



TIMGAS

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



HARVESTING HONOR:

**Sharon Acera Honor
of Seglo Integrated Farm**

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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Harvesting Honor:

The RCEF Journey of Sharon Acera Honor



Sharon Acera Honor, a 44-year-old farmer from Capatungan, Trento, Agusan del Sur, has emerged as a shining example of agricultural innovation and community empowerment. Her journey from a humble rice farmer to an entrepreneur is a testament to her dedication, passion for learning, and commitment to uplifting her fellow farmers.



ed Farm

on and sustainability is evident in. From rice and vegetables to hy-
revived oyster mushrooms, Sharon
arming that maximizes
ronmental impact. Her decision to
xplore ventures such as
ds underscores her
ication to agricultural

been without its challenges. When
borer infestations, Sharon sought
guidance, she discovered the
uch as Trichoderma and
pest problem.

chanization has revolutionized her
g farm machinery and equipment,
labor costs and increased

As Sharon looks towards the future, her vision for Seglo Integrated Farm extends far beyond its physical boundaries. She envisions a thriving community of empowered farmers who, inspired by her example, embrace innovation, collaboration, and sustainability. Through her role as a TESDA trainer and assessor, Sharon continues to impart her knowledge and expertise to aspiring farmers.

For Sharon Acera Honor, farming is not merely a livelihood but a calling—a calling to serve her community, empower her fellow farmers, and shape the future of Philippine agriculture. In her commitment to excellence and innovation, Sharon exemplifies the essence of success—a success measured not only in bountiful harvests but in the positive impact she leaves on the lives of others.

‘Speak your mind’ campaign of ATI 13, helps youth address mental health issues



BUTUAN CITY – The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII, through its Gender and Development (GAD) Program, conducted the 4th batch of the Seminar on Mental Health and Wellness on August 22-23, 2024 at MSC Center for the Poor Inc., Barangay Bayanihan.

coping mechanisms in handling common mental health issues. Moreover, participants shared their experiences and hopes for the future during the stress debriefing activity conducted by Novalil H. Tubo, Social Welfare Officer III of Cabadbaran City Social Welfare and Development Office.

This is to raise the level of awareness of mental health and wellness throughout the Caraga region. It is also conducted to promote emotional well-being in coping up to the challenges met by individuals.

“In this training, I realized a lot since yesterday how important mental health is. Identifying the stresses of life helps us to cope with life and how to build good relationships. I learned the benefits of good mental health, keeping calm and enjoying life, and not forgetting to be thankful always,” said John Israel Magadan, one of the participants from ASSCAT.

It was participated in by 25 individuals composed of Local Government Unit representatives, members of the 4-H Club of the Philippines, and OJTs from Agusan del Sur State College and Agricultural Technology (ASSCAT).

Further, as the 4-H Caraga Regional President, Juveriel D. Tenio said, “Activities such as seminars or campaigns on mental health and wellness should be done on regular basis to all young people. It is very timely and relevant because of the pressing issues nowadays.”

Lovelynn Mae N. Plaza, Butuan City Asst. CSWD Officer, discussed the importance of having a sound mind in dealing with stress and

HVCDP Program extends support to Bulala Integrated Farm

TALACOGON, Agusan del Sur – As part of its continuous support to the Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) in Caraga Region, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII awarded Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment to Bulala Integrated Farm under the High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) on August 20, 2024.

Violeta T. Laguna, OIC - Asst. Center Director of ATI-RTC XIII, led the awarding ceremony to Fermin Bulala Jr., farm owner and manager.

Moreover, other key persons who attended were Engr. Dennis Dumagit, OIC-Municipal Agriculturist of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Talacogon, Agusan del Sur; Mary Jane Gonzaga, Development Management Officer II and ATI-RTC XIII HVCDP point person; and Maria Den Parro, Agriculturist II.

The support given were laptop, 3-in-1 printer, and smart TV. Foldable tables and chairs were also handed over. The farm grows fruits, vegetables, and fruit trees. It also raises livestock and poultry animals.



ATI-RTC XIII Welcomes new OIC-Center Director, Noemi Beth G. Macario



The appointment of Noemi Beth G. Macario as the new OIC-Center Director of ATI-RTC XIII brings fresh energy to the organization. With a strong background in community development, she is poised to lead our initiatives in community engagement and empowerment. Noemi Beth G. Macario is dedicated to enhancing programs to meet evolving community needs and fostering collaboration among stakeholders. Her vision focuses on inclusivity and long-term sustainability, aiming to create lasting positive change. As we welcome Noemi Beth G. Macario, we look forward to a future filled with opportunities and growth for all.

