

#### AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE Regional Training Center CALABARZON

ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

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# **ABOUT THE COVER**

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In today's volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous (VUCA) world, disruptions and unforeseen challenges take place. Nevertheless, these constant changes are windows of opportunities towards innovation and development.

Reflecting back on year 2023, DA - Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) CALABARZON's journey has been a bumpy yet dynamic and worthwhile year. The Center has experienced various challenges internally and externally along the process. Nonetheless, these hurdles did not bring the Center's deliverables to halt, instead pivoted to strengthen the organization, improve systems, and opened doors for collaboration within ATI, as well as with AFE partners. Thus, for DA - ATI CALABARZON, year 2023 is a year of joining forces, a year of working together, a year of **coalescence**.

**Coalescence** (co.a.les.cence), from prefixes **co** - which means "together", and Latin word **alescere**, meaning to "grow", implies merging of similar parts to form a cohesive unit. It is also defined as growing together; to fuse into a whole; and unite for a common end (Merriam-Webster, n.d.)

The Center optimized its workforce and leveraged strong partnerships among extension service providers, by working together to provide relevant extension services in the region. Cohesive activities and complementary undertakings were among

the essence of CALABARZON's extension initiatives. Furthermore, harnessing the potential of Center's workforce by bringing out their undiscovered expertise and capabilities, along with empowering extension actors through relevant interventions, have fostered growth not only within ATI CALABARZON, but with the stakeholders in the region.

DA - ATI CALABARZON will continue its commitment in providing relentless extension services towards enhancing capacities for efficient production; improving competitiveness through agripreneurship; ensuring nourished farm/fisher families, and consumers; and strengthening agricultural extension institutions and empowering extension stakeholders.

We at ATI CALABARZON value the essence of collaboration, complementation, and **coalescence**.

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#### ANNUAL ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

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## **OUR VISION**

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

## **OUR MISSION**

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

### **ATI'S CORE VALUES**

The Institute supports the government's objectives of accountability, transparency, ethics and integrity. With the Institute's core values that direct the way we relate to our stakeholders, beneficiaries and to each other, we, at the ATI adhere and uphold the following values:

- **1.** Customer Focus. "We give the best."
- 2. Commitment. "We serve with passion."
- 3. Innovation and Excellence. "We keep raising the bar."
- **4.** Resource Stewardship. "We work with integrity and teamwork."



# Message from the **CENTER DIRECTOR**

The Philippine agriculture industry experienced a sea change in 2023 as it navigated a terrain sculpted by an innovative combination of resiliency, technological advancement, and shifting demographic realities. Being the backbone of the country's economy, the industry positioned itself for long-term prosperity by embracing possibilities and coping with challenges.

At the regional level, coalescence may be seen in the collaborative endeavors of the DA-Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Regional Training Center CALABARZON, farmers, fisherfolks, stakeholders, and other partner agencies. This is demonstrated by the skillful combination of traditional knowledge and methods with state-of-the-art technology, all of which are necessary to address the problems facing the industry and move it in the direction of a more stable and fruitful future.

As we commence our journey through this annual accomplishment report, it gives me great pleasure to highlight the astounding developments and triumphs that have molded our team's efforts. It is an honor to consider the commitment, tenacity, and creativity demonstrated by each employee of our Center, as well as our valued extension partners. This assessment tells the story of our collective quest for excellence, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for helping us along the way.

As we move forward, the valuable lessons that we've acquired from the remarkable previous year's chapters serve as a roadmap. Driven by enthusiasm of our shared journey, DA-ATI CALABARZON is setting sail for new frontiers, and will remain steadfast, inspired, and unified in pursuing the achievements of our mission.





#### Fostering Growth through Partnerships & Empowerment

2023 has been a year of opportunities – to learn and grow. Many windows have opened to harness DA-ATI CALABARZON's human resources towards building capacities and empowerment. Similarly, strengthened partnerships with existing stakeholders, and building networks with new collaborators were among the cornerstones of DA-ATI CALABARZON's journey.

#### **In-house Review**

With the theme, Exploring Service Innovations toward a Sustainable Agriculture and Fisheries Extension, DA-ATI CALABARZON has conducted its 2<sup>nd</sup> In-house Assessment on June 2, 2023 at the Center's training hall. The activity aimed at showcasing and recognizing ongoing and completed projects developed by the Center, and nurturing competitiveness and camaraderie among staff by sharing their innovations and experiences about their projects through an inter-section/unit competition.

The Career Development and Management Section (CDMS) bagged two awards: **Best Project and Best Project Poster Award** for their project, "Laying the Foundation through the ETMCD towards Developing new Breed of Competent and Adaptive AEWs via Knowledge Mentoring and Exchange."



#### **Pepping-Up Activity**

As DA-ATI CALABARZON constantly upholds the value of collaboration as an important component towards achieving optimal results, the Center also seeks to further motivate and reengage the workforce. A series of structured team building activities, dubbed as *Pepping-up* was conducted from March to September 2023 with the aim of providing every staff, through its section/units, developmental and recreational activities that would recognize their contributions and foster team building for better organizational performance.

#### STAARRDEC Engagements

Over the years, DA-ATI CALABARZON has been an active Consortium Member Institution (CMI) of the Southern Tagalog Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Research Development and Extension Consortium (STAARRDEC) in the promotion of AANR technologies through extension. This is further strengthened by the designation of Center Director (CD), Dr. Rolando V. Maningas and OIC, Assistant Center Director (ACD), Ms. Sherylou Alfaro as Technology Transfer representative for executive board and Technology Transfer Coordinator for secretariat, respectively.



In 2023, numerous engagements were carried out by the Center together with the consortium. One of which

is the Center's active involvement in STAARRDEC's 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Research and Innovation Week (RRIW) held on October 23 to 26, 2023 at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, where DA-ATI CALABARZON has secured the **2<sup>nd</sup> spot for Best Paper** – Extension Project for the entry, *Halamanan sa Bahay- Kalinga: An Extension* 



Innovation on Inclusivity and Empowerment. Similarly, the 2023 Ekstensyonistang OA was co-managed and co-funded by the consortium, as one of the major highlights during the RRIW.

**Ms. Stephanie Viterbo of Magdalena**, **Laguna** was announced as champion of the said activity. Lastly, the Center participated in the event's booth exhibit, showcasing products of region's Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) and Private Agriculture and Fisheries-Extension Service Providers (PAF-ESPs), and a total of **192 IEC materials distributed**.

#### Initial Development of Training Curriculum on Smart-Greenhouse Agriculture Technologies

The Center, together with the Information and Services Division of Central Office, sat down with Bukid Amara Agri Farm (ATI CALABARZON's certified LSA) to conceptualize and draft the training curriculum for the national Training of Trainers (TOT) on Smart Greenhouse Agriculture Technologies. The TOT on Smart Greenhouse Agriculture will be the first intensive training course on smart greenhouse and urban agriculture technologies that will be offered by ATI, initially for national trainers. The said training will be then rolled out to different regions through the regional training centers.



#### 2023 PhilEASNet Virtual Extension Symposium and General Assembly Partaking

With the theme, Enhancing Rural Development through Digital Extension and Advisory Services, CD Dr. Rolando V. Maningas served as a plenary speaker on Center's initiatives and experiences through his talk, Extension: Institutionalized Extension Modality of Delivering Webinars through ATI@Home. Meanwhile, OIC, ACD Ms. Sherylou Alfaro also presented a project paper in the extension project category contest, with the entry, Halamanan sa Bahay-Kalinga: Advocating Inclusivity and Empowerment.





