



## **MGA KAHINGIAN (DEMANDS) NG MGA MANGGAGAWANG-BUKID SA TUBUHAN AT MANGGAGAWA SA INDUSTRIYA NG ASUKAL AT BIOFUEL**

Napakahalaga ng papel ng ating mga manggagawang agrikultural at manggagawang-bukid sa tubuhan. Kami ang malaking katuwang ng mga magsasaka sa paglikha ng pagkain ng sambayanang Pilipino. Nag-eempleyo ng mahigit 600,000 manggagawa ang labing-siyam na lalawigan sa bansa na lumilikha ng produktong asukal at biofuel mula sa tubo. Mga limang milyong Pilipino ang umaasa sa kabuhayan sa mga tubuhan.

Kami ang lumilikha ng pagkain, subalit kami at ang aming pamilya ang walang makain at dumaranas ng matinding kagutuman at pagsasamantala. Dulot ito ng kawalan ng sariling lupang mabubungkal, monopolyo sa lupa ng mga panginoong maylupa at dayuhang kontrol at pag-aari ng mga multi-nasyunal at trans-nasyunal na korporasyon (MNC at TNC). Ang kawalan ng tunay na reporma sa lupa, at ang pagpapatupad ng kontra-mamamayang batas, programa at polisiya ng pamahalaan, tulad ng bogus na Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), ang maka-panginoong maylupa na Sugar Industry Development Act (SIDA) at pagsandig at pagpapailalim ng agrikultura ng bansa sa neoliberalismo at imperyalistang globalisasyon, o mga di-pantay na kasunduang pang-ekonomiya gaya ng GATT-WTO, APEC, AFTA at iba pa.

Pahirap din sa amin ang sistemang pakyaw kung saan ang mga manggagawang-bukid sa tubuhan ay kumikita lamang ng nasa Php 1,000 hanggang 1,500 sa loob ng labinlimang araw ng pagtatrabaho sa panahon ng kabyaw o *milling season*; habang nasa Php 200 hanggang 500 lamang kada kinsenas ang pinakamalaking sinasahod tuwing tiempo muerto (*dead season*) o *off-milling season*. Sa panahong ito ng matinding taggutom ay hindi namin natatamasa ang mga benepisyo mula sa Sugar Amelioration Program (SAP) upang kahit paano ay maibsan ang binabalikat na hirap.

Dagdag pang nagpapahirap sa mga manggagawang agrikultural ang nagaganap na militarisasyon sa kanayunan at paglabag sa karapatang tao, sa pangunguna ng AFP, PNP at private army at security guard ng mga panginoong maylupa, dambuhalang mga korporasyon, at iba pang mangangamkam.

Kung kaya, nagkakaisa kami na ihapag ang sumusunod na mga lehitimong panawagan para sa interes, kapakanan at kagalingan ng aming hanay at ng buong sambayanan. Ang mga ito ay pinagtibay sa ginawang Ikalawag Pambansang Pagtitipon ng mga Manggagawa sa Asukal (2<sup>nd</sup> National Sugar Workers Summit) sa DOLE Occupational Health and Safety Center, Quezon City, mula Agosto 30-31, 2016:

1. Ipatupad ang tunay na reporma sa lupa at pambansang industriyalisasyon. Ipamahagi ang lupa sa mga magsasaka, manggagawa sa agrikultura at manggagawang-bukid. Wakasan na ang monopolyo sa lupa ng mga panginoong maylupa at mga lokal at dayuhang agrikorporasyon sa bansa. Ibasura at itigil ang iba't ibang iskema na nagkakait sa karapatan sa lupa ng mga magbubukid gaya ng Stock Distribution Option (SDO), at mga Agribusiness Venture Agreement (AVA) tulad ng leaseback, contract growing, corporative scheme; sugar block farming; at rentahan o aryendo. Kamtin ang lupa at hustisya para sa mga manggagawang-bukid sa Hacienda Luisita at sa buong bansa.
2. Para sa kagalingan ng magbubukid at pag-unlad ng ekonomiya, isabatas at ipatupad ang Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (GARB) na isinumite bilang House Bill 555 ng Anakpawis Partylist at Makabayan bloc ngayong ika-17 Kongreso.
3. Ibasura ang liberalisasyon sa industriya ng asukal at agrikultura ng bansa na kaakibat ng deregulasyon, pribatisasyon at denasyunalisasyon o mga neoliberal na dikta ng imperyalistang globalisasyon. Ibaklas ang agrikultura ng bansa sa General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-World Trade Organization (GATT-WTO), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) at iba pang di-pantay na kasunduan sa ekonomya at kalakalan.
4. Itaas ang sahod ng mga manggagawa sa mga ilohan, planta, at manggagawang-bukid sa tubuhan. Itakwil ang sahod-alipin sa mga manggagawang agrikultural na dulot ng iskemang pakyaw, at iba pang anyo ng paglabag sa *mandated daily minimum wage* sa mga manggagawa sa agrikultura. Ipatupad ang pambansang minimum na sa sahod na Php 750 kada araw para sa mga manggagawa sa pribadong sektor, kasama na rito ang mga manggagawa sa asukal.

5. Itaguyod ang ligtas at makataong kondisyon sa paggawa at kaseguruhan sa trabaho. Itigil ang kontraktwalisasyon. Parusahan ang mga lumalabag sa karapatan ng mga manggagawa at mga kaso ng pagpapabaya sa kaligtasan at kalusugan ng mga manggagawa sa mga lugar ng trabaho.
6. Maagap na ayuda o tulong para sa mga manggagawang agrikultural at manggagawang-bukid sa tubuhan sa panahon ng tiempo muerto o *off-milling season*, at sa tuwing may mga sakuna at kalamidad.
7. Ibalik sa mga manggagawa sa tubuhan at ilohan ang Sugar Amelioration Fund (SAF). Direktang ipamahagi ang SAF sa mga benipisyaryo sa pamamagitan ng mga unyon, samahan, organisasyon o kooperatiba ng mga manggagawang agrikultural. Ituloy ang malawakang imbestigasyon sa istatus ng implementasyon ng Social Amelioration Program (SAP) at Social Amelioration and Welfare Program (SAWP) sa industriya ng asukal at biofuel. Itulak ang kabuuang awdit sa pondo ng mga ito at maging sa mga proyekto, istruktura o ari-arian na naipundar nang dahil sa SAP at SAWP.
8. Maglaan ng lupaing mapapagtanman ng pagkain para sa mga manggagawang agrikultural sa mga asyenda at plantasyon. Suportahan at kilalanin ang sama-samang bungkalan at mga inisyatiba ng mga magbubukid para sa seguridad sa pagkain.
9. Itigil ang *land-use* at *crop conversion* sa mga tubuhan, na para diumano sa mga “proyektong pangkaunlaran” at agresibong ekspansyon ng mga dambuhalang plantasyon na kontrolado ng mga dayuhang agrikorporasyong MNC at TNC. Ang mga ito ay nagdudulot ng marahas na pagpapalayas at pangangamkam, kagutuman, at pagkasira ng kalikasan sa mga komunidad ng magbubukid at manggagawa sa agrikultura.
10. Ipatupad ang pambansang industriyalisasyon at mga kongkretong hakbang sa pagpapaunlad ng industriya ng asukal at *biofuel* nang may malalim na pagsasaalang-alang sa kagalingan at kapakanan ng mga manggagawa sa industriya; sa pangangailangan sa konsumo ng mamamayang Pilipino; at sa pagpapaunlad ng iba pang lokal na industriya na nakadepende sa mga produktong mula sa tubo.
11. Itigil ang militarisasyon sa kanayunan, pampulitikang panunupil, pamamaslang at paglabag sa karapatang tao. Hustisya para sa mga biktima. Ibasura ang gawa-gawang kaso laban sa mga manggagawa at magbubukid. Karampatang bayad-pinsala sa mga sinirang pananim at ari-arian ng mga biktima. Palayain ang lahat ng bilanggong pulitikal.
12. Suportahan ang usapang pangkapayapaan sa pagitan ng Gobyerno ng Republika ng Pilipinas at Pambansa-Demokratikong Prente ng Pilipinas (GPH-NDFP peace talks) lalo na hinggil sa pagtalakay at pagkakasundo sa kinakailangang mga sosyo-ekonomikong reporma gaya ng tunay na reporma sa lupa at pambansang industriyalisasyon. Ang malalim na pagtalakay at pagresolba sa mga ugat ng armadong tunggalian ang siyang tutugon sa hinaing ng mamamayang naghihimagsik at magdudulot ng makatarungan at pangmatalagang kapayapaan sa ating bayan.

