

Proud Subanen Shares Knowledge, Fosters Communities

TVIRD's Joel Lucmong trains local farmers on sustainable livelihood



Sidlak Demo Farm Specialist Joel Lucmong monitors the plants cultivated by his students to ensure they will have a bountiful harvest in the future.

Bayog, Zamboanga del Sur / September 2026 – Behind every technical training institution are dedicated people who drive programs to help communities turn knowledge into practical skills and livelihood opportunities.

For Joel G. Lucmong, Demo Farm Specialist of TVI Resource Development Philippines Inc. (TVIRD) his work goes beyond managing a farm school. It is an opportunity to share his valuable knowledge that could improve the livelihood of Bayog farmers within the periphery of the company's Balabag Gold and Silver Project in Zamboanga del Sur.

“For me, the most important thing is to help them understand why these farming practices matter and how they can use these in their own communities,” Joel said.

At the heart of his vocation is TVIRD's Sidlak Demo Farm, Inc. – a facility that serves as a learning and training venue for community members, and the only TESDA-accredited institution of its kind operated by a mining company in the region. Through practical demonstrations and hands-on activities, Sidlak has successfully graduated 735 trainees since its inception in 2022.

Sharing practical knowledge

Joel's areas of work include organic farming, sustainable agriculture, modern farming techniques, farm management, resource utilization, and agri-based livelihood development. He emphasized that learning through actual experience allows participants to observe, participate, ask questions, and adapt to their domestic farming activities.

"When people learn something and are able to apply it in their own farm, that is when you know the training has made a difference," he said. Through these activities, participants gain a better understanding of proper farm management and environmentally responsible practices.

Beyond Sidlak, Joel works closely with TVIRD's communities to promote self-reliance. "When I share knowledge and other people use and share it as well, the benefit becomes bigger than just one person," he explained, citing synergies that result from sharing.

Indigenous roots, modern techniques

As a proud *lumad* of the Subanen tribe, Joel brings a personal connection to the people he serves. His heritage has deepened his appreciation for local knowledge, culture, cooperation, and respect for the environment.

"Our culture teaches us to value our community, respect our surroundings, and learn from what has been passed down to us. I carry those values into the work that I do," Joel declared, adding that indigenous knowledge and modern agricultural practices can complement one another.

Traditional understanding of the land and local practices can provide a strong foundation, while appropriate modern techniques can offer additional ways to improve productivity, according to him. This reflects the importance of development that respects traditional livelihood and generational knowledge.

Empowering people through agriculture

For Joel, agriculture is about people sharing knowledge and building a future together.

“As long as there is someone willing to learn, there is always an opportunity to share. And when that knowledge helps improve someone’s life, then the work becomes meaningful,” he concluded.

From Sidlak Demo Farm to TVIRD’s communities, Joel continues to make a huge impact by helping people enhance their capabilities and chart their own future.

To date, TVIRD has invested Php11 million in Sidlak’s community livelihood programs with over 1,000 total beneficiaries served.

Press Photos



- 1 *Joel teaches agriculture livelihood students the proper farming methods through both theoretical and hands-on training.*



- 2 *For his dedication to livelihood programs, the Department of Agriculture recognized Joel’s work at TVIRD’s Sidlak Demo Farm.*

About TVI in the Philippines

TVI Resource Development Philippines, Inc. ("TVIRD") is owned in part by TVI Pacific Inc. (TSX: TVI), a publicly listed Canadian mining company focused on the exploration, development, and production of precious and base metals from district-scale, large-system, high-margin projects located in the Philippines. Concurrent ownership of ventures is shared with partner company Prime Resource Holdings Inc.

The Agata Nickel Laterite Mine is the third successful mining project that TVIRD brought on stream in a period of 10 years, while its Balabag Gold-Silver Mine further cements its position as a steady producer of precious metals in the country. With the commercial operations of its Siana Gold Mine, the company remains committed to exploration and mining practices that promote transparency, responsible stewardship of the environment, and the inalienable rights to life, dignity and sustainable development of its host communities.

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