



TIM GAS

The Official Publication of the Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center-XIII



Women Empowerment in Agriculture

The Shiela Moso Maglines success story



Timgas

The word Timgas is a Cebuano term which means white and smooth in texture usually in reference to the grains of a high-quality rice. As an adjective, it is synonymous to ageless, enduring, eternal, firm, and everlasting.

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The Face of Woman Empowerment in Agriculture

Shiela Moso Maglines, 37, a resident of Brgy. Nongnong, Butuan City is courageous, persevering, diligent, and innovative. She is the voice of local farmers in her village and the tower of hope behind the many challenges that hound farmers such as poverty, pandemic, insurgency, rising prices of fertilizers and other inputs, and the lack of opportunities for farmers. By rising above adversities, leading people, and contributing to socio-economic transformation makes Shiela an embodiment of an empowered woman in agriculture.

But this was not an easy feat for her. Sheila's emotional strength stems from years of struggle and hardwork in difficult times. She learned to be strong not because life was comfortable, but because life was tough. Sheila recalled the constant clash between communist rebels and government troops in Nongnong that happened many years ago. She experienced coercion and intimidation. But these diversities her to become a resilient and courageous woman she is today.

Hopelessness did not get the better of her even though she was in a place full of neglect and underdevelopment. Shiela remembered that back then the ride to Nongnong was bumpy, dark, and dangerous (due to the presence of armed elements). With Nongnong's poor road condition, public transportation was seldom, delivery of basic services was lacking, and marketing of farm produce was challenging. But instead of feeling desperate, Shiela felt an impulse to rise above these hardships and do something to upturn the

The first thing she did was to accumulate as much knowledge as possible on technologies to increase farm production. This inner drive led her to the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center 13 located at Barangay Los Angeles, Butuan City.

Through ATI, she was able to join several techno forums and training on cassava, corn, and banana productions. Furthermore, she was able to participate in the Digital Farmers Program (DFP) 101 and

102 where she learned different mobile applications and ICT tools on agriculture which she used to promote her products and boost her production and income.

She also expanded her networks and partnerships with private organizations and government agencies where training opportunities, government programs, and free services abound.

At the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 13, Shiela availed free seeds and a shredding machine. Moreover, the City Agriculture Office of Butuan has provided her with training, farm advisories, technical support, seeds, fertilizers, and other farm inputs.

In order for farmers to have bargaining power, she organized the Nongnong Farmers Association where she is the chairperson since 2019. With 50 farmers at her helm, she hopes local farmers get a better price and more support from the government.

Further on, Shiela also joined other organizations such as the Butuan City Fruits and Vegetables Farmers Federation Incorporated, Butuan City Organic Producers and Processors Association, and the Women of Organic Agriculture Association – Caraga Chapter purposely to seek help and share knowledge from farmers in other local government units.

GUIAS INTEGRATED FARM

Currently, Shiela is the farmer-cooperator of Guias Integrated Farm. Its 18-hectare area is owned by her partner, an Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW). It was certified by ATI as a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in 2020. Her farm's main commodity and biggest income earner is the Cardaba banana. She also has vegetables, fruit trees, coconut, and corn. She also rears ducks, chickens, and goats. As a practicing organic farmer, she grows worms (African Nightcrawler) where its castings (waste products) are mixed with food wastes and bedding materials to produce vermicompost which is used as organic fertilizer and soil conditioner. Aside from vermiculture/vermicomposting, Shiela also showcases hydroponic technology and Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) on banana.

“We tried our best to be certified as LSA because we want to help farmers learn new technologies. I also open my farm for them in case they want a meeting venue. I offer it for free as long as this will benefit them,” Shiela remarked.

In order to generate local employment, she hired around 6-10 farm workers solely from Nongnong. Most of them are stay-ins while a few are hired as on-call workers, especially during land preparation, fertilization, and harvesting seasons.

As an active LSA, the Guias Integrated Farm was a recipient of extension support from ATI such as ICT and training equipment and the dispersal of goat, duck, and chicken.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Shiela has proven that the role of women in agriculture is not only limited to sowing, tending animals, processing and preparing food, and other manual labor. They can also take an active role in farm management decisions and in organizing and leading farmer's groups.

Through her leadership, she was able to link the Nongnong Farmers Association to the city government of Butuan. The group was able to get technical, financial, and extension support such as training and farm equipment.



