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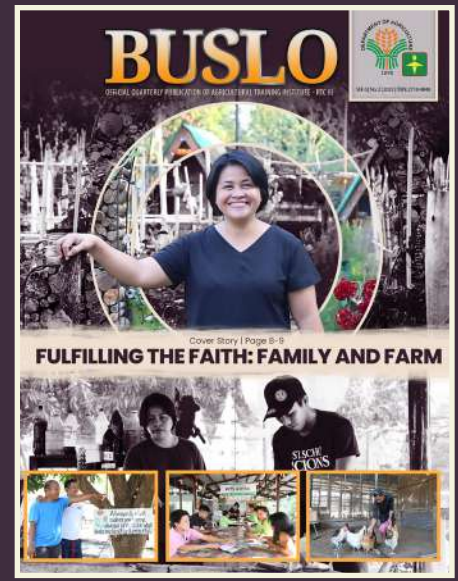
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FULFILLING THE FAITH: FAMILY AND FARM





ABOUT THE COVER

When Rigene landed a stable job, she rose from the ranks that enabled her to save money for years. Through her job, she got detailed in Olongapo City but her dream to acquire a piece of land did not change.

She started to scout for it by roaming around the whole province of Zambales. Coincidentally, she found a place for her dream farm and purchased a piece of land in Sta. Cruz, Iba, Zambales in 2016.

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FEATURE

Fulfilling the Faith: Family and Farm 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.



A participant of Digital Farmers Program explores the AgRIDOC app during the said training in Tarlac.

ATI-CL empowers FITS Staff with Digital Farmers Program for Improved Agricultural Extension Services

The Agricultural Training Institute - Central Luzon conducted a four-day Digital Farmers Program Training among 20 Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) staff of Tarlac from May 2-5, 2023, at the Farmers Training Center of Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), Camiling, Tarlac. The training aimed to improve the knowledge, skills, and equip participants with the latest agricultural ICT tools to deliver proper and effective extension services to their fellow farmers.

During the training, participants showed outstanding performance in micro-teaching, applying the concepts, principles, and techniques they learned to their chosen topics. The resource persons served as panelists and

provided the participants with constructive criticisms to further improve their capacities as trainers.

Ms. Janice Agustin, a participant from Camiling, Tarlac, expressed her learnings and insights from the training and plans to use the agricultural ICT tools, such as AccuWeather and AgriDoc apps, in their farmer field school topics.

"Ang laki pong maitutulong nito hindi lamang sa mga magsasaka kundi pati sa mga Agricultural Extension Workers. Ang laking tulong ng mga apps mula sa AccuWeather hanggang sa AgriDoc, makakaasa po kayo na makakarating ito sa mga farmers. Isasama na naming ito sa mga topics naming sa farmers field

school, wala mang cellphone si farmer, baka magkaroon sila ng interest na bumili ang mga ito," she quipped.

Ms. Regine Felipe also expressed her gratitude for having this kind of training that fully adopts farmers in the advent of technology.

"Maraming salamat po sa ATI sa training na ito. Malaking tulong ito sa aming mga farmers at makakasabay din sila sa technology," she added.

The resource persons for the said training were Mr. Kent Edward Ballesteros, Media Production Specialist II; Ms. Eula Dee Lañada, Information Officer II; Ms. Mariel Baldoz, Agriculturist I; and Mr. John Led Joaquin, Technical Support IV.

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ATI-CL staff convene for 9th Management Review

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) conducted its 9th Management Review among its technical and administrative staff at the center's training hall on April 25-26, 2023.

This activity, supervised by the Center Director, Dr. Joey P. Belarmino, amongst the section chiefs, unit heads, and focal persons of the center, aimed to identify the gaps and possible non-conforming issues to be improved and resolved; to identify and strategically create a plan of action to further conform with the standards and maintain ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Additionally, the activity addressed overall customer satisfaction and feedback from the previous partnerships, reports produced by the Internal Audit Team, relevant changes in the internal and external concerns pertinent to the Quality Management System (QMS), and its effectiveness.

Afterwards, to address the issues identified in the Management



ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, spearheads the 9th Management Review of the center in Dinalupihan, Bataan

Review, the following agreements were established: re-orientation with regards to the process of training from planning to monitoring, training forms and evaluations, and the re-entry plans related to the financial details, posting on social media showcasing the activities and programs of the

center. The CPD Accreditation was also discussed.

