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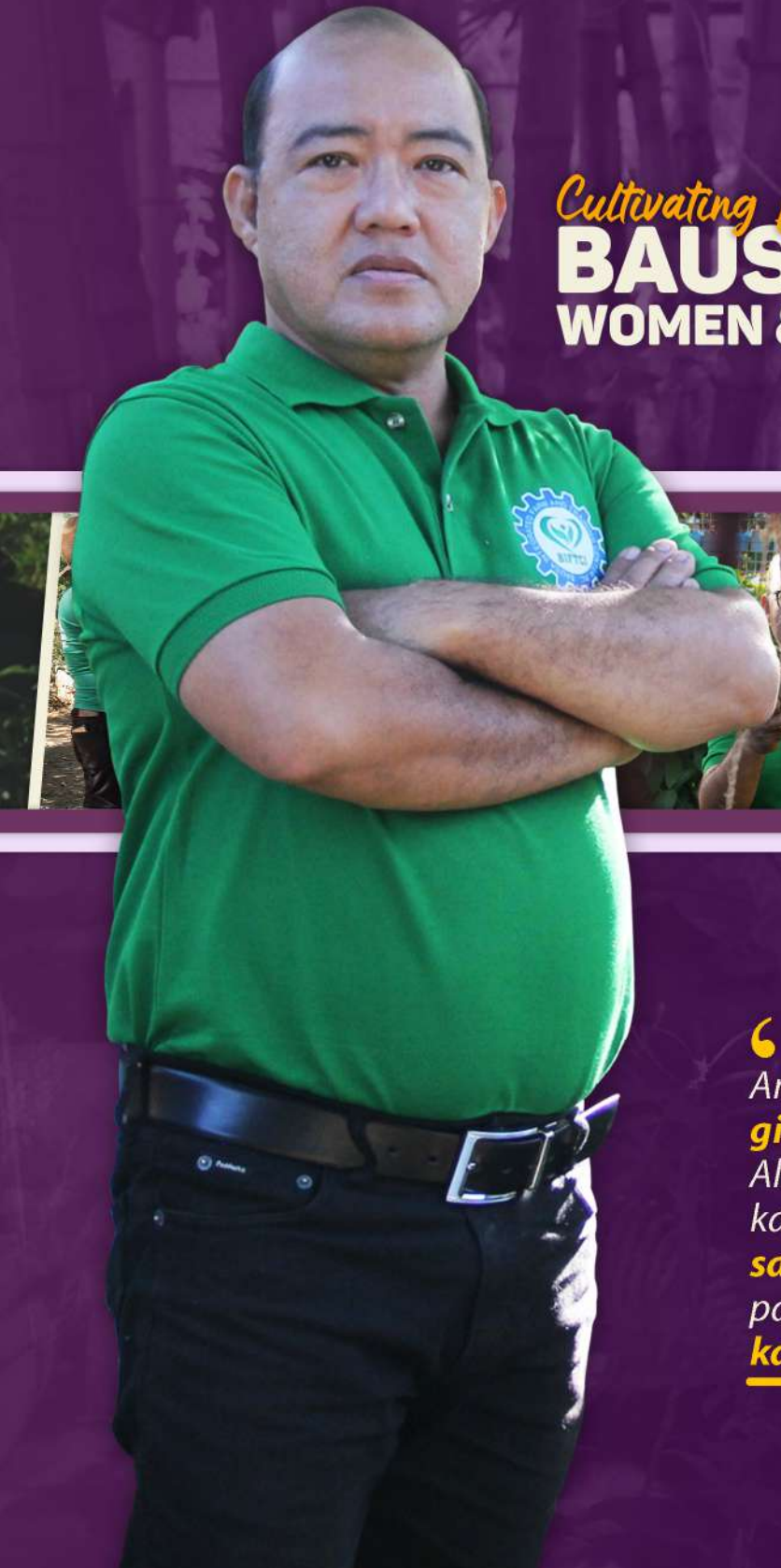


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COVER STORY

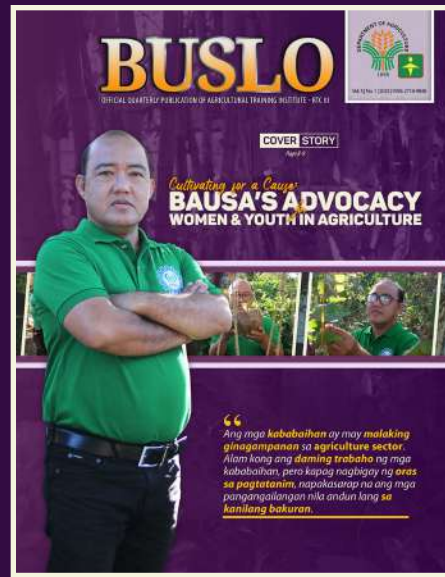
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Cultivating for a Cause: **BAUSA'S ADVOCACY** *for* **WOMEN & YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE**



“

Ang mga **kababaihan** ay may **malaking ginagampanan** sa **agriculture sector**. Alam kong ang **daming trabaho** ng mga kababaihan, pero kapag nagbigay ng **oras sa pagtatanim**, napakasarap na ang mga pangangailangan nila andun lang **sa kanilang bakuran**.



ABOUT THE COVER

To honor his late mother, Luis Bausa, decided to acquire a piece of land and build a farm in San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Nothing is more fitting than to commemorate her mother, who was also a farmer, through cultivating a farm.

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FEATURE

**Cultivating for a Cause:
Bausa's advocacy for women and youth in agriculture | Page 08-09**

About BUSLO: Buslo symbolizes the preservation of bountiful harvest in Central Luzon being the rice granary and vegetable basket of the Philippines. Like the humble vessel present in every Filipino, the publication aims to store and bring relevant and timely news to every farmer, fisherfolk and extension workers in the region.



