

The Making of an Outstanding Regional Winner for Large Ruminants



One of the pioneering farmers who braved the odds in venturing into a relatively new farming experience way back in 1985, is Loreto A. Basit or Kapitan Basit his popularly known name in the community. He has become one of the pillars of the Concepcion Palasan Dairy Multi-Purpose Cooperative (PALCON), the community based dairy industry that evolved to be the biggest supplier of fresh cow's milk of KKMI (Katipunan ng Kooperatiba ng Maggagatas Ink), the largest cooperative dairy processing plant in Southern Luzon. Kapitan Basit is credited to be the producer of more than 60% (PALCON data) of the total fresh milk coming from the Barangay Concepcion Palasan, Sariaya, Quezon.



Starting from only one head Holstein-Friesian, Kapitan Basit has nurtured his dairy enterprise through the years with all the ups and downs of a then unpopular farm product, fresh cows milk, to become a very successful and model dairy farmer, who is now the proud owner of 15 head dairy cows and 11 calves. There are currently 11 cows on the milk line producing a total of 22,865.4 liters of milk in 2011 valued at Php 548,769.60. He has one of the highest yield per cow of high quality fresh milk among the dairy farmers of PALCON. He had numerous visitors in his dairy farm coming from as far as Ilocos and Pangasinan in the north, Bulacan and Tarlac in the Central Luzon, the Bicol Region. Various "Lakbay Aral" farmers from Mindanao including students from Japan conducting their on-farm trainings, as well as students from UPLB, SLSU, QNAS and student from other agricultural schools have come to observe and learn how this farmer who could not even afford to go to college , have found his fortune in Dairy Farming.



He did not stop from being a model dairy farmer. He explored other ways and means to increase his income. He ventured into Sampaguita flower cultivation in which he was also the pioneer in his barangay. Soon as his barangay also ventured into sampaguita flower production, he invested in "Siling Haba or Siling Tingala" production and Sitao in addition to his Palay crop, where he also discovered to be financially rewarding enterprises especially with the organic fertilizer input on his vegetable and palay farm which comes from the dung of his dairy animals.



He produces a nutrient rich organic fertilizer through the use of an OISCA (Japan) –provided brewer machine where the cow manure with chopped leaves of kakawate, or ipil ipil are mixed and served as food for the earthworms. The castings of these earthworms, are pulverized and mixed with molasses and water in the brewer. The resulting liquid is then sprayed as fertilizer and flower inducer to vegetable and other crops.



Kapitan Basit's a humble beginnings and his pioneering spirit have prepared him in nurturing an emerging business into a profitable and thriving local enterprise. He has become a farmer-teacher whose best practices are emulated and modeled in many places/farms. He is recognized for being a farmer-leader whose experiences and visions are forged to build successful farming communities. He is well loved and respected for being a good family provider and industrious worker in his dairy farm where as he said, "sa Dairy, araw –araw may money, walang stop, walang holiday" and "kung sa iba , umuulan ng barya, sa dairy Umaagos , umaapaw ang pera".