In the near future, marketing vegetable products will be a lot easier because of the city's AgriBOOST project. This is an innovative idea conceptualized to address challenges in boosting the competitiveness of farmers through technical and resource support, demand-driven production, and reliable farm gate pricing. By next year, Shiela and other vegetable farmers can easily link with buyers through mobile applications, thereby cutting off layers of middlemen.

Having seen the benefits of organizing farmers, Shiela is now taking the lead in consolidating corn farmers in neighboring barangays into one cluster in order to avail of DA's program that will provide them with technical, financial, extension, marketing, and machinery support. So far, she has already spoken to two barangays with a consolidated farm area of 60 hectares. She is hopeful of reaching 200 hectares soon and eventually qualifying for the farm clustering program.





Moreover, Shiela said she is eyeing the Farm School accreditation from TESDA. The processing of documents and other requirements is underway. She is positive that her farm will become a Farm School very soon. That will be another opportunity for farmers to become farm experts and communication multipliers on new and appropriate farming technologies.

She also believes that to modernize agriculture, farmers should have access to farm machinery and infrastructure. That is why she is working hard to avail a farm tractor and to put up a water/irrigation project towards more efficient and productive farming.

Her piece of advice to farmers is, “connect with government entities, form associations, and join training activities. You need to know the type of crop suited to your area. You need to know about the proper application of fertilizers and the use of inputs. You need to know about production cost to know whether you’re gaining or losing. So, there’s a lot you need to know.”

Shiela admits that when she was still a beginner, farming wasn’t that easy. She met a lot of struggles and failures. But she learned from those adversities and rose above them. Her story is like the old adage that says: **Diamonds are shaped under extreme pressure and pearls are formed from constant irritation.**

For Shiela, there can be a positive outcome out of a negative situation if one works hard for it.

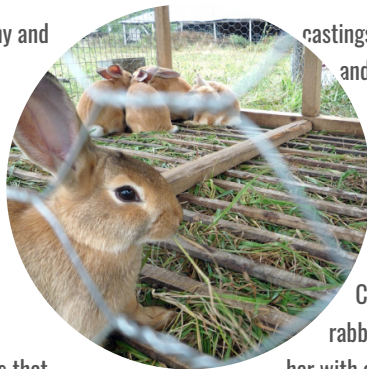


Raising rabbits and worms at Guias Integrated Farm

BRGY. NONGNONG, Butuan City – If worms and whiskers disgust you, not Shiela Maglines of Guias Integrated Farm. On her 18-hectare farm, she grows African night crawlers, rabbits, livestock, and fruit trees as her hobby and as a source of income.

On July 7, 2022, participants of the Training on Photography and Vlogging visited the Guias Integrated Farm as part of their photographic shooting activity. There, they learned how vermicomposting is done through the use of earthworms that convert waste materials into compost. Shiela uses shredded banana trunks and other agricultural wastes for decomposition. The bedding is covered with dried banana leaves or coco fiber to control light and retain moisture.

The microorganisms in the worms' gut produce exoenzymes that help degrade organic matter into forms of nutrients and biofertilizers for plants. In a few weeks' time, there can now be nutrient-rich worm wastes or



castings that can be harvested for fertilizer use. This is a cheap and environment-friendly way to provide fertilizer to plants.

On the other hand, rabbits are raised both as a pet and as a source of meat on Guias farm. With the rising prices of food, Shiela is considering rabbit meat as an alternative protein-rich meat source. Since only a few farms in Butuan City are into raising rabbits, she thought that going into rabbit production can be a lucrative livelihood that can provide her with a bigger income. (Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac)



SHOOT AND LEARN.

Participants of the Training on Photography and Vlogging visited the Guias Farm in Brgy. Nongnong, Butuan City as part of their photographic shooting activity. At the same time, it was an opportunity for them to learn about vermicomposting as a cheap and natural way of producing fertilizers.

AgSur reigns as Champion during 4-H Reg'l Summit

BUTUAN CITY - Having the highest number of points from the different competitions, the province of Agusan del Sur was declared as over-all champion during the three-day Regional Farm Youth (4-H) Summit on August 24 – 26, 2022 with the theme, "4-H Level UP: Leading Excellence in Agriculture through Viable Innovations, Empowering Leaders and Unleashing 4-H Potential."

A total of 52 participants consisted of 4-H members and coordinators from the provincial, municipal and city levels of Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Province of Dinagat Islands, and Butuan City joined the said event.

