



TIM GAS

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

**NEW HOPE
FOR COCONUT
FARMERS**





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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For decades, life of a small coconut farmer may have been like the biblical road to Calvary – a walk challenged by stations of agony. First, was the coco levy imposed on them in the 70s which they did not benefit from. Second, were the super typhoons Yolanda and Odette which destroyed not only vast coconut areas but also the livelihood of thousands of farmers. And third is the lack of material, technical, and financial support such as fertilizers, credit, training, crop insurance, marketing assistance, machinery, infrastructure, and many more. As a result, coconut farmers remained the poorest in the industry despite devoting their whole life to a crop considered high value and the “tree of life.”



Fortunately, coconut farmers are now on the road where hope is within sight. Thanks to the approval of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), the government now has a roadmap to help alleviate poverty being experienced by our small coconut farmers. Approved on June 2, 2022 through Executive Order 172, the CFIDP was the result of the signing of Republic Act 11524, otherwise known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act. Among the hopeful and excited coconut farmers anticipating the full implementation of CFIDP is Restituto Asube, a retired soldier, farmer-leader, Barangay Kagawad, and Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) cooperator from Butuan City. Below is the excerpt from our interview with him in his residence and farm in Barangay Taguibo.

What made you decide to go into coconut farming?

“We grew up farming coconuts. My father and mother were able to send us to school through coconuts. My mother would borrow money from our coconut buyer so that we can go to school. Thank God, all ten of us siblings were able to finish schooling. When I retired as a soldier, out of my retirement, I bought a piece of land and a coconut area. I really gave much importance to develop it into a demo farm where we can see pigs, fish pond, and goats. It is also through the coconuts that I was able to send my children and others to school.”

What benefits can we get from coconuts and coco products?

“From what I saw when I attended seminars, some of the health benefits if you drink VCO is that your skin will become smooth, you won’t get Alzheimer’s disease, and many more. Also, you are not prone to cardiac arrest.”



How did you know about CFIDP?

"I read about CFIDP through social media, I took note of it, then a few days later I received a text message that I will attend the info caravan in Jabonga. Then, there was again in Buenavista. So, this program is really very nice because not only the farmer has insurance, but also the coconut and livestock. ATI is also included in the program in the provision of trainings. ATI is near to us that is why when I went there, I said to myself, so this is what training is like. The accommodation and management are great. The farmers will be more attracted to CFIDP because the line agencies are there. The farmers will feel that the government is really focusing on them and determined in strengthening the coconut industry."



Among the CFIDP interventions, which for you is the most important for the farmers?

"Everything is important. Health and scholarship are really needed in our family, especially since the farmers are aging and have almost no money left for medicine and education for their children. Insurance is also number one while the livelihood projects cannot be put aside."

Don't you have any doubts about CFIDP?

"From what I can see now, I am certain about CFIDP. This is what we have been waiting for for many years. Funds are now downloaded to the agencies. The money is already out. This is what will strengthen and restore the coconut industry in our country. Through this, others will be encouraged to plant coconuts because there are still areas where coconuts can be grown."



ADVICE FOR FELLOW FARMERS

“They should **practice intercropping** in their coconut area. **They should diversify their farm** to produce more and increase their income. Our **farm wastes should be turned into organic fertilizer** to restore the fertility of the soil and increase production. Let’s continue developing our coconut area, increase it, extend to other areas, and plant more. The fruits of our hard work is not only for this generation but for the years to come. The coconut industry will continue to grow, especially now that it is given much importance. Hopefully, our farmers will not weaken and will continue to strive because the funds are here. Let us seek help from the agencies. Let us not wait for agencies to come to us. Let us manage well our group. Strengthen it and let it grow. Because there will be more opportunities coming our way. Hopefully, we will continue with our efforts. Let’s keep going.”

Restituto Asube

IN THE KNOW: Dinagat Island crafts Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP)



SAN JOSE, PDI – Local officials, guests, participants, and partner agencies attended the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation of Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) held last January 18-20, 2023 at Langit Sweet Food Products and Catering Services.