ATI network employees attend the online celebration of the institute's 35th Anniversary via Zoom

ATI turns 35; Focuses on innovating PH ext'n delivery system

The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) celebrated its 35th Founding Anniversary with series of activities elevating the country's extension delivery system on January 25-28, 2022.

The celebration kicked off with an ecumenical service led by Bishop Reuel Norman Marigza, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, which was simultaneously held and attended by the ATI employees via Google Meet.

Simultaneously, the opening program started with the book launch of the ATI Operations Manual and Inauguration of the ATI Main Building Elevator led by the Department of Agriculture Secretary, Dr. William D. Dar, and ATI Director, Dr. Rosana P. Mula.

Sticking to its theme "Innovating OneDA Agricultural Extension Strategies Beyond the New Normal," ATI also launched its webinar series dubbed as "SKILL UP" which comprises of 35 episodes that will run through the whole year.

"It took us 35 years of journey to have a new mindset towards appreciating our

responsibility, of ATI as capacity builder for extension workers, farmer-leaders, and those involved in the national programs for development, extension, and many others," Sec. Dar said.

He further challenged the institute's leader to innovate and become capacity builders. "I will now challenge Dir. Rosana Mula to put more expertise and bring in the human capital that can continue to innovate, has that foresight and how to build and capacitate the extension delivery system of this country," he added.

During the celebration, the ATI-Central Office honored the ATI Training Centers with exemplary performance considering the following criteria: physical and financial accomplishment; timeliness of report submission, target completion & compliance; quality of services as perceived by clients; and adoption rate. The regional training center in Bicol bested all of the ATI centers followed by ATI CALABARZON, and ATI CARAGA.

The institute also recognized the loyalty awardees from each province via Zoom. For Central Luzon, the center recognized (1) Maria Theresa S. Villanueva; (2)

Corazon R. San Pedro; and (3) Ador T. Sanchez for their service in the Institute.

In addition, as part of the anniversary celebration, ATI-CL's OIC-Center Director, Elsa F. Victoria, and Planning Officer, Marciano C. Santos, signed the FY 2022 Work and Financial Plan (WFP) of ATI-CL.

Following the signing of WFP, the Skill Up Webinar Series commenced from January 26-28, 2022 with the regional training centers and central office as hosts. The following are the topics discussed: (1) Grapes Production & Processing – January 26; (2) Management of Rice Black Bug – January 27; (3) Safe Food Now for a Healthy Tomorrow – January 27; (4) Balanced Fertilization: Abot-Kayang Pag-aabono – January 27; (5) Gourmix Production – January 28; (6) Basic Google Drive Use and Online Meeting Platforms – January 28; (7) African Swine Fever Campaign – January 28.

Since 2019, ATI celebrated its anniversary via center-level. Due to the pandemic, most of the celebrations of the regional centers last year as well as this year was done virtually. **EDALañada**

ATI-CL iAgriTV 2022 Features Stingless Bees

The Agricultural Training Institute – Central Luzon (ATI-CL) premiered its second webisode for iAgriTV 2022 with the title No Sting Attached: The Golden Promise to Safe Beekeeping on March 17, 2022 which featured the basics in beekeeping for stingless bees.

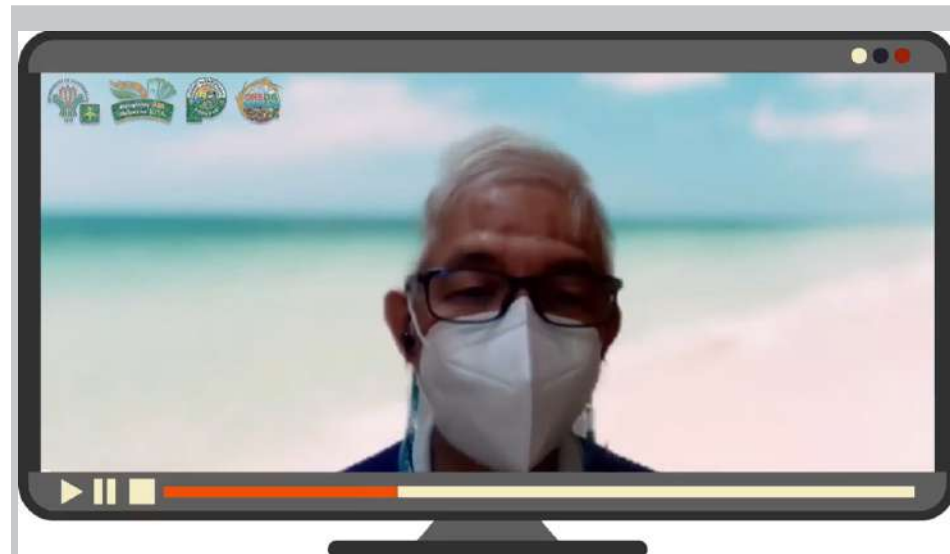
Dr. Emilio Jose A. Contreras, Veterinarian III from the National Veterinary Quarantine Services Division of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), served as the resource speaker for the webisode.

Dr. Contreras discussed and promoted beekeeping and its basics as well as its importance.

Dr. Contreras also explained pollination and how bees are able to help with the process. He stated that, *“kapag marami po yung bubuyog, mas sustainable ang kalikasan, at ‘yung ecosystem ay macocontain.”*

He also claimed that with the help of bees, a mango orchard’s production can increase up to 40-60%.