Establishment of Technology Empowerment for Education, Employment, Entrepreneurs, and Economic Development (Tech4ED) Center

DA-ATI CALABARZON was first among regional training centers to be established as a Tech4ED Center. This was made possible through the partnership between the Center and the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT). This project aims to serve as an access point for individuals and communities to bridge the digital education divide in agriculture and fisheries. Likewise, it also provides access to information, communication, technology, government services, non-formal education, skills training, health, employment, and business ventures.

## Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) Map *Phase I*

LSA Map is a web-based portal created and designed by the Center that presents basic information including geographical data of selected Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) and Private Agriculture and Fisheries-Extension Service Providers (PAF-ESP) in the region. Through DA-ATI CALABARZON's website and embedded on Google map, the map allows users to get basic information about a specific LSA and PAF-ESP by clicking the pinned location, including photos within the site premises. The next phase of the map development is the data completion of pilot-test LSAs and PAF-ESPs, and improvement of the interface. Final output of the project would be a fully-operational and interactive LSA-PAF ESP Map.

#### Enriching Knowledge and Building-up Networks on Coconut Farm Business School (Farmer-level): A Culminating Activity

125 coconut farmers visited various coconut-based enterprises in Quezon last December 13, 2023. This is part of the Farmer-Level Coconut Farm Business School (FBS) culminating activity dubbed as *Enriching Knowledge and Building-up Networks on Coconut FBS* under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). The activity also served as a venue for sharing of best practices, recognizing the participants' milestones in completing the FBS program, and acknowledging the efforts of the partners who have been contributory to the activity's success.

#### Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE) Program

DA- ATI CALABARZON was awarded as the **Best Implementer of the 30-Sow Level Multiplier Farm and Techno Demo** during the ATI-National Livestock Program Year-End Review and Assessment last November 20 to 24, 2023 at Royal Farm, Dipolog City. It was the Center's pilot **INSPIRE project**, in partnership with the Local Government of Silang, Cavite and Silang Livestock Agricultural Livestock Cooperative.

The INSPIRE Program is the recovery and repopulation program of the Department of Agriculture for the hog sector. The program focuses on the role of the Local Government Unit, Farmer Cooperative Associations, Department of Agriculture and various stakeholders to institutionalize biosecurity and disease control measures to ensure a safe and ASF - Free repopulation efforts leading to produce a sufficient supply of hogs in the region.





**Internship Program** 

Sixty-four (64) students from various public and private senior high schools and State Universities, and Colleges in Cavite immersed in an internship program at DA-ATI CALABARZON. Interns were exposed to administrative and technical operations from units and sections of the Center. Among the participating institutions were Cavite State University, Polytechnic University of the Philippines Maragondon, Trece Martires City Senior High School, St. Jude Parish School, and Immaculate Conception Academy.

#### **IS Achievers' Awards**

DA-ATI CALABARZON, through the Information Services Section (ISS), reaped the fruit of its continuous commitment to delivering quality and innovative information services as it bagged various awards in the 2023 Knowledge Management (KM) Updates held in Tupi, South Cotabato on December 5, 2023.



The Center reaped the following recognition and awards:

**Best School-on-the-Air Implementer** - for its notable performance in the implementation of the Schoolon-the-Air (SOA) Program, including innovations implemented, partnership arrangements and for garnering the highest number of graduates.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Highest Website Page Views** – garnering the highest number of website page views in 2023, following the prescribed corporate website format

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Most Updated ATI Center Website** - for consistently providing updated information through its official website, while also ensuring compliance with the corporate standards for CY 2023.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place, Best in Local Media Engagement**- for its notable partnerships with local print, broadcast, and online media to promote the programs and services of the Institute in 2023.

KM Updates is an annual event organized by the ATI Central Office - Information Services Division (ISD) to recognize top-performing Regional Training Centers in terms of innovative information services delivery.

#### **Center-Based KADIWA Retail Selling**

A total of **seven (7) farmers' cooperatives and associations (FCA)** and DA-ATI CALABARZON LSAs generated a total of **PhP 142,962.85** sales from the quarterly KADIWA retail stores set up at DA-ATI CALABARZON. This is a collaborative activity between the Center and DA-Regional Field Office IV - A through its Agricultural Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD).

**KADIWA** is an initiative of the DA that is programmed to ensure the availability and affordability of food in areas with high demand and in communities with lowincome consumers. It also aims to connect the farmers to consumers.



Inspired with all these collective achievements and driven by the hopes of the agriculture and fishery stakeholders, together, we will remain steadfast in the delivery of relevant extension services towards enhancing capacities for efficient production; improving competitiveness through agripreneurship; ensuring nourished farm/fisher families, and consumers; and strengthening agricultural extension institutions and empowering extension stakeholders in the region.

## AFE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 1: Enhancing Capacities for Efficient Production

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The strategic plan will strengthen commodity production through diversification and improved capacity of agricultural extension workers, extension service providers (ESPs) farmers and fishers on appropriate, innovative and climate-resilient technologies which will leverage the sector's productivity and income.



*Key Initiative*: Improve capability exchange of AEWs and ESPs to become competent new extensionists on appropriate and modern AF technologies

The Agricultural Training Institute focuses on ensuring that the government's existing support programs can keep up with current difficulties and meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in the agriculture and fisheries sector, the Regional Training Center in CALABARZON, in its capacity and dedication to providing stakeholders with up-to-date and appropriate agriculture and fisheries technology, and strong collaboration with partner agencies, continues to deliver extension programs to empower extension service providers through various activities that focus on opportunities for career development, enhancing farmers'/fishers' competency in adopting appropriate innovations, and flexible knowledge dissemination in all areas.

Recognizing the need for partnership building in agriculture and fishery development, the DA-ATI CALABARZON developed the *Extension and Training Management Capability Development Course (ETMCD)* to strengthen linkages, consolidate, and complement resources while also developing uniform standards for conducting extension and training interventions in the region. The training is a methodical approach to developing and improving the capabilities of new extension workers in the performance of their services. It was conducted in the month of March at the DA-ATI CALABARZON Training Hall, Brgy. Lapidario, Trece Martires City, Cavite. Twenty-two (22) Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from the region were trained in personality theories to gain a clearer and deeper understanding of themselves, evaluate mental health wellness and resiliency, define extension concepts and principles, qualities of extension workers including approaches, strategies, and methods, and the interrelationships of various stages of training and their critical tasks. The personnel of DA-ATI CALABARZON, who also developed the ETMCD module, led the weekly workshops in extension delivery, proposal creation, participatory rapid rural appraisal, and presentation skills.



In addition, with the passage of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund (CFITF) Act, also known as Republic Act 11524, the Department of Agriculture hopes to begin directing the industry to improve the competitiveness of traditional and non-traditional coconut products in global and domestic markets. DA-ATI's extension system implements capacity development activities for coconut industry stakeholders under the social protection component with the development of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). With this, DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted the 10day Intensive Specialist Course on Coconut Production and Management, in partnership with the Philippine Coconut Authority Region IV on March 6 to 16, 2023, at one of its partner Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) D' Farm Agricultural Plantation Inc., Sampaloc, Quezon.

