EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Labo Progressive Multi-Purpose Cooperative in the municipality of Labo, Camarines Norte manifests the dynamism of an organization, one that continues to expand and grow and be attuned to the demand of times.

It started as association of 15 market vendors and Php. 5,000.00 capital on September 11, 1987, they are stall holders and farmers who sell their produce during market days in Labo. It was converted into a cooperative in 1990 and registered by the Cooperative Development Authority in April 1991.

The coop now speaks of 1,773 members. Majority of which belong to farming sector. Its paid up capital rose to Php 5,486,371.26 and has an accumulated assets of Php 26,020,736.42, to date. The coop operation extended to 12 municipalities of Camarines Norte.

From the initial services of credit and savings, it diversifies into a different agri-business ventures such as groceries and agricultural supplies, cassava processing and marketing, corn marketing, transport services and now integrated pineapple leaves processing and marketing.

Moreover, the cooperative has extended agricultural loans to farmer members to finance their individual livestock and crop production projects. Coop also serve as market of their produced.

Because of well-informed members and educated coop leaders, and its active linkages to different government agencies and NGO’s is a big contributing factor to the continuous growth and operational success being enjoy by the cooperative. It never experience any single losses in its 19 years of operation. It has been an instrument in the improvement of the lives of its members and the community.

What the coop has done, what it has achieved for the betterment of its members and the community, all these paid off. And in recognition of its exemplary contributions, the coop was given awards and recognitions among them, four (4) years Most Outstanding Agriculture Community Based Cooperative (2003 – 2006)- Provincial Level, Gawad Pitak-Regional and National Finalist (2004), Gawad –Saka Regional Winner and National Finalist (2005-2006) and now 2006 National Finalist Most Outstanding Coop-LGU Partnership Award Municipal Level.

(See Attached LPMPC Services: Re: CBMS Pictures)
ABOUT THE PROJECT:

The abundance of Formosa Pineapple in Camarines Norte encouraged the Labo Progressive Multi-Purpose Cooperative (LPMPC) to venture into integrated pineapple leaves processing to cause positive impact to the economic, social, cultural and political development of the community.

At present Camarines Norte enjoys the distinction of being the 4th largest producer in the country and has gained prominence for its Formosa or Queen pineapple. As of year 2006 the total area planted to pineapple is 2,400 hectares. The potential area available for pineapple plantation is way above the present area being utilized thru availability of raw materials is assured.

(Please See Attached Pineapple Plantation)

The LPMPC uses fresh Formosa Pineapple leaves as raw materials in the production of its several products. The leaves which were previously considered as farm wastes will provide an additional income to pineapple growers.

It is the Department of Trade and Industry Camarines Norte Provincial Office (DTI-CNPO) that introduces the machine decortications of Formosa Pineapple Leaves to the cooperative in the early part of 2005. They brought one (1) decorticating machine from Fiber Industry Development Authority (FIDA) and start training coop member pineapple growers.

The lack of enough deco machines does not stop coop from pursuing its objectives. With the help of the Local Government Unit of Labo it introduces coop to CBMS which facilitated the funding of the Machine Decortications of Formosa Pineapples Leaves Project through the Peace and Equity Foundation Development Grants Program.

(Please see attached pictures of CBMS PEF Deco Machines including other deco)

STATUS OF THE PROJECT:

The total project cost is Php 248,120.00 with approved budget from PEF amounted to Php 150,000.00, while the coop equity is Php 99,320.00. It used to buy four (4) units of decorticating machine and institutions and development supports.

In the first three (3) month implementation of the project, it managed to trained some sixty (60) pineapple workers and their families covering six (6) barangays in the Municipality of Labo, namely Barangay Calabasa, Barangay Mabilo 1 & 2, Barangay Bautista, Barangay Iberica and Barangay Pangpang. The tools used in designing, targeting beneficiaries and impact monitoring of development programs is the CBMS information. In designing the project the proponent anchored in the main objectives of providing alternative sources of
income to small pineapple workers through cooperativism toward poverty alleviation and community building. Data’s collected from the economic profile of the different target barangays served as an instruments to know the conditions and needs of the constituents. In targeting barangay beneficiaries and recipients of the programs the proponent utilized poverty indicators such economic level of the barangay, access to basic services and availability of raw materials and manpower. While monitoring of development impact is conducted through by sector approach analysis and comparing the previous and present economic level of the recipient. In three (3) months period, production of pineapple fiber reached to 700 kilos amounting to Php 95,878.00, based on the Php 120.00 per kilo purchase price by the proponent.

(Please see attached pictures of CBMS PEF trainings and seminars conducted in different barangays)

As of to date, the program extended to another three (3) barangays namely Barangay Lugui, Barangay San Antonio, and Barangay Malasugui. It was also replicated already in two (2) municipalities namely, Basud and San Vicente. The cooperative conducted the skills training of decorticators and purchase the pineapple fibers they produced. Total productions as of October 31, 2006 are 2,226.80 kilos equivalent to Php 275,220.76. Total sales todate is Php 340,648.75 and an income of Php 87,449.99. Although production is still lower against the target but for the recipients the program provided additional income for the family. Aside from the sixty (60) workers who are directly benefited by the project, another 20 to 30 pineapple plantation owners indirectly benefited from the project by serving as supplier of pineapple leaves.

Other government agencies that support the program are:

A. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), provided one (1) unit of decorticating machine worth Php 50,000.00.
B. Provincial Government of Camarines Norte, provided two (2) units of decorticating machine and training funds.
C. Fiber Industry Development Authority provided two (2) units of decorticating machine including training assistance.
D. Department of Trade and Industry-Cottage Industry Technology Center (DTI-CITC), provided twelve (12) units of Handloom Machine and One (1) set of Handmade Paper Making Equipments and machine.
E. Department of Trade and Industry – CNPO, provided training assistance on machine decorticating of Formosa pineapple leaves, handloom weaving of piña cloth and handmade paper making.
F. Local Government Unit of Labo provided financial assistance for the conduct of various trainings on handloom weaving and handmade paper making.
G. Philippine Textile Research Institute. (P TRI), provided trainings on handloom weaving.
H. Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), provided financial assistance for the conduct of various trainings on handloom weaving.

