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TIM GAS

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Edwin Dapar

and his

Farm Journey



Farmers' Contact Center

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EDWIN DAPAR'S FARM JOURNEY

“Embracing failure as part of the journey and persistence until success is achieved remind us with the challenges that many of my fellow farmers face.”

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TIMGAS

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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.



SUCCESS STORY

This is a story of Edwin Dapar. His journey from a maintenance mechanic worker abroad to a successful farmer-leader. His decision to follow his vision of tilling his own farm after working abroad for six years showcases determination and a string connection to his agricultural roots.

Although his decision to invest his extra savings from abroad into agriculture may have been risky, he was determined to follow through on this, which he did in his younger years.

Pursuing a training course in animal production at the Surigao del Norte College of Agriculture Technology (SNCAT) revealed his commitment to gaining the necessary skills for successful farming. The decision of Mr. Dapar to focus on combining ruminants, poultry, swine, and crops, proved a holistic approach to agriculture that can lead to a more sustainable and profitable venture.

Facing financial difficulties when starting a farm is a common challenge for many, and it requires resourcefulness and determination to overcome. Edwin's journey when he decided to build his own farm, despite the initial financial constraints, reflected his resilience and commitment to his vision.

Mr. Dapar's introduction to the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) became a turning point. Through ATI's extension services, he not only developed his own farm but also became a valuable resource for his community. Training fellow farmers through Farm School accredited by TESDA allowed him to share his knowledge and contribute to the growth of local agriculture in Placer, Surigao del Norte.

DAPAR'S INTEGRATED FARM

Edwin decided to integrate various aspects of farming, including raising ruminants, swine, and poultry, as well as cultivating coconut, banana, and other crops in the farm.

"Planting crops is not only for human consumption but it can be used in creating concoctions and feeds for swine. This not only reduces the reliance on external sources but it also provides control over quality."

EDWIN DAPAR'S FARM JOURNEY

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NEWS



“This is the best and smartest consultation meeting that I have ever attended.”
- MA Del Agua

Provincial Consultation Workshop for FY 2026
MA Del Agua: strong partnership among stakeholders is key to harmonization of gov’t programs

BUTUAN CITY - “This is the best and smartest consultation meeting that I have ever attended. The top five priority training needs were identified and issues and concerns were laid out and discussed by the workers in the field. We also learned new things and got to see a bigger picture of the new directives. Together, we formed partnerships, especially with our partner from the academe, the Caraga State University. It is important and reliable to apply at work and share new farming techniques.”

This was the statement of Municipal Agriculturist Raul del Agua of Kitcharao, Agusan del Norte during the Provincial Consultation Workshop for FY 2026 Agriculture and Fishery Extension (AFE) Needs for the Province of Agusan del Norte held on March 22, 2024 at the Balangay Hall, ATI-RTC XIII, Brgy. Los Angeles.

The activity aims to harmonize AFE needs among extension service providers and stakeholders in preparation for the implementation of full devolution by virtue of Executive Order No. 28, series of 2008.

It was participated by Municipal and City Agriculturists, Agricultural Technologists, Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) Cooperators, representatives from cooperatives, Caraga State University - College of Agriculture and

Agri-industries (CSU-CAA), and the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) of Agusan del Norte.

OIC-Center Director Jessie V. Beldia welcomed the participants and thanked them for sharing their time and for allowing ATI to be a bridge in giving the appropriate and needed trainings that would enhance the knowledge and capacitate the skills of the key players in the AFE extension sector.

Planning Officer II Nena Lomuntad presented the important key points of the activity and its purpose. She also encouraged the AEWs working at the provincial and municipal LGUs to register in the online AEW Registry System.

Meanwhile, Mr. Manolito Casapao from the Philippine Coconut Authority gave updates on the CFIDP implementation in Caraga Region.

During the workshop, each partner agency, LGU, LSAs, and other organizations presented their top five priority training needs for 2026.

The said one-day activity was conducted by the Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Unit (PMEU).

SUCCESS STORY

BECOMING A MAGSASAKA SIYENTISTA

Mr. Dapar is committed to create and innovate new farming techniques by embracing modern agricultural practices and contributing not only to his personal success but also to overall progress of farming in the municipality.