Specialists from the Philippine Coconut Authority, ATI, Bureau of Plant Industry, Cooperative Development Authority, Bureau of Animal Industry, and DA Regional Field Office IV - A (HVCDP) trained twenty-two (22) technicians from various municipalities and cities in CALABARZON. Participants learned about nursery construction techniques, several types of planting, and optimum coconut spacing. Part of their training included identifying and learning about common coconut diseases and pests, as well as methods for controlling and managing them. The training's goal was to develop coconut technical specialists who will also function as Resource Persons capable of communicating themes on the many procedures, processes, and theories associated with the coconut value chain.

## *Key Initiative*: Strengthen capability exchange of farmers/fishers in the adoption of appropriate and modern technologies

Integrated farming systems, along with the use of modern farming technologies, are now being pursued to assist farmers and fishers in adapting to the changing agricultural and fisheries landscape. Thus, enhancing crop production by growing high-value crops like cacao and coffee, as well as engaging in animal production like native chicken and swine, are being promoted by the Department of Agriculture.

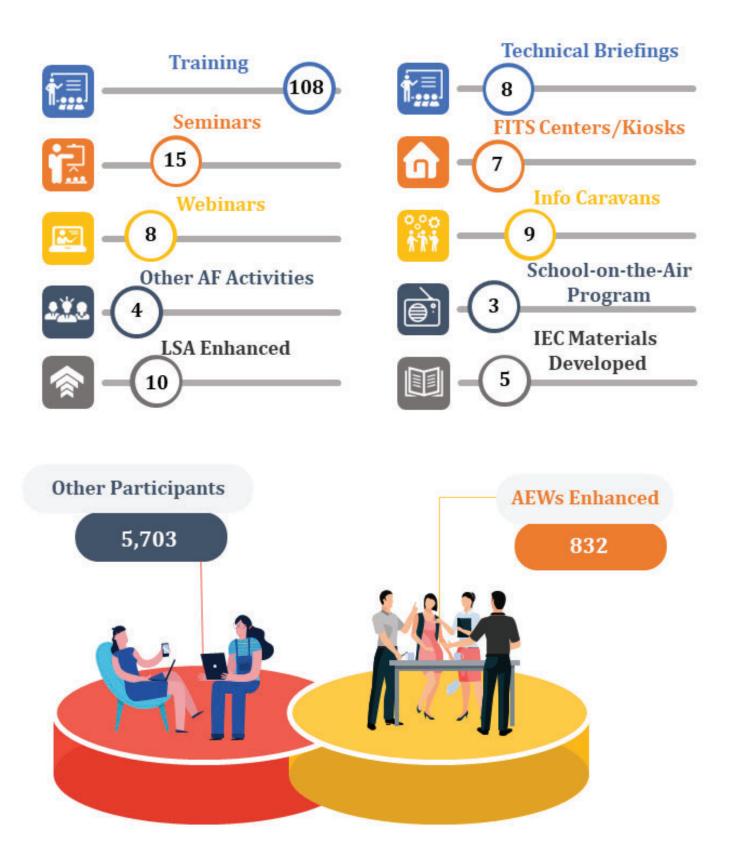
In recent years, the cocoa business has gained attention in both the domestic and export markets as the supply and demand imbalance for cocoa beans widens. Seeing this as an opportunity for the local industry, the *Training on Coconut-Cacao Farming System* was designed to teach farmers about the advantages of the coconut-cacao intercropped farming system. The Center conducted **three batches** of training in Sariaya and Tayabas City, Quezon; and Nagcarlan, Laguna.





Similarly, coffee is another high-value commodity in CALABARZON that is best intercropped with coconut. This year, **two batches** of *Training on Coconut-Coffee Farming System* were carried out in Tanay, Rizal; and Amadeo, Cavite to provide farmers with the necessary information and abilities in coffee production, coconut-coffee plantation management, harvest, and post-harvest technology.

Furthermore, the Center held **five batches** of *Native Pig Production and Management Training* in Sariaya, Dolores, and San Andres, Quezon; Cavinti, Laguna; and General Emilio Aguinaldo, Cavite, to supplement its communitybased agricultural enterprise development activities and boost coconut farmers' production, processing, valueadding, and entrepreneurial capabilities. Another set of trainings held this year included **five batches** of *Training on Native Chicken* for Farmer Level in Dolores, San Antonio, Atimonan, and Unisan, Quezon; and Calaca, Batangas, which concentrated on the fundamental knowledge and abilities of production and management. Summarizing the Center's activities to keep improving commodity production through diversification and enhanced capacity of agricultural extension workers, extension service providers (ESPs), farmers, and fishers on suitable, cutting-edge, and climate-resilient technologies that will utilize the sector's profitability and productivity through the use modern and applicable technologies amidst challenges in the agriculture and fisheries sector.





*Key Initiative*: Upskill farmers/fishers, AEWs and ESPs through distance learning programs and knowledge sharing activities

As a knowledge bank, the Institute facilitates intensive development and distribution of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and knowledge products for agriculture and fishery extension services.

DA- ATI CALABARZON engaged in initiatives to intensify and widen the scope of knowledge propagation of AFE services. In 2023, the Center partnered with Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Center – Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) Quezon in developing a picture book IEC material, **MgaKaibigangGulay**, intended for children and mother's appreciation and identification of various vegetables and its health benefits. Likewise, **Produksyon ng Vanilla**, was also developed in collaboration with Vilela's Farm, an expert on vanilla production and certified Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) of the Center. Copies of the said IEC materials were distributed to FITS Centers and trainees of urban agriculture seminar series.



In total, the Center **distributed 36,080 IEC materials** on various programs, including two issuances of its newsletter *SIKLAB*, during trainings, seminars, extension activities and daily operations of the e-Extension hub of the Center.



This year's 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> issuances of SIKLAB highlighted the successful adopters of technologies and good agricultural practices of farmers focusing on various commodities such as rice and mechanization, urban agriculture and RCEF. As a result of collaborative efforts with Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) IV-A, successful stories of fisherfolks, written by Agricultural Technologists were also featured in the 13<sup>th</sup> issue: Pagsuong sa Agos ng Buhay: Geojim Aquafarm Story and Trilohiyang Kwento ng Pakikipagsapalaran at Pag-asenso. A copy of the newsletters may be downloaded at the Center's website www.ati2.da.gov.ph/ati4a/ contents/publication



Additionally, the Center, through its Information Services Section (ISS) produced a compendium on one of its climate-resilient agriculture projects, *Pamayanang Laging Handa: Establishment of Climate Resilient Agriculture (CRA)* in Barangay Magsikap, General Nakar, Quezon. The compendium involves the Pamayanang Laging Handa project of DA-ATI CALABARZON with Philippine Coconut Authority Region IV, DA-Regional Field Office IV-A, Southern Luzon State University Lucban and the local government unit of General Nakar, Quezon, which contains the establishment of CRA to address and assist the LGU and key partners to risks and opportunities presented by future climatic changes and extreme weather events.

A soft launch of the compendium was held at the Center's booth during the Institute's 36<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at ATI compound, Diliman, Quezon City on January 25. Copies were also provided to contributors and key partners who contributed to the success of the project.