Rebecca R. Atega, OIC – Regional Technical Director for Operations of the Department of Agriculture (DA) - Caraga Region and guest speaker, said

"There is so much more that the youth can do outside employment. One can engage in agribusiness, food production, processing, and livestock raising." She also encouraged the youth to ask for support from the DA and other agencies because there are programs intended for the youth through scholarships, livelihood, loans, and others.

The activity involved four contests on Search for Lakan and Lakambini ng 4-H Club 2022 won by Alberto Picot Jr. of Agusan del Sur and Maxine Lou Pleños from Agusan del Norte; Promotional Video Making went to Jefferson Bulag of Sibagat, Agusan del Sur; Innovative Technology on organic Fertilizer Production won by Marvin Anlangoy of Sibagat, Agusan del Sur; and 4-H Debate by Rick John Guillarte of Surigao del Sur.

Lectures on various topics were also done. The first is on mental health discussed by Novalil Tubo from CSWD-Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte entitled "Mind Your Mind: Calming the Storms Inside towards Positive Mental Health."

"The first session is commendable and relevant to the society, especially in our province where we had encountered different catastrophes, the most



Caraga hosts ATI mid-year review and planning workshop

SIARGAO ISLANDS, Surigao del Norte – From July 27-29, 2022, the Mid-Year Performance Review and Planning Workshop of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) took place at Kawa Resort, Barangay Malinao, General Luna, in this island dubbed as the surfing capital of the Philippines.

The said activity was attended by Center Directors from the fifteen Regional Training Centers (RTCs) of ATI and the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH), division heads and key staff of ATI Central Office, and the directorate represented by OIC Assistant Director Antonietta J. Arceo on behalf of Dr. Rosana P. Mula, Director IV of ATI.

Fil Victor A. Babanto, OIC Center Director of ATI-RTC 13, welcomed the participants during the opening program while Director Arceo gave the opening message, latest initiatives, and ATI directives. Dr. Mula, though was not able to attend the activity in Siargao because of more important commitments, was able to join in the discussions via voice and video call.

Among the topics discussed were the first semester financial performance and consolidated physical performance, FY 2023 plans and budget proposal, criteria and schedule of performance evaluation for the best performing centers, and other issues and concerns. (Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac)



The Fiscal Year 2022 Mid-Year Performance Review and Planning Workshop of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) kicked off on July 27, 2022 at Kawa Resort, Siargao Island, Surigao del Norte. The host RTC, represented by OIC Center Director of ATI-RTC 13 Fil Victor Babanto, gave his Welcome Address. Dr. Rosana P. Mula, ATI Director IV, joined the activity virtually. OIC Deputy Director Antonietta Arceo delivered her message and the latest ATI initiatives and directives on behalf of Dr. Mula. Day 1 activity ended at 9:00 PM due to the many issues that needed to be addressed. The review and workshop which is attended by Center Directors and Officer-in-Charge of the RTCs, Division Heads of ATI-CO, and the Secretariat, will conclude on July 29, 2022.

devastating is the super typhoon. We're beyond grateful for ATI for the opportunities," said John Andrei D. Penedos, a 4-Her from Surigao City.

The second lecture was given by Erico C. Calumba, a winner of the Kabataan Agribiz contest, student, and co-owner of Lapaqueño, who encouraged the participants by sharing his best farming practices as a young entrepreneur. Moreover, another presentation was done about "Digital Farming: Opportunities and Challenges in the midst of the pandemic" through Francis Joseph C. Perdigon, a student-farmer of Perdigon Farm.

And on the last day, Emie Cholie B. Mejala, Tourism Operations Officer II of the Department of Tourism, shared the topics on agritourism.

"In this activity, I have found new friends get along and bonded with them. It is not only for educational purposes but also to show the skills and talents outside the box. It was a privilege to represent and be crowned as Lakan ng 4-H for my province. Thank you so much ATI for being so



Headed by Marivic Soriano (standing 4th from right), 4-H Provincial Coordinator, participants from Agusan del Sur receive their plaque as overall champion from OIC-TCS II of ATI-RTC XIII, Fil Victor Babanto (in green) during the awarding ceremony of 4-H Regional Summit on Aug. 26, 2022.

approachable, friendly and kind. Food was nutritious. Venue was very comfortable, and social night was fun and memorable," said Alberto B. Picot Jr. from Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur. (Ressell Angelie S. Fetalsana)

ATI 13 conducts 2022 first management review

LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center XIII conducted the Technical Guidance and Management Review on ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System (QMS) for ATI-RTC XIII Personnel on July 25-26, 2022.