The Provincial Governor of Dinagat Islands, Hon. Nilo P. Demerey, Jr., expressed his support for the activity and encouraged a collaborative effort with the National Government Agencies (NGAs).

A significant part of his opening message was an emphasis on the need to open and synchronize agricultural undertakings in order to foster tourism in the province.

Engr. Ricardo M. Oñate, Regional Executive Director of the Department of Agriculture Caraga, noted the need to identify what is lacking in the PDI's respective areas of responsibility so that DA will know what intervention to give.

Also present in the activity was Dr. Aime Jimeno, Provincial Veterinarian. She emphasized the recovery plan or one-shot plan for the province.

This activity was spearheaded by the Department of Agriculture, along with the Agricultural Training Institute (RTC 13), the Agricultural Program Coordinating Office (PDI), Provincial Local Government Unit, Municipal Local Government Units, and other partner agencies. (Report by Gerald Domingo)



AgNor AEWs join training to intensify agri campaign and marketing

If a picture paints a thousand words, then a great photo may paint an even more enticing image of farming and agriculture. This was just one among the many learnings Agricultural Extension Workers took home with them after finishing the training titled "It's All in the Click": Training on Photography and Vlogging held at the Almont Inland Resort, Butuan City on March 7-10, 2023.

There were twenty-one (21) participants in the training composed mostly of AEWs from Agusan del Norte. During the four-day training, they learned to operate cameras and photographic equipment; bring out different emotions through photographs; process images as part of documentation and in the development of information, education, and communication (IEC) materials; enhanced photography skills; and create vlogs to promote digital/online marketing and information dissemination.



Dr. Jessie V. Beldia, the OIC Center Director of ATI-RTC XIII, during his welcome address, stressed how privileged the participants were for their involvement in such kind of training. He challenged the participants to remain steadfast and serious in the training and to apply their learnings in their respective Local Government Units. Meanwhile, Alvin Aclan, Provincial Agriculturist of Agusan del Norte, justified the importance of photography and vlogging in documenting agri-related activities and in helping farmers market their products online through vlogging.

The Resource Person for the training was Erwin Mascariñas who is a multi-awarded international journalist. Aside from photography and vlogging skills, he also taught the participants some basics in caption writing. After every workshop, each of the participant's output was critiqued by the speaker and was required to be revised.

"At first, I was excited to join this training to gain new skills in photography and vlogging. But as the days went by, the workshops became harder and harder. But this is part of the training which we need to undergo to help improve ourselves, especially in the various techniques and rules in photography," said Engr. Dann Gabriel Cadavos, Engineer II of the Provincial Agriculture Office of Agusan del Norte and, one of the training participants.

At the end of the training, all participants were able to submit photos applying rules and styles in photography, created their own YouTube channel and uploaded their short vlogs, uploaded their photos on social media, and agreed that their re-entry plans will be monitored after six months from the conduct of the training. (Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac)

'Appropriate, timely trainings needed by AEWs' says PA Quico

TANDAG CITY, Surigao del Sur – "I hope that this consultation will answer the need of our Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs). We need the assistance of ATI in the capacitation of AEWs especially towards effective extension delivery. May the proposed trainings and other activities reflect the real need of the people," says Marcos Quico, Provincial Agriculturist on March 29, 2023.

It was said during the Provincial Consultation Workshop for FY 2025 Agriculture and Fishery Extension (AFE) Needs held at Selades Apartelle Convention Center. The one-day activity was conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII through its Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit.

This aims to harmonize AFE needs among extension service providers in preparation for the implementation of full devolution in accordance to Executive Order no. 28 series of 2008.

It was participated by representatives from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg), Provincial Veterinary Office, Department of Agriculture (DA) Caraga Region through its Agricultural Program Coordinating Office (APCO), and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR). Representatives from the Local Government Units of San Miguel, Bayabas, Bislig City, Carmen, Madrid, San Agustin, Cagwait, Lianga, Lanuza, and Hinatuan also attended.

Moreover, Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) Co-operators were also present in the person of Reynaldo Selades, owner of Selades Agricultural Learning Center, and Ramon Barbosa, owner of Amparitas Integrated Natural Farm.