#### **Knowledge Resource Centers**

In order to widen the scope of knowledge propagation of AFE services, the ATI network continues to intensify its information drive and distribution of IEC materials through various channels such as established Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) centers, information hubs and kiosks.

FITS Centers serve as a one-stop facility made accessible to farmers, entrepreneurs and clients in a given area or locality. Anchored on the umbrella program of the Techno Gabay Program (TGP), it provides fast access to information and technologies in various forms, appropriate to the clients' needs. DA-ATI CALABARZON remains committed to strengthen TGP as an extension modality with the establishment of new FITS centers and kiosks, as well as enhancement programs, evaluation and endorsement of Magsasaka Siyentista (MS), and capability enhancement training.





To date, there are **70 FITS Centers** in the region, covering **49% of 142 municipalities in CALABARZON**. Meanwhile, **58 FITS Kiosks** have been established at DA-ATI CALABARZON's extension partner farms, partner SUCs, barangays at the LGUs, and Area Program Coordinating Office (APCO), to name a few.

Four (4) FITS Centers were established in the Municipal Agriculture Office of these LGUs:

Location	Fund Source	Date Launched	
San Antonio, Quezon	Rice Program	September 28, 2023	
Santa Maria, Laguna	RCEF Program	November 7, 2023	
Tiaong, Quezon	RCEF Program	November 23, 2023	
Silang, Cavite	Regular Program	November 29, 2023	

*FITS Kiosk*, an extension/service facility of the FITS Center usually located in a small space or corner within an institution, farm, or at the barangay provides ready access to IEC materials and services for farmers and clients within the community.

Seven (7) FITS Kiosks were established in 2023 in CALABARZON:

Location	Fund Source	Date Launched
Laly's Farmville, Cavinti, Laguna	Regular Program	November 7, 2023
Brgy. Umiray, Gen. Nakar, Quezon	Rice Program	June 26, 2023
Agrie's Integrated Farm, Magdalena, Laguna	Regular Program	December 6, 2023
Brgy. Talipan, Pagbilao, Quezon	RCEF Program	August 10, 2023
Provincial Government of Quezon, Lucena City	RCEF Program	August 10, 2023
Dasmariñas City Socio-Economic Building, Dasmariñas City	RCEF Program	September 11, 2023
Brgy. Paliparan III, Dasmariñas City, Cavite	RCEF Program	September 11, 2023



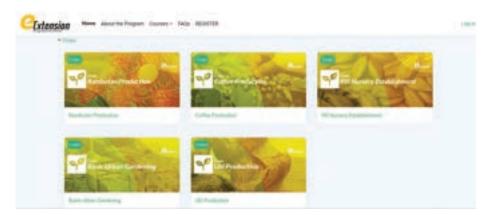
Another component of TGP is the *Magsasaka Siyentista* (*MS*) or *Farmer Scientist*, an outstanding farmer adopter of various package of technologies (POT), showcasing various S&T-based practices to other farmers and researchers. In 2023, the Center evaluated and endorsed **six (6) new Magsasaka Siyentista** focusing on various commodities such as rice, coffee, mushroom and smart technology.

Magsasaka Siyentista	Focus Commodity	FITS Center
Ms. Myrna Alonsagay	Mushroom (Production and	Trece Martires City
	Processing)	
Mr. Rodolfo P. Tibayan	Rice	Naic, Cavite
Mr. Carlo A. Sanz	Coffee	Mendez, Cavite
Ms. Mary Ann L. Soriano	Rice	Dasmariñas City
Mr. Victoriano P. Merle	Rice	Antipolo City
Mr. Rafael N. Natividad	Smart Technology	Antipolo City

#### e-Extension Program Management

The electronic delivery of extension service is undertaken through a network of institutions that provide a more efficient alternative to a traditional extension system for agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources sectors. It maximizes the use of information and communication technology (ICT) to attain a modernized agriculture and fisheries sector. It focuses on creating an electronic and interactive bridge where farmers, fishers, and other stakeholders meet and transact to enhance productivity, profitability, and global competitiveness.

In celebration of the 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the e-Extension program, the Institute introduced to the public the revamped website of the *e-Extension*, unveiling a brand-new learning experience for e-Learning users.





For its part, a course developer from DA-ATI CALABARZON participated in the *e-Learning Course Updating and Migration Workshop* held in May 2023, that will aid in migrating the courses to the new Learning Management System. One of the RTC's developed courses, *Juan and Coffee Talk: Robusta Coffee Production* is now available for enrollment at the new website. Other courses developed by the Center's course developers are: *Lika! Usap Tayo: Effective Human Communication and Human Relations; Taste the Creamiest Cream Dory: Online Course on Pangasius Culture; Auspicious Vandaceous: Growing Vanda and Vandaceous Orchids;* and *Rise and Grind: Coffee Processing as an Enterprise.* 

Interested new learners and old users may access the new website at: e-learn.extension.gov.ph

#### **Corporate Image-building Activities**

#### Updating of corporate website

Delivering commitments on public accountability, the Center consistently intensified its efforts to maintain and promote the website to the public and various stakeholders, during training and conduct of extension activities. Innovative features of the Center's website in 2023:

**FAQs**, contains some Frequently Asked Questions from the Center's social media pages.

**LSA partners** contains information and requirements for accreditation as ATI's extension partner. In addition, the IS has initiated an LSA Mapping, a complete list of extension partners per province which serves as public reference for potential benchmarking activities, crossvisits, and further promotion of local farmers in the region.

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FarLSA			
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LSA18RIEFER Forms	Click here to Download		
Development Plan	Click/sere to Download		
Faim File	Click here to Downlined		
Self Assessment	Citk here to Download		

*Director's Node,* a compilation of feature stories, capturing the Center Director's involvement in the conduct of trainings and activities of the Center;

#### **Director's Node**

#### DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES THROUGH OUTREACH INITIATIVES



A special chance to perform humanitarian deeds is always presented by Christmas, a time of joy and giving. During this joyous season, a great number of people demonstrate their generosity by contributing to a variety of worthy causes. The genuine spirit of Christmas is embodied when people band together to improve the lives of those in need, whether via charitable contributions, volunteer work, or planning neighborhood projects.

Read more .....



This year, **101 news articles** about the Center's trainings and activities were posted on the website, and **239 bid notices**, in compliance to RA 9184. With the new website in place, the webmasters continue to devise strategies on increasing web traffic on the site. In 2023, the Center recorded a total of **41,812 webpage views**, putting DA-ATI CALABARZON on the second spot as the RTC with the Highest Website Page Views among the network, and 2<sup>nd</sup> place as well for the Most Updated ATI Center Website, awarded during the 2023 Knowledge Management (KM) Updates, organized by the Information Services Division of ATI Central Office.

#### Local Media Engagement

Part of good governance is building relationships and trust, not only with the stakeholders, but also with partners in the local media and other national government agencies as they aid in disseminating the vision of the Center and the Department, as well as the programs of the Institute.

On September 23, 2023, Ms. Maridelle Jaurigue, Chief of the Information Services Section served as a guest in an episode of DA RFO IV - A's program, *Talakayang Pansakahan (TPNC)*. Ms. Jaurigue shared the Center's programs and services, including initiatives in encouraging and attracting the younger generation to pursue a career in agriculture.