Through the support of the Municipal Agriculture Office and ATI became a significant achievement for Edwin Dapar as Magsasaka Siyentista.

The recognition of Edwin Dapar as a Magsasaka Siyentista stands as a remarkable achievement, made possible through the invaluable support extended by both the Municipal Agricultural Office and ATI.

“The support from MAO and ATI enlightened us on the importance of government support in empowering local farmers, by providing access to training, resources, and opportunities for innovation.”

By integrating new knowledge on swine farming, Edwin takes this opportunity to be more efficient and use as effective methods that can lead to better outcomes and staying updated on modern practices. His resourcefulness shows in improvising with cost-effective materials for swine feed. Saving money on feed costs can contribute to the overall profitability and sustainability of his farm.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE GOALS

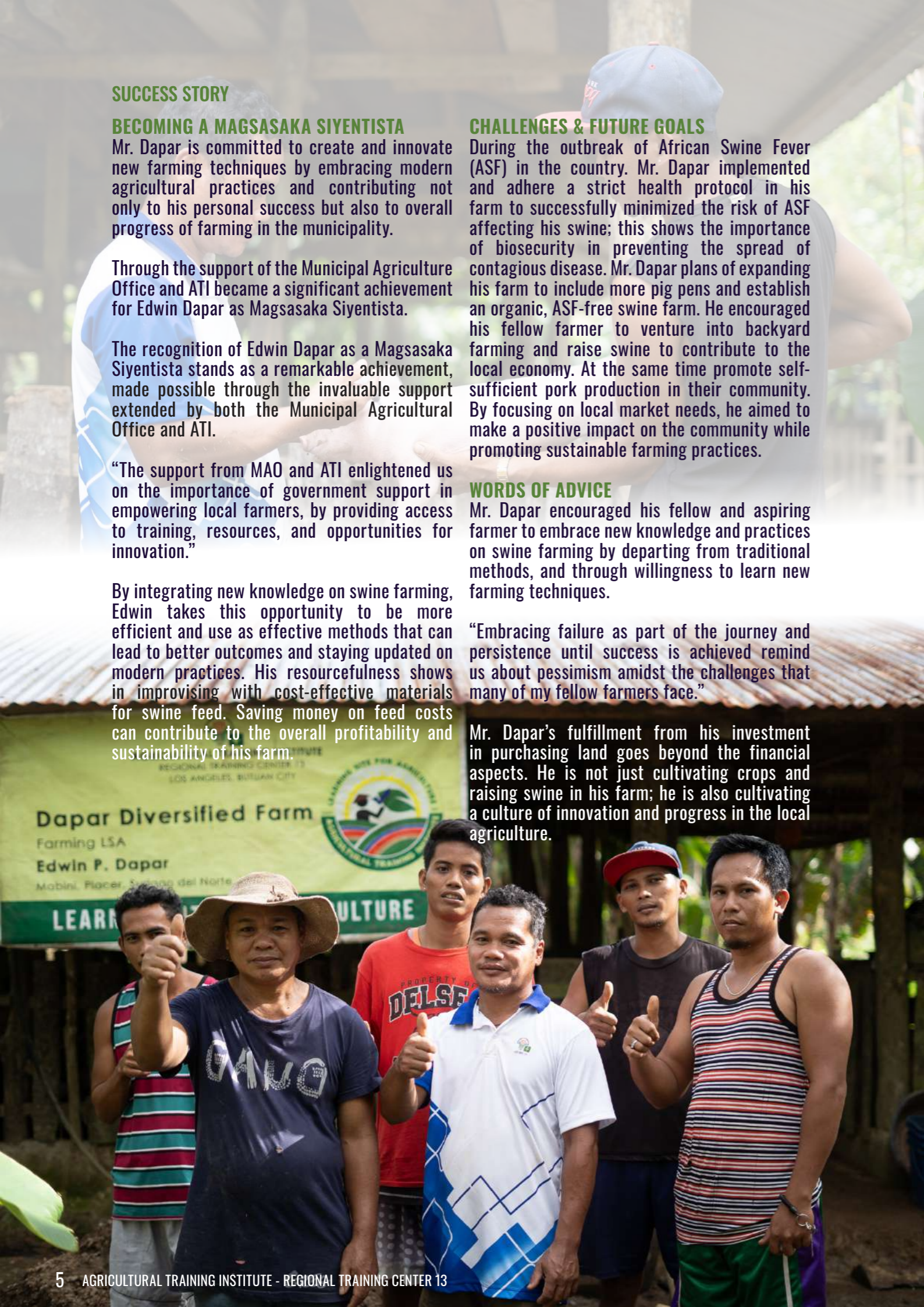
During the outbreak of African Swine Fever (ASF) in the country. Mr. Dapar implemented and adhere a strict health protocol in his farm to successfully minimized the risk of ASF affecting his swine; this shows the importance of biosecurity in preventing the spread of contagious disease. Mr. Dapar plans of expanding his farm to include more pig pens and establish an organic, ASF-free swine farm. He encouraged his fellow farmer to venture into backyard farming and raise swine to contribute to the local economy. At the same time promote self-sufficient pork production in their community. By focusing on local market needs, he aimed to make a positive impact on the community while promoting sustainable farming practices.

