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## Development and Implementation of a Forest Nursery Accreditation Policy at a Local Level in Leyte, Philippines

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**Abstract** Through a series of workshops with the stakeholders including nursery operators, tree farmers, staff of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, local government units and the academe, a forestry seedling nursery accreditation policy was developed. The resulting policy was subsequently implemented by the municipal government of Palompon, Leyte. The accreditation policy encouraged nursery operators to follow smallholder-based best management practices for tree nurseries. Implementation of the nursery accreditation policy improved farmers' knowledge and skills in the production of high quality seedlings, encouraged adoption of BMP for forest nurseries, provided additional source of income for the farmers, enabled members of the groups operating the communal nursery to forge closer relationship with each other, encouraged utilization of farmers' free time in productive activities, developed farmers' confidence in producing high quality planting materials, and gained for the farmers favourable attention from various organizations and groups. The Bennett's hierarchy of project outcomes showed that the implementation of accreditation scheme achieved high

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