ISO 9001 is an international standard to ensure a quality management system and provides products and services that can satisfy customer and regulatory requirements. **(RDSilva)**

ATI-CL collaborates with BAFS for the PGS of CL Farmers

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) implemented the Training Course on Certification of Core Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Groups and Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies of Local Farmers in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija from April 25 to April 27, 2023.

Ms. Deichelle E. Roxas, a participant, said that the training made an impact on her. "PGS is quite intensive and challenging — it requires effort. This PGS training made an impact on me as being more crucial and more attentive to

every detail," she added.

As part of the training, series of lectures and discussions on the provisions of RA 11511 and the Organic Agriculture Regulations; current Philippine National Standard (PNS) for organic agriculture; general requirements and procedures for accreditation of the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) group were done. In addition, the group also tackled how to conduct inspection and auditing for the accreditation of organic certifying bodies.

Ms. Zarah Jane N. Sendrijas, Development Management Officer

of PMEUI, initiated the Training Course on Certification of core PGS groups and Accreditation of Organic Certifying Bodies and the result of the training was excellent as seen by the test results of the participants where they improved significantly.

Atty. Carolyn Dumlao-Amis of NEDEX expressed her appreciation to ATI-CL and BAFS which helped them clarify about Participatory Guarantee System.

"Maraming salamat sa pagbibigay po ng panahon, pag gugol po ng inyong effort para kami ay maenlighten sa **continued on page 13...**

Tarlac rice farmers explore RCMAS

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) spearheaded two (2) batches of Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services (RCMAS) Briefing at Anao and Paniqui, Tarlac among rice farmers on April 25 to 27 this year to guide them in fertilizer application.

Mr. George Payumo, Municipal Agriculturist, welcomed the participants and guests during the opening program.

Ms. Mariel B. Baldoz, Agriculturist of ATI-CL, presented the overview of the RCMAS Briefing in Anao and Paniqui, Tarlac while Mr. Kent Edward S. Ballesteros, Media Specialist II of ATI-CL discussed the RCMAS, its importance, and functions especially in fertilizer application.

Ms. Norma A. Calpito, one of the participants, shared that the



Ms. Mariel B. Baldoz, Project Officer, interviews farmers in Tarlac for them to receive printed RCMAS recommendations

briefing helped her to become familiar with RCMAS which could be used on her farm.

"Maraming salamat dahil naturuan niyo kami ng mga technique at ICT tool na magagamit namin sa

aming mga farm at kung paano ang tamang pagtanim at pag aabono sa aming mga palayan," Calpito said.

The aim of the activity is to promote the use of digital decision **continued on page 6...**

ATI-CL organizes Facilitators Retooling Course on CRFBS

The Agricultural Training Institute - Central Luzon (ATI-CL) conducted a Facilitators Retooling Course on Climate Resilient Farm Business School (CRFBS) for 30 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from Central Luzon on May 2-5, 2023 at Lubao, Pampanga.

For the training, ATI-CL packaged four (4) interrelated modules, including the following: Understanding Climate Change as a Risk, Climate Smart Agriculture on Rice Production, Farming as a Business, and How to Conduct CRFBS Farmer Level in the retooling course.

The participants expressed their gratitude for the lecture and workshops. Mr. Jayvin Clein Rabino shared, "Masarap matuto ng mga bagong at karagdagang kaalaman na alam kong higit na makakatulong sa pag-unlad ng ating mga magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng pagsasanay na ito."

A first-time participant, Ms. Maureen Launico, also expressed, "The topics discussed in this training are timely and relevant and necessary to teach our farmers to improve their way of living and profit. In sharing this

knowledge to them it will help them to produce or increase their production."

Ms. Reinalyn Gulen, Ms. Lily Dela Cruz, Ms. Mariel Baldoz, Mr. Jayson Baldoz, and Engr. Jayson Gelacio from the Partnership Accreditation Section were also present during the event to impart knowledge and facilitate workshops during the course.

The program aimed to empower AEWs and be able to facilitate courses on CRFBS in their respective municipalities. **(MTFernandez)**



Agricultural extension workers and farmer-leaders from Aurora and Bataan attend the Training of Trainers on Coconut Farm Business School

AEWs, Farmer Leaders participate in TOT on Coconut Farm Business School

Twelve Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and eight (8) farmer leaders from Aurora and Bataan undergone the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Coconut Farm Business School conducted on April 17-21, 2023 at Baler, Aurora.

