes [2] No
b. Grant recipient	[1] Yes [2] No
10. If participated in training (s), what type of training(s)? (check all training types attended)	
Crop management training	[1] Yes [2] No
a. Training on the proper handling, treatment, and use of improved corn seed varieties (Use of BT and Glyphosate-ready corn seeds)	[1] Yes [2] No
b. Improved corn production training (Land preparation, planting, fertilization, weed Control, Integrated Pest Management (IPM))	[1] Yes [2] No
c. Corn production for silage	[1] Yes [2] No
d. GAP certification training for corn producers	[1] Yes [2] No
Post-harvest, value addition and marketing training	
a. Corn harvest and post-harvest technology training including drying, moisture testing, warehousing management, storage and transport practices	[1] Yes [2] No
b. Corn silage processing training	[1] Yes [2] No
11. What's your overall level of satisfaction with the B-SAFE training?	[1] Extremely Satisfied [2] Satisfied [3] Neutral [4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied [6] Cannot remember
12. Did you face any of the following logistical problems participating in the training?	[1] No Problem [2] Difficulty to Take Time Out for Training [3] Distance to Training Venue [4] Difficulty to Arrange Transport [5] Others, please specify
13. Did you face any of the following challenges while attending the training?	[1] No Challenge [2] Topics were difficult to understand [3] Topics were not relevant to my work [4] Trainer(s) was/were not responsive to the needs of the attendees [5] Training duration was too long [6] Training duration was too short [7] Training was not delivered at an appropriate time [8] Others, please specify

D. DATA TO BE COLLECTED THROUGH FIELD WORK

D.I INFORMATION ON FARM/FIRM LOCATION

1. Province	
2. Municipality	
3. Barangay	

D.II. INFORMATION ON THE USE OF IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

1. What technologies have you applied as a result of B-SAFE and its partners' trainings? (Please only select those technologies that you were not applying before B-SAFE's training but are now applying on your farm/firm post-training)	(Note: Emphasize that the period covered is Sept 2023 to Aug 2024. Enumerators may read each practice area below to the respondent but check whether the technology or practice was previously used or just after learning from the B-SAFE trainings.)
Crop Genetics	[1] Yes [2] No
a. Proper handling, treatment and use of improved corn seed varieties	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: Storage in cool, dry area. Free from pests like rodents and insects. Off-floor storage-use of pallets. Away or no exposure from sunlight. Covered area protected from rain. Use of improved genetics such as GM corn seeds.)
Pest and disease management	[1] Yes [2] No

a. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in the prevention and control of Fall Army Worm (FAW) and other corn pests;	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: Cultural management practices - crop rotation, proper land preparation, planting distance, cleaning field to avoid alternative host of pest and diseases. Physical control – hand pick collecting of predators and insects, light etc. Mechanical control – light trapping. Biological control – balancing the population of predator insects, parasitoids, and entomopathogens. Botanical control – utilization of plants with pesticidal properties applying either through spray application/broadcasting plant parts. Chemical control – use of pesticides and related products.)
b. Weed Control	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: Row weeding/Guna. Hilling up/Hambok. Under brushing/Lampas. Mulching – covering the plots with either using plastic or farm waste materials. Chemical weed control – spraying with Glyphosate Herbicides.
Soil-related fertility and conservation	[1] Yes [2] No
a. Improved fertilization	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: Conventional fertilization/direct application of the basal fertilizers with 3 macro elements of Nitrogen, Phosphorus, Potassium. Application of organic fertilizer either from farmer-produced compost and farm waste/from commercial producers. Combination of organic and inorganic fertilizer, both basal and foliar application. Following the scientific fertilizer application and recommendation, based on the result “Soil testing” from local laboratories.
Post-Harvest handling and storage	[1] Yes [2] No
a. Variety classification	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: yellow hybrid corn, yellow BT Corn, white Corn for food grade, or other local varieties)
b. Crop maturity indexing	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: 80 days old for silage, or 105-120 days old depending on the kind on the variety)
c. Shelling, drying and storage technologies using improved equipment and facilities	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: Shelling activity/“Paglubo sa Mais” – shelling by using the combine harvester, by hands with traditional wood-sheeled rubber-coated tire/“Manomano nga paglubo, using sheller machine. Drying activity/“Pagbulad sa Mais” – drying using solar and mechanical dryer. Use of corn sheller. Use of moisture meter, canvass, UV plastic cover, plastic pallets, weighing scale and bag sealers.
d. Improved classification, sorting, grading techniques	[1] Yes [2] No (Example: Manual grading – according to A,B,C size quality of corn grains with appropriate moisture contain of not more than 12%. Automatic grading (using grading machine) - according to A,B,C size quality of corn grains with appropriate moisture contain of not more than 12%)
Value-added processing	[1] Yes [2] No
a. Hammer-milled corn processing	[1] Yes [2] No
Others	[1] Yes [2] No
a. Hammer-milled corn	[1] Yes [2] No

D.III. TRAINING SCALABILITY	
a) Have you applied any of the learning from the trainings to any of your non-B-SAFE supported commodities (not swine, milkfish, corn, coconut sugar)?	[1] Yes [2] No
b) If yes, what is your level of satisfaction with the results from the other commodities?	[1] Extremely Satisfied [2] Satisfied [3] Neutral [4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied
c) Have you shared the training-related learning with other farmers/colleagues?	[1] Yes [2] No

d) If yes, approximately how many people have you shared this knowledge with?	No. of Males: No of Females:
a) No. of Males	[Enter number]
b) No. of Females	[Enter number]
e) On a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being not likely at all and 10 being extremely likely), how likely are you to recommend B-SAFE-supported trainings to other farmers?	[Enter number]
f) Have you received training related to agriculture production, harvest, post-harvest, and/or marketing from any source(s) other than B-SAFE and its partners?	[1] Yes [2] No
g) How would you rate the usefulness of those training when compared to B-SAFE supported trainings?	[1] Less Useful than Others [2] Equally Useful than Others [3] More Useful than Others
h) Do you plan to continue implementing the practices that you learned during the training?	[1] Yes [2] No

D.IV. VOLUME DATA			
a) Did you sell any of the following commodities within the period Sept 2023 to Aug 2024?	[1] Yes [2] No		
Commodity			
In what month(s) did you make the sale?			
Corn on the cob			
1 st cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
2 nd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
3 rd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
Dried kernels			
1 st cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
2 nd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
3 rd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
Milled grits			
1 st cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
2 nd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
3 rd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
Hammer-milled corn			
1 st cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
2 nd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
3 rd cropping sale	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
Production data	Data on total area planted (remind the respondent the cropping season we are interested in, i.e., within the period Sept 2023 to Aug 2024)		
1 st cropping period (in hectares)			
2 nd cropping period (in hectares)			
3 rd cropping period (in hectares)			
Total area planted under improved technology (equal to total hectares planted if technology/management practice is adopted fully or less if partially):			
1 st cropping period (in hectares)			
2 nd cropping period (in hectares)			
3 rd cropping period (in hectares)			
	Production data Quantity Produced (get volume data in KG)	Sales data Quantity Sold (get volume data in KG)	Value of Sales (in PhP)
Corn on the cob			
1 st cropping sale			
2 nd cropping sale			
3 rd cropping sale			
Dried kernels			

1 st cropping sale			
2 nd cropping sale			
3 rd cropping sale			
Milled grits			
1 st cropping sale			
2 nd cropping sale			
3 rd cropping sale			
Hammer-milled corn			
1 st cropping sale			
2 nd cropping sale			
3 rd cropping sale			

D.V. VALUE DATA					
1. If you experienced any production loss, what could be the reason? Please explain.					
2. If you experienced any loss in sale, what could be the reason? Please explain.					
3. Has DROUGHT affected your production and/or sales?	[1] Yes [2] No				
4. If drought was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years? (Answer: If yes, survey ranking I)					
5. Has FLOODING affected your production and/or sales?	[1] Yes [2] No				
6. If heavy rain and flooding was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years? ((Answer: If yes, survey ranking II)					
I. Survey Rankings	Increased	Unchanged	Decrease	Not Applicable	
I. Drought					
b) <i>Drought Frequency</i>					
c) <i>Drought Severity</i>					
II. Flood					
d) <i>Heavy Rain and Flood Frequency</i>					
e) <i>Heavy Rain and Flood Severity</i>					
1. What actions have you taken to protect yourself from these economic and climate factors? (Select all that play)	[1] Adopting new techniques & technologies [2] Shifting to alternate crop [3] Diversifying livelihoods [4] Others, please specify				
2. How have the project interventions contributed towards your preparedness to change in economic and climate factors?					
	Well Prepared	Moderately Prepared	Under Prepared	Not Prepared	Not Applicable
a) <i>Use of improved inputs and facility</i>					
b) <i>Adoption of improved production, processing and business techniques</i>					
c) <i>Adoption of improved sanitary and phytosanitary standards</i>					
d) <i>Cooperation with other farmers and industry stakeholders</i>					

e) Access to Market Information					
f) Relationships with Buyers					
g) Linkages with agriculture lenders					
Data on Investment Leverage					
a) Did you purchase/procure/spend for additional equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or any other business asset for production or trade enhancement/improvement resulting from/driven by what you received and/or learned from B-SAFE?	[1] Yes [2] No				
b) How much was the cost of each of these equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or business asset? (Name and enter amount in PHP for each item)	[Name and Enter amount in PHP for each item]				
c) Total cost of all enumerated items? (Enter amount in PHP)	[Enter amount in PHP]				
**Note: No need to directly ask the following questions to the respondent. These questions may be answered post-interview.					
d) Is the participant an adopter, i.e., already using/adopting the B-SAFE-supported technology/ management practices?	[1] Yes [2] No (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on technology adoption. One technology adopted classifies the respondent as adopter.)				
e) If yes, select the adopter unit: (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on the participant's type of enterprise.)	[1] Individual [2] Organization/Firm [3] Others, please specify				
f) To which types of technology/management practices will the adopted practices classify					
a. Crop Genetics	[1] Yes [2] No				
b. Cultural Practices	[1] Yes [2] No				
c. Livestock Management	[1] Yes [2] No				
d. Aquaculture Management	[1] Yes [2] No				
e. Pest and Disease Management	[1] Yes [2] No				
f. Soil-Related Fertility and Conservation	[1] Yes [2] No				
g. Irrigation	[1] Yes [2] No				
h. Agri water management	[1] Yes [2] No				
i. Marketing and distribution	[1] Yes [2] No				
j. Post-harvest Handling & Storage	[1] Yes [2] No				
k. Value-Added Processing Other Technologies, Farm Management Practices	[1] Yes [2] No				
l. Improved Packaging	[1] Yes [2] No				
m. Improved Equipment	[1] Yes [2] No				
n. Improved Transportation	[1] Yes [2] No				
o. Cold Storage	[1] Yes [2] No				

- End of survey -

COCONUT SUGAR**Production period: September 2023 to August 2024**

Enumerator Name: _____

Reviewed by: _____

Questionnaire No: _____

Date and Time: _____

A. RESPONDENT'S LOCATION	
1. Province	
2. City/Municipality	
3. Barangay	

B. INFORMATION ON INTERVIEW RESPONDENT	
1. Respondent's Name (Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)	
2. Sex	[1] Male [2] Female
3. Date of birth (MM/DD/YYYY)	
4. Respondents' phone number	[Enter the phone number completely in the following format: +63 (XXX) YYY ZZZZ]
5. Is the respondent the same person as the sampled participant?	[1] Yes [2] No (If yes, indicate the name of sampled participant)
6. If representing the sampled participant, in what capacity?	[Enter relationship with participant: e.g., spouse of individual participant, or if firm, manager or officer of the firm]

C. DATABASE-GENERATED INFORMATION ON THE BENEFICIARY	
C.I. Information on Farm/Firm Owner/Proprietor	
1. Participant name	If individual participant, name of the individual (last name, first name); If participant is an organization/firm, name of farm/firm with name of representative (format: farm's/firm's name/representative's last name, first name)
2. Participant's type of enterprise benefiting from the project	[1] On-farm production [2] Off-farm production
3. Type of ownership of farm/firm	[1] Multi-owned firm [2] Cooperatives business operation [3] Individual [4] Household operation
4. Participants's sex	[1] Male [2] Female [3] Mixed
5. Participant's age	[1] 15-29 years old [2] 30+ years old [3] Mixed
6. Participant's value chain actor type	[1] Smallholder Producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops/2 sows or less [2] Non-Smallholder Producer - holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops/more than 2 sows [3] Person/People in Private Sector Firm
7. Type of producer/firm	[1] Smallholder Producer - holding 5 hectares or less of arable land for crops/2 sows or less [2] Non-Smallholder Producer - holding more than 5 hectares of arable land for crops/more than 2 sows [3] Firm-Microenterprise - employed <10 people in the previous 12 months [4] Firm-Small Enterprise - employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months [5] Medium Enterprise - employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months [6] Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation - employed ≥250 individuals in the previous 12 months
8. Approximately how much of the participant's household total income comes from farm-based versus non-farm-based sources? (in percent)	
a. % farm-based source	[Please enter from 1-100 percent]

b. % non-farm-based sources (e.g., non-agriculture business/employment, subsidies, pension)	[Please enter from 1-100 percent]	
9. Field activity participated in by the individual/firm (you can check every field activity participated in)		
a. Training	[1] Yes	[2] No
b. Grant Recipient	[1] Yes	[2] No
10. If participated in training(s), what type of training(s)? (check all training types attended)		
Post-Harvest, Value Addition and Marketing		
a) Improved Product Packing and Labelling	[1] Yes	[2] No
b) Technology Transfer by USTP (Measuring pH and TSS)	[1] Yes	[2] No
Food Control, Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring	[1] Yes	[2] No
a) Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)	[1] Yes	[2] No
b) Occupational Safety and Health	[1] Yes	[2] No
c) Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP)	[1] Yes	[2] No
d) Sanitation Standard Operation Procedures (SSOP) of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)	[1] Yes	[2] No
e) Establishing Internal Control System for Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Organic Coconut sugar	[1] Yes	[2] No
f) Risk Management Planning (RMP)	[1] Yes	[2] No
11. What's your overall level of satisfaction with the B-SAFE training?	[1] Extremely Satisfied [2] Satisfied [3] Neutral [4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied [6] Cannot remember	
12. Did you face any of the following logistical problems participating in the training?	[1] No Problem [2] Difficulty to Take Time Out for Training [3] Distance to Training Venue [4] Difficulty to Arrange Transport [5] Others, please specify	
13. Did you face any of the following challenges while attending the training?	[1] No Challenge [2] Topics were difficult to understand [3] Topics were not relevant to my work [4] Trainer(s) was/were not responsive to the needs of the attendees [5] Training duration was too long [6] Training duration was too short [7] Training was not delivered at an appropriate time [8] Others, please specify	

D. DATA TO BE COLLECTED THROUGH FIELD WORK	
D.I. Information on Farm/Firm Location	
1. Province	
2. City/Municipality	
3. Barangay	
D.II. Information on the use of improve technology and management practices	
1. What technologies have you applied as a result of B-SAFE and its partners' trainings?	(Note: Emphasize that the period covered is Sept 2023 to Aug 2024. Enumerators may read each practice area below to the respondent but check whether the technology or practice was previously used or just after learning from the B-SAFE trainings.)

(Please only select those technologies that you were not applying before B-SAFE's training but are now applying on your farm/firm post-training)	
Post-harvest Handling and Storage	
a) Improved classification, sorting, grading techniques	[1] Yes [0] No
b) Sanitary handling of raw materials (coconut sap) and coconut sugar products compliant to food safety standards	[1] Yes [0] No (Example: Collected coconut sap are stored in clean and sanitized vessel. The finished product should be stored and transported in a clean, cool, and dry place to prevent infestation and contamination with or development of pathogenic microorganisms.)
c) Use of improved dry storage	[1] Yes [0] No (Example: Stored in airtight container and placed in cool, dark, dry place.)
Value-added Processing	[1] Yes [0] No
a) Improved tools and equipment for coconut sugar processing (Water storage and filtration system, tunnel type solar dryer)	[1] Yes [0] No
b) Improved preservation technologies and practices	[1] Yes [0] No
c) Improved packaging materials and design (Improved packaging materials and design)	[1] Yes [0] No
Others	[1] Yes [0] No
a) Improved record keeping (Production records, sales and financial records)	[1] Yes [0] No
b) Improved budgeting and financial management (Production and financial plans, installed financial system)	[1] Yes [0] No

D.III. Training Scalability	
1. Have you applied any of the learning from the trainings to any of your non-B-SAFE supported commodities (not swine, milkfish, corn, coconut sugar)?	[1] Yes [0] No
2. If yes, what is your level of satisfaction with the results from the other commodities?	[1] Extremely Satisfied [2] Satisfied [3] Neutral [4] Dissatisfied [5] Extremely Dissatisfied
3. Have you shared the training-related learning with other farmers/colleagues?	[1] Yes [0] No
4. If yes, approximately how many people have you shared this knowledge with?	
f) No. of Males	[Enter number]
g) No. of Females	[Enter number]
5. On a scale of 0 to 10 (0 being not likely at all and 10 being extremely likely), how likely are you to recommend B-SAFE-supported trainings to other farmers?	[Enter number]
6. Have you received training related to agriculture production, harvest, post-harvest, and/or marketing from any source(s) other than B-SAFE and its partners?	[1] Yes [0] No
7. How would you rate the usefulness of those training when compared to B-SAFE supported trainings?	[1] Less Useful than Others [2] Equally Useful than Others [3] More Useful than Others
8. Do you plan to continue implementing the practices that you learned during the	[1] Yes [0] No

training?	
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D.IV. Volume Data			
1. Did you sell any of the following commodities within the period Sept 2023 to Aug 2024?	[1] Yes [0] No		
I. Commodity			
	In what month(s) did you make the sale?		
a) Coconut sap	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
b) Coco Syrup	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
c) Coconut sugar	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
d) Coco Aminos	[Enter month(s) within Sept 2023 to Aug 2024]		
	Production data Quantity Produced	Sales data Quantity Sold	Value of Sales
a) Coconut sap	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
b) Coco Syrup	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
c) Coconut sugar	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
d) Coco Aminos	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter number of kgs)	(Enter amount in PHP)
2. Generally, how was the price of farm inputs changed over the past 5 years?	[1] Significantly increased [2] Increased [3] Unchanged [4] Decreased [5] Significantly decreased [6] Not applicable		

