

BUSLO

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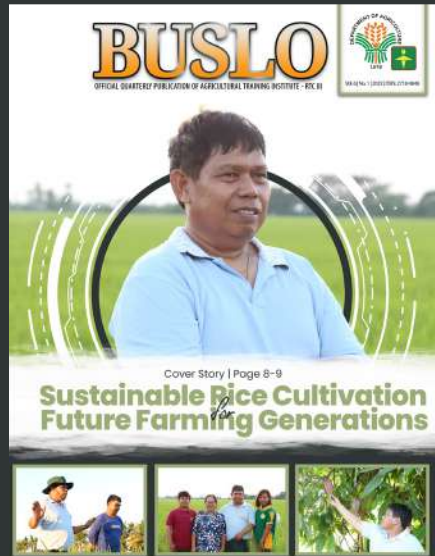
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Sustainable Rice Cultivation *for* Future Farming Generations





ABOUT THE COVER

Eduardo Policarpio's main goal is for his family to become food sufficient as well as the whole region. "Ang battle cry ko palagi ay food sufficiency sa family at sa buong rehiyon kaya ako nagsasaka," he added.

He started with rice farming and also, he ventured into taking care of livestock. Slowly, he tried to think of a way to make their lives easier, not just for him but for the fellow farmers in the community.

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FEATURE

Sustainable Rice Cultivation for Future Farming Generations
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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.



Mr. Aldrin Veneracion of the Philippine Coconut Authority in Aurora discusses to the participants on how to fill out the NCFRS form.

CL Farmers immerse in CFIDP

The farmers in Central Luzon have immersed in the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) through a series of information caravans in March 2023.

Implemented in seven (7) selected municipalities in the region, the information caravan's goal is to spread awareness among coconut farmers and stakeholders about CFIDP. The caravans took place in Dilasag, Aurora on March 2, 2023; Dinalungan, Aurora on March 7, 2023; Dipaculao, Aurora on March 9, 2023; Baler, Aurora on March 14, 2023; San Luis, Aurora on March 16, 2023; Cabangon, Zambales – March 21, 2023; and Dinalupihan, Bataan on March 23, 2023.

CFIDP aims to benefit 2.5 million coconut farmers and their families through its different program

components. With its whole-of-government approach, several government agencies converged and facilitated the implementation of CFIDP in which the information caravan is part of it.

Participants expressed their optimism in the said program. Mr. Villamor Libag, farmer-leader from Dilasag, extended his gratitude for this new project.

"Ako po ay nagpapasalamat sa proyektong ito at sa mga ahensya na bumubuo dito. Malaking pasasalamat naming mga coconut farmers dahil nagkaroon ng ganitong programa. Ito ay tunay na makakatulong sa bawat isa amin nawa ay magkaroon ito ng impact sa kabuhatan ng bawat magsasaka ng coconut," Libag added.

CFIDP is comprised of various components to be realized by the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) and its partner agencies: 1. Social Protection; 2. Coconut Farmers Organization and Development; 3. Hybridization; 4. Community-based Farm Enterprise Development: Farm Rehabilitation and Improvement; 5. Integrated Coconut Processing and Downstream Products; 6. Innovative Research Projects and their Practical Application on Coconut Processing, Production, and Distribution; and 7. Support Services.

Together with PCA and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), the following government agencies are involved in the implementation of the program: Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC), PhilHealth, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and

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ATI-CL, TAU continue partnership through MOU Signing

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) and the Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) entered into a 5-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of forming partnerships focusing on various areas of mutual cooperation at TAU, Camiling, Tarlac on February 28, 2023.

The MOU signing was led by each institution's leaders: Dr. Max P. Guillermo, President of TAU and Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, Center Director of ATI-CL.

Some of the scopes of areas of cooperation includes any development program offered, extension agenda, and other pursuits to be considered desirable and feasible in the fostering and development of the mutual relationship between both institutions.



ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino and Tarlac Agricultural University President, Dr. Max P. Guillermo, ink MOU for program partnership between the two (2) agencies.

A field tour inside the TAU campus was also conducted right after the MOU signing to be able to familiarize with the existing projects there.

Led by the Vice President for Research, Extension, and Training, Dr. Ma. Asuncion Beltran and her team, the ATI-RTC III staff were able

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ATI-CL retains ISO 9001:2015 Certificate

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) retained its ISO 9001:2015 Certificate as it passed its 3rd Party Surveillance Audit conducted by TÜV SÜD on February 22, 2023 at ATI-RTC III, San Ramon, Dinalupihan.

During the opening meeting, Mr. Carlo S. Roberto, OIC-Administrative Officer IV, acknowledged the staff and took the opportunity to introduce them to the auditors per section/unit. Meanwhile, Ms. Athena Baguisi from ATI Central Office presented the TÜV SÜD auditors. "We are so glad that finally we can do face-to-face audit after two years of remote audit. I am happy

to announce that next year, ATI is planning to upgrade its certification to include environmental management," she shared.