During its workshop, each agency presented its identified AFE Needs for 2025. Issues, concerns, and agreements were also discussed during the open forum.



Intensifying PAFES continues; PLGUs congregate for 3-year budget



BUTUAN CITY – The Planning and Workshop for the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES) continued as the Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center 13 recently conducted the activity held on March 14-15, 2023 at the Grand Place Hotel.

In the two-day planning and workshop, the identified five provinces in the Caraga region attended, along with representatives from the attached National Government Agencies (NGAs), involved and tapped administering institutions.

The activity on the first day of the planning and workshop commenced through the presentation by the PAFES Program Point Person and Media Production Specialist II, Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac. Moreover, Fil Victor A. Babanto, the ISS Section Chief and Information Officer III of ATI-13, also gave his welcome address to the representatives coming

from the Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs) and other delegates.

During the event, both Jampac and Babanto announced that the 4th to 6th-class provinces would be given priority and higher support of interventions, as also advised by the Central Office. Under Memorandum Order No. M23-03-186, ATI Director IV Remelyn Recoter specified some requirements that PLGUs need to comply with prior to the giving of extension and training interventions. Moreover, Memorandum M23-03-220 directed the submission of a three-year budget proposal under PAFES for FY 2024-2026.

With PAFES, the five provinces in the Caraga region (Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Province of Dinagat Islands) will have extension-related projects and programs for agriculture and fisheries.

DA-NOAP, ATI offer scholarship program on organic farming for the youth

BUTUAN CITY - The DA-National Organic Program (NOAP) and DA-ATI offer the Youth Scholarship Program on Organic Farming as part of the continuing efforts to encourage organic farming among young people.

It is a highly specialized program that covers nine-month schooling and on-site training for the farm partners, and a one year implementation of the proposed organic enterprise. It is designed to instill and develop in the trainees an appreciation and eagerness for organic agriculture which they will eventually turn into a source of income.

The program provides all-out support to the trainees which includes a monthly stipend amounting to Php 5,000 for the first year, Php 10,000 for the second year, and a start-up support amounting to Php 150,000 for the implementation of their proposed organic enterprise under the supervision of the farm partner. The farm partners will receive Php 5,000 mentoring fee per trainee for 21 months.

During the information caravan to potential young farmers and Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) cooperators on January 25, 2023, OAP Point Person Elena P. Madelo discussed the goals, objectives, criteria, and eligibility requirements. She mentioned that Caraga region has five slots for farm partners and 10 slots for the trainees.

The farm partners should meet the following eligibility criteria: Farm operator/owner of the certified organic or chemical-free farm, preferably LSA certified farm; must be in operation for at least one (1) year; has farm activities within the value chain either production, value-adding, processing, or marketing; has basic cfarm tools, equipment or facilities needed for its operation; has accommodation facility for at least two (2) trainees; has internship program plan from March to November within a year; with good community standing and has no proven derogatory record; and whose farm area is not part of military identified conflict zones.

Meanwhile, the trainees should be 18 to 35 years old at the time of application, a natural-born Filipino citizen, interested to enter the agriculture industry, especially practicing organic agriculture, and willing to undertake the 21-month internship and hands-on practice contract. In addition, he/ she must be physically and mentally fit, and has good community standing or moral character.

After the evaluation, interview, and field validation of all applications received by the regional Training and Scholarship Committee from February 10 – 28, 2023, the following shortlisted LSA Cooperators as Farm Partners qualifiers were endorsed to the Central Office for approval on March 2, 2023: Amparitas Integrated Natural Farm, JB Nature Farm, SATI Farm, Lola Modesta Farm, SIPBAFAMCO, and Mondia La Ferme.

The shortlisted trainees are as follows: Joemel Mark Janier, Elgie Henoguin, KP Gems Ramas, and, Rey Peres, all from the Province of Dinagat Islands; from the province of Surigao del Norte - Christian Jay Guillen, Jubanie Acero, and, Reymund Ballena; Remmon Guinsod from Surigao del Sur; and, Kenivie Salmorin and Dheben Jean T. Alvarez from Agusan del Sur, and one waitlisted applicant from Bayugan City, John Philip Dapat.



