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On cover Pg 10

Building Business Opportunities In Agriculture

Featured stories

Breaking Barriers: A Farmer's story of resilience and audacious faith in organic farming, Pg 13

Teaching beyond Borders: From Maestra to Mag-uuma, Pg 16

CONTENTS

- 3** • _____ ATI-RTC X conducts series of provincial consultations
- 4** • _____ ATI-RTC X celebrates 36th Founding Anniversary with focus on Extension Modernization
- 6** • _____ Organic herbs training underscores income opportunity for Higaonon tribe in Claveria
- 7** • _____ Refining the Blade: 23 Passionate Minds Cultivate New Skills at Amparitas Farm in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur tribe in Claveria
- 8** • _____ Farming innovations, best practices underscored in 1st Regional LSA Summit
- 10** • _____ **Building Opportunities in Agriculture**
Cover Story
- 13** • _____ **Breaking Barriers: A Farmer's story of resilienc and audacious faith in organic farming**
Feature
- 16** • _____ **Teaching beyond Borders: From Maestra to Mag-uuma**
Feature

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ATI-RTC X conducts series of provincial consultations

JAJadraque



Center Director Maria Lydia A. Echavez shares ATi Policy directions for FY 2023

Intending to come up with harmonized training programs and other extension activities for fiscal year 2023, as well as identify the training needs intervention for 2024, a series of provincial consultations in Bukidnon, Camiguin, Lanao del Norte, Misamis Occidental and Misamis Oriental transpired.

The consultations were participated by staff from the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) and Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO), Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO), Local Government Units (LGUs), farm owner and operators of Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA), and other partner stakeholders.

Center Director Maria Lydia A. Echavez during a consultation in Baroy, Lanao del Norte emphasized the importance of the said activity as it gathers need-based capability development initiatives to actors in the agricultural extension service especially the agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and farmer-leaders

in the region.

“ATI and the Department of Agriculture have limited resources, that is why we have to prioritize what our clients need. Our mandate is to train our extension workers, as well as our farmers, the youth, women and even those from the marginalized sector. Again, we have limited resources, so we have to make sure that your proposals are doable, feasible, and fundable”

Director Echavez said. Aside from production, she also encouraged the participants to consider other training programs along the value chain such as training about processing, packaging, and marketing.

“Our tagline is new --- Masaganang Agrikultura, Maunlad na Ekonomiya--- it is not only about the ‘Ani at Kita’ anymore but the Department of Agriculture and the administration are now looking at a much bigger scale” she added. The consultation was conducted through a workshop methodology named “World Café” wherein booths classified into Livestock, Corn, Rice/RCEF, HVCDP, Coconut/CFIDP, Organic Agriculture, LSA/ Youth/RBO, Social Technology, and Information Services were set up for the participants. ###

“ We have to make sure that your proposals are doable, feasible and fundable ”



Livestock booth facilitated by Ms. Noemi Beth Macario and Cheriemy General with some LGUs and LSA Operator Leo Ocampos



ATI-RTC X employees during ATIng Parada or the anniversary parade.

ATI-RTC X celebrates 36th Founding Anniversary with focus on Extension Modernization

VTPalarca

Poblacion, El Salvador City---The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) celebrates its 36th founding anniversary. It continues to mainstream agricultural advancement in the country for its farmer-partners on extension modernization, with the theme “Innovate, Transform, Empower: Embracing Extension Modernization for a Progressive and Sustainable

Agriculture and Fisheries”.

Various activities were lined-up for the two-day celebration which include ATIng Parada, a Holy Mass, ribbon cutting for the Opening of LSA Bazaar (showcasing LS products) and e-Lounge, Launching of Bahandi NextGen Edition, Awarding of LSA Certificates and financial grants, Paalam, Pasalamat,

Recognition of Exemplary Performance of ATI staff, LSA sharing of best practices and breakthroughs, and more.