ISO 9001:2015 audit is essential in ensuring that Quality Management System (QMS) complies with the standard, identify and address issues with QMS and potential improvements in the system.

The auditing team, Ms. Adorable Aguila and Mr. Xavier Lance Dy, audited the center's compliance to the quality standards and the implementation of its management system as required by the ISO 9001:2015. The audit was also an

avenue to ensure that the Quality Objectives and Risks Assessment Plans of each section and unit were properly monitored and evaluated.

"We are so grateful to the auditing team, Ms. Adorable Aguila and Mr. Xavier Lance Dy, for sharing your expertise with us and for giving us the opportunity to see what are the other things that we can improve in ensuring that our services, programs and trainings conform to the quality standards," said Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, Center Director.

"The ISO 9001:2015 Surveillance Audit is conducted to ensure the

continued on page 6...

New set of ALSA Officers take oath

The new set of officers for the year 2023-2025 of the ATI-RTC III Learning Site Cooperators Association (ALSA) took oath before Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, during the 36th Founding Anniversary Regional Celebration of Agricultural Training Institute on January 31, 2023.

The ALSA Region III – elected officers are the following: Atty. Carol Dumlao- Amis (President); Ms. Friantina Resplandor (Vice President); Ms. Elnora Bernardino (Secretary); Mr. Emmanuel Bundoc (Assitant Secretary); Mr. Jian Carlo Castillo and Ms. Jocelyn Reyes (Treasurer); Mr. Rafael Pagaling (Auditor); Provincial Coordinators are: Fredzlander Villegas (Nueva Ecija); Marilou S. Facun (Tarlac); Ernesto Lacson (Pampanga); Ms. Shirley Ocampo (Bulacan); Mr. Louie Dagui (Zambales) and Jose Balboa II (Bataan). Their Board of Directors



The new set of ALSA officers with Atty. Carol Dumlao-Amis as President take their oath before ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino.

are Mr. Henry Ramos, Ms. Annette Patdu, Ms. Emma Tolentino, Ms. Gina Sablaon and Ms. Angelita Fernando.

The said officers were elected during the 2022 Year-End Review

and General Assembly of LSA Cooperators and PAF-ESPS of Region III on December 14, 2022.

The ALSA is a duly recognized and registered association with DOLE RO302-1809-WA-02. **(RCGulen)**

ATI-CL presents plans and programs for FY 2023 to every province

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) through the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PMEU) conducted the Partnership Building cum Consultation and Presentation of ATI Central Luzon Plans and Program for FY 2023 to every province in Central Luzon in February this year.

Around 75 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and representatives from Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) in the region participated the activity.

The series of consultations was conducted per province with

the following schedule: February 02, 2023 in Balanga City, Bataan; February 03, 2023 in San Fernando, Pampanga; February 06, 2023 in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija; February 07, 2023 in Iba, Zambales; February 08, 2023 in Malolos City, Bulacan; February 09, 2023 in Baler, Aurora; and February 23, 2023 in Tarlac City, Tarlac.

ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, expressed his thanks to the participation of each province. "Ako po at ang aking kasamahan sa ATI ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa mainit na pagtanggap sa amin at sa pag-host ng ating consultation. We

are very excited to look forward in our partnership towards training and extension programs. Thank you for your continued support in all of our activities in the region." Mr. Belarmino said.

Meanwhile, the team presented the Work and Financial Plan of ATI-CL for FY 2023, the Policy Directives, Updates for the PAFES and also discussed the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for co-financing. The ATI plans and programs FY 2023 were equally distributed in the 7 provinces of Region III. Each province sought their interest for the

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The Administrative and Finance Unit signify their commitment to the plans and programs of ATI-CL this year.

ATI-CL focuses on Extension Modernization, Recognition of Partners during 36th Anniversary Celebration

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) celebrated 36 years of commitment towards modernization and reformation of the Philippine agriculture and fishery (AF) extension system on January 30-31, 2023. With the theme "INNOVATE, TRANSFORM, EMPOWER: Embracing Extension Modernization for a Progressive and Sustainable

Agriculture and Fisheries," ATI-CL held a two-day event to celebrate the occasion with the staff, partners and stakeholders.

ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, said that the celebration has become more special because of the presence of the Center's regional partners. "Today is a special day

for us here at ATI-RTC III as we are having the local celebration of the 36th anniversary of the Agricultural Training Institute. It is more special because we are celebrating it with you our regional partners. I'm excited to work with you para sa development ng ating region. Thank you for working with us, for the partnership *continued on page 10...*

ATI-CL retains ISO... from page 11...

delivery of quality training and extension services to our clients, and to continually improve the QMS of the center. Please do not take it against the auditors if they will find non conformities and opportunities for improvement since it will help us in improving our compliance to ISO 9001:2015. Let's learn and take down notes to the findings that the auditors might find and do our part in determining the root-causes and let's take the proper corrective action

in order to eliminate these issues," he added.