Aside from the benefits of beekeeping, Dr. Contreras also briefly mentioned that stingless bees are different from



Dr. Emilio Jose Contreras of Bureau of Animal Industry discusses the basics in beekeeping for stingless bees during the iAgri TV 2022 webinar series in March

honeybees. He stated that although honeybees can produce more honey, honey from stingless bees are known for its medicinal properties especially in the upper respiratory tracks.

“Kaya nga hindi mo ako maabutan na walang stingless bee honey, ito ang first medicine namin sa bahay kapag may uubuhin o sisipunin,” he added.

After Dr. Contreras’ discussion, a video featuring Nature’s Joy Apiary in Angeles

City was played to supplement the information from the discussion.

The video showed an example bee box as well as its parts. It also demonstrated how to use smokers, bee feeding with the help of sugar water, and harvesting honey. Further, it featured the different products made from beeswax.

More than 50 people watched the livestream in ATI-CL’s Facebook Page. **JMTValiente**

50 PRMSU students immerse in e-Learning courses

Continuing the delivery of e-Extension in any pace, place, and time, the Agricultural Training Institute – Central Luzon (ATI-CL) conducted the first batch of e-Know-Vation: an e-Learning Orientation among 50 BS Agriculture students of President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU) on February 18, 2022.

The orientation led to the immersion of students to the various e-Learning courses that ATI has to offer.

The said activity also consisted of a refresher about the e-Extension

services of the Department of Agriculture, and Digital Farmers’ Program (DFP) to intensify their knowledge about agri apps.

“The e-Learning is a great tool to find information resources,” Benigno V. Soriano, Jr., a participant, quipped.

Soriano added that the activity introduced to them a platform to know more about agriculture. *“This provided a platform wherein farmers, students, and people engaged in agriculture would benefit,”* he said.

The students are given a month to finish three (3) e-Learning courses, specifically, DFP 101, one goat course, and one course of their choice.

Mr. Ronel de Guzman, instructor of the student participants, also attended the orientation and encourages the students to take as many e-courses as possible during the implementation.

De Guzman finished 46 e-Learning courses within a month in April 2020. **KESBallesteros**



ATI-CL and DepEd SDO Zambales employees attend the virtual MOA signing activity for the implementation of e-Learning and SOA on OA

ATI-CL inks MOA with DepEd SDO Zambales for e-Learning, SOA on OA implementation

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Education (DepEd) Schools Division Office (SDO) in Zambales for the implementation of e-Learning, School-on-the-Air (SOA) on Organic Agriculture (OA) with Gulayan sa Paaralan in the province on March 11, 2022 via Google Meet and Facebook live.

Ms. Ailyn C. Eay, Chief Education Program Supervisor of the School Governance and Operation Division (SGOD), said that this partnership should be strengthened and that the students and teachers will benefit from the activities that ATI-CL will implement.

“Pag-iging natin ang ating partnership at umasa po kayo na ang ibibigay ninyong activities sa amin ay tunay nga pong kapakipakinabang,” said Eay.

Eay further stressed that the activities that will be implemented are needed

for their constituents especially the students and teachers.

“We really need this training for our teachers and our student leaders so that we can sustain the Gulayan sa Paaralan Program of Department of Education,” she added.

ATI-CL OIC-Center Director, Ms. Elsa F. Victoria, revealed that ATI-CL is widening the engagement among the youth because the agency believes that new leaders should be developed in the field of agriculture.

“One of the challenges the agriculture sector is facing now is the aging of farmers and agricultural extension workers. Kapag natuloy itong mga activities natin na ito na nakapaloob sa ating MOA, we are sure na in a way or two, it will lead to the ignition of fire sa ating mga kabataan to go into agriculture. Isa ito sa mga perspective na nakikita ko na magagawa sa partnership natin,” she explained.

Victoria quipped that with the partnership, more students will take agriculture courses when they reach senior high school and college. *“Dahil dito, may mga bata na when they reach senior high school and college, agriculture na ang tatahakin nila,”* Victoria said.

Victoria is also looking forward for a fruitful partnership with DepEd SDO Zambales. *“Maraming salamat sa DepEd SDO Zambales for this fruitful partnership with the goal of attaining food security in Zambales,”* she quipped.

The MOA will strengthen the partnership of the two (2) agencies in the implementation of the e-Learning and SOA on OA with Gulayan sa Paaralan among students and teachers in Zambales.

ATI-CL has also forged a similar partnership with Pagalangang National High School (NHS) in Bataan last year. **EDALañada**



ATI-CL visit barangay FITS kiosk in Zambales as site for establishment last year

ATI-CL to establish 10 FITS Centers, 25 barangay FITS Kiosks this year

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) is slated to establish 10 Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers and 25 barangay FITS Kiosks under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) this year as discussed during the 1st Quarter Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Meeting on March 8, 2022.

Participated by the regional technical working group (RTWG) composed of SUC extension directors, provincial TGP coordinators, and CLAARRDEC, the meeting revolved around the discussion of accomplishments of TGP last year and targets for 2022.

During the meeting, Ms. Eula Dee Lañada, TGP coordinator, presented the

updates of the program in the previous year. She stated that five (5) out of seven (7) provinces have conducted their reorientation on TGP last year, while Bataan and Zambales will be conducting it earlier this year.

The TGP re-orientation will refresh the FITS staff with their roles and *continued on page 12...*

ATI-CL passes ISO re-certification

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) passed the 3rd Party ISO Surveillance Audit to retain its 9001:2015 Certification on February 11, 2022 through an online survey.

Based on the audit plan, the Office of the Center Director/Management, Human Resource Management/ Training, Career Development and Management Services Section (CDMSS), Purchasing/Property

and Supply Management, and Partnership and Accreditation Services Section (PASS) were evaluated based on the quality objectives together with the implementation and maintenance from the ISO 9001:2015 requirement.