WORDS OF ADVICE

Mr. Dapar encouraged his fellow and aspiring farmer to embrace new knowledge and practices on swine farming by departing from traditional methods, and through willingness to learn new farming techniques.

“Embracing failure as part of the journey and persistence until success is achieved remind us about pessimism amidst the challenges that many of my fellow farmers face.”

Mr. Dapar’s fulfillment from his investment in purchasing land goes beyond the financial aspects. He is not just cultivating crops and raising swine in his farm; he is also cultivating a culture of innovation and progress in the local agriculture.



Dapar Diversified Farm
Farming LSA
Edwin P. Dapar
Mabini, Placer, Agusan del Norte

AgSur RBOs, AEWs, train in financial management

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur – “I am very grateful and blessed for this opportunity to enhance my knowledge and help my association grow and become more productive,” said Jhonry J. Galleto, one of the participants of the Training on Financial Management and Marketing Strategies for the Rural-based Organizations (RBOs) Batch 2 on March 20-22, 2024.

The said three-day training was conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), at Ernielita’s Dormitel and Event’s Venue, Patin-ay.

This is to equip the participants with the knowledge and skills in Financial Management and Marketing Strategies. Specifically, they were expected to discuss financial management topics, especially simple bookkeeping and financial statement preparation, and explain modules on basic entrepreneurial farming, negotiation, and cooperativism.

It was participated by 30 individuals from Agusan del Sur municipalities such as San Luis, Talacogon, Trento,



Prosperidad, Loreto, San Francisco, Esperanza, Veruela, Rosario, Bunawan, Sta. Josefa, Bayugan, Sibagat, plus Bayugan City. They comprised Rural-based Organizations (RBOs), farmer-leaders, Agricultural Extension Workers, and Local Government Units (LGUs) staff.

Resource persons were Lemuel Roboca, Yoraidyll M. Tutor, Jesson P. Cagadas, and Rene P. Villagantol from DTI – Agusan del Sur.

The said training was an intervention under the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES) in partnership with the province of Agusan del Sur.

ATI distributes IEC, promotional materials during Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair in CSU



AMPAYON, Butuan City – Headed by OIC Center Director Dr. Jessie V. Beldia, the ATI-RTC 13 disseminated various Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on farming and fishing technologies and other advocacy materials through the Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair (BPSF) March 22-23, 2024 at the Caraga State University, Ampayon, Butuan City.

Over 100 individuals composed of farmers and students from Butuan City and Agusan del Norte lined up at the display booth outside the College of Agriculture and Agri-Industries (CAA) building of CSU to receive IEC materials of various commodities and other free merchandise promoting extension services of the Institute.



The service caravan is an initiative of President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., and organized by the House of Representatives in collaboration with various government agencies and stakeholders, which aims to bring social services, livelihood and educational services, regulatory services, and other essential services and programs within the reach of people.

