CustomMade CRAFTS CENTER

Respecting traditions
Promoting craftsmanship
Conserving resources
Meeting needs

CustomMade Crafts Center, Inc. (CMCC) is an initiative of Non-Timber Forest Products Exchange Program Philippines (NTFP-EP Philippines), a collaborative network on non-government organizations and community-based organizations that work to empower forest dependent communities to utilize and manage their forest resources in a sustainable manner.

CMCC works with master weavers and indigenous artisans all over the Philippines to create beautiful and functional products that express the timeless traditions of these cultural communities while meeting the needs of the modern market. Through innovative product design, diversification, branding and niche marketing, CMCC is expanding the market for these works of art to ensure that these communities will continue their way of life, traditions, and nurture the forests that sustain them.

NTFP-EP PHILIPPINES

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Indigo

Indigo is a shrubby, herbaceous plant that grows 1 to 2 meters high in dry and tropical places. Its leaves are small and oval-shaped, and are arranged symmetrically like the malunggay (moringa). As a legume, it is a soil-improving ground cover, and a plant that yields a wide variety of blue color for textiles.

Its scientific word is *Indigofera tinctoria*. In different plants of the Philippines, the indigo has many local names: anil (spanish word used in many areas of the country), tagung-tagung and tagum (Visayas), taiom (Ilocano), taium (Ivatan), taiung (Pampanga), taiong taiungan and tagum (Bicol).

Indigo Plant Processing

Indigo plant

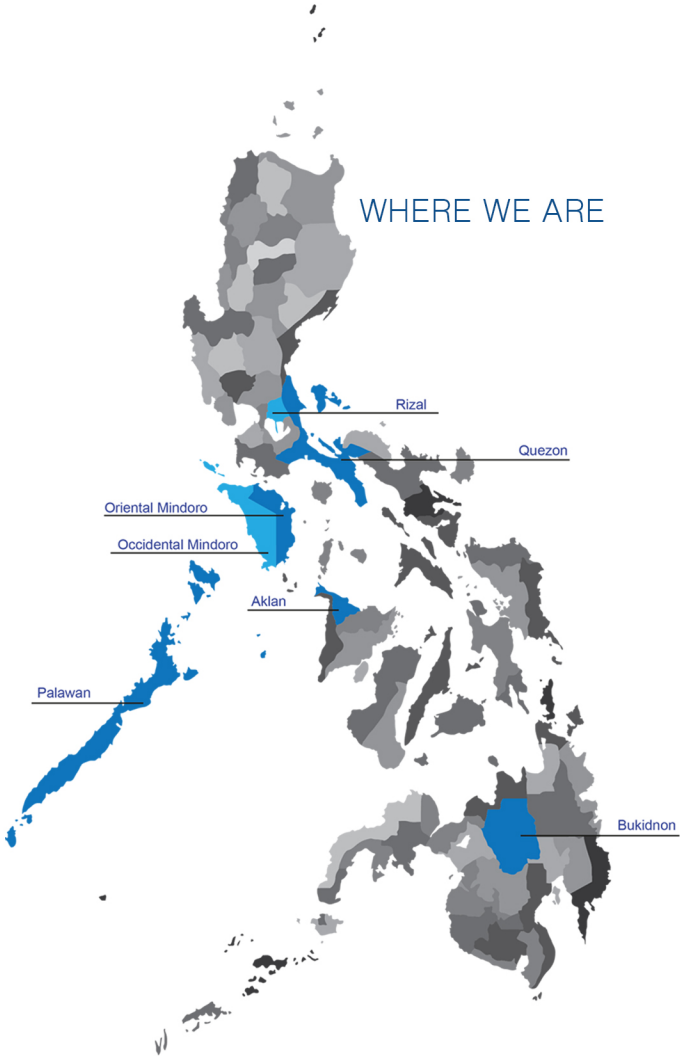
Harvesting

Fermenting

Powdering

Indigo powder

WHERE WE ARE



Indigo Dyeing Application

Materials Indigo powder, Sodium hydroxide, Sodium Hydrosulfite & Mild detergent

1. Add a half cup of tap water into the bottle with indigo powder.
2. Stir to dissolve the indigo powder. Add a pinch (0.24 grams) of caustic soda to the solution. Be very careful in handling caustic soda. Use a small spoon. Do not use said utensils again for handling food.
3. Leave for at least 8 hours or overnight with cover.
4. Remove the cover of the bottle and add 1 cup of boiling hot water into the solution.
5. Add a small amount of sodium hydrosulfite (0.3 grams) using a small spoon. Do not stir. Leave the solution for 10 to 15 minutes.
6. Prepare your fabric for dyeing by soaking it in water and letting the excess water drip.
7. Slowly dip the fabric into the indigo solution. Avoid disturbing the solution to prevent oxidation.
8. Lift the fabric slowly from the solution and allow to drip in another container.
9. Air-dry (electric fan can be used) to speed the oxidation process.
10. If there is no more yellow color on the fabric, it is fully oxidized.
11. Wash with tap water to eliminate the excess dye. Squeeze to remove excess water.
12. Repeat the dipping process (#7) to attain a darker shade of blue.
13. Wash with a mild detergent like Cleanmate or Perla (any detergent without bleach). Rinse thoroughly until the dye stops bleeding from the fabric.