Nilagdaan ng mga kinatawan ng mga unyon, pederasyon, asosasyon at organisasyon ng mga manggagawang-bukid sa tubuhan at mga manggagawa sa mga ilohan at planta ng asukal at bioethanol.

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Negros Island

KAISAHAN – Batangas

Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang-Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA)

UMA-Isabela, Cagayan Valley

Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Davao del Sur (NAMADDS)

OGYON-Bukidnon



## SUGAR WORKERS' DEMANDS

### Sugar Industry Overview

#### Sugar Industry Crop Year 2011-2012\*

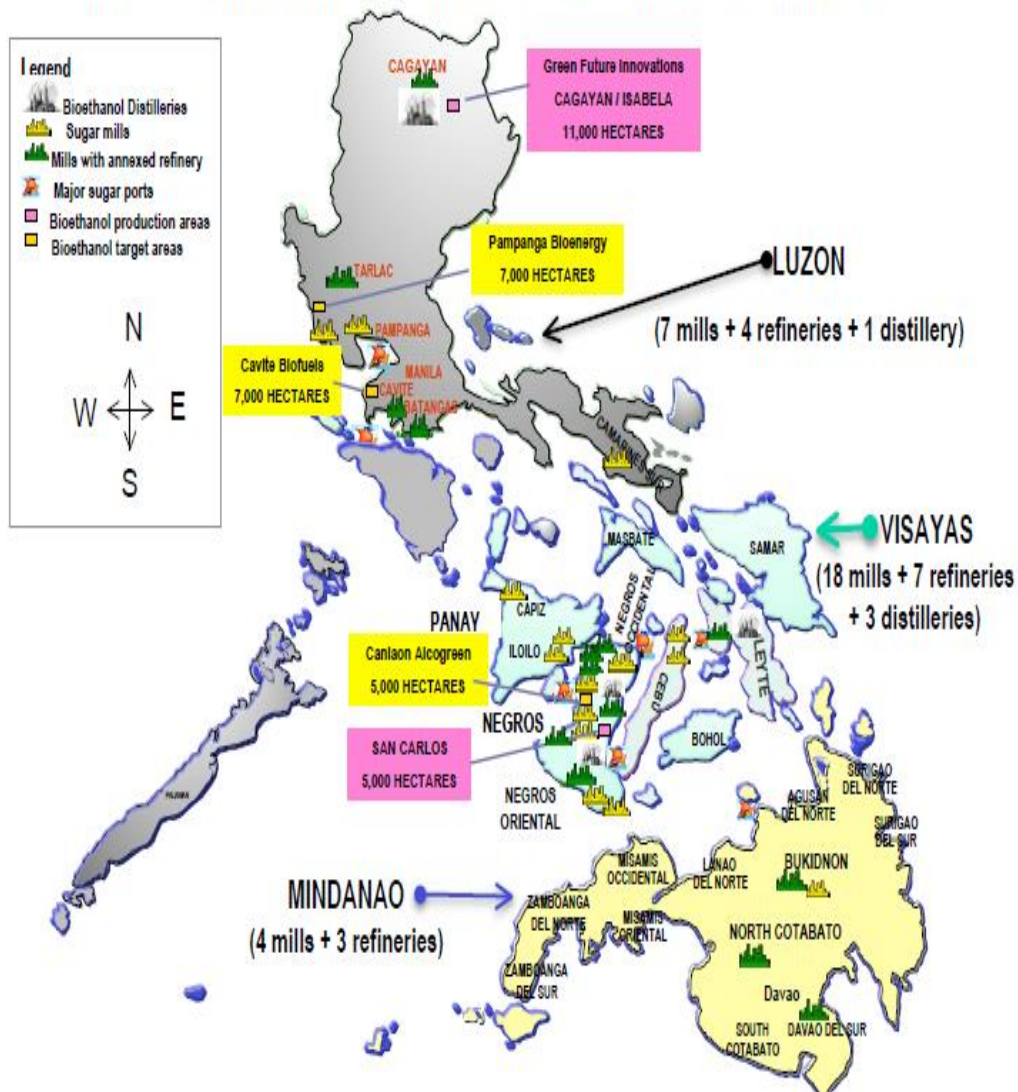
Source: Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA)

Industry Contribution to PHL economy	P70B annually
Area Planted	422,500 Hectares
No. Farmers**	62,000
No. of Operating Sugar Mills	29
-Total Milling Capacity	185,000 Tons Cane / Day
No. of Operating Sugar Refineries	14
-Total Refining Capacity	8,000 MT/Day
No. of Bioethanol Distilleries	4
-Total Annual Rated Capacity	133 million liters

\* Note that there is no mention of *sugar workers* statistics in this overview. There are **600,000 workers** in the sugar industry according to the SRA.

\*\* Farmers = sugar planters. Data does not reflect if they contribute to productive labor.

### MAP OF PHILIPPINE SUGAR MILLS & BIOETHANOL DISTILLERIES



## On LAND REFORM

- Implement genuine land reform and national industrialization. End land monopoly of big landlords and giant local and foreign agrcorporations. Junk the Stock Distribution Option (SDO) scheme, and Agribusiness Venture Arrangements (AVAs) such as leaseback, contract growing, corporative scheme; sugar block farming; and the illicit lease scheme called “aryendo.” Land and justice for farmworkers in Hacienda Luisita and the rest of the country.
- Support the enactment and implementation of the **Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (GARB)**, filed as House Bill 555 by Anakpawis Partylist and the Makabayan bloc in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress.

### Agrarian Cases in Negros Island

Land monopoly and the traditional reign of hacienderos is still very much pronounced in the Negros Island Region, where around 48% of Philippine sugarcane is produced. Aside from the prominent Hacienda Luisita case, the situation of thousands of sugar farmworkers in Negros prove that the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) was a complete sham. The cases are too many to mention.

Concerned institutions must look into all cases that clearly show that CARP was nothing but a failed, bloody and costly pro-landlord program. Sugar workers still push for a genuine program for land reform and national industrialization that may be implemented through the adoption of a true pro-peasant policy, enactment of the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill (GARB), and exhaustive socio-economic reforms.