After the opening meeting, Ms. Aguila audited the Office of the Center Director with the following areas: strategic direction/plan and program of the center, quality policy, quality objective, handling customer complaints, customer satisfaction, management review, corrective action and internal audit, and continual improvement. Meanwhile Mr. Dy

audited the Career Development and Management Section (CDMS) and Partnership Accreditation Section (PAS) on the processes of accreditation of extension services including the processes of Provision of Training and Services.

Ms. Aguila presented the audit findings to the staff and reminded them to accomplish the root-cause analysis, correction, and corrective action of each finding. **(DMLapuz)**

10 young CL farmers avail youth scholarship grant on organic farming

Ten (10) young farmers from Central Luzon availed the Youth Scholarship Grant on Organic Farming after passing the desk and field validation in February this year.

The Regional Screening, Selection and Evaluation Committee (RSSEC) for the Organic Agriculture (OA) Youth Scholarship Grant led by ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, with its members Ms. Eduviges Pelayo, OA Focal Person of DA-RFO III; Ms. Zarah Jane N. Sendrijas, OA Focal Person of ATI-RTC III; Ms. Elsa F. Victoria, Chief of CDMS; and Dr. Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, Chief of PAS conducted the desk evaluation of all applicants on OA youth and farm partners on February 17, 2023.

As a result, the RSSEC recommended 10 farm trainee applicants and five (5) farm partners of Region III for the Youth Scholarship Grant on Organic Farming for grantees and farm partners.

The farm trainee applicants across Central Luzon who passed are Mc John G. Juan, James Venzer R. Zuniga, Awie B. Cancio, Raniel Gutierrez, Rommel Lorenzo, Ephraim John Aquino, 7. Michael Morcillo, Jose A. Mendoza, Jon Viktor C. Farralles; and Marvin C. Soriano Jr.

In addition, the farms that will train the young farmers for the



Representatives from ATI-CL and Bonagua Integrated Farm together with the scholars sign the MOA for the Youth Scholarship Grant on Organic Farming.

said program are Myriad Farms Agri-Business Skills and Training and Assessment Center Inc.; Teves Integrated Family Farm; Tingtano Integrated Farm School, Inc.; Lifebank Microfinance Foundation Inc.; and Bonagua Integrated Farm.

Following the desk evaluation was the field validation on February 23-24, 2023 by the RSSEC. Further, the orientation and MOA signing among youth applications and farm partners was done on March 20, 2023. Prior to these events, an information caravan on Youth Scholarship Grant on Organic Farming was conducted via Google Meet on February 7, 2023 to promote the said scholarship.

The program will run for 21 months wherein nine (9) months shall be devoted to an internship at the farm partner and 12 months for actual implementation of their project as proposed through their business model canvass.

The program is a collaborative effort between the DA-NOAP and the DA-ATI and shall be implemented nationwide. The program targets youth, enjoining women, out-of-school youth, and degree holders and farm partners coming from different provinces practicing chemical-free and/or organic farming system, as beneficiaries. **(ZJNSendrijas)**

CL farmers immerse... from page 3...

Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), Department of Science and Technology-PCAARRD (DOST-PCAARRD), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), National Dairy Authority (NDA), Department of

Agriculture-HVCDP, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP), Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PHilMech), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH),

and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). Following the implementation of information caravans this year, series of training programs on coconut will be conducted in the involved provinces. **(EDALañada)**

Sustainable Rice Cultivation Future Farming Generations

By: Eula Dee A. Lañada

For Eduardo Policarpio, a farmer from Nueva Ecija, rice farming is his family's lifeblood. As Nueva Ecija is known as the rice granary of Philippines because it is the top producer of rice in the country, Policarpio is one of the rice farmers contributing to this feat.

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.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Eduardo or known as Ed for his family and friends started out as an overseas Filipino worker (OFW) in Saudi Arabia where he met his wife, Rosela. When they started building a family, they wanted to stay in the Philippines for good so that they can spend their time together. With this, they eventually started farming in Cabanatuan City in Nueva Ecija to make ends meet.

Even though Ed was an agriculture graduate from Central Luzon State University, when he started, it was not easy. He had to think of ways on how to sustain the needs of his growing family. He had to borrow money or file for a loan just to buy the farm inputs. He said back then, life was hard.

His main goal is for his family to become food sufficient as well as the whole region. *"Ang battle cry ko palagi ay food sufficiency sa family at sa buong rehiyon kaya ako nagsasaka,"* he added.