The said training imparted valuable knowledge and skills to the participants, and was spearheaded by the Agricultural Training Institute - Central Luzon, led by Ms. Krizzell D. Galang, Training Specialist I.

"In this training, I learned a lot. The programs under CFIDP will assist and support us (farmers) to improve our farm and our living status. The technologies we learned will help us increase our production and our income. I also learned the importance of record keeping and being financial literate," said Marianne Ancheta, one of the participants.

Representatives from Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA),

Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC), and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) were also present during TOT to provide new learnings to the AEWs and farmer leaders.

The five-day program included lectures and workshops on seven modules: Module 1: Overview of CFIDP Program; Module 2: Coconut Industry Situationer; Module 3: The *continued on page 10...*

Tarlac Rice Farmers... from page 5...

tools especially the Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services App to generate recommendations for the proper timing of fertilization in the current rice cropping season. This will lessen the production cost through the principle of proper

source, proper timing, and proper amount.

The use of Binhing Palay App and MOET App is also used to aid in the decision-making of the farmers in choosing the preferred rice varieties

and checking the proper amount of nutrients in the field.

After the briefing, RCM recommendations were given to the participants to guide them in the next cropping season. (RSison)



Agricultural extension workers from Bulacan participate in Training of Trainers on Livestock Farm Business School in Bacolor, Pampanga

Bulacan AEWs pursue agripreneurship through TOT on Livestock FBS

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) implemented the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Livestock Farm Business School for Livestock Extension Workers: Building Entrepreneurial Skills Toward Bigger Opportunities among Bulacan agricultural extension workers (AEWs) in Bacolor, Pampanga in 2nd quarter this year.

The said training, which was conducted in R.O. Valerio Farm, Bacolor, Pampanga on April 24-28, 2023, aimed to project agriculture as a prospective business venture where the farmers themselves can be knowledgeable about marketing and producing their products with good

market quality for better economic opportunities.

In addition, the AEWs were trained on how to teach the farmers in the municipalities of their capabilities to promote the development process in farming, farming business, effective marketing, choosing an enterprise, financial management, and developing a business plan.

Further, the farm owners and resource persons, Mr. Antonio T. Sabangan, III, a graduate of Bachelor of Business Administration, and Mr. Randy O. Valerio, a graduate of Agricultural Mechanics with a specialization in Dairy Goat

Production, taught about livestock production and management of farm animals while touring them in the R.O. Valerio Farm.

One participant, Mr. Helbert Gamboa, shared his delight with the learning he acquired during the training. He quipped, "In this training about building entrepreneurial skills, *marami akong natutunan sa* management ng farm, marketing strategies, how to sell products and how to start a business plan."

After the training, the AEWs submitted their outputs presenting their re-entry plan regarding the said topic per municipality. (*RDSilva*)

ATI-CL empowers FITS Staff... from page 3...

The closing program and graduation of participants were graced by Dr. Joey Belarmino, Center Director of ATI-Central Luzon; Dr. Max Guillermo, TAU President; and Dr. Ma. Asuncion

G. Beltran, TAU Vice President for Research, Extension and Training.

During the graduation, participants received training certificates with 11 Continuing Professional

Development (CPD) points. Additionally, the training received an excellent average rating for Resource Persons and an excellent rating for their Overall Training Experience. (*JSambrano*)

Fulfilling the Faith: FAMILY AND FARM

By: Eula Dee A. Lañada

The thought of having a farm has been a long-standing dream of Maria Rigena Teves or Rigene ever since she was a child. As someone who grew up in Cebu, Rigene shared that she only had glimpses of beautiful landscapes and farms in their area when their family had time to visit there. Her dream is to save money and acquire a piece of land for her family.

When she landed a stable job, she rose from the ranks that enabled her to save money for years. Through her job, she got detailed in Olongapo City but her dream to acquire a piece of land did not change. Rigene started to scout for it by roaming around the whole province of Zambales. Coincidentally, she found a place for her dream farm and purchased a piece of land in Sta. Cruz, Iba, Zambales in 2016.

THE GOAL OF TIFF

From an overgrown vacant lot, Rigene saw its potential and turned it into an integrated farm filled with different vegetables and livestock which is now known as Teves Integrated Family Farm or TIFF. As its name implies, the farm is the labor of love by Rigene's family – mother, siblings, nephews and nieces, even in-laws. TIFF's goal is to readily supply food for the family as well as the whole community that could generate income to everyone.