Second batch of training on layer chicken production held in Agusan Del Sur



PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur – In support to the National Livestock Program (NLP), the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted the second batch of Training on Layer Chicken Production and Management on March 20-22, 2024 at Hygeia IntegraMeds Center, Barangay Patin-ay.

This three-day activity aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on layer chicken production. It was coordinated with the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Caraga Region.

There were 27 participants, who were recipients of the Livestock Economic Enterprise Development (LEED) Program of DA Caraga Region. They were able to learn the prospects of layer chicken production in the Philippines, discuss its production technologies and practices, familiarize the different feed requirements of layer chicken at various growth stages, learn health management practices for free-range chickens, and practice recording system.

Rey Salvador F. Convocar, Veterinary Consultant from Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur, discussed the topics on chicken egg production technologies and practices, health management, and feeding management of layer.

Aia Mae Franco Sarsaba, Agriculturist II of LGU-San Francisco, Agusan del Sur explained record keeping and the economics of layer chicken production. Further, Ivy Kristine Wamar, Agriculturist II of DA-Caraga Region, gave a lecture on the chicken egg industry.

Aside from the lectures and discussion, participants were able to visit and learn the best practices of the backyard layer chicken farm owned by Luz M. Alvizo located at Brgy. San Andres, Bunawan, Agusan del Sur on March 22, 2024. Ms. Alvizo’s son, Ignatius Alvizo, attended the same training held last year.

“This is very much appreciated that our government agencies particularly the DA and ATI gave us the opportunity, by investing and allocating funds to enhance and capacitate us about layer chicken production. It is my dream for the



government to reach its services to the needy, and we need this,” said Heracleo Asares, one of the participants from Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte.

Twenty-seven farmer-leaders complete phase 1 goat production and management training

A total of 27 participants completed Phase 1 of the Training on Goat Production and Management (Batch 1) conducted by the ATI at the Hygeia IntegraMeds Center, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur on March 20-22, 2024.

The trainees were Learning Site for Agriculture cooperators, farmer-leaders, Magsasaka Siyentista, and agriculture enthusiasts from the Caraga region.

In a message, OIC Center Director Jessie V. Beldia encouraged the trainees to maximize the learning gained from the training to help improve the goat industry in the region. He added that numerous programs and activities is in line for the farmers through the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).



The resource persons include Mr. Jan Robert Lawrence A. Yamit of the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 13, from PVET-Agusan del Sur Dr. Konielou M. Berdin, Dr. Easter Rose D. Nono, Dr. Jean Lesley Unson, and Ms. Linda Manriquez, and Mr. Jimmy M. Cocha, and from LGU-San Francisco Ms. Aia Mae F. Sarsaba.

The trainees learned about the status and opportunities of the industry, the basics of goat production and technologies, animal breeding, and nutrition. They also learned about stock care and management, animal health care, animal husbandry practices, and feed resources.

During the third day of the training, the participants had a learning visit at AFDAL Farm located in Pisaan, San Francisco, Agusan del Sur. Dr. Jean Lesley Unson, assisted by Mr. Concha, engaged the participants in hands-on exercises on castration and deworming, among others. The activity provided a venue for sharing as farm owner Faith Dicang revealed the best practices and doable techniques employed on the farm.

The participants formulated the re-entry plan that ATI will monitor six months after the training. Moreover, they are to complete the second phase of the training focused on dairy goat production and management.

Farmers, AEWs learn improved prod'n technology, practices of layer chicken

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur – In coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) – Caraga Region, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted the Training on Layer Chicken Production and Management Batch 1 on March 13-15, 2024 at Hygeia IntegraMeds Center, Barangay Patin-ay.

This three-day activity aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on layer chicken production.

There were 25 participants, who were recipients of the Livestock Economic Enterprise Development (LEED) Program of DA Caraga Region. They were able to learn the prospects of layer chicken industry production in the Philippines; discuss its production technologies and practices; familiarize the different feed requirements of layer chicken at various growth stages; learn health management practices for free-range chickens; and practice recording system.



