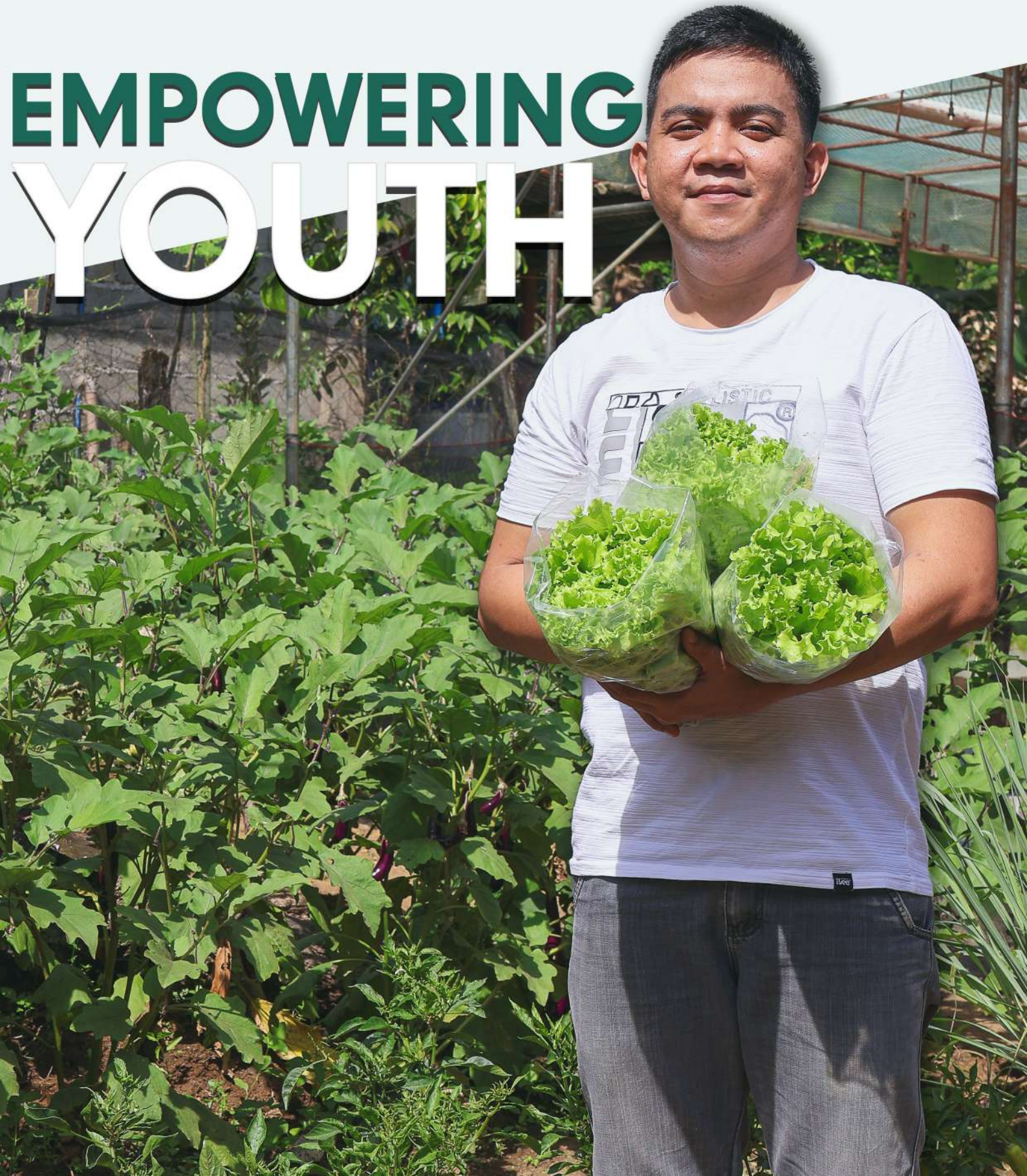




TIM GAS

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

EMPOWERING YOUTH





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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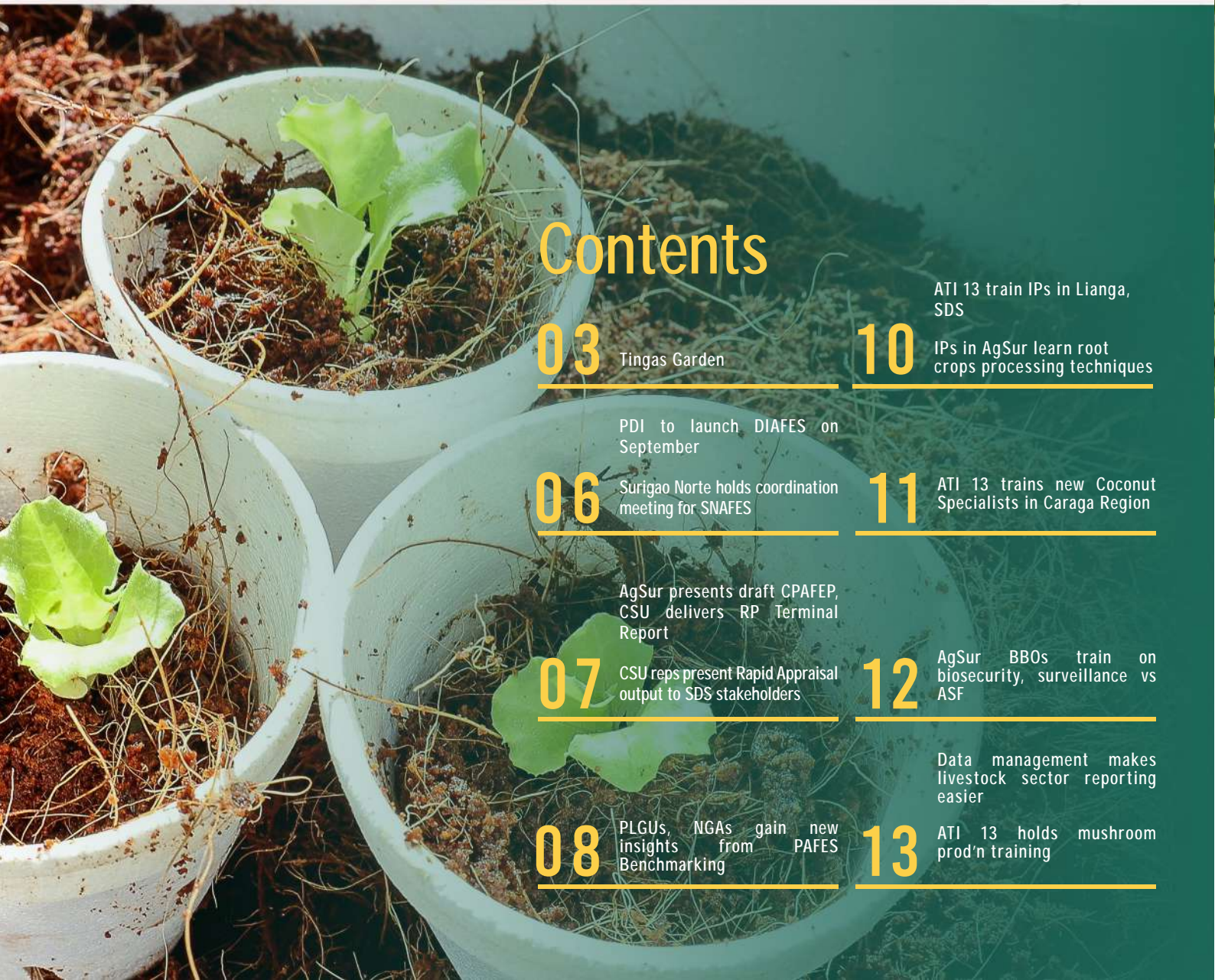
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Empowering Youth, Ensuring Food Security

Engr. John Wevin Tingas' journey in farming has proven how dedication and passion can be a catalyst of change for others. At 29, this young leader recognized the potential of the youth in contributing to the development of farming communities.

"Youths are really close to my heart because I was once a youth leader in different organizations way back in my youth. Then, given the chance that I became the 4-H Club Focal Person in the Local Government Unit of Butuan, I am very much happy and overwhelmed that I can share my expertise and talents which is also in the agriculture side, in which this is one of my fortes."