In Negros, it is reported that only 40% of the land reform target was implemented. Agrarian reform beneficiaries (ARBs) may have received their certificates of land ownership award (CLOA) but actual installation or physical land distribution remains to be seen. There is a need to investigate the snail-paced land acquisition and distribution (LAD) processing by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) on one hand, and the speedy cancellation of CLOAs on the other; review and take action on numerous cases of erroneous Notices of Coverage (NOCs), “chop-chop titles,” dummy beneficiaries and other schemes by landlords to evade land reform coverage, such as those openly promoted by CARP and the DAR – the SDO scheme (revoked in Hacienda Luisita but still implemented in Negros haciendas) and various AVAs like the notorious “corporative scheme” implemented by Eduardo “Danding” Cojuangco, Jr in his Negros landholdings.

### **SDO Areas in Negros**

Source: *Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP)*

Hacienda / Corporation	Location	Landlord / Management	Area in has.	No. of “beneficiaries”
Archie Fishpond, Inc.,	Hda. Pag-asa, Brgy. Luna, Cadiz City	Arsenio Al. Acuna Agricultural Corp.	102	155
Archie Al. Acuna Agricultural Corp.,	Hda. Dau, Brgy. Burgos, Cadiz City	Arsenio Al. Acuna Agricultural Corp.	108	93
Elenita Agricultural Dev’t Corp.	Hda. Elenita, Brgy. Burgos, Cadiz City	Arsenio Al. Acuna Agricultural Corp.	113	82
Ma. Clara Marine Ventures, Inc.,	Brgy. Calumanggan, Bago City	Arsenio Al. Acuna Agricultural Corp.	58	58
Palma Kabankalan Agricultural Corp.,	Hda. Palma, Ilog	Arsenio Al. Acuna Agricultural Corp.	219	113
Tabigue Marine Ventures, Inc.	Hda. Tabigue, Brgy. Tabigue, EB Magalona	Arsenio Al. Acuna Agricultural Corp.	50	64
Ledesma Hermanos Agricultural Corp.,	Hda. Fortuna, Brgy. Buluungan, San Carlos	Julio A. Ledesma	1,024	747
Negros Industrial By-Products and Processes, Inc.,	Hda. Najalin, Brgy. Nagasi, La Carlota	Rodulph E. Jularbal and Joaquin G. Teves	438	273
SVJ Farms, Inc.,	Hda. Anita Brgy. Concepcion, Talisay	Ma. Regina M. Villanueva	170	144
Wuthrich Hermanos, Inc.	Hda. Sto Tomas, Brgy. Buenavista, Calatrava	Otto Weber Jr.	174	177
<b>Sub – Total</b>			<b>2,456</b>	<b>1,906</b>
SyCip Plantation, Inc.	Negros Oriental	Teves Family	685	

## Aryendo

The *aryendo* – a land lease scheme with probable roots dating back to the Spanish colonial period – reemerged as a phenomenon at the height of CARP implementation, especially in vast sugar landholdings in Negros, Southern Tagalog, Central Luzon and Bukidnon. For genuine land reform to be implemented, the *aryendo* scheme must be put to a stop.

In Negros, the *aryendo* works as a means to evade CARP coverage, to disperse the employment and therefore divide the ranks of sugar farmworkers who are clamoring for land reform. Big landholdings or haciendas are subdivided by the old landlords and leased to new *aryendadors* or sugar planters who usually belong also to the landlord class, and new players like small investors and so-called “financiers.” The usual rate for the lease in Negros is at Php 15,000 to 20,000 per hectare per year in low-lying areas, while small planters usually pay Php 8,000 per hectare per year in upland areas. In addition, the former “regular hacienda workers” or *dumaan* now endure even harsher conditions under the unstable *aryendo* set-up.

In Batangas, the rate is reported to be at Php 28,000 per hectare per year. In Calaca town, 110 hectares of sugarcane plantation was leased to 3 other big planters, Marasigan, Toreja and Castillo. In Nasugbu town, prominent *aryendadors* are Samonte, Ruben Rodriguez, Andal, Sumague and others. The *aryendo* in Batangas and Negros also covers so-called “agrarian reform communities” or ARCs.

The *aryendo* in these supposed “land reform” areas is an illicit leaseback scheme where cash-strapped beneficiaries fall victim to swindle and coercion. The aim is to reconcentrate the farmlots purportedly distributed to ARBs, back to the effective control of old and new landlords, usually through brokers and dummy financiers. In such areas like Bukidnon and Negros, ARBs who cannot pay the high cost of land amortization are forced to enter into these agreements. The rate in Bukidnon is from Php 5,000 (Lobregat) to 25,000 (Floirendo) per hectare per year. The rate is usually lower than the yearly amortization required by DAR, therefore defeating the purpose of leasing out the land in order to pay for arrears. There are cases in Bukidnon where the *aryendadors* are also giant plantation owners or partners like Yaba who is in connivance with local and foreign agrcorporations who wish to convert sugar areas into banana, pineapple and other export crop plantations.

Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac has the most peculiar case of *aryendo*. Even before the Supreme Court decision for total land distribution in 2012, the Cojuangco-Aquinos already unleashed this systematic leaseback scheme through the Luisita Estate Management (LEM) or Cojuangco dummies composed of loyal farm managers, supervisors and business partners. The *aryendo* was institutionalized by LEM through divisive tactics, disinformation and legal harassment and eviction warnings, primarily to thwart the flourishing *bungkalan* or land cultivation initiative that organized farmworkers started during the Hacienda Luisita strike in 2005. When the *aryendo* was unleashed by the Cojuangcos around 2008, the rate was at a measly Php 1,000 per hectare per year, usually targetting farmworkers turned first time farmers who were discouraged by bad palay harvests and debts.

The implementation of fake land distribution by BS Aquino’s DAR in 2013 strongly complemented and reinforced the *aryendo*. DAR personnel were reported to be in active connivance with Cojuangco-Aquino financier dummies in implementing this evil scheme. Beneficiaries were forced to enter into long-term transactions of 3-10 years for a minimum of Php 7,000 per .66 hectare, the size of the farmlot allocated by DAR. Farmlots were already leased even before the “installation process,” because the photocopies of land reform documents hastily awarded to beneficiaries by DAR conveniently served as “collateral.” Beneficiaries saw it impractical to till the awarded farmlots due to dislocation caused by the *tambiolo*, uncertain amortization requirements, and state violence unleashed against farmers who dared question the fake distribution process. At one time, a thick pile of CLOAs were reportedly gathered and displayed before churchgoers by landlord Jose “Peping” Cojuangco, Jr, where he literally preached that the farmworkers are “lazy, irresponsible and do not really want the land.” The DAR’s ironic warning that the *aryendo* will lead to the wholesale disqualification of beneficiaries from land reform, has now allegedly prompted certain beneficiaries to enter into the sale of farmlots, also through illicit means.

The current report that around 97% of Hacienda Luisita is already “distributed” is refuted by the fact that *aryendadors* now lord over Luisita, after being coddled by the previous BS Aquino regime and its minions at the DAR. The 4,099 hectares put under BS Aquino’s *tambiolo* land reform are now controlled by the likes of Virginia Torres (now deceased), Arsenio Valentino, Villanueva, Chua, Tan and the “new owners” of the CAT, Fernando Cojuangco and Martin Lorenzo.