Resource persons during the training were Easter Rose D. Nono, Veterinarian II of the Provincial Veterinary Office-Agusan del Sur; Rey Salvador F. Convocar, Veterinary Consultant from Sta. Josefa, Agusan del Sur; Aia Mae Franco Sarsaba, Agriculturist II of LGU-San Francisco, Agusan del Sur; and Keeven Dave D. Balaba, Project Assistant I of DA-Caraga Region.

"We are thankful to ATI-RTC 13, who provided all the needs and facilitated the LEED program with encouragement and gave us new ideas that could help the People's Organizations in the long run," said Robustiano S. Patayon Jr., one of the participants from Loreto, Province of Dinagat Islands.

27 AEWs empowered through Coconut Specialist Training



HINATUAN, Surigao del Sur— The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC 13) successfully conducted a Coconut Specialist Training Course at Amparitas Integrated Natural Farm, Tagasaka, Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur from March 4 to March 15, 2024. It was attended by twenty-seven (27) Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) across the region.

The training aimed to develop the knowledge and skills of the participants as a coconut specialist, capable of the various steps, processes, and theories related to the coconut value chain.

OIC-Center Director Jessie V. Beldia, highlighted the significance of empowering coconut specialists with updated techniques and knowledge to address the challenges facing coconut farmers. He also encouraged the participants to share the knowledge gained during the training to help the farmers in proper management from production and to engage in coconut by-products and value-adding.

The training utilized a combination of lectures and hands-on activities including preparatory activities, particularly on farm lay-outting, seednuts selection, nursery establishment, coconut cultivation, coconut plantation management, pest, and disease control, harvesting, post-harvesting, good agricultural practices, and economic situation. To help the participants become effective trainers, the speakers also discussed communication in extension, transformational leadership, and social preparation. They also went through microteaching exercises to improve their facilitation and presentation skills.

Participants also had the opportunity to visit the OTAW Farm, one of the Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) under the CFIDP program, they were introduced to the characteristics of different dwarf coconut varieties such as the Tacunan dwarf, Catigan dwarf, Malayan Red, and Yellow, Aromatic dwarf, and Macapuno.

The CSTC has trained 27 new regional coconut experts, skilled in various coconut production technologies, who will support the various implementing agencies of CFIDP in implementing programs and services for the coconut farmers.

During the culmination, the participants received their certificate of completion and 32 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units for licensed agriculturists and 10 CPD units for Agricultural Biosystems Engineering (ABE). The Career and Development Management Section (CDMS) spearheaded the training with Mary Jane Gonzaga, Development Management Officer II, as Project Officer.

ADS stakeholders cite capability enhancement trainings as top priority for FY 2026



SAN FRANCISCO, Agusan del Sur - The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center Caraga Region has successfully conducted the Provincial Consultation Workshop for FY 2026 Agriculture and Fishery Extension (AFE) Needs for the Province of Agusan del Sur on March 20, 2024 at Mabes Savory Place.

The activity aims to harmonize AFE needs among extension service providers and stakeholders in preparation for the implementation of full devolution by Executive Order No. 28 series of 2008.

It was participated by representatives from the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO), Municipal Agriculture Offices, MAO, and Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) Cooperators, from the province of Agusan del Sur.

Nena Lomuntad, Planning Officer II of ATI-RTC XIII, gave the rationale of the activity. She also explained the trust, priorities, and policy directions of the Institute. She also presented the FY 2023 physical accomplishment report and the FY 2024 Work and Financial Plan (WFP). Moreover, a briefing on ATI's UNExSyS AEW Registry System was also done.

During the workshop, each partner agency, LGU, LSAs, and other organizations presented their top five priority training needs for 2026. The training on capability enhancement for AEWs, RBOs, and farmer associations and training on crop/livestock production, processing, value-adding, and marketing were identified as the trainings requested by most of the participants.

Caesar Burdeos, Municipal Agriculturist of San Luis and League of Municipal Agricultural Officers / Municipal and City Agriculturists of the Philippines (LeMMCAP) Caraga Region President, encouraged everyone to support the trainings that would capacitate and enhance the skills of the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs). Through this, the development of the AFE sector at the local level will surely happen and programs intended for the community will be implemented effectively and efficiently.