D.V. Value Data				
1. If you experienced any production loss, what could be the reason? Please explain.				
2. If you experienced any loss in sale, what could be the reason? Please explain.				
3. Has DROUGHT affected your production and/or sales? (Answer: If yes, survey ranking I)	[1] Yes [0] No			
4. If drought was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years?				
5. Has FLOODING affected your production and/or sales? (Answer: If yes, survey ranking II)	[1] Yes [0] No			
6. If heavy rain and flooding was cited as a main reason of concern in production or sale, how has the event changed in frequency and severity over the last 5 years?				
I. Survey Rankings	Increased	Unchanged	Decrease	Not Applicable
I. Drought				
a) Drought Frequency				
b) Drought Severity				
II. Flood				
a) Heavy Rain and Flood Frequency				
b) Heavy Rain and Flood Severity				
1. What actions have you taken to protect yourself from these economic and climate factors? (Select all that apply).	[1] Adopting new techniques & technologies [2] Shifting to alternate crop [3] Diversifying livelihoods			

	[4] Others, please specify				
2. How have the project interventions contributed towards your preparedness to changes in economic and climate factors?					
	Well Prepared	Moderately Prepared	Under Prepared	Not Prepared	Not Applicable
a) <i>Use of improved inputs and facility</i>					
b) <i>Adoption of improved production, processing and business techniques</i>					
c) <i>Adoption of improved sanitary and phytosanitary standards</i>					
d) <i>Cooperation with other farmers and industry stakeholders</i>					
e) <i>Access to Market Information</i>					
f) <i>Relationships with Buyers</i>					
g) <i>Linkages with agriculture lenders</i>					
Data on Investment Leverage					
a) Did you purchase/procure/spend for additional equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or any other business asset for production or trade enhancement/improvement resulting from/driven by what you received and/or learned from B-SAFE?	[1] Yes [2] No				
b) How much was the cost of each of these equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or business asset? How much was the cost of each of these equipment, tools, infrastructure and/or business asset?	[Name and Enter amount in PHP for each item]				
c) Total cost of all the enumerated items	[Enter amount in PHP]				
**Note: No need to directly ask the following questions to the respondent. These questions may be answered post-interview.					
d) Is the participant an adopter, i.e., already using/adopting the B-SAFE-supported technology/management practices?	[1] Yes [0] No (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on technology adoption. One technology adopted classifies the respondent as adopter.)				
e) If yes, select the adopter unit: (Base the answer here to the answer above on the question on the participant's type of enterprise.)	[1] Individual [2] Organization/Firm [3] Others, please specify				
f) To which types of technology/management practices will the adopted practices classify?					
a. <i>Crop Genetics</i>	[1] Yes [0] No				
b. <i>Cultural Practices</i>	[1] Yes [0] No				
c. <i>Livestock Management</i>	[1] Yes [0] No				
d. <i>Aquaculture Management</i>	[1] Yes [0] No				
e. <i>Pest and Disease Management</i>	[1] Yes [0] No				
f. <i>Soil-Related Fertility and Conservation</i>	[1] Yes [0] No				

<i>g. Irrigation</i>	[1] Yes	[0] No
<i>h. Agri Water Management</i>	[1] Yes	[0] No
<i>i. Marketing and Distribution</i>	[1] Yes	[0] No

- End of survey -

ANNEX I. KII and FGD Guide Questions

1. GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR SWINE



Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)

Data Gathering from Human Subjects (Consent Form)

Winrock International, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is working on the **Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises Project** also known as **B-SAFE**. Winrock has engaged **Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)**, an international consultancy and training service provider in the Philippines, to lead the implementation of the research entitled “**Final Evaluation for the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project in the Philippines**”. The purpose of the research is to provide in-depth assessment of the project’s performance.

This research includes collecting information from you such as your name, position, organization/ agency and municipality. Information on the farm/firm production, trade practices, and technologies will also be collected. While there are minimal risks of your individual responses being disclosed due to measures we are taking in collecting the data, we are committed in ensuring the following security measures to safeguard all collected information:

- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview will take 45 minutes to 1 hour. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

**PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Key Informant Interview)**

1.1 Name (Surname, First name, M.I.)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/ LGU/regulatory agency)	

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions Swine Growers (SIDC/LIAN/Prenza)

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Swine Management Training

Swine Management (SIDC cascade)

Operations and Management Training

AI and Biosecurity Training

Awareness in Swine Biosecurity and Hygienic Meat Handling

Swine Biosecurity Training (Prenza)

BACKGROUND

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project?
2. What was the process and criteria for selection as a beneficiary of the swine repopulation and biosecurity program? For example, being a smallholder swine producer, membership in a cooperative, etc.
3. When did you start receiving support from B-SAFE related to swine repopulation and biosecurity? _____ Year(s)
4. What specific forms of assistance have you received from the B-SAFE project? For example, training on biosecurity measures, access to ASF-free genetic materials, artificial insemination (AI) services, etc.
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of swine production and biosecurity? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS

7. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the swine-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, connectivity issues during virtual sessions, etc.
8. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical biosecurity measures, etc.
9. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions you attended? For example, swine genetics, artificial insemination, biosecurity, ASF-free repopulation strategies, etc.
10. How useful did you find the training on artificial insemination and its role in repopulating ASF-free swine herds? Have you adopted AI services, and if so, how has it impacted your swine production?
11. How effective was the training on Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) and biosecurity in preventing ASF and other diseases in your farm?
12. How has your engagement with certified slaughterhouse facilities, if applicable, influenced your meat processing and marketing practices?
13. Did the interventions include any access to ASF-free and disease-free genetic materials or breeding services? If yes, what impact did this have on your herd's productivity and genetic quality?
14. Were you provided with any additional resources, such as parent sows, biosecurity kits, or other tools? If yes, please describe how these have been used on your farm.
15. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION)

16. How has applying the interventions helped improve your swine production? For example, higher quality piglets, better disease control, higher biosecurity standards, increased market access, etc. Please elaborate.
17. How has the project impacted your income from swine farming (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
18. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your swine farming practices? For example, high costs of

implementing biosecurity measures, difficulty accessing ASF-free genetic materials, etc.

19. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in swine production? If yes, please provide details.
20. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

21. What specific improvements would you suggest for the swine production and biosecurity training to make it more relevant and useful for producers like you?
22. Are there other areas related to swine production where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, enhanced AI services, biosecurity protocols, etc.
23. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support swine producers in overcoming challenges, particularly regarding ASF prevention and safe repopulation?
24. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve the operationalization of certified slaughterhouses to better support swine producers in meeting meat safety standards?
25. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets and contracts for smallholder swine producers, especially those involved in cluster farming?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions

Swine Traders (Lipa Vendors, Buklod/Unlan MPC, Esguerra)

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Training on Good Manufacturing Practices

Training on Swine Breeding Management

Training on the Proper Use of Bandsaw for Meat Cutting

Hooray for Food Safety! Batangas

Food Safety and Basic Meat Processing Training for Buklod-Unlad Multi-Purpose

Hygienic Meat Handling in Lipa

HACCP Training

BACKGROUND

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project?

2. What was the process and criteria for selection you as a beneficiary of the program? For example, being a vendor, membership in a cooperative, etc.
3. When did you start receiving support from B-SAFE? _____ Year(s)
4. What specific forms of assistance have you received from the B-SAFE project? For example, training on biosafety, GMP, hygienic meat handling
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of swine production and biosecurity? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS

7. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the swine-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, connectivity issues during virtual sessions, etc.
8. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical biosecurity measures, etc.
9. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions you attended? (for example, meat handling, storage, cutting, etc.)
10. How useful did you find the training and its role in food safety? Have you adopted the practices taught? If yes, how has it impacted your meat sales?
11. How effective was the training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and meat handling and processing in ensuring safe foods being sold?
12. How has your engagement with certified slaughterhouse facilities, if applicable, influenced your meat processing and marketing practices?
13. Did the interventions include determining ASF-free and disease-free animals and meat products? If yes, what impact did this have on the quality of your meat and the sales?
14. Were you provided with any additional resources, such as meat handling kits, (chopping boards, knives, aprons, gloves) or equipment (chillers, ref, coolers) and others? If yes, please describe how these have been used on your stores.
15. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION)

16. How has applying the interventions helped improve your swine sales? For example, higher quality meat, clean meat, increased market access/share, improved pricing, etc. Please elaborate.
17. How has the project impacted your income from meat selling (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
18. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your meat handling practices? For example, high costs of implementing biosafety equipment, difficulty accessing ASF-free supplies
19. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in pork selling? If yes, please provide details.
20. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

21. What specific improvements would you suggest for the meat handling and selling training to make it more relevant and useful for vendors like you?
22. Are there other areas related to meat handling and selling where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, enhanced implementation of regulations, equipment in the markets. etc.
23. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support meat handlers and sellers in overcoming challenges, including ASF prevention?
24. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve the operationalization of certified slaughterhouses to better support swine producers in meeting meat safety standards?
25. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets and contracts for smallholder swine producers, especially those involved in cluster farming?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions

Swine Traders (Bauan Slaughterhouse)

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Training on NMIS Regulations, Proper Meat Handling, and Slaughterhouse Operations

BACKGROUND

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project?
2. What was the process and criteria for selection you as a beneficiary of the program? For example, SL category or size?
3. When did you start receiving support from B-SAFE? _____ Year(s)
4. What specific forms of assistance have you received from the B-SAFE project? For example, NMIS regulation, proper meat handling, SLH operations
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of SLH operation, NMIS regulation, meat handling? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS

7. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the swine-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, connectivity issues during virtual sessions, etc.
8. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical measures, etc.
9. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions you attended? (for example, meat handling, storage, cutting, regulations etc.)

10. How useful did you find the training and its role in food safety? Have you adopted the practices taught? If yes, how has it impacted your operations?
11. How effective was the training in ensuring safe foods being sold?
12. How has your engagement with certified slaughterhouse facilities, if applicable, influenced your meat processing and marketing practices?
13. Did the interventions include determining ASF-free and disease-free animals and meat products? If yes, what impact did this have on operations of the SLH?
14. Were you provided with any additional resources, or equipment (chillers, ref, coolers) and others? If yes, please describe how these have been used in the SLH.
15. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION)

16. How has applying the interventions helped improve your SLH operations? For example, improved operations, less findings, etc. Please elaborate.
17. How has the project impacted your income or volume from SLH operations (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
18. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to SLH operations? For example, high costs of implementing biosafety equipment, difficulty accessing ASF-free supplies, difficulty in following regulations, improved certification level
19. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in SLH operations? If yes, please provide details.
20. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

21. What specific improvements would you suggest for the SLH operations?
22. Are there other areas related to SLH operations where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, enhanced implementation of regulations, equipment in the markets. etc.
23. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support SLH in overcoming challenges, including ASF prevention?
24. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve the operationalization of certified slaughterhouses to better support swine producers in meeting meat safety standards?
25. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets and contracts for smallholder swine producers, especially those involved in cluster farming?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions

Cold Chain (Rosario Slaughterhouse)

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Training on Food Safety Practices and Hygienic Meat Handling, Technical Aspects on Butchering, and Slaughterhouse Operations and Management

BACKGROUND

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project?
2. What was the process and criteria for selection you as a beneficiary of the program? For example, SL category or size?
3. When did you start receiving support from B-SAFE? _____ Year(s)
4. What specific forms of assistance have you received from the B-SAFE project? For example, NMIS regulation, proper meat handling, SLH operations
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of SLH operation, NMIS regulation, meat handling? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS

7. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the swine-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, connectivity issues during virtual sessions, etc.
8. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical measures, etc.
9. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions you attended? (for example, meat handling, storage, cutting, regulations etc.)
10. How useful did you find the training and its role in food safety? Have you adopted the practices taught? If yes, how has it impacted your operations?
11. How effective was the training in ensuring safe foods being sold?
12. How has your engagement with certified slaughterhouse facilities, if applicable, influenced your meat processing and marketing practices?
13. Did the interventions include determining ASF-free and disease-free animals and meat products? If yes, what impact did this have on operations of the SLH?
14. Were you provided with any additional resources, or equipment (chillers, ref, coolers) and others? If yes, please describe how these have been used in the SLH.
15. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION)

16. How has applying the interventions helped improve your SLH operations? For example, improved operations, less findings, etc. Please elaborate.
17. How has the project impacted your income or volume from SLH operations (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
18. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to SLH operations? For example, high costs of implementing biosafety equipment, difficulty accessing ASF-free supplies, difficulty in following regulations, improved certification level
19. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in SLH operations? If yes, please provide details.
20. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

21. What specific improvements would you suggest for the SLH operations?
22. Are there other areas related to SLH operations where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, enhanced implementation of regulations, equipment in the markets. etc.
23. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support SLH in overcoming challenges, including ASF prevention?
24. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve the operationalization of certified slaughterhouses to better support swine producers in meeting meat safety standards?
25. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets and contracts for smallholder swine producers, especially those involved in cluster farming?

**PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Focus Group Discussion)**

1.1 Name (<i>Surname, First name, M.I.</i>)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/ LGU/regulatory agency)	

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Focus Group Discussion Guide Questions

Swine Growers

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Target Participants: 5 to 10 swine growers representing different farmer group beneficiaries of B-SAFE

BACKGROUND (Relevance: Questions 1 to 6)

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project?
2. What was the process and criteria for selection as a beneficiary of the swine repopulation and biosecurity program? For example, being a smallholder swine producer, membership in a cooperative, etc.
3. When did you start receiving support from B-SAFE related to swine repopulation and biosecurity? _____ Year(s)
4. What specific forms of assistance have you received from the B-SAFE project? For example, training on biosecurity measures, access to ASF-free genetic materials, artificial insemination (AI) services, etc.
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of swine production and biosecurity? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS (Relevance: Question 10, Effectiveness: Question 7 & 8)

7. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the swine-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, connectivity issues during virtual sessions, etc.
8. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical biosecurity measures, etc.
9. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions you attended? For example, swine genetics, artificial insemination, biosecurity, ASF-free repopulation strategies, etc.
10. How useful did you find the training on artificial insemination and its role in repopulating ASF-free swine herds? Have you adopted AI services, and if so, how has it impacted your swine production?
11. How effective was the training on Good Animal Husbandry Practices (GAHP) and biosecurity in preventing ASF and other diseases in your farm?
12. How has your engagement with certified slaughterhouse facilities, if applicable, influenced your meat processing and marketing practices?
13. Did the interventions include any access to ASF-free and disease-free genetic materials or breeding services? If yes, what impact did this have on your herd's productivity and genetic quality?
14. Were you provided with any additional resources, such as parent sows, biosecurity kits, or other tools? If yes, please describe how these have been used on your farm.

15. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION) (Effectiveness: Questions 17 to 21)

17. How has applying the interventions helped improve your swine production? For example, higher quality piglets, better disease control, higher biosecurity standards, increased market access, etc. Please elaborate.
18. How has the project impacted your income from swine farming (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
19. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your swine farming practices? For example, high costs of implementing biosecurity measures, difficulty accessing ASF-free genetic materials, etc.
20. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in swine production? If yes, please provide details.
21. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS (Sustainability: Questions 22 to 26)

22. What specific improvements would you suggest for the swine production and biosecurity training to make it more relevant and useful for producers like you?
23. Are there other areas related to swine production where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, enhanced AI services, biosecurity protocols, etc.
24. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support swine producers in overcoming challenges, particularly regarding ASF prevention and safe repopulation?
25. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve the operationalization of certified slaughterhouses to better support swine producers in meeting meat safety standards?
26. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets and contracts for smallholder swine producers, especially those involved in cluster farming?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Focus Group Discussion Guide Questions

Swine Traders

(Sto. Tomas Slaughterhouse)

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Good Manufacturing Practices Training

Training on Food Safety Practices on Hygienic Meat Handling

Training on NMIS Regulations, Proper Meat Handling, and Slaughterhouse Operations

BACKGROUND

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project?
2. What was the process and criteria for selection you as a beneficiary of the program? For example, being a vendor, membership in a cooperative, etc.
3. When did you start receiving support from B-SAFE? _____ Year(s)
4. What specific forms of assistance have you received from the B-SAFE project? For example, training on biosafety, GMP, hygienic meat handling
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of swine production and biosecurity? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS

7. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the swine-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, connectivity issues during virtual sessions, etc.
8. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical biosecurity measures, etc.
9. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions you attended? (for example, meat handling, storage, cutting, etc.)
10. How useful did you find the training and its role in food safety? Have you adopted the practices taught? If yes, how has it impacted your meat sales?
11. How effective was the training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and meat handling and processing in ensuring safe foods being sold?
12. How has your engagement with certified slaughterhouse facilities, if applicable, influenced your meat processing and marketing practices?
13. Did the interventions include determining ASF-free and disease-free animals and meat products? If yes, what impact did this have on the quality of your meat and the sales?
14. Were you provided with any additional resources, such as meat handling kits, (chopping boards, knives, aprons, gloves) or equipment (chillers, ref, coolers) and others? If yes, please describe how these have been used on your stores.

15. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION)

16. How has applying the interventions helped improve your swine sales? For example, higher quality meat, clean meat, increased market access/share, improved pricing, etc. Please elaborate.
17. How has the project impacted your income from meat selling (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
18. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your meat handling practices? For example, high costs of implementing biosafety equipment, difficulty accessing ASF-free supplies
19. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in pork selling? If yes, please provide details.
20. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

21. What specific improvements would you suggest for the meat handling and selling training to make it more relevant and useful for vendors like you?
22. Are there other areas related to meat handling and selling where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, enhanced implementation of regulations, equipment in the markets. etc.
23. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support meat handlers and sellers in overcoming challenges, including ASF prevention?
24. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve the operationalization of certified slaughterhouses to better support swine producers in meeting meat safety standards?
25. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets and contracts for smallholder swine producers, especially those involved in cluster farming?

2. GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR MILKFISH



Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)

Data Gathering from Human Subjects (Consent Form)

Winrock International, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is working on the **Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises Project** also known as **B-SAFE**. Winrock has engaged **Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)**, an international consultancy and training service provider in the Philippines, to lead the implementation of the research entitled **“Final Evaluation for the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project in the Philippines”**. The purpose of the research is to provide in-depth assessment of the project’s performance.

This research includes collecting information from you such as your name, position, organization/ agency and municipality. Information on the farm/firm production, trade practices, and technologies will also be collected. While there are minimal risks of your individual responses being disclosed due to measures we are taking in collecting the data, we are committed in ensuring the following security measures to safeguard all collected information:

- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview will take 45 minutes to 1 hour. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Key Informant Interview)

1.1 Name (Surname, First name, M.I.)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/ LGU/regulatory agency)	

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions for Milkfish Producer/Processor (GAPA)

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Gayaman Aqua Processor Association (GAPA)

- Food Safety and Current Good Manufacturing Practices Seminar (Cascaded Training by Elisha Bay)
- HACCP, cGMP and Food Safety Seminars (Cascaded Training by Elisha Bay)
- Training on Good Aquaculture Practices

Background

1. Please provide a brief background of GAPA and your role within the association, number of members and their qualifications to become member
2. How did GAPA get involved with B-SAFE?
3. What specific assistance has GAPA received from B-SAFE for milkfish production and processing?

Technical and Training Support

1. Was it required for all members to attend all the training courses?
2. On rating of 1 to 5 (1 being lowest and 5 the as the highest), how affective are the seminar/training sessions cascaded by Elisha Bay in enhancing the understanding of
 - Food safety and cGMP
 - HACCP
 - GAqP
3. On rating of 1 to 5, how relevant was the content of each seminar/training course to the daily operation of association members?
 - Food safety and cGMP
 - HACCP
 - GAqP

Adoption

1. Since participating in the seminars on food safety, GMC and HACCP, have member adopted food safety practices in processing milkfish products? Please specify these practices
2. Have there been any changes in their income or sales volume of processed products? If so, what is the percentage increase in income for processed products.
3. Are farmers practicing GAqP on their milkfish farms? Have you observed any changes in their income from milkfish farming as a result of adoption of GAqP? If there was an increase, what is the percentage? If there is a decline, please explain why.

Certification and Market Access

1. Did B-SAFE provide assistance in applying for necessary business permits, certifications, or product authorization (e.g. HACCP, GMP, LTO). What specific support was provided?
2. Is the association pursuing HACCP and other certification? What is the status of the application?
3. Did the training providers conduct mock audits or inspection to help the farmers understand the requirement for certification and facility authorization?

Recommendations

1. Are there other where you believe additional technical support is needed, such as advanced aquaculture techniques, financial management or record keeping?
2. What recommendations do you have for improving grant processes or facility upgrades to better support fingerling production using the Garungan method?
3. How can B-SAFE further assist in reducing dependency on imported fingerlings?
4. What additional support from B-SAFE would you like to see to help your cooperative grow and achieve sustainability in fingerling supply?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

KII Guide Questions for Milkfish Producer

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Salapingao Fisherfolk
Samahang Manat Angat sa Lahat (SMASL)
Naguilayan Fisherfolks Association

- Training on Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP)

Background

1. Please provide a brief background of your association, including the year it was established, the number of members, and the purpose of its establishment.
2. How did your association become involved with B-SAFE?
3. What specific forms of assistance or intervention have you received from B-SAFE

Training and Capacity Building

1. Did B-SAFE conduct a training needs assessment before the intervention begin?
2. What specific training topics were covered? Are these necessary in the farm operations based on the needs assessment?
3. How relevant is the training to the specific needs of milkfish farmers?
4. How effective is the training in enhancing good and safe aquaculture practices?
5. Was there a post-test training evaluation? Have you been provided with the results?

Adoption of the intervention

1. Did the farmers adopt the intervention introduced? What specific practices were adopted? If any practices were not adopted. What were the reasons?
2. How have the newly adopted practices adopted impacted farm productivity, income and production cost? Have you noticed changes in productivity and income since the implementation of the practices?
3. What challenges were experienced in adopting the intervention? What were they and what measures were taken to address them? Is B-SAFE aware of these challenges, and has it provided assistance to the farmers?

Recommendations

1. What specific improvements would you suggest for the training course to make it more effective and relevant for milkfish producers?
2. Are there other areas where you believe additional training or technical support is needed such as advanced aquaculture techniques, financial management or record keeping?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

KII Guide Questions for Milkfish Traders

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Dagupan Fish Processing Center (Malimgas): Training on Good Hygienic Practice

Ladies Group of Caloocan Norte Association (LGCNAI):

- Food Safety and Current Good Manufacturing Practices Seminar (Cascaded Training by Elisha Bay)
- HACCP, cGMP and Food Safety Seminars (Cascaded Training by Elisha Bay)
- GMP Awareness Course

Freshious Inc.

West Fil-Sea Corporation

Background

1. Please provide a brief background of your establishment, including the year it was established, specific products traded, clientele, current market reach, and any certification like GMP or HACCP.
2. How did you get involved with B-SAFE? How did you learn about the project and its focus on improving milkfish supply chain in Pangasinan?
3. Did the trainer conduct any assessment of the knowledge and skills of the staff involved in the manufacturing and trading of milkfish products to identify their training needs?
4. Based on the needs assessment, what specific forms of assistance or intervention have you received from B-SAFE-sponsored training?

Technical and Training Support

4. Is the training course tailored to address the specific needs and challenges faced by your establishment in manufacturing and trading of milkfish products?
5. On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being lowest and 5 the highest), how affective are the seminar and training sessions conducted by Elisha Bay in enhancing the trainees' understanding of
 - Food safety and cGMP
 - HACCP
 - GMP awareness
6. On a scale of 1 to 5, how relevant was the content of each seminar or training course to the daily operation of your establishment?
 - Food safety and cGMP
 - HACCP
 - GMP awareness

Intervention/Grant Support

1. Did the B-SAFE provide support for improving facilities such as stockrooms or processing areas? If yes, how did these improvements impact their operation?

Adoption of the intervention

1. Did your establishment adopt the intervention introduced? If not, what were the reasons for non-adoption?
2. What challenges experienced in adopting the intervention? What are these challenges, and what measures were taken to address them? Is B-SAFE aware of these issue and have they provided assistance to your firm?
3. Has the adoption of the intervention improved the operation of the establishment? If so, in what ways? Did it affect the product quality, marketability, or cost?
4. Have you noticed any changes in customer interests or sales as a result of improved facility standard?
5. Will your establishment continue using the technology or innovation learned from the training? Please provide your reasons.
6. Are there any other technologies you need to improve your operation?

Certification and Market Access

1. Do you pursue HACCP or other certification?
2. Did you receive assistance from B-SAFE in applying for necessary business permits, certifications or other product authorizations (e.g. GMP, HACCP, LTO)? What specific support were provided?
3. Were mock audits and inspections conducted by B-SAFE to help you prepare for actual audit certification? What were the findings?
4. If certified, what market opportunities do you expect to access that were previously unavailable? Are there specific clients or markets you are targeting for your products?

Market Aspect

1. Have there been any changes in sales volume since implementing the innovation? Have the prices of the products changed due to improvements?
2. Are there challenges in meeting buyer specification, such as product quality? How have you resolved these challenges?

Sustainability

1. What measures is your establishment taking to sustain the benefits achieved through the B-SAFE intervention?
2. What additional support do you need from B-SAFE to expand your operation and your product market?



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- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview/discussion will take 1.5 to 2 hours. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

PROFILE OF RESPONDENT (Focus Group Discussion)

1.1 Name (Surname, First name, M.I.)

1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/ LGU/regulatory agency)	

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

Focus Group Discussion Guide Questions

Milkfish Producers/Processors

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Target Participants: 5 to 10 milkfish producers/processors representing different farmer group beneficiaries of B-SAFE

BACKGROUND (Relevance: Questions 1 to 5)

1. How did you become aware of the B-SAFE project and its focus on improving the milkfish supply chain in Pangasinan?
2. What was your role or involvement in the milkfish supply chain prior to your engagement with the B-SAFE project? (e.g., producer, processor, cooperative member)
3. What specific forms of assistance or support have you received from the B-SAFE project related to milkfish production and processing? (e.g., training on fingerling production, water quality management, certification support)
4. How were participants selected for the training sessions and other interventions under the B-SAFE project? Were there any specific criteria?
5. Did the project or trainer conduct any assessments of your knowledge or skills before the interventions began? If so, what did these assessments entail?

TRAININGS AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT (Relevance: Questions 6 to 11)

6. Which specific training sessions did you attend related to milkfish production or processing? For example, topics covered, such as Garungan System, GAqP, HACCP, etc.
7. How effective were the training sessions in enhancing your understanding of milkfish production, particularly the Garungan System, land preparation, and water quality maintenance? Were there practical demonstrations or hands-on components?
8. Were the training sessions tailored to address the specific needs and challenges you face in milkfish production or processing? If so, how?
9. How relevant was the content of the training sessions to the daily operations of your business or cooperative? Did you receive information on modern production technologies, pest and disease management, or other critical aspects?
10. Did the training address regulatory requirements and standards, such as obtaining certifications and accreditations (e.g., HACCP, GMP), for milkfish production and processing? Please describe how this was integrated into the training.
11. Have you participated in any mock audits or inspections organized by B-SAFE? How did these activities help you understand the requirements for certification and facility authorizations?

INTERVENTIONS AND GRANT SUPPORT (Effectiveness: Questions 13 to 16)

12. Were you involved in any grant-funded activities, such as the establishment of the Community-Based Bangus Nursery or Custom Services Facility? If yes, how did you benefit from these initiatives?

13. How has the support from B-SAFE, including technical assistance, facility improvements, or mechanized pond preparation, impacted your ability to produce and rear milkfish fingerlings locally?
14. Have the project's interventions helped reduce the dependency on imported fingerlings from Indonesia? If so, in what ways?
15. Were you involved in the construction or improvement of facilities funded by B-SAFE, such as stockrooms or processing areas? If yes, how did these improvements affect your operations?
16. Did the B-SAFE project provide any assistance in drafting internal rules, securing suppliers, or other administrative matters? How has this impacted your group's organization and milkfish production?

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION AND IMPACT) (Effectiveness: Questions 17 to 19)

17. Since participating in the training and receiving technical support, have you adopted any new technologies or management practices in milkfish production? If so, please specify which practices you have adopted (e.g., non-irrigation-based water management, pest and disease management).
18. How have these new practices impacted your productivity, product quality, or overall production costs? Are there any specific improvements you can highlight?
19. Have you noticed any changes in your income or sales volume from milkfish production since implementing the new practices? Can you share specific figures or percentages that reflect these changes?
20. Have you experienced any challenges in implementing the knowledge gained from the training, such as high costs, lack of access to required resources, or other barriers?
21. What measures have you taken to address these challenges, and have you received any support from B-SAFE, BFAR, or other partners in overcoming them?

CERTIFICATION AND MARKET ACCESS (Effectiveness: Questions 22 to 25)

22. Has your cooperative or facility received assistance from B-SAFE in applying for necessary business permits, certifications, or product authorizations (e.g., HACCP, GMP, License-to-Operate)? What specific support was provided?
23. How has the pursuit of HACCP or other certifications impacted your ability to access local and export markets? Are there noticeable changes in customer interest or sales due to improved facility standards?
24. How have the mock audits and inspections helped you prepare for actual certification processes? What were the main findings, and how have you addressed them?
25. Once certified, what market opportunities do you expect to access that were previously unavailable? Are there specific clients or markets you are targeting for your milkfish products?

RECOMMENDATIONS (Sustainability: Questions 26 to 30)

26. What specific improvements would you suggest for the training sessions to make them more effective and relevant to milkfish producers and processors?
27. Are there other areas where you believe additional training or technical support is needed, such as advanced aquaculture techniques, financial management, or market development strategies?
28. What recommendations do you have for improving the grant processes or facility upgrades to better support milkfish producers and processors, especially small-scale operators?

29. How can the B-SAFE project further assist in reducing dependency on imported fingerlings and strengthening local supply chains for milkfish production?
30. What additional support or interventions would you like to see from B-SAFE to help your cooperative or business grow and achieve sustainability in the milkfish supply chain?

3. GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR CORN



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I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

**PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Key Informant Interview)**

1.1 Name (<i>Surname, First name, M.I.</i>)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/ LGU/regulatory agency)	

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

Client Customized KII Questions: Corn - KAPARBBA

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Compliance to Standards on Corn Trading Through Post Harvest Handling and Processing Technologies

Corn Pest and Disease Management

1. **Background and Participation**

- 1.1. Can you provide a brief background of KAPARBBA and your role within the cooperative?
- 1.2. How did KAPARBBA get involved with the B-SAFE project?
- 1.3. What specific support has KAPARBBA received from B-SAFE (e.g., training, equipment, market linkage facilitation)?

2. **Training and Capacity Building**

- 2.1. What types of training have your members received under B-SAFE? How many members have participated?
- 2.2. How has the training helped your members improve their production and postharvest practices?
- 2.3. What other capacity-building activities would you like to see provided?

3. **Market Linkage Experience**

- 3.1. How has the partnership with CJ Philippines or other direct markets impacted your cooperative?
- 3.2. What were the main changes in your production or postharvest practices due to the market requirements of CJ Philippines or other direct markets?
- 3.3. What challenges have you encountered in meeting buyer specifications (e.g., quality, quantity, safety)?

4. **Technology Adoption and Postharvest Management**

- 4.1. What postharvest technologies (e.g., dryers, shellers) have been introduced to your cooperative through B-SAFE?
- 4.2. How have these technologies affected the quality and marketability of your corn?
- 4.3. Are there other technologies or infrastructure that you feel are necessary to improve your operations further?

5. **Economic Impact**

- 5.1. How has the market linkage with CJ Philippines affected the income and profitability of your cooperative members?
- 5.2. Have you observed any changes in pricing or market access since the start of the B-SAFE project?
- 5.3. What are the financial benefits for cooperative members linked to buyers compared to those selling in traditional markets?

6. **Sustainability and Future Needs**

- 6.1. What measures are you taking to sustain the benefits achieved through the B-SAFE project?
- 6.2. What additional support do you think KAPARBBA needs to maintain or expand its market linkages?
- 6.3. What lessons have you learned from this experience that could be shared with other cooperatives?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

Client Customized KII Questions: Corn - LARBPMPC

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Corn Pest and Disease Management

1. **Background and Participation**
 - 1.1. Can you provide a brief background of LARBPMPC and your role within the cooperative?
 - 1.2. How did LARBPMPC get involved with the B-SAFE project?
 - 1.3. What specific support has LARBPMPC received from B-SAFE (e.g., training, equipment, market linkage facilitation)?
2. **Training and Capacity Building**
 - 2.1. What types of training have your members received under B-SAFE? How many members have participated?
 - 2.2. How has the training helped your members improve their production and postharvest practices?
 - 2.3. What other capacity-building activities would you like to see provided?
3. **Market Linkage Experience**
 - 3.1. How has the partnership with CJ Philippines impacted your cooperative?
 - 3.2. What were the main changes in your production or postharvest practices due to the market requirements of CJ Philippines?
 - 3.3. What challenges have you encountered in meeting buyer specifications (e.g., quality, quantity, safety)?
4. **Technology Adoption and Postharvest Management**
 - 4.1. What postharvest technologies (e.g., dryers, shellers) have been introduced to your cooperative through B-SAFE?
 - 4.2. How have these technologies affected the quality and marketability of your corn?
 - 4.3. Are there other technologies or infrastructure that you feel are necessary to improve your operations further?
5. **Economic Impact**
 - 5.1. How has the market linkage with CJ Philippines affected the income and profitability of your cooperative members?
 - 5.2. Have you observed any changes in pricing or market access since the start of the B-SAFE project?
 - 5.3. What are the financial benefits for cooperative members linked to buyers compared to those selling in traditional markets?
6. **Sustainability and Future Needs**
 - 6.1. What measures are you taking to sustain the benefits achieved through the B-SAFE project?
 - 6.2. What additional support do you think LARBPMPC needs to maintain or expand its market linkages?
 - 6.3. What lessons have you learned from this experience that could be shared with other cooperatives?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES
(B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Client Customized KII Questions: Corn - MARBFC

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Corn Harvest and Post Harvest Training and GAP Orientation

Compliance to Standards on Corn Trading Through Post Harvest Handling and Processing Technologies

- 1. Background and Participation**
 - 1.1. Can you provide a brief background of MARBFC and your role within the cooperative?
 - 1.2. How did MARBFC get involved with the B-SAFE project?
 - 1.3. What specific support has MARBFC received from B-SAFE (e.g., training, equipment, market linkage facilitation)?
- 2. Training and Capacity Building**
 - 2.1. What types of training have your members received under B-SAFE? How many members have participated?
 - 2.2. How has the training helped your members improve their production and postharvest practices?
 - 2.3. What other capacity-building activities would you like to see provided?
- 3. Market Linkage Experience**
 - 3.1. How has the partnership with CJ Philippines impacted your cooperative?
 - 3.2. What were the main changes in your production or postharvest practices due to the market requirements of CJ Philippines?
 - 3.3. What challenges have you encountered in meeting buyer specifications (e.g., quality, quantity, safety)?
- 4. Technology Adoption and Postharvest Management**
 - 4.1. What postharvest technologies (e.g., dryers, shellers) have been introduced to your cooperative through B-SAFE?
 - 4.2. How have these technologies affected the quality and marketability of your corn?
 - 4.3. Are there other technologies or infrastructure that you feel are necessary to improve your operations further?
- 5. Economic Impact**
 - 5.1. How has the market linkage with CJ Philippines affected the income and profitability of your cooperative members?
 - 5.2. Have you observed any changes in pricing or market access since the start of the B-SAFE project?
 - 5.3. What are the financial benefits for cooperative members linked to buyers compared to those selling in traditional markets?
- 6. Sustainability and Future Needs**
 - 6.1. What measures are you taking to sustain the benefits achieved through the B-SAFE project?
 - 6.2. What additional support do you think MARBFC needs to maintain or expand its market linkages?
 - 6.3. What lessons have you learned from this experience that could be shared with other cooperatives?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

Client Customized KII Questions: Corn Producer

St. Michael Manolo Fortich Farmers' Association Inc. (SMMFFA)

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Good Agricultural Practices for Corn and Aflatoxin Control and Prevention Strategies

- 1. Background and Participation**
 - 1.1. Can you provide a brief background of SMMFFA and your role within the cooperative?
 - 1.2. How did SMMFFA get involved with the B-SAFE project?
 - 1.3. What specific support has SMMFFA received from B-SAFE (e.g., training, equipment, market linkage facilitation)?
- 2. Training and Capacity Building**
 - 2.1. What types of training have your members received under B-SAFE? How many members have participated?
 - 2.2. How has the training helped your members improve their production and postharvest practices?
 - 2.3. What other capacity-building activities would you like to see provided?
- 3. Market Linkage Experience**
 - 3.1. How has the partnership with CJ Philippines or other direct markets impacted your cooperative?
 - 3.2. What were the main changes in your production or postharvest practices due to the market requirements of CJ Philippines or other direct markets?
 - 3.3. What challenges have you encountered in meeting buyer specifications (e.g., quality, quantity, safety)?
- 4. Technology Adoption and Postharvest Management**
 - 4.1. What postharvest technologies (e.g., dryers, shellers) have been introduced to your cooperative through B-SAFE?
 - 4.2. How have these technologies affected the quality and marketability of your corn?
 - 4.3. Are there other technologies or infrastructure that you feel are necessary to improve your operations further?
- 5. Economic Impact**
 - 5.1. How has the market linkage with CJ Philippines affected the income and profitability of your cooperative members?
 - 5.2. Have you observed any changes in pricing or market access since the start of the B-SAFE project?
 - 5.3. What are the financial benefits for cooperative members linked to buyers compared to those selling in traditional markets?
- 6. Sustainability and Future Needs**
 - 6.1. What measures are you taking to sustain the benefits achieved through the B-SAFE project?
 - 6.2. What additional support do you think SMMFFA needs to maintain or expand its market linkages?
 - 6.3. What lessons have you learned from this experience that could be shared with other cooperatives?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Client Customized KII Questions: CJ Philippines (Corn Trader)

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

1. Company Background

- 1.1. Can you briefly describe CJ Philippines and your role in the company?
- 1.2. How did CJ Philippines decide to engage with local corn producers in Bukidnon?

