

BUSLO

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE - RTC III



Vol. 6 | No. 3 | 2023 | ISSN: 2718-9848



COVER STORY

Page 8-9

MARIA AURORA FARMER SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION:

Creating opportunities for Aurora com farmers

CONTENTS

NEWS

ATI-CL brings agri info, technology closer to farmers in Central Luzon | [Page 03](#)

CL farmer-youth tandems explore digital agri apps through SATs | [Page 04](#)

CL Corn Coordinators finish season-long training on ICM for Corn | [Page 04](#)

ATI-CL, PAA-Tamarind Chapter organize project proposal writing workshop for CL AEWs | [Page 05](#)

ATI-CL, DA-RFO III monitors 1449 CL farmers using MEL Tool | [Page 05](#)

ATI-CL, BAFE initiate structural analysis training for AF infrastructure | [Page 06](#)

Farm owners explore climate resilient farming technologies, farming business | [Page 06](#)

ATI-CL bags top performer award during Mid-Year Performance Review | [Page 7](#)

ATI-CL, BSWM spearhead agro-hydrology, diversion dam design training for AEWs | [Page 7](#)

ATI-CL, DA-RFO III, BFAR III award cash grants to CL provinces for PAFES implementation | [Page 10](#)

Aurora coconut farmers join native cattle prod'n training | [Page 10](#)

CL RCEF Implementers evaluate RCEF strategic communication outcome in the region | [Page 11](#)

ATI-CL launches 4-H Learning Hub in Palayan City | [Page 12](#)

Three young Central Luzon farmers undergo internship in Taiwan | [Page 13](#)

ATI-CL, DA initiate scaling of rice technologies workshop in Luzon | [Page 13](#)

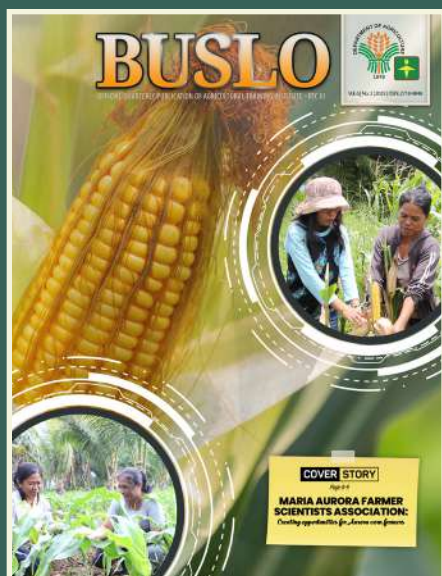
CL Livestock ext'n workers immerse in meat, dairy goat prod'n | [Page 14](#)

4-H Central Luzon bags major awards during the 70th Farm Youth National Convention 2023 | [Page 15](#)

FEATURE

**Maria Aurora Farmer Scientists Association:
Creating opportunities for Aurora corn farmers**
[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.



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.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editorial Advisers:

Joey A. Belarmino, Ph.D.

Jayvee Bryan G. Carillo, Ph.D.

Editor-in-Chief:

Aeron P. Bermudez

Associate Editor:

Eula Dee A. Lañada

Graphic Artist/Circulation:

Kent Edward S. Ballesteros

Contributors to this Issue:

Jayson S. Baldoz | Kent Edward S. Ballesteros | Louella DC. Cudal | Reinalyn C. Gulen | Eula Dee A. Lañada | Maurice A. Pineda | Guia D. Reyes | Meamette Y. Rosario

Photo Credits:

Project Implementers

Quarterly published by
Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Training Institute
Regional Training Center III
San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan 2110
ati.da.gov.ph/ati-3/

Printed in the Philippines
Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.



ATI-Central Luzon, OPA-Nueva Ecija, CLSU, and CLAARRDEC organize turnover ceremony of equipment for FITS enhancement in Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija graced by its mayor, Hon. Baby Armi Alvarez.

ATI-CL brings agri info, technology closer to farmers in Central Luzon

Farmers in Central Luzon will have access to agricultural information and technology services through the enhancement of Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers in the region.