It aims to evaluate the center's readiness and effectiveness in accordance with the ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System in the ATI services. Further, this is to prepare, update, and revise the Risk Assessment Plan and Quality Objectives of the sections; update the status of the issued Request for Action (RFA) and its relevant actions being implemented; conduct assessment on the established processes; and take actions on the RFA, formulated Risk Assessment Action Plan, and Quality Objectives.

Process owners and concerned individuals from the five sections/units of Career Development and Management Section (CDMS), Partnership Accreditation Section (PAS), Information Services Section (ISS), Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit (PMEU), and Administrative and Finance Unit (AFU) attended the activity.

Fil Victor A. Babanto - OIC-Center Director, stressed during his opening message the importance of following the ISO standard for more active and smooth implementation of the office's operations. Meanwhile, IQA team leader Matt Andrew Baquiano, gave the activity overview and a short review of the



Process owners discuss issues that affect the performance of ATI-RTC XIII during the Management Review on July 25-26, 2022.

Management Review (MR) inputs. He reminded the process owners to prepare issues and concerns that were met so the group could discuss the possible actions that the center could undertake.

The performance review of center's operations with highlights on trends and analysis was presented by Teovelita Rodriguez. She also reported the over-all evaluation results to the set of office targets. Suppliers Evaluation Result and Analysis by Kit Paul B. Paler, manpower, infrastructure, and drivers' evaluation result by Aurea Janine P. Abucay, Budget and Finance by Aurea Janine Abucay, and Human Resource Development updates and other admin concerns were reported by Francis Iriarte.

Each section was able to come up with its updated/ monitored risk assessment plan, quality objectives, and operations opportunities for improvement. (Ressell Angelie S. Fetalsana)

Campaign on vitamin A-rich Golden Rice to intensify

TAGAYTAY, Batangas – The Department of Agriculture, in partnership with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), is set to intensify the information campaign on the Golden Rice. The move was set in motion during the Golden Rice Program Communication Planning Workshop held at the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) on August 8-10, 2022.

Most of the participants were Information Officers (IOs) from DA-Regional Field Offices, PhilRice, ATI Regional Training Centers, and Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs).

The Golden Rice Program was established to introduce the said variety to farmers and to help address vitamin A deficiency (VAD). For every cup of Golden Rice contains 30-50% of vitamin A needed by children aged 5 years and below, pregnant women, and lactating mothers. It causes no overdose or toxicity to humans because any excess amount will be eliminated through body wastes.



Although the Golden Rice is genetically engineered but the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI) declared it as "safe as ordinary rice." It has undergone careful study by experts in science and has passed tests conducted by the Food Standards Australia New Zealand, Health Canada, and the United States Food and Drug Administration.

During the activity, there were several topics discussed such as Program-wide Communication Strategies, Messaging Workshop and FAQs, Communication Toolkits and Social Media, and Highlights of Baseline KAP Study. (Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac)



Caraga holds 1st reg'l LeMMCAP convention

BUTUAN CITY- Spearheaded by the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center XIII, the first regional League of the Municipal Agricultural Officers, Municipal/ City Agriculturists of the Philippines Inc. (LeMMCAP) was conducted at the Almont Inland Resort on July 22, 2022.

The activity aims to conduct a series of Regional Program Management – Technical Working Group (RPM-TWG) meetings for the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) in non-pilot provinces of Caraga Region. This is also done to strengthen the relationship between the public and private sectors both aiming to boost and achieve the development of the region's agricultural sector.

Engr. Zamzamin L. Ampatuan, the Department of Agriculture's Undersecretary on Regulation and Infrastructure, was one of the guest speakers who urged the MAOs to give attention to current issues faced by the sector as they play an important role as main agricultural extensionists leading to change in the local community. Some of the issues he mentioned were: animal disease occurrences such as the African Swine Fever (ASF), monitoring of production, and lack of communication between farmers.

Moreover, he stressed the importance of having Barangay Agricultural Workers (BAWs) who can help in the early monitoring of animal and crop diseases and the status of the agriculture community and enterprise system. "It is better that we're informed, better to plan, and see better strategies in our interventions," Undersecretary Zamzamin said.