He started with rice farming and also, he ventured into taking care of livestock. Slowly, he tried to think of a way to make their lives easier, not just for him but for the fellow farmers in the community.

ESTABLISHING THE COOPERATIVE

With his heart set on rice farming and helping others, one of his greatest accomplishments that he shared is the establishment of the Makabagong Magsasaka Multipurpose Cooperative in 2004. He first served as Chairman for the group then he became the General Manager after 10 years. From 20 members, their group rose to 81 members covering all of Nueva Ecija.

As the pioneer of the cooperative, Policarpio disclosed that he has tried borrowing money to buy farming inputs when he started farming. Thus, he pushed to establish the cooperative to help the farmers in their community. Now, their cooperative provides seeds, fertilizer and other inputs for the members when the planting season comes.

A member of the cooperative, Juanito Dres, confirmed that the creation of the cooperative immensely helped the members. *"Malaking tulong itong kooperatiba sa pangunguna ni Eduardo Policarpio. Dito na kami nanghihiram ng farm inputs kapag taniman. Hindi na kami masyadong nahihirapan kumpara noong bago palang ako sa pagsasaka,"* quipped Dres.

Dres further shared that Policarpio also discusses to them the latest agricultural technologies, as well as the fundamentals of rice production for them to become successful in the field. Being a member of the cooperative greatly helped him with his rice farming especially his yield.

AS A MAGSASAKA SIYENTISTA AND LOCAL FARMER TECHNICIAN

As a Magsasaka Siyentista and Local Farmer Technician, Policarpio dedicated his farm to new farming technologies as it is usually used as a demonstration site to test out the said technologies.

He tills almost three (3) hectares of productive land dedicated to mainly rice, vegetables, fruit-bearing trees, and livestock.

Policarpio is often fascinated with the new farming technologies especially on rice thus he goes out of his way to try and test it in his farm. As a result of the experiments, he tries to tweak them based on his experience as well as which path would produce more yield. With this, he will know what will work on his crops and he will eventually share it with his fellow farmers.

The rice farmer also shared that he got the knowledge on the different farming technologies from the training activities offered by Agricultural Training Institute (ATI). In fact, his farm become certified as Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in 2018. His farm is also Good Agricultural Practices (GAP)-certified.

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

Policarpio also quipped that with the help of farming, especially growing rice, he has successfully sent his children to school. All of his children finished college with the following fields: Accountancy, Medical Doctor, and Agricultural Engineer.

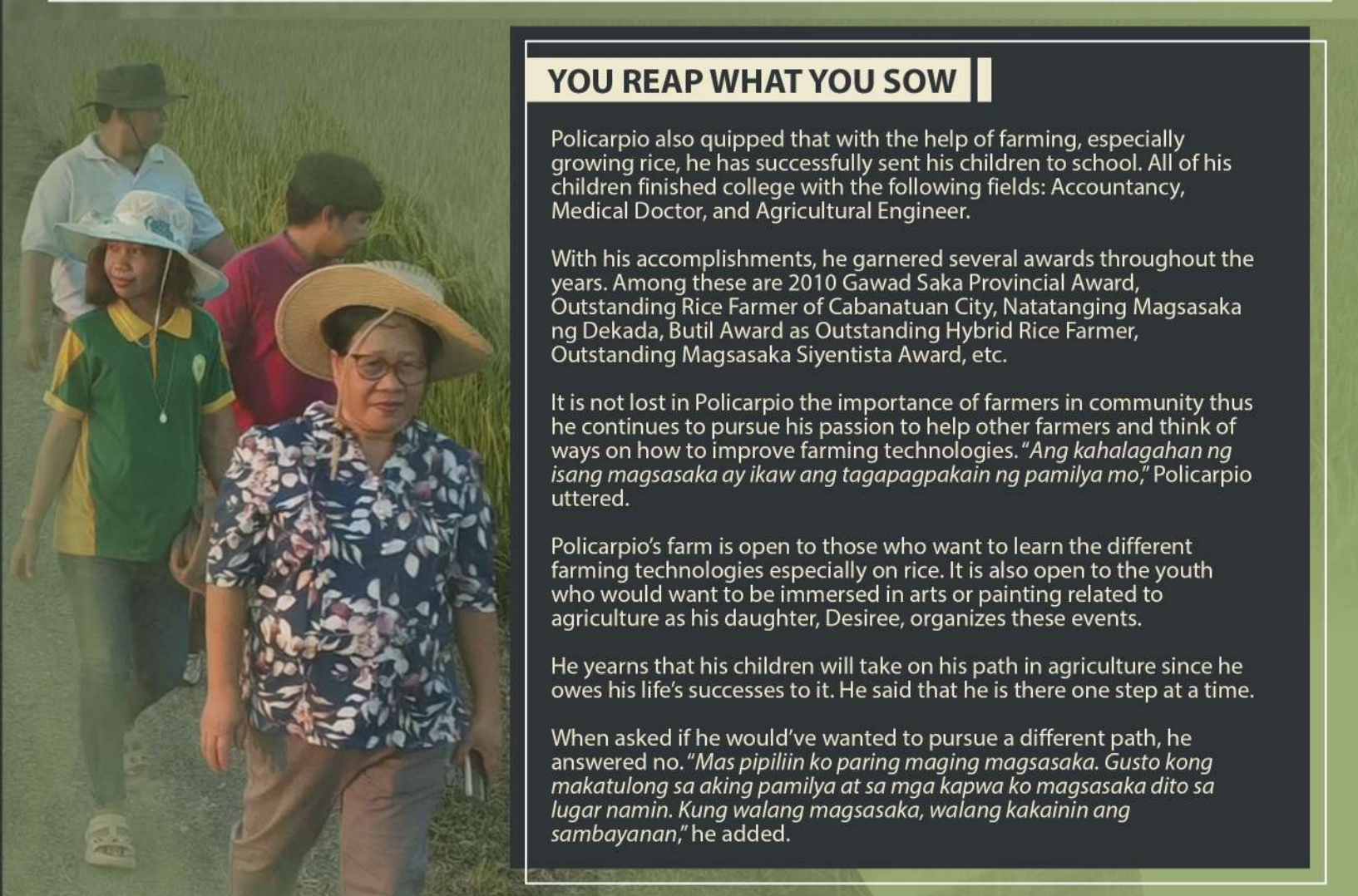
With his accomplishments, he garnered several awards throughout the years. Among these are 2010 Gawad Saka Provincial Award, Outstanding Rice Farmer of Cabanatuan City, Natatanging Magsasaka ng Dekada, Butil Award as Outstanding Hybrid Rice Farmer, Outstanding Magsasaka Siyentista Award, etc.