Additionally, the Center maintains a strong relationship with the local radio and television networks for airing of broadcast episodes of its School-on-the-Air (SOA) programs, radio plugs and coverage of important events. Press releases of the invited media had been recorded and shared on the Center's social media pages.



The following are the media partners of the Center:

- 95.1 Kiss FM
- 106.3 Radyo Natin Laguna
- Spirit FM Lucena 103.9
- Spirit FM Batangas 99.1
- Philippine Information Agency (PIA) CALABARZON
- RN Gumaca
- DZJV 1458 Radyo CALABARZON
- 92.7 Spirit FM Infanta
- 95.9 RadyoTotoo
- Tagkawayan Teleradyo
- Radyo Natin BonPen
- Radyo Natin Calauag



In 2023, DA-ATI CALABARZON also actively participated in activities/events where the Center is given an opportunity to build and promote its Projects, Programs and Activities (PPAs). Among these include attendance in launching ceremonies/fora, setting up booths for its IEC materials, and conducting region -wide activities in participation of various national celebrations/congresses concerning the agri-fisheries sector.

Activity/Event	Date
ATI Anniversary	January 23-27, 2023
KADIWA (Quarter 1)	January 31, 2023
Founding Anniversary of Cavite State University (CvSU)	March 20-24, 2023
Celebration of Filipino Food Month	April 21, 2023
Briefing on DA-ATI's Programs for LCEs (webinar)	May 26, 2023
KADIWA (Quarter 2)	May 30, 2023
4-H Regional Youth Camp	June 28, 2023
Coconut Farmers Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) Value Chain Analysis	August 31, 2023
KADIWA (Quarter 3)	September 26, 2023
Cacao Congress	October 19, 2023
Coffee Cupping Ceremony	October 25, 2023
Livestock Congress	October 26, 2023
1st Regional Research and Innovation Week of Southern Tagalog Agriculture, Aquatic, and Resources Research Development and Extension Consortium (STAARRDEC)	October 23-26, 2023
National Rice Awareness Month/ Organic Agriculture Month	November 6, 2023
Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Summit	November 15-17, 2023

#### School-on-the-Air (SOA) Program

One of the challenges in extension work is the limited mobility of far-flung farmers and fishers which can weaken their access to agricultural extension services. To address this, DA-ATI CALABARZON capitalized on using various modalities, including digital platforms to augment extension programs through strong collaboration with ESPs such as academe, public, and private institutions, for better sharing of knowledge to AFE clients.



With the use of ICT tools, conducting online extension activities which are exhibited through multimedia such as television radio programs and social media can enhance the learning of participants i.e. SOA Program.

This year's SOA program implementation focused on partnerships, strengthening of corporate-branding and resourcefulness/innovation in terms of manpower and program implementation.

#### Training on Basic Radio and Online Broadcasting

Offshoot training for NGA partners who were tapped as main partners in the three SOA programs: PCA IV, PCC@UPLB, & DA RFO IV-A. Graduates of trainings were tapped as program host of three SOA Programs from NGA partners: PCA IV-A, PCC@UPLB and DA-RFO IV-A. Other trainees served as correspondents for program segments: Agribalita, AgriPanahon, Balitang Lagaslas.

#### Utilization of DA-ATI CALABARZON's recording studio and partner local radio stations

With the three SOA programs to be implemented for the FY, the Center maximized its resources, with NGA partners hosting the programs live from partner radio stations in Quezon and Laguna, and Information Services Section (ISS) staff hosting the SOA-SRA live from the recording booth and livestreamed on its online channels. Project officers assisted the program hosts during its first, mid and last weeks of broadcast episodes.

#### Strengthening of Corporate Branding

Included in the learners' training kits for SOA-SRA were promotional cardboard fans, which doubled as IEC materials, and promotional file folders bearing the program's title, and partner agency logos. A mobile photo frame was also used during the activities conducted under the program.

#### Special Program Segments

**AgriBalita** - brought the latest news from DA-ATI CALABARZON, PCC@UPLB and PCA IV-A's activities, delivered by a segment host from the partner NGA.

**AgriPanahon** - featured updated weather forecasts and other weather-related news. This was in partnership with DA-Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture (AMIA) and was hosted by DA-AMIA personnel who graduated from the Training on Broadcasting.

**Balitang Lagasglas** - brought the latest news, special events and activities of the National Irrigation Administration Region IV-A. The segment was hosted by the said agency.

**AgriBida** - segment was derived from the previous season's feature of SOA-SRA learners. A live correspondent from DA-ATI CALABARZON visited the learners personally and featured them during the episode's live feed.

**Question-of-the-Day (QOTD)** - text promo across all SOA programs which serves as a form of engagement among learners and review of the topics discussed for the episode.

The Center had three SOA program targets in 2023: SOA-Smart Rice Agriculture (SRA), SOA on Coconut Production and Processing and SOA on Dairy Buffalo Production. As one of the regular offerings of distance learning programs of the Center, innovations and strategies were implemented throughout the program phases.







#### Lakbay Palay in partnership with PhilRice Los Baños

**One hundred (100) identified outstanding students of SOA - SRA** participated with PhilRice's Wet Season Lakbay Palay 2023 last October 24, at the University of the Philippines Los Baños and PhilRice Los Baños. This served as an incentive and an educational activity for the farmers, students, and agricultural technicians who attended.



#### Face-to-face mass graduation

Both SOA on CFIDP and Dairy Buffalo Production gathered all completers for the mass graduation. The team invited program partners, LGU and PLGU officials in the ceremonies for the awarding of outstanding farmers, recognition of radio teachers and awarding of certificates. Meanwhile, for SOA-SRA, the team held a ceremonial graduation with some farmer representatives in attendance.



#### **Social Media Presence**

The Center continued to strengthen the use of social media platforms as tools for information dissemination and engaging clients/partners. This year focused on communicating DA-ATI CALABARZON's activities to stakeholders, establishing brand for its news articles, providing full coverage of major events through livestreaming of activities.



#### Facebook

This year, the corporate page focused on providing real-time updates of daily conduct of trainings and activities of the Center, as well as engaging in the production of Facebook Reels for major events such as SOA program graduation ceremonies. Scholarship and job opportunities were also announced in the page. The Center succeed in actively maintaining its Facebook page with a total of **979 Posts**, **197,982 Engagements** for its posts, and **1,318,377 People Reached**. The page has now **49,170 Followers and 39,400 Likes**.

#### YouTube

ATI CALABARZON's YouTube channel peak was in 2019 with the birth of ATI@Home. Through the years, the channel grew with continuous uploading of knowledge products and livestreaming of major events of the Center. Discussions about package of technologies on smart rice agriculture, buffalo dairy production and coconut production highlighted this year's content. For 2023, the channel recorded a total of **104,500 views**, and currently at **21,085 subscribers**.

#### Innovative Extension Programs and Services using Digital Platforms

#### ATI@Home

Agricultural Technologies thru Internet at Home (ATI@Home) is a platform offering free online seminar on various farming technologies, consisting of a lecture series through PowerPoint presentations, demonstration activities, and live Question and Answer with the experts. This year, the Center's ATI@Home series focused on the National Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP).