The regional scholarship committee conducts the online interview with the youth applicants on February 15, 2023 at the Golden Tara Hall, ATI-RTC 13, Los Angeles, Butuan City.

Once approved, a separate orientation will be conducted for the farm partners to discuss the contents of the Memorandum of Agreement, and with the trainees to discuss the contents of the Scholarship Service Contract prior to deployment.

A total of 150 youth which may include women, out-of-school youth, and professionals and 75 farm partners nationwide are expected to benefit from the program.

ATI 13 celebrates Women's Month



LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – Together with the world's declaration of March as National Women's Month, the Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII actively joined the kick-off activity of its celebration in Caraga Region on March 1, 2023 with the theme, "WE for gender equality and an inclusive society."

WE stands for Women and Everyone which highlights the role of women themselves and everyone in the pursuit of gender equality. It also stands for Women's Empowerment, which encourages and calls for agencies, institutions, private partners, and duty-bearers from the national to the local level to provide women equal rights and opportunities, and for women to take these opportunities to further themselves.

The event was led by the Regional Gender and Development Council (RGADC) composed of the different government agencies together with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). It started with a motorcade from Guingona Park in Downtown Butuan City to Caraga State University (CSU) in Barangay Ampayon, as they were the host. Zumba exercise then followed.

Messages were given by Dr. Rolyn C. Daguil, CSU President, and Alexander A. Makinano, Commission on Population Regional Director and RGADC Chairperson.

Moreover, as this was just the start of the commemoration, social media postings, Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC), advocacy activities such as using the NWWC-themes Flag Raising Ceremony, Digital forums series, PurpleWednesday, and Musika ng Kababaihan Wednesday were promoted and agencies were encouraged to participate.



AgNor proposes FY 2025 AFE Needs

BUTUAN CITY – In relation to Executive Order No. 138, Series of 2021 known as the “Full Devolution of Certain Functions of the Executive Branch to Local Governments”, a provincial consultation workshop for FY 2025 Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) needs was conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII on March 7, 2023.

The activity aims to ensure plans and programs to be undertaken by the institute are need-based at the local level and come from the grassroots of the community. Specifically, it strived to inform the Local Government Units (LGUs) of the Policy Framework and Trust and Priorities of the Institute.

Moreover, the consultation workshop was attended by the Municipal Agriculturists, Municipal Veterinarians, Provincial Agriculturist, representatives from the LGUs, PhilRice – Agusan Experiment Station, Department of Agriculture (DA) Caraga Region, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), and Caraga State University (CSU).

“The agriculture sector is assured to have full support, especially the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs). We need to capacitate and continuously develop and enhance the skills of our AEWs. Through this, ATI will continue to support and hopefully, the institute could give what the LGUs truly need,” said Jessie V. Beldia, OIC-Center Director of ATI-RTC XIII.

As a result, the priority extension needs of the devolved extension functions of the LGUs were reported and gathered including the issues, concerns, and recommendations of the different stakeholders.

San Agustin hosts coco info caravan

SAN AGUSTIN, Surigao del Sur – Fifty coconut farmers from Surigao del Sur trooped to the Municipal Gymnasium in this town on February 23, 2023 to attend the information caravan on the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). This was the fourth caravan of its kind that was conducted by ATI in February of 2023. Earlier, ATI also gathered coconut farmers in Butuan City on February 14; in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur on February 17; and in Placer, Surigao del Norte on February 21.



Representing the Local Government Unit (LGU) of San Agustin was Hon. Francisco Lamela, Sangguniang Bayan member and Chair of the Committee on Agriculture. Also present were Engr. Greomar Lamela of the Municipal Planning and Development Office (MPDO) and Genalyn Campos of the Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO).

As in the past caravans, representatives from ATI, PCA, NDA, PCIC, CDA, and DTI were in attendance to answer inquiries from the farmers.

Surigao Norte coco farmers see beacon of hope from CFIDP



PLACER, Surigao del Norte – The third information caravan for the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) has shed a beacon of hope for the coconut farmers in Surigao del Norte. The activity took place at Mondaya’s Kitchenette on February 21, 2023.