Driven by his passion for achieving a food-secure community, Engr. Tingas was determined to involve the youth in agriculture. He has this implicit faith that the future of farming lies in their hands, and by sharing his knowledge, he aimed to inspire and empower them to take an active role in agriculture.

"We really need to involve our youth because I know our farmers are getting older. No one will follow them except our youth."



No Soil, Less Toil

Engr. Tingas introduced the concept of **hydroponics**, a **soilless culture** of growing plants, as an efficient and sustainable way of producing food. Through hydroponics, the plants receive a direct and balanced nutrient supply, leading to faster growth and higher yields. He realized that this technology will not only benefit farmers but will also help in ensuring food availability for the entire community.

"In hydroponics, you directly feed the nutrients (to the plant), thereby allowing a fast and easy harvest. Since production is fast, return is also quick."





The Tingas Garden

Despite being a busy young professional, Engr. Tingas manages to dedicate time to establish a small garden. His vision is to showcase to farmers and the youth in agriculture that even with limited space, they can produce their own food and generate income. This inspired him to establish what is now known as the Tingas Garden, located in a small lot he acquired in Brgy. Basag, Butuan City.

The Tingas Garden became a hub for learning and sharing knowledge. Engr. Tingas actively posted updates and information about the garden on social media platforms to encourage everyone to take part in agriculture. The garden served as a model to people who wanted to adopt the hydroponics technology. By promoting this approach, he inspired others to consider gardening and embrace the idea that even professionals could engage in agricultural activities to promote sustainability.

"The garden has been visited by students, local farmers, and neighbors where they get new ideas and emulate farming practices. They consider this as their model garden. One time somebody messaged me saying, 'Sir, thank you because we were also able to plant. We were inspired by you when you kept on posting your vegetables. We followed what you did although just like us you're also a professional, yet you continued to promote gardening'."

Engr. Tingas has set an example for all AEWs and young professionals to follow, proving that with dedication and passion, anyone can be a beacon of hope and a driver of change.

PDI to launch DIAFES on September



The one-day activity was held on June 23, 2023, at Rejulzhalem E.Y. Miner Suites in Surigao City was the final presentation of the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP) in the Province of Dinagat Islands.

Governor Nilo P. Demerey, Jr. of Dinagat Islands, DA 13-RED Engr. Ricardo M. Oñate, DA-13 RTD for Operations Rebecca R. Atega, ATI-13 OIC Center Director Dr. Jessie V. Beldia, PhilRice-Agusan Branch Director Dr. Gerardo F. Estoy Jr., Provincial Agriculturist Rico B. Galinato, DA-

13 PDI APCO Chief Rey Frias, Municipal Mayors, Municipal Agriculturists, and representatives from other National Government Agencies (NGAs) were present in the said activity.

In his commitment to delivering the agricultural and fisheries interventions and, in particular, food sufficiency in the next years for Dinagat Islands, Governor Demerey strongly supported and expressed his eagerness for the realization of PAFES in his province which will be called Dinagat Islands Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (DIAFES).

During the activity, it was decided that the CPAFEP will be targeted from 2024 through 2026. The document will still be tackled at the Sangguniang Panlalawigan before it will be endorsed to the governor for his final approval and signature.



CSU reps present Rapid Appraisal output to SDS stakeholders

CAGWAIT, Surigao del Sur - Continuing the efforts of stakeholders to keep the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES) right on track, the Caraga State University (CSU) presented the result of the

Rapid Appraisal on May 3, 2023 at the Kaliguan Beach Resort in this town.

The said study is crucial in assessing the Local Government Units (LGUs) specifically in terms of providing agriculture and fisheries extension services.

Specifically, the rapid appraisal aims to look into and picture out the current design and implementation measures of the agriculture and fishery extension services in the province, provide recommendations and interventions to further assist the LGUs in the smooth implementation of the Mandanas-Garcia doctrine, and serves as the take-off point in the institutionalization of PAFES and a reference in mapping the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Enhancement Program (CPAFEP).

Marcos M. Quico, Provincial Agriculturist of Surigao del Sur, hoped that the study will not affect the transfer of authority to the LGU instead it will help in the formulation of policies and interventions.