Ms. Michelle Geli, Ms. Katrina Joy Bicomong, and Mr. Charlie Labrador served as the auditors during the said event.

The center has already obtained ISO 9001:2015 certification for the Quality Management System (QMS) in December 2018. The certification attests to the center's compliance of the QMS with the standards of the new version of ISO 9001, to ensure consistency of products and services through quality processes.

The 3rd Party ISO Surveillance Audit for the whole ATI network ran from February 7 to 17, 2022. *EDALañada*

ATI-CL hosts hydroponics webinar among Tarlac women, youth

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with Zennor Hydroponics Farm, held a webinar on hydroponics for the women and youth of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac on March 3, 2022.

Broadcasted via Google Meet and Facebook live, the said webinar encouraged the women and youth of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac to pursue agriculture especially the use of hydroponics.

Rafael Pagaling, Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) cooperator and owner of Zennor Hydroponics Farm, served as the resource person of the activity. He introduced and demonstrated the hydroponics system among the participants.

"Naniniwala ako na ang hydroponics ay hindi lamang alternative farming, ito (Hydroponics) ay kasama sa tutulong upang mas mapaganda at mapaunlad and industriya sa agrikultura," he said.

Pagaling also emphasized that the youth should engage in agriculture. *"Because all of us has the capability to plant now, I am challenging all the youth to pursue agriculture especially*



Mr. Rafael Pagaling, LSA Cooperator and owner of Zennor Hydroponics Farm, discusses the basics of hydroponics during the webinar for women and youth in Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac

hydroponics," he explained. According to the LSA cooperator, the youth is also suited to use the hydroponics technique as he revealed that the youngest participant in one of his programs is only seven (7) years old.

Hydroponics is a relatively new method of growing plants which uses water-

based nutrients-rich solution instead of using soil producing more crops with less space consumed. In addition, hydroponics uses multiple techniques to ensure that the nutrient solution reaches the plants.

More than 50 participants attended the said activity. *JCFGuevarra*

Nueva Ecija hog raisers uncover key to control ASF through BABAY ASF training

Twenty (20) prospective Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) from various municipalities in Nueva Ecija completed the 2-day activity on BABAY ASF: Training on Disease Surveillance and Specimen Collection for BBOs in Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija on February 21-22, 2022.

Lerma Yase, one of the participants, shared that this training is a big help for her and she is excited to impart her learnings to the community

especially those who are in the swine industry.

"Malaking tulong po sa akin at sa mga kasama ko ang training na ito at maibabahagi din po namin sa aming mga kabarangay at kapwa nag-aalaga ng baboy ang aming mga natutunan, lalong lalo na po yung sa pagconduct ng biosecurity surveillance sa isang farm na actual po naming ginawa, upang masigurado na magiging ligtas ang mga alaga namin," she added.

Yase further revealed that she gained a deeper understanding in the biosecurity procedures and protocols to mitigate ASF.

"Dahil po doon, mas naunawaan namin ang biosecurity procedures and protocols para po maiwasan o mapigilan po ang pagkalat ng ASF. Ito ay sisimulan po naming gawin sa aming mga alaga at patuloy na ibabahagi ang mga ito sa aming kapawa nag-aalaga" she quipped. *continued on page 13...*



Cultivating for a Cause: BAUSA'S ADVOCACY WOMEN & YOUTH IN AGRICULTURE

By: Eula Dee A. Lañada



As an expert in food processing especially meat and Filipino native delicacies, Luis Bausa, often called Louie, took the extra mile to learn on how the crops or raw materials are planted and cultivated before it is processed.

His thirst for learning about agriculture grew because of this and decided to attend all the agriculture-related training or seminars available especially those conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI).

He recalled that he attended a training of trainers (TOT) on Good Agricultural Practices in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija and afterwards, he got tapped as a resource speaker in ATI's Central Office. This started his love for the craft.

Igniting the passion

"Kapag tatahakin niyo ang landas ng pagsasaka, ito ay isang susi para mabago ang buhay sa higit na maayos ang buhay [If you will venture into agriculture, it is the key to change your life for the better]," revealed Louie as he can say that his life is a proof.

To honor his late mother, Louie decided to acquire a piece of land and build a farm in San Ildefonso, Bulacan. Nothing is more fitting than to commemorate her mother, who was also a farmer, through cultivating a farm.

Louie disclosed that his mom was a single parent and she has inspired him to pursue this field as well as she gave him the push in everything that he does.

What also led him to the farming industry was his connection to Duran Farm when he was always hired as a consultant. He quipped that he got influenced by their passion for agriculture and eventually became a full-time farmer.

As such, the farm owner disclosed that his passion for agriculture led him to build a sustainable enterprise.

Bausa's farm advocacy

As he was inspired by his mom to build a farm, Louie highly acknowledges the role of women as well as the youth in agriculture.

"Ang mga kababaihan ay may malaking ginagampanan sa agriculture sector. Alam kong ang daming trabaho ng kababaihan, pero kapag nagbigay ng oras sa pagtatanim, napakasarap na ang mga pangangailangan nila andun lang sa kanilang bakuran," the farm owner explained.

He trains the women in his community for free on organic farming and making of organic concoctions. In fact, to help them, he provides half liter of dishwashing liquid in exchange for a kilogram of egg shells which will also be used in organic farming.

"Naniniwala ako na sa natural na paraan ng pagsasaka, malaki ang maitutulong nito sa magsasaka pati sa health and environment protection," the farm owner quipped as he advocates for natural and organic farming practices. *"Expensive kung bibili ka ng organic produce pero kung magtatanim ka in a natural way, hindi siya mahal,"* he added.