At present coop has nine (9) units of decorticating machines with six (6) units deployed in the different areas. The other three units are directly managed by the cooperative for purposes of both production and trainings of the potential prospective workers.

(Please see attached pictures of CBMS PEF Decorticated fiber, drying and stock)

OTHER PRODUCTS

The project proponent developed other by-products Formosa Pineapple Leaves. Through the assistance of the DTI-CNPO and LGU-Labo it was able to solicit 12 units of Handloom Machine and one (1) set of Handmade Paper Making Machine. The center was established beside the coop office.

HANDWOVEN OF PIÑA CLOTH:

The project was started last March 2006. twelve (12) female weaver were also selected utilizing different information in the CBMS. They are consist mostly the wives and children of the workers in machine decorticators. They undergone six (6) months of training in basic to advance skills in handloom weaving and designing of piña cloth. To date, the coop is now in commercial production of quality piña cloth suitable to make barong, gown, shoals, table mats, abanico and wallet. The weavers earn as much as P240.00 per day.

Another 40 families in six barangays were directly benefited by this project. They consist mostly of mothers and childrens. They were paid at P 6.50 per gram of knotting piña fiber that are use to weave for piña cloth. I want to emphasize that children used their idle time in knotting of fiber. Also, some 72 jail inmates in Labo District Jail and Provincial jail were also commissioned by the coop in knotting of piña fiber. They were also paid of P 6.50 per gram of knotted fiber they produced. Gawad Kalinga beneficiaries in the municipality of Basud and Labo, also undergone training in manual handscrapping and knotting of fiber. They are now in the production of knotted fiber. The coop is planning to expand the production of piña cloth. This means more employment generation in the coming days. One weaver needs at least 30 suppliers of knotted fibers to sustain production of piña cloth.

(Please see attached pictures of Handloom with Weavers including Piña cloth products)
HANDMADE PAPER AND NOVELTIES:

This project started at the same time with handloom weaving of piña cloth. The coop hired five (5) out of school youth and trained them how to make quality handmade paper, in cartolina size or wall paper size. Raw materials used are machine decorticated fiber, process into pulp and mold into paper of different sizes. Many students in different schools and universities made an study visit in our center to acquire knowledge the process of making handmade paper. At present the coop is producing handmade paper of colors and design. We are also producing novelties such as paper pouch, picture frames of different sizes, tissue and bon-bon boxes, jewelry boxes and chocolates boxes, scrap book, etc. We do have local market from print shops, computer shops and catering services. But we need to links our products into a bigger market.

(Please see attached pictures of Handmade Paper machine and workers including handmade paper products and novelties)

PROBLEMS AND CONSTRAINTS;

A. Lack of commercially available extraction machine that are safe and secured to operate.
B. Peculiar properties of Formosa pineapple fiber that only direct drying to sunlight can only whitening the fiber.
C. Lack of mechanical dryer suited to dry pineapple fiber during long period of rainy season in the locality.
D. Pineapple workers attitudes towards farming.
E. Delayed payments by buyers of piña fibers.
F. Lack of supports from other local executives in other municipalities.

HANDSCRAPED PIÑA FIBER

A. Sluggish demand for piña cloth
B. Very limited market because it is a high price fabrics
C. Production is limited because of the very tedious process
D. Inconsistent quality of handwoven fabrics and uneven embroidery
E. Lack of skilled embroiderers an sewers of piña cloth in the locality, including designers. Also embroiders machine.
F. Lack of Handloom Machine to accommodate many interested potentials weavers.
G. Scarcity of source of silk yarn. Also supplies of knotted fiber.
H. Embroiderers sometimes resort to cut throat competition which adversely affect the industry.

HANDMADE PAPER

A. Lack of proper technology to produce quality handmade paper.
B. Lack of sustained demand for handmade paper locally.
C. Very limited market because it is a high end product.

**PROSPECTS/DEVELOPMENTS:**

**DECORTICATED PIÑA FIBER**

A. The results of experiments conducted by PTRI show that decorticated pineapple fiber is a suitable material for textile production and can be woven into popular fabrics. Pineapple fiber blended with polyester (at 20%/80% blend) passed the technical considerations from its pilot commercial final run and is now ready for commercialization.

B. RA 9242 will eventually require commercial production of tropical fabrics this, therefore implies that production of decorticated piña fibers must be commercialized in order to sustain the requirements of the market.

C. Estimated number of government employees 1.445 Million. Fiber requirements is seven (7) million meters equivalent to 423 meters of piña fibers at 20% blend of natural fibers.

D. With the present production capacity of only six (6) kilos of decorticated fiber per machine per day, it is apparent that current requirements could not be met. There is a need, therefore to boost commercial production of fiber.

E. Some local and foreign companies have also shown interest in the piña fiber for handicrafts, handmade paper and walled paper they are also doing application for textile.

**HANDSCRAPED PIÑA**

A. Piña Seda particularly dyed textile was introduced into the market in 2000 is becoming more attractive to buyers because of its comparable quality and less expensive price. The new blend, however, has dampened demand for pure piña cloth.

B. Other piña cloth products such as shows, table mats and abanicos and wallets are becoming more attractive to local and foreign buyers because of its ethnic quality.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

A. Project Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance
B. Project Statement of Revenues, Expenses and Charges in Fund Balance.
C. Cash Flow Statement.