SOA on vegetable production implementers convene for mid-assessment

BUTUAN CITY – The Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center XIII, through the Information Services Section (ISS), led the mid-assessment of the School-on-the-Air (SOA) on Vegetable Production dubbed as “Buhay na Buhay sa Gulay” on August 16, 2024 at the Balangay Training Hall of ATI-RTC 13, Los Angeles.

The agenda includes updates on enrollment forms, pretest results, resource person information sheets, special orders, issues and concerns of coordinators and facilitators, hands-on activity, mass graduation, and post-assessment schedule.

Coordinators and facilitators from the Butuan City Agriculture and Veterinary Department (CAVD) raised some issues they had faced during the implementation. Concerns discussed were enrollees’ listenership during the live airing through radio and Facebook live, and sharing of best practices in the actual field implementation.

The 16-episode SOA on Vegetable Production, launched last June 5, 2024, can be heard over 97.5 Magik FM every Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 in the morning. The anchorperson is Engr. John Wevin A. Tingas supported by the city High-Value Crops Development Program coordinator Engr. Lestan M. Morales, both from CAVD.



Coordinators and facilitators of SOA on Vegetable production in Butuan City related their field experience during 4-month SOA implementation.

Training on coco production benefits Caraga farmers

BUTUAN CITY – With its aim to enhance the knowledge and skills of the coconut farmers in Caraga, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted four batches of Training on Coconut Production and Management for coconut farmers in the region.

The first batch was held on June 11-13, 2024 at Poblacion, San Jose, Province of Dinagat Islands with 31 participants. On the other hand, 30 individuals attended the second batch held at Kasili Hotel and Resort, Mainit, Surigao del Norte on June 19-21, 2024.

Moreover, the third was conducted last July 31-August 2, 2024 at Goldbar Hotel, Tandag City, Surigao del Sur with 30 participants. The last batch was held on June 24-26, 2024 at Hygiea IntegraMeds-FDAI, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur and was attended by 29 farmers.

Partakers were given a series of lectures on the cacao industry situation and its socio-economic impact to the country, Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) components and its function, coconut physiology, morphology and growth stages, coconut plantation management, seed nut selection and nursery establishment, fertilization management, harvesting and postharvest practices, and waste management.

“I’ve learned a lot of things in this training such as the resources and on how to apply my learnings to my farm,” said Noli T. Redula, farmer-participant from San Jose, PDI.

Participants also underwent hands-on field practicum during the last day of training.

The said training was done in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) in Caraga Region.



Participants conducted their hands on field practicum on June 26, 2024 at Hygiea IntegraMeds-FDAI, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

Agri stakeholders learn farm business management



LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – Geared towards the enhancement of knowledge, skills, and attitudes of various stakeholders about entrepreneurial and fundamental farm management, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted the Training of Trainers on Farm Business School for Rice-based Enterprises Batch 1 on August 5-14, 2024 at ATI Training Hall. This is to discuss the different Filipino values relating to financial literacy, describe how farm commercialization is taking place, discuss the competencies of business success and profitability, enumerate the key elements of marketing, and to develop a budgetary requirement for a farm enterprise operation.

It was participated by 29 individuals composed of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), Local Farmer Technicians (LFTs), and Learning Site for Agriculture

representatives. Pastor Wesley C. Calunsag, owner of FAITH Nature Farm in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur, and Dr. Angelita B. Resurreccion, owner of Passion for Perfection Inc. in Quezon City, were the resource persons.

“This training is very helpful, especially for me assigned to make business plans in our municipality office. I thought that what had been taught at school was the same as the farm business plan. I gained insights and it made me realize the opportunities offered by the farm to the farmer,” said Halyssa Angel B. Belardo, one of the participants from Tubay, Agusan del Norte.

Further, the training was highlighted by the presentation of the business plan per group. It was critiqued by the resource persons and Francis H. Iriarte, Administrative Officer IV of ATI-RTC XIII.

CaMasa Inc. holds quarterly meeting



LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – Members of the Caraga Magsasaka Siyentista Association Incorporated (CaMaSA Inc.) gathered at the Golden Tara Hall, Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII, Los Angeles, Butuan City for the Quarterly Meeting and Planning Workshop on July 30-31, 2024.

