A visit to Amin,
an AIDFI ram pump project
November 24, 2008

Amin is a fairly compact village of about 100 households, located in the municipality of Isabela.

Before the ram pump, there was already a gravity-fed water distribution system, but the amount of water available was insufficient.

To reach the ram pump, we need to walk past various fields, then cross a stream. Right now, the water is relatively low. In the dry season, there is no water in the stream. At the start of the rainy season, flash floods raise the water level by about 2 meters. Currently, a carabao enjoys a nice bath.

Along the stream, we need to walk on the small walls in-between rice terraces.

First, we reach the impounding tank.
The barangay captain came along and points out that in this season, the water is abundant and overflows the tank.

From impounding tank to the reservoir, the polyethylene pipe used to be supported by concrete posts, until the rainy season flood tore up the piping and its support.

The water committee and the owner of the pump site agreed to repair the system, which is now in working order again.

A view of the valley and its rice terraces, from the pump location.

The overflow from the reservoir is routed to the village through this pipe. Flash flood level reaches above this pipe.

The pump was installed in January 2008.
The retaining wall was a bit damaged by the floods in June or July.

A general view of the pump site, with pipes and reservoir above in the vegetation.

On the way back to the village, we walk in-between more rice fields, then sugar cane fields.

The sugar cane is ripe and ready to harvest, as shown by the fluffy white tips.

In the village, the storage tank feeds a network of 3 tap stands through 3 separate pipes.   A main valve (with key held only by the operator) allows to turn on the water during the day only, to let the tank fill up at night and build a bit of pressure.

One of the 3 tap stands is being used as we walk by.

Kids benefit from having more water near their houses.