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and CLAARRDEC, enhanced 12 Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers in the region in September this year to improve their services as well as reach more farmers in their municipality.

ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, stressed the importance of the role of FITS Centers in the municipalities. *"Malaki ang tulong ng ating mga FITS Centers sa mga munisipyo. Ang FITS Center*

ay pinapabilis ang information dissemination regarding agricultural technology galing sa ating mga researchers and other government institutions papunta sa ating mga farmers and fishers," he quipped.

The following enhanced FITS Centers were awarded with ICT tools and equipment to enhance their services in a series of turnover ceremonies held on September 19-29, 2023: (1) Mariveles, Bataan, (2) Abucay, Bataan, (3) Orani, Bataan, (4) Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, (5) Talugtug, Nueva Ecija, (6) Norzagaray, Bulacan, (7) OPA-Pampanga, (8) OPA-Zambales, (9) Cabangan, Zambales, (10) Baler, Aurora, (11) Pura, Tarlac; and (12) La Paz, Tarlac.

Engr. Agapito Pascual, Municipal Agriculturist of Norzagaray, said that the enhancement gave them a big

boost in their operations. *"Asahan ninyo na pangangalagaan namin itong mga ICT tools and equipment para mas marami pa kaming farmers na seserbisyohan. Welcome ang lahat ng farmers dito sa aming FITS Center at pwede nilang gamitin itong mga equipment kasi para sa inyo ito,"* he shared.

ATI-CL has been enhancing FITS Centers since 2017 to improve their services. The FITS Center is one of the components of the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) together with the Magsasaka Siyentista, Information Education Communication (IEC) materials and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) tools. The TGP is an extension modality intended to bring science- or technology-based information and services closer to end-users in the agriculture and fisheries sector. **(EDLañada)**

CL farmer-youth tandems explore digital agri apps through SATs

Ten (10) Youth-Farmer tandems finished the Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies (SATs) Digital Technologies (Phase 2: DFP 103) at Myriad Farms, Guimba, Nueva Ecija on July 17-19, 2023.

The said training tackled new technologies using smartphone applications and precision agriculture to attain better yield and lesser cost in rice farming.

The participants used the different agricultural applications to enhance their smart farming journey. They used Binhing Palay App, Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service, Leaf Color Chart, and Pest Risk Identification and Management (PRIME) App in the field.

In addition, Dr. Lowell D. Rebillaco, Regional Rice Focal Person of DA-RFO



Farmer and youth tandems in Guimba, Nueva Ecija finish Smart Agriculture Technologies Digital Technologies (Phase 2: DFP 103) held in Myriad Farms.

Ill, shared the updates on the Rice Industry in Central Luzon. He also discussed the F2C2 program of the department.

Meanwhile, Mr. Reyden Ladines of Land Bank of the Philippines – Nueva Ecija Lending Center presented **continued on page 12...**

CL Corn Coordinators finish season-long training on ICM for Corn

Twenty-five (25) agricultural extension workers and corn coordinators from Central Luzon finished the Season-long Training of Trainers (SL-TOT) on Integrated Crop Management for Corn leading to NC II through a graduation ceremony conducted at Palayan City, Nueva Ecija on July 14, 2023.

The season-long training of trainers on integrated crop management for corn, which ran for around five (5) months, served as a training ground for AEWs to learn the necessary technologies and communication skills to effectively deliver the knowledge they have gained.

Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter, National Director of ATI, challenged the AEWs to be the catalyst to the



Central Luzon corn coordinators and farmers in Palayan City finish TOT on Integrated Crop Management for Corn and Farmers' Field School.

farmers for the sustainable development of corn production in the region.

"It is our role in the DA to tap all the possible partners for development who will paint a brighter future in the sector, and the AEWs are a big part of the picture. *Magsisimula ang lahat*

ng ito sa pagbabahagi ng inyong kaalaman at kasanayan na mas marami pang lokal na pamahalaan at komunidad. In other words, rigorous work starts after this training," she stressed.

