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COVER STORY

Page 8-9

Rice Crop Manager

EASING RICE FARMERS' PLIGHT
with
RIGHT FERTILIZER APPLICATION





ABOUT THE COVER

“Extra rice pa nga po! (Extra rice, please!)” is a frequent line used in every restaurant, small eateries and food stalls during lunch or dinnertime in the Philippines.

With the rise of digital technologies, a lot of mobile applications have been developed to help ease the dilemma of our farmers especially rice-producing ones. One of these applications is the Rice Crop Manager or RCM.

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CONTENTS

NEWS

- Zambales completes establishment of FITS Center per municipality | Page 03**
- ATI-CL, SSS ink MOU to grant social security coverage to JO, COS workers | Page 04**
- ATI-CL holds IQA for the 2nd semester this year | Page 04**
- 10 Central Luzon ext'n workers bag EdGE scholarship | Page 05**
- ATI-CL, TingTano Integrated Farm produce 20 digital farmers in Tarlac | Page 06**
- ATI-CL launches SOA-RCEF in Zambales through F2F Orientation | Page 07**
- ATI-CL grants EAsY Agri Scholarship to selected CL students | Page 07**
- ATI-CL takes part in Organik Konek Business Proposal Eval'n | Page 10**
- Binhi ng Pag-asa Program kicks off in Tarlac | Page 10**
- AgriTalk focuses on growing foods through edible landscaping | Page 11**
- ATI-CL rolls out 1st Farmer-level DFP in Nueva Ecija | Page 12**
- RBOs explore mushroom product dev't, marketing | Page 12**
- Binhi ng Pag-asa Program sparks hope for Bataan young farmers | Page 13**
- ATI-CL introduces agri apps to Novo Ecijano AEWs through DFP | Page 14**
- Tarlac youth ventures into goat prod'n for BPP | Page 15**

FEATURE

**Rice Crop Manager:
Easing Rice Farmers' Plight with
Right Fertilizer Application**
| 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.



Farmers from Subic, Zambales visit the newly-launched FITS Center in the Municipal Agriculture Office in Subic, Zambales.

Zambales completes establishment of FITS Center per municipality

The province of Zambales has completed the establishment of Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Center per municipality and city with the launching of Sta. Cruz and Subic FITS Centers earlier this September.

The Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Provincial Technical Working Group in Zambales, composed of the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in Zambales, and President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU), launched the FITS Centers in Sta. Cruz and Subic, Zambales on September 6 and 7, 2022, respectively.

During the Sta. Cruz leg, Mr. Daniel Orlanda from the Mayor's Office; Ms. Penida Malabed, Municipal Agriculturist of Sta. Cruz; Mr. Joey Alviar, Supervising Agriculturist from OPA; and farmer-leaders from

the municipality attended the said activity.

Meanwhile, Mr. Crisostomo Rabaca, OIC-Provincial Agriculturist of Zambales; Ms. Miguela Lolita Buan, Municipal Agriculturist of Subic; and farmer-leaders from the community participated in the Subic launching.

During her message, Ms. Buan said that everyone is welcome to use and avail the services of Subic FITS Center.

She added, “Sa inyong lahat, kung kayo ay may meeting, training at iba pang activities, at kung may gusto kayong makuhang impormasyong pang-agrikultura, huwag po kayong mahiyang lumapit dito sa ating FITS Center. Welcome na welcome po kayo dito at may naka-assign pong staff na handing tumulong sa inyo.”

Mr. Rabaca said that he is thankful that Subic complied to their request

to establish a FITS Center in their municipality.

“Itong FITS Center ay pag-aari ng lahat ng magsasaka at mangingisda dito sa Subic, para sa ating lahat po ito. Andito po ang lahat ng impormasyon at teknolohiya na kakailanganin ninyo patungkol sa pagsasaka at pwede kayong pumunta dito para matuto,” quipped Rabaca.

During both legs, the group were also oriented on the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) and its components. In addition, prior to the launching, the TGP Provincial Technical Working Group in Zambales evaluated the said sites for establishment of FITS Center in August.

A total of 10 FITS Centers will be established and launched in Central Luzon this year. (EDLañada)

ATI-CL, SSS ink MOU to grant Social Security Coverage for JO, COS Workers

Through the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Agricultural Training Institute- Central Luzon (ATI-CL) and Social Security System (SSS), all the Job Order (JO) and Contract of Service Workers (COSWs) will receive a social security coverage, starting August this year, which was confirmed on August 10, 2022, during the assembly meeting for the signing of the MOU with the SSS staff.