2. Market Linkage and Partnerships:

- 2.1. How was the partnership with MARBFC and other cooperatives in Bukidnon established?
- 2.2. What are your company's specific quality and safety requirements for corn?
- 2.3. What role did the B-SAFE project play in facilitating this market linkage?

3. Challenges and Opportunities:

- 3.1. What are the main challenges you have faced in sourcing corn from local producers in Bukidnon?
- 3.2. How do you address issues related to quality control, postharvest losses, or aflatoxin contamination in the supply chain?
- 3.3. Are there opportunities you see for expanding this partnership or engaging more farmers in the future?

4. Impact of Partnership on Supply Chain:

- 4.1. How has the partnership with local cooperatives affected your supply chain in terms of product quality, consistency, or cost?
- 4.2. What improvements have you observed among the cooperatives that supply corn to CJ Philippines?
- 4.3. Are there specific changes in production or postharvest practices that stand out as particularly beneficial?

5. Feedback and Future Collaboration:

- 5.1. What feedback do you have for the cooperatives and the B-SAFE project regarding the current partnership?
- 5.2. What additional support or adjustments would help enhance the value chain further?
- 5.3. How can CJ Philippines contribute to improving the market linkage for corn producers in Bukidnon?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Client Customized KII Questions: Corn Trader - MTAC

Facilitator/Interviewer:	
Interviewee:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Training on Integrated Pest Management

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)

1. Relevance

- How important do you think food safety standards are in your business, especially when sourcing corn?
- Are you aware of the B-SAFE project? What do you know about it?
- What interventions or assistance were provided to you by the B-SAFE project?
- In your view, how relevant were the project interventions, such as training for producers, to improving the quality of corn for the market?

2. Effectiveness

- Have you noticed any changes in the quality of corn you procure since the B-SAFE project started working with corn producers? If so, what improvements have you seen (e.g., food safety compliance, grain quality, product consistency)?
- How has the project influenced your sourcing practices or decisions? Are you more confident in purchasing from B-SAFE-trained producers?
- Have you experienced fewer rejections or complaints from buyers or consumers related to food safety or quality issues in the commodities you trade?
- Do you think the interventions (such as trainings on post-harvest practices or pest control) were effective in improving the competitiveness of the products?

3. Efficiency

- Were there any noticeable improvements in the supply chain, such as reduced wastage, quicker delivery times, or better handling of products, as a result of the B-SAFE interventions?
- In your dealings with producers involved in the B-SAFE project, did you observe any changes in efficiency in the way they manage production or post-harvest activities?
- How easy or difficult was it for you to connect with producers who benefited from B-SAFE interventions? Was there any support or facilitation from the project to improve these connections?

4. Sustainability

- From a business perspective, do you think the improvements brought about by the B-SAFE project are likely to be sustained by the producers over the long term? Why or why not?
- Are you willing to continue trading with producers who were part of the B-SAFE project? What factors will influence your decision to maintain these relationships?

- What additional support or actions do you think are necessary to ensure that the improvements in food safety and product quality continue even after the project ends?
- Are you open to investing in or supporting producers with further improvements (e.g., infrastructure, better practices) to maintain or enhance the gains made by the B-SAFE project?

5. Impact

- How has the B-SAFE project affected the prices or marketability of corn? Have you been able to sell products at higher prices or access new markets because of the improvements in food safety and quality?
- What have been the key changes in the overall competitiveness of the commodities you trade (e.g., demand from buyers, access to larger markets, reputation for quality)?
- Do you think the project has had any broader impacts on the local or national market for corn? How has it influenced your role as a trader in this value chain?
- Were there any unintended consequences—positive or negative—on your business due to the changes brought about by the B-SAFE project?



Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)

Data Gathering from Human Subjects (Consent Form)

Winrock International, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is working on the **Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises Project** also known as **B-SAFE**. Winrock has engaged **Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)**, an international consultancy and training service provider in the Philippines, to lead the implementation of the research entitled “**Final Evaluation for the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project in the Philippines**”. The purpose of the research is to provide in-depth assessment of the project’s performance.

This research includes collecting information from you such as your name, position, organization/ agency and municipality. Information on the farm/firm production, trade practices, and technologies will also be collected. While there are minimal risks of your individual responses being disclosed due to measures we are taking in collecting the data, we are committed in ensuring the following security measures to safeguard all collected information:

- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview/discussion will take 1.5 to 2 hours. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

**PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Focus Group Discussion)**

1.1 Name (Surname, First name, M.I.)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/ LGU/regulatory agency)	

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Focus Group Discussion Guide Questions

Corn Farmers

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Target Participants: 5 to 10 corn farmers representing different farmer group beneficiaries of B-SAFE

BACKGROUND (Relevance: Questions 1 to 6)

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project?
2. What was the process and criteria for selection as a training beneficiary? For example, being a member of a cooperative, involvement in corn production, etc.
3. When did you receive training related to corn production and processing from B-SAFE? _____ Year(s)
4. What was the modality of the training? For example, classroom training, hands-on training, field demonstrations, etc.
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the training about your existing knowledge of corn production and processing? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-test? If not, why not?

TRAINING (Relevance: Questions 9 to 16) (Effectiveness: Questions 7 & 8)

7. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the corn production and processing training? For example, distance, timing, etc.
8. Did you have any problems when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, high focus on classroom vs. hands-on training, etc.
9. Did you attend any of the seven training sessions on improved corn grains production, corn silage processing, and post-harvest technology? If yes, please specify which sessions.
10. What specific topics were most useful to you during the training on improved corn production? For example, soil fertility management, standard planting systems, pest management, etc.
11. How relevant did you find the training on soil fertility management, especially considering the rising prices of granular fertilizers?
12. What were your key takeaways from the sessions on standard planting systems, such as planting distance and density?
13. During the training on integrated pest management, what techniques did you find most effective for managing pests like the Fall Army Worm?
14. Did you participate in the post-harvest technology training focused on harvest and post-harvest processing and handling technologies as per GAP standards? What did you learn from these sessions?
15. As a result of participating in the training program, did you receive any inputs specifically for corn production? For example, improved seed varieties, access to fertilizers, etc. If yes, please provide details.

16. Did you have any issues with the inputs provided for corn production? For example, limited quantity, low quality, etc.
17. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-TRAINING (ADOPTION) (Effectiveness: Questions 18 to 21, 22, 23)

18. Earlier survey reported significant adoption of proper handling, treatment, and use of improved corn seed varieties and pest management techniques. Are you among those who adopted these practices? If yes, which practices have you adopted?
19. How has the adoption of these practices helped improve your corn production? For example, higher yield, better quality, reduced pest infestation, etc. Please elaborate.
20. How has attending the training impacted your income from corn (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the training?
21. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your corn farming? For example, lack of availability of recommended inputs, high costs, etc.
22. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or the Department of Agrarian Reform to overcome these problems in corn production? If yes, please provide details.
23. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the corn production training? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS (Sustainability: Questions 24 to 28)

24. What specific improvements would you suggest for the corn production and processing training to make it more relevant and useful for farmers like you?
25. Are there other areas related to corn production, processing, or post-harvest management where you think additional training or support is needed? Please specify.
26. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support farmers in overcoming challenges in corn production, especially regarding pest management, seed handling, and soil fertility management?
27. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve the delivery of inputs (e.g., seeds, fertilizers, pest control measures) to ensure they meet the needs of farmers?
28. How can the project help facilitate better access to markets for your corn products, considering the improved practices and technologies you have adopted?

4. GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR COCO SUGAR



Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)

Data Gathering from Human Subjects (Consent Form)

Winrock International, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is working on the **Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises Project** also known as **B-SAFE**. Winrock has engaged **Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)**, an international consultancy and training service provider in the Philippines, to lead the implementation of the research entitled **“Final Evaluation for the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project in the Philippines”**. The purpose of the research is to provide in-depth assessment of the project’s performance.

This research includes collecting information from you such as your name, position, organization/ agency and municipality. Information on the farm/firm production, trade practices, and technologies will also be collected. While there are minimal risks of your individual responses being disclosed due to measures we are taking in collecting the data, we are committed in ensuring the following security measures to safeguard all collected information:

- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview will take 45 minutes to 1 hour. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

**PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Key Informant Interview)**

1.1 Name (Surname, First name, M.I.)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/LGU/regulatory agency)	

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE
BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

KII Guide Questions for Producers

Linabu Agrarian Multipurposa Cooperative (LAMPCO)

Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar	May 26, 2022
GMP & OSH Training	January 27, 2022
Business Planning Workshop	July 6-7, 2023
RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar	Aug. 17-18, 2023

Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"	Dec. 18, 2023
Cascaded Training with LAMPCO on Good manufacturing practices (GMP) focus on Improved Techniques on Toddy Tapping	Dec. 18, 2023
Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)	Feb. 21-23, 2024
Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)	Mar. 19-21, 2024
Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)	August 2023 (reported April 23, 2024)

Background

1. Please provide a brief background of your association, when organized, number of members, and number of years in coconut sugar production.
2. How important is the compliance to standards in the coconut sugar industry, for example, in terms of trading of coconut sugar locally and in the export market?
3. When did your association start receiving support from B-SAFE related to coconut sugar processing? ___Year
4. What specific form of assistance have LAMPCO received from B-SAFE?
For example, training on GMP and OSH
5. How did B-SAFE identify LAMPCO's training needs? Did B-SAFE asked questions about your existing knowledge of coconut sugar processing? What specific questions were asked? Did you agree with the results of the pre-assessment?
6. Is it mandatory to all members to attend the training? If not, how is the decision made?
7. What are the specific roles of women in your coconut sugar business?

INTERVENTIONS

8. Did all the cooperative members attended the trainings? Were all members required to attend all the training sessions? Were there any logistical challenges in attending the coconut sugar-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, facilities, etc. How was this resolved?
9. Did you and the members have difficulties, for example, in following the content, irrelevant topics, and insufficient focus on practical applications
10. For each of the training course attended, what specific topics were covered in the following training:

Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar	
GMP & OSH Training	
Business Planning Workshop	
RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar	

Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"	
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11. How relevant and useful were each of the training courses you attended to address the food safety issues in your coconut sugar processing. Which aspects are more beneficial.

Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar	
GMP & OSH Training	
Business Planning Workshop	
RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar	
Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"	

12. Were there any demonstrations or hands-on components during the training that helped you understand the requirements for GMP, HACCP, and other food safety measures?

Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar	
GMP & OSH Training	
Business Planning Workshop	
RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar	
Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"	

13. Were there discussions on how to upgrade your facilities and equipment to meet food safety standards? If yes, did you receive any guidance or assistance in implementing these upgrades? Which training course discussed this?

Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar	
GMP & OSH Training	
Business Planning Workshop	
RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar	
Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"	

14. For the tappers, were there practical demonstrations and hand-on component for the safe and clean toddy tapping? If none, how was the training session conducted?

Cascaded Training with LAMPCO on Good manufacturing practices (GMP) focus on Improved Techniques on Toddy Tapping	
Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)	

15. Did LAMPCO receive any support from B-SAFE or partners in securing the necessary product authorizations and certifications from the FDA or other regulatory bodies? If so, please describe the process and its outcomes.
16. How have the interventions helped in connecting your cooperative with local government units (LGUs) or academic institutions to build capacity in identifying and meeting market demands?
17. Have you noticed any improvements in your access to better markets for your coconut sugar products after attending the training sessions? If yes, please describe the changes in market access and pricing.
18. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION)

17. How has applying the knowledge and techniques from the training helped improve your coconut sugar production? For example, better processing standards, improved product quality, increased market acceptance, etc.

18. How has the project impacted your income from coconut sugar production (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
19. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your coconut sugar processing? For example, high costs of equipment upgrades, difficulties in meeting certification requirements, etc.
20. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in coconut sugar processing? If yes, please provide details.
21. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

22. What specific improvements would you suggest for the coconut sugar processing and food safety training to make it more relevant and useful for producers like you?
23. Are there other areas related to coconut sugar production where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, advanced food safety management systems, marketing strategies, equipment financing, etc.
24. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support coconut sugar producers in overcoming challenges, particularly regarding compliance with food safety standards and improving market access?
25. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets for coconut sugar products, especially in securing fairer prices and reducing reliance on local consolidators?
26. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve its approach to helping cooperatives secure the necessary certifications and regulatory approvals?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions for Producers

Tinagaan Women and Farmers Association

GMP Training

BACKGROUND

1. Please provide a brief background of your organization, when organized, number of members, and number of years in coconut sugar production.
2. How important is the compliance to standards in the coconut sugar industry, for example, in terms of trading of coconut sugar locally and in the export market?
3. When did your association start receiving support from B-SAFE related to coconut sugar processing (___Year)?
4. What specific form of assistance did your association received from B-SAFE?
5. How did B-SAFE identify the training needs of your association? Did B-SAFE asked questions about the existing knowledge of the members regarding coconut sugar processing? What specific questions were asked? Did you agree with the results of the pre-assessment?

6. What is the specific role of women in your coconut sugar business (for Pagsaka Agricultural Cooperative)

INTERVENTION

7. What were your logistical challenges in attending the training session on GMP? For example, distance, timing, facilities, etc.
8. How were the challenges overcome by the trainees?
9. Do the members encountered difficulties when they attended the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical applications, etc.
10. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions?
11. How relevant and useful are the training to address the food safety issues in your coconut sugar processing? Please discuss which aspects do you find most beneficial.
12. Were there any demonstrations or hands-on components during the training that helped you understand the requirements for GMP and other food safety measures
13. Did the training sessions include discussions on how to upgrade your facilities and equipment to meet food safety standards? If yes, did you receive any guidance or assistance in implementing these upgrades?
14. Did you receive any support from B-SAFE or partners in securing the necessary product authorizations and certifications from the FDA or other regulatory bodies? If so, please describe the process and its outcomes.
15. How have the interventions helped in connecting your cooperative with local government units (LGUs) or academic institutions to build capacity in identifying and meeting market demands?
16. Have you noticed any improvements in your access to better markets for your coconut sugar products after attending the training sessions? If yes, please describe the changes in market access and pricing.
17. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION)

18. How has adopting and applying the knowledge and techniques from the training helped improve coconut sugar production? For instance, have you noticed better processing standards, better product quality, or better market acceptance.
19. How has the project affected your income from coconut sugar production (higher, lower, etc.)? What changes have you observed since participating in the program?
20. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your coconut sugar processing? For example, high costs of equipment upgrades, difficulties in meeting certification requirements, etc.
21. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in coconut sugar processing? If yes, please provide details.
22. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

23. What specific improvements would you suggest for the coconut sugar processing and food safety training to make it more relevant and useful for producers like you?
24. Are there other areas related to coconut sugar production where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, advanced food safety management systems, marketing strategies, equipment financing, etc.

25. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support coconut sugar producers in overcoming challenges, particularly regarding compliance with food safety standards and improving market access?
26. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets for coconut sugar products, especially in securing fairer prices and reducing reliance on local consolidators?
27. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve its approach to helping cooperatives secure the necessary certifications and regulatory approvals?
28. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets for coconut sugar products, especially in securing fairer prices and reducing reliance on local consolidators?
29. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve its approach to helping cooperatives secure the necessary certifications and regulatory approvals?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions for Producers

Pagsaka Agricultural Cooperative

BACKGROUND

T2G created Pagsaka as cooperative for its partners, farmers, tappers, and production workers. T2G encouraged Pagsaka to deliver the members' produce compliant with the standards that T2G set and at the end of the year, they would have a patronage refund. The first refund was given out last December 2022 through grocery items. The refund is based on the total number of kilos delivered by each tapper. The monetary equivalent is not big because it just started in 2022 when T2G also started setting the standards and upgraded their tools and equipment through the SET-UP Program of DOST. When the upgrade was started, farmers were a bit apprehensive and had some challenge in complying. Hence, T2G talked to them and gave them small incentives as motivation. Because of this, they enjoyed their Christmas, since they were given rice and grocery for the whole family. This encouraged them to produce well. T2G projected to increase the incentive in the years to come. The first incentive given was fifty centavos per liter of pre-cooked sap delivered.

