

MEETING NOTES

TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP: TACLOBAN

Friday 13th June, 4PM, Shelter Cluster – Granda Manor, Tacloban

Agenda:

1. Overview of UNDP and Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) cocolumber programming
 2. UNDP and PCA Cocolumber processing technical details
 3. UNDP and PCA Cocolumber program details
 4. Feedback
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Present: PRC, CRS, Handicap Int, IOM, MedAir, Oxfam, Save the Children, World Vision, Relief Int,

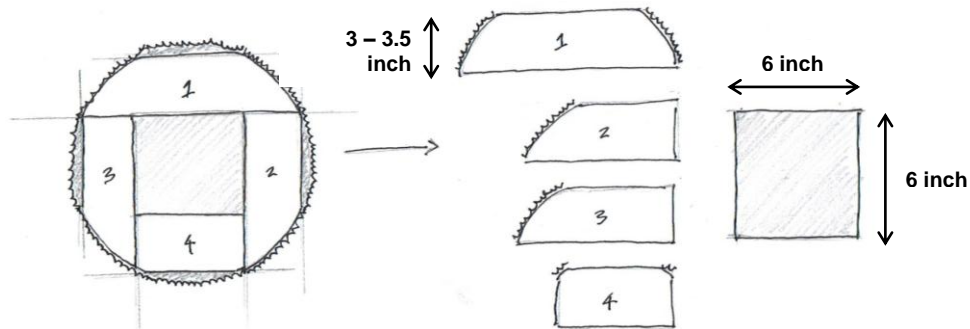
1. Overview of UNDP and Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) cocolumber programming

- Philippines president mandated a 90 day program for PCA to cut down 390,000 damaged coconut trees in Yolanda effected regions nationally. The program included the resourcing of 500 skilled chainsaw operators over this period.
- The 90 day program has now been completed and will be scaled up in collaboration with UNDP and PCA. The program now to include the resourcing of 2,000 skilled chainsaw operators (nationwide skilled chainsaw operators fell on average 16-40 coconut trees per day).
- Approximately 33 million coconut trees damaged in Yolanda effected regions nationally. Of this number 16 million coconut trees have been classified as totally destroyed.
- Within region 8, 13 million coconut trees have been classified as totally destroyed. Of this number 7 million coconut trees are considered not accessible for lumber due to their location (too far within interior areas). UNDP currently considering alternatives for process these coconut trees, e.g charcoal production.
- Over the next 6 months the UNDP and PCA cocolumber program is targeting the milling of 6 million coconut trees. First phase to take place in areas 500 meters below Mean Sea Level (MSL).
- The program to include:
 - DWSD to provide cash for work to support skilled chainsaw operators to fell damaged coconut trees.
 - DFP to provide transport and logistics support.
 - PCA to provide all consumables, e.g chainsaws, blades, oil, etc.
- PCA to meet with the private sector next week to identify alternative methods to use damaged coconut trees outside of use as a construction material, e.g core filler, bio mass, etc.
- Currently farmers are selling coconut lumber for 1 – 2.5 PH per board foot.

2. UNDP and PCA Cocolumber processing technical details

- UNDP currently fabricating ladder mill bracket to eliminate the need to double cut cocolumber when processing. Testing for efficiency regarding fuel consumption to be completed in one week.

Proposed processing of Cocolumber



- UNDP proposed the processing of cocolumber to be standardised. Typical cocolumber tree to be cut into 4 no. 3 – 3.5 inch deep sections, approximately 8 feet in length of A – B grade structural lumber suitable for construction.
- The centre piece of the processed cocolumber not to be used for construction material. Centre piece to be 6 x 6 inches – more easily transportable (Current cutting process produces a centre piece of 9 x 9 inches).
- Measuring both structural and non-structural lumber, the current cutting process produces between 80 – 150 board feet of lumber per tree. The proposed new method would produce 80 board feet of A – B grade structural lumber per tree.
- Approximately 30 trees required for construction of typical Core house (A – B grade structural lumber).

3. UNDP and PCA Cocolumber program details

- UNDP and PCA to work in setting a standard price per board foot of cocolumber.
- Currently farmers have to pay chainsaw operators 4 – 5 PH per board feet to cut down trees. PCA to provide farmers with skilled chainsaw operators to cut trees for free. (100% subsidy on cutting provided by PCA)
- PCA teams of chainsaw operators can be deployed in mobile teams to cut down and prepare cocolumber. This processed cocolumber to be accessible for purchasing on the side of the road.
- Programming focussed around livelihoods and clearing of land.

4. Feedback

- Medair – Is there are certification mechanism to ensure farmers participating in the program have permits to regulate farming practices?
- IOM – Is there a list of registered famers participating in the program (Can PCA provide this?)

One stop shop to be set up by UNDP to provide local municipal coordination point around housing development, including information on accessing cocolumber. Cocolumber and building materials will not be available to purchase at the one stop shop.

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