Aside from organic farming, Bausa helps the lady farmers to become scholars under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) to undergo numerous training activities. This will help them equip their knowledge and skills on rice farming and develop their respective farms. Other training implemented for the women include corn husk craft making, edible landscaping, urban gardening, and vegetable pickle making.

As for the youth, he said that there are difficulties that are linked to farming as any enterprise have. However, he said

that agriculture can change someone's life for the better, if not for the best, as he is a living testament to this. In fact, one of the scholars in his farm, Mr. Joseph R. David, has now become a trainer and assessor with his experiences garnered through the training activities.

He shared that his farm is open especially his Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Kiosk or library for the youth who wants to do their research. Various information, education and communication (IEC) materials related to agriculture can be found in the said FITS Kiosk.

Bausa also encourages individuals to start farming at a young age to enjoy its benefits. He further emphasized that farming gives joy and if anyone is interested in it, one should give it a try.

"Kapag nagtanim ka, makakapagharvest ka na tapos dagdag kita pa ito," he added. This is just one of the fulfilling parts of farming.

As someone who shared both success and struggles in the farming industry, Louie left with this simple piece of advice, *"Before you go into farming, kailangan magkaroon ka ng tamang pagsasanay para sa pagsasaka* and you should really think hard if this is passion."

As an agripreneur

Nestled in Brgy. Gabihan in San Ildefonso, Bulacan, Bausa Integrated Farm and Training Center, Inc. is full of lowland vegetables, free-range chicken, rabbit, herbs and spices, and other ornamental plants. They also have a pond filled with tilapia, goldfish, and azolla.

In fact, in May 2019, the farm was certified as Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) of ATI. A year after, Bausa Integrated Farm also became a TESDA farm school

which offers Agricultural Crops Production NC II; Agro Entrepreneurship NC II; Production of High-Quality Inbred Seeds and Inbred Seed Certification and Farm Mechanization; and Landscaping, Installation, and Maintenance NC II which he claimed it is the first in Central Luzon. With all of these accomplishments, the Department of Tourism (DOT) accredited them as a farm tourism site in 2021.

As he is passionate with his advocacy and craft, Louie was hailed as the president of Bulacan Farm Tourism Association; Chairman of the Urban Agriculture Sector of Bulacan; and Chairman of the Urban Agriculture Sector of the whole Central Luzon.

As other farmers also professed, Louie said that there is money in agriculture and there are lots of opportunities to earn money in the farming industry.

Just like in his farm, he boasts of his 7-in-1 business enterprise with the following components: (1) Training and skills enterprise; (2) Lowland vegetable production; (3) Farm tourism; (4) Free-range chicken production; (5) Rabbit raising and meat production; (6) Vegetable processing; and (7) Edible landscaping.

As an LSA, Louie has not forgotten his advocacy to help others. He took to heart the Small Brother-Big Brother Scheme in the community which harnesses the participation of the progressive farmers in poverty alleviation through shared and inclusive growth. They take the time to help the small-hold farmers within the community in any way that they can.

What started as curiosity led the Bulacan native to build a farm dedicated for women and youth not just in his community. His farm not only brings joy to him, but also to the other farmers and agricultural enthusiasts in the country.

Tarlac gets ready for SOA-SRA implementation this year

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III) and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) - Tarlac, hosted a coordination meeting for the implementation of School-on-the-Air on Smart Rice Agriculture (SOA-SRA) this year.

ATI-CL spearheaded the meeting through Google Meet on March 16, 2022 among the partners and rice focal persons of the municipalities in Tarlac involved in the program.

With a target of 2,000 participants, the meeting discussed the commitment of each municipality for the number of participants. In addition, the consultation revolved around broadcast approach, partners roles and responsibilities.

The DA-RFO III, OPA - Tarlac, and Municipal Agriculture Offices of Tarlac participated in SOA-SRA PLGU and MLGU Coordination Meeting headed by the Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center III via Google Meet on March 16, 2022.

The meeting aims to discuss the upcoming program to the rice focal and get committed number of pax per LGU to complete 2,000 total target pax from Tarlac. The consultation revolved around the SOA overview, pax requirement, broadcast approach, partners roles and responsibilities, committed pax and identified SOA – SRA focal per LGU.

Mr. Eduardo De Guzman, Provincial Rice Focal Person, encouraged the municipal rice focal persons to give their best in the

implementation of the project despite their work load. gives his gratitude to the organizers and participants of the activity.

“Maraming salamat sa mga boss namin sa LGU, ang aming mga rice focal at report officer sa rice. Alam ko na marami tayong activities at yung iba sa inyo ay hindi lang ito ang hawak na program. Kaya maraming salamat sa supporta at dedication ng bawat isa. Pagtulongan natin na maging matagumpay ang SOA-SRA dito sa Tarlac,” he added.

Further, it was agreed in the meeting that the submission of the online enrollment form is on May 31, 2022.

First implemented in Aurora last year, the SOA-SRA runs from March to July in Tarlac this year. **RDSimpliciano**

ATI-CL harmonizes rice ext’n programs, projects in CL through consultation

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) led the Consultation Workshop for Rice Extension Services Program among partner agencies on March 3, 2022 through Google Meet. The virtual consultation aims to harmonize the different rice extension programs in Central Luzon.

Representatives from the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority - Region 3 (TESDA-R3), and the Provincial Agriculturist Offices in the region attended the said activity.

The consultation revolved around the different extension programs of each present agency and/or department. ATI-CL, DA-RFO III, and TESDA-R3 presented their planned activities for this year as well as for 2023 to 2024. The activities ranged from training activities and seminars to field trials.