Rigene shared that farming has a big impact and contribution to ourselves, our community, our country and the whole world. *"Napakalawak at sobrang laki ang na-i-ambag at ma-i-aambag ng pagsasaka – sa ating sarili, sa komunidad, sa ating bansa, at sa buong mundo. Bagama't naging mabilis ang pagsulong ng teknolohiya sa nakaraang dekada, hindi parin nababawasan ang kahalagahan ng pagsasaka sa ating lipunan,"* she explained.

NURTURING THE FARM

Rigene admitted that it was not easy to develop the farm. It needed additional capital after its purchase and it also needs to be cleaned up. Luckily, she had the help and assistance of her family to develop the area especially in the startup and land preparation. Through the years of developing the farm, Rigene had a vision to maximize the 7,600 square meters of farm lot into an organic-based farm. She wanted to embrace farming that will help enhance the nutrients in the soil and should not use chemicals which could adversely affect the health of the people.

During this time, she also started to attend training activities on agriculture spearheaded by the Agricultural Training



Institute, Villar SIPAG Foundation, and other government and private agencies.

Ever since they started planting, their best practice in cultivating the farm is anchored on the principle of natural or organic farming. They have incorporated animal and plant wastes as fertilizer to the crops. Also, in 2019, Rigene has invested materials or equipment for the farm such as multi-purpose shredder, farm tiller, plastic mulch, and multi-treated plastics to improve the production efficiency of the farm.

TIFF'S ADVOCACY AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

As part of their advocacy, the farm has organized training activities and seminars on agriculture especially on natural or organic farming and integrated farming. They also distribute start-up kits such as vegetable seeds and seedlings for the farmers in the community and also for those who are interested.

With all of the accomplishments of the farm, TIFF has been certified as a learning site for agriculture by ATI-Central Luzon. It has also received the good agricultural practices (GAP) certification that ensures that they are implementing standard agricultural practices and their products are safe to consume.

TIPS FOR THE FUTURE FARMING GENERATION

When asked what piece of advice could she impart to others, she quipped, *"Ang maipapayo ko sa gustong pumasok sa pagsasaka ay maging pasensyoso at matiyaga."* Rigene shared that it takes a lot of patience, dedication and hard work in the farming industry.

"Hindi madali ito, kasi it involves buhay ng mga tanim at hayop so kagaya ng ibang business, may risk din sa farming so kailangan ang dedikasyon at focus para makamit ang layunin na maging self-sufficient at maging tunay na agri-entrepreneur," she added.

As someone who rose from the ranks in a private company, Rigene is not new to challenges and hard work. She quipped that farming involves a lot of risk, dedication and focus to become self-sufficient as an agri-entrepreneur.

She also imparted the importance in finding the right people, friends and companions in the agribusiness that will believe in your skills and support you in your endeavors. *"Napakaimportante ng mga kaibigan at kasama sa hanapbuhay na nagtitiwala sa iyong kakayahan at sumusuporta sa aking adhikain,"* she said.

Along with her friends especially her family, Rigene is not alone with her endeavor. As a family, they will brave all the challenges that will come their way and will develop the farm to become the best organic-based farm in the community.



Central Luzon farmers join the 16th batch of Training of Trainers for Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund in June this year.

ATI-RTC III wraps up its 16th Batch of RCEF-TOT

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with Villar SIPAG Foundation, implemented the 11-day Training of Trainers on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization among Central Luzon farmers at City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

“Maibabahagi ko ang aking mga natutunan sa aming lugar lalo na’t malayo ito sa urbanidad para mas mapahusay pa ang kanilang pamamaraan ng pagsasaka,” said Ms. Nikki Jenofel Balbuena,

participant from Casiguran, Aurora. On the other hand, Dr. Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, Assistant Center Director of ATI RTC 3, said that he is expecting that the participants will be ATI’s partner in extending modern agricultural technologies that will help the farmers in the region. *“Umaasa kami na kayo ang aming magiging kasangga pagdating sa pagpapalaganap ng mga makabagong teknolohiyang makatutulong sa mga magsasaka ng palay sa rehiyon,”* he added.

The participants are expected to either implement Farmers’

Field School on the production of High-Quality Inbred Rice, Seed Certification, and Farm Mechanization in their municipalities or establish a farm school as it is the main objective of this training.

