

## Science and Technology Aid Offered to Internally-Displaced Individuals Affected by Taal Volcano Eruption

In the wake of the Taal Volcano eruption, a concerted effort to provide recovery and resiliency interventions to those internally-displaced is making a significant impact. Approximately 2,601 families, comprising 24,197 individuals, residing in five municipalities across 11 barangays within the Taal Volcano communities have received invaluable support through the "Bangon Batangas Project." This initiative is a collaborative endeavor funded by the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources and Development (DOST-PCAARD) and Batangas State University, in partnership with local government units (LGUs) and two other State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the region.



The assistance provided to these affected families encompasses a range of relief goods, training, and livelihood support. Relief packages included essentials such as instant arroz caldo, rice-mongo crunchies, and other supplementary food items. To ensure the long-term sustainability of the affected communities, comprehensive training programs were initiated. These training sessions covered various skills, including smoke fish production, packaging and drying techniques, crop production, and other relevant livelihood skills to empower the internally-displaced populations (IDPs) to rebuild their lives.



Before the project's implementation, a thorough needs assessment, agreement signing, and consultations were carried out by the project team to tailor the support to the specific needs of the affected individuals. The project officially commenced in 2020, with the goal of aiding the affected communities in their path to recovery.



As of 2022, the commitment to support these beneficiaries remains unwavering. A new agreement has been forged, securing additional funding from the Department of Social Welfare and Development Office Region IV-A. This added financial support will be channeled towards bolstering women's groups residing in government-provided shelters in Barangay Talaibon, Ibaan, Batangas. It is a testament to the collaborative spirit of these organizations and their dedication to aiding those affected by the Taal Volcano eruption.