## Other Agrarian Cases

*Source: 2016 Sugar Workers Summit workshop reports*

### *Isabela*

Massive contract-growing scheme being imposed in several towns to replace land lease scheme of bio-ethanol giant Green Future Innovations – Ecofuel Land Development Inc. Farmers relegated to being mere farmworkers in their own lands.

## **Panay**

Big landholdings still without agrarian reform coverage:

- Palmares: 1,000+ has.
- Locsin: 1,800 has. + other properties in different areas
- Lopez: 194 has. in San Dionisio town, with 1 lot reinstalled w/ 36 ARBs

## **Batangas**

Big landholdings with agrarian reform coverage disputes:

- Hacienda Looc
- Hacienda Roxas: exemption, disqualification, illegal conversion, ejectment, cancellation of CLOAs, landgrabbing
- Hacienda Puyat: CLOA cancellation, sugar block farm implementation, landgrabbing

## **Bukidnon**

Disputes and big landholdings without agrarian reform coverage:

- Cases of CLOA awards without physical land distribution; dispute among beneficiaries
- Family Zubiri: 2,000 has. sugar plantation
- Danding Cojuangco: 20,000 has. ranch, sugar plantation
- Busco (sugar mill): controls 20,000 has. c/o Julio Sy

## **Land Reform Demands of Hacienda Luisita farmworkers**

*Source: Alyansa ng mga Manggagawang Bukid sa Asyenda Luisita (AMBALA) petition to DAR Sec. Rafael Mariano*

- Nullify the fake land distribution process implemented by the BS Aquino regime through the DAR. Aquino's 'tambiolong land reform' brought only conflict and confusion among beneficiaries and residents, and paved the way for the immediate reconcentration of land back to the landlords through the illicit sale and lease ("aryendo") of supposedly awarded farmlots.
- Ensure the Supreme Court (SC)-mandated audit of Hacienda Luisita, Inc., (HLI) and the return of the Php 1.33 billion share of land sale proceeds, or Cojuangco-Aquinos debt to farmworkers.
- Implement the SC decision for total land distribution or complete land reform in all agricultural areas of Hacienda Luisita. Cover more than 1,000 hectares still under the name of various corporate avatars or firms of the Cojuangco-Aquinos such as TADECO, Luisita Realty, Luisita Land, Central Azucarera de Tarlac, etc.
- Revoke the 1996 conversion order granted by DAR to HLI for a 500-hectare property now controlled by RCBC, LIPCO and LRC. Investigate the anomalous public-private partnership (PPP) solar power plant project within this area approved and entered into by ex-Pres. BS Aquino through the Department of Energy (DoE), and PetroGreen, a sister-company of RCBC

## ***On GOVERNMENT POLICY ON THE SUGAR & BIOFUEL INDUSTRY***

- *Junk liberalization in the sugarcane industry and agriculture, which is complemented by deregulation, privatization, denationalization or neoliberal dictates of imperialist globalization. Take Philippine agriculture out of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade-World Trade Organization (GATT-WTO), Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) and other onerous economic pacts and trade blocs.*
- *Implement national industrialization and concrete steps to develop the sugar and biofuel industry with thoughtful consideration and deep regard for the welfare and interests of workers; for the domestic consumption and the needs of the Filipino people; and for the development of other relevant local industries that are dependent on sugarcane produce.*

## **Sugar and Globalization**

*Source: Excerpts from IBON Foundation input during the Sugar Workers Summit, presented by Rosario Bella Guzman*

Sugar is one of the industries put under trade liberalization by the World Trade Organization (WTO) – this aims to remove “preferential treatments” and subject sugar to open trade.

In the US, the 2008 Farm Bill supports the local production of beet and sugarcane through restrictions in sugar imports. This utilizes tariff rate quota and enjoys a subsidy of US\$4 billion.

In the European Union, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) imposes production quotas; high local prices and export subsidies for local producers; and import tariffs to limit competition. This results to overproduction. Sugar dumped by the

EU (sold lower than the actual cost of local production) to the world market causes world prices to drop. The WTO removed its preferential treatment to the ACP (Africa, Caribbean, Pacific) in 2006.

Prices under the US tariff rate quota system are often higher than world market prices.

Sugar will enter the 10<sup>th</sup> and final year of the Minimum Access Volume (MAV) of 64,050 MT of raw sugar, with tariff rates of 50 percent. The tariff rate for those exceeding the MAV, is at 65 percent. Sugar tariffs are among the highest in agricultural trade. The Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariffs are unchanged since 2005.

According to deadlines set by the WTO, the EU will remove its production quotas and its minimum payments to sugar-beet farmers by October 2017, which means that EU sugar will soon flood the global market. Meanwhile, the US maintains its subsidies for local production, production quotas and import taxes.

There is also the so-called “ASEAN integration” which removes tariffs between Southeast Asian nations by 2015. Thailand is next to Brazil as top sugar exporter, and it provides generous subsidies to its local producers – an issue that Brazil already brought up before the WTO. Compared to the Philippines, which only has 60 ton canes per hectare productivity – Thailand has 80 ton canes per hectare; Philippine sugar mills have an average of 60% capacity – Thailand has 95%; Haulage is 25-30% of the operating cost in the Philippines – it is 0% in Thailand. Thai sugar farms are mechanized and enjoy outstanding infrastructure.

The problem is neoliberalism itself as illustrated by the onslaught of WTO and AFTA. But Philippine policy is in effect saying that we fight the evil of neoliberalism with the implementation of the same destructive neoliberal impositions now found in the provisions of the Sugarcane Industry Development Act (SIDA), the SRA’s Sugarcane Industry Roadmap, and the Biofuels Law.

Sugar industry players view land reform as a big hindrance, even with CARP retention limits or integration of Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) to form Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) or sugar block farms. This is likewise promoted by the Sugar Industry Roadmap 2020.

The low “collateral value” of land planted to sugarcane is also viewed as a hindrance to the development of the industry. Neoliberal policies are pushed to find market value for land that is equal to private sector ownership. The construction of mills, roads, bridges and other infrastructure for the sugar industry must also be competitive – public funds are being allocated for the private sector to amass profits. The 2007 Biofuels Law also envisioned to combine gas and diesel to biofuels – but only 25% of the ethanol comes from local production, meaning that the country continues to be dependent on imported ethanol from US, Brazil, Thailand, at India.

### ***On WAGES, BENEFITS, WORKING CONDITIONS AND JOB SECURITY***

- *Increase the wages of sugar farmworkers and workers in mills and processing plants. Do away with slave wages brought about by the pakyaw (group rate or piece-rate) scheme, and other violations of the mandated daily ‘minimum wage’ for agricultural workers. Implement a national minimum wage of Php 750 a day for workers in the private sector including sugar workers.*
- *Promote safe and humane working conditions and job security. End contractualization. Punish those who violate workers’ rights (i.e. right to organize and form unions) and occupational safety and health standards.*
- *Provide immediate aid and relief for agricultural workers and farmworkers during tiempo muerto or off-milling season, and during disasters and calamities.*
- *Return social amelioration funds (SAF) to sugar workers. Directly distribute the SAF to its rightful beneficiaries through the unions, associations, organizations or cooperatives of agricultural workers. Continue the extensive investigation of the status of implementation of the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) and Social Amelioration and Welfare Program (SAWP) in the sugar and biofuel industry. Push for the complete audit of funds, along with the full inventory of projects, infrastructure and property acquired through the SAP and SAWP.*

### **Slave-like Wages and Miserable Working Conditions**

Agricultural workers’ wages, especially in traditional sugar areas such as Negros, remain in the lowest, slave-like levels despite profits amassed and vulgar opulence displayed by hacienderos. Historically, the blood and sweat of sugar farmworkers fueled the economic and political influence of the biggest landlord clans. The political clout and state power relished by these names came from the hard toil of sugar workers – Cojuangco, Aquino, Roxas, Araneta, Benedicto, Zubiri, Ledesma, Torres and others.