During the forum, Mr. Joel Villafuerte, SSS Branch Head, emphasized the significance of securing one's future in giving importance for social security through the SSS.

"During these difficult times, it is very important for job order and contract of service workers to have their social security protection as a life essential, and if in case they have decided to part ways from ATI Central Luzon, they can still continue paying their SSS contributions as voluntary members, and they can still enjoy the loan privileges and benefits from the SSS," Villafuerte said.

Allowing the staff to raise their concerns, the SSS addressed all the questions with special cases such as pregnancy benefits and disrupted contribution.



Representatives from ATI-CL and SSS sign the MOU for the social security coverage of JO and COS workers of ATI-CL

The MOU also recognized the regular employees to become part of the program and to continue paying their contribution as voluntary members aside from their GSIS.

As Villafuerte quipped, "Regardless of the employment status of a worker, they deserve to have a basic safety net in times of any life occurrence through SSS membership."

Wrapping up, Villafuerte urged ATI-CL to have their job order and contract of

service workers to start paying their social security contribution through SSS.

Ms. Elsa F. Victoria, OIC-Training Center Superintendent I; Mr. Carlo S. Roberto, OIC-Administrative Officer IV; and Mr. Mark Christian A. Bombita, Accountant I, served as signing officials for the event for ATI-CL. Meanwhile, Mr. Joel Villafuerte, SSS Branch Head; and Mr. Victor S. Villanueva, SSS Acting AMS Head, represented SSS during the said activity. (JBStCruz)

ATI-CL holds IQA for the 2nd semester this year

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) held the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) for the 2nd semester this 2022 on September 16, 19, and 20, 2022 in compliance to the standards of ISO 9001:2015.

Following the audit plan, the Office of the Center Director/Management, Human Resource Management/ Training, Information Services Section (ISS), 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.

Dr. Dianne M. Lapuz, IQA Lead Auditor, together with Mr. Marciano Santos, Mr. Jayson Nidua and Mr. Carlo S. Roberto as part of the IQA team, spearheaded the said activity.

Dr. Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, OIC-TCS I, said that the purpose of the activity

is to contribute to the improvement of the center's Quality Management System according to ISO standards and to determine its effective implementation.

He also encouraged the staff to take all the comments of the auditors and to comply to the recommendations given by the auditors for the opportunities for improvement in giving excellent extension services to the clients and other stakeholders of ATI-CL. (DMLapuz)



Ms. Guia D. Reyes, Scholarship Focal Person; Dr. Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, OIC-TCS I; Mr. Alvin A. Butay, Municipal Agriculturist of Anao, Tarlac; and Mr. Mark Christian A. Bombita, Accountant I ink MOA for the EdGE scholarship.

10 Central Luzon ext'n workers bag EdGE scholarship

Ten (10) extension workers from Central Luzon bagged the Educational Grants for Extension Workers (EdGE) and signed their scholarship service contracts spearheaded by the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) on September 22 and 29 this year.

Six (6) individuals qualified for the master's degree namely Ms. Krizzell D. Galang of ATI-CL; Ms. Jovette C. Caballero of Municipal Agriculture Office-San Rafael, Bulacan; Ms. Maribel Miranda and Ms. Raquel Manalo of City Agriculture and Veterinary Office of City of San Fernando, Pampanga; Dr. Philip Francis N. Casao of the Provincial Veterinary Office of Aurora; and Mr. Christopher Ryan G. Banaag of the City Agriculture Office of Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

In addition, the remaining four (4) individuals qualified for the doctorate

degree with their school of choice. Mr. Alvin A. Butay of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Anao, Tarlac; Ms. Teresita J. Bajas of Tarlac Agricultural University; Mr. Jessie Jhon L. Piayo of the Municipal Agriculture Office of Paniqui, Tarlac; and Ms. Trizia P. Baltazar of Municipal Agriculture Office of Porac, Pampanga bagged the said scholarship for the doctorate degree.

EdGE is the provision of scholarships for Graduate Degree Programs, specifically Master's and Doctorate Degrees, for deserving and capable AEWs from the Department of Agriculture (DA), State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Government Units (LGUs) to pursue higher education towards Agriculture and Fisheries (AF).

The scholars are entitled to the following benefits: a. full basic

salary and other benefits from his/her agency for the duration of the scholarship; b. matriculation and other school fees; c. monthly stipend; d. book/internet allowance; e. thesis/dissertation allowance; and f. graduation fees.

In terms of coverage, the EdGE allows the master's degree scholars to pursue their selected course program for two (2) years for full-time, and three (3) years if part-time.

For the doctorate degrees, the scholars are only allowed to finish their course programs for three (3) academic years for full-time, and four (4) years for part-time.