It is not lost in Policarpio the importance of farmers in community thus he continues to pursue his passion to help other farmers and think of ways on how to improve farming technologies. *"Ang kahalagahan ng isang magsasaka ay ikaw ang tagapagpakain ng pamilya mo,"* Policarpio uttered.

Policarpio's farm is open to those who want to learn the different farming technologies especially on rice. It is also open to the youth who would want to be immersed in arts or painting related to agriculture as his daughter, Desiree, organizes these events.

He yearns that his children will take on his path in agriculture since he owes his life's successes to it. He said that he is there one step at a time.

When asked if he would've wanted to pursue a different path, he answered no. *"Mas pipiliin ko paring maging magsasaka. Gusto kong makatulong sa aking pamilya at sa mga kapwa ko magsasaka dito sa lugar namin. Kung walang magsasaka, walang kakainin ang sambayanan,"* he added.



ATI-CL celebrates 2023 National Women's Month through cake baking

To conclude the National Women's Month celebration, the Center's employees participated in a cake baking workshop at Eastwood College of Science and Technology, Dinalupihan, Bataan, on March 31, 2023.

Mr. Francis Caiz discussed the cake baking techniques as well as the equipment used for baking to the Center's staff.

All of the Center's technical and admin staff as well as interns took part in cake baking, designing and packaging as part of the said celebration. The staff designed and decorated their cakes individually in line with the women's month celebration.

"Ang process ng pagbake ay madali lang. Ang pagdesign pala ng cake ang



Selected ATI-CL staff present their cakes to Mr. Francis Caiz.

mahirap. Kailangan ng creativity at tiyaga talaga. Pero masaya ang activity na ito," said Joshua, one of the employees.

Majority of the staff were first-time bakers and they enjoyed the process of baking as well as decorating the cake. **(EDLañada)**

ATI-CL focuses on... from page 6...

and for celebrating with us," said Dr. Belarmino.

Dr. Belarmino also extended his gratitude for the overwhelming support that the agency has been receiving. "For the past 36 years, the ATI had been the forefront of agricultural development in the region. Central Luzon, being one of the premium regions in food production in the country through the delivery of a quality agricultural and fishery extension programs and services. It would not have been possible without your collaboration, strong partnership, and support," he quipped.

Dr. Arthur D. Dayrit, Regional Technical Director for Research and Regulations of the DA-RFO III, thanked ATI and all the partner agencies in playing an important role in the agriculture sector. "ATI plays the important role as the training and extension arm of the Department of Agriculture. I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to ATI for your effort. The Department of Agriculture cannot do it alone, we need ATI, the help of the SUCs and LGUs. *Kapag nagsama-sama po*

tayo, kahit gaano man kabigat at kahirap yung problem na nararanasan natin sa kasalukuyan sa sektor ng agrikultura at pangisdaan, kapag nagkaisa po tayo, lahat pong ito ay malalampasan po natin," Dr. Dayrit added.