Fifty coconut farmers from Placer, Bacuag, Sison, Tubod, Gigaquit, and Surigao City were in attendance. Representatives from the Department of Agriculture (DA), Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Technical Education Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Dairy Authority (NDA), Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), and Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) were also present to address farmers’ inquiries.

Emerita P. Elajas, Municipal Agriculturist of Placer, expressed her gratitude for choosing her town as host of the information caravan during her welcome remarks. Meanwhile, OIC Center Director Dr. Jessie V. Beldia of ATI-Caraga Region in his message highlighted the training and extension interventions of ATI under CFIDP.

Fil Victor A. Babanto, Chief of ATI-Caraga’s Information Section, presented the components and programs under CFIDP and the implementing agencies involved. All agency representatives were also given the chance to explain further their interventions or the coconut farmers and the policies and guidelines that need to be complied by the would-be beneficiaries.

During the open forum, Regional Manager Oclarit encouraged coconut farmers to venture into value adding for them to raise their income. In the case of DTI, Trade and Industry Development Specialist Ninebeth Balighot advised the participants to try coco candy making and seek financial assistance from Land Bank and technical support from DTI. Furthermore, implementing agencies particularly PCA, CDA, and NDA motivated the audience to form into associations because of the bigger advantage beneficiaries get as compared to working individually.

With the absence of a representative from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), RM Oclarit answered the question on scholarship by explaining that the agency is still waiting for its guidelines. Likewise, details on the implementation of health and medical assistance are also being finalized. Moreover, hybrid seed nuts are not yet ready for distribution but its underway. The PCA assured that Surigao del Norte will get the biggest share among the Caraga provinces because of its vast coconut area and the devastation it experienced from Super typhoon Odette in 2021.



PCA, ATI drumbeat coco levy fund in Agusan Sur



SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur – The second information caravan of the year for the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) took place here on February 17, 2023. Fifty coconut farmers and Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from the province went to Mabe's Savory Place in this town to listen to the programs and interventions that they may avail which will be taken from the coco levy fund.

This was announced by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) during the said caravan which was attended by fifty selected coconut farmers in the province. The identification of the participants was done by PCA while the ATI and the Municipal Agriculture Office in San Francisco worked hand in hand for the arrangement of the venue, food, and logistical needs.

Representatives from ATI, PCA, DA, NDA, PCIC, CDA, PhilMech, TESDA, and DTI were in attendance to answer inquiries from the farmers.

Former President Rodrigo Duterte signed an executive order approving the development plan for the coconut industry and the release of a P75-billion trust fund for coconut farmers from coco levy assets.

The CFIDP will be spearheaded by the PCA pursuant to the Republic Act No. 11524 or Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act. However, over a dozen implementing agencies will be given key roles in the implementation and management of funds.

The law creates a trust fund that will be “capitalized, managed, invested, utilized, and accounted for” according to the plans and programs of the CFIDP.

New program to provide more support to coco farmers

BUTUAN CITY, Agusan del Norte – Fifty local coconut farmers here attended the information caravan for the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) on February 14, 2023 held at Charlie's Dormitel in Brgy. Ongyiu this city.

The plan came about after former President Rodrigo R. Duterte signed Republic Act 11524 or the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act in 2021. The fund is taken from coco levy assets which should be awarded to the coconut farmers as ruled by the Supreme Court in 2012. The plan was approved through Executive Order 172 which was signed on June 2, 2022.



The CFIDP sets to increase the income and productivity of Filipino coconut farmers which is now at 2.5 million. It will also help them and their family alleviate poverty, obtain an education, achieve social equity, as well as modernize the entire coconut industry.

Joel Oclarit, Regional Manager of the Philippine Coconut Authority – Caraga Region, emphasized the Hybridization component of CFIDP in which PCA and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) will take the lead. Through this program, coconut farmers can avail of quality planting materials for free thereby improving their productivity and increasing their income.