Prior to the orientation and contract signing, the scholars have undergone an evaluation and interview through the ATI-CL Scholarship Committee in August this year. (GDReyes/EDLañada)



San Jose farmers finish the training on Digital Farmers Program in TingTano Integrated Farm.

ATI-CL, TingTano Integrated Farm produce 20 digital farmers in Tarlac

ATI-CL, TingTano Integrated Farm produce 20 digital farmers in Tarlac. Twenty (20) farmer-youth participants finished the second roll-out of the Training on Digital Farmers Program (DFP) conducted in San Jose, Tarlac on August 24-26, 2022 spearheaded by Agricultural Training Institute – Central Luzon in partnership with Tingtano Integrated Farm.

Like the previous roll-out, the three-day training revolved around the use of smartphones as a supplementary tool in farming practices using different apps such as area measurement, weather, pest and disease identification, and social media marketing for the products and services.

“Nagpapasalamat ako sa team at sa trainers saka sa mga nagbigay

ng pagkakataon na matuto kami na matuto sa mga makabagong apps para mas makabenta at magamit ang online platforms. Very participative ang lahat dahil may two-way process, kung baga hindi lang galing sa knowledge ng trainer, binibigay rin ng mga kasamahan ko yung mga ginagawa sa pagsasaka. Malaki ‘yung mga tulong na apps,” said Ms. Evelyn D. Santos, a participant from Brgy. Burgos.

The participants were given the chance to experience the different applications, especially the area field measure app used in planning the integration of different crops, and also the pests and diseases identification app used in the proper management of their crops.

“Ang natutunan ko ay talagang malaking tulong sa akin, may

mga alaga at pananim din ako sa bukid. Napakalaking tulong pala ang applications para matukoy kung ano ang dapat gawin, kahit walang technician, pwedeng ako na ang gumawa ng unang hakbang. Napakalaking tulong talaga ng Digital Farmers Program,” said Mr. Braulio B. Capiral, a participant from Brgy. Sula.

Ms. Marilou and Mr. Christian Facun, owners of TingTano Integrated Farm, served as the resource persons in the event, applying their learnings from the training of trainers conducted by ATI-CL and their experience as agripreneurs.

The next roll-out for the DFP Farmer-Level will in Maria Aurora, Aurora on September 6-8, 2022 in partnership with Cornerstone Training and Learning Center Inc. (KESBallesteros)

ATI-CL launches SOA-RCEF in Zambales through F2F orientation

The Agricultural Training Institute in Central Luzon (ATI-CL) conducted four successive batches of face-to-face orientation for the IN SA INBRED: School-on-the-Air on Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (SOA-RCEF) at Zambales.

The orientations were held at the municipalities of Sta. Cruz, Botolan, Iba, and San Marcelino, on August 16, 17, 18, and 19, 2022, respectively.

“We are glad to see you! Despite the challenges we had due to the pandemic, it is nice to see the faces of our listeners. Now, I am challenging everyone to tune in to our program and listen to every episode, and for sure, you will be adept to the technology that is relevant to our current situation in inbred rice farming,” said Aeron P. Bermudez, Chief of Information Services Section of ATI-CL.

The SOA-RCEF planned to equip the participants with the necessary knowledge, attitude, and skills on



Zambales farmers join the launching and orientation for SOA-RCEF this year.

inbred rice farming. Also, it envisioned that farmer-graduates from this activity successfully adopt the technology to help them increase their productivity.

A total of 760 farmer-participants attended the said orientation and

will be the beneficiaries of the program.

Moreover, the SOA-RCEF aired 16 episodes from August – November 2022 through various partner radio stations in Zambales. (JLJoaquin)

ATI-CL grants EAsY Agri Scholarship to selected CL students

The Agricultural Training Institute in Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with local government units and state universities and colleges (SUCs) in the region, granted the EAsY (Educational Assistance for the Youth) Agri Scholarship to 14 agriculture, fisheries, and agricultural and biosystems engineering students in Central Luzon.

Out of several applicants, the 14 students who qualified are as

follows: (1) Desiree Joi D. Duque [BSA]; (2) Jessa D. Rafael [BSA]; (3) Mark Joshua C. Ordonio [BSA]; (4) Alliah Jhean M. Francisco [BSA]; (5) Trina Margarich E. Agustin [BSABE]; (6) Edzel L. Lugtu [BSABE]; (7) Adrian P. Bautista [BSABE]; (8) Nicole J. Andres [BSAB]; (9) Dave Lawrence E. Santos [BSABE]; (10) Lei Maxene DJ. Espiritu [BSABE]; (11) Arabella Grace G. Predog [BSABE]; (12) Kristine A. Mena [BSABE]; (13) Josh Samuel E. Requero [BSABE]; and (14) Jolo B. Manalo [BSABE].