In an interview with CaMaSa President Elvis Dela Merced, he expressed his gratitude to the ATI for its continuing efforts to strengthen the organization by providing an essential platform for collaboration, networking, and mutual support among its members. He emphasized the importance of staying updated with the plans and programs of the national agencies to empower the farmers and drive agricultural development. He also supported ATI's aspiration for all Magsasaka

Siyentista in the region to become certified Learning Sites for Agriculture, expanding its services to other farmers and agri-enthusiasts.

Joeirene Campomanes, Chairman of MAFAMUCO, and LSA cooperator of Las Casas de Campomanes in Magroyong, San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, discussed the topic of the formulation of the vision and mission statements and the importance of aligning the objectives with the needs and priorities of the region.

Participants also discussed possible interventions, capability-building activities, and economically viable projects for additional income. The MS were encouraged to bring their products to the regional market and to engage in farm integration and diversification.

Present during the event were Dr. Jessie V. Beldia, OIC -Center Director; Engr. Matt Andrew G. Baquiano, Chief of the Partnership and Accreditation Section; Mr. Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac, OIC-Chief of the Information Services Section; and representatives from the academe; Mr. Rodel Pasion, Program Coordinator of the Caraga State University; Dr. Nancy S. Doloriel, Extension Head of the North Eastern Mindanao State University-Tagbina Campus, and Dr. Joylyn D. Pausanos, Extension Coordinator of the Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology.

Lumbia FA in Esperanza, ADS receives DFP Farm Tech Package



The awarding of the Digital Farmers Program (DFP) Farm Tech Package to the Lumbia Farmers Association (LFA) was conducted on July 26, 2024, in Esperanza, Agusan del Sur.

ESPERANZA, Agusan del Sur – The Lumbia Farmers Association (LFA) of Barangay Dakutan, led by its Chairman Norberto D. Guino, received the Digital Farmers Program (DFP) Farm Tech Package. This innovative techno-driven training and livelihood resource is designed to equip the association during the roll-out of digital literacy training programs among its members and other local farmers.

The package consists of 10 units of smartphones, a tablet, a Smart Bro pocket WiFi, a portable daylight projector, a foldable projector screen, a portable sound system, flash drives, a farm tech utility bag, and training modules.

Jason Paul Dads E. Jampac, OIC-Chief of the Information Services Section of the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII, provided an overview of the DFP and its components. He emphasized that as graduates of the Training of Trainers on DFP 101 and 102 last February 2024, the LFA will facilitate the delivery of DFP training for its members and other farmers in the municipality.

He also assured the LFA of ATI's continuous technical assistance whenever needed. Meanwhile, Mary Grace B. Salve, Media Production Specialist II, explained the duties and responsibilities of LFA and other provisions in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

In a gesture of acceptance and commitment to the DFP, LFA Chairman Guino sealed the partnership with ATI through the MOA. He expressed that the responsibilities are both challenging and fulfilling for them as LFA officers. Guino also thanked the Municipal Agriculture Office for recommending the LFA as one of the DFP recipients.

Meanwhile, OIC- Municipal Agriculturist Jovie R. Ego-ugan pledged their support to LFA in fulfilling their duties in making technology and digital solutions more accessible to the farmers in Esperanza.

The turnover was held on July 26, 2024, at the LGU-Esperanza Farmers Information and Technology Services Center.

ATI intensifies campaign on climate-smart rice production technologies



Group Photo: The Participants were composed of AEWs, DAR personnel and LSA cooperators in the province of Agusan del Sur on July 12, 2024 at Hygeia IntegraMeds Center, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – Keeping up with its commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, the ATI-RTC 13 conducted another batch of training entitled Training Course on Climate-Smart Agriculture (CSA): A Driver for Green Growth and Development, “Makabagong Paraan ng Pagsasaka para sa Makabagong Magsasaka” at Hygeia IntegraMeds Center, FDAI, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur on July 8-12, 2024.

True to its tagline, the training aimed to capacitate the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and farmer-leaders to help farmers adapt their agricultural methods to the effects of climate change and eventually improve their yield.

It covered topics on the effects of Climate change on rice farming, an overview of the Palay Check System, ICT-based software in rice farming, and the Palayaman Plus and Rice Business Innovations System (RiceBIS) Community Program. Moreover, the participants learned about rice production technologies, precision agriculture, drone technology, and how to make their farm a climate-smart model farm.

The trainees spent two days and one night in four rice-based Learning Sites for Agriculture.