According to government data, agricultural workers endure the lowest wage rates among workers in every region. The rates, from Php 235 (Eastern Visayas) to Php 334 (Central Luzon) for farm workers, and Php 262 to 364 for mill workers,

are but a sorry fraction of the living wage of P1,096 – not even half the amount an average Filipino family needs for their daily subsistence, as prescribed by a study of the IBON Foundation.

The minimum government standards, however, are blatantly violated with the domination of the *pakyaw* or group rate / piece-rate wage scheme in sugar farm operations. In Isabela, there is a reported rate of Php 13 a day, while computations from the *pakyaw* rates in Negros, Batangas and Mindanao show that workers are paid as low as Php 16 a day for certain tasks. In Negros and Batangas, the oppressive *pakyaw* is recognized by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), thereby legitimizing slave-like wage rates for sugar farmworkers. Sugar farmworkers take home an average of Php 1,000 to 1,500 for 15 days work during the *kabyaw* or milling season; while those who get “budgeted work” from hacienda management for performing non-productive tasks – like *ronda* (nightwatch) and cutting grass – during *tiempo muerto* (dead season) or off-milling season take home a maximum of only Php 200 to 500 every 15 days.

These wage rates do not reflect the additional burden, exploitation and dismal conditions suffered by farmworkers – especially the *sakada* or migrant sugar workers – in the hands of despotic landlords, the supervisors or *enkargado*, the lead men or *kabo* and *kapatas* and the contractors or *kontratistas*. They usually deduct wages for tithing, donations, favors and their “cut” for recruiting migrant workers. Other expenses, such as transportation to the work place as reported in Isabela, are also deducted from wages. The *sakadas* still endure subhuman working and living conditions, prompting contractors to hide them from labor officials and the media. Particularly in Isabela where cane production is relatively new, the know-how and efficiency of long-time sugar workers from Tarlac, Negros and even from Mindanao became quite in demand at first. The migrant sugar workers did not have potable water or even the miserable workers’ barracks, where generations of sugar workers in Negros and Luzon used to huddle like rats. There is a case in Isabela where sleeping workers were run over by a truck when they sought temporary shelter underneath the said vehicle. Workers are also transported to cane farms during ungodly hours and made to wait for work under the rain or scorching heat.

Workers in the traditional hacienda set-up also endure usurious charges for basic consumer goods such as rice, canned goods and soap from the management or “cooperative” store. This cycle of debt prevents workers from taking home any cash – many hacienda laborers work only to pay off their debts. Discrimination, or lower wage rates for female workers and the *sakada* is also reported, especially in upland areas of Bukidnon and Negros. The problem of child labor, prevalent in haciendas and among the *sakada*, is the result of the miserable situation of working parents.

This situation is further aggravated by the annual off-milling season or *tiempo muerto*, when work in sugar areas become scarce or completely absent. This crop year, *tiempo muerto* was made even worse by drought caused by the El Niño phenomenon. Isabela, Negros Island, North Cotabato, Davao del Sur and Bukidnon are among the sugar areas that declared a state of calamity. Sugar workers and their dependents still need immediate food aid until milling season starts in as late as December to January 2017 in drought-hit areas in Bukidnon.

### Latest Wage Rates in Sugarcane Areas in Philippine Peso (Php)

Source: DOLE National Wages and Productivity Commission (<http://www.nwpc.dole.gov.ph>)

Area	Wage Order / Effectivity	Non-Agri (Mill)	Plantation	Non-plantation
Region II, Cagayan Valley, Isabela Cagayan	Wage Order No. RTWPBII-17 May 14, 2016	300	280.00	
Region III, Central Luzon, Tarlac, Pampanga	Wage Order No. RBIII-19 January 1, 2016	357 / 364	334	318
Region IV-A, CALABARZON, Batangas	Wage Order No. IVA-17 July 1, 2016	356.50	331.50	311.50
Region VI, Western Visayas, Panay, Negros Occidental	Wage Order No. RBVI-22 May 2, 2015	298.50	266.50	256.50
Region VII, Central Visayas, Cebu, Negros Oriental	Wage Order No. ROVII-19 October 10, 2015	310	303 (Sugar areas in Cebu cities)	290 (Sugar areas in Cebu towns, & whole of Negros Oriental)
REGION VIII, Eastern Visayas, Leyte	Wage Order No. RB VIII-18 March 30, 2015	262	235	
REGION X, Northern Mindanao, Bukidnon	Wage Order No. RX-18 July 03, 2015	313	301	
REGION XI, Davao Region, Davao del Sur	Wage Order No. RTWPB-XI-18 December 1, 2014	317	307.00	
REGION XII, SOCCSKSARGEN, Cotabato	Wage Order No. RB XII-18 August 1, 2014	275	257	



**Case Study: Pakyaw rates in Davao del Sur\***

*From 2016 Sugar Workers Summit workshop report*

Average labor cost per hectare = **Php 30,000**

Minimum net income of planter per hectare = **Php 80,000**

If wages are doubled, planters will still earn a minimum of Php 20,000 per hectare

*\* The rates are almost similar to current rates in Batangas, Bukidnon and Negros*

Task	Wage Rate	Manpower required	Average Time to finish task	Daily Average Wage
Hornal	P1,500-2000 / ha.	5 tao	2 araw	
Pananaad / pagkakarga (loading)	P500 / laksa, 4-5 laksa*			
Diskarga (unloading)	P100 / laksa x 5 laksa	5 tao	3-4 hrs	
Pag-aalis ng talopak	P200 / laksa x 5 laksa	5 tao	2-3 days	
Bubod	P350 / laksa x 5 laksa	5 tao	4 days	P16 / day
Araro/tabon	P1500 / ha.	3 tao	1-2 days	
Tabon ng tao	P300/has	3 tao	½ day	
Paghahanda ng pagtitimplahan ng spray-herbicide (lgib)	P7/container x 33 container			
Pag-spray ng herbicide	P250/drum x 3 drums	1 tao	4-5 days	P226/day
Hulip ( loading ) bubod, alis ng talopak at tabon	P2500 / laksa	3 tao	5-6 days	P138 / day
Fertilizer application	P 1500 / ha.	5 tao	1 araw	
Sampay	P1500 / ha.	1 tao	3 days	
Halabas	P1500 / ha.	1 tao	4 days	
Tastas/sampay	P1500-P2000 / ha.	1 tao	4 days	
Halabas	P1500/ha.	5 tao	4-5 days	P75
Paglilinis sa tabihan	P1000/ha.	1 tao	5 araw	
Tapas, karga	P118-200/ tons x 10 tons	8 tao	1-2 day	
Loading Allowance	P300/load	8 tao		
Paghahakot kung hindi mapasok ng truck-	P3/file x 500 file/ truck, ave 70 tons/ ha.= 3,500 files x P3 = P 10,500	8 tao	3-4 weeks	