An orientation and MOA signing of the scholars with their parents was implemented on September 18, 2022 in ATI-RTC III Compound, San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

The qualified scholars are incoming freshmen from SUCs of Region 3: five (5) scholars in Bataan Peninsula State College (BPSU), two (2) scholars in Central Luzon State University (CLSU), one (1) scholar in Pampanga State Agricultural University

continued on page 13...



"Extra rice pa nga po! (Extra rice, please!)" is a frequent line used in every restaurant, small eateries and food stalls during lunch or dinnertime in the Philippines. As such, rice is undeniably a staple food in our country as well as other South-East Asian countries.

An average Filipino consumes at least three cups of rice per day with one for every meal if there are three meals per day. With this, majority of our farmers produce rice to meet the demands of our growing population.

With the rise of digital technologies, a lot of mobile applications have been developed to help ease the dilemma of our farmers especially rice-producing ones. One of these applications is the Rice Crop Manager or RCM.

According to Miguel dela Cruz from Pantoc Bulak, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, he shared that their usual practice is just guessing the fertilizer to use for their crops.

“Dati, patsamba-tsamba lang ang paggamit ng pataba, yun pala ay mas malaki ang aking nagagastos sa bukid.”

Miguel dela Cruz

"Dati, patsamba-tsamba lang ang paggamit ng pataba, yun pala ay mas malaki ang aking nagagastos

sa bukid," he said. With 10 years of farming experience, he claimed that with the use of RCM, his yield increased as well as he saved a lot of money.

Another farmer from Talavera, Evangelina Tangonan has been in the farming industry for 30 years. *"Hindi maayos ang pagsasaka noong hindi pa nakikilala ang RCM,"* said Evangelina.

“Hindi maayos ang pagsasaka noong hindi pa nakikilala ang RCM.”

Evangelina Tangonan

Same with Miguel's experiences, Evangelina quipped that before she knew RCM, her farm expenses doubled. When she was introduced to the application, she said that she has applied the right fertilizer to her rice crop. With this, she claimed that her yield and income increased. She even saved a hefty sum of money for buying specific fertilizer for her crops instead of purchasing useless ones.

Evangelina said that she owes her knowledge of farming to the Municipal Agriculture Office of Talavera and its agricultural technicians. With three decades of farming experience, she urges her fellow farmers to continue and prosper in the agriculture sector.

The RCM focal person of the Local Government Unit of Talavera, Jessica Almuete, shared that the

RCM application is a huge help to the farmers of their municipality. With the aid of the application, Jessica revealed that the farmers have been applying the right kind of fertilizer or farm inputs to their rice crops that led farmers to saving a lot of money.

“Dahil sa RCM, naayos na ang paglalagay ng inputs ng mga magsasaka dito sa Talavera lalo na ngayon at mahal ang farm inputs.”

Jessica Almuete

"Dahil sa RCM, naayos na ang paglalagay ng inputs ng mga magsasaka dito sa Talavera lalo na ngayon at mahal ang farm inputs," Jessica added. With the increasing prices of fertilizer reaching double its amount, RCM has proved to be of great help to the farmers in pinpointing the specific fertilizer needed for their farm.

“Patuloy parin na tinatangkilik ang RCM dito sa bayan ng Talavera dahil ito ay effective.”

Jessica Almuete

The RCM focal person has shared that they have been continuously promoting the use of RCM to

farmers in the community because they have found it to be effective and efficient. *"Patuloy parin na tinatangkilik ang RCM dito sa bayan ng Talavera dahil ito ay effective,"* Jessica disclosed.

According to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the RCM is a web-based platform for field-specific information on crop and nutrient management to increase yields and income of rice farmers.

Farmers are then handed out with RCM recommendations which is a one-page print-out and also provided with a short messaging service (SMS) to improve and guide crop management.

Several farmers in the country have benefitted from the RCM recommendations since its launch in 2013.

Based on the data from IRRI, the use of recommendations produced an average yield increase of 0.4 tons (400 kg) per crop per hectare equivalent to about USD100/ha/cropping season added net benefit in the Philippines.

RCM has changed the lives of the rice farmers for the better and it has greatly improved the yield and income of the farmers. The application made rice farming easier.

With this, Filipinos can still enjoy their meal paired with rice and can use the line "extra rice, please!" whenever they need and want to.