This training was led by the ATI RTC 3 Rice and RCEF team (Ms. Reinalyn Gulen, Mr. Jayson S. Baldoz, Mr. Jayson S. Gelacio, Mr. Jan Limuel Guevarra, and Ms. Mariel B. Baldoz) and made possible through the collaborative efforts of the implementing agencies of RCEF-

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

Coconut Farmer Entrepreneur; Module 4: Diagnosing and Finding Opportunities; Module 5: Planning the Farm Business

Improvements; Module 6: Financial Management; and Module 7: Implementing the Farm Improvement Plan.

At the end of the said activity, the participants presented their business and re-entry plans. **(MTFernandez)**

ATI-CL, CLSU spearhead TOT on Lowland Vegetable Production in Nueva Ecija

The Agricultural Training Institute - Central Luzon, in partnership with Central Luzon State University (CLSU), organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Lowland Vegetable Production held at the CLSU R&E Conference Room in Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija from April 24-28, 2023.

The training was attended by 22 participants, consisting of agricultural extension workers from Tarlac and Nueva Ecija. Its objective was to sharpen and expand the knowledge and skills of Agricultural Extension Workers in vegetable production, using modern technology, and to enable them to effectively transfer the technology to their target clients.

The participants also had a chance to visit the technology demonstration farm of Mikai Agri Trading, showcasing tower gardens and hydroponically grown high-value crops. They engaged in hands-on activities



The agricultural Extension Workers from Tarlac and Nueva Ecija learn about hydroponics during the Training of Trainers on Lowland Vegetable Production in CLSU

on planting using the Kratky system and transplanting on tower gardens.

Ms. Ana Liza S. Orcino from San Clemente, Tarlac, emphasized the importance of collaboration and communication among farmers, stating that *“New technologies and ideas gained, learning by doing principle, always consider farmer*

as experts, consider their beliefs in farming, guide and assist the farmers.”

Meanwhile, Ms. Marigen Mejia from Tarlac City expressed enthusiasm about having this kind of seminar or training in their community to apply the lessons she learned and encourage families in her

continued on page 15...

CL farmers prepare for smart agriculture technologies

Ten farmer-youth tandems completed the Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies (SATs) - Digital Technologies (Phase 1: DFP 101 and 102) conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute - Central Luzon (ATI-CL) at Myriad Farms, Guimba, Nueva Ecija on June 14, 2023.

The program aimed to capacitate farmers in the different smart

technologies in agriculture to have better yields in their farms as well as utilizing social media and online selling to have a wider reach for their products.

“Unang una sa lahat, salamat po sa ATI at Myriad Farms. Marami kaming natutunan, ibabahagi po namin lahat ng natutunan sa aming mga jabarangay. Nakakatuwa at dahil sa edad ko na ito ay marami pa akong

natutunan, nahasa na naman ang akin kaalaman. Maraming salamat po,” quipped by Mr. Marlon B. Domingo, a participant.

The youth aided the farmers in the activities involving the use of smartphone. The participants also crafted their social media marketing plan and posters to promote their agricultural products and services. **(KESBallesteros)**



Mr. Darwin Dela Cruz, resource person, guides participants in basic layout and design through the use of Photoshop

CL FITS Staff develop newsletters through KP Dev't Training

Central Luzon Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) staff attended two (2) batches of training on Knowledge Products Development and Social Media Management on May 16-19, 2023 and June 6-9, 2023 in CLSU, Science City of Munoz, Nueva Ecija and Tarlac Agricultural University, Camiling, Tarlac, respectively.

The training focused on basic news writing; development of newsletter and principles of layout and design; and social media management. Ms.

Zorille Dela Cruz-Villaflors from CLSU; Mr. Darwin Dela Cruz from CLSU; and Ms. Charisma Love Gado-Gonzales from PhilRice served as resource persons for the said activity.

Ms. Laarni Mae Alastoy, a participant from Bulacan, shared that the training was big help especially in her line of work. "This training is very relevant especially now that we are in the digital age. *Sobrang laki tulong nito na bawat isa sa atin, Natutunan ang iba't ibang*

knowledge and we have produced an IEC material for our FITS Centers. *Lumabas kami sa aming comfort zones despite sa mga complaints, tayo dapat ang mag step up and improve ourselves,*" she said.

During the course of the training, the participants were able to develop a newsletter and efficiently managed their social media accounts for their respective FITS Centers. The participants are expected to use their knowledge gained in their respective work place. **(EDALañada)**

CL farmers prepare for smart agriculture technologies

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon successfully conducted a briefing on Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service on May 31, 2023 at San Isidro, Nueva Ecija Municipal Hall.