Questions to ask:

1. How many members do the cooperative have and are they involved in pre-cooked sap production? Where is the cooperative holding office?
2. Have they heard about the B-SAFE project?
3. How much are they paid for every delivery of pre-cooked sap. How much incentives are they receiving now from T2G for the quality of product they deliver? What is the current arrangement now?
4. What specific training were provided by T2G? For example, cascaded training on GMP
5. Did the members receive training from B-SAFE as well? Specify the training attended, e.g. GMP and OSH training provided by B-SAFE
6. Did the trainer ask questions before the start of the training on the existing knowledge on pre-cooked sap and how it is processed?

INTERVENTION

7. What specific topics were covered by the training?
8. Did the members face difficulties in attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical applications, etc.
9. How relevant is the training in producing pre-cooked sap?
10. Were there hands-on, practical demonstrations conducted?

POST-INTERVENTION/ADOPTION

11. Did the training help improve your process of producing pre-cooked sap? Were there rejections in your delivery to T2G? If yes, by how much?
12. What form of incentives are you receiving now?
13. Do you have plans of producing your own coconut sugar?

RECOMMENDATIONS

14. What recommendations do you have to enhance the production of pre-cooked sap with minimal rejections?
15. Are there areas related to pre-cooked sap and coconut sugar production where you think additional training is needed?
16. Do you have any suggestions on how T2G can further help them improved the production of pre-cooked sap thereby increasing their income?

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Questions for Trader

Trunk to Gold

HACCP Training	July 27, 2022
GMP & OSH Training	February 22, 2022
Pre-Membership, Sustainable Coconut farming & Coconut sap Tapping, HACCP, Traceability & Documentation, and Financial Literacy (Cascaded by T2G)	Dec. 6, 2023

BACKGROUND

1. Please provide a brief background of your association, year organized, number of members, and number of years in coconut sugar production.
2. How important is the compliance to standards in the coconut sugar industry, for example, in terms of trading of coconut sugar locally and in the export market?
3. When did your association start receiving support from B-SAFE related to coconut sugar processing and trading? (year __)
(Background: Support from B-SAFE include GMP and OSH training. This is T2G's second GMP training, first is through DOST-SET UP. B-SAFE also provided training on HACCP).

4. How did B-SAFE identify T2G training needs? Did B-SAFE asked questions about your existing knowledge of coconut sugar processing and trading? What specific questions were asked? Did you agree with the results of the pre-assessment?
5. Is it mandatory to all members to attend the training? If not, how is the decision made?
6. What are the specific roles of women in your coconut sugar business?

INTERVENTIONS

7. In an earlier interview with you in 2022, we learned that T2G is trading coconut sugar locally and you already have market for your brand. T2G is also supplying in Manila monthly. Have you expanded your market since 2022? Did B-SAFE assisted by linking you to possible market outlets? If yes, what specific assistance were provided?

8. Please specify the topics covered during the training sessions.

HACCP Training	
GMP & OSH Training	
Pre-Membership, Sustainable Coconut farming & Coconut sap Tapping, HACCP, Traceability & Documentation, and Financial Literacy (Cascaded by T2G)	

9. Were there logistical challenges faced by the trainees in attending the training? For example, distance, timing, facilities, etc.?
10. Were there difficulties met such as difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus of practical applications?
11. How relevant and useful were the training sessions to address food safety issues in your coconut sugar processing as well as marketing? Please elaborate which aspects are more beneficial.
12. Were there demonstration or hands-on components during the training that helped you understand the requirements of GMP and HACCP?
13. Did the training covered discussions on facilities and equipment upgrade needed to meet food safety standards?
14. Were you able to obtain the GMP and HACCP certifications?
15. It was earlier gathered that T2G has started getting organic certification from EcoCert or from other certifying bodies but it is too expensive to get one. Did B-SAFE provide assistance on this?
16. It was also gathered from previous interview that you have applied for an LTO. Has this been approved? What assistance was provided by B-SAFE? If so, please describe.

POST-INTERVENTION

17. With your current certifications, have there been improvements in your product quality, market access, or pricing? Has the market for your coconut sugar expanded as a result of B-SAFE interventions? Where are your current market?
18. What is the current market share of your coconut sugar in your area to the overall market?
19. Have B-SAFE impacted your income from coconut sugar processing and trading? Can you share the type of changes you have observed since participating in the project?
20. What challenges did you face in applying the knowledge gained from the training to your coconut sugar processing and trading?
21. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques introduced by B-SAFE? Why or why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS

22. What specific interventions would you suggest to expand or enhance the market share of coconut sugar from Mindanao to overall coconut sugar market?
23. What are your recommendations to enable cooperatives and associations to get FDA approval for LTO with ease?
24. Do you have suggestions on how the project can improve its approach to helping cooperatives secure the necessary certifications and regulatory approvals



Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)

Data Gathering from Human Subjects (Consent Form)

Winrock International, a non-governmental organization based in the United States of America, with funding from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is working on the **Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises Project** also known as **B-SAFE**. Winrock has engaged **Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)**, an international consultancy and training service provider in the Philippines, to lead the implementation of the research entitled “**Final Evaluation for the Building Safe Agricultural Food Enterprises (B-SAFE) Project in the Philippines**”. The purpose of the research is to provide in-depth assessment of the project’s performance.

This research includes collecting information from you such as your name, position, organization/ agency and municipality. Information on the farm/firm production, trade practices, and technologies will also be collected. While there are minimal risks of your individual responses being disclosed due to measures we are taking in collecting the data, we are committed in ensuring the following security measures to safeguard all collected information:

- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview/discussion will take 1.5 to 2 hours. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

**PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Focus Group Discussion)**

1.1 Name (<i>Surname, First name, M.I.</i>)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/ LGU/regulatory agency)	

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD
ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

Focus Group Discussion Guide Questions

Coconut sugar Producers

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Target Participants: 5 to 10 coconut sugar producers representing different farmer group beneficiaries of B-SAFE

BACKGROUND (Relevance: Questions 1 to 6)

1. How did you hear about the B-SAFE project and its focus on the coconut sugar value chain?
2. What was the process and criteria for selection as a beneficiary of the coconut sugar interventions? For example, being a cooperative member, producer in Misamis Oriental, etc.
3. When did you start receiving support from B-SAFE related to coconut sugar processing? _____ Year(s)
4. What specific forms of assistance have you received from the B-SAFE project? For example, training on GMP, food safety management, HACCP, etc.
5. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of coconut sugar processing and food safety? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
6. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS (Effectiveness: Questions 7 & 8, 17 to 21)

19. Did you face any logistical challenges in attending the coconut sugar-related training sessions? For example, distance, timing, facilities, etc.
20. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, difficulty following the content, irrelevant topics, insufficient focus on practical applications, etc.
21. What specific topics were covered during the training sessions you attended? For example, GMP, HACCP, Occupational Safety and Health, food safety management systems, etc.
22. How relevant and useful were the training sessions to address the food safety issues in your coconut sugar processing? Please elaborate on which aspects you found most beneficial.

23. Were there any demonstrations or hands-on components during the training that helped you understand the requirements for GMP, HACCP, and other food safety measures?
24. Did the training sessions include discussions on how to upgrade your facilities and equipment to meet food safety standards? If yes, did you receive any guidance or assistance in implementing these upgrades?
25. Did you receive any support from B-SAFE or partners in securing the necessary product authorizations and certifications from the FDA or other regulatory bodies? If so, please describe the process and its outcomes.
26. How have the interventions helped in connecting your cooperative with local government units (LGUs) or academic institutions to build capacity in identifying and meeting market demands?
27. Have you noticed any improvements in your access to better markets for your coconut sugar products after attending the training sessions? If yes, please describe the changes in market access and pricing.
28. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST-INTERVENTION (ADOPTION) (Effectiveness: Questions 17 to 21)

22. How has applying the knowledge and techniques from the training helped improve your coconut sugar production? For example, better processing standards, improved product quality, increased market acceptance, etc.
23. How has the project impacted your income from coconut sugar production (higher, lower, etc.)? Can you share the types of changes you have observed since participating in the B-SAFE project?
24. What challenges did you face when applying the knowledge and techniques from the training to your coconut sugar processing? For example, high costs of equipment upgrades, difficulties in meeting certification requirements, etc.
25. Were you able to seek support from B-SAFE, LGUs, or other partners to overcome these problems in coconut sugar processing? If yes, please provide details.
26. Do you intend to continue using the knowledge and techniques transferred by the project? If yes, why? If not, why not?

RECOMMENDATIONS (Sustainability: Questions 22 to 26)

27. What specific improvements would you suggest for the coconut sugar processing and food safety training to make it more relevant and useful for producers like you?
28. Are there other areas related to coconut sugar production where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, advanced food safety management systems, marketing strategies, equipment financing, etc.
29. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support coconut sugar producers in overcoming challenges, particularly regarding compliance with food safety standards and improving market access?
30. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets for coconut sugar products, especially in securing fairer prices and reducing reliance on local consolidators?
31. Do you have any suggestions on how the project can improve its approach to helping cooperatives secure the necessary certifications and regulatory approvals?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE
BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT
IN THE PHILIPPINES**

FGD Guide Questions for Traders

Linabu Agrarian Multipurposa Cooperative (LAMPCO)

Establishing Internal Control System for GAP and Organic Coconut sugar

GMP & OSH Training

Business Planning Workshop

RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar

Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"

Good Manufacturing Practices for Toddy Tappers/Processors (LAMPCO cascade)

Agay-Ayan Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc (AMCI)

Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP)

Improved Packaging, Labeling, and Storage Techniques

RMP Workshop for Corn and Coconut sugar

Technology Transfer of the "Establishment of Quality and Food Safety Parameters for the Commercial Standardization of Coconut Sugar Products and Processing"

Training on Good Hygienic Practice

T2G

GMP and OSH Training

HACCP Training

Pre-Membership, Sustainable Coconut farming & Coconut sap Tapping, HACCP, Traceability & Documentation, and Financial Literacy (Cascaded by T2G)

BACKGROUND

1. How did you become aware of the B-SAFE project and its focus on the coconut sugar value chain in Mindanao?
2. What is your specific role in the trading/marketing aspect of the coconut sugar supply chain? Can you describe your tasks?
3. How do you contribute to the trading process of coconut sugar? Are you also involved in the processing, packaging, or distribution?
4. What kind of skills training is required on your job? How did you learn your role (e.g. through observation, training, etc.)
5. Have you attended training/capacity building sponsored by B-SAFE? If yes, how were you selected? Do you know the basis of selection? For example, being a cooperative member

Basis of selection

LAMPCO	
AMCI	
T2G	

Specific training attended:

LAMPCO	
AMCI	
T2G	

6. Did the project or trainer ask you questions before the start of the interventions about your existing knowledge of coconut sugar processing and food safety? If yes, please provide details of what questions were asked.
7. Did you agree with the results of this pre-assessment? If not, why not?

INTERVENTIONS

8. Did you have any difficulties when attending the training? For example, following the content, relevant topics, insufficient focus on practical applications.
9. What specific topics are covered by the training?
LAMPCO
AMCI
T2G
10. How relevant and useful are the training sessions to address the food safety issues in coconut processing and trading? Please rate on a scale of 1 to 5, 1 as irrelevant and 5 as very relevant and useful.
11. Did the training discuss specific quality control measures for production of coconut sugar and post-production operation like packaging, labeling, etc.?
12. Were you asked to take a post-training evaluation test? If yes, do you believe that the test results correctly reflected your ability after the training? Please elaborate.

POST INTERVENTION/ADOPTION

13. How do you ensure of quality of coconut sugar during processing and post processing? Are there specific quality control measures as well as special protocols you follow to ensure product safety? Please discuss.
14. Are there safety measures you are required to follow in handling of the processed and package products? Please discuss.
15. What challenges do you face when applying the knowledge gained from the training to your day-to-day activities in the cooperative?
16. Do you feel that your role has an impact on the overall production and trading operation of the cooperative? In what way?
17. Have you observed any changes in demand for coconut sugar in your area in recent years? Can you estimate a percentage increase in demand since the pandemic? What do you think are the reasons for the increase?

RECOMMENDATIONS

18. What specific improvements would you suggest for the coconut sugar processing and food safety training to make it more relevant and useful to the coconut sugar producers and traders?
19. Are there other areas related to coconut sugar trading where you think additional training or support is needed? For example, advanced food safety management systems, marketing strategies, equipment financing, etc.
20. What recommendations do you have for the project to better support coconut sugar producers and traders in overcoming challenges, particularly regarding compliance with food safety standards and improving market access?
21. How can the project further assist in developing sustainable markets for coconut sugar products, especially in securing fairer prices and reducing reliance on local consolidators?

5. GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT



Asian Social Project Services, Inc. (ASPSI)

Data Gathering from Human Subjects (Consent Form)

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This research includes collecting information from you such as your name, position, organization/ agency and municipality. Information on the farm/firm production, trade practices, and technologies will also be collected. While there are minimal risks of your individual responses being disclosed due to measures we are taking in collecting the data, we are committed in ensuring the following security measures to safeguard all collected information:

- Your private information will be protected and kept secure. It will only be used for this research and will be deleted from our systems once it is no longer needed.
- Your personally identifying information will be removed from any data collected that will be provided to the USDA.
- Your information, without your name or identifying information, may be used in future research studies or be given out to another investigator for future research without getting additional informed consent from you.
- Guidelines and protocol for survey data collection on the management of emerging infectious diseases as well as measures to prevent and protect respondents and the community from risk to their livelihood shall be strictly followed.

Participation in this research is entirely voluntary, and you may decide not to participate at any time. The interview will take 45 minutes to 1 hour. Should you have any questions or concerns about this research or this document, please feel free to ask any questions you may have at this time or contact ASPSI.

I, _____, voluntarily agree to participate in this interview and allow my data to be collected as stated above. I warrant that I am at least 18 years of age and that I am competent in my own name insofar as this consent is concerned.

Signature over printed name

Date

**PROFILE OF RESPONDENT
(Key Informant Interview)**

1.1 Name (Surname, First name, M.I.)	
1.2 Age	
1.3 Sex	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Male <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Female
1.4 Marital Status	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Single <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Married <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Widowed <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Separated <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Others (specify): [_____]
1.5 Highest Educational Attainment:	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Highschool Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Post-Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 2- College Graduate <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Others, (specify) [_____]
1.6 Contact Information	
1.7 Office/Municipality:	
1.8 Commodity	<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Hogs <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Milkfish <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Corn <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Coconut sugar <input type="checkbox"/> 5- Not applicable
1.9 Type of Participant	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Farmer/Producer <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Processor <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Trader <input type="checkbox"/> 5- from LGU (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 6- from regulatory agency (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 7- from organization (specify) [_____] <input type="checkbox"/> 8- B-SAFE Team
1.9.1 Type of Firm	<input type="checkbox"/> 1- Firm-Microenterprise (employed <10 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 2- Firm-Small Enterprise (employed 10-49 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 3- Medium Enterprise (employed 50-249 people in the previous 12 months) <input type="checkbox"/> 4- Firm-Large Enterprise or Corporation (employed >= 250 individuals in the previous 12 months)
1.10 Number of years engaged in farming? (for producers)	
1.11 Number of years/months employed? (for B-SAFE/LGU/regulatory agency)	

KII Guide: DA Policy Research Service (DA-PRS)

Evaluation Criteria	BS-AFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Interventions/Partnership with B-SAFE		What interventions/assistance were provided to your office by B-SAFE? In what initiative if any, does DA-PRS currently have with B-SAFE
Relevance	How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for? How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the	How well do the interventions/partnerships align with the DA-PRS mandate to improve food safety and quality? Were DA-PRS's specific needs and challenges adequately considered in the design of B-SAFE interventions?