DA Usec. Zamzamin Ampatuan stressed the importance of having BAWs in the local community during the LeMMCAP convention on July 22, 2022.

DA-Caraga Regional Executive Director, Engr. Ricardo M. Oñate, highlighted the food resiliency program of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. He also presented the DA's mandate and mission and introduced the sufficiency levels of regional priority commodities. He stressed that the DA family will continue to work together as one as OneDA approach. The participants also listened to Emmylou P. Burias, LGOO IV of DILG Caraga, as she discussed the full devolution and LGU devolution transition implementation. She ended her presentation with the statement, ***"Tamang pondo, angat serbisyo."***

Further, the event was highlighted by the election and oath-taking of the provincial and regional LeMMCAP officers.

The convention was done in coordination with the DA-Caraga Region, PhilRice Agusan Experiment Station, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) headed by Dr. Nilo M. Katada, RAFC through Chairman Christopher Lindo, and outgoing LeMMCAP President Jose Zaldy Manug (with report from Charmaine Lighidan).



CFIDP regional meeting held



Regional Manager Joel B. Oclarit welcomed the participants of the CFIDP Regional Implementing Agencies Meeting at the YHotel in Butuan City on August 4, 2022. Representatives from DA, ATI, NDA, PCIC, CHED, PhilMech, PhilHealth, and PCA were present.

BUTUAN CITY – The Philippine Coconut Authority – Region XIII (PCA-Caraga) hosted the CFIDP Regional Implementing Agencies Meeting on August 4, 2022 at the Yhotel, South Montilla Boulevard, Butuan City.

The purpose of the meeting was to present and explain the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) and the upcoming activities related to its implementation in Caraga region.

Joel B. Oclarit, PCA-13 Regional Manager, gave his welcome address while the agency's Acting PDO IV, Jell Carphe C. Tamparong, explained the CFIDP framework, program components, support services of various agencies, and farmer's criteria for eligibility, among others.

Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac, OIC Chief of the Information Services Section (ISS) of ATI-RTC 13, presented the schedule of activities for the CFIDP Information Caravan.

The meeting was attended by different Implementing Agency (IA) representatives from ATI, DTI, DA-HVCDP, PCIC, CHED, NDA, PhilMech and PhilHealth. (Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac)



CFIDP

ATI-Caraga hosts CFIDP Coordination Meeting



Butuan City – The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center 13, together with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) - 13, Local Government Units (LGUs), and implementing agencies of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) hosted a coordination meeting at the Almont Inland Resort on August 22, 2022. OIC Center Director Fil Victor A. Babanto formally welcomed the participants at the same time presented the CFIDP Program Components.

Joel B. Oclarit, Regional Manager III of PCA-13, expressed his gratitude to ATI for hosting the said meeting. Details of the information caravans to be held in September 2022 were discussed during the half-day gathering. Thirty participants attended the meeting. (Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac)

Coco farmers in Buenavista attend info caravan

BUENAVISTA, Agusan del Norte - “We are here to inform you that there is a fund, there is a program for you, and we will tell you what you can do to avail it,” said Fil Victor Babanto, OIC Training Center Superintendent II of ATI-RTC 13 during the information caravan held at the Barangay Macalang Gym, Buenavista, Agusan del Norte on September 9, 2022.

OIC Babanto was referring to the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) which is geared toward rehabilitating, modernizing, and industrializing the coconut industry and improving the lives of some 2.5 million coconut farmers.

To achieve this, the government is carrying out a whole of whole-of-government approach involving various relevant government agencies. In Buenavista, among the government agencies present were DA, PCA, ATI, LBP, DTI, CDA, PCIC, PhilMech, NDA, and PhilHealth.

Each of these agencies will have a role in giving support to the coconut farmers and their families along social protection, organization and development, community-based enterprises, and integrated processing of coconut and downstream products, to name a few.

During the open forum, most of the farmers asked about the requirements for availing of credit, scholarship, and dairy programs. Concern about the ineligibility of individual creditors as compared to SEC-registered organizations was also raised.



New coco program sparks hope for farmers

Fifty coconut farmers who attended the information caravan at the Manobo Heritage Center on September 15, 2022 felt optimistic about the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). The plan was formulated as mandated in Republic Act 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act. It is geared towards alleviating poverty at the same time rehabilitating and modernizing the country's coconut industry.