Meanwhile, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, ATI-CL Center Director, introduced **continued on page 11...**

ATI-CL, PAA-Tamarind Chapter organize project proposal writing workshop for CL AEWs

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with the Philippine Agriculturist Association (PAA-Tamarind Chapter), implemented the Training-Workshop on Research and Extension Project Proposal Writing on July 12-13, 2023 at Crown Royale Hotel, Balanga City, Bataan.

This partnership of ATI-CL with the PAA-Tamarind Chapter holds great potential in engaging the agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and faculty members in agriculture to become a dynamic actors of social enterprise and agricultural development.

The training aimed to recognize the essential role of AEWs as key players in bridging innovations and technologies to farm settings. Through this training, they have become more aware of how to prepare an impactful extension and research project proposal worthy of funding.

During the activity Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, ATI-CL Center Director, discussed the ATI Programs, Projects, and Extension Grants



Ms. Reinalyn Gulen (center) receive certificate as one of the panel of judges during the presentation of proposals among participants of the training.

Guidelines. Meanwhile, Ms. Reinalyn C. Gulen, Agriculturist II, served as panel during the presentation of the capsule proposal on extension and research projects.

A total of 72 AEWs and SUC faculty and staff attended the said workshop.

The implementation of the training is an offshoot of the Memorandum of Agreement entered into by ATI-CL and PAA-Tamarind Chapter for the continuing professional development of agriculturists in the region and implementation of related projects on June 9, 2023. **(RCGulen)**

ATI-CL, DA-RFO III monitors 1449 CL farmers using MEL Tool

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III), monitored 1,450 farmers across the region using Outcome-based Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) tool in June to September this year.

The team monitored and evaluated the following number of farmers in the region with corresponding provinces and dates:

- 235 farmers in Nueva Ecija on June 12-15, 2023 and July 11-14, 2023;

- 210 farmers in Tarlac on July 18-21, 2023;
- 182 farmers in Bulacan on July 27-28, 2023 and August 22-24, 2023;
- 201 farmers in Bataan on August 3, 2023 and September 6-8, 2023;
- 215 farmers in Zambales on August 8-11, 2023;
- 204 farmers in Aurora on August 14-18, 2023; and
- 202 farmers in Pampanga on August 30-September 1, 2023.

The MEL Tool is a digital tool for DA's Rice Program to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the

various rice program interventions to farmers. The data gathered includes planting information, RCMAS recommendation, seed intervention, fertilizer subsidy, harvest and other information about the farmer and his farm lot.

The conduct of the region-wide MEL through monitoring web application per province is an offshoot of the regional roll-out of the said tool on June 12-15, 2023 held in Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija among ATI staff; DA-RFO III staff, and agricultural extension workers (AEWs). **(LMCudal)**

ATI-CL, BAFE initiate structural analysis training for AF infrastructure

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in collaboration with the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE), spearheaded the Training Course on Structural Analysis using Staad.Pro Connect Edition (Workshop on Instructional Analysis for Agricultural and Fisheries Infrastructure) at ATI-RTC III Government Complex, San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan on August 21-25, 2023.

The training course objective is to capacitate the participants from various municipalities in Central Luzon with the knowledge and technical skills in the conduct of structural analysis especially since they are mandated to prepare, evaluate, validate, and recommend engineering plans, designs and technical specifications on agricultural and fisheries infrastructure projects.

The Director of the Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE), Engr. Ariodear Rico, underscored the significance of the training program in enhancing the competence of ABE professionals in the country.



Selected participants of the structural analysis training accomplished the levelling of expectations activity as part of the training course.

"Nais kong magpasalamat sa opportunity na ito at sobrang natuto ako. Medyo challenging dito sa training na ito dahil kailangan mong ifamiliarize yung mga standard at factor na dapat nating iconsider pagdating sa pag-analyze ng structure at design," shared Engr. John Peter J. Subiaga, a participant.