The topics discussed focused on the importance of rice crop manager

advisory services and other agri applications such as Binhing Palay App, SpidTech, e-Damuhan, and AgriDOC.

This activity, in collaboration with the Local Government Unit of San Isidro through its Municipal Agriculture

Office headed by their Municipal Agriculturist, Ms. Menerva Clemente, was conducted to disseminate information regarding the importance of Rice Crop Manager in the preparation of San Isidro rice farmers for the upcoming season of rice production. **(MBBaldoz)**

ATI-CL awards extension support to RBOs

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) awarded the first batch of extension support to the participants of the Training Course on Production Technology with Extension Support for RBOs (Batch 1) on June 2, 2023.

"*Marami pong salamat sa walang sawang suporta sa amin at lahat po ng mga natutunan namin sa training ay amin na pong ginagawa kahit wala pa po ang mga extension support namin. Masaya kami kasi ang mga natutunan namin ay naging malaking kontribusyon para magkaroon kami ng libheng gulay para sa aming pamilya,*" said Ms. Lelite D. Ocampo, President of RIC Mind Business Club.

"*Sa aming samahan naman po, wala pa man ang mga manok na ibibigay ninyo ay meron na po kaming ginawang kulungan. Nakanda na rin po ang aming lupa para sa pagtatanim ng mga gulay. Salamat po sa mga naitulong ninyo para sa aming samahan,*" quipped Ms. Ofelia Manlaqui, President of RIC Unit Team.

Ms. Analte Gagui, RIC President of RIC Macapagal United Team expressed her gratitude to ATI for the opportunity of learning



The participants of the 1st batch of Training Course on Production Technology for RBOs receive their extension support as part of the said training

vegetable and free-range chicken production.

Meanwhile, Ms. Sheem Sabado, President of RIC of San Pablo shared her experience on practicing container gardening.

"*Sobrang dami namin natutunan sa training at ngayon po ako po ay merong tanim na kalabasa sa sirang batya at lahat ng mga balat ng mga prutas at gulay ay inilalagay ko doon para mas maging mataba ang lupa. Masaya ako na kahit wala akong malaking lupa ay nagkakaroon pa rin kami*

ng aking pamilya ng ligtas at libheng gulay," she shared.

Dr. Dianne M. Lapuz, ATI-CL RBO Focal Person, encouraged the recipients of the extension support to continue their passion and commitment to agriculture. She also reminded the participants to have a positive attitude and mindset.

In addition, ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino reminded the participants to share their knowledge on vegetable and free-

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ATI-CL collaborates with BAFS... from page 4...

mga issues. Ito pong training na ito ay napakalagking bagay po samin, ito po ay nakatulong sa amin sa pag grow as a group as an organic group. Yung pong inputs dadalin po namin ito habang buhay, rest assured yung natutunan po namin it will put into work hanggang sa ma-attain namin ang level

of perfection or excellency so that we make a model para sa organic farming," she quipped.

The participants appreciated the effort of ATI-CL and BAFS in putting an emphasis on peer organic. They also acknowledge the importance of peer review and recordkeeping.

At the end of the training, awarding of certificate of appreciation to the resource persons from BAFS was presented. As for the participants, they should be able to prepare a re-entry plan on their application as PGS Certifying Body after participating in the training course. **(RSison)**



ATI-CL, headed by Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, awards certificate of LSA I to Happyharvest Agricultural Learning Center, Inc. in Gapan, Nueva Ecija

ATI-CL launches LSA in Gapan, Nueva Ecija

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) launched the second Learning Site for Agriculture I (LSA I) in the City of Gapan, Nueva Ecija on May 29, 2023.

Happyharvest Agricultural Learning Center Inc., owned by Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Padiernos, received their LSA I certificate with their vision of improving the agricultural sector

in their community by means of agricultural mechanization.

"Taos puso ko pong tinatanggap ang hamon na makatulong sa mga kapwa ko magsasaka sa pamamagitan ng pagshi-share ng aking nalalaman, mga natutunan ko sa training, at personal na experience" said Padiernos during the awarding ceremony.