ATI takes part in Organik Konek Business Proposal Eval'n in NE

The Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III) in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist of Nueva Ecija (OPA-NE) and Agricultural Training Institute - Central Luzon (ATI-CL) evaluated the business proposals of Sakalipunan ng mga Organikong Magsasaka ng Nueva Ecija (Sakalipunan) and Jabez Marketing Cooperative (JMC) for the "Organik Konek" Organic Agriculture Hub.

Mr. Bernardo Valdez, Provincial Agriculturist of Nueva Ecija, thanked the proponents for their eagerness to be one of the OA Hubs in the Philippines.

"Makakaasa kayo na ang aming opisina ay laging bukas upang matulungan ang inyong mga grupo na maging OA hub ng Nueva Ecija. Malaki ang magiging tulong nito sa

ating mga organic practitioners at maging sa ating mga consumers. Sana maging makabuluhan ang ating activity na ito," he quipped.

The establishment of Organik Konek also known as Regional Organic Agriculture Hub aims to act as integrator for existing organic trading posts and organic farms, provides sources of organic inputs, provide agri-production, processing and marketing services to OA practioners, generate jobs in the rural area, serve as hub for Participatory Guarantee System, serve as a training ground for future operators of Provincial and Municipal OA Hubs, etc.

Mr. Roldan Paraguison of Sakalipunan presented their business plan entitled "PGS Rice Production, Processing, and Marketing

for Northern Nueva Ecija Business Plan" while Mr. Jhay Joshua R. Ciriaco presented the business plan of JMC with a title "Jabez Marketing Cooperative Organic Konek Business Plan".

Dr. Irene M. Adion, Regional Focal Person of Organic Agriculture Program (OAP) of DA-RFO III led the evaluation of business plans together with Ms. Evelyn Santos of OPA-NE, Ms. Shirley Sta. Ana of OPA-NE, Dr. Dianne M. Lapuz of ATI-CL, Mr. Lindy Cadiente of Guimba, Mr. Jomar Lagasca of Science City of Muñoz, and Mr. Edgardo Villamante of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija.

The final evaluation of their business plans on the regional level was held on September 22, 2022 at DA-RFO III in San Fernando City, Pampanga. (DMLapuz)

Binhi ng Pag-asa Program kicks off in Tarlac

Binhi ng Pag-asa Program kicks off in Tarlac The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with Office of Senator Grace Poe (OSGP), Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), and Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in Tarlac, kicked off the 1st batch of the Provincial Training of Trainers on Binhi ng Pag-asa Program which focused on goat production among Tarlac youth on September 5-7, 2022 in TAU, Camiling, Tarlac.

Mr. Armani Miguel Narca from the OSGP and Ms. Jashmine Jusi, FPJ Youth, discussed topics on Leadership and Values Formation.

In addition, Dr. Ma. Asuncion Beltran, Vice President for Research and Extension of TAU, taught the following topics to the participants: Potentials of Goat Production, Production Management, Pest Identification and Diseases; and Add-on Enterprise and Economics on Goat Production.

As part of the training, the participants experienced hands-on activities such as trimming the hooves of goats, ear tagging,



Tarlac youth take part in Binhi ng Pag-asa Program.

administration of drugs, deworming, silage preparation, and disbudding at Roger Austria Farm (RAF) in Paniqui. Mr. Roger Austria, Owner of RAF, guided the participants during the said activities.

The participants also submitted an action plan of their proposed project for their respective communities which served as their main requirement for receiving their individual agricultural starter-kits (goats and free-range chicken).

As completers of provincial training, the 30 youth participants from the 1st district of Tarlac are expected to share and use their learnings to help every youth in their respective communities to engage in agriculture.

After the provincial training, it will be rolled out to the municipalities in Tarlac until November this year. (PMMarcos)

AgriTalk focuses on growing foods through edible landscaping

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon conducted a 3-day webinar on AgriTalk 2022: Growing Foods Through Edible Landscaping held on September 14-16, 2022 aired via online Facebook Live. The activity was participated by 380 online participants comprised of farmers, rural-women, students, youth, business-owners, and would-be technology adopters.

Mr. Luis Bausa, owner of Bausa Integrated Farm, served as resource person during the 3-day webinar wherein he discussed the following topics; Day 1: Overview of Edible Landscaping a. Importance of Edible Landscaping b. Benefits of Edible Landscaping, Day 2: How to set-up an edible landscaping, Tips and strategies for edible landscaping Day 3: Overview of the Herbs and spices industry.