The participants and dignitaries were welcomed by Rey Español, Municipal Agriculturist of Bunawan. On behalf of the Municipal Mayor, Executive Assistant Cipriano Dique Jr. was present to deliver the mayor's message. He encouraged the farmers to be receptive to change and support the programs of the government for their own progress. He cited some projects given by the national governments to the local farmers which will help them in their farming. While projects and programs abound in the area, he also emphasized the importance of peace and order which must be achieved in order for development to prosper.

The Regional Manager III of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) – Caraga region explained that the Trust Fund that will be used for the implementation of the program is taken from the coco levy which

was imposed on coconut farmers in the 70s and 80s. Fortunately, in 2012 the Supreme Court ruled that the levy, now amounting to more than 100 billion pesos in assets, should be awarded to the coconut farmers.

The CFIDP, which ensures funding of P75 billion over the next five years, will be disbursed in accordance with Executive Order 172 and through careful checking by the Commission on Audit (COA), Department of Budget and Management (DBM), and the Bureau of Treasury (BTr).

Implementation of this program will be through a whole-of-government approach where various relevant government agencies, academic institutions, private sector stakeholders, and industry players are involved.

The CFIDP is composed of several components where 14 agencies are given specific tasks and budget allocation during the implementation phase. The components are along social protection, farmers' organization and development; innovative research projects and their practical application, community-based enterprises, integrated processing of coconut and downstream products, and other support services.

Agri Extension Workers train on Photography, Vlogging

BUTUAN CITY- Twenty (20) participants comprising Agricultural Extension Workers joined in the training on Photography and Vlogging held at the Almont Inland Hotel, Butuan City from July 5 to July 8, 2022.

Participants were mostly from the Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Center from the Local Government Units (LGUs) of Region 13. This was also attended by the two (2) staff from the Department of Agriculture (DA) Caraga particularly from the Information Section.

Mr. Erwin Mascariñas, a multi-awarded photojournalist served as the resource person. He discussed the basic rules of photography during the first day of training. On the other hand, participants were able to get photos outside the venue as their first field activity. Mascariñas critiques their output photos right after the hands-on activity.



Cabadbaran farmers welcome program to modernize coco sector

CABADBARAN CITY, Agusan del Norte – Fil Victor Babanto, OIC Training Center Superintendent II of the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center 13 (ATI-RTC 13), said that former President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Republic Act 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act last February 2021. The fund will be taken from coco levy assets which should be awarded to the coconut farmers as ruled by the Supreme Court in 2012.

This announcement of OIC Babanto happened during the information caravan held at the Gazebo Pools and Restaurant. There were fifty (50) farmers who attended the activity and they came from the eastern towns and city of Agusan del Norte namely RTR, Tubay, Magallanes, Santiago, Kitcharao, and Cabadbaran City.

During the activity, it was also learned that following the signing of the Act, Executive Order 172 was also signed by the former President in 2022 to create the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) purposely to allow the release of the CFITF. The plan contains several components as interventions for the coconut farmers and their families such as medical and health support, facilities and infrastructure support, marketing support, crop insurance, training, and scholarship, among others.

The CFIDP hopes to alleviate poverty, especially among coconut farmers, as well as to rehabilitate and modernize the coconut industry.

Among the implementing agencies present during the information caravan were PCA, ATI, LBP, DTI, GDA, PCIC, DA-HVCDP, PhilMech, NDA, PhilHealth, and CHED. Also in attendance were representatives from ACPC and the City Agriculture Office of Cabadbara



The Information Services Section (ISS) of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) 13 spearheads the said 4-day training. It is with an aim of capacitating the Local Government Units (LGUs) and FITS Centers in producing quality photos for their brochures, leaflets, magazines, and other forms of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials.

Farmers, AEWs join AgriTalk on herbs and spices, cassava processing

LOS ANGELES, Butuan City - The Regional Training Center in Caraga Region (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted the “Agri Ini, Hisgutan Ta (Online Agri-Talk) via Zoom on herbs and spices processing held on July 20, 2022 and cassava processing on July 21, 2022.

More than 200 individuals composed of farmers, students, and Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) held in 10 Farmers Information and Services (FITS) Center namely: FITS - Tagana-an, Surigao del Norte; FITS - Las Nieves, Agusan del Norte; FITS – Esperanza, Agusan del Sur; FITS – Butuan City; FITS – San Agustin, Surigao del Sur; FITS – Vuela, Agusan del Sur; FITS – Buenavista, Agusan del Norte; FITS – RTRomualdez, Agusan del Norte; FITS – Surigao City, Surigao del Norte; and FITS – San Francisco, Agusan del Sur.