**\*laksa = 10,000 pieces**

**Case Study: Pakyaw rates in Hacienda Cumabat, Silay City, Negros Occidental (60+ hectare farm)**

*Source: 2016 University of the Philippines (UP) Manila Development Studies practicum "Team Negros"*

Average Wages (4 respondents): Php 1,980 for 15 days work

Average Take Home Pay of respondents: Php 450 (with debts deducted)

Task	Wage Rate	Manpower Needed	Average Time to Finish Task	Average Daily wage (8 hrs)
Karga	P60/tonelada (pakyaw)	3 tao	6 oras kada araw	P 26.66
	P60/hectare (pakyaw) x 4 hectares	9 tao	1 araw	
Tapas Karga	P300/tao (arawan) 20 tonelada	10 tao	4 oras	P 300
	P3000 kinsenas (pakyaw) 1 truck	8 tao	1 araw	
Nagdadamo	P1589 kada ektarya (pakyaw)	15 tao	3 oras	P 282.48
	P120/tao (kada ektarya) (pakyaw)	20+ tao	3 oras	P 16

Pamatdan	P300-400/tao (kada laksa) (pakyaw)	1 tao	2 days	P150-200
	P587 kada laksa (pakyaw)	15 tao	1/2 araw	P 78.26
Nagtatanim	P1800 kada 3 laksa (pakyaw)	12 tao	1/2 araw	P 300

### Case Study: Pakyaw rates in Hacienda San Antonio, Escalante City, Negros Occidental (70 hectares)

Source: 2016 UP Manila Development Studies practicum "Team Negros"

Average Wages (10 respondents): Php 1,866.67 for 15 days work  
Take Home Pay of respondents: Zero or negative (debts deducted)

Task	Wage Rate	Manpower required	Average Time to finish task	Daily Average Wage (8 hrs)
nagtatanim	P600 kada laksa (pakyaw)	30 tao	1 araw	P 140
nag-aabono	P80 kada sako (pakyaw) x 20 bags	30 tao	3 oras	P 142.22
nagdadamo	P2,000 kada ektarya (pakyaw)	30 tao	4 oras	P 133.33
karga tapas	P170 kada tonelada (pakyaw)	10 tao	1 araw	
pamatdan	P500 kada laksa (pakyaw)	30 tao	Depende sa bilis	P 16.66

### Workers' Wages at Victorias Milling Corporation (VMC), Victorias City, Negros Occidental\*

Source: 2016 UP Manila Development Studies practicum "Team Negros"

\* Workers are now contracted through an agency, Global Skill Provider

	Daily Wage
Accounting/Records	P330
Dump Truck Driver	P335
Repair and Maintenance	P385
Repair and Maintenance	P404

### Benefits and Job Security

The mechanisms for benefits among "regular hacienda workers" – or the *dumaan*, as they are called in Negros – such as the Social Security System (SSS), housing and healthcare are usually reflected in their payslips. Wages are further reduced due to these contribution deductions. But over the years, it is observed that only a very small percentage of the sugar workforce can actually avail of these benefits. Most farm workers' contributions are deliberately withheld by landlord-employers. These unremitted contributions are only discovered by the workers once they retire – those who have toiled for decades are told that their contributions are not enough for them to avail of the guaranteed pension. Those who meet accidents in the workplace also discover that they cannot avail of loans or any benefits due to insufficient contributions. Many do not get any form of compensation if accidents or deaths occur outside of work.

Only 5% of farmworkers in Negros can actually avail of their SSS benefits, according to NFSW. Anomalies and corruption of SSS contributions are also reported in Hacienda Luisita where the Cojuangcos allegedly failed to remit sugar workers' contributions from 1985-1990. The SSS's poor collection efficiency of only 40% must be investigated, especially in relation to the plight of sugar workers across the country.

Generally, many sugar farmworkers beholden to landlords or still trapped in the feudal world of the hacienda – are yet to grasp the concept of these benefits as workers' rights. Their rights to housing, education, sick and maternity leaves, overtime pay, wage differentials and bonuses, are dangled by landlords and millers as favors and "*utang na loob*" (debt of gratitude) that reinforce the feudal patronage system. Benefits mandated by law are generally unheard of – only unionized workers dare to struggle to avail of rightful remuneration and money claims. There are so many cases where farmworkers are outrightly terminated and threatened by management once they assert their rights – more so when farm workers begin to completely question the feudal reign of landlords and clamor for land reform.

The rights of sugar farmworkers have been undermined further by the spread of the *aryendo* system. The ranks of those who used to be regular workers in haciendas are dispersed to different planters who have complete disregard for decent wages, rights and benefits. In many cases, those who used to be regular workers are no longer hired in favor of even cheaper labor brought in by the *aryendador*. In the *aryendo* set-up in so called land reform areas, the ARBs who lease out their land lose everything – they have no say in production, and they are no longer hired by *aryendadors* even as docile farmhands.

Meanwhile, more and more sugar mill workers encounter retrenchment and contractualization. Most are forced to put up with reduced or lost benefits and anomalies in their separation pay. In some mills, as reported in the country’s largest sugar mill, Victorias Milling Corporation (VMC), agency or contractual hiring is now the norm, meaning workers no longer enjoy the same benefits – as limited as these may be – as those directly hired by the company. There is also heightened repression and threats of eviction for workers who used to possess housing benefits within the VMC compound, now that they are only hired through agencies, or have completely lost their tenure.

In May 2015, the new management of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT), under businessman Martin Lorenzo, imposed massive retrenchment or forced termination of all of its workers. Some long-time workers opted to go along with their early and forced “retirement,” but all the young workers who have since been rehired by CAT are now contractuales.

**SAP and SAWP**

With the Social Amelioration Program (SAP) in the sugar and biofuel industries, it is as if government is conceding to the bitter reality of dismal working conditions and slave-like wages in sugar areas. The SAP, according to the DOLE is “*a production sharing scheme instituted in the sugar and biofuels industries.. (that) strengthens the rights of sugar and biofuels workers to their just share in the fruits of production by augmenting their incomes and institutionalizing the mechanism.. to enable the workers and their families to enjoy decent living. The components of these programs include cash bonus distribution, maternity benefit, death benefit and socio-economic projects.*”

The first program was enacted in Negros in 1952 as RA 809, while the so-called “Marcos bonus” was institutionalized in the 1970s, with a series of memos and decrees by Marcos and the creation of the Sugar Industry Foundation, Inc. (SIFI) in 1971. The current law implementing the SAP for the sugar industry, RA 6982, was enacted by a sugar empress, Pres. Corazon Aquino, in 1991, while the Social Amelioration and Welfare Program (SAWP) for the biofuel industry was institutionalized through Pres. Gloria Arroyo’s Biofuels Act in 2006.

As with the usual benefits that workers are entitled to under law, most sugar workers are not even aware of the bonuses, benefits and projects under the SAP and SAWP. While mill workers get yearly sugar amelioration bonuses as high as Php 12,000, the bonuses for farmworkers are way too low – with an average of Php 200 but can go as low as Php 2.00, according to NFSW members interviewed for a recent study by UP Manila students. Some do not even bother to claim their share. In Bukidnon, OGYON reports that farm workers do not receive amelioration bonuses, instead the employers merely organize outings or Christmas parties. In Batangas, KAISAHAN reports that the cash bonus funds (CBF) are withheld by millers and planters and never reach the farm workers, especially since 80% of those who perform the heaviest tasks are *sakada* or migrant sugar workers.