Mr. Richard Oton of Agri Kabataan, one of the participants, said that he

is grateful for the webinar. *"Unang una gusto ko pong magpasalamat for this meaningful initiative information upang maideliver po ang mga impormasyon na katulad nito. Salamat kay Sir Luis Bausa for sharing his expertise sa larangan ng pagsasaka bilang resource person po natin very timely po talaga ang discussion kasi napahatid po sa atin ang kahalagahan ng pagsasaka,"* he quipped.

Mr. Oton further shared that there are three points that he got from listening. *"Unang una po ay yung sa sufficiency napakahalaga na makamit ang sufficiency ng ating kakainin at hindi na kailangang bumili. Health and Wellness napakahalaga upang malaman natin na healthy ang kinakain natin. Lastly ay yung environmental impact nung pagsasaka napapanatili ang kaayusan at kalinisan ng kapaligiran at nauutilize ang mga plastic na*

patapon na sana." added Mr. Oton. *"Actually this activity is anchored with the plans and programs in the Department of Agriculture,"* said Dr. Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, OIC-TCS I. He also mentioned about the urban community project in the region. *"Meron pong ina-allot ang ating government para sa selected and progressive farmers who want to establish urban community garden in their areas,"* he added.

This activity is in partnership with Manila Bulletin Publishing Corporation, Agriculture Magazine and Smart Telecommunications. This is also part of the ATI 35th Anniversary Webinar Special dubbed as Skill-UP. AgriTalk is a free webinar series that provides an avenue for different individual and group of agriculture practitioners who share their success and failures in their agribusiness. It also seeks to inspire other farmers, professionals, students and enthusiasts. (MBBaldoz)

ATI-CL rolls out 1st Farmer-Level DFP in Nueva Ecija

Digital technology paved the way in the enhancement of farming as the Agricultural Training Institute – Central Luzon (ATI-CL) conducted the 1st Digital Farmers Program (DFP) – Farmers' Level Rollout among the farmer-youth tandems of Guimba, Nueva Ecija in partnership with Myriad Farms Agri-Business Skills Training and Assessment Center, Inc. on August 17-19, 2022.

Ms. Friarina V. Resplandor, farm co-owner, and Mr. Romer P. Nuno, farm trainer, from Myriad Farms served as the resource persons in the event with the knowledge and skill acquired from the training of trainers conducted by ATI-CL in April this year.

The three-day training revolved around the use of smartphones as a supplementary tool in the farming practices using different apps such as area measurement, weather, pest and disease identification, and social media marketing for the products and services.

“Natutuwa po ako at nadagdagan ang aking kaalaman, hindi lang



Ms. Friarina Resplandor of Myriad Farms explains basic photography using smartphone.

sa pagsasaka kundi sa larangan ng digital technology. Ako po ay natutuwa at mayroon akong muling maibabahagi sa aking mga kasamahan lalo na po sa mga magsasaka ng Brgy. Manacsac at sa mga miyembro ng Guimba-Licab Irrigators Association. So inaasahan ko po na mas mapaparating sa kanila at maencourage sila na gumamit ng mga advance na teknolohiya gaya ng mga makinarya,” said Mr. Bryan H. Cabiao, a participant from Brgy. Manacsac.

The goal of the activity is immersing the tenured farmers with the aid of their youth counterparts in navigating the different applications and exploring the product and

services promotion through the use of social media. *“Ngayon ko lang nalaman ang hands-on sa smartphone, sa edad kong ito, bibihira ang nakakaalam sa paggamit. Ginagamit lang kasi ang cellphone sa Facebook at Youtube, pero nagamit din ngayon sa pagsasaka. Marami akong natutunan sa training na ito,”* said Mr. Celso G. Magbitang, a participant from Brgy. Narvacan I.

Through the use of this technology, the transition from the mechanized farming to digital farming will be achieved and the sufficiency in the production of different agricultural products can be attained. A total of 7 batches of DFP will be rolled out in the provinces in Central Luzon this year. (KESBallesteros)

RBOs explore mushroom product dev't, marketing

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) spearheaded the Training Course on Mushroom Product Development and Marketing for the Rural Improvement Club (RIC) members and 4-H Club Members of Bataan on September 28-30, 2022 at ATI-RTC III, San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

“Ang training na ito ay isa sa mga hakbang ng ATI tungo sa pagpapatupad at pagpapalawak ng Green Revolution 2.0 na isinusulong ang pagtanim at pag-po-produce ng mga pagkain sa mga kanayunan,” Dr.

Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, OIC-TCS I, said during his welcome remarks.