RCEF-RESP Caraga team produces new set of rice trainers



LOS ANGELES, Butuan City - In its continued effort to enhance the knowledge and skills of the rice farmers in the region, the Agricultural Training Institute- Regional Training Center XIII conducted the Training of Trainers (TOT) on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization (batch 1) under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP), from February 19 – March 1, 2024 at the Golden Tara Hall, ATI-RTC XIII, Los Angeles, Butuan City.

A total of 31 trainees composed of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), Officers of select Irrigators Association and Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organization, and farm school staff from the RCEF-provinces particularly from Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte and Surigao del Sur, graduated from the training. These new sets of trainers will complement the development efforts for the rice industry in the region, not only through technology adoption but also in teaching other farmers and stakeholders through knowledge sharing and future conduct of farmers' field schools.

The TOT covered lectures and interactive discussions on the concepts and principles of the PalayCheck System in rice production, Masagana Rice Industry Development Program (MRIDP) of the DA, facilitation skills, adult learning principles, ICT tools, financial literacy, and transformation leadership. It aimed to

Integrated rice-based farming system training kicks off PAFES activities in SDN



MAINIT, Surigao del Norte – The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII, in partnership with the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) of Surigao del Norte, conducted the Training on Integrated Rice-based Farming System highlighting Tilapia, Siganid, Seaweeds, and Bangus Production for Rural- Based Organizations (RBOs) on March 6-8, 2024 at Kasili Lakeside Resort and Hotel.

The said three-day activity was the first training for 2024 under the Province-Led Agriculture and Fishery Extension System (PAFES) program. It aims to enhance the knowledge of the participants on the

technology of bangus production in cages, tilapia culture in ponds, siganid culture in cages, and seaweed farming.

There were 30 participants composed of farmer leaders, fisherfolks, and Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from the municipalities of Claver, Surigao City, San Francisco, Mainit, Tagana-an, Gigaquit, Placer, Malimono, and Dapa.

Lindon O. Garay, Aquaculturist II from the PAO-SDN, served as the resource person.

"I learned a lot from this training like some techniques on how to develop and keep the resources more profitable through good management. This makes us models to our community. We hope for assistance from our LGU towards the success in boosting our products and also for more interventions like this," said Diosim P. Malig-on, one of the participants.

enhance their capabilities as trainers and leaders in their respective farm schools and associations.

After the lectures, the trainees explored the proper operation of farm machinery and equipment and field demonstrations such as Agro Eco-system Analysis. They also practiced their presentation and communication skills through micro-teaching activities.

In his message, Dr. Jessie V. Beldia, OIC Center Director, encouraged the new set of TOTs to help educate other farmers and stakeholders on modern rice technologies for increased productivity and income.

The Resource Persons are the following: Renante R. Abado and Junkevin V. Arbelo of the Department of Agriculture – Caraga Region; Lita Amancia M. Yandug – Agricultural Center Chief III of the Bureau of Plant Industry-National Seed Quality Control Services – Region 13; Henry A. Jimenez – Science Research Specialist II, Agapito E. Lincuna Jr. – SRS I, and Belen S. Mejia-Tabudlong – Senior SRS, all of PhilRice Agusan Station; Gilbert V. Anguay – Senior Aquaculturist from the Provincial Agriculture Office – Province of Dinagat Islands; Joan B. Dela Torre – Agricultural Technologist from City Agriculture Office-Butuan City; Decemboy B. Tiu – Agricultural Technologist of the City Agriculture Office – Cabadbaran City; and, Pastor Oronito G. Abendanio, PNP 13 Moral Recovery Program Coordinator. ATI personnel who also served as resource speakers included Matt Janfour B. Cabahug – Technical Staff; Caerian B. Muga – Development Management Officer I; Ginalyn V. Arbutante – Information Officer II; Maria Den B. Parro – Agriculturist I, with OIC Assistant Center Director Violeta T. Laguna, as Project Officer.

The ATI RCEF team will conduct two more batches of TOT until April 2024. (with the report of Matt Janfour B. Cabahug).



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TRAINING MGMT. TEAM RESOURCE TRAINING COURSE

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ATI at a Glance

Genus Specialist Training