These farms included St. Thomas Micro-Farm Learning Center in Veruela, Faith Nature Farm in Esperanza, ARM Integrated Agritourism in Bayugan City, and Seglo Integrated Farm in Trento. The training adopted a blended learning approach, allowing the trainees to observe and participate in farm operations and develop practical skills in social mobilization. They engaged farmers to identify their problems and create solutions through Participatory Rural Appraisal. The data gathered from the homestay experience served as the basis for the trainees to craft climate-smart recommendations to address the prevailing problems on the farm and improve their farming practices.

The recommendations were presented to the host farm owners during the last day of the training.

All in all, 33 AEWs and farmer-leaders completed the course, accredited with 12 CPD units for Agriculture and 5 five units for Agriculture and Biosystems Engineering. Batch 1 of the training was held in May, while three more batches are scheduled for July.

Pig fattener production training upskills AEWs, INSPIRE beneficiaries



LOS ANGELES, Butuan City – In support of the government's effort to promote the animal industry, particularly pig production, the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted the first batch of the Basic Course on Pig Husbandry focused on fattener production to some 25 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and beneficiaries of the Integrated National Swine Production Initiative for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) program.

The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of the AEWs and raisers in sustainable swine fattening production. It covered topics on basic management practices for swine fattening production, house design, and farm management, an overview of Good Animal Husbandry Practices, the importance of record-keeping and financial viability, and feed formulation with hands-on exercise. They were also briefed on the status and opportunities of the swine industry.

The resource persons are Dr. Marie Jocelyn C. Santiago, Supervising Agriculturist; Neciforo B. Vallicer Jr., Agricultural Technician; and Gersham D. Martinez, Technical staff, all from the Department of Agriculture – Caraga region.

MAFAMUCO General Manager Joirene M. Campomanes, and Dr. Ted A. Raralio, Vet. Tech. Specialists for Hogs from San Miguel Foods, Inc. also served as resource persons during the training.

One of the trainees, Marjun Medrano, an Agricultural Technologist of LGU-San Miguel, Surigao del Sur, was thankful for the additional learnings from the training, from lectures and theories to practical experiences shared among the participants. He said that this knowledge and skills could enable him to fulfill his duties of assisting the swine raisers in his area of assignment.

Meanwhile, Aiza D. Bornaes, in charge of Farmers Alternative for Self-Reliance Multi-Purpose Cooperative (FASRMCO), a certified Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), appreciated the lectures and demonstration on animal nutrition and feed formulation using locally available materials, and determined to adopt the same in their cooperative.

Florita G. Lozada, Agriculturist II/Livestock point person, served as project officer of the training held on July 10-12, 2024, at the Balangay Hall, ATI-RTC XIII.

In-Focus: Caraga Scholars

EAsY Agri, EdGE grantees convene for AY 2023-2024 Assessment.



LOS ANGELES, Butuan City - A total of 40 participants, including grantees of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY) Agri and Educational Grants for Extension Workers (EdGE) scholarship programs, attended the Semestral Assessment for the Second Semester of AY 2023-2024. The event took place at Golden Tara Hall, ATI-Caraga, Los Angeles, Butuan City on July 12, 2024. OIC-Center Director Jessie V. Beldia encourages scholars to strive for excellence in their studies and to maintain the required grades and standards set by the program, while also urging them to pursue their agriculture and related courses with enthusiasm.

A team building activity followed the orientation on EAsY Agri and EdGE programs, conducted by Ms. Ginalyn V. Arbutante, Information Officer II. Furthermore, 12 fresh graduate scholars from the first batch shared their experiences of completing their courses within four years, aiming to inspire the remaining two batches of EAsY Agri scholars.

Rolyn Jay Aca-ac, a grantee under the first batch of EAsY Agri scholarship program, commended ATI-RTC 13 for successfully conducting the Scholarship Program Semestral Assessment for the Academic Year 2023-2024.

He also expressed appreciation for the team-building activities and the spirit of volunteerism and participation shown by his fellow scholars.

Lou Arth Ague, an EAsY Agri batch 2 grantee, described the assessment as enjoyable and insightful. He shared that the stories of the grantees taught him not to feel pressured in the face of challenges, but rather to enjoy being a student within limits and believe in his own success.

Jasmein Luison from EAsY Agri batch 3 expressed gratitude for the learning opportunity the assessment presented. Despite not feeling well, she found the team-building activities relieving and plans to bring the experience with her to Bukidnon.

The semestral assessment for the second semester of AY 2023-2024 was conducted to evaluate the scholars' academic performance, assess their compliance with program requirements, and gauge the program's overall effectiveness.

The EAsY Agri and EdGE scholarship programs, funded under the Regular and Rice program of the ATI, are designed to support students in the agriculture sector.