“Sa training na ito ay siguradong hindi lang kayo matututo kundi kayo rin ay mag-e-enjoy sa mga activities na nakapaloob dito dahil karamihan sa inyong gagawin ay mga hands-on activities at alam kong iyon din ang pinakagusto ninyong maranasan sa training na ito. Nawa after the training ay magawa ninyo ang mga gagawin ninyong re-entry plans at makita natin na nagbunga ng maganda ang dinaluhan ninyong pagsasanay,” he added.

Ms. Babelyn P. Lopez, OIC-Chief of Career Development and Management Services Section and Ms. Emma Tolentino, Owner of Eco Natural Farm, one of ATI's Learning Sites for Agriculture, served as the resource persons for the training with topics on mushroom product development and marketing.

The participants are expected to share their learnings to their fellow club members and create mushroom-based products to provide income to their respective groups. (DMLapuz)



Bataan young farmers receive their certificates after finishing the provincial TOT on Free-range Chicken Production.

Binhi ng Pag-asa Program Sparks Hope for Bataan Young Farmers

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with the Office of Senator Grace Poe (OSGP) and Office of the Provincial Agriculturist in Bataan, sparked hope among the Bataan youth in the implementation of the Provincial Training of Trainers on Free-range Chicken Production of Binhi ng Pag-asa Program in Bataan on September 14-16, 2022 in Crown Royale Hotel, Balanga City, Bataan.

Dr. Rosana P. Mula, Director IV of the ATI- Central Office, extended her message of support to the youth of Bataan while from the OSGP, the Political Affairs Officer, Mr. Armani Miguel Narca also encouraged the participants in his message of support in molding them as competent leaders and agripreneurs.

Engr. Johanna R. Dizon, Provincial Agriculturist of Bataan, empowered

the 30 young farmers from the different municipalities in the province as she delivered her inspirational message in the opening of the program as supported by the message of Provincial 4H Focal, Mrs. Normina B. Marabe.

“Kayo ang Pag-asa ng Bayan--- Para po sa inyo ito at para sa ika-uunlad ng ating agrikultura dito sa bansang Pilipinas,” Engr. Dizon said.

continued on page 15...

ATI-CL grants EAsY Agri... from page 6...

(PSAU), two (2) scholars in Bulacan Agricultural State College (BASC); and four (4) scholars in Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU).

They are entitled to benefits and privileges that include payment for tuition fees, monthly stipend, lodging allowance, and book allowance every semester.

In addition, they will also receive Php 10,000 research allowance and graduation fees payment.

The scholarship is intended to support children of small-scale farmers and fishers in the region.

It aims to encourage capable and deserving youth to pursue

studies and professional career in agriculture, fisheries, agricultural and biosystem engineering, and other related fields or venture in agri-entrepreneurship.

This is the second batch of scholars for the Easy Agri Scholarship following its first batch in 2020. (GDReyes)



Mr. Kent Edward Ballesteros (left), MPS II, teaches agri apps to DFP participants.

ATI-CL introduces agri apps to Novo Ecijano AEWs through DFP

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) introduced several agri applications and ICT tools to agricultural extension workers (AEWs) in Nueva Ecija through the implementation of Training of Trainers on Digital Farmers Program (TOT on DFP) on July 18-22, 2022 in ATI-RTC III, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

The five-day training focused on basic ICT knowledge that would help extension workers become acquainted with the necessary applications in the field of agriculture. The training was categorized into two (2) phases: DFP 101 and DFP 102.

DFP 101 revolved on topics about Smartphone 101, Accessing the Internet, Internet Safety Basics and Data Privacy Act, Basic Agri Applications/Hotlines and Social Media Marketing.

Meanwhile, DFP 102 tackled topics on Advanced Agri Applications, Advanced Social Media Marketing, Tips on Social Media Content Creation, Social Media Content Creation using Canva, e-Commerce Platforms, Internet Safety Tips and Data Privacy Act, and Digital Transactions/Online Payment.

Mr. Kent Edward S. Ballesteros, MPS II; Mr. Aeron P. Bermudez, IO III; Ms. Eula Dee A. Lañada, IO II; and Ms. Mariel B.

Baldoz, Ag I, from ATI-CL served as resource persons for the said training.

Mr. Timothy James Cabel, one of the participants, realized that he can become an effective extension worker through sharing to the farmers the knowledge he has gained from the training.

“Sa aking pag-attend sa Digital Farmers Program, marami akong natutunan. Pwede pala akong maging effective na AEW sa pagbibigay ng mga bagong kaalaman sa mga magsasaka at maiangat ang antas ng kanilang kaalaman sa kalagayan sa buhay. Ako rin ay magiging tulay para maturuan ang mga bagong henerasyon ng mga magsasaka,” Cabel added.