Following each agency’s presentation, participants were able to give

Activities	Target Date & Venue	Participants
TOT on Digital Farmers Program 1	June 6-10, 2022/Aurora	AEWs
TOT on Digital Farmers Program 2	July 11-15, 2022/Zambales	AEWs
RCM Campaign (Training on RCMAS)	May 17-20, 2022/Zambales	AEWs
RCM deployment activities (RCM Briefings) 1	July 05, 2022/Nueva Ecija	Others (Farmers)
RCM deployment activities (RCM Briefings) 2	August 5, 2022/Nueva Ecija	Others (Farmers)
School-on-the-Air on Smart Rice Agriculture	July to November/Tarlac	Farmers

ATI-CL spearheads the consultation workshop for rice extension services program in Central Luzon

suggestions related to the Rice Extension Services in the region which includes training for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), responsibilities of the Local Government Units (LGUs) with the implementation of the Mandanas Ruling, and possible topics that can be included in the existing modules on rice production technologies.

In addition, Ms. Mariel Bautista-Baldoz, Alternate Rice Program Coordinator, stated that the issues and concerns from past activities as well as recommendations mentioned in the

discussion will be considered in the future activities.

“Nakatulong ang activity since ang objective ng consultation is magkaroon ng harmonious relationship ang mga partners sa pag-iimplement,” she quipped.

Ms. Reinalyn C. Gulen, ATI-RTC III Rice Program Coordinator, gave a similar message in her opening address, saying that the goal of the activity is to avoid duplication of intervention and promote feedback and complement past interventions. **JMTValiente**



ATI-CL employees pose with their art masterpieces as part of the center’s Women’s Month Celebration in March

ATI-CL Promotes Women Empowerment Through Arts

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), through its Gender and Development (GAD) Team, conducted a one-day activity in support to the National Women’s Month, which is part of the worldwide observance of International Women’s Day, on March 25, 2022.

The activity was a combination of seminar for ATI-CL employees tackling gender and development and a painting session that highlighted women and the hidden artistic talents of the employees.

“The need to maintain gender-balance and responsive policies and programs of the center are not just for the clients, but for all the personnel as well,” said OIC-Assistant Center Director, Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, during the opening of the activity.

“These activities resonate the commitment of our institution to women’s concern in decision making and delivery of services,” he added.

In line with this year’s theme “Agenda ng kababaihan, tungo sa kaunlaran,” Dr. Geena Pingol of Pampanga State Agricultural University (PSAU) discussed among ATI employees about women exercising their choices and taking chances to make their voices heard; and violence against women and children.


In addition, the activity featured a painting session for all employees spearheaded by Casa Pablo of St. Isidore ‘The FARMer’ Training Center that expressed each participant’ ideology on the Women’s Month Celebration theme.

“Sobrang nakakagalak ng puso yung nae-express mo sa pamamagitan

ng painting yung kahalagahan mo bilang isang babae. Ang sarap sa pakiramdam, feeling ko bumalik ako sa pagkabata nung time na nagp-paint ako. Nag-enjoy po ako ng sobra,” quipped Admin Assistant, Frevalyn Atienza.

In addition, posters about the Women’s Month theme made by the ATI-CL employees were posted in our official Facebook page (<https://tinyurl.com/57twyetrn>) as part of the celebration to gather viewers’ votes through likes and hearts.

These activities aim to inspire and empower women to be agents of change by creating and facilitating platforms to showcase good practices, gaps, challenges and commitments towards gender and development. **JSBaldoz**



Recognition of ATI Loyalty Awardees

MS. MA. THERESA S. VILLANUEVA

Date of Entry:
June 03, 1991

Current Position:
Training Specialist II

Place of Assignment:
ATI-RTC 3, Dinalupihan, Bataan

MR. ADOR T. SANCHEZ

Date of Entry:
February 19, 1986

Current Position:
Administrative Assistant II

Place of Assignment:
ATI-RTC 3, Dinalupihan, Bataan

MS. CORAZON R. SAN PEDRO

Date of Entry:
November 03, 1986

Current Position:
Administrative Officer I

Place of Assignment:
ATI-RTC 3, Dinalupihan, Bataan

Three (3) ATI-CL employees granted with loyalty awards as part of the ATI Anniversary celebration

ATI-CL recognizes its 2022 loyalty awardees

As part of the 35th Founding Anniversary of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), The ATI in Central Luzon (ATI-CL) honored its loyalty awardees during the online program via Zoom on January 25, 2022.

The center recognized its three (3) employees for their years of service in the Institute: (1) Maria Theresa S. Villanueva, Training Specialist II (30 years); (2) Corazon R. San Pedro, Administrative Officer I (35 years); and (3) Ador T. Sanchez, Administrative Assistant II (35 years).

Villanueva shared the things she learned during her 30 years of stay in ATI.

“The more you stay, the more you learn. Our lifetime is not enough. Bright ideas are everywhere and may come from anyone. Just do not miss it!” she quipped.

Given her years of experience, she said that we should not underestimate the brilliance of farmers, they have mastered and mustered the art and science of survival, and honed by valuable experiences.

As a piece of advice for the younger generation of employees especially in ATI, Villanueva expressed “you may get NOs for your ideas, it just means GO! You will never know the outcome if you stop.”

Villanueva is currently a Training Specialist II of ATI; San Pedro serves as the Cashier; and Sanchez is an Administrative Assistant II.

Due to the pandemic, most of the celebrations of the regional centers this year was done virtually. **EDALañada**

ATI-CL to establish... from page 5...

responsibilities for activities under TGP, as well as the requirements for the establishment and enhancement of FITS Centers. In addition, the Magsasaka Siyentista (MS) criteria and evaluation process are also discussed in the re-orientation.