Evaluation Criteria	BS-AFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
	beneficiaries?	
Effectiveness	<p>How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?</p> <p>Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct beneficiaries? In what ways are they considered effective?</p>	<p>How has the focus on capacity development enhanced DA-PRS ability to perform food safety testing and research?</p> <p>What specific B-SAFE activities have been most effective in advancing the DA-PRS role in ensuring food safety standards?</p>
	<p>How do B-SAFE beneficiaries perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?</p> <p>Have intended beneficiaries received services as planned?</p>	<p>How does DA-PRS perceive the quality and effectiveness of the technical assistance provided by the B-SAFE project?</p> <p>How well did the B-SAFE project address the specific needs and priorities of DA-PRS in enhancing food safety standards?</p> <p>Were there any areas where DA-PRS felt the B-SAFE project's delivery of services could be improved?</p>
Efficiency	To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?	<p>Have you encountered any performance issues or challenges during the implementation of B-SAFE project activities? If so, how have these issues been addressed by DA-PRS or the project team?</p> <p>What measures or actions has DA-PRS taken to overcome these challenges and improve performance? How effective have</p>

Evaluation Criteria	BS-AFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
		these measures been in achieving DA-PRS's goals?
	<p>What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B- SAFE ends?</p>	<p>How confident are you that the benefits gained from the B-SAFE project will continue after the project ends? Can you provide examples of specific benefits that you believe will endure?</p> <p>What evidence or indicators are available that suggest the improvements made during the project will be sustained over time?</p>
Sustainability	To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships?	<p>How would you describe the level of local ownership that has developed at DA-PRS as a result of the B-SAFE project? Can you provide specific examples of how local stakeholders have engaged with and taken responsibility for project activities?</p> <p>In what ways has the B-SAFE project encouraged DA-PRS take ownership of the initiatives and interventions introduced? What evidence exists of this local ownership?</p> <p>What types of partnerships has DA-PRS established or strengthened through the B-SAFE project? How have these partnerships contributed to the sustainability of the project's outcomes?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of specific partnerships that have been formed or strengthened as a result of the B-SAFE project, and how these are expected to continue beyond the project period?</p>

KII Guide: DA Food Development Center (DA-FDC)

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Relevance	<p>How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for?</p> <p>How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>How well do the interventions align with the DA Food Development Center's mandate to improve food safety and quality?</p> <p>Were the center's specific needs and challenges adequately considered in the design of B-SAFE interventions?</p>
Effectiveness	<p>How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?</p> <p>Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct beneficiaries? In what ways are they considered effective?</p>	<p>How has the focus on capacity development enhanced the Center's ability to perform food safety testing and research?</p> <p>What specific B-SAFE activities have been most effective in advancing the Center's role in ensuring food safety standards?</p>
	<p>How do B-SAFE beneficiaries perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?</p> <p>Have intended beneficiaries received services as planned?</p>	<p>How does the DA Food Development Center perceive the quality and effectiveness of the technical assistance provided by the B-SAFE project?</p> <p>How well did the B-SAFE project address the specific needs and priorities of the DA Food Development Center in enhancing food safety standards?</p> <p>Were there any areas where the DA Food Development Center felt the B-SAFE project's delivery of services could be improved?</p>
Efficiency	To what extent does the management structure	Have you encountered any performance issues or challenges

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
	support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?	<p>during the implementation of B-SAFE project activities? If so, how have these issues been addressed by the Center or the project team?</p> <p>What measures or actions has the Center taken to overcome these challenges and improve performance? How effective have these measures been in achieving the Center's goals?</p>
	<p>What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B- SAFE ends?</p>	<p>How confident are you that the benefits gained from the B-SAFE project will continue after the project ends? Can you provide examples of specific benefits that you believe will endure?</p> <p>What evidence or indicators are available that suggest the improvements made during the project will be sustained over time?</p>
Sustainability	To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships?	<p>How would you describe the level of local ownership that has developed at the Center as a result of the B-SAFE project? Can you provide specific examples of how local stakeholders have engaged with and taken responsibility for project activities?</p> <p>In what ways has the B-SAFE project encouraged the Center to take ownership of the initiatives and interventions introduced? What evidence exists of this local ownership?</p> <p>What types of partnerships has the Center established or strengthened through the B-SAFE project? How have these partnerships contributed to the sustainability of the project's outcomes?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of specific partnerships that have been formed or strengthened as a result of the B-SAFE project, and how these are expected to continue beyond the project period?</p>

KII Guide: DA Biotech Program Office (DA-BPO)

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Interventions/Partnership with B-SAFE		<p>What interventions/assistance were provided to your office by B-SAFE?</p> <p>In what initiative if any, does DA-BPO currently have with B-SAFE</p>
Relevance	<p>How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for?</p> <p>How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>How well do the interventions/partnerships align with the DA-BPO's mandate to promote biotechnology applications to improve productivity, food safety and quality of agricultural products?</p> <p>Were DA-BPO's specific needs and challenges adequately considered in the design of B-SAFE interventions?</p>
Effectiveness	<p>How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?</p> <p>Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct beneficiaries? In what ways are they considered effective?</p>	<p>How has the focus on capacity development enhanced DA-BPO's ability to perform its mandates?</p> <p>What specific B-SAFE activities have been most effective in advancing the DA-BPO's role in ensuring food safety standards?</p>
	<p>How do B-SAFE beneficiaries perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?</p> <p>Have intended beneficiaries received services as planned?</p>	<p>How does DA-BPO perceive the quality and effectiveness of the technical assistance provided by the B-SAFE project?</p> <p>How well did the B-SAFE project address the specific needs and priorities of DA-BPO in enhancing swine productivity, and food safety standards?</p> <p>Were there any areas where DA-BPO felt the B-SAFE project's delivery of services could be improved?</p>
Efficiency	<p>To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?</p>	<p>Have you encountered any performance issues or challenges during the implementation of B-SAFE project activities? If so, how have these issues been addressed by DAS-BPO or the project team?</p> <p>What measures or actions has DA-BPO taken to overcome these</p>

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
		challenges and improve performance? How effective have these measures been in achieving DA-BPO's goals?
	What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B-SAFE ends?	<p>How confident are you that the benefits gained from the B-SAFE project will continue after the project ends? Can you provide examples of specific benefits that you believe will endure?</p> <p>What evidence or indicators are available that suggest the improvements made during the project will be sustained over time?</p>
Sustainability	To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships?	<p>How would you describe the level of local ownership that has developed at DA-BPO as a result of the B-SAFE project? Can you provide specific examples of how local stakeholders have engaged with and taken responsibility for project activities?</p> <p>In what ways has the B-SAFE project encouraged DA-BPO take ownership of the initiatives and interventions introduced? What evidence exists of this local ownership?</p> <p>What types of partnerships has DA-BPO established or strengthened through the B-SAFE project? How have these partnerships contributed to the sustainability of the project's outcomes?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of specific partnerships that have been formed or strengthened as a result of the B-SAFE project, and how these are expected to continue beyond the project period?</p>

KII Guide: Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA)

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Interventions/Partnership with B-SAFE		<p>What interventions/assistance were provided to your office by B-SAFE?</p> <p>In what PCA initiative if any, does PCA currently have with B-SAFE</p>
Relevance	<p>How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for?</p> <p>How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>How well do the interventions/partnerships align with the PCA mandate to improve food safety and quality?</p> <p>Were PCA's specific needs and challenges adequately considered in the design of B-SAFE interventions?</p>
Effectiveness	<p>How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?</p> <p>Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct beneficiaries? In what ways are they considered effective?</p>	<p>How has the focus on capacity development enhanced PCA's ability to perform food safety testing and research?</p> <p>What specific B-SAFE activities have been most effective in advancing the PCA's role in ensuring food safety standards?</p>
	<p>How do B-SAFE beneficiaries perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?</p> <p>Have intended beneficiaries received services as planned?</p>	<p>How does PCA perceive the quality and effectiveness of the technical assistance provided by the B-SAFE project?</p> <p>How well did the B-SAFE project address the specific needs and priorities of PCA in enhancing food safety standards?</p> <p>Were there any areas where PCA felt the B-SAFE project's delivery of services could be improved?</p>

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Efficiency	To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?	<p>Have you encountered any performance issues or challenges during the implementation of B-SAFE project activities? If so, how have these issues been addressed by PCA or the project team?</p> <p>What measures or actions has PCA taken to overcome these challenges and improve performance? How effective have these measures been in achieving PCA's goals?</p>
	<p>What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B-SAFE ends?</p>	<p>How confident are you that the benefits gained from the B-SAFE project will continue after the project ends? Can you provide examples of specific benefits that you believe will endure?</p> <p>What evidence or indicators are available that suggest the improvements made during the project will be sustained over time?</p>
Sustainability	To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships?	<p>How would you describe the level of local ownership that has developed at PCA as a result of the B-SAFE project? Can you provide specific examples of how local stakeholders have engaged with and taken responsibility for project activities?</p> <p>In what ways has the B-SAFE project encouraged PCA take ownership of the initiatives and interventions introduced? What evidence exists of this local ownership?</p> <p>What types of partnerships has PCA established or - strengthened through the B-SAFE project? How have these partnerships contributed to</p>

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
		<p>the sustainability of the project's outcomes?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of specific partnerships that have been formed or strengthened as a result of the B-SAFE project, and how these are expected to continue beyond the project period?</p>

KII Guide: Bukidnon Department of Agrarian Reform (BDAR)

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Interventions/Partnership with B-SAFE		<p>What interventions/assistance were provided to your office by B-SAFE</p> <p>In what initiative if any, does BDAR currently have with B-SAFE</p>
Relevance	<p>How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for?</p> <p>How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>How well do the interventions/partnerships align with the BDAR's mandate on helping agrarian reform beneficiaries?</p> <p>Were BDAR's specific needs and challenges adequately considered in the design of B-SAFE interventions?</p>
Effectiveness	<p>How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?</p> <p>Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct beneficiaries? In what ways are they considered effective?</p>	<p>How has the focus on capacity development enhanced BDAR's ability to perform its mandates?</p> <p>What specific B-SAFE activities have been most effective in advancing the BDAR's role in improving productivity and food safety standards?</p>

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
	<p>How do B-SAFE beneficiaries perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?</p> <p>Have intended beneficiaries received services as planned?</p>	<p>How does BDAR perceive the quality and effectiveness of the technical assistance provided by the B-SAFE project?</p> <p>How well did the B-SAFE project address the specific needs and priorities of BDAR in enhancing agricultural productivity, and food safety standards in Bukidnon?</p> <p>Were there any areas where BDAR felt the B-SAFE project's delivery of services could be improved?</p>
Efficiency	To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?	<p>Have you encountered any performance issues or challenges during the implementation of B-SAFE project activities? If so, how have these issues been addressed by BDAR or the project team?</p> <p>What measures or actions has BDAR taken to overcome these challenges and improve performance? How effective have these measures been in achieving BDAR's goals?</p>
	<p>What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B- SAFE ends?</p>	<p>How confident are you that the benefits gained from the B-SAFE project will continue after the project ends? Can you provide examples of specific benefits that you believe will endure?</p> <p>What evidence or indicators are available that suggest the improvements made during the project will be sustained over time?</p>

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Sustainability	To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships?	<p>How would you describe the level of local ownership that has developed at BDAR as a result of the B-SAFE project? Can you provide specific examples of how local stakeholders have engaged with and taken responsibility for project activities?</p> <p>In what ways has the B-SAFE project encouraged BDAR take ownership of the initiatives and interventions introduced? What evidence exists of this local ownership?</p> <p>What types of partnerships has BDAR established or strengthened through the B-SAFE project? How have these partnerships contributed to the sustainability of the project's outcomes?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of specific partnerships that have been formed or strengthened as a result of the B-SAFE project, and how these are expected to continue beyond the project period?</p>

KII Guide: Agricultural Training Institute - International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ATI-ITCPH)

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Interventions/Partnership with B-SAFE		<p>What interventions/assistance were provided to your office by B-SAFE?</p> <p>In what initiative if any, does ITCPH currently have with B-SAFE (e.g. artificial insemination, bio-security, ASF management, etc.)</p>
Relevance	<p>How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for?</p> <p>How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the beneficiaries?</p>	<p>How well do the interventions/partnerships align with the ITCPH mandate to improve swine productivity, food safety and quality?</p> <p>Were ITCPH's specific needs and challenges adequately considered in the design of B-SAFE interventions?</p>
Effectiveness	<p>How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?</p> <p>Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct beneficiaries? In what ways are they considered effective?</p>	<p>How has the focus on capacity development enhanced ITCPH ability to perform food safety testing and research?</p> <p>What specific B-SAFE activities have been most effective in advancing the ITCPH role in ensuring food safety standards?</p>

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
	<p>How do B-SAFE beneficiaries perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?</p> <p>Have intended beneficiaries received services as planned?</p>	<p>How does ITCPH perceive the quality and effectiveness of the technical assistance provided by the B-SAFE project?</p> <p>How well did the B-SAFE project address the specific needs and priorities of ITCPH in enhancing swine productivity, and food safety standards?</p> <p>Were there any areas where ITCPH felt the B-SAFE project's delivery of services could be improved?</p>
Efficiency	<p>To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?</p>	<p>Have you encountered any performance issues or challenges during the implementation of B-SAFE project activities? If so, how have these issues been addressed by ITCPH or the project team?</p> <p>What measures or actions has ITCPH taken to overcome these challenges and improve performance? How effective have these measures been in achieving ITCPH's goals?</p>
	<p>What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B-SAFE ends?</p>	<p>How confident are you that the benefits gained from the B-SAFE project will continue after the project ends? Can you provide examples of specific benefits that you believe will endure?</p> <p>What evidence or indicators are available that suggest the improvements made during the project will be sustained over time?</p>

Evaluation Criteria	B-SAFE Key Questions	Client Customized Questions
Sustainability	To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships?	<p>How would you describe the level of local ownership that has developed at ITCPH as a result of the B-SAFE project? Can you provide specific examples of how local stakeholders have engaged with and taken responsibility for project activities?</p> <p>In what ways has the B-SAFE project encouraged ITCPH take ownership of the initiatives and interventions introduced? What evidence exists of this local ownership?</p> <p>What types of partnerships has ITCPH established or strengthened through the B-SAFE project? How have these partnerships contributed to the sustainability of the project's outcomes?</p> <p>Can you provide examples of specific partnerships that have been formed or strengthened as a result of the B-SAFE project, and how these are expected to continue beyond the project period?</p>

6. GUIDE QUESTIONS FOR WINROCK B-SAFE STAFF

FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE) PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES

KII Guide Question: USDA Staff

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Background and role in the B-SAFE Project

- Can you please state your name and designation as well as your role in relation to the B-SAFE project?
- How involved were you in the planning and decision-making processes of the project?

Project Design and Relevance:

- How well do you think the design of the B-SAFE project aligns with the needs of the clients, such as the FSRAs and players in the value chains of corn, swine, coconut sugar and milkfish?
- Were the assumptions and conditions considered in the project design realistic and relevant to the context in which B-SAFE operates? Why or why not?
- What criteria or factors were prioritized during the design phase, and do you think they were appropriate?

Implementation and Coordination:

- How effective has the coordination been between the various stakeholders (e.g., DA Food Development Center, FDA FROO, LGUs, producers, etc.) in implementing the B-SAFE project?
- Were there any significant challenges or bottlenecks in implementing the project? How were these addressed?
- To what extent were the training programs on the commodities covered (e.g., on corn grains production, post-harvest technology) aligned with the needs of the target beneficiaries?

Project Monitoring and Adaptation:

- How were you involved in monitoring the progress of B-SAFE? Were there regular updates and reviews?
- Did you recommend any changes to the project based on the findings from monitoring or the mid-term evaluation? If so, were these recommendations incorporated effectively?

Capacity Building and Technical Support:

- How do you assess the effectiveness of the capacity development activities for Food Safety Regulatory Agencies and producers?
- Were there areas where you think the project could have provided more technical support or training?

Impact and Outcomes:

- In your view, what are the most significant outcomes or impacts of the B-SAFE project on the producers and other stakeholders?
- Has the project been successful in improving food safety compliance and boosting the productivity of corn, coconut sugar, swine, and milkfish producers? Could you provide examples or evidence?

Sustainability and Long-term Impact:

- How sustainable do you think the outcomes of the B-SAFE project are, particularly regarding the adoption of improved practices by producers?
- What steps, if any, have been taken to ensure the continuation of B-SAFE initiatives beyond the project timeline?

Challenges and Lessons Learned:

- What were the main challenges you encountered in guiding the B-SAFE project? How were these challenges managed?
- Are there any lessons learned that you would like to highlight for future projects of a similar nature?

Steering Committee Effectiveness:

- How would you evaluate the functioning of the B-SAFE steering committee? Was there sufficient collaboration among members to address critical issues and make timely decisions?
- Were there any specific improvements in the governance of the project that contributed to its success?

Recommendations:

- Based on your experience, what recommendations would you make to improve the design, implementation, or governance of similar projects in the future?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE)
PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

KII Guide Question: USDA Staff - Steering Committee Member of B-SAFE Project

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

1. Background and Role in the B-SAFE Project:

- Can you describe your role as a member of the B-SAFE steering committee?
- How involved were you in the planning and decision-making processes of the project?

2. Project Design and Relevance:

- How well do you think the design of the B-SAFE project aligns with the goals of enhancing food safety and improving productivity in corn, coconut sugar, swine, and milkfish production?
- Were the assumptions and conditions considered in the project design realistic and relevant to the context in which B-SAFE operates? Why or why not?
- What criteria or factors were prioritized during the design phase, and do you think they were appropriate?

3. Implementation and Coordination:

- How effective has the coordination been between the various stakeholders (e.g., DA Food Development Center, FDA FROO, LGUs, producers, etc.) in implementing the B-SAFE project?
- Were there any significant challenges or bottlenecks in implementing the project? How were these addressed?
- To what extent were the training programs (e.g., on corn grains production, post-harvest technology) aligned with the needs of the target beneficiaries?

4. Project Monitoring and Adaptation:

- How was the steering committee involved in monitoring the progress of B-SAFE? Were there regular updates and reviews?
- Did you or the committee recommend any changes to the project based on the findings from monitoring or the mid-term evaluation? If so, were these recommendations incorporated effectively?

5. Capacity Building and Technical Support:

- How do you assess the effectiveness of the capacity development activities for Food Safety Regulatory Agencies and producers?
- Were there areas where you think the project could have provided more technical support or training?

6. Impact and Outcomes:

- In your view, what are the most significant outcomes or impacts of the B-SAFE project on the producers and other stakeholders?
- Has the project been successful in improving food safety compliance and boosting the productivity of corn, coconut sugar, swine, and milkfish producers? Could you provide examples or evidence?

7. Sustainability and Long-term Impact:

- How sustainable do you think the outcomes of the B-SAFE project are, particularly regarding the adoption of improved practices by producers?
- What steps, if any, have been taken to ensure the continuation of B-SAFE initiatives beyond the project timeline?

8. Challenges and Lessons Learned:

- What were the main challenges you encountered in guiding the B-SAFE project? How were these challenges managed?
- Are there any lessons learned that you would like to highlight for future projects of a similar nature?

9. Steering Committee Effectiveness:

- How would you evaluate the functioning of the B-SAFE steering committee? Was there sufficient collaboration among members to address critical issues and make timely decisions?
- Were there any specific improvements in the governance of the project that contributed to its success?

10. Recommendations:

- Based on your experience, what recommendations would you make to improve the design, implementation, or governance of similar projects in the future?
- Are there any specific policy or operational changes you would suggest to strengthen the outcomes of food safety and productivity programs like B-SAFE?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE)
PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

KII Guide Question: Winrock International's Head Office

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

Project Oversight and Guidance

1. What is the role of Winrock International's Head Office in overseeing the implementation and monitoring of the B-SAFE project?
2. How do you provide guidance and support to the local project team in the Philippines? Can you share specific examples of interventions or advice that have been crucial to the project's success?
3. How often do you engage with the local B-SAFE project team, and what are the main topics or areas of focus during these interactions?

Monitoring and Evaluation from the Head Office

4. What monitoring tools and frameworks does the Head Office use to track the progress of the B-SAFE project?
5. How does the Head Office ensure that the local team's M&E practices are aligned with Winrock's global standards for monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL)?
6. What key performance indicators (KPIs) does the Head Office prioritize when monitoring the project, and how have these indicators evolved over time?