Fil Victor A. Babanto, OIC-Center Director, expressed his appreciation for the support given by the Municipal Agriculture Offices through which the FITS Centers were located. He also stressed that the ATI has valued online activities more since the pandemic in 2020. Through this, a large group audience is reached and even with the restrictions, farmers and other agri-enthusiasts can get updates and even learn new things.

The participants were able to learn how to process herbs and spices through Jhoanna G. Garcia, a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) cooperater and owner of Jabez Farm. They also get information on the basics of growing herbs and spices such as thyme, lavender, coriander, pepper, mint, parsley, etc.

On the other hand, Imelda O. Pagalan, a retired government employee from Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, served as the resource speaker for cassava processing. She gave a brief introduction about cassava and its other uses aside from its consumption as food. Three cassava recipes were also introduced. These are pichi-pichi, cassava cake, and salvaro or kabkab.

The activity was spearheaded by the Information Services Section headed by OIC – Chief Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac.

AgriTalk 2022



ATI 13, NMIS conduct Basic Meat Inspection Course

OS ANGELES, Butuan City – To equip the participants of the knowledge and skills in meat inspection in conformance to the standard, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII in partnership with the National Meat Inspection Service-Regional Technical Operation Center 13 conducted the 20-day Basic Meat Inspection Course on September 5-30, 2022 ATI-RTC XIII.

This training was designed for local government unit meat inspectors, meat control officers, and other personnel performing meat inspection work in upgrading their skills in meat inspection for safe human consumption.

This was joined by 20 individuals from Butuan City; Buenavista and Nasipit, Agusan del Norte; Tandag City, Cortes, Bislig, and Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur; San Francisco, Bunawan, Loreto, and Esperanza, Agusan del Sur; and Surigao City, Surigao del Norte.

The training was divided into two phases. The first involved the lectures from the resource speakers done both face-to-face and online. Participants were able to familiarize and inspect different

meat establishments such as cold storage and meat cutting plant during the second phase. They also conducted actual meat inspection ante mortem and post mortem at De Oro AJJEC Inc. slaughterhouse and Cabadbaran City slaughterhouse. Other enforcement activities were done in Butuan City.

Moreover, hands-on activity in the anatomy of different animals was performed including pregnancy diagnosis through rectal palpation at the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) in Maramag, Bukidnon.

During his closing message, Dr. Victor D. Zamoranos, Action Officer of NMIS-RTOC 13, emphasized the significance of safe meat for consumption and the role of meat inspectors in ensuring the safety of the consumers.

“I earnestly hope that what we learned, gained, and have understood through this training will be significantly put into practice as we perform our duties as potential meat inspectors,” said Dr. Jenny Mae V. Hernando from the City Veterinary Office of Butuan City.



SOA on corn coordinators meet for mid-assessment

HAWILIAN, Esperanza, Agusan del Sur – The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center XIII led the mid-assessment of the Wais sa Mais: School-on-the-Air (SOA) on Corn Production together with the provincial and municipal coordinators on August 26, 2022 at Happy Bee Farm.

The said activity was done in partnership with the Provincial Agriculture and Veterinary Office of Agusan del Sur. It was attended by 12 out of the 14 participating Local Government Units (LGUs) in the province.

The agenda included the updates on enrollment forms, pretest results, resource information sheet, special orders, issues and concerns per LGU and PAVO, hands-on activity, mass graduation, and post-assessment schedule.

Coordinators raised some issues they had faced during implementation. Concerns discussed were enrollees' listenership during the live airing, resource person's pacing during lecture, and sharing of strategies in the actual field implementation. Agreements were also done.

Some of the coordinators shared that having Facebook live and creating of group chats helped reach the participants easily.

The SOA on Corn Production can be heard over 93.5 FM Hope Radio Philippines Butuan every Thursday at 5:30-6:30 in the morning. The anchorperson is farmcaster Joel Corvera from PAVO and supported by the provincial corn coordinator Jessamine Vea.

It was implemented by the Information Services Section of ATI-RTC XIII with Ressel Angelie Fetalsana as project officer.



Farmers' Contact Center

Ang inyong kaabag sa
Hisgutanang pang agricultura
(8:00AM-5:00PM, Mon-Fri except holiday)

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