With the help of esteemed experts from the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) Head Office, the participants gained valuable insights and technical skills that will contribute to the growth and development of Central Luzon's agricultural and fisheries sectors. **(JSBaldoz)**

Farm owners explore climate resilient farming technologies, farming business

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon, in partnership with Villar SIPAG Foundation, conducted the Training Course on Climate-Resilient Farm Business School in support to Gender and Development Program on August 9-18, 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



Participants of CRFBS visit VillarSIPAG farm in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

increase their income by treating their farm as a business.

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. **(MAPineda)**



ATI-Central Luzon team receive top performer certificate from Dir. Remelyn R. Recoter, ATI National Director and Ms. Antonieta Arceo, Deputy Director.

ATI-CL bags top performer award during Mid-Year Performance Review

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) was hailed as a top performer during the ATI Mid-Year Performance in Laoag City, Ilocos Norte on July 20, 2023.

As a top performer, ATI-CL achieved 100% accomplishment across all fund

sources and timeliness for the first semester of FY 2023.

In addition, the Center was named Top 2 in overall utilization of fund allocation for Current and Continuing Appropriations covering the first semester.

Further, ATI-CL Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, presented the accomplishment of the Center during the said event. Dr. Belarmino further stressed the importance of the support of the Center's partners and stakeholders for accomplishing this feat. **(EDLañada)**

ATI-CL, BSWM spearhead agro-hydrology, diversion dam design training for AEWs

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in collaboration with Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), implemented the 11-day specialized training course on Agro-Hydrology and Dam Design for Diversion Dam among agricultural extension workers (AEWs) on August 7-17, 2023 at ATI-RTC III Government Complex, San Ramon, Dinalupihan, Bataan.

The training aimed to enhance the participants' technical capability in the planning and designing of diversion

dam including preparation of plans and program of works for their proposed projects.

"Dahil dito sa training na ito, natuto ako sa mga components na dapat tandaan sa pag design ng diversion dam. Pinapangako ko sa inyo na itong aking mga natutunan ay aking ibabahagi sa aking mga officemates," said Engr. Daryl Flora, one of the participants.

Another participant, Engr. Honey Jean Densing, expressed that she learned a lot during the training.

"Nagpapasalamat ako sa lahat ng itinuro niyo sa akin, sa umpisa, nasa 1.5 lang ako out of 10 pagdating sa knowledge ng dam design. Ang katotohanan po ay marunong lang ako bumasa ng plano pero pagdating sa designing wala po akong alam. Salamat po sa inyo dahil ang dami kong baon pag-uwi ko dahil halos lahat natutunan ko dito," she highlighted.

The final day of the training brought together the collective efforts of the participants as they presented their ***continued on page 14...***



MARIA AURORA FARMER SCIENTISTS ASSOCIATION: *Creating opportunities for Aurora corn farmers*

by: Eula Dee A. Lañada

The second-most significant crop in the Philippines is corn. In addition to transportation services, traders, processors, and suppliers of agricultural inputs who directly profit from corn production, processing, marketing, and distribution, some 600,000 farm households rely on corn as a primary source of income.

Taking a thorough look at the market, we can see that corn and products made from it are widely used. But according to a study done in 2022 and released by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies, corn farming is one of the least developed agricultural subsectors in the nation.

According to the report, the Philippines has one of the lowest corn yields among the ASEAN nations. This is somewhat related to the average corn farm size in the Philippines, which is a barrier to economies of scale for the country's maize growers.

With this, the Department of Agriculture (DA) aimed to increase the production of high-quality corn and cassava for food, feed, and industrial uses. Additionally, provide farmers more power and revenue, which will improve their quality of life.

ESTABLISHMENT OF MAFSA

In 2014, the Local Government Unit of Maria Aurora, Aurora through its municipal corn coordinator, Ms. Rowena Calip, established the Maria Aurora Farmer Scientists Association or MAFSA in Brgy. Decoliat together with the DA and Agricultural Training Institute (ATI). The MAFSA is composed of corn farmers in the community.

