



## QUARTERLY RESEARCH PROGRESS REPORT

QUARTER: 4<sup>th</sup> CY:2023

**Research Title: Ecological Assessment and Conservation of *Aquilaria malaccensis* through Sustainable Agarwood Production in Leyte Island, Philippines (ECo-SAP)**

### I. Project Objectives:

#### Objectives:

- To develop a cost-efficient technique in the production of high-quality planting materials and of agar-inducing technology to produce agarwood with high yield and quality;
- To assist people's organization that promote productive activities and entrepreneurship leading to formalization and growth of micro-, small- and/or medium-sized enterprises in marginalized forest dependent communities;
- To provide knowledge-based information, technology and innovation to project beneficiaries as well as support and assist all sectors of the community that are engaged in *Aquilaria*-based production system and to direct their efforts towards creating sustainable agarwood-based livelihood opportunities to enjoy a *matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay*.

### II. Relevance to VSU & College's Thrust and Priorities:

The objective of the project is aligned to the VSU and College's Thrust and Priorities on the promotion of inclusive and sustainable economic growth through the establishment of community-based agarwood production. This can be achieved through diversification of the production system which provide higher levels of economic activity of the *Aquilaria*-based agroecological production growers in Leyte Island. On the other hand, the project will help protect, restore and promote sustainable utilization of *A. malaccensis* (presently classified under Endangered category based on DENR-DAO 2017-11) in the production of agarwood that will prevent the extinction of the threatened species.

### III. Highlights of accomplishments within the quarter

#### A. Targets for the quarter

- Conducted interview using Response-Inducing Sustainability Evaluation Tool (RISE)
- Soil sampling in *Aquilaria* plantation for soil organic carbon and nutrient stock
- Reassessment on the population and distribution of *Aquilaria* in transect 3 (Brgy. Pinamanagan, Abuyog, Leyte)
- Sample collection of soil and wood chips from Brgy. Tinocolan.
- Isolation of fungi from collected samples.
- Preparation for extension activities.