CONGRATULATIONS!

The ATI-Caraga is proud to present these five students from Surigao del Norte State University (SNSU)-Mainit Campus, located in Magpayang, Mainit, Surigao del Norte, they are among the 14 scholars of Batch 1 who took agriculture-related courses from various universities in Caraga. The institute recognized their commendable performance as the successful prime movers of the ATI's Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY Agri) scholarship program. OIC Center Director Jessie V. Beldia awarded the Certificates of Recognition to the scholars during their Recognition Day on May 31, 2024 as represented by Ms. Ginalyn V. Arbutante, Focal Person of the Scholarship Program



Prime Movers of the Educational Assistance for the Youth (EAsY) in Agriculture Agri Scholarship Program of ATI-Caraga during their Recognition Day on May 31, 2024 at Surigao del Norte State University (SNSU)-Mainit Campus.

Annual Scholarship Programs Assessment



Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY) Agri Scholarship Program in Baguio City on July 15-18, 2024.

Focal Persons of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY) Agri Scholarship Program convened during the Annual Assessment in Baguio City on July 15-18, 2024. Updates on the three batches of EAsY Agri, EDGE and TDA were presented as well as with the Assessment Results of the 1st Semester, AY 2023-2024.

Issues and concerns were also raised during the plenary discussion led by Mr. Kemuel M. Borromeo, DMO III and Chief of the Scholarship Management Section, with the supervision of Ms. Edith S. Vinuya, Chief of the Career Development and Management Division. This is along with the recommended possible solutions. Sharing of Best Practices on the program implementation among the regions was also included in the said activity.

Scholars who graduated with Latin honors were also invited and awarded with a Certificate of Recognition by Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter, Director IV of ATI together with Director III Antonieta J. Arceo

EASy Agri



Mr. Rolyn Jay G. Aca-ac, one of the pioneers of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EASy Agri) scholarship program of the institute for SY 2021-2024. Mr. Aca-ac successfully graduated at the North Eastern Mindanao State University- Tagbina Campus in Tagbina, Surigao del Sur with a degree of Bachelor of Agricultural Technology on June 18, 2024. He is a recipient of the following awards: Leadership Award, College Leadership Award, Academic Performance, and Best in Practicum.



Mr. Joshua B. Dalayap, one of the 12 successful scholars under the first batch of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EASy Agri) scholarship program of the institute starting SY 2020-2021. Mr. Dalayap is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Fisheries at the Surigao del Norte State University-Malimono Campus, Malimono, Surigao del Norte on June 7, 2024. He is also a Leadership and Bagtik awardee.



Scholarship Program



Ms. Darlyn P. Lawag, a graduate of Bachelor of Agricultural Technology at Surigao del Norte State University-Del Carmen Campus in Siargao Island on June 4, 2024. Ms. Lawag is among the 12 successful scholars under the first batch of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY Agri) scholarship program of ATI.



Ms. Chivy M. Soliman, a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at Caraga State University, Ampayon, Butuan City on June 21, 2024. Ms. Soliman is one of the first 12 students in Caraga region who became a recipient of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY Agri) scholarship program of the Institute from SY 2020-2024.

In-Focus: Caraga Scholars



Ms. Rovelyn T. Corvera, a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Fisheries at the North Eastern Mindanao State University (NEMSU)-Liangá Campus based at Liangá, Surigáo del Sur on June 26, 2024. She is one of the 12 successful grantees under the first batch of Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY Agri) scholarship program of the Institute from SY 2020-2024.



Ms. April Joy H. Ayala and Ms. Khymbirly G. Caoile, both are graduates of Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering at the Agusan del Sur State College of Agriculture and Technology (ASSCAT), Bunawan, Agusan del Sur on June 28, 2024. They completed the set of 12 successful graduates who became the pioneering batch of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY Agri) scholarship program of the institute from SY 2020-2024 in Caraga region.

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Five successful graduates from Surigao del Norte State University-Mainit Campus, in Magpayang, Mainit, Surigao del Norte received their awards and recognition during their Graduation Ceremony on June 11, 2024. The awardees included Ms. Miela G. Dejande-Bachelor of Agricultural Technology, Ms. Banisa L. Amba and Ms. Cherry Ann Talictic - Bachelor of Science in AgroForestry and Ms. Lovely A. Reyes and Kristine Grace P. Odvina-Bachelor of Technology and Livelihood Education-Agri-Fishery Arts. They were among the 12 scholars under the first batch of the Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY Agri) scholarship program of ATI from SY 2020-2024.





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