After this, the corn farmers within the organization started to attend training activities. *"Dahil sa pagtatag ng MAFSA, natulungan ang bawat miyembro at nagkaroon sila ng makinarya na magagamit sa kanilang pagmamaisan,"* shared Ms. Calip.

MAFSA'S LEGACY

Calip also stressed that the farmers learned the proper technologies and best practices on corn farming. *"Natutunan din nila ang iba't ibang pamamaraan mula sa pagtatanim, pagpapataba, pagpuksa ng mga insekto ganun din sa kanilang pag-aani, 'yung tamang panahon,"* Calip said.



This was confirmed by Marivic Amiles, a member of MAFSA, in an interview. Amiles shared that she learned the proper way of planting corn through the organization. *“Dahil sa MAFSA, natutunan ko kung paano ang tamang pagtanim ng mais. Hindi tulad ng dati na ang aming pagtanim ay dikit dikit kaya maliliit ang bunga. Noong nasa MAFSA na ako, gumanda ang mga bunga,”* she stressed.

Another member of MAFSA and its current treasurer, Simeona Viernes, said that she was introduced to advanced farming technology through the group.

“Nang dahil sa MAFSA, sa pagbibigay kaalaman ng aming samahan, nagawa po naming sundan ang mga advanced technology. Alam na namin kung ilang amount ng pataba ang dapat ilagay sa isang ektarya at kung kailan maglalagay ng pataba at pesticide,” Viernes quipped.

This also posed a big improvement in the farmer’s harvest. From 30 bags of harvest, their harvest went up to 80 to 100 bags after becoming a member of MAFSA.

“Noong panahong hindi pa namin alam itong aking mga nalalaman ngayon sa pagsasaka ng mais, nakaka-30 bags lang ang aming naani sa isang ektarya. Ngayon, nakaka-ani na po kami ng 80 to 100 bags kapag maganda ang panahon,” the MAFSA member said.

The members were also introduced to integrated farming. *“Hindi lang po mais ang pwedeng itanim sa panahon ng pagtanim, pwede din po maglagay o magtanim sa daanan nya para maging integrated ang farm,”* Viernes added.

With integrated farming, the farmers will expect income from other crops if the corn planting season is over.

SUCCESS IN CORN FARMING

As the group’s coordinator, Rowena challenged the farmers to practice the learnings that the farmers got from the training activities they attended and they should share them to their fellow farmers.

“Kailangang isabuhay nila ang kanilang mga natutunan sa training upang makatulong din sa kapwa nila magsasaka. Lahat ng kanilang natutunan ay kanilang isabuhay upang umangat din ang kanilang kabuhayan,” the coordinator urged.

Before MAFSA, the members were applying fertilizer just by guessing and whatever is available in their farm. They even quipped that whatever they want to apply in their crops, they will do it.

Now, because of their experiences and exposure to training activities specifically to corn farming, they have improved their farming activities as well as their quality of life.





ATI-Central Luzon, DA-RFO III, BFAR III award Php 900,000.00 to the Provincial Local Government Unit of Aurora for PAFES implementation.

ATI-CL, DA-RFO III, BFAR III award cash grants to CL provinces for PAFES implementation

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), together with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III (DA-RFO III) and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources III, awarded cash grants to several provinces in Central Luzon in July to September this year for the Provincial-Led Agriculture

Fisheries Extension System (PAFES) implementation.

Spearheaded by its Center Director, Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, ATI-CL awarded a total of Php900,000.00 each to the following Provincial Local Government Units with corresponding dates:

- July 25, 2023 – Aurora;
- July 26, 2023 – Tarlac;
- July 27, 2023 – Zambales;
- August 23, 2023 – Bulacan; and
- September 8, 2023 – Bataan.

The said fund was allocated to support the priority activities

continued on page 12...

Aurora coconut farmers join native cattle prod'n training

With the goal of increasing the productivity of livestock system of coconut farmers, the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) implemented a five-day Training of Trainers on Native Cattle Production and Management on July 31 until August 4, 2023 in Aurora.