“This year’s theme reminds me of how we have survived the past year’s unprecedented adversities, especially the pandemic that threatened the lives of many, and challenged significantly food sustainability and the agricultural system. The pandemic ushered us to a new threshold. We took agriculture modernization at a whole new level. We became more daring and innovative in delivering our services. As digital acceleration reached the agri and fisheries sectors in the countryside, we have closed the gap created by the pandemic. We have continued professionalizing



Launching of Bahandi NextGen Edition.

our clients through trainings in the digital platforms. We reached out more farmers through the knowledge products in the digital space. We connected farmers to buyers through digital marketing, and we produced more than a hundred digital farmers through the Digital Farmers Program. To my ATI-RTC X team, as we mark this milestone, let's recommit ourselves for better service. Let's recommit ourselves to the core values of the Institute. Let's continue to Innovate, Transform, and Empower", Center Director Lydia A. Echavez said in her welcome message, stressing the importance of innovation, the transformative power of quality trainings to empower ATI's customers and clients.

Invited guests were RED Carlene Collado of DA-RFO X (as represented by DA consultant Joel S. Rudinas), City Mayor Edgar Lignes (as represented by City Agriculturist Nolly Gabule) , attached agencies and line bureaus of the DA family, PhilRice, BPI, NSQCS, PCIC, TESDA 10, representatives from the Provincial Government of Misamis Oriental, Misamis Occidental, Camiguin, and Bukidnon, representatives from the City Government of El Salvador, Iligan and Cagayan de Oro, former center directors and colleagues, the pillars and forebearers of the Tatak ATI service in the region, and LSA farmer-partners.

One of the highlights of the activities include poster making contest, dish gardening, and quiz bee. Invited schools in the city participated in the aforementioned contests where high school students of Molugan National High School, St. Joseph Academy, Cogon National High School, The New El Salvador Colleges and El Salvador City National High School where they showcased their creativity and smarts.

Another highlight during the afternoon session was a baking demo led by our in-house chefs Rose Marie Magriña and Antonette June Russel, and was participated by ATI-RTC X retirees.

A comprehensive Health Care and Rehabilitation Services for Adults with Ms. Cassandra Norren G. Macario, CSP-PASP as the resource person was organized during day two of the anniversary celebration, which was followed by a mini-sportsfest in the afternoon.



Dish gardening contest



Poster making contest joined by students who are representing invited schools in El Salvador City



Inter-school quiz bee agri edition

The two-day celebration which was celebrated simultaneously at the center level among the 16 training centers in the country transpired on January 30-31, 2023 with the theme "Embracing Extension Modernization for a Progressive and Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries".###

Organic herbs training emphasizes income opportunity for Higaonon tribe in Claveria

VTPalarca

Twenty-five members of the Higaonon tribe in Sitio Kalhaan, Minalwang, Claveria, Misamis Oriental were trained to identify herbs, their respective uses, how to properly propagate them, as well as soil media preparation in a Training on Organic Herbs Production, Utilization, and Processing. The three-day activity was organized in partnership with GreenMinds Incorporated, a Private Agriculture and Fisheries-Extension Service Provider (PAF-ESP) partner of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI).

The training also aims to maximize the use of their available land and increase their commodities' value and profitability through value-adding. It also aims to prompt community members to propagate

more herbs in their area, with fresh and processed herbs as additional income source.

“Gamiton gyud nato ni nga kahibalo aron masulbad ang kalisod dere sa Sitio Kalhaan. Kini nga training, para sa ako, dako kaayo ni ug tabang para mu-asenso ang Kalhaan. Opportunidad ni nga gihatag sa ato, ilabi na sa mga pamilyado sama sa ako. Magpasalamat kita nga naay nag-giya dere sa ato. Ug tungod ani nga kaalam, dako ang posibilidad nga mapahuman nako akong mga anak ug pa-eskwela pina-agi sa pagpamaligya ug pag-proseso ug mga herbs ug uban pang maka-ayo nga tanom”, says training participant Arnel Lainay.

For the herbs identification and classification, 25 various herbs for



Participants tried planting herb cuttings into a seedling tray

culinary and topical use ranging from mints, basil, manzanilla, citronella, rosemary, thyme, tarragon, and more were use as point of reference during the discussion proper. In their hands-on demo, the training participants prepared teas, herb-infused water, juice, pesto, and herb-based remedies.

Tribal beads maker Dolayna Kalyan also saw business potential in herbs processing,



Participants during their hands-on activity on coco rope making.



ATI-RTC 13 Center Director Jessie Beldian expressing his support to the training during the opening program of the activity.



with soil media

“

Gamiton gyud nato ni nga kahibalo aron masulbad ang kalisod dere sa Sitio Kalhaan.