During the presentation, some of the comments raised were about the standard ratio between farmers and Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs). There was also a request among the municipal and city LGUs for CSU to provide not only the province-wide/general result but also the more detailed by municipality/city results.

The activity was attended by various LGUs from the provincial, municipal, and city levels and representatives from the Department of Agriculture-Agriculture Program Coordinating Office and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI).

Hon. Novelita Sarmen, Mayor of Lianga, was also present during the said activity.

AgSur presents draft CPAFEP, CSU delivers RP Terminal Report

PROSPERIDAD, Agusan del Sur - The province of Agusan del Sur remained strong in its commitment to further develop the agriculture sector in the province during the presentation of the Rapid Appraisal result and the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP) on May 25-26, 2023 at Hygeia IntegraMeds, Patin-ay, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.



The participants actively participated in the discussions, especially during the presentation of the Rapid Appraisal terminal report by the Caraga State University (CSU). There were some items that need to be clarified, updated, or rectified. Dr. Rowena Varela, one of the Project Team Leaders from CSU, explained that their team is willing to accept additional data or information from the LGUs for the research result to be acceptable and closer to reality.

The draft CPAFEP was also critiqued by the LGUs and National Government Agencies (NGAs). It was agreed that the PLGU will give the municipal/city LGUs one week to finalize their three-year plan. This will then be consolidated by the PLGU following the recommendations and agreements during the meeting.

Engaged in the two-day activity were Provincial Agriculturist Armando G. Valiente; Executive Assistant IV, Michael Leo Torralba; Dr. Konielou Berdin of the Provincial Veterinary Office; APCO Chief June Anthony Ouano; CSU Project Team Leaders Dr. Varela and Dr. Raquel Balanay; and Municipal and City Agriculturists; and other representatives from the LGUs, NGAs, and academe.

The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 13 funded the activities. The agency was represented by its OIC-Center Director in the person of Dr. Jessie V. Beldia.

Surigao Norte holds coordination meeting for SNAFES

Held on June 22, 2023 at Langojon, Jianjoy Beach Resort, General Luna, Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte, through the efforts of the Provincial Local Government Unit of Surigao del Norte and other stakeholders, the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES) coordination meeting took place.

The activity had more than 60 attendees. Atty. Molly Sering, Siargao Island Administrator, delivered her welcoming message to the participants. Presented during the activity were updates on CPAFEP and the PLGU's initiated special projects in agri-fisheries.

Provincial Agriculturist of Surigao del Norte Ruby Ann S. Lagahit highlighted that PAFES follows the strategy where DA will co-plan, co-manage, and co-invest. Moreover, PAFES also aims to implement more agriculture and fisheries programs through the Surigao del Norte Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (SNAFES). PA Lagahit underscored the significance of the "championed commodity" in the province.



PLGUs, NGAs gain new insights from PAFES Benchmarking

LAOAG CITY, Ilocos Norte – Key officials and personnel from the Provincial Local Government Units (PLGUs) and Government Agencies (NGAs) gained new insights from the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (PAFES) benchmarking in Ilocos Norte from June 5-9, 2023.

The activity, which drew 21 participants, facilitated knowledge exchange on best practices, innovative approaches, and strategies between the PLGU of Ilocos Norte and the participants. It helped them identify factors that hindered the implementation of PAFES in the province such as strong PLGU support (policy, manpower, logistics, budget, convergence, collaboration, and cooperation between and among key stakeholders such as farmers and other LGUs, academe, DA, and other NGAs; regular monitoring and evaluation; continuous support from NGAs (financial and technical support); and presence of a prime mover.

Among the projects, farms, and organizations visited by the group were as follows: Bacarra Zanjera Irrigation System of Bacarra, Mango King Food Products, Refmad Farm in Burgos, Bagnos Multi-Purpose Cooperative, and the Provincial Agriculture Center (INAFEC) at the Provincial Agriculture Office Compound.

The participants met Engr. Maria Teresa L. Bacnat, OIC Provincial Agriculturist of Ilocos Norte, who presented the current state of the INAFES; and Ilocos Norte Governor Matthew Joseph Manotoc, who was also present.