Happyharvest Agricultural Learning Center Inc. is a rice-based farm located at Brgy. Sto. Cristo Sur, Gapan City, Nueva Ecija. The farm focuses on rice seed production, fully mechanized farm operations, rice processing with other components such as vegetable production, and etc. As a learning site for agriculture, the farm will serve as ATI's partner for five (5) years. **(JSBaldoz)**

ATI-RTC III wraps up.. from page 10...

RESP (ATI-RTC 3, DA-RFO 3, PhilRice, PHilMech, TESDA Pampanga, BPI-NSQCS Region 3, RCPC, LBP Pampanga Lending Center, Felisidro Farm, and E.D. Lacson Agricultural Learning Center Inc.)

especially on the delivery of topics included in the module used.

The training which ran from June 19-29, 2023 was participated by 30 farmer leaders from the different

provinces around Central Luzon that will be endorsed to the TESDA Regional Office 3 and will be included in their pool of RCEF-RESP Farmer's Field School trainers. **(JSBaldoz)**

ATI-CL awards extension... from page 13...

range chicken production to their neighbors and other individuals.

"Kaligayahan namin na malaman at makita na pagkatapos ng training meron kayong nagagawang pagbabago. Isa pa sa kaligayahan namin ay makitang umuunlad

ang inyong pamumuhay. Nawa matulungan din ninyo ang ibang mga kababaihan na maging produktibo sa pamamagitan ng pagtatanim at pagaalaga ng mga manok. Sa mga ibinigay namin ay magkakaroon na kayo ng mga libheng gulay at pagkain at kapag

may sobra ay pwede ninyong ibenta para may dagdag kita na kayo," he quipped.

The participants received assorted seeds, garden tools and materials, free-range chicken, and electric knapsack sprayer. **(DMLapuz)**



The farmers in Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija participate in a technical briefing on balanced fertilization strategies in June this year

Sta. Rosa rice farmers explore balanced fertilization strategies

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with the Local Government Unit-Municipal Agriculture Office of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija, conducted a Technical Briefing on Balanced Fertilization Strategies on June 7, 2023 at the Municipal Hall of Sta. Rosa, Nueva Ecija.

The activity focused on the information necessary for the farmers' crop nutrient management. Speakers from ATI-CL (Mr. Jayson S.

Baldoz) and Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (Ms. Robilyn Sarmiento) discussed the importance of balanced fertilization, emphasizing the use of both organic and inorganic fertilizers. They even discussed some available biofertilizers that will also aid in the issue of rising price of fertilizers.

"Maiksi man ang oras na nagkasama-sama tayo, puno at siksik naman sa impormasyon ang

ating naging talakayan. Nawa po ay magamit ninyo ang mga ito sa sarili ninyong mga bukid at maibahagi rin sa mga kapwa po ninyong mga magsasaka," said Ms. Mariel B. Baldoz, project officer of the one-day activity, said during the closing program.

The technical briefing was participated by rice farmers of Sta. Rosa that will soon prepare for the upcoming wet season of their production. **(JSBaldoz)**

ATI-CL, CLSU spearhead... from page 11...

community to plant. She said, "I will apply the knowledge I've learned in this seminar by planting and encouraging my family and my community to plant as well as imparting my knowledge. And also, to the farmers, I will conduct seminars/training in order for them to refresh and adopt new technologies."

Additionally, the participants visited different technology

centers in CLSU, such as the PREDICT Center, RM CARES, College of Agriculture Vegetable Production Area, Mushroom Center, Small Ruminant Area, and the showcase of technologies in the KAMALIG Center.

The said training was facilitated by Ms. Krizzell Galang, Training Specialist I. Meanwhile, Ms. Babelyn Lopez, Training Specialist II; Mr. Rolando Pagaduan Jr., Science Research Analyst;

Mr. Nestor Pagaduan, Farm Superintendent II; Ms. Princess Perez, Instructor I; Ms. Airene Otones, Instructor I; Ms. Roan Beronilla, Manager of Mikai Agri Trading; and Dr. Fernan Fiegelan served as resource speakers.

The five-day training concluded with a closing ceremony graced by Dr. Eugenia Baltazar, Director of Extension Program CLSU, where participants received certificates of completion. **(JSambrano)**



Napakalawak at sobrang laki ang na-i-ambag at ma-i-aambag ng pagsasaka – sa ating sarili, sa komunidad, sa ating bansa, at sa buong mundo. Bagama't naging mabilis ang pagsulong ng teknolohiya sa nakaraang dekada, hindi parin nababawasan ang kahalagahan ng pagsasaka sa ating lipunan.

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

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

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