“Akong plano sa akong nakat-unan ani nga training sa organic herbs, nakita nako nga kini dugang sa akong panginabuhian kay tungod nakita nako nga dako kini ug tabang kung mananom ko ug para gamiton para sa ilimnon or haplas”, she shared during the giving of impressions.

Greenminds Incorporated CEO Datu Makadingding served as the resource person, while Lonilyn Amper Sulatan as the project officer, and resource person as well. Greenminds Incorporated is a self-sustaining, people, and service-oriented organization devoted to promote organic agriculture, sustainability, and preservation of the environment.

The said training which transpired on March 7-9, 2023 is in support to Poverty Reduction, Livelihood and Employment Cluster (PRLEC) and End Local Communist Armed Conflict (ELCAC). (with reports from Lonilyn A. Sulatan and Jisa T. Dulay)



Resource Person Reynaldo Gil Lomarda during the opening program of the training.

Refining the Blade: 23 Passionate Minds Cultivate New Skills at Amparitas Farm in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur

JBMercado

Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur – As the implementation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) continues to progress, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center X (ATI – RTC X) remains actively engaged in conducting a variety of training programs and initiatives catered to both agricultural extension workers (AEWs) involved in the implementation of CFIDP programs, and the coconut farmers themselves.

In a new development, another training session titled “Training of Trainers on the Production of Coconut

Products and By-Products” was conducted at Amparitas Integrated Natural Farm in Tagasaka, Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur, as part of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). This 10-day training commenced last May 29, 2023, and concluded on June 7, 2023.

A total of 23 participants from the provinces of Bukidnon, Misamis Oriental, Lanao del Norte, and Misamis Occidental attended the training.

(Continue to page 15...)



Center Director Maria Lydia Echavez giving her message during the ALSEA meeting



Ribbon cutting of LSA Bazaar with OIC Center Director Noemi Beth Remelyn Recoter and Center Director Maria Lydia A. Echavez

Farming innovations, best practices underscored in 1st Regional LSA Summit

VTPalarca

Gusa, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY---The 1st Regional Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), School for Practical Agriculture (SPA), and Private Agriculture and Fisheries-Extension Service Providers (PAF-ESP) Summit was a success as it convened the center's farmer-partners, extension workers, MAOs and PAOs of the municipalities and provinces in the region, resource persons, and other invited guests at the Harbor Lights Hotel and Restaurant on May 30-31, this city.

"This is an opportune time to recognize the contributions of our local agri-fishery partners especially as we celebrate the Farmers' and Fisherfolks' Month this May. I commend the efforts of ATI Northern Mindanao for organizing this regional summit for our partners in the field. This event can give you information in farming technologies and a showcase of best practices of the learning sites of agriculture attending here. To our LSA partners in the field, kamo ang hinungdan nga aduna kami pagkaon sa among lamesa, ug ma-enjoy namo ang mga lamian nga mga pagkaon. Saludo kami sa inyong mga magsasakang Pilipino. Padayon, mabuhay kayong lahat", ATI National Director Remelyn R. Recoter said in her keynote message to the summit participants.

Senior Agriculturist Javier Pacuribot Andalan presented the overview of activity of the summit. He emphasized the objective of the event which is the sharing of best farming practices, effective marketing techniques,

and farming innovations among the farm-owners and cooperators.

The summit also intends to provide opportunity among the farmers to share good agricultural practices, innovations and breakthroughs, identify issues and concerns, as well as provide recommendations regarding their farming experiences, and help update the revised guidelines on the establishment of LSAs and private ESPs.

"Through this regional summit, we hope that you will learn from each other's expertise and innovations, ug mga best farming practices nga makatabang sa inyong mga farms. The number of farmer-partners we have now here is a strong indication nga we are headed to the right direction of making our learning sites as our partners in the field. This may be the first, but definitely not the last", Center Director Maria Lydia Adviento Echavez said in her welcome message.

Outstanding learning sites were recognized and awarded with Leaders in the Service of Agriculture Awards 2022. The awardees are: Margeuries House of Goodies for Agri Guru Award, Alomah's Place and Nature Farm for Farmer Influencer Award, Green Minds Incorporated for Community Catalyst Award, and Alman God's Gift Foundation Incorporated for Money Maker Award.



