

## **AGRICULTURE**

### **Crop Production**

Ajuy is an agricultural town, which produces various kinds of crops such as rice, corn, coconut, sugarcane, fruit trees, bananas, coffee, bamboo, root crops and other minor agricultural crops. The total land area devoted to agricultural crop production is 5,707.84 hectares, approximately occupies 32% of the municipality's total land area.

The major agricultural crops are rice, corn and other crops like sugarcane and root crops. Rice production covers an area of 54.54% of the total agricultural lands or a total of 3,107.84 hectares (See Table A-1). Farmers could plant rice two to three times a year. The irrigated rice land area which is 2,237.86 hectares and is 39% of the total agricultural land having an average production of 19,462.80 metric tons per year. Rice in non-irrigated land area is 869.98 hectares and is 15.24% of the total agricultural land having an average production of 5,995 metric tons per year. Corn occupies an area of 50 hectares and is 0.87% of the total agricultural land having an average production of 150 metric tons per year. Other major crops such as coconut, sugarcane, root crops and other minor agricultural crops have a total area of 2,550 hectares and are 44.68% of the total agricultural lands. The total value of crop production is shown in Table A-2.

The municipality of Ajuy is basically a rice-producing town. Secondly, it is a distribution area, wherein rice is usually transported to the other municipalities, Iloilo City and Negros Island through ferry boats in Culasi Port.

### **Livestock and Poultry**

Livestock and poultry are means of livelihood that Ajuynons are engaged in. There are 500 livestock and dairy farmers engaged in this occupation in the whole municipality for the last three (3) years. At present, there are 439 backyard hog raisers, raising from two or more heads per raiser. One commercial raiser indulges in egg production. Others venture on small-scale broiler production and small-scale poultry production.

There are no data or records at present on the domestic consumption of animals especially on cattles, carabao, swine, and poultry because some animals slaughtered and sold came from other neighboring towns.

## **Fisheries**

Fishing brings in a good amount of income for the municipality, being number three in the northern Iloilo to have a widest and good fishing grounds located at Apitong Pass, Guimaras Strait, Anhawan Channel and Visayan Sea. These fishing grounds were located within the boundary of Ajuy and Negros Occidental. The municipal waters is approximately 269.30 kilometers and with a total coastline length of 74.83 kilometers.

A big amount of income is also derived from fishpond. The town has 1,170 hectares of fishpond located at in-land and coastal area of the municipality. It comprises of Barangay Silagon, Bucana Bunglas, Pantalan Nabaye, Bato Biasong, Pantalan Navarro, Puente Bunglas, Rojas, Taguhangin, Lanjagan, Poblacion, Bato Biasong, Pedada, Mangorocoro, Pili, Malayu-an Culasi, Santo Rosario, and Luca. It is mostly for bangus production having an average production of 0.75 metric tons per hectare done in three croppings yearly. There are 97 operators engaged in this business and mostly residents of the municipality. They market their products in the neighboring municipalities particularly in the city of Iloilo and Manila.

Fishpen culture technology was introduced by the Iloilo Provincial Government at Tinagong Dagat Bay in Barangay Silagon four (4) years ago. This is a showcase of mariculture technology information. Bangus culture is a successful business of most residents in that barangay which uplift their standard of living.

The Tinagong Dagat Bay is best suited to mariculture projects such as fishpen and fishcages for the reason that it is free from inevitable calamities that occur like storms, floods, and typhoons. Presently, there are three (3) hectares of fishpen which is managed by a cooperative at barangay Silagon. The average volume of production is 18 metric tons per hectare at one (1) cropping a year. Its total volume is fifty-four (54) metric tons a year and having an estimated gross production of 3,780,000 pesos.

The Visayan Sea in the municipality avails agricultural facilities and other related services mostly in the local government unit of Ajuy through the Municipal Agriculture and other agencies of the government. The breeding station which is located at Barangay Pili is managed by the Provincial Agriculture Office. This breeding station is primarily intended for upgrading local animal breed. Our technical institution which is the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College (NIPSC) at Barangay San Antonio is under the management of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Extension services to farmers and fisherfolks are done by the Municipal Agriculture Office which conducts Farmers Field School for 16 weeks. The

study is focused on rice farming in which farmers have to acquire the technology of Integrated Pest Management (IPM). With this technology, conservation and presentation of the natural enemies of rice pests and environment is maintained and utilizing farm waste as organic fertilizer.

Another extension service is the establishment of DAPITSAKA conducted by the Provincial Agriculture Office and sponsored by the International Rice Research Institute. This program is focused on rice different variety trial on Tungro resistant varieties.

The loan credit facilities are provided by the Land Bank of the Philippines through farmers' cooperatives and associations.