#### AgriStudio Live on Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP)

AgriStudio Live is an online program showcasing the programs and services of ATI CALABARZON and its partner agencies and institutions. On its fourth season, AgriStudio Live highlights the undertakings of various bureaus and agencies under the Department of Agriculture and other National Government Agencies that implement the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). The program gives voice to key players in agriculture to share their advocacies and encourage the public to engage in any way possible in the agricultural sector.

It aired once a week for 30 minutes via Facebook and YouTube live-streaming, and through a local partner radio station, 106.3 Radyo Natin Laguna, from October 9 to December 25.

1	Programs of Agricultural Training Institute	Ms. Vira Elyssa Jamolin
		Training Specialist III/Chief, CDMS, ATI-CALABARZON
2	Programs of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA)	Ms. Marietta C. Perez Project Dev't Officer IV, PCA IV
3	Programs of Cooperative Development Authority	Mr. Romel P. Mabilangan Senior Cooperative Dev't Specialist, CPDAS
4	Programs of the Commission on Higher Education	Mr. Donald I. Buena Agua Education Supervisor II, CHED IV-A
5	Programs of DA-RFO (HVCDP) and DOST-PCAARRD	Ms. Maria Anna S. Balmes Agriculturist II/Regional Coffee and Cacao Focal Per- son/CFIDP Focal Person, DA-RFO IV-A HVCDP
6	Programs of the Bureau of Animal Industry	Dr. Rene C. Santiago Agricultural Center Chief, BAI-NSPRDC
7	Programs of the National Dairy Authority	Mr. Larry P. Esperanza Project Dev't Officer III/Team Leader, Laguna-Rizal-Quezon, NDA
8	Programs of Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation	Ms. Lovely Piniera PCIC RFO IV-A
9	Programs of Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) and Department of Public Works and Highways	Mr. Nikko Sebastian CFIDP-SPF Regional Focal Person for CALABARZON
10	Programs of Department of Trade and Industry	Ms. Nicole Teresa Salgado, DTI
11	Programs of Landbank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines	Ms. Marian C. Manrique Account Officer, Landbank Quezon Lending Center
12	Tagumpay ng isang Magniniyog	Mr. Alfredo Amorado, Farmer Cooperator





#### Key Initiative: Foster resilience and adaptation to climate change and disaster risks

Climate-smart technologies involve the use of Global Positioning System (GPS), drones, and satellite images to control amounts of farm inputs as well as modify the environment setting. These technologies are proven to improve production and also increase productivity of the farmers. One example is precision agriculture, which is a farming management technique that uses modern technologies such as IoT sensors. This method improves water efficiency of crops, preserves the soil health, thus increasing production and reduction of waste. Providing training and demonstrations for this technology can inspire farmers in taking part in agricultural digitalization.



Through the Digital Farmers Program, DA-ATI CALABARZON established partnerships with FITS Centers, Local Government

Units and LSAs. Participants, specifically senior farmers, were equipped with knowledge and capabilities on digital tools and mobile technologies.

#### Conduct of Studies on DFP Implementation in Region IV-A



Students from University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB) collaborated with the Information Services Section (ISS) of DA-ATI CALABARZON for their undergraduate thesis on the Center's *Digital Farmers Program (DFP)*. The team assisted the students for the conduct of their focus group discussion and pre-testing of survey questionnaire on March 24, 2023 at their subject site, Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Center in Magdalena, Laguna. The study assessed the impact of DFP in the digital marketing practices of DFP 101 & 102 farmer-participants in the locality.

Mr. Paoloregel Samonte of FAO, ComDevAsia, also conducted his master's thesis on DFP, entitled, *Digital agriculture for all: An inclusiveness analysis of the Philippines' Digital Farmers Program*. His study seeks to describe the existing institutional and policy landscape framing the delivery of digital information services, perception of inclusion/ exclusion in their participation in the DFP in CALABARZON, to name a few. DA- ATI CALABARZON personnel assisted UPLB Devcom team for Mr. Samonte during the interview and FGD in Magdalena, Laguna on May 8, 2023.

#### Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies

In order to further extend the use of modern farming technologies, specifically digital tools and mobile technologies, our Center led the Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies (SATs) Phases 1 and 2, and DFP Farm Connect to a beneficiary farmer's organization, SAMIT (Samahan ng Magpapalay ng Ibabang Talim), based in Lucena City, Quezon.





Farmers, with the help of youth partners were trained from basic use of smart phone to use of precision agriculture and decision-making apps that will enhance their production and marketing practices. The training also encouraged them to embrace the role of information and communications technology (ICT) as it guides farmers in maximizing their service delivery through ICT tools.

For year 2023, the DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted the following activities under the Digital Farmers Program:

Training	Date	Venue/Modality
Training of Trainers on Digital Agriculture for AEWs (DFP 101& 102)	March 15-17, 2023	Ouan's Worth Farm, Lucena City, Quezon
Digital Agriculture Course (DAC) for RCEF Batch 1	April 18-20, 2023	Gintong Bukid, Nagcarlan, Laguna
Digital Agriculture Course (DAC) for RCEF Batch 2	May 10-12, 2023	DA-ATI IV - A Training Hall, Trece Martires City, Cavite
DFP Package of Technology	June 21-23, 2023	Gintong Bukid, Nagcarlan, Laguna
Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies (Phase 1)	August 2-4, 2023	Brgy. Ibabang Talim, Lucena City
Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies (Phase 2)	September 15-17, 2023	Brgy. Ibabang Talim, Lucena City



#### Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services 4.0

On June 6-9, 2023, the Center conducted a four-day training on the 4.0 Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services at the National Irrigation Administration Training Hall in Pila, Laguna. The training aimed to enhance the participants' capacity to operate, use, and train others on the upgraded RCM Advisory Service.

**Twenty (20) rice technicians from CALABARZON** underwent the said training with experts from DA-Regional Field Office (RFO) IV-A, Mr. Jeero Owen Humarang, and DA-ATI CALABARZON, Mr. Hans Flores serving as the resource persons. Mr. Humarang walked the



participants through the operations of RCM 4.0. Some of the topics include the use and importance of using GPS on the new version of RCM.



#### Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services Briefing

Aiming to provide precise farmer's recommendations on nutrient, pest, weed, and water management depending on the specific rice variety, yields from the previous season, and the site-specific conditions of the fields, the Center conducted *Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services Briefing* in Atimonan, Quezon on July 21, 2023. A total of twenty-one **(21) rice farmers** attended the activity where each participant received a personalized RCM recommendation for his/ her rice field.



## AFE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2: Improving Competitiveness through Agripreneurship





## *Key Initiative*: Enhance capacities of Farmers' Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) and Rural based Organizations (RBOs) in Agri-fishery enterprise development

This strategic objective focuses on providing necessary skills and interventions to enrich the entrepreneurial competitiveness of agricultural extension workers, private partners, youth, and farmer cooperative associations. Programs conducted under this objective aimed to tap the potentials of agripreneurs to generate a sustainable and competitive livelihood for agriculture and fisheries stakeholders whilst bridging the gap along the value chain.

#### **Empowering the Youth Towards Agripreneurship**

The role of youth in agriculture has been emphasized through the years, with the enactment of the Republic Act No. 10679 or known as the "Youth Entrepreneurship Act." Interventions to hone the knowledge and skills of the youth towards agripreneurship has been one of the priority programs of the Institute.