Macario, Dir. Carlota Madriaga, Dir.



Region 10 LSA operators with Bukidnon's Assistant Provincial Agriculturist Jacqueline Julia Lagamon, PAS Chief Javier Andalan, OIC Assistant CD Noemi Beth Macario, and Center Director Maria Lydia Echavez

The recognition and awards were meant for the LSA owner's efficiency, integrity, responsiveness, and engagement in terms of rural and agricultural development, and for their contribution in making the country food-secure.

Meanwhile, various learning site farm products were on display for sale at the LSA Bazaar which was launched with a ribbon cutting, led by ATI National Director Remelyn R. Recoter, Regional Technical Director Carlota Madriaga of DA-RFO 10, City Agriculturist Paterno Gonzales Jr. (on behalf of Honorable City Mayor Rolando A. Uy), Center Director Maria Lydia Adviento Echavez, and Assistant Center Director Noemi Beth G. Macario.

"Today's summit underscores the contribution of our farmers here in the region to the agri-fisheries sector. Our farmers have worked hard, and so are our extension workers through various ATI extension programs for expanding services to empower our farmers. Nalipay sad ko ug dako nga nakita nako ang kaanindot sa mga farms ug akong mga kaila sauna nga successful farmers na karon", said DA-RFO 10 Regional Technical Director Carlota Madriaga. RTD Madriaga graced the summit on behalf of Regional Executive Director Carlene C. Collado.

During the 2-day summit, Moriah Farm owner, Jose Feron "Dodong" Cacanando discussed about farming as a business and shared business tips and principles rooted from the Bible with the hopes to help others become fruitful and successful as well. His foundation Semilya sa Kinabuhi reaches out to people from all

walks of life with the vision of teaching entrepreneurship through stewardship. Amparitas Farm owner Engineer Ramon R. Barbosa of from Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur shared his farming experience and farming success story emphasizing integrated natural farming and marketing. Engr. Barbosa attributed the success of his farming from his personal experience as former PCA Regional Manager especially in the fields of entrepreneurship and farm business planning.

Also, a breakout session transpired with noteworthy topics discussed such as Digital Marketing and Technology: A Game Changer in Agriculture (with Mushroom City's Edzel James O. Quemado as the resource person), Soil Food Web-Soil Microbiology (with Engr. Gerry R. Burdas as resource person), and Packaging, Labelling, and Branding (with Senior Trade Industry Development Specialist Greenly Batucan of DTI-10 as resource person).

An open forum happened later in the afternoon with invited government agencies like DTI-10, ACPC, PCA-10, DOST-10, Landbank of the Philippines and PCIC. The forum served as an avenue among the summit participants to inquire their respective programs and interventions which they can avail.

"We hope that you have learned a lot from this summit and look at the bigger picture and possibilities of reaching out to a wider market and establish networks. In terms of capability development, naa ra ang ATI magpaluyo sa inyo. We also hope to come up with a bigger summit next year. Thank you for coming over, thank you very much, said Assistant Center Director Noemi Beth G. Macario in her closing message. (with reports from Cristine A. Galupo)



Building Opportunities In Agriculture

“Ang tableya sa farm, walay lasa” So how can we market this?

Also, we have glaring financial records with 200 heads of free-range chickens eating sackful of feeds a day, with no revenues at all! The curiosity and the entrepreneurial mind of Julie Ann was triggered by the situations she witnessed in their farm, SiaKeAn’s Integrated Farm (stylized as SiaKeAn), which was owned and operated by her mother. How come her mother continue to spend money with barely enough income to pay the laborers? She took these situations as challenges in farming which she thought is a way to help her mother’s dream come true. “My dream is for SiaKeAn’s Farm to be an exporter of cacao beans and other products, to be a prime chicken meat producer, and a vegetable product consolidator in the province”. This is what Julie Ann answered when asked about her current plan in life.

A Strike of Fate

An architect by profession, Julie Ann P. Alvarez is the second child of Garlan L. Alvarez who is a seafarer for decades, and Sagrada P. Alvarez, a city agriculturist. She worked in a construction company for six years after graduating from Mapua University and after

getting her license. Managing a team of architects honed Julie Ann’s managerial skills to handle people and motivate them to work for the company’s goals. Trapped in the construction site for months because of Covid-19 pandemic, Julie Ann was granted a Christmas vacation and went home in Oroquieta City, Misamis Occidental. A strike of misfortune or fate, she became sick with pneumonia, thanks to her hardworking ways and city lifestyle. Hard work to a point of less or no sleep at all, she added.