Aside from the establishment and enhancement project, the center has also targeted to evaluate 10 prospective MS in Zambales and Nueva Ecija. In addition, ATI-CL has required the Rice

Crop Manager (RCM)-enhanced FITS Centers in 2020 to conduct a batch of RCM briefing for this year.

ATI-CL’s Chief of Information Services Section (ISS), Mr. Aeron P. Bermudez, shared that he is thankful for the passion of the RTWG.

“In the last few years, very challenging ang ating situation because of the pandemic, pero hindi tayo nagpapigil to deliver the work na kung anong meron

tayo. Alam po naming how difficult it is na nadagdagan ang inyong tasks, but all of you are very passionate in taking part sa ating work under sa TGP. Thank you very much for your active participation and for your passion to deliver the targets and activities under the Techno Gabay Program,” said Bermudez.

Every quarter, the TGP RTWG in Central Luzon convenes to discuss matters and raise concerns regarding the program. **JCFGuevarra/EDALañada**



Nueva Ecija AEWs finish the 5-day Extension Delivery System Training in March

Nueva Ecija AEWs complete Ext’n Delivery System Training

Nueva Ecija AEWs complete Ext’n Delivery System Training Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from Nueva Ecija participated in the training entitled Internalizing the World of Agricultural Extension: Blended Course on Extension Delivery System (Phase 1) (CPD Program) on March 7-11, 2022.

Spearheaded by Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), the training followed the blended approach

conducted via Google Meet and face-to-face sessions among 25 AEWs in ATI, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

Ms. Alice Buenavista, one of the participants, revealed that she was happy that she attended the training because she learned a lot despite her hesitance at first.

“Nagdadalawang isip pa ako kung sasama ako sa training na ito, buti na lang pala at nanaig ang kagustuhan ko

na matuto at ako ay nagagalak dahil napakaganda pala ng training na ito,” she quipped.

Buenavista added that the training helped her especially that she is new in the world of extension. “Sana sa susunod na may mga training katulad nito ay mapasama ulit ako at ako mismo ay magyayaya ng mga kasamahan ko na sumali sa mga training na ibinibigay ng ATI. Dahil sa training na ito ay mas **continued on page 15...**

Nueva Ecija hog raisers... from page 6...

Dr. Jermaine Juco of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III) discussed the Bantay African Swine Fever (ASF) sa Barangay Program, the updates of ASF in the region as well as programs and interventions on ASF.

In addition, Dr. Mark Arman D. Aquino of the Provincial Veterinary Office of Nueva Ecija (OPA-NE) shared the guidelines in swine movement and biosecurity audit.

Aquino also explained the biosecurity measures agent/sample, biosecurity plan and procedures.

Moreover, part of the activity is the farm visit for biosecurity inspection.

Further, Ms. Krizel S. Matulac of DA-RFO III guided the participants in blood sample collection and handling.

Yase also shared that the collection of blood sample is a great help for

them to know possible contamination among the hogs in the community.

“Malaking tulong po ang pagturo sa amin kung paano ang pagkolekta ng dugo na siya namang tinetest for possible contamination of ASF sa aming komunidad,” she added.

This activity is the first among 13 batches which will be conducted this 2022 across all provinces in the region. **JDNidua**

Doña Josefa 4-H Club receives ext'n support for community urban garden establishment

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) awarded extension support to the 4-H Club of Doña Josefa, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija in establishing their Community Urban Garden on February 2, 2022 in ATI-RTC III, San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

"Maraming salamat po sa walang sawang suporta na binibigay ninyo sa aming mga kabataan lalo na po sa aming grupo. Makakaasa kayo na ang mga ibinigay ninyong mga tulong sa aming Community Urban Garden ay aming pahahalagahan at ito po ay gagawin naming business para makatulong sa aming kapwa kabataan, sa aming pamilya at lalo na po sa aming komunidad," said Ms. Jullian Faith Ignacio, President of the said 4-H club.

The group received assorted vegetable seeds (okra, pole sitao, kangkong, bottle gourd, pechay, lettuce, squash, bitter melon, cucumber, tomato, eggplant, hot pepper and siling panigang), farm tools and supplies.

In addition, ATI-CL also awarded the group with assorted IEC materials about urban gardening, vegetables and livestock production and other technologies and practices in Organic Agriculture.

Dr. Dianne M. Lapuz, Project Officer, encouraged the recipients to make the most out of the extension support given to them.

"Nawa ang mga matatanggap ninyo ay magsilbing instrumento upang umunlad ang inyong komunidad at maging mabuting ehemplo kayo sa mga kabataan. Mapalad kayo dahil isa ang grupo ninyong nabigyan ng kumpletong extension support," she said.

Lapuz stressed that the club is the first group to receive this complete extension support for the community garden. *"Huwag ninyong hayaang masayang ang mga ito bagkus ito ay*



Members of the Doña Josefa 4-H Club receive extension support such as vegetable seeds, farm tools, livestock (chicken) among others for the community urban garden establishment

inyong palaguin at pahalagahan ng sa gayon kayo ay maging matagumpay sa larangan ng agrikultura. Kayo ang kauna-unahang probinsya na nabigyan ng kumpletong extension support at kami ay nagagalak dahil sa sipag at tiyaga na inyong pinapakita sa pagtataguyod ng inyong community urban garden," she quipped.

She also reminded the group that after 3-6 months ATI will monitor and evaluate the status of their community urban garden.

Meanwhile, Mr. Christopher Ryan G. Banaag, Agriculturist II, 4-H and Organic Agriculture Focal Person of Palayan City, gave his heartfelt gratitude to the management of ATI.