Meanwhile, Fil Victor Babanto, Information Officer III of ATI-RTC 13, presented the program components of CFIDP. He also informed the participants about the training interventions to be offered by ATI under CFIDP for 2023. These include Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) for Coconut, Coconut-Coffee Farming System, Dairy Farm Operation and Management, Coconut Products and By-Products, Native Goat Production and Management, Native Chicken Production and Management, Milk Processing and Management, and School-on-the-Air (SOA) on Coconut Production.

Aside from PCA and ATI, other implementing agencies present during the information caravan were DTI, CDA, PCIC, PhilMech, NDA, and TESDA. Also in attendance were representatives from the City/Municipal Agriculture Office in Butuan City and Agusan del Norte.

ATI-Caraga gears up for 2023 via operational planning workshop

LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – To systematize and harmonize programs, projects, and activities for Fiscal Year 2023, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center 13 (ATI-Caraga) conducted the FY 2023 Operational Planning Workshop on January 4, 2023 at the Golden Tara Hall of the Center.

Specifically, the Center aims hope to determine the dates of implementation; craft purchase requests for the first semester activities; and finalized Project Procurement Management Plans (PPMPs) and Annual Procurement Plans (APP) of sections, units, and program implementers.

According to Nena L. Lomuntad, Planning Officer II of ATI-Caraga, an operational plan outlines an organization's activities and targets, which must be carried out towards attaining the objectives. It allows management to review, evaluate, and analyze its past performance to make decisions for the future.



ATI-RTC 13, now an accredited CPD Provider!

LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center 13 was granted authority by the Professional Regulations Commission (PRC) through the Council of Agriculture as an accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provider with accreditation no. AGR-2023-044.

As such, ATI-RTC 13 currently offers CPD-accredited agri-related training programs anchored on various commodity banner programs. This is in support of the government's effort of improving the competence of the professionals in accordance with international standards, thereby, ensuring their contribution to uplifting the general welfare, economic growth, and development of the nation, as mandated by RA 10912 or the CPD Act of 2016.

For this quarter, a total of 15 training programs with approved accreditation, and seven were submitted for evaluation by the Council of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Agricultural Biosystems Engineering.

The PRC Caraga Regional Director Cheryll P. Elicano presented the award to ATI through its CPD Coordinator Mary Grace B. Salve on February 23, 2023 at the Robinsons Place Butuan.

The ATI is hopeful that through this milestone, more Agricultural Extension Workers and allied professionals can benefit from career advancement.



PRC Caraga Regional Director Cheryll P. Elicano awards the certificate of accreditation as CPD Provider to the ATI on February 23, 2023 at the Robinsons Place Butuan.

ATI-RTC 13 turns 33

LOS ANGELES, BUTUAN CITY - The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center XIII (ATI-RTC 13) started its 1st working day of 2023 on February 3 with a holy mass to commemorate the 33rd Founding Anniversary of the Center. It can be remembered that it was in January 1990 when the ATI was established in Butuan City as a Farmers' Training Center (FTC). It was headed by the late Dr. Efraim Nicolas as the Center's first Training Center Superintendent II.

The anniversary celebration opened with a thanksgiving mass which was celebrated by Fr. Jojo Borja. It was attended by former Center Director Samuel Calonzo and two former Asst. Center Directors namely Heracleo A. Paler and Carlos S. Salcedo.

With the theme: "Reaching New Milestones and Stronger Bonds," OIC Center Director Fil Victor A. Babanto highlighted the importance of teamwork in order to achieve the targets and objectives of the organization. He stressed the importance of unity and solidarity toward reaching significant stages or levels of corporate development.

As part of the mini program, some farmer-cooperators were also invited to receive their certificates as Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA). Please see related story.

The 33rd Anniversary of ATI-RTC 13 should not be confused with the 36th Anniversary celebration of ATI on the third week of January 2023. The former is only a regional celebration while the latter is a celebration being observed by the entire ATI network which includes all the Regional Training Centers (RTCs), the ATI Central Office, and the International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ITCPH) in Lipa, Batangas.



Reaching new milestones & stronger bonds





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ANNIVERSARY

January 3, 2023
Los Angeles, Butuan City



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