“While recuperating, at first, I was just tending the flowers since I do not know anything about agriculture. But when I saw the hubbard chicken weighing an average of 3 kilos and eating up my mama’s funds with no return, I suggested disposing it. And voila! The 200 heads were sold in just two weeks!”. That made Julie look into all other records of the farm and realized that it is not gaining profit at all.

The Biggest Challenge

The challenge she was facing then was how to make the farm productive. Seeing the cacao and tableya product as having the lowest revenue product but with high potential, Julie Ann tried to improve it by introducing



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fermentation of the cacao beans. “I experimented with fermentation by watching videos on YouTube. I proudly declare that I am a graduate of YouTube University. Then I attended trainings organized by ATI. Why not avail all these free training programs?”. The product did improve and she was able to market online through a popular app. With its new taste, the tableya made it through and online orders came pouring in. And that’s when another challenge came. The market is not the problem now, it is the raw materials. Cacao beans from the farm are not enough to produce more tableya, and Julie Ann had to make excuses with the buyers. She can’t supply them anymore. She tried to diligently apply the organic concoctions to bring more fruits to the cacao trees but still, the fruits are not enough. Linkage

and coordination are the keys, Julie Ann thought. And she tried it with the cacao farmers in one of the meetings. She offered them almost double the price of the cacao beans they are currently selling. “Pero murag wala sila nituo sa ako. Tingali abi nila gabinuang man ning anak ni Diding” (It seems they did not believe me. Maybe they thought this daughter of Diding is joking). This is one of the current experiences some young farmers are facing when dealing with the older and experienced ones in the field. Such complexity did not stop Julie Ann to pursue her plan of getting big with cacao production. She approached the cacao farmers in the neighborhood and started buying their beans at a higher price to boost their supply of raw materials. With patience and perseverance, more meetings and linkages with farmers are coming up, and by now, surely, SiaKeAn’s tableya is back to online business.



A Handful of DIYs

The selling of the 200 heads of

Hubbard chicken in two weeks inspired Julie Ann to find time to watch for YouTube do-it-yourself videos of an egg incubator, to produce more chicks. She was able to create a 360 capacity incubator and is now producing more chicks for meat production. The mass production of chicken will fulfill her dream of becoming the supplier of organically grown chicken, which health-conscious customers are very much willing to patronize. Again, a training on free-range chicken with ATI supplemented her limited knowledge in agriculture.

More to Go

A lot has yet to be done in the farm according to Julie Ann. The ongoing vegetable production with

short-term crops provide sustainable income, but the dream of consolidating all the vegetable crops in the area for a greater market, and to help the vegetable farmers has just started in the neighborhood. Hence, it has yet to grow big. On the other hand, what gives a greater current income for SiaKeaAn's Integrated Farm are the coconut trees. The dwarf coco seedlings give the farm a weekly income of 7,000 pesos. Added to it is the income from the coco sugar, the spicy coco vinegar, and the coco sauce out of the water from the matured coconuts. All these are yet to be improved and made sustainable to achieve the dream of becoming a truly sustainable Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA). Alongside these grappling for technical know-how in agriculture, Julie has to manage the paper works. Her mother dreamed of the farm becoming an ATI-certified LSA, and a certified organic farm. These are

already in place. And by now, SiaKeaAn's Integrated Farm is already a Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-certified for its spicy vinegar and cacao tableya, ready for display in malls and bigger markets. She has to Say "The human brain is most powerful. What you think is what you will become. If you give, give your all. Don't give up". "Be bold, be dynamic, be radical". On this, Julie Ann expounded, that we have to fight for what we think is right, be strong on our stand, be open to suggestions, and adjust to changes in the environment. These she believes, are her guiding principles, which she now gives as a challenge to those who are yet to start a farming business. Being one of the next-generation farmer-agripreneurs in the region is a great service to the agriculture sector. And ATI-RTC X pens its hope for this young architect to be one of the great agribusiness women and prime movers in the field of agriculture. For more of SiaKeaAn's Integrated Farm, visit their official Facebook account here: <https://www.facebook.com/siakeans>





Breaking Barriers: A Farmer's story of resilience and audacious faith in organic agriculture

MCEpe



His dream is to leave an indelible mark as he strives to impart his knowledge and inspire as many hopeful farmers as he can begin. Again Broken hearted, Cyril “Bhal” A. Cabrera, 43, built home anew with Yvonne Berenguel, 39, a public high school teacher. Their story is beyond the stereotypical love tale – complicated, Bhal would say. It was two decades ago when they first encountered each other.