The participants included Dinagat Governor Nilo Demery; ATI-13 OIC Center Director Dr. Jessie Beldia; Provincial Agriculturist Shielia Cubillanes (PVET-SDN); Donato Alegado (Supervising Agriculturist-ADN); APCO Chiefs and staff, and other participants.





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ented the INAFES progress report; Atty. Pancho Jose, INAFES Center Director, who responded to questions
able to squeeze his hectic schedule to meet the group on June 8 for a quick courtesy call.

rovincial Agriculturists Ruby Ann Lagahit (SDN), Marcos Quico (SDS), and Rico Galinato Jr. (PDI); Dr. Life
d other government personnel involved in the implementation of PAFES in the region.





IPs in AgSur learn root crops processing techniques

PATIN-AY, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur – To enhance the knowledge and skills using the available farm products of the community, the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted the Training on Root Crop Food Processing Batch 1 under the Gender and Development on April 26-28, 2023 at Hygeia IntegraMeds Center-FDAI.

This was participated by 20 members of the Indigenous Peoples (IPs) Community in the municipality of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

Topics discussed during the activity were the importance of value-adding, food safety, methods and procedures of food processing. It was explained by Jhoanna G. Garcia, owner of Jabez Farm which is a certified Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA).

Carmela V. Makinano and Clarence A. Malbasias, from the Department of Agriculture – Caraga Region, served as the resource persons for financial analysis, marketing, credit, and cost and return analysis.

Participants were also able to perform their hands-on activity and able to showcase and process two cassava recipes, the cassava balls and pichi-pichi.

“We are very thankful for the new things that we have learned. Through this, our association for the IPs is formed with the help of the Municipal Agriculture Office. We hoped for our association to be productive that could benefit us and the future generation of IPs here in our community,” says Sioly S. Robles, one of the participants and member of the barangay council of Salvacion, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.

The three-day training was done in partnership with the Municipal Agriculture Office of Prosperidad headed by Municipal Agriculturist Marlita Cortez with Nilo Villamor, the Rural-Based Organization (RBO) focal person.



ATI 13 train IPs in Lianga, SDS

LIANGA, Surigao del Sur – Twenty members of the Indigenous Peoples participated in the Training on Root Crop Food Processing Batch 2 under the Gender and Development conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII on May 3-5, 2023 at Mejares Farm.

This aims to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants in root crop food processing technologies utilizing the available farm products in the community.

Jhoanna G. Garcia, owner of Jabez Farm and a certified Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), discussed the importance of value-adding, food safety, methods and procedures of food processing.

Moreover, Rovelyn H. Fudalan and Jamaica A. Ballentos, from the Department of Agriculture – Caraga Region, were the resource persons for the topics on farm financial management, agri-commodity, and supply and demand in the province and in Caraga region.

As a result, participants were able to showcase and made camote balls, camote doughnut, camote shakoy, and cassava balls.



Cristian Omila, Resource Person from PCA, demonstrated the proper establishment of a rhino trap - a biological control for rhinoceroses and coconut scale insects.

ATI 13 trains new Coconut Specialists in Caraga Region

LOS ANGELES, Butuan City- Twenty-two (22) Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) throughout the region completed the coconut specialists training course conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII on May 2-12, 2023 at the Balangay Hall, ATI Training Center, Los Angeles, Butuan City.

The training aims to capacitate and equip the participants' knowledge and skills on various steps, processes, and theories related to coconut production management and value-adding. Also, to develop a core of regional facilitators who will assist in implementing the different training activities under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Program (CFIDP).

OIC-Center Director Dr. Jessie V. Beldia, welcomed the participants and encouraged them to enjoy the 11-day training. Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Region 13 Manager of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Region 13, highlighted the potential of the coconut industry in the region; he shared the brief history of the coco levy fund before it became CFIDP. He then assured that the participants who finished the CST training will receive a dwarf coconut seedling.

Activities during the training included preparatory activities in coconut production, coconut plantation management, harvesting and post-harvesting, and economic status. The speakers also discussed communication in extension, transformational leadership, and social preparation to help the participants become effective trainers. Hence, they experienced the micro-teaching activity to help enhance their presentation and facilitation skills.