There is overwhelming evidence, coming from the local unions and associations, and the government itself, through the Commission on Audit (COA), that corruption and anomalies are rampant in SAP implementation. The latest data from the DOLE-BWSC says that a total of **Php 606 million** in unclaimed and undistributed CBF since 1991 are still unliquidated. The total figure of **Php 4.689 billion** worth of CBF supposedly distributed to sugar workers also raises questions since these are validated only by “special payrolls” accomplished by millers and planters who have sole discretion over the handling of the fund.

For the SAWP program, the COA reported that the BWSC received Php 2.4 million for the socio-economic program related fund (20% of lien) from bio-ethanol producers in 2014, meaning that around Php 12.2 million was available for CBF distribution to workers, both in the cane fields and distilleries that year. UMA-Isabela reports that only the supervisors, guards, aides, technicians, drivers, welders and plant operators received cash bonuses from SAWP – but only for that sole crop year. Other workers were just told that they are not entitled to the bonus. No other yearly bonus was ever released to workers since bioethanol production started in the area, according to reports.

Organized sugar workers see the SAP as a mere palliative program which cannot solve the roots of hunger and poverty in the haciendas and sugar areas – it is in fact used to reinforce the feudal patronage system. There are reports that local DOLE officials, and miller and planters associations flaunt SAP projects as their own “goodwill” to workers, or utilize property and infrastructure as their personal facilities. But in uncovering the loopholes and irregularities of this flawed government program, sugar workers are all the more motivated to strengthen their ranks to point out the main, essential issues and push for exhaustive socio-economic reforms.

**Status of Cash Bonus Program Implementation as of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2016**

Source: DOLE-BWSC

		<b>1991-1992 To 2003-2004</b>	<b>2004-2005 to 2015-2016</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>A</b>	Amount of CBF (cash bonus fund) remitted to bank account	2,292,583,730.96	3,103,248,352.82	5,395,832,083.78
<b>B</b>	Amount of CBF released	2,226,325,374.41	2,803,630,606.07	5,029,955,980.48

<b>C</b>	Amount of UNCLAIMED CBF <b>C = (A-B)</b>	66,258,356.55	299,617,746.75	365,876,103.30
<b>D</b>	UNCLAIMED CBF remitted to DOLE – Regional Office (RO)	50,991,335.09	39,739,973.87	90,731,328.96
<b>E</b>	<b>Amount of CBF distributed</b>	<b>2,162,390,922.97</b>	<b>2,527,103,094.26</b>	<b>4,689,494,017.23</b>
<b>F</b>	<b>Number of Workers Benefitted</b>	<b>8,655,568</b>	<b>8,107,596</b>	<b>16,763,164*</b>
<b>G</b>	UNDISTRIBUTED / UNLIQUIDATED CBF <b>G = (D – E)</b>	63,934,451.44	276,527,511.81	340,461,963.25
<b>H</b>	UNDISTRIBUTED / UNLIQUIDATED CBF remitted to DOLE- RO	5,234,120.30	4,231,340.83	9,465,461.13
<b>I</b>	Total UNCLAIMED & UNDISTRICTED / UNLIQUIDATED CBF <b>I = (C-G)</b>	<b>130,192,807.99</b>	<b>576,145,258.56</b>	<b>706,338,066.55</b>
<b>J</b>	TOTAL UCBF REMITTED TO DOLE-RO <b>J = (D+H)</b>	56,225,475.39	43,971,314.70	100,196,790.09
<b>K</b>	Amount of UCBF still for liquidation by mills, planters associations and planter-members <b>K = (C+D) + (G+H)</b>	<b>73,967,332.60</b>	<b>532,173,943.86</b>	<b>606,141,276.47</b>

*\*Benefitting an average of 670,527 sugar workers a year*

#### **Status of Maternity and Death Benefit Program and Socio-Economic Program Implementation 1992-2016 as of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of 2016**

*Source: DOLE-BWSC*

	<b>Total Amount Released</b>	<b>Total Number of Beneficiaries</b>
Maternity Benefits	120,995,500.00	65,300
Death Benefits	183,702,000.00	30,146
Socio-Economic Projects	562,013,921.07	563,257

#### **Consolidated demands regarding the SAP and SAWP**

*Source: UMA position papers, OGYON-Bukidnon July 2016 petition to DOLE; and proposals by the NFSW*

- Directly distribute sugar amelioration funds to workers through their unions, associations and organizations. Remove the crucial role of millers, planters and their associations in the handling and distribution of funds, approval of benefits and implementation of projects.
- Concerned government institutions such as the Office of the Ombudsman and appropriate legislative bodies, must conduct comprehensive investigations on the status of implementation of the SAP and SAWP. A full audit of SAP funds and full inventory of projects, infrastructure, and property acquired through the SAP and SAWP must also be made. An increase in the SAP's mandatory Php 10.00 lien must also be considered.
- Investigate and review the mandate of the Sugar Industry Foundation, Inc. (SIFI), a private institution created during the Marcos crony era, in the implementation most of the SAP's socio-economic projects (around 70%), as recommended by COA.
- Review all DOLE Orders on the implementing rules and regulations governing SAP (DOLE Order 30-02, 114-11, 117-11) and SAWP (DOLE Orders 100-10, 123-11, 144) which provide complex, unnecessary and impractical guidelines in the computation of the CBF, implementation of socio-economic projects and processing of maternity and death benefits. Make the guidelines simple, accessible and in favor of sugar workers and their organizations.

- The DOLE-BWSC and other concerned government institutions must immediately act on the findings and recommendations of the COA in its annual audit reports on the SAP. Prosecute and penalize all those involved in corruption and anomalous practices with regard the SAP and SAWP.
- Increase the representation of farm and mill workers unions, federations and organizations in the District Tripartite Councils (DTC) and national Sugar Tripartite Council (STC).

### **On LAND USE and FOOD SECURITY**

- *Allot farmlots for food production for sugar workers in haciendas or plantations. Support and recognize the workers' collective bungkalan or land cultivation areas and other initiatives by peasants for food security.*
- *Stop land-use at crop conversion in sugarcane areas for so-called "development projects" and the aggressive expansion of giant export crop plantations controlled by TNCs and MNCs. These cause violent eviction and landgrabbing, hunger and environmental destruction in peasant and agriworkers' communities.*

### **Landgrabbing and Land-Use Conversion Cases**

Land-use and crop conversion in sugarcane areas has become rampant for the traditional landlords to evade land reform. The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) has even encouraged crop conversion and advised sugar barons in Negros and Bukidnon to tie-up with MNCs and TNCs engaged in giant export crop plantations – like pineapple, banana and oil palm – for them to be spared from the onslaught of trade liberalization in the sugar industry.

Traditional sugar areas in Negros, Batangas, Tarlac and Pampanga are also converted to industrial parks, eco-tourism zones, residential areas and now – PPP solar power projects. Like the promise of "biofuel," environment-friendly energy sources are peddled to the public to legitimize landgrabbing, disenfranchisement of ARBs, and outright, violent eviction and dislocation of farmers and sugar workers.

