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## Science, Technology, Research and Innovation for Development (STRIDE)



### Multi-Powered Drying System for Food Processing

**GRANTEE:** Iloilo Science and Technology University (ISATU)

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR:** Dr. Renerio Mucas

**INDUSTRY PARTNER:** *Magamay Nga Kristyanong Katilingban* (MKK)  
Consumers' Cooperative

**GRANT PERIOD:** September 16, 2016 to September 15, 2017

**CONTRACT AMOUNT:** Php 1,000,000 (approximately USD21,300)

#### **A cutting-edge drying system for food production**

Residents of Barangay Tiabas, San Dionisio, Iloilo, consider marine products a substantial source of income. However, their community is calamity prone due to typhoons, and they are left to engage in marginal income generation activities, like using readily available green seaweeds for *Kropek* production. Although the *Kropek* seaweed product has gained acceptance as a snack among local communities, the mode of production in the area is plagued with problems. Drying the seaweed causes problems, especially during the wet and rainy season, as all drying is done in the open air. Periodic rains halt the cash flow of small seaweed farmers.

Even when the weather is favorable, seaweed raw materials are also prone to microbial contamination due to unsanitary conditions and improper disposal of garbage.

To help the marginalized folks in the community, ISATU researchers are developing a state of the art, cutting-edge drying technology for dried seaweed production with assistance from USAID STRIDE. This multi-powered drying system for food production will be deployed in the community to improve the quality and increase the quantity of dried seaweeds.



*Traditional way of drying blended raw seaweeds for "kropek" crackers*

## Potential application and benefits

The drying system will be of significant, regardless of prevailing weather conditions. The prototype will also be utilized for processing other marine products to avoid spoilage.

This intervention will provide better opportunities to fishing community families to engage in business, revive the tradition of seaweed farming and food production, with the active participation of local women. Most importantly, families will be able to provide ample support for their children's education.



*STRIDE and research team visit the MKK kropek production site in San Dionisio, Iloilo*

The multi-powered drying system will be developed in partnership with MKK Cooperative of Barangay Tiabas, San Dionisio, Iloilo.