This training was conducted at Fabros Cacao Farm and Nursery,

Maria Aurora, Aurora in partnership with the Villar Sipag Foundation, Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), and Provincial Veterinary Office of Aurora (PVET).

A total of 16 farmer leaders and 4 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) participated in the said training. The activity aims to

increase the productivity of livestock system with emphasis on cattle production to motivate the coconut farmers and to utilize their coconut area for raising livestock as source of extra income.

The said training is one of the activities under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). **(MAPineda)**



A farmer-participant of the focus group discussion of RCEF strategic communication outcome discusses the resource map among the group.

CL RCEF Implementers evaluate RCEF strategic communication outcome in the region

The Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) implementers composed of the Agricultural Training Institute, Philippine Rice Research Institute, and Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization conducted the RCEF Strategic Communication Outcome Evaluation on August 29-31, 2023 in The Redd Manor Condotel, City of San Fernando, Pampanga.

Two farmers' cooperatives namely Sta. Monica Farmers' Marketing Cooperative and Sta. Ana Agricultural Multipurpose Cooperative were the subject of the focus group discussion in the said activity.

The RCEF implementers assessed the intervention of RCEF communication materials to the farmers and how the information helped them in their farms. To assess the farmers, the activity consists of the following:

understanding the framing context; identifying farmers' information-seeking behavior, communication needs, mass media, preferred sources of information, and consumption; and communication strategies.

This activity aims to monitor and assess the progress and developments of the RCEF in achieving the objectives of the RCEF Strategic Communication Projects. **(MYRosario)**

CL Corn Coordinators finish... from page 4...

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar, Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Food, and Agrarian Reform who served as the Keynote Speaker for the event. He also said that this season-long training aims to develop pool of experts in integrated crop management for corn in the region.

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar delivered her speech in a video message and she expressed her support to the

graduates and encouraged them to share their learnings to the farmers in their respective municipalities.

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, the said FFS were implemented on March 23, 2023 until July 5, 2023 in five (5) sites

in Palayan City: Brgy. Mapait; Brgy. Aulo; Brgy. Doña Josefa; Brgy. Popolon; and Brgy. Marcos Village. A total of 113 farmers from the said barangays also graduated from the Farmers Field School (FFS) during the graduation ceremony.

The said SL-TOT on ICM ran from February 27, 2023 to July 14, 2023 in Palayan City, Nueva Ecija. **(EDLañada)**

ATI-CL launches 4-H Learning Hub in Palayan City

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL) launched its 4-H Learning Hub located in ATI-RTC III, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija on July 14, 2023.

The activity started with a holy mass and blessing of the 4-H learning hub. In addition, Dr. Joey Belarmino presented and shared the said hub to the guests. *"Ang 4-H Learning Hub na ito ay para sa mga kabataan natin dito sa rehiyon. Dito natin ganapin ang mga agricultural training at activities ng 4-H para matulungan nating maging maunlad ang kanilang mga sakahan at kabuhayan,"* he said.

Meanwhile, Dir. Remelyn R. Recoter, ATI National Director, challenged the 4-H Club members and youth to maximize the said hub to its full potential. Further, Mr. Bernardo Valdez said that they will support the young farmers in their endeavors especially in the City of Palayan.

Dir. Remelyn R. Recoter, ATI National Director; Mr. Bernardo Valdez, Provincial Agriculturist of Nueva Ecija;



Dir. Remelyn R. Recoter, ATI National Director; Mr. Ronel de Guzman, 4-H Central Luzon Federation President; Mr. Bernardo Valdez, Provincial Agriculturist of OPA-Nueva Ecija; and Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, ATI-CL Center Director, initiate the ribbon cutting for the 4-H Hub launching.

Dr. Joey A. Belarmino, Center Director of ATI-CL; Ms. Mabel Esguerra from VillarSIPAG Foundation; Mr. Ronel De Guzman, 4-H Regional Federation President; Mr. Michael Grande, 4-H Provincial President-Bataan; 4-H Club members from Bataan and Zambales; LSA Cooperators; ATI-RTC III staff; Season-long training of trainers on

corn participants/corn coordinators attended the said launching.