He used to teach at the University of Mindanao–Davao Campus and Yvonne was his former student. Years have passed and their worlds completely grew apart. He fell in love, got married, and had a child.

She, on the other hand, shared the same. His married

life was not as successful as he thought it would be.

His heart was shattered but chose to be hopeful. She, with the passing of her husband, was left alone. Fate, with all the mysteries we dare not fathom, reunited them. With hearts rekindled, both were ready to begin again.

Brighter Perspectives

Cush, 15, became the couple's apple of the eye. He is a blessing they have prayed for. Every father's dream is to give his child the best he deserves. Sometime in 2018, Bhal delved into agriculture and started cultivating the land his wife owns in Tangub City, Misamis Occidental. It was the birth of the Cush Prime Ventures (CPV) Natural Farm. His earnest desire to produce healthy farm products made him research for technologies available on

Feature Story

YouTube. Back then, he had little to no knowledge about farming at all. Soil composition and proper irrigation system were new to him. The farm was barely thriving even after a couple of tries. Finances were scarce and their faith was definitely tested. With such difficulties, he was in the verge of giving up until he learned about the programs of the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center X (ATI-RTC X). The first training he participated in was a training on organic chicken production facilitated by Agriculturist Javier P. Andalan, in Hoyohoy, Tangub City, Misamis Occidental. He was able to assess his knowledge and was indeed thankful for the lessons and skills he acquired. After such, he developed a clearer and better vision for his farm. This was his first step to redeeming himself, and discovering his love for farming.



Best Practices

After applying the technologies he learned from the couple of trainings of ATI, CPV was gradually earning. Everyone in the family helps to man the farm. Bhal makes sure that his son also appreciates the importance of farming. He further ventured in organic chicken production specifically for meat type. He was deeply grateful to former Governor Loreto Leo S. Ocampos who served as his big brother, and mentor in terms of becoming a business-savvy individual. At the moment, Bhal's farm sources out its broods from

Bounty Progeny. However, the feeds are solely formulated by him. He keeps on innovating and aims to gain more knowledge through various trainings. ATI-RTC X officially certified CPV Nature Farm as a LSA in 2020, during the height of the pandemic. It was also granted financial assistance for the enhancement of its training hall and dormitory as the farm aims to hold trainings to farmers and to those who are interested to venture in agriculture. After all, knowledge sharing is also one of his passions, especially organic agriculture.



(Redefining the blade..Continue from Page 7..)

The participants consisted of 10 Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs), 11 farmers, and 2 representatives from National Government Agencies (NGAs) involved in the implementation of CFIDP-related activities.

The training aims to foster the growth of coconut farmers, empower them to engage in value-added initiatives, unleashing the boundless possibilities of the coconut industry, and nurture thriving livelihoods. This endeavor not only seeks to amplify the earnings of coconut farmers but also bids to stimulate job creation and foster the emergence of vibrant enterprises within local communities.

The training covers the production of various food products derived from coconut meat, including virgin coconut oil (VCO), coconut flour, and vegetarian burger patties. Additionally, it covers the creation of products derived from coconut toddy, such as coco sugar, coco aminos, coco nectar, alcohol, and vinegar. Furthermore, the training also explores the utilization of coconut water, discussing products like coco toyo, coco water vinegar, and matured coconut water.

The training also covered non-food by-products, such as coco coir, coco dust, coco ropes, coco nets, and bio-logs, with practical demonstrations and hands-on activities.

Dr. Jessie Beldia, Center Director of ATI - RTC XIII, honored the Opening Program with his presence, showed his wholehearted support for the activity. He expressed pride in Amparitas Integrated Natural Farm, a certified learning site of ATI, for possessing the capacity to conduct trainings, particularly those focused on coconut product processing. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of a culture of reciprocity among ATI Centers, where they work together to support and assist one another in achieving their individual goals and targets.