Challenges and Solutions

7. From your perspective, what have been the most significant challenges encountered by the B-SAFE project? How has the Head Office helped address these challenges?
8. Can you share any instances where the Head Office had to intervene or provide additional support to ensure the project's success?

Integration of Lessons Learned

9. How does the Head Office integrate lessons learned from the B-SAFE project into its broader portfolio of projects? Are there any specific best practices or innovations from B-SAFE that are being shared with other projects?
10. What feedback mechanisms are in place to ensure that the findings from monitoring activities at the local level are communicated back to the Head Office?

Coordination with Local and Regional Stakeholders

11. How does the Head Office coordinate with local stakeholders, including government agencies and other partners, to ensure the B-SAFE project's objectives are met?
12. How do you support the local team in fostering collaborations with Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRAs) and other local partners?

Impact and Sustainability

13. In your view, what has been the most significant impact of the B-SAFE project so far?
14. How does the Head Office ensure that the project's interventions, especially in food safety and productivity improvement, are sustainable beyond the life of the project?

Midterm and Final Evaluations

15. How did the Head Office contribute to or respond to the findings and recommendations from the midterm evaluation? Can you share any key changes or strategic shifts made after reviewing the midterm results?
16. What are your expectations for the final evaluation of the B-SAFE project? What outcomes or learnings are you particularly interested in?

Future Directions and Recommendations

17. Based on your oversight role, what are your recommendations for strengthening future projects similar to B-SAFE in terms of monitoring, evaluation, and guidance?
18. What would you identify as the key lessons from your experience monitoring the B-SAFE project that should inform future Winrock projects in the Philippines or in similar contexts?

**FINAL EVALUATION FOR THE BUILDING SAFE AGRICULTURAL FOOD ENTERPRISES (B-SAFE)
PROJECT IN THE PHILIPPINES**

KII Guide Question: B-SAFE MEL Officer

Facilitator:	
Date of Interview:	
Venue:	

1. Assumptions and Critical Factors

- 1.1. In your view, are there underpinning/critical assumptions in the B-SAFE design which have not been realized? If so, how have these affected the operation and achievement of project objectives and goals? In hindsight, are there other critical assumptions that should have been considered?
- 1.2. Were there risks and challenges that have not been foreseen? How did these affect the project and how did the project handle these?

2. Relevance of Objectives and Interventions

- 2.1. How well do you think the project strategies align with the needs of the clients, such as the FSRAs and players in the value chains of corn, swine, coconut sugar and milkfish?
- 2.2. Have the interventions evolved according to the context and circumstances of the clients and changes in the environment within which B-SAFE operates? If so, please cite examples.

3. Effectiveness of Strategies

- 3.1. In your view, which strategies or B-SAFE support made the most impact in the four value chains and why?
- 3.2. How effective were these strategies in addressing food safety and SPS issues? What made these strategies especially effective?

4. Beneficiary Perception

- 4.1. What examples of feedback have you received from beneficiaries which would indicate that the strategies and support are effective and working?
- 4.2. What examples of feed have you received from beneficiaries which would indicate that the project is ineffective?

5. Management Structure and Efficiency

- 5.1. In your view, does the management structure of B-SAFE supports or hinders efficient operation? Why or why not?
- 5.2. In your view, do the various project operation protocols support or hinder efficient operation? Why or why not?
- 5.3. How is risk management practiced in the project?

6. Sustainability

- 6.1. Have there been changes in local food safety regulations resulting from B-SAFE interventions that would likely continue beyond the B-SAFE project life? Are there institutions that could sustain such changes?
- 6.2. As the B-SAFE project will soon terminate, does it have sustainability plan to ensure the changes it effected can be sustained?

7. Communicating Results and Lessons Learned

- 7.1. As the MEL officer of B-SAFE, how would B-SAFE results and lessons learned be communicated with the stakeholders? Are there activities related to this that will continue beyond project life?

8. Recommendations

- 8.1. In hindsight, what are the activities and strategies of the project that should not have been implemented or could have been implemented better?
- 8.2. What are the activities that should have been done to improve the project's success?
- 8.3. What specific recommendations can you provide to similar projects in the future?

ANNEX J. Terms of Reference/Statement of Work for the Evaluation

Introduction

B-SAFE Results Framework

Winrock is implementing the US\$13.3 million B-SAFE project in the Philippines over a period of five years (October 1, 2019 to July 31, 2024). B-SAFE focuses on contributing to the following two USDA Food for Progress Strategic Objectives:

- Increase agricultural productivity by improving the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) in production and management of supply chains.
- Expand trade of agricultural products by improving the Government of the Philippines' (GOP) regulatory agencies to manage risk-based systems, promote awareness of biotechnology, enhance regulatory standards and processes, enhance domestic and export market linkages, and build the capacity of the private sector to leverage investment.

B-SAFE Theory of Change

B-SAFE's theory of change is: IF the GOP and the private sector use risk-based management approaches to guide their use of relevant SPS-related technical assistance that build capacity; and IF the GOP and private sector become stronger at capturing information and decision making to meet SPS and regulatory requirements for export and import markets, in market situations that change quickly; and IF the GOP and private sector adopt and invest in SPS systems and have adequate facilities and equipment to use; THEN agricultural products will have increased trade that meet SPS standards for the US, ASEAN, international, and domestic markets.

The approach is built on two distinct, but mutually reinforcing pillars: (1) **GOP regulatory agencies' capacity in risk-based SPS systems**; and (2) **SPS-compliant supply chain linkages**. Note that the results framework will be provided to the selected firm.

Activities

While B-SAFE's award started on October 1, 2019, activity implementation began only after the project obtained clearance from the Philippine government on April 27, 2021 and the baseline study was approved by USDA on May 25, 2021. Most of the activities done during the period of May 2021 to August 2021 involved coordinating and consulting with stakeholders and detailing the project work plan. This resulted in a condensed implementation timeframe for project activities with B-SAFE's midterm evaluation conducted in the first half of 2023.

B-SAFE is carrying out the following five activities:

Activity 1: Conduct Sanitary & Phytosanitary Gap Assessment and Benchmark Capacity Needs

B-SAFE conducted a participatory needs assessment that identified capacity-building priorities and technical assistance (TA) strategies for the SPS and food safety regulatory agencies of the Government of the Philippines. The assessment covered the Center for Food Regulation Research (CFRR) of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the six Departments of Agriculture (DA)

regulatory agencies.² The work benchmarked the respective capacities of these agencies to perform their technical functions against international best practice. The work weighed as well on the quality and strength of their respective organizational capabilities to support the administration of their regulatory tasks.

Activity 2: Enhance Government of Philippines Capacity in Risk-Based Systems

B-SAFE works with the FDA and DA to roll out a capacity-building program to support the development of evidence-based standards or management procedures, train staff, and expand laboratory facilities to contribute to an enabling environment for SPS-compliant domestic and international trade. Assistance is demand-driven through three lenses: 1) GOP-driven via self-identified need for improvements, 2) market-driven in line with international standards requirements, and 3) risk-driven based on emerging food security threats.

Activity 3: Support Biotechnology Decision-Making and Awareness-Building

To enhance the use of biotechnology, B-SAFE supports a streamlined review and approval process with strengthened capacity in each governing agency; assists in the development of new or amended laws, regulations, or administrative procedures the GOP deems necessary to aid in biotechnology-related food safety issues; provides evidence-based information to policy makers and consumers on benefits/risks of genetically modified organisms (GMOs), plant breeding innovations, and new breeding techniques.

Activity 4: Build Technical Capacity of the Private Sector to Meet International Standards

B-SAFE supports strengthening the capacity of the private sector to develop and manage SPS-compliant supply chains of hogs in the province of Batangas, milkfish in Pangasinan, corn in Bukidnon, and coconut sugar in Misamis Oriental. This activity facilitates industry learning around successful market-led models of supply chain integration along key market segments—wet markets, premium domestic retail, processing, and exports. The project connects the private sector to technology solutions that address challenges they face in maintaining SPS-compliant supply chains. B-SAFE also works and strengthens a cadre of training service providers who can provide segmented training services tailored to food safety requirements along key market channels.

Activity 5: Build Cold Chain Systems

B-SAFE facilitates private sector investment in cold storage solutions and services, complementing work in Activity 4 to facilitate and scale up SPS-compliant and integrated supply chains. B-SAFE is conducting a registry of supply chain facilities along specific supply chains in Batangas for hogs and products derived thereof, and in Pangasinan for milkfish and products derived thereof. The project works with government agencies to disseminate information on investment opportunities to help close cold chain system gaps.

Beneficiary Description

B-SAFE is implementing activities in the Philippines' National Capital Region and on selected value chains including hogs in Batangas, milkfish in Pangasinan, corn in Bukidnon, and coconut sugar in

²Agencies included are the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR), Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), and Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS); and the Food Safety Regulation Coordinating Board (FSRCB).

Misamis Oriental.

As of end of July 2023, B-SAFE worked had directly with a total of 5,873 direct beneficiaries shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1. B-SAFE Direct Beneficiaries

Participants	LOP Target	Progress as of July 2023					
		Corn in Bukidnon	Coco Sugar in Misamis Oriental	Milkfish in Pangasinan	Hogs in Batangas	N/A	Total - cumulative progress as of July 2023
Producers	4,275	1,033	367	262	94	180	1,936
People in trade	3,727	86	141	145	122	290	784
People in government	2,742	--	--	--	--	--	1,982
People in civil society	219	--	--	--	--	--	1,171
Total	10,963	1,119	508	407	216	470	5,873

Note that B-SAFE will provide the selected firm with the updated direct beneficiaries database which will cover the period up to December 2023.

Scope of Work

Purpose of the Final Evaluation

As stated in USDA's monitoring and evaluation policy³:

The **purpose** of the final evaluation is to assess whether B-SAFE has achieved the expected results as outlined in the project-level results framework. The final evaluation should assess areas of project design, implementation, management, lessons learned, and replicability. It should seek to provide lessons learned and recommendations for USDA, program participants and other key stakeholders for future food assistance and capacity building programs.

In general, it should assess:

1. **Relevance:** The extent to which project interventions met the needs of B-SAFE beneficiaries and is aligned with the country's agriculture and/or development investment strategy and with USDA and US Government's development goals, objectives, and strategies. Relevance should also address the extent to which the project was designed taking into account the economic, cultural and political context and existing relevant program activities.
2. **Effectiveness:** The extent to which the project has achieved its objectives. Effectiveness should also assess the extent to which the interventions contributed to the expected results or objectives.
3. **Efficiency:** The extent to which the project resources (inputs) have led to the achieved

³ https://www.fas.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2019-06/fad_mande_policy_feb_2019.pdf

results. An assessment of efficiency should also consider whether the same results could have been achieved with fewer resources or whether alternative approaches could have been adopted to achieve the same results.

4. **Impact:** Assessment of the medium and long-term effects, both intended and unintended, of project interventions. Effects can be both direct or indirect and positive or negative. To the extent possible, the evaluation should assess the extent to which the effects are due to the project intervention and not other factors.
5. **Sustainability:** Assessment of the likelihood that the benefits of the project will endure over time after the completion of B-SAFE. Sustainability should also assess the extent to which the project has planned for the continuation of project activities, developed local ownership for the project, and developed sustainable partnerships.

Target Audiences

The primary audience of the evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations are the following:

- **USDA officials:** USDA will be provided with results data and findings that demonstrate the degree to which B-SAFE has achieved all project goals and targets. These data, centered on the performance indicator results but supported with additional project results, budgetary information, and qualitative data, lessons learned, and recommendations will assist USDA in its efforts to validate and demonstrate maximum value for money of the project and its activities, lasting and sustainable change in the target regions, and the effectiveness of USDA's administrative systems. Additionally, B-SAFE will seek to furnish USDA with as much data as possible to contribute to the Department's own institutional research and learning.
 - **Private sector stakeholders/beneficiaries.** B-SAFE's final evaluation will quantify the development achievements among private sector beneficiaries, including farmers, producer associations/cooperatives, traders, processors, logistics and cold chain operators, and trade associations/cooperatives, and provide evidence to inform future interventions and growth in the sector.
 - **Government sector stakeholders/beneficiaries.** B-SAFE's final evaluation will assess and provide important evidence on the improvements in the organizational and technical capacity of the partner food safety regulation agencies of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and inform on best practices and lessons learned that can serve as reference for the agencies' future interventions. B-SAFE's best practices and learnings from interventions with the private sector will also be shared with government partners to add to their pool of learnings for designing future services in the sector.
- Development Professionals and Technical Experts.** B-SAFE's final evaluation will attempt to assist development professionals and technical experts by sharing best practices and lessons learned related to B-SAFE's design, methodology, and critical assumptions.

The evaluation findings, conclusions and recommendations will be shared with stakeholders through meetings with different key stakeholder groups and will be published in line with requirements for all U.S. funded international food assistance programs.

Evaluation Objectives

The final evaluation is structured around two broad, interrelated objectives:

Evaluation Objective 1: Assess project achievements as outlined in the results framework (i.e., outputs/outcomes)

B-SAFE reports on 12 standard USDA FFPr indicators and 2 custom indicators. Definitions of all indicators are provided in the B-SAFE Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) and are further detailed in Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS). Life of Project (LOP) targets reflect revised targets approved by USDA on August 29, 2022. B-SAFE's LOP indicator targets are detailed below in Table 2.

Table 2. B-SAFE Indicator Table

No.	Indicator Title	Type	Baseline Value	LOP Target	Progress as of July 2023	Required Indicator Measurement
SI-22	Number of individuals participating in USDA food security programs	Output	0	10,963	5,873	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only
SI-23	Number of individuals benefiting indirectly as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	45,065	19,968	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only
SI-21	Number of individuals who have received short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	9,687	5,489	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only
SI-4	Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USDA assistance	Outcome	7,234	4,855	197	Yes (part of beneficiary-based survey)
SI-11	Number of host government or community-derived risk management plans formally proposed, adopted, implemented or institutionalized with USDA assistance	Output	16	10	2	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only
SI-12	Percent of USDA-assisted organizations with improved performance	Outcome	0	75%	50%	Yes (part of part of org. cap. assessment)
SI-9	Number of technologies, practices, and approaches under various phases of research, development, and uptake as a result of USDA assistance	Output (phases 1-3) Outcome (phase 4)	0	10	3	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only
SI-13	Number of public-private partnerships formed as a result of USDA assistance	Output	0	17	3	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only
SI-17	Number of policies, regulations and/or administrative procedures in each of the following stages of development as a result of USDA assistance	Output (stages 1-2) Outcome (stages 3-5)	0	6	7	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only
SI-18	Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance	Outcome	USD 670,287,491	USD 90,399,240	USD 3,278,235	Yes (part of beneficiary-based survey)
SI-19	Volume of commodities sold by farms and firms receiving USDA assistance	Outcome	315,473 MT	51,960 MT	3,693 MT	Yes (part of beneficiary-based survey)
SI-14	Value of new USG commitments and new public and private sector investment	Outcome	0	USD	USD 59,080.04	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only

No.	Indicator Title	Type	Baseline Value	LOP Target	Progress as of July 2023	Required Indicator Measurement
	leveraged by USDA to support food security and nutrition			1,100,000		
CI-1	Number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation, or cold storage as a result of B-SAFE investment	Outcome	163	319	15	Yes (part of beneficiary-based survey)
CI-2	Number of farms/firms/ laboratories with GAP, GMP, HACCP, or ISO certification as a result of USDA assistance	Outcome	1,292	22	1	Desk review of B-SAFE's data only

As part of assessing the overall performance of the project, this evaluation will include the final beneficiary-based survey used as the primary method for measuring progress toward performance indicator targets as established in the cooperative agreement and defined under the Performance Management Plan (PMP) approved by USDA.

The evaluation firm will survey private sector B-SAFE beneficiaries to gather information that will be used to measure technology adoption and volume and value of sales outcome indicators over a 12-to-13-month period that covers January 2023 to January 2024. **This data will allow for (1) comparison against the baseline data and (2) provide B-SAFE with critical outcome data for reporting during the final reporting period in FY2024⁴. In addition, as part of the performance analysis, the firm will also provide details/deviation narratives when performance was outside of a +/-10% threshold.**

The survey shall be representative of each of B-SAFE's four supported commodities, i.e., corn, coco sugar, swine, and milkfish in the provinces of Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Batangas and Pangasinan, respectively. Additional details about the composition of the survey participants will be provided to the selected firm. B-SAFE's beneficiary-based outcome survey reports conducted in previous years will also be provided to the selected firm. Lastly, the survey must allow for data to be analyzed at a granular level (i.e., monthly).

As highlighted below, indicator measurement through a beneficiary-based survey (BBS) approach shall cover **3 standard outcome indicators and 1 custom outcome indicator**, including all their project-specified disaggregates. The evaluation firm will be responsible for finalizing a statistically sound data collection methodology in collaboration with B-SAFE **to ensure that the quantitative estimates for the indicator values (normalized to the full private sector beneficiary population) and their corresponding datasets are produced**. The evaluator will also be responsible for completing a desk review of all other indicators not captured under the beneficiary-based survey.

For tracking the organizational and technical capacity of Food Safety Regulatory Agencies (FSRAs) resulting from B-SAFE's capacity development intervention, an organizational and technical capacity assessment will be conducted by the evaluation firm. The organizational capacity assessment will focus on the knowledge management component which was prioritized in the capacity development plan at the request of the FSRAs given the common low scores among all agencies at baseline. The technical capacity assessment will track the performance of the FSRAs based on their food safety technical functions particularly on risk analysis and laboratory quality assurance.

⁴ This corresponds to roughly the August 2023 to January 2024 period.

Evaluation Objective 2: Assess project's relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability (i.e., impact and learning)

In addition to assessing progress toward targets for all project monitoring indicators, a key measure of the project's effectiveness, the evaluation firm will also be responsible for answering a set of evaluation questions related to relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact, and sustainability using various qualitative and quantitative methods.

Table 3 below summarizes each evaluation criteria, proposed evaluation questions to be addressed by the evaluation firm, and potential respondents and methods to be used to collect qualitative data. The questions below are guidelines; the final key evaluation questions and methods will be refined in collaboration between Winrock and the selected firm.