"Makakaasa kayo na patuloy ang aming suporta sa proyektong ito at kasama niyo kami sa pagtuturo ng mga kaalaman at makabagong teknolohiya sa mga magsasaka at lalo na sa mga kabataan. Salamat dahil hindi namin nararamdaman na ang mga trabahong ginagawa natin ay pawang responsibilidad lamang kundi ang mga ito ay ginagawa natin dahil sa pagmamahal sa agrikultura at nawa ay hindi mawala yung passion na iyon sa ating mga puso," he said.

Banaag also encouraged the youth to explore the advantages of social media in promoting their projects and

advocating agriculture to encourage others to join them. *"Para naman sa mga kabataan, gamitin natin ang social media para makapanghikayat pa tayo ng maraming kabataan na sumubok sa larangan ng agrikultura. Sa pamamagitan ng pagpo-post natin ng mga activities sa ating garden nakakahikayat tayo ng mga kapwa na subukan ito,"* he added.

Further, ATI-CL's OIC-Center Director, Ms. Elsa F. Victoria, challenged the recipients to inspire more youth to engage in agriculture because the government employees and farmers working in agriculture are already old and about to retire.

"Sana ang proyektong ito ay maging dahilan para marami pang kabataan ang mamulat sa kahalagahan ng agrikultura at makita na may pera sa agrikultura. Kapag dumating na ang panahon na pwede ng bisitahin ng mga tao ang inyong garden, kayo mismo ang magexplain kung paano ang tamang pamamaraan ng pagtatanim at pangangalaga ng mga commodities na makikita sa inyong proyekto," she said.

ATI-CL entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Palayan City, Nueva Ecija for the establishment of the said community urban garden last November 18, 2021. **DMLapuz**

ATI-CL launches SOA on OA in Zambales

The Agricultural Training Institute - Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III) and the Provincial Organic Agriculture Office of Zambales, launched the School-on-the-Air (SOA) on Organic Agriculture (OA) Production dubbed as OA sa Kaalaman, OA sa Kabuhayan in Zambales on March 29, 2022.

SOA on OA aims to help catalyze agriculture modernization through the massive and sustained education of smallholder farmers and local intermediaries on modern and innovative technologies and approaches on organic production.

Moreover, it shall share cutting edge technologies and innovative



Farmers in Olongapo City receive their radio sets to be used for the SOA on OA in Zambales

approaches to help maximize and promote organic productivity in medium and low yield provinces through radio, amplifying the limited reach of agricultural extension workers.

The said activity is implemented across all municipalities in the province of Zambales including Olongapo City with 500 farmers as participants from March until July 2022. **SCDPradera**

Nueva Ecija AEWs complete... from page 13...

nagkaroon kami ng kumpiyansa sa aming mga sarili," she added.

Another participant, Mr. Roy Agaceta of Science City of Muñoz, shared that the knowledge and experiences they have gained in the training will be translated and applied in the field.

According to Ms. Maria Theresa S. Villanueva, project officer, the training is set to become an intervention to continue professionalize the AEWs by inculcating advanced knowledge, skills and ethical values in a post-licensure specialization in the field of agriculture for assimilation into professional practice, self-directed research and/or lifelong learning through provision of CPD units.

The following are the modules on Phase I: Internalizing the World of Agricultural Extension (1st year): Introduction to Agricultural Extension; Extension Approaches, Strategies, and Methods; and Communication in Agricultural Extension.

Ms. Elsa F. Victoria, OIC-Center Director; Dr. Arthur D. Dayrit, Director III of DA-RFO III; Ms. Babelyn P. Lopez, Training Specialist II; Ms. Ma. Theresa S. Villanueva, Training Specialist II; and Dr. Dianne M. Lapuz, Media Production Specialist II served as the speakers of the said training.

For the micro-teaching activity, the participants chose their individual topics and presented them. Ms. Villanueva, Ms. Lopez, and Dr. Lapuz served as the panel of judges and gave critiques after the activity.

Ms. Alice C. Buenavista and Mr. Romel Soleda of San Isidro, Nueva Ecija bagged awards as best presenters from the panelists. Meanwhile, Ms. Alice C. Buenavista and Mr. Roy M. Agaceta were chosen by their co-participants as best presenters.

In addition, the participants also presented and submitted their re-entry plans that were evaluated by Dr. Jovita B. Agliam and Ms. Evelyn M. Santos

from OPA-Nueva Ecija; Ms. Lopez, Ms. Villanueva and Dr. Lapuz. The panelists gave recommendations and suggestions on how to improve and implement their re-entry plans. Dr. Agliam encouraged the participants to be proud of their profession and to be passionate always in giving assistance to the farmers.

"Hindi kayo nagkamali sa napili ninyong profession dahil pagkatapos ng ilang taon, mapagtatanto mo na napakarami na pala ng mga taong iyong natulungan. You should be proud of yourself dahil kahit mas bata kayo sa mga nasasakapan ninyong mga magsasaka ay natutulungan ninyo sila sa kanilang mga problema sa bukid," Agliam quipped during the graduation.

ATI-CL has devised a three-phased EDS-LTP (Extension Delivery Services-Ladderized Training Program). Following the first phase, the next phase will be implemented next year. **DMLapuz**

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NATURAL FARMING

Naniniwala ako na sa natural na paraan ng pagsasaka, malaki ang maitutulong nito sa magsasaka pati sa health and environment protection.

Expensive kung bibili ka ng organic produce pero kung magtatanim ka in a natural way, hindi siya mahal.



MISSION

Empowerment and building capacities of agriculture and fisheries stakeholders for sustainable development.

QUALITY POLICY

The ATI, as the orchestrator of the National Extension System, ensures harmonized management of agricultural and fishery extension delivery systems in empowering the farmers and fisherfolk for food security, poverty alleviation and social equity for sustainable development.

VISION

Food availability and affordability for every Filipino family through excellent extension services in agriculture and fisheries.

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