

In June 2011, 120,038 families in nine provinces of Mindanao were flooded, with water levels raised up to 0.7 meters. The said flood is due to blocking waterways and choking water flow in Rio Grande by approximately 8 hectares of water hyacinths which were released from Liguasan Marsh. Despite this event seems to be a funny and unanticipated sci-fi scene, people on affected areas could not help but think of a possible solution. After some days, the water hyacinths were collected and used to make baskets, sleeping mats, and bags. Researches were also conducted to study its potential to be a source of biofuel, and for making cupboards, greaseproof paper, building boards and fertilizers. The main component of water hyacinth that allows such applications to be possible is cellulose. Cellulose is composed of thousands of glucose molecules that are held together glycosidic bond and extensive hydrogen bonding among glucose residues. This way a nightmare has been turned into a source of income that supports the economy for the people of Mindanao.