During the first day, the Center's staff participated in a Color Fun Run and Zumba as part of the celebration. In addition, a planning workshop on the implementation of 2023 activities and a center-level Commitment Signing and Kick-off Presentation per Section/Unit took place in the afternoon.

The second day started with the launching of the Center's Meat Hub and re-launching of the Learning Site of Agriculture in ATI-CL Bataan accompanied with a farm tour. Also, part of the event was the Recognition of ATI regional partners, Ceremonial Presentation of 2023 Plans and Programs, and Commitment Signing among all stakeholders.

ATI-CL also honored the loyalty awardees of the Center during the said program. Ms. Lily D. Dela Cruz (35 years); Ms.

Josefina T. Serrano (35 years), and Mr. Rolando P. Balbin (25 years) were recognized for their years of service to ATI. All of the center's partners such as Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III; Offices of the Provincial Agriculturist and Offices of the Provincial Veterinarian in Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Nueva Ecija, Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales; Aurora State College of Technology; Bataan Peninsula State University, Bulacan Agricultural State College; Central Luzon State University; Pampanga State Agricultural University; Tarlac Agricultural University, and President Ramon Magsaysay State University; CLAARRDEC; Office of Senator Cynthia Villar; and Learning Sites for Agriculture in Central Luzon attended the event.

The event was capped off with Palaring Lahi or team-building activities participated by ATI-CL staff. Since 2019, the anniversary celebration of ATI was brought to the centers from the Central Office so that the Center's staff and stakeholders can take part in the event. **(EDLañada)**



ATI - Central Luzon certify the Batungbacal Farms as one of the Learning Sites for Agriculture in the region.

Batungbacal Farms is now ready to share its mango prod'n technologies

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) certified the Batungbacal Farms as a Learning Site for Agriculture I (LSA I) on March 2, 2023 in Brgy. Bulawen, Palauig, Zambales. The said farm specializes in mango utilizing a modern and very scientific method in mango production.

Mr. Enrico Marciano Batungbacal, owner of the 190-hectare mango-based farm, has been in the mango industry for decades before he decided to open it to the public to pursue his advocacy of helping the other small mango growers.

Equipped with the knowledge and technologies gained from the different countries he visited, Mr. Batungbacal is now successfully practicing modernized and science-based mango production techniques.

"One of our focuses will be this learning site to serve as a training venue in order for us to share our technologies to our mango growers. With that, we will be able to help in strengthening our mango industry not only in Zambales but in the country," Mr. Batungbacal stressed

during his welcome message in the ceremony.

Present during the awarding ceremony are ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino and selected ATI Staff; Provincial Director of TESDA, Ms. Melanie Grace T. Romero; DTI representative, Mr. Enrique T. Tacbad; DOST representative, Ms. Bernardita R. Mortivirgen; the APCO Zambales from DA-RFO 3, Mr. Gil David; Ms. Mary Jane Amuyot, OIC-Municipal Agriculturist of Palauig; and representative from Villar Sipag Foundation. **(RCGulen)**

ATI-CL presents plans and programs... from page 5...

training and extension programs of ATI Central Luzon. In addition, a workshop for the Operationalization Planning for Extension Program for 2024-2025 was also administered during the said activity.

Wrapping up, Ms. Maurice A. Pineda, Technical Staff, announced the agreements for the consultations and the deadline of submission per province

of their consulted proposed plans and programs for 2024-2025.

The activity aimed to maintain the strong partnership with the LGU in conducting extension activities in the region.

Also, its goal is to prioritize and put into action the Center's plans, extension programs within the boundaries of

available resources and finalize the PAFES activity for the year 2023.

The consultations with partner agencies are vital for coming up with harmonized plans and programs to avoid duplication of interventions, to secure feedback mechanisms on conducted or proposed programs, and to complement resources among implementing agencies. **(MAPineda)**



The participants visit Merryland Integrated Farm and Training Center Inc. in Pulilan Bulacan as a benchmark activity of the training.

Farm owners explore climate resilient farming technologies, farming business

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with Villar SIPAG Foundation, conducted the Training Course on Climate-Resilient Farm Business School in Support to Gender and Development Program on March 08-17, 2023 at Greene Manor, City of San Fernando, Pampanga and Villar Sipag Farm School, San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

The said training aimed to equip the participants on different climate resilient technologies. Also, part of the module is the farming business aspect where the participants were taught on how the farmers will increase their income by treating their farm as a business.

During the opening program, ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, extended his gratitude to the Villar SIPAG Foundation.

"Nagpapasalamat tayo sa suporta ng

Villar SIPAG Foundation dahil bukod sa implementasyon ay mayroon tayong kakampi sa legislator na kung saan sila po ang tumitingin sa pangangailangan ng agricultural development ng ating bansa," he quipped.

As part of the training, the participants conducted a benchmarking activity in the Marsus Integrated Farm, a Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), in San Luis, Pampanga.