The training program also aims to form a diverse group of experts who can share their knowledge on various aspects of coconut product manufacturing and its derivatives. This initiative will provide valuable support to the Institute as a capacity-building entity, contributing to the enhancement of their overall well-being and quality of life. Ultimately, this will bolster the competitiveness of the coconut industry in the Philippines, leading to its sustained growth and success.

Beam of Light

The onset of Covid-19 has brought about a lot of tribulations especially to poultry farmers. To CPV farm, the limited number of brood supplies in the

market has directly affected them. Sales have dramatically gone down. Despite that, Bhal remains positive. The industry projects that on the fourth quarter of 2022, supplies will slowly go up and the farm will surely be gaining again. Perhaps, this was a blessing in disguise. It made 106.7 Farm Radio happen. This program is also streamed on Channel 15 - a local TV channel in Misamis Occidental.

Bhal takes pride on it as it is the fruit of all his hard work and sacrifices. By far, it is the

first farm radio that delivers agriculture-related topics, development news, as well as promote the projects

“

For without farms, we will have no food on our tables

and programs of ATI in the province---a trailblazer in his own right.

When asked about his aspiration, he said, “I really want to help my fellow farmers and the

young generations to appreciate organic agriculture, or agriculture in general.” He strongly believes that encouraging people as many as he can to appreciate and get into farming is an essential part of nation building.

Loud and proud, he concluded, “For without farms, we will have no food on our tables.”

Bruised but unbroken – this is Bhal. His heart may have cracks but remained whole. He is both brave and empathetic and never allowing the barricades to ever stop him towards achieving his dream.





Teaching beyond From Maestra to

Ever notice how a stone thrown on the surface of the water bounces off, creating ripples before it sinks? That is how impactful a simple word or action may spread before you even realize. Like how a young farmer, Lonilyn Amper Sulatan or “Kenken” as people familiarly call her, expressed her gratitude to her benefactor, Greenminds Incorporated. From maestra to mag-uuma, how an elementary education graduate ended up teaching Organic Agriculture (OA) to the marginalized population.

Humble Beginnings

Kenken grew up in Sitio Gupaco Sinuda, in the municipality of the landlocked, Kitaotao, Bukidnon. At 29, she may seem to have always envisioned the path she has taken now as she animatedly converses with a confident smile on her face but she clarifies that her

primary dream was to be an elementary school teacher. A humble beginning which led her to her current love, agriculture. Enter GreenMinds Incorporated. One of Greenminds’ advocacies is to support the less fortunate students earn their degrees through scholarships. Kenken is one of the lucky few given the chance to be sponsored from her second semester in third year until graduation. She was an active volunteer in Greenminds Inc., which eventually landed her first job as an administrative aide in 2014, and eight years later, as a training officer of Umanika Eco-Cultural Farm, a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center X (ATI-RTC X) based in El Salvador City, Misamis Oriental. How did she cope up with the big difference of the expectations of instructing a class full of kids to the reality of teaching organic agriculture to various communities? This is an area she never delved before. “Training. Unsa imo



and Borders: to Mag-uuma

GCatitil

gitudlo sa uban, kabalo pud dapat ka,” (You should be knowledgeable of what you teach to others.) she said. Her first exposure was a 10-day training organized by the ATI-RTC X in Training Management. She was a blank sheet. She did not have prior knowledge on agriculture. Although her degree is remotely related to agriculture, she trained, gained new knowledge, and did a great job during the training proper. Add to that, her teaching and mentoring skills came in handy in terms of sharing what she have learned. You can only teach the things you have understood and have tried so yourself.