#### Binhi ng Pag-asa Program

To foster the agri-entrepreneurial competencies of the youth, the *Binhi ng Pag-Asa Program (BPP)*, a flagship project of DA-ATI CALABARZON in partnership with the Office of Senator Grace Poe (OSGP) and other implementing partner agencies was conducted in the province of Quezon. As a culmination of the program and to ensure its continuity, successful youth-agripreneur graduates were awarded with either a module of animals or hydroponics set as starter kits.

The BPP activities aimed to strengthen and enhance the youth beneficiaries' leadership and values while managing their agri-fisheries endeavors moving towards agripreneurship. Experts from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and Office of the Provincial Veterinarian of the Province of Quezon were tapped as Resource Persons for the



agriculture and fisheries technology management while qualified staff from the Office of Senator Grace Poe discussed the topics on values and leadership skills.

The Institute, together with its partners, conducted **one (1) batch of Provincial Training of Trainers and sixteen (16) batches of Municipal /City Trainings** with a **total of 17 activities** that were implemented under the Binhi ng Pag-asa Program. The activities were conducted at the accredited Learning Site for Agriculture of the Center.

As a culminating activity, a national summit was held last December 5 to 7, 2023 at Sequioa Hotel, Manila Bay with the theme YOUTHPACE: Producing Agripreneurs and Catalysts towards Excellence. Mr. Kim Carlo Ayo, a delegate from Atimonan, Quezon, took home the championship medal for the Agribusiness Pitching, besting five entries for the said category. As a prize, he received seeds as support to his leafy vegetable production.

#### Farm Business School (FBS)



The Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute CALABARZON first offered the *Training of Facilitators on Farm Business School (FBS)* last 2014. To date, the Center has conducted twenty-one (21) batches.

FBS is an extension modality established to enable our farmers to generate more income and promote employment opportunities. FBS is a unique educational system designed to help farmers learn and improve their knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship and farm business management.

This year, the Center, in partnership with Villar SIPAG Foundation, implemented three (3) batches of *Training of Facilitators on FBS* with a total number of **sixty-four** (64) new FBS facilitators from regions CALABARZON, MIMAROPA and Bicol.

A highlight to note in the conduct of FBS in the region is the roll-out of the *Training of Trainers on Coconut Farm Business School.* Funded under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), the training aimed to help promote the entrepreneurial mindset of farmers by emphasizing the agribusiness side of coconut production and develop their capacity for running a profitable business.

The Coco FBS honed **twenty-seven (27) trainers**, composed of AEWs and Coconut Development Officers from the Philippine Coconut Authority. As part of their re-entry plans, selected municipalities have conducted a farmer-level Training on Coconut FBS.

A notable part of the training is the culminating activity of the farmer-level training entitled: Enriching Knowledge and Building-up Networks on Coconut- Farm Business School. The said activity provided the participants an avenue for knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices. The coconut -based enterprise that was tapped for the activity was: D' Farm Agricultural Plantation Inc., in Sampaloc, Quezon. D' Farm is known for their extensive production of the dwarf variety of coconut. After this, the participants were divided into four groups who went to the following coconut-based enterprises: Pasciolco Agriventures in Tiaong, Quezon; Greenlife Coconut Products Phils., Inc. and Samahan ng Magniniyog at Maglalambanog sa ibabang Nangka at Wakas, both located in Tayabas City, Quezon and Alyansang Pangkabuhayan ng Lucena City.

Subsequently, five batches of farmer level trainings with **one hundred twenty-five (125) coconut-farmer graduates** were conducted in the municipalities of San Francisco, Quezon and San Antonio, Quezon; Pagsanjan, Laguna; and San Juan, Batangas. A mass graduation was held last December 15, 2023 at Ouan's Worth Family Farm Resort, Lucena City, Quezon.



#### Youth Scholarship Grant on Organic Farming (YSGOF)

The DA-ATI CALABARZON, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture–Regional Field Office IV-A, and with approval of the National Organic Agriculture Board (NOAB), commenced the implementation of Youth Scholarship Grant on Organic Farming (YSGOF) in March to December 2023 (Phase I). This comprehensive **21-month internship** initiative is intended for the youth, offering a firsthand experience of the "life of a farmer" and immersing them in organic farming practices. It encompasses a nine-month on-site training period in collaboration with farm partners, followed by a year dedicated to practical implementation, to establish their proposed organic enterprises. Continuous support will be provided to the trainees throughout the program until their enterprises achieve full sustainability.

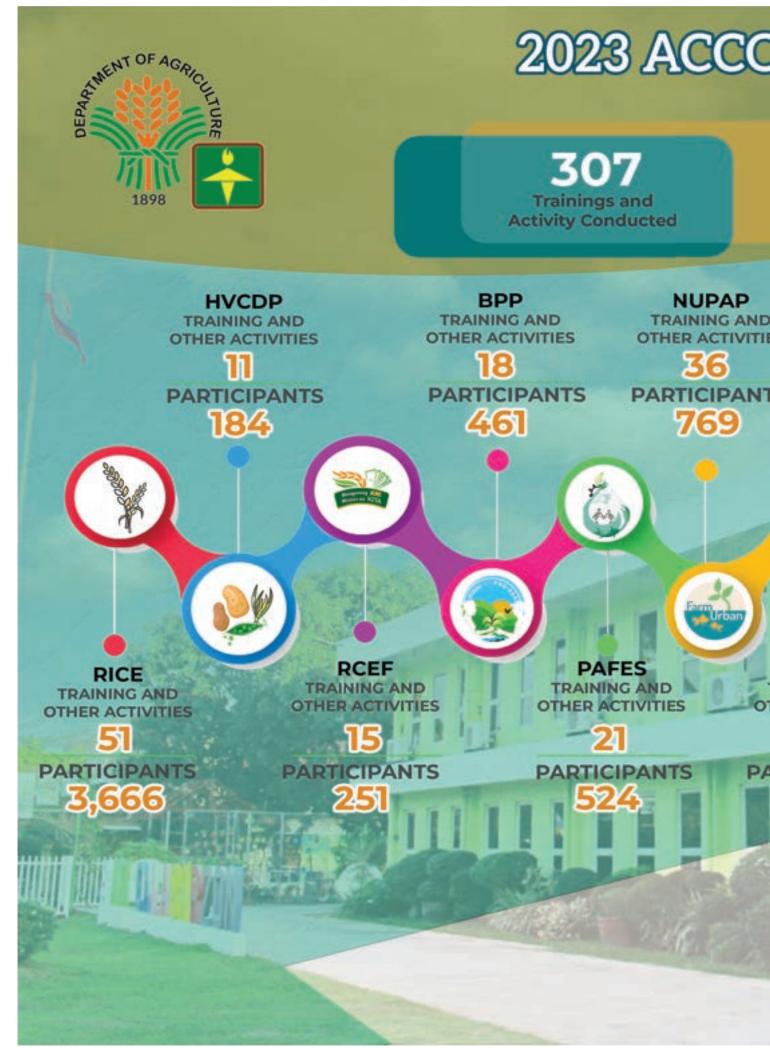
The program was officially launched on March 30, 2023, following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement. The DA-ATI CALABARZON takes on the responsibility for program management, catering to **11 interns**. Each trainee was awarded with **PhP 150,000** each for the implementation of their business plans.



