Responsible & Inclusive BALATAN Sea cucumber Enterprise

Responsible Inclusive Sea Cucumber Enterprise (RISE)

Win-win socio-ecological solutions

An integrated sandfish ocean production system is a science-based and environmentally sound mariculture technology that contributes to diversification of livelihood options for inclusive rural development.

THE PROBLEM

Coastal fishery resources are depleted and there are limited supplemental sources of income for small fisherfolks who are the poorest and most vulnerable sector. Sustainable marine aquaculture that will provide additional livelihood opportunities, business opportunities and improve fishery productivity has not been developed.

THE OPPORTUNITIES

Sandfish (*Holothuria scabra*) is a high value sea cucumber species in the luxury seafood market. There is a low supply and very high market demand for premium grade dried sandfish.

Sea ranching has been piloted with small fishers with the support of the local government.

Hatchery-produced juveniles are reared in ocean nursery systems on natural food and released in suitable sea ranch areas to grow to premium export grade sizes (> 400 g).

Sandfish culture production clusters will increase return on investments and generate diversified income streams from production to market.

Well-managed sea ranching areas also function as reproductive reserves that help rebuild depleted natural sandfish populations in adjacent areas that will benefit other fisherfolk.

WHAT WE NEED

Strategic partners who are interested in developing sustainable sandfish culture production clusters initially in Northern Palawan and Southeastern Mindanao.

Balatan - RISE provides sea ranch to market technical services for the production of premium export-grade sandfish products depending on the needs of clients.

DESCRIPTION OF BUSINESS

- Basic orientation and training on responsible ocean-based nursery and grow-out premium-grade sized sandfish.
- Customized sea ranch management technical support services for site assessment, sea ranch establishment, monitoring and scale-up to production clusters.
- Supply of quality juveniles for stocking ranch areas.
- Post-harvest support for proper processing and market linkages.

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