Teaching beyond Borders

The primary goal of Greenminds is to help the marginalized communities in Mindanao (in this case, the indigenous people or the Lumad) become self-reliant

by teaching them skills especially in organic farming while promoting their own products like the processed nuts in partnership with government entities like the ATI-RTC X and other non-government organizations. They started with the Lumad in the region and now has reached across borders. Kenken, as one of its training officers has been one of the primary batches to be deployed overseas. In a small country composed of little islands off the east coast of Australia, lies the Republic of Vanuatu. It is currently one of the recipients of the joint effort of Greenminds Incorporated, and their foreign NGO partner, Tear Fund New Zealand. They promote sustainable farming and eco-friendlier option for the natives and the environment like the Sloping Agricultural Land Technology or SALT. As per definition, SALT 1 Technology Guide is a simple and low-cost technology of soil conservation and food crop production that allow farmers to generate sufficient



income through the harvested crops all year round. It can also be easily replicated by farmers and so making it uncomplicated to teach. Today, the products made by the locals of Vanuatu are supplied to cruise ships and has helped them sustain their needs. Kenken also participated in rendering her services to their Fiji Chapter, a little tropical archipelago in the South Pacific, and north of Auckland, New Zealand. They help the sexually-exploited women learn organic farming so they can stand up for themselves and generate their own income. Currently, their organization is helping Solomon Islands, while Kenken stayed on the sidelines, this time as she assisted in their training preparation. They typically train communities for at least 10 days to determine their needs in order to keep helping them. They continue to contact and monitor these communities and deploy trainers almost annually (only halted during the pandemic) as they strive to achieve their advocacy of helping the ones in need. Starting from the Lumad and our local farmers up to our brothers and sisters beyond the borders.

Community Building

The road to community development is long and rigorous. It is time-consuming, costly and will never be smooth-sailing. But as long as people like Kenken continue to teach agriculture and reach out to these forgotten side of the population, that stone will create boundless ripples. Someday these communities that they have trained will also return the gratitude as they continue the legacy by sharing this earned knowledge of organic farming to the vulnerable and the marginalized. Kenken shares that whatever you set your mind into doing, take that challenge. Like how she overcame her feeling of uncertainties which led her to understand and love agriculture. In a sense, she did not deviate from her first love. From a teacher to a training officer, both teach knowledge to those who need it the most. A town is not made by one man. To build a community, you will need everyone's support. If you can be a little stone today, why not be it? Humanity does not distinguish color and agriculture is for all.

WORD SEARCH

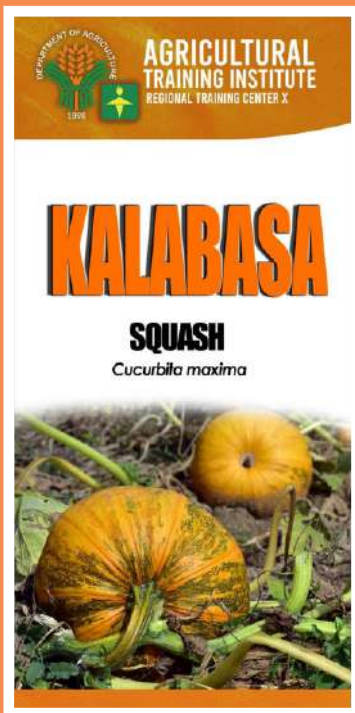
AGRI EDITION

Instruction: Search the words listed below. Words appear straight across, backward straight across, up and down, down and up, and diagonally

h	r	g	m	u	l	c	h	i	n	g	g	y	l	d
a	o	d	u	e	b	o	a	r	b	x	a	r	a	i
r	u	y	s	i	a	e	r	c	m	u	i	p	n	g
v	g	d	w	e	z	g	x	g	r	t	d	o	g	i
e	i	h	e	i	r	r	i	x	a	e	e	v	w	t
s	n	u	a	v	r	a	l	e	l	n	e	n	e	a
t	g	m	n	k	f	f	k	n	c	r	i	g	e	l
x	a	u	i	i	f	t	l	t	m	i	o	c	d	f
i	i	s	n	a	l	e	o	i	i	p	g	a	s	a
y	c	a	g	r	i	d	r	o	n	e	p	a	s	r
d	d	h	i	r	d	e	w	z	g	s	e	b	s	m
p	a	l	a	y	c	h	e	c	k	t	t	d	o	i
r	i	c	e	b	u	g	u	g	q	j	v	j	s	n
f	r	p	y	s	k	c	i	h	c	h	i	n	t	g
n	y	m	e	n	e	l	a	r	u	t	a	n	n	q

ASF	grafted	palaycheck	weaning	AI	chicks
organic	pest	RCM	boar	GAP	dairy
agri drone	natural enemy	weeds	rouging	vermi	rice bug
digital farming	mulching	maize	maize	humus	harvest

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