Ms. Marlene Bernardino, owner of the 3-hectare integrated farm, shared some information about the farm and how it operates. She also mentioned their current partnership with the Taiwan Technical Mission and shared their strategies, techniques and technologies that they are practicing in their farm.

The group also visited another

LSA, Merryland Integrated Farm and Training Center Inc., in Pulilan, Bulacan. Mr. Jian Carlo Castillo, owner, discussed their activities and farming strategies in the farm. He shared that they are doing organic fertilizer production, pesticide-free farming, and livestock raising.

"As much as possible, *gusto namin na yung pagkain namin ay healthy at dito na sa farm din manggaling.* Also, the CRFBS training is one the relevant training activities that I have attended," said Mr. Castillo during his discussion.

A total of 25 farm owners from CAR, Region 1, 2, and 3 participated in the said training.

CRFBS is a regular training conducted by the ATI in collaboration with Villar SIPAG Foundation started from 2016 basically for the betterment of Filipino farmers. **(MBBaldoz)**

ATI-CL, MNHS ink MOA for SHS work immersion

The Agricultural Training Institute – Central Luzon (ATI-CL) and Magsaysay National High School (MNHS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on February 10, 2023 to provide work immersion opportunities for senior high school students.

This partnership aims to equip students with knowledge and skills in preparing them for careers in office administration, agriculture, and related fields.

The MOA signing ceremony was attended by MNHS Work Immersion Coordinator, Mr. Raymond O. Caling; Grade 12 Coordinator, Ms. Kristina R. De Regla; and ATI RTC III Officials namely Ms. Elsa F. Victoria, CDMS Chief; and Mr. Carlo Roberto, Head of AFU.

The agreement outlines the terms of the work immersion program, which will run for a period of two weeks. The program will provide senior high school



ATI-CL and Magsaysay National High School representatives ink MOA for Senior High School Work Immersion.

students with hands-on experience in various areas like office administration, training provision, accounting, record keeping as well as agriculture, including crop production, livestock management, and agribusiness.

ATI-RTC III will provide the technical expertise and resources

necessary to implement the work immersion program. The institute has committed to providing the students with training modules, mentoring, and technical support throughout the program. In turn, MNHS will facilitate the enrollment and deployment of students, monitor their progress, and provide

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CL RBO Focal Persons convene to strengthen ext'n programs

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) conducted Technical Guidance on Rural-Based Organizations' Extension Programs for RBOs Focal Persons of Region 3. The activity ran from March 1-3, 2023 at ATI-RTC III, San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

"*Nakakataba ng puso na makita ang mabubuting mga adhikain ng bawat RBOs at kung paano sila nakakatulong sa ating pagpapalawig ng agrikultura hindi lang sa Region 3 kundi maging sa buong bansa. Sa activity din pong ito ay magkakaroon po tayo ng*

operational planning na kung saan kayo po mismo ang magbibigay ng mga inputs at kami naman po sa ATI ay gagawa ng mga aksyon upang maisakatuparan ang mga programa at proyekto na nais po ninyo sa inyong mga RBOs," said ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino.

Dr. Dianne M. Lapuz, RBO Focal Person discussed the SWOT Analysis and each province conducted their SWOT Analysis. Each province presented their output and were give due critiques by Dr. Lapuz.

As part of the outputs of the activity, each province presented their re-entry plans and work plans for 2023-2025.

After the Technical Guidance and Consultation, each province will re-echo what they have learned from the activity to their respective RBOs. It was agreed by the RBO coordinators of each province and municipality that they will use and mobilize the officials of the Municipal and Provincial 4-H Clubs and RIC Federations.

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CL Corn Coordinators implement FFS as part of season-long training

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) launched the Season-long Training of Trainers on Integrated Crop Management (ICM) for Corn with NC II on February 27, 2023 at ATI-CL satellite office in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

The said activity was attended by ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino; Palayan City Vice Mayor, Hon. Romaric S. Capinpin; Provincial Agriculturist of Nueva Ecija, Mr. Bernardo M. Valdez; and City Agriculturist of Palayan City, Ms. Esmenia A. Lulu.

Dr. Belarmino stressed in his message the value of the said activity. Also, he said that this season-long training aims to develop pool of experts in integrated crop management for corn in the region. Through this, the learnings that the participants that will gain will be disseminated in the communities they are serving, leading to the continued development of corn industry in the region.



Season-long Training of Trainers on ICM participant discusses topics about corn production.

Part of the season-long training is the implementation of Farmers' Field School (FFS) on Corn Production. In partnership with ATI-CL, DA-RFO III, and Villar SIPAG Foundation, five (5) sites of FFS were simultaneously launched on March 23, 2023 in Palayan City: Brgy. Mapait; Brgy. Aulo; Brgy. Doña Josefa; Brgy. Popolon; and Brgy.