The activity capped off with a tour to the rooms, facilities and amenities in the 4-H learning hub. Part of the said hub is the Knowledge Resource Center and 4-H products display area. **(EDLañada)**

ATI-CL, DA-RFO III, BFAR III award... *from page 10...*

interventions identified by the province under the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP). Nueva Ecija opted for ATI-managed co-financing agreement while Pampanga will receive their cash grant in 4th quarter this year.

PAFES shall serve as the institutional arrangement in integrating the implementation of our various programs and related support services. It aims to further strengthen the capability of LGUs to implement and integrate multiple agriculture and fisheries programs with the provinces.

With PAFES, the province serves as an extension hub of ATI-CL and DA-RFO III that synchronizes agricultural plans and programs as well as orchestrate the activities of the various stakeholders in the respective provinces of Central Luzon. **(EDLanada)**

CL farmer-youth tandems explore... *from page 4...*

the Agricultural Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ACEF) and Expanded Rice Credit Assistance Under Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (ERCA-RCFE) program to give the participants an idea about the credit policies that may support their agriculture venture.

Moreover, New Hope Precision Agriculture Corporation presented and demonstrated the drone technology for agriculture. The team showcased fertilizer application in the farm using drone. Further, representatives from the Municipal Agriculture Office of Guimba, Ms. Belinda Refuerzo and

Mr. Allan Paul Angel, taught the participants on how to measure field area using of GPS device.

The SATs Phase 2 deals with advanced agriculture technologies compared with the SATs Phase 1. **(KESBallesteros)**

Three young Central Luzon farmers undergo internship in Taiwan

Three (3) young Central Luzon farmers are currently in Taiwan for the Filipino Young Farmer Internship Program (FYFIP) in partnership with Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) and Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines (TECO).

Mr. Joseph Christian G. Binuya from Baler, Aurora; Mr. Benhur B. Lid-Ayan from Maria Aurora, Aurora; and Mr. Erwin S. Gonzales from San Ildefonso, Bulacan went to Taiwan on August 10, 2023 for the said internship program.

When asked about his goals after the internship, Erwin Gonzalez from San Ildefonso, Bulacan said, "I hope to gain more knowledge and experience in farming technologies that I can apply when I return home, and also explore other opportunities in countries like Japan and Canada."

The FYFIPT program aims to improve the skills and knowledge of young farmers in the Philippines. This will help them to achieve their goals and contribute to the



The young Central Luzon farmers together with their parents attend the send-off ceremony for the internship program in ATI, Diliman, Quezon City.

sustainability of the agriculture sector.

The Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with MECO-TECO in December 2020 enhancing the existing friendly relations between the agriculture and fishery authorities.

The MOU provides for an 11-month subsidized internship program in Taiwan for qualified young Filipino farmers.

The training module includes modern agricultural and fisheries techniques, marketing strategies, cooperative management, enhancement of competencies, discipline and work values. **(EDLañada)**

ATI-CL, DA initiate scaling of rice technologies workshop in Luzon

The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), in partnership with the Department of Agriculture (DA)-National Rice Program, organized the workshop on Scaling of Rice Technologies in 2024 for Luzon cluster in Travellers Hotel, Subic, Zambales on September 12-15, 2023.

The participants of the activity came from DA-Regional Field

Offices, ATI Central and Training Centers, Provincial Local Government Units of Luzon, and different civil society organizations

The workshop aimed to present and discuss available technologies on modern rice farming and across value chains that are readily available for adoption at the cluster level; showcase the technologies through a project visit; and

conduct a workshop on how to scale these technologies in the identified rice-producing provinces in 2024.