Participants also underwent field practicum to apply the coconut theories during the discussion. They developed farm plans and established coconut nurseries at Brgy. Taguibo in Butuan City. They performed soil and leaf sampling, identification of coconut insect pests and diseases, fertilized fruiting coconut farms, installed long traps for the rhinoceros beetles, and crafted re-entry plans for their localities.

The Partnership and Accreditation Services Section (PASS) spearheaded the training, with Mary Jane Gonzaga, Development Management Officer II, as Project Officer.

AgSur BBOs train on biosecurity, surveillance vs ASF



PATIN-AY, Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur – In partnership with the Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) of Agusan del Sur in its war against African Swine Fever (ASF), the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII under the National Livestock Program (NLP) conducted Bantay ASF sa Barangay: Training on Biosecurity and Surveillance for Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) on April 17-18, 2023 at Hygeia IntegraMeds Center – FDAI.

The two-day activity was participated by 19 BBOs. It aims to capacitate the BBOs to gain additional knowledge and skills on specimen collection for laboratory testing, appropriate handling of specimen and restraining techniques, and preparation of animals for collection.

This is also a part of the Bantay ASF sa Barangay (BABay ASF) Program which aims to prevent and control the spread of ASF in the infected areas; and protect pockets of smallholder and commercial farms in barangays, municipalities, and cities that are still ASF free. It will also complement the Department of Agriculture- Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) control program in providing business continuity and assisting swine farm repopulation.

Topics were discussed by Konielou M. Berdin, Veterinarian IV, and Easter Rose D. Nono, Veterinarian II, both from the province's PVO. Moreover, Lilibeth L. Manzano, Insurance Underwriter from Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) talked about swine mortality insurance.

"The topics discussed by the speakers really helped. I now have a better understanding of how ASF could be handled in the locality for safety with the support from the government," said Roldan C. Lejarso, one of the participants from Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur.



ATI 13 holds mushroom prod'n training

DEL MONTE, Talacogon, Agusan del Sur – Participated by 23 Agricultural Extension Workers and one farmer, the three-day training course on mushroom production was conducted on April 12-14, 2023 at Del Monte Lowland Rainfed Research Station (DMLRRS) under the Department of Agriculture – Caraga Region.

The training aims to capacitate the participants in the common propagation techniques of selected edible mushrooms, preparation of mushroom growing media through hands-on demonstration, and postharvest practices, processing, and marketing.

Jason Dalapo, Science Research Specialist II of DA – Caraga, discussed the topics on community-based mushroom production, different species, health benefits, factors that affect mushroom production, and its economic enterprises.

Moreover, Mr. Dalapo and Quennie Yvonne Jalique demonstrated the preparation of mushroom spawn tissue culture, pure culture, and rapid multiplication of mushroom spawn.

“I am thankful for this training because I am very new to mushroom production but now I am confident to say that I can apply and be able to produce mushrooms when I go back home,” said Jemuel P. Madelo from Lan Nieves, Agusan del Norte.

Further, participants of the said training earned 8 units of CPD points.



Data management makes livestock sector reporting easier

BUTUAN CITY – Giving importance of data management as well as ease in reporting in support to the National Livestock Program (NLP), the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) XIII conducted its first batch of Training on Data Management on April 26-28, 2023 at MSC – Center for the Poor Inc.

This was participated by 24 livestock program coordinators and other key players from the different municipalities in Caraga Region.

Topics revolve around the framework of the Philippine Animal Industry Management Information System (Phil-AIMIS) which shall be the central repository data bank and knowledge portal for the Department of Agriculture livestock agencies.

Introduction to Data Privacy Act (Republic Act No. 10173), data preparation and analysis, and data loading, extraction and analysis were also discussed by the resource persons from ATI-RTC X and the Department of Information and Communication Technology – Caraga Region.

Further, the importance of Pentaho, a software under the livestock program, was highlighted and participants were able to perform a hands-on activity on it. By using it, data collected in the field can be cleansed and be free from duplication which makes its reporting accurate and easier.

Capturing Moments

ATI 2nd Quarter Engagements





Participants collect blood samples for laboratory testing at Prosperidad slaughterhouse on April 18, 2023 as a hands-on activity on April 18, 2023.





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