Ms. Kimberly Pablo from LGU Talavera, Nueva Ecija expressed that because of the training, she can help promote the products of farmers and farmers organizations in her area.

“Dahil sa training, mas matutulungan ko ang mga group of farmers and association na mas maipromote and mapakilala ang kanilang mga produkto gayundin sa trabaho bilang AEW o agricultural extension workers. Malaking tulong ang mga apps na mas maipakilala kay farmer upang maging advance o makasabay sila sa

makabagong panahon sa pagsasaka,” said Ms. Pablo.

Another participant, Mr. Christian Andrew Peralta from LGU Lupao, Nueva Ecija, said that the applications can help other farmers increase their income. “Helping farmers in their daily agricultural activities comes in easy steps such as swiping and installing applications on their smartphones. Teaching them such methods like marketing and digital farm monitoring can increase their income in the long run,” quipped Mr. Peralta.

Basically, DFP is a ladderized capacity development program designed to equip farmers and the youth on basic digital tools such as social media to more complex services such as e-commerce and online payment systems.

It aims to help address the gap between the availability of technological resources and access and at the same time engage the youth to encourage them to pursue a career in agriculture.

This training is the second batch of TOT on DFP following the first batch in Aurora held in June this year. A total of seven batches of farmer-level DFP will be held in the region this second semester. (EDLañada)

Tarlac youth ventures into goat prod'n for BPP

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with Office of the Senator Grace Poe (OSGP), Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), and Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) in Tarlac, conducted the 2nd batch of provincial training for the Binhi ng Pag-asa Program in goat production on September 8-10, 2022 in TAU, Camiling, Tarlac.

Same as the 1st batch, 30 participants from different municipalities of Tarlac took part in the 3-day training. Mr. Armani Miguel Narca from the OSGP discussed the Leadership and Values formation among the participants. In addition, Dr. Annalie B. Paragas; Dr. Allan Jeffrey Esteban; Dr. Lavina M. Ramirez; and Dr. Jayvee F. Evangelista from TAU tackled different modules under goat production.

Further, the participants enjoyed different hands-on activities in Roger Austria Farm (RAF) in Paniqui, Tarlac. Mr. Roger Austria, farm owner and learning site for agriculture cooperators, shared his experiences and learnings



The young farmers of Tarlac participate in Goat Production TOT as part of BPP implementation.

to the participants while doing the different demonstration activities such as hoof trimming, ear tagging, administration of drugs, deworming, silage preparation, and disbudding to the participants.

Mr. Jomari Nuqui, one of the participants, shared that the training was a big help to him. He quipped, “Malaking tulong siya para sa akin dahil nabibigyan kami ng opportunity na para mailabas pa ang aming talent.

Lubos akong nagpapasalamat sa mga ahensya na nag-lead sa training na ito dahil sa kanila ay naisakatuparan itong Binhi ng Pag-asa Program. Napakalaking tulong po nito sakin at sa mga kasamahan kong nag-te-training.”

The participants are required to roll out the training to their respective municipalities to share their new learnings to their communities. (PMMarcos)

Binhi ng Pag-asa Program sparks... from page 13...

Mr. Narca from the OSGP served as the resource person for the 1st Module of the training and discussed the topics on Leadership and Values Formation with the help of the graduates from the National Training of Trainers (TOT), Mr. Emmanuel M. Ulijan, Mr. John Lorenz A. Quimlat, Mr. Arvin V. Jornal and Mr. Mark S. Esmana.

On the 2nd day of the training, Dr. Agatha Pauline C. De Leon, Veterinarian IV of the Provincial Veterinary Office, briefly discussed the basic information on Free-range Chicken Production to the participants with these following topics: Nutritional Requirements and feeds and feeding, Housing requirements,

Productivity and Profitability and Pest Identification and Disease Diagnosis and their Management.

In the completion of the training process, the participants experienced hands-on activities such as feed mixing and egg candling during their farm visit at Bataan Peninsula State University (BPSU) - Abucay Campus. Dr. Abigail G. Abuan, Assistant Professor I/ Project in-charge for BPSU Free-range Chicken Production, guided the participants in her demonstration of the feed mixing and the effective procedures on free-range chicken production.

To serve as the final output, the participants submitted their action

plan regarding the problems that they may encounter in the future, as they received their individual agricultural starter-kits (Free-range chicken).

As completers of the provincial training of trainers, the 30 youth participants from the city and municipalities of Bataan are expected to help and share the hope that they got in the program to every youth in their respective communities to make them engage in agriculture.

After the provincial training, the ignited hope will be spread out to the municipalities of Bataan until October this year. (JBSta.Cruz)



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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