Marcos Village. Guided by the corn coordinators, a total of 125 farmers are expected to finish the FFS in the said sites.

The 5-month training on ICM for Corn, which will end on July 14, 2023, is currently participated by selected corn coordinators in the region. **(EDLañada)**

ATI-CL, TAU continue... from page 4...

to see and witness some of the university's various operations and projects.

Some of the facilities and projects visited were; Farmer's Training Center (Training Hall and

accommodation facilities); The Kamlong (Off-Season Tomato Production Technology) project and their diversified farm; Sweet potato R&D Center under the Niche Centers in the Regions for Research and Development (NICER)

Program; Engineered Bamboo Project; Artificial Insemination (AI) Laboratory; Free-range Layer Chicken Demo Farm; and Israel-Philippines MASHAV Technology Demonstration of Agri-Edutourism. **(JSBaldoz)**

ATI-CL, MNHS ink MOA... from page 13...

academic and administrative support.

The work immersion program will provide students with an opportunity to apply the theories they have learned in the classroom in a real-world setting. It will also expose them to different

areas of office administration and agriculture, allowing them to identify their strengths and interests.

This partnership between MNHS and ATI-RTC III is a significant opportunity for students to gain valuable experience in the

agriculture and government industry. The work immersion program will equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed in the field. It will also provide them with exposure to the latest trends which will be beneficial in their future careers. **(CSRoberto)**

CL RBO Focal Persons convene... from page 13...

Ms. Leah Lombres 4-H Coordinator of Aurora recommended to the group that each focal person should first focus on a 4-H Club that will help them reach more youth who want to join the club. In addition, the group agreed that they will orient students from their respective barangays, municipalities, cities, and provinces to reach more young people, especially those taking courses related to agriculture.

Mr. Renaldo Bautista-VLAP Regional President urged the coordinators to return to the old strategy of RBOs (The Farm Family approach) which encourages the mother to become a RIC member, the Father as MS/P4MP and their children to join the 4-H Club.

"Makakaasa kayo na bawat isa sa amin ay gagawin an gaming mga makakaya upang muling mabuhay

ang ibang mga RBOs na hindi active at makakaasa kayo na bilang VLAP President ay lagi po akong handang magbigay serbisyo sa ating mga RBOS lalo na sa ating mga kabataan dahil minsan din po aking naging 4-H Club member," he added.

"Isang oportunidad po ang mapasama dito sa ganitong pagpupulong at maraming salamat dahil sa loob ng tatlong araw ay naging siksik po ang mga kaaalaman na ibinahagi at maging ang mga best practices na napulot ko po sa mga ibang officers and coordinators ng ibang probinsya. Salamat sa pagkakataon na ibinigay ninyo upang mas maging handa pa kami sa mga kakaharapin naming mga pagsubok para sa pagpapalago ng 4-H sa aming mga kanya-kanyang probinsya," quipped Mr. Michael Grande, President of 4-H Federation of Bataan.

A total of 25 Agricultural Extension Workers and 10 RBOs Officers from Region III attended the said activity.

Rural Based Organizations are informal organizations which play vital role in sustaining agricultural and rural development through various significant services.

They serve as channels to route useful and relevant information and other resources required in improving the living conditions in rural communities. These organizations also serve as the government's partner that embraces modern knowledge, technologies, and opportunities in pursuit of both agricultural and economic growth and propagates it in their respective communities. **(DMLapuz)**

ATI-CL presents Work and Financial Plan FY 2023 to DA-RFO III

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) presented the Center's Work and Financial Plan FY 2023 to the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III) at Capitol Compound, San Fernando, Pampanga during the regular Management Committee (ManCom) meeting on March 06, 2023.

"Thank you for hosting today DA Family, we are here to present our work and financial plan FY 2023. The plans that we will be preparing today will surely create a positive change in the agriculture sector," said ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, during his opening message.

In addition, Mr. Marciano C. Santos, Planning Officer II, presented the ATI-CL work and financial plan FY 2023. Following the presentation, an



Mr. Marciano C. Santos, Planning Officer II, presents ATI-CL's work and financial plan FY 2023.

open forum commenced to facilitate the queries and concerns per banner program. Also, the officials provided recommendations to improve the planned projects and activities of region III.

Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, Center Director; Mr. Marciano C. Santos, Planning Officer II; Mr. Mark Christian

A. Bombita, Accountant I; and Ms. Maurice A. Pineda, Technical Support Staff, represented ATI-CL. Meanwhile, Dir. Crispulo Bautista, Regional Executive Director of DA-RFO III; Dr. Arthur D. Dayrit, RTD for Research and the focal persons of the different banner programs attended and participated the said meeting. **(MAPineda)**



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 and social equity for sustainable development.

VISION

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