In Hacienda Luisita, the 55-hectare Tarlac Solar Power Project (TSPP) is an anomalous PPP project entered into by the DoE and PetroSolar, a sister company of RCBC, a banking corporation currently embroiled in a controversial land dispute with Luisita farmers. President BS Aquino sanctioned this project despite glaring irregularities also related to the bogus land distribution process that his administration implemented.

In Negros, there are more than a dozen proposed and ongoing solar power projects in sugar areas such as Bacolod, Silay, Victorias, Cadiz, San Carlos, and La Carlota cities; and Bago, Murcia and Manapla towns. Batangas also has its share of dubious solar power plant projects in the towns of Lian, Balayan, Nasugbu, Tuy and Calatagan.

*Batangas landgrabbing and land-use conversion.*

- Puyat: 2,210 has. Ecotourism, Sandari Batulao
- Patugo: 1,003 ha. for tourist zone
- Nasugbu, Lian, Ternate: 26,000 has. Tourist zone, coastal, protected area
- Calaca: 110 has. Industrial zone
- Calatagan: 40 has. Solar power
- Banilad: 54 has. Solar power, San Antonio Memorial Garden
- Calatagan: 12,000 has. Zobel landgrab
- Henry Sy: 8,650 has. landgrab Nasugbu and Cavite (Fil. Estate)
- Gokongwei: Balayan
- Lopez Family/MRDC: Calaca, Balayan, Tuy, 1000+ has.
- Gov. Mandanas: Lemery
- Dolor: Bauan
- Consunji: Calaca
- Pangilinan: Balayan
- Cojuangco: Balayan at Calatagan
- Hda. Roxas: 2,900 has. landgrab

### **Bungkalan**

The practice of sugar workers cultivating farmlots for food production was initiated by NFSW unions in Negros, as their assertion of land rights and even as part of collective bargaining with employers or landlords. Meanwhile, the *bungkalan* or land cultivation campaign initiated by farmworkers during the height of the Hacienda Luisita people's strike in 2005, has endured despite the odds posed by the powerful landlords. From 2012 up to the present, *bungkalan* areas in Luisita went under constant attack – crops were bulldozed, huts razed to the ground, peasants were evicted and barred from the land. A *bungkalan* leader, Dennis dela Cruz, was also killed within the premises of the organization's pilot farm in 2013.

The experience in Negros and Hacienda Luisita has empowered farmworkers to boost production and sustainable agriculture and organic farming practices through unity, cooperation and fierce struggle. Sugar workers seek that positive experiences from the *bungkalan* be further enriched and that the very practice of land cultivation for food security in destitute sugar areas, especially during *tiempo muerto*, be recognized and supported.

### **On HUMAN RIGHTS and PEACE**

- *End militarization in the countryside, political repression, killings and human rights violations. Justice for all victims. Junk all trumped-up harassment charges against workers and peasants. Damages must be paid to victims of destruction of crops and property. Free all political prisoners.*
- *Support the peace talks between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front (GRP-NDFP peace talks) especially regarding negotiations on necessary socio-economic reforms such as genuine land reform and national industrialization.*

### **Killings**

Only a week after this Sugar Workers Summit, on September 7, 2016, one of its delegates, Ariel Diaz, UMA organizer and local leader of DAGAMI-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (KMP) in Delfin Albano town, Isabela, was brutally murdered. We seek justice for Ariel Diaz and all other victims of political repression.

#### *Hacienda Luisita Massacre*

November 16, 2004. Seven confirmed dead and hundreds wounded after state forces opened fire on sugar workers' picketline. Ombudsman cases against suspects completely junked. Alleged perpetrators never fully investigated or hailed to court. Instead, major suspects landed in high government posts – former President BS Aquino, former AFP Chief Gregorio Catapang, and current AFP Chief Ricardo Visaya.

#### *Spate of Killings in Hacienda Luisita*

- Marcelino Beltran, peasant leader and massacre witness, killed December 8, 2004
- Abelardo Ladera, Tarlac City councilor, killed Marso 10, 2005
- Father William Tadena, Iglesia Filipina Independiente, killed March 13, 2005
- Tirso Cruz, ULWU official, killed March, 2006
- Florante Collantes, labor leader, killed October 2005
- Victor “Tatang Ben” Concepcion, peasant leader, killed March 2005
- Ricardo Ramos, CATLU President, killed October 25, 2006
- Bishop Alberto Ramento, IFI, killed October 3, 2006
- Dennis dela Cruz, bungkalan leader, killed November 1, 2013

#### *Brutal Killings in Negros*

- Rene Quirante, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental killed October 1, 2010
- Endric Calago and Rosalie Calago, Guihulngan, Negros Oriental, killed May 24, 2015
- Benjie Sustento, Murcia, Negros Occidental, killed January 2016

#### *Isabela*

- Ariel Diaz, DAGAMI-KMP leader, UMA organizer, killed September 7, 2016

### **Political prisoners**

- *Detained peasant leaders, advocates, rural missionaries*
  - Felicidad Caparal, UMA national staff, detained at the CIW, Mandaluyong
  - Dario Tomada, peasant leader from Eastern Visayas, detained at the Manila City Jail
  - Amelia Pond, Rural Missionaries of the Philippines (RMP)-SMR staff
  - Joel Yagao, RMP NMR
  - Dominiciano Muya, RMP SMR
- *Detained at the Batangas Provincial Jail:*
  - Maricon Montajes, film student, peasant advocate
  - Romiel Canete, youth activist, peasant advocate
  - Ronilo Baes, youth activist, peasant advocate

- *Negros Occidental political prisoners*
  - Roberto Espinosa, NFSW 3<sup>rd</sup> District organizer, all cases already dismissed, but still in detention and waiting for release order
  - Victor Tapang – with trumped-up illegal possession of firearms and murder cases.
  - Reynald Febreo – with trumped-up charges of murder and illegal possession of fire arms.
  - Porferio Pableo – KMP member with trumped-up case of illegal possession of explosives. His wife was killed when Phil. Army soldiers strafed their house.
  - Renjie Jimera - with trumped-up arson, illegal possession and murder cases

### **Trumped-up Charges, Harassment Suits**

#### *Active harassment suits*

- *Hacienda Luisita cases still pending at Municipal Trial Courts (MTC) in Tarlac City*

Case # 372-2013, Direct Assault vs AMBALA Chairperson Florida Sibayan et, al (filed by Tarlac PNP)

Case # 455-2014, Physical Injury vs farmers Romeo Corpuz (now deceased), Marcelino Lugay, et al (TADECO)

Case # 228-2014, Trespassing vs then-Tarlac City Councilor Emily Ladera-Facunla (TADECO)

- *Negros*

### **Overkill deployment of military, paramilitary units in sugar farming communities**

#### *Hacienda Luisita*

- Company headquarters of the 31<sup>st</sup> IBPA and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mechanized Battalion located in TADECO area in Barangay Balete, and the CAFGU detachments in almost all Luisita villages.

#### *Hacienda Ilimnan, Murcia, Negros Occidental*

- PNP Special Action Forces, military men, private goons deployed by Gov. Alfredo Maranon Jr after farmworkers embarked on land cultivation in July 2016. Armed men still roaming the area despite DAR decision in favor of farmworkers.