

POJADA

The Real and Present Danger

What is Pojada?

An unsustainable practice of forcibly and indiscriminately cutting immature abaca stalks in the process of harvesting and stripping by farm contractors for a contracted price agreed with the plantation owner.

This system usually results to overharvesting of abaca as contractors aimed to maximize income/profit.

Why fiber traders resort to this system?

1. There is shortage in fiber supply, thus, traders look for ONE TIME, BIG TIME SUPPLY of abaca.
2. Unavailability and/ or diminishing number of skilled manual strippers.
3. Farmers who are in dire need of instant cash are easy preys to "pojada" system.

What are the negative effects of POJADA?

1. Farm yield/average fiber production per hectare and farmers' income may decrease by 70%;
2. Diseases spread through mechanical means;
3. Poor fiber quality resulting from mixing fibers of mature and immature stalks;
4. Overharvesting may take 18-24 months for abaca to recover;
5. Suppressed growth and development of abaca.

Measures to suppress this practice:

1. Massive information dissemination and campaign at field level.
2. Coordination with Local Government Units, Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlalawigan re: passage of a local ordinance that will prohibit/penalize violators.
3. Launch **"SAVE ABACA, NO TO POJADA"** in cooperation with Local Government Units, Philippine National Police, Department of Agriculture and other agencies
4. Continuous feedback/monitoring and surveillance by all stakeholders.

LOCAL INITIATIVES

Province of Sorsogon:

*Provincial Ordinance No. 02-04 (2004)
"An Ordinance adopting measures to prevent and contain the spread of abaca diseases and "prohibiting certain acts of practices" that are inimical to the promotion and development of the abaca industry in the Province of Sorsogon"*

Province of Camarines Sur:

*Provincial Ordinance No. 059 Series of 2015
"An Ordinance establishing the Camarines Sur Abaca Industry Development Council (CSAIDC) adopting measures to prevent and contain the spread of abaca plant diseases, regulating and/ or prohibiting certain acts or practices that are inimical to the promotion and development of the abaca industry in the province of Camarines Sur and appropriating funds therefore"*

Province of Catanduanes:

*Provincial Ordinance No. 007-2019
"An Ordinance adopting measures to sustain the production of quality abaca fiber, regulating certain acts or practices that are inimical for the promotion and development of the Abaca Industry in the Province, providing penalties and appropriating funds thereof"*

DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2019-66 dated May 7, 2019

Re: Issuances of Local Ordinance Banning the Illegal Harvesting, Buying, Selling, and Mutilating of Young Leafsheaths of Abaca Plants

(Issued by DILG Secretary Eduardo M. Año to all Provincial Governors, City Mayors, Municipal Mayors, BARMM Chief Minister, BARMM DILG Minister, Presiding Officers of the Sanggunians, DILG Regional Directors of Regions III, IV-A, V to XIII, ARMM and CAR)



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture

PHILIPPINE FIBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

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