Table 3. Evaluation Questions

Evaluation Criteria	Suggested Evaluation Questions	Potential Data Collection Method and Respondents
<i>Relevance</i>	<p>How accurate have the critical assumptions underpinning B-SAFE proven to be in practice? Were other critical factors unaccounted for?</p> <p>How relevant has B-SAFE's objective, priority interventions and the approach been to the situation of the beneficiaries?</p> <p>How has the original design evolved during B-SAFE's implementation, particularly in response to the findings from the MTE?</p> <p>Were existing relevant USDA and U.S. government activities leveraged?</p>	<p>Interview: Government, Focus Group Discussion (FGD): Beneficiaries</p> <p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p>
<i>Effectiveness</i>	<p>What were the major factors—including project design, implementation, and the operating environment—which influenced the achievement or non-achievement of the objective targets?</p> <p>How has the focus on technical and organizational capacity development improved the capacities of food safety regulatory agencies?</p> <p>How has the focus on improving food safety standards and risk management affected the production and trade practices of the targeted private sector beneficiaries? How has it affected productivity and expansion of trade?</p> <p>Which B-SAFE activities were most effective in increasing agricultural productivity and trade as well as in promoting food safety and addressing SPS issues among the project's direct beneficiaries? In what ways are they considered effective?</p> <p>For each of the four supported commodities, have B-SAFE interventions helped partners access new domestic and/or international markets? If so, what enabled them to access these markets? If not, what were the constraints and bottlenecks?</p>	<p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: Private sector beneficiaries, B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: Government, FGD: Beneficiaries, BBS</p> <p>Interview: Private sector beneficiaries, B-SAFE staff</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Suggested Evaluation Questions	Potential Data Collection Method and Respondents
	<p>Which project activities made the most and least significant contribution to intended strategic objectives?</p> <p>How do B-SAFE beneficiaries perceive the overall quality of project delivery and technical assistance?</p> <p>Have intended beneficiaries received services as planned?</p> <p>How well has the project met its targets? If targets are not met, why not? If targets are exceeded, how were these achieved and why?</p> <p>Were recommendations from B-SAFE's midterm evaluation addressed by the project team? If not, why?</p>	<p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p> <p>FGD: Beneficiaries, BBS</p> <p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p>
<i>Efficiency</i>	<p>To what extent does the management structure support efficiency for implementation, learning and reflection for Winrock and partners and ensure proper risk management?</p> <p>What steps have B-SAFE taken to address low performance areas reported in the Midterm Evaluation and fast-tracked progress toward LOP targets?</p> <p>What is the likelihood that the project benefits will endure over time after B-SAFE ends? Specifically, what evidence exists of continued benefits for the different value chains of the productivity and market networking system level change that is likely to continue after B-SAFE ends?</p>	<p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff</p> <p>FGD: Beneficiaries</p>
<i>Sustainability</i>	<p>To what extent has B-SAFE developed local ownership and sustainable partnerships?</p> <p>Which, if any, improved institutions or processes are likely to continue after completion of B-SAFE?</p> <p>What changes in the enabling environment that support food safety, improved agricultural productivity or trade have resulted from B-SAFE (e.g., accessibility to strategic resources, attitudinal shifts among key actors; new rules, standards or regulations; formalized relationships or market linkages; widespread adoption of introduced practices)?</p> <p>What evidence exists of local ownership (individuals, private sectors, associations and government partners) the result achieved, and of efforts to establish the partnership with relevant stakeholders and strengthen local capacities?</p>	<p>Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff</p> <p>FGD: Beneficiaries</p> <p>Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff</p> <p>Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff</p> <p>FGD: Beneficiaries</p> <p>Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff</p> <p>FGD: Beneficiaries</p>

Evaluation Criteria	Suggested Evaluation Questions	Potential Data Collection Method and Respondents
	What recommendations do key B-SAFE stakeholders have for similar, future activities?	Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff FGD: Beneficiaries
	At the commodity level, what are the immediate and/or medium-term effects (intended and unintended, positive and negative) of B-SAFE after over 4 years of implementation?	Interview: Government, FGD: Beneficiaries
<i>Impact</i>	How were successful interventions optimized and/or scaled up during B-SAFE implementation?	Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff FGD: Beneficiaries
	What are B-SAFE's main legacy areas across its four focus commodities?	Interview: B-SAFE Staff, Government, Private Sector Partners
	To what extent has B-SAFE contributed to strengthening the 4 value chains (corn, coco sugar, swine, and milkfish in the target provinces) beyond its direct beneficiaries?	Interview: Government, B-SAFE staff FGD: Beneficiaries

Additional evaluation questions that address effectiveness and efficiency are listed below. These questions can be addressed by conducting statistical analysis of data collected from Beneficiary Based Surveys (BBS) and additional information from the desk review.

- What, if any, variation in efficacy is based on the type of beneficiary, including beneficiaries of differing value chain function, location, pre-program capacity, or gender?
- Which specific intervention delivered better results compared to other interventions?
- Which specific intervention required the least amount of time or cost?

The evaluation questions should be further discussed and refined with the selected evaluation firm to ensure that the process captures the evaluation objectives.

Evaluation Objective 3: Technical Learning Briefs

The evaluation firm will also work with the B-SAFE team to select 3-4 technical approaches to explore in more depth and create short learning briefs. These learning briefs will focus both on the policy work of the project as well as value chain strengthening activities such as support in improved feed management for milkfish production or adoption of Good Manufacturing Practices in coco sugar production.

Methodology⁵

Based on the research questions mentioned above, the project anticipates that the proposals will feature quantitative and qualitative methods suitable for collecting data representative of project participants and probing into the experiences of those involved in B-SAFE's implemented activities as well as gain recommendations from them. The evaluation firm is encouraged to propose cost effective research methods to respond to research questions and approaches that will allow triangulation of data that are of particular interest. An evaluation plan outline including significance and rationale, study design and methodology, including sampling strategy, and data analysis plan, should be proposed as part of the technical proposal.

While designing the assessment methodology, the firm must take into consideration the B-SAFE MEL Plan, Performance Indicator Reference Sheets (PIRS), Performance Monitoring Plan (PMP) as well as the evaluation design, methodology and B-SAFE's Baseline and Midterm Evaluations, in addition to the program results framework (listed in Figure 1).

The selected research firm will be responsible for developing the data collection protocols, which should include *in-person surveys*⁶ and *interviews* when feasible⁷, and detailed evaluation plan based on the outline submitted in the proposal, but all final decisions regarding methodology will be made in collaboration with B-SAFE. The following methods and tools should be used in the evaluation design:

- **Document Review.** The assessment team will find it useful to consult a broad range of background documents related to the agricultural sector and food safety policies and practices in the project's intervention areas, apart from program documents provided by Winrock.
- **Key Informant Interviews (KIs).** KIs are suggested to be conducted with key stakeholders, including Winrock staff and project beneficiaries and stakeholders. Respondents shall include representatives of the USDA-led Steering Committee, project participants among FSRAs and other national and local government agencies, SPS and food safety experts, regional and international trade experts, and the commodity supply chains and cold chains, trade partners and domestic buyers.
- **Focus Group Discussion.** The evaluation team will conduct multiple rounds of focus group discussions with Winrock staff, GoP/FSRA representatives, farmer beneficiaries, farmer's groups and cooperatives. Special attempts should be made to ensure participation and careful wording of the key questions. Respondents shall include consumers, laboratory testing facility staff, DA and FDA personnel, private-sector buyers (domestic, import, and export), farmers/fisherfolk, and SME owners in transport, processing, and other post-production functions.
- **Beneficiary-Based Survey.** The evaluation team will carry out a survey of private sector

⁵ COVID-related restrictions have been generally lifted in the Philippines. Should travel restrictions be reimposed, the evaluation firm will be required to develop a data collection contingency plan detailing a hybrid (i.e., combining in-person and phone-based data collection) or potentially fully remote evaluation, depending on the ability of staff and enumerators to travel domestically within the Philippines. This contingency plan will be included in the firm's inception report.

⁶ To assist in the design and comparability of the final evaluation tools, B-SAFE will provide baseline and midterm survey/ interview protocols with the selected evaluation firm.

⁷ Based on the current COVID-19 situation, B-SAFE anticipates that in-person data collection, following all applicable safety protocols, will be possible for this evaluation. Should the COVID-19 context shift, Winrock and the selected firm will discuss alternatives, but all planning and budgeting should consider in-person data collection.

beneficiaries. The survey will collect data from three types of beneficiaries to measure technology adoption and volume and value outcomes of the project:

- (1) *Individual recipients of B-SAFE services operating **farms under sole proprietorship**.* Collection of data will be done in commodity clusters. The sampling strategy should be consistent with the one used in the baseline and the annual BBS conducted by B-SAFE and should ensure 95% confidence level and 5% Margin of Error. For each commodity cluster, enumeration will follow a simple random sampling method. Sample size determination and sample selection will be done using the project's database of private sector beneficiaries. A household survey approach with two-stage sampling will be conducted. Only direct individual private sector (producers and people in trade) beneficiaries will be included in the first stage sampling clusters, followed by second stage sampling of direct beneficiaries within the sampled cluster. To support data verification, the survey will be conducted in-person, and whenever possible at the respondents' farm, infrastructure facility, or place of business. Data collected from individual beneficiaries will be extrapolated to measure performance in indicators SI-4: Number of individuals in the agriculture system who have applied improved management practices or technologies with USDA assistance, CI-1: Number of individuals using improved packaging, equipment, transportation, or cold storage as a result of B-SAFE investment, SI-18: Value of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance and SI-19: Volume of annual sales of farms and firms receiving USDA assistance.
- (2) *Individual recipients of B-SAFE services operating **firms under sole proprietorship**.* Collection of data will be done via census. This is in consideration that the number of beneficiary firms of this type are relatively few to necessitate sampling. Data collected from these types of beneficiaries also measure performance in indicators SI-4, CI-1, SI-18 and SI-19.
- (3) *Farms and firms operating **under multiple/group proprietorship** (such as cooperatives, associations and corporations).* Collection of data will also be done by census in consideration that they are relatively few to necessitate sampling. Data collected from these types of beneficiaries measure performance only in volume and value indicators SI-18 and SI-19.

The evaluator will be required to use a reliable and tested web-based survey application to ensure efficiency in data collection and processing.

- **Organizational Capacity Index (OCI).** The evaluator will conduct the final organizational capacity assessment of the eight (8) partner food safety regulatory agencies using an OCI tool for data collection and analysis. Of the seven organizational capacity dimensions covered in the pre-implementation needs assessment, organizational capacity monitoring will focus **only** on the Knowledge Management (KM) component questions which was prioritized in the capacity development plan at the request of the FSRAs. The KM component has eight (8) major indicators on data and information management, performance evaluation and continuous improvement processes. Each assessment should take no more than 1.5 days per agency.
- **OIE/FAO-based Technical Capacity Assessment Scale.** For the technical capacity assessment, the evaluator will track the performance of the FSRAs based on their food safety technical functions, particularly on risk analysis and laboratory quality assurance. Improvements in the technical capacity will be measured using a progression scale based on FAO's quick guide and OIE assessment tool, which were both used in the capacity needs

assessment at baseline. Given variations in the technical functions of the FSRAs, B-SAFE will use the OIE-based Assessment Scale in the case of three assessed agencies (i.e., BFAR, BAI and FPA), and the FAO-based Assessment Scale in the case of four other agencies (i.e., BAFS, BPI, FDA and NMIS).

Organizational and technical capacity tracking is intended for assessing improvements in the performance of the partner FSRAs, data which will be used to generate indicator values for SI-12: Percent of USDA-assisted organizations with improved performance.

Sample and Setting

BBS data collection will be conducted in four provinces: Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Batangas and Pangasinan where the project is implemented. However, depending on methodological and technical considerations, budget and timelines, the research firm and Winrock International can jointly select target districts and villages. The firm must propose a sampling strategy that will result in a sample representative of the entire project area and is designed to allow for comparison between baseline and midterm evaluation results. Separate, representative samples should be drawn for each of the four B-SAFE target commodities and remain consistent with Chapter 9 of the guidance provided in the Participant-Based Survey Sampling Guide for Feed the Future Annual Monitoring Indicators⁸.

Survey sample size and the method for data entry and cleaning, sample calculations and analysis should be designed in collaboration with B-SAFE management and the project's home office evaluation technical lead. The offerors are expected to demonstrate how they will calculate the sample size required and to use parameters including 95% confidence intervals and a 5% margin of error to estimate sample size for budgeting purposes. Sampling should consider each of B-SAFE's four commodities separately.

The evaluation firm is required to conduct data collection using data collection software to facilitate automation of data processing and minimize human error.

Roles and Responsibilities

The evaluation firm will implement some or all the following activities, depending on the final evaluation design:

- Collect data with inclusion and gender perspective including collection of socio-demographic data and disaggregation by gender and age. The evaluation firm is responsible for creating an enabling environment for female and male, youth and adult participation
- Review project documents (project data, baseline and mid-term data, monitoring data, etc.)
- In collaboration with B-SAFE, develop a detailed evaluation plan including evaluation study design, sampling protocols, data collection tools, data analysis plans, etc.) and timeline for the execution of the evaluation tasks (preferably a Gantt chart with work breakdown structure), and a final report structure outline
- Ensure the clarity of questions in the survey, particularly with consideration for dialects locally spoken by target respondents
- Conduct pilot test of all survey questionnaires and tools
- Hire a field team (supervisors and data collectors), preferably recruiting experienced staff

⁸ [Participant-Based Survey Sampling Guide for Feed the Future Annual Monitoring Indicators \(agrilinks.org\)](https://www.agrilinks.org/participant-based-survey-sampling-guide-for-feed-the-future-annual-monitoring-indicators)

with similar data collection experience in the Philippines

- Prepare reference documents for training and data collection, then train data collectors
- Arrange all fieldwork logistics
- Oversee data collection and any required data entry or transcription, using appropriate quality control measures and supervision
- Consolidate beneficiary-based outcomes survey data into a database, exportable into a B-SAFE-prescribed MS Excel template. Ensure anonymity of data, human subject research concerns (Do No Harm - dignity, right, safety, and privacy concerns), and confidentiality.
- Present initial findings and recommendations (drawn from their own conclusion, free from organizational or political pressure) to B-SAFE MEL team and senior management team, and subsequently to USDA for feedback.
- Prepare a draft report using the USDA provided outline.
- Prepare a revised report that incorporates the feedback provided by B-SAFE and USDA
- Submit a final report in English to Winrock.
- Submit cleaned datasets to B-SAFE.
- Submit to B-SAFE all the documents related to the study (filled-up questionnaires, electronic versions of the collected data, transcripts, coded qualitative (interview/focus group) data, training manual, fieldwork logs, etc.)
- Hold weekly status calls with B-SAFE MEL team and senior management.
- Prepare a research brief on any identified ethical issues and how they were addressed.
- Prepare a 2-3-page stand-alone brief describing the evaluation design, key findings and other relevant considerations that will serve to inform any interested stakeholders of the final evaluation and should be written in language easy to understand by non-evaluators and with appropriate graphics and tables.
- Presentation of key findings delivered via webinar to B-SAFE team in the Philippines, Winrock Home Office team, and USDA representatives.

The evaluation firm will be required to comply with the following **ethical** considerations:

- Meet all local and international standards of ethics in human subject research.
- Determine if IRB approval is needed before the start of the data collection.
- Comply with set ethical standards to maximize benefits and minimize harm to human subjects.
- Follow Winrock's policy on anonymity and confidentiality, child (youth) safeguarding policy, and privacy and personal data protection policy.
- All respondents shall be taken through the informed consenting process before being interviewed. All data shall be anonymized and no personally identifying information shall be published or disclosed to any external parties. For example, where valuations and "success stories" include names, identities, and photos of respondents, beneficiaries or other stakeholders, informed consent, including disclosure of how and why photos or information may be used, shall be obtained.
- The report should clearly describe any identified ethical issues and how they will be addressed.

B-SAFE will:

- Provide access to the research materials cited above (Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, PMP, baseline and mid-term evaluations and associated documentation, reports and protocols, project monitoring database, etc.) and will ensure that the contractor receives timely feedback to the research firm on research design, all data collection tools, translation, sampling strategy and other methodological components.
- Provide a complete list of:
 - Standard and customized Indicators (SI & CI indicators)
 - Direct beneficiaries (including beneficiary database)
 - Firms/associations that receive support and grants from the project
 - Implementing partners and government partners
- Recommend and provide introductions to key stakeholders for interviews and other forms of data collection

ANNEX K. Signed Conflict of Interest Forms



ASIAN SOCIAL PROJECT SERVICES, INC.

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3rd Floor MG Building 10001 Mt. Halcon St., Los Baños Subd., Batong Malaka, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines 4030

Conflict of Interest Form

On behalf of Asian Social Projects Services, Inc. (ASPSI), I certify, to the best of my knowledge and belief as of the date indicated below, that any of us in ASPSI either

- 1) have no actual or potential conflict of interest, personal or organizational, that could diminish our capacity to perform an impartial and objective evaluation, or that might otherwise result in an unfair advantage or personal gain, or
- 2) have fully disclosed all such conflicts to the Winrock International and will comply fully with any instructions to mitigate, avoid, or neutralize conflicts(s). We understand that we will also be under a continuing obligation to disclose, and act as instructed concerning, such conflicts discovered at any time prior to the completion of the evaluation.

Name: Ernesto O. Brown, PhD	Signature: <i>Et W</i>
Title: Project Team Leader	Date: December 30, 2023

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Name: Fezoil Luz C. Decena, PhD	Signature: 
Title: Quantitative Evaluation Specialist	Date: December 30, 2023



ASIAN SOCIAL PROJECT SERVICES, INC.

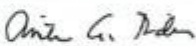
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Name: Anita G. Tidon, MSc	Signature: 
Title: Qualitative Evaluation Specialist	Date: December 30, 2023

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Name: Meliza F. Abeleda	Signature: 
Title: Field Manager and Data Management Specialist	Date: December 30, 2023



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Name: Nelson Jose Vincent B. Querijero	Signature: 
Title: Organizational Capacity Assessment Specialist	Date: December 30, 2023

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