A series of presentations and discussion on Palayamanan, System of Rice Intensification, Agroecology based Rice Farming, Heirloom Rice and Tarriela Technique in Seedling Preparation were tackled during the activity. **(RCGulen)**



Livestock ext'n workers in the region participate in meat and goat production training held in ATI Satellite Center, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

CL Livestock ext'n workers immerse in meat, dairy goat prod'n

Twenty (20) livestock extension workers across the region completed the Training on Meat and Dairy Goat Production held on September 18-22, 2023 at ATI RTC III, Satellite Center, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija.

Initiated by the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Luzon (ATI-CL), the training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of livestock extension workers in the modality of goat production and management.

The first three days of training focused on the discussion on goat industry

status, production system, goat housing, stock management, breeds and breeding, animal nutrition, impact of climate change to goat farming, milking procedure and processing and simple recording system.

Dr. Franklin C. Barnachea, Associate Professor I from President Ramon Magsaysay State University (PRMSU); Mr. Melchor P. Pascua, Community Development Specialist; Ms. Lara Melissa Navalta, Instructor; and Ma. Concepcion M. Lagmay, Science Research Assistant from Central

Luzon State University (CLSU) served as resource speakers for the five-day training.

The participants also visited the R.O. Valerio Farm, Learning Site for Agriculture of ATI-CL, located in Bacolor, Pampanga where they experienced hand milking of goats and bottle milk feeding, hoof trimming, drug administration and ultrasonography.

Capping off the activity was the presentation of the participants' re-entry plan. **(GDReyes)**

individual diversion dam designs. Each participant articulated their strategies for applying the acquired knowledge and demonstrated their conceptual understanding through comprehensive project designs.

Their presentations were critiqued by esteemed experts from the collaborating agency, the Bureau of Soils and Water Management

in which they added a valuable layer of evaluation and refinement to the participants' outputs. Their insights and constructive feedback contributed to shaping the participants' projects and enhancing their understanding of practical application. The session of participant presentations and critiques exemplified the collaborative nature of the training course. It fostered a

platform for the exchange of ideas, practical insights, and professional evaluation.

These new batch of graduates with enhanced technical capability, knowledge and attitude in the planning and designing of Diversion Dam are poised to make a positive impact in the field of irrigation project management. **(JSBaldoz)**



70th FARM YOUTH (4-H) NATIONAL CONVENTION



Delegates from Region 3 participate in the 70th Farm Youth National Convention 2023 in Malay, Aklan.

4-H Central Luzon bags major awards during the 70th Farm Youth National Convention 2023

by: Meamette Y. Rosario



The 4-H Club Philippines conducted the 70th Farm Youth National Convention with the theme "4-H EVOLVE: Expanding the Value of Leadership and Volunteerism over 70 Years of 4-H Excellence" held on August 1-4, 2023, at La Carmela de Boracay, Malay, Aklan.

The 4-H Central Luzon placed as 2nd in the overall rank and bagged the following major awards in the National Excellence Achievers Award (NEAA):

1st Place Hands Category

Richard D. Calidro
Maria Aurora 4-H Club

2nd Place Heart Category

Eunie May B. Fernando
Future Home Makers Club (4-H Calabaunan)

Most Outstanding 4-H Club Coordinator (Finalist)

Leah R. Lombres

1st Place Health Category

Rovick Ann P. Medoza
4-H Club President Ramon Magsaysay State University-Nagbunga

2nd Place 4-H Promotional

Merchandise Contest
Joshua Hernandez

Most Outstanding 4-H Club Members (Finalist)

Eunie May B. Fernando
Venus D. Daleon

4-H clubs nationwide gathered in Boracay to participate in the said event. 4-H Davao Region came in first in the overall rank.



Kailangang isabuhay nila ang kanilang mga natutunan sa training upang makatulong din sa kapwa nila magsasaka. Lahat ng kanilang natutunan ay kanilang isabuhay upang umangat din ang kanilang kabuhayan.

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.

CONTACT US!



atiregion3@ati.da.gov.ph



(047) 240-5035



ati2.da.gov.ph/ati-3



ATI Central Luzon



@aticentralluzon



@aticentralluzon



ATI Central Luzon

