ABSTRACT

**Background.** The DOST PINOY is a package of intervention which uses the local technology of complementary foods made of rice and mongo for 6 months to less than 3 years old children and the nutrition education of mothers/caregivers on health and nutrition. In 2011, the package was field tested in four provinces with high prevalence of malnutrition among 0-5 years old which showed positive results in contributing to the reduction of underweight 6-35 months old children and in the improvement of knowledge among mothers/caregivers. For 2012, it was rolled-out with technology transfer and provision of production equipment in the regions with high prevalence of malnutrition among 0-5 year old children. Along with the technology component is the advocacy to adopt the DOST PINOY strategy to address the nutrition security of young children. **Objectives:** The project expanded and sustained the implementation and adoption of the DOST PINOY strategy by the local government units (LGUs) to address the problem of undernutrition among the Filipino young children under three years old. **Materials and Methods:** The DOST PINOY strategy primarily focused on science and technology (S&T) activities which composed of advocacy to LGUs and local chief executives (LCEs) and capacity building of local program implementers. **Results:** The project activities were centered on advocacy/orientation and skills training on DOST PINOY which were conducted in 6 regions namely: Region 1 (Pangasinan); Region III (Bulacan); Region IV A-CALABARZON (Quezon); Region VI (Antique); CARAGA Region (Surigao del Norte) and NCR (Metro Manila). The provincial government of Antique adopted both the complementary food technology and the DOST PINOY strategy as a program for young children. The municipality of Tobias Fornier, Antique adopted the DOST PINOY strategy through LGU funds in 2012. In 2013, the Antique province continuously implemented the DOST PINOY in the expansion municipalities of Laua-an, Sebaste and Libertad. The FNRI-DOST provided technical assistance through the DOST PINOY training of local community workers which focused on how to implement the program. As the DOST-CALABARZON and DOST-NCR recognized the DOST PINOY strategy, they have adopted the DOST PINOY as part of their community empowerment program in Mulanay, Quezon and in the cities of Muntinlupa, Pasay, Marikina, Taguig, Manila, Quezon and Navotas. The partnership with private entrepreneurs for the production and commercialization of the rice-mongo complementary foods has been another milestone in the implementation of the DOST program on malnutrition reduction. In 2013, the Long Live Pharma (a private entrepreneur) started to produce the complementary foods with a brand name of RIMOTM (rice-mongo). The Long
Live Pharma sought the technical assistance of the FNRI-DOST for the training on how to implement the DOST PINOY among selected community workers in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan. **Challenges and Future Directions:** The FNRI-DOST committed to continue the DOST PINOY activities with appropriate financial support for the implementation and sustainability. This is in line with the DOST’s efforts to contribute to improving the nutritional status of Filipino young children through complementary feeding and nutrition education of mothers and caregivers. The local based rice-mongo complementary foods will be continuously promoted to encourage public and private partnerships for the sustained implementation of DOST PINOY.

**INTRODUCTION**

The DOST PINOY is a package of intervention which uses the local technology of complementary foods for 6 months to less than 3 years old children and the nutrition education of mothers/caregivers on health and nutrition. The DOST PINOY (Package for the Improvement of Nutrition Of Young Children) strategy combines feeding of local based rice-mongo complementary foods rich in protein and energy. In 2011, the DOST PINOY was field tested in provinces with high prevalence of malnutrition among 0-5 years old such as Antique, Iloilo, Occidental Mindoro and Leyte. Positive result was obtained in the pilot testing wherein, the intervention contributed in the reduction of underweight 6-35 months old children and in the improvement of knowledge among mothers/caregivers. For 2012, the DOST PINOY strategy under the Malnutrition Reduction Program (MRP) was continuously implemented for the roll--out of the complementary food technology and provision of production equipment in the regions. Along with the technology component was the promotion of the DOST PINOY intervention to address the undernutrition among young children through advocacy to regional/provincial/LGUs for its adoption at the community level.

**MATERIALS AND METHODS**

advocacy to local government units (LGUs) and local chief executives (LCEs)

capacity building of local program implementers
Figure 1. Implementation of DOST PINOY strategy in the Philippines under the Malnutrition Reduction Program as of December 2013
CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The Malnutrition Reduction Program is in line with the DOST’s efforts to contribute to improving the nutritional status of Filipino young children. The focus of the program is addressing malnutrition among 6-35 months old children through complementary feeding of local-based complementary foods and nutrition education of mothers and caregivers. The local based rice-mongo complementary foods will continually be promoted to public and private partners nationwide for adoption. Through these efforts complementary food technology will reach the intended stakeholders in the regions.

The 2011 pilot testing of the DOST program showed positive results in contributing to the reduction of underweight 6-35 months old children and the improvement of knowledge on health and nutrition of mothers/caregivers. Thus, the FNRI-DOST committed to continue the research and development (R&D) related to malnutrition reduction to support its implementation and ensure the sustainability of the program for the Filipino young children.