FOREST TENURE AWARDED TO UPLAND FARMERS. In a bid to reduce poverty in the rural areas and promote social justice and equitable access to forest resources as aligned with Secretary Gina Lopez platform, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) here awarded at least 357 hectares of forestlands to upland farmers in Zambales and Nueva Ecija under the Community Based-Forest Management Program (CBFMP), environment authorities here announced recently.

At least 300 upland farmers from the two POs were expected to benefit from the programs who are also actively involved in the National Greening Program (NGP) of the government.

The agreement as forest instrument has a period of 25 years and renewable for another 25 years subject to compliance of the PO. DENR record shows that there are 116 CBFM Agreements in Central Luzon covering more than 65,000 hectares of forestland and benefiting well over 7,000 upland farmers.

Executive Order No. 263 of 1995 is the primary law that adopts CBFM as the national strategy to ensure the sustainable development of the country’s forestlands resources.

From left to right are Artemio Acosta, President of the Digmala Tree Planters Association Incorporated in Gabaldon, Nueva Ecija, Francisco E. Milla Jr., Regional Director of DENR in Central Luzon. Arthur C. Salazar, Assistant Regional Director for Technical Services and Leovino Ignacio, DENR-Provincial Environment and Natural Resources Officer (PENRO) in Nueva Ecija.