Moreover, five farm partners were actively engaged that served as training ground and provided guidance on organic agricultural practices.

The owners of these farm partners served as mentors of the scholars/interns :

- 1. Suzette Sales, Sweet Nature Farms, Sta. Maria, Laguna
- 2. Reden Mark Costales, Costales Nature Farms, Majayjay, Laguna
- 3. Eduardo Cleofe, Luntiang Republika Eco Farms, Alfonso, Cavite
- 4. Rizalie Galang, MARIWSKA Integrated Farm, Antipolo City
- 5. Alicia Valdoria, Yumi's Farm, Tayabas City, Quezon



#### **DMPLISHMENTS** 10,589 Trained Participants OTHER EXTENSION OA LIVESTOCK SERVICES TRAINING AND TRAINING AND TRAINING AND OTHER S **OTHER ACTIVITIES OTHER ACTIVITIES** ACTIVITIES PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPANTS PARTICIPANTS rs 138 862 1,002 REGULAR CFIDP CORN TRAINING AND TRAINING AND TRAINING AND **OTHER ACTIVITIES OTHER ACTIVITIES THER ACTIVITIES** 48 PARTICIPANTS RTICIPANTS PARTICIPANTS 816 1,772

No.	Name	Business Enterprise	Loca- tion	Brief Description
1	Franz Victor P. Mendoza	HI-FATE	Pangil, Laguna	HI-FATE is a private business enterprise which focuses on Black Soldier Fly Larvae production and processing. It aims to provide an alternative source of protein for organic feed formulations for livestock, poultry and Aquaculture.
2	Francis B. Cuento	B-Rice Healthy (Taste the Purity of Nature, One Grain at a Time)	Nagcarlan, Laguna	B-RICE HEALTHY, is a producer of premium and naturally grown brown, black rice and well-milled rice. It aims to provide and deliver excellence in every grain, ensuring a wholesome and sustainable choice to consumers.
3	Jefferson C. Planillo	Organic Pig Production	Mabitac, Laguna	This project focuses on producing organic and environment friendly grown pigs for the consumption of the nearby communities.
4	Jerome A. Francisco	Jerome's Organic Poultry Enterprise	San Pablo City	The objective of this initiative is to establish a certified organic poultry farm in San Pablo, City that specializes in the production of eggs, meat, and chicks.
5	Marcelino L. Jalosjos, Jr.	Tiwala at Pag- asa sa Soya Masustansyang Mais, May Kitang Kanais- Nais	Calamba City	Sa Masustansyang Mais, May Kitang Kanais-Nais, is a sustainable organic sweet corn production which aims to produce ears of natural and healthy corn that is beneficial for consumers.







No.	Name	Business Enterprise	Location	Brief Description
6	Matthew B. Profeta	May Money Sa Mani!	Tanza, Cavite	<i>May Money sa Mani</i> is a peanut production project that will make use of two varieties of peanut, Namnama variety for wet season and Asha variety for dry season. The produce will be marketed to local and digital markets.
7	Rey Anthony S. Lamac	Organic Pig Production	Mabitac, Laguna	This business project is a back-to-basics approach adopting a natural-farming system allowing chickens to free-range in their natural habitat while using locally available materials for feeds and health management.
8	Romark Glen C. Navarro	Tiwala at Pag- asa sa Soya	San Pablo City	<b>"Tiwala at Pag-asa sa Soya"</b> is a business project focusing on the production organically-grown soya that aims to address the high demand of soya for food and feed purposes.

#### Scholarship Programs for the Youth

## Educational Assistance for the Youth in Agriculture (EAsY Agri)

The EAsY Agri scholarship is a program offered by the DA through ATI, which aims to encourage and increase the participation in agriculture amongst the youth leading them to pursue professional careers in agriculture or agripreneurship. In order to achieve this goal, a scholarship grant was offered to deserving children of small-holder farmers and fishermen who intends to pursue a degree program in agriculture and other agri-related courses.



This year, a new batch of EAsY Agri scholars composed of sixteen (16) freshmen were enrolled in **five State Universities and Colleges** in the region. The Center is also currently implementing the EAsY Agri Batch 1 & 2, to which the scholars are on their second and fourth year.



To assess the status and enhance the camaraderie of the youth scholars, a *Scholarship Year-End Assessment* was held last December 8 to 9, 2023 at the DA-ATI CALABARZON Training Hall, Trece Martires City, Cavite. It was attended by **forty-four (44) scholars** from the three batches of EAsY Agri. Topics on technical writing and presentation skills were discussed during the activity by an invited resource person from Cavite State University.

## International Internship Programs for the Youth

The DA-ATI implemented two international internship programs for the youth, in collaboration with various international partners: Young Filipino Farmer Leader Training Program in Japan (YFFLTPJ) and Filipino Young Farmer Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT). The program aims to hone young farmer-leaders and agripreneurs using modern agricultural management and technology practices in the respective countries. This year, the Centers' delegates for the YFFLTP Mr. Alecx A. Atienza from Nasugbu, Batangas and Mr. Richard G. Villanueva of San Pablo City. They were sent off last March 2023 and are set to complete their internship in February 2024. Meanwhile, on July 2023, the interns for the FYFIPT started their internship namely, Mr. Jade Destura of Indang, Cavite; Mr. Jhommel Francisco of San Pablo City; Mr. Vincent Planillo of Mabitac, Laguna; and Mr. Gio Salazar of Nasugbu, Batangas. They are expected to finish their internship in September 2024.



The interns are undergoing an intensive on-the-job training that will aid in the development of their skills and competencies on modern agricultural management and technologies while taking-in the host country's best practices and innovation in agriculture.

#### **Certification and Provision of Enhancements Support to LSAs**

The certification of Learning Sites of Agriculture (LSAs) and accreditation of Private Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Service Providers (PAF-ESPs) played a vital role in providing appropriate faming technologies and strategies to the farmers effectively and efficiently through the conduct of various collaborative activities.

Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs) are ATI's partners in the field whose farms are being made available to farmers in their community as demonstration areas for hands-on learning. It is an innovative extension modality conceptualized by the ATI wherein successful farmers that are worthy of emulation and willing to share their technologies are tapped as partners of DA-ATI in the implementation of training and extension interventions.



DA-ATI CALABARZON seeks to continuously empower these agricultural extension partners to increase their overall capabilities. Developing the organizational capacities of these institutions involves various aspects, such as but not limited to providing financial and technical support. Also, regularly assessing and monitoring their performances has been a key towards aligning them with the objectives of the program.

The following farms were given AFE grants under various programs:

No.	Name of Farm	Project	Program
1	Pia's Bee Farm	Improvement of Training Hall	Regular
2	Solanzo Integrated Farm	Multipurpose Hall	Regular
3	Myrtle's Agricultural Farm	Vermicomposting Facility	OA
4	Masaganang Bukid	Improvement of Training Hall	RCEF
5	Zeyen Farming School	Tables and Chairs	RCEF
6	BCB Abundant Greens Flower Farm	Multipurpose Hall	CFIDP
7	Calungsod Integrated Farm	Drip Irrigation System	CFIDP
8	BB Agriventures OPC	Vermicomposting Facility	CFIDP
9	Omaña Farm Corp.	Smart Irrigation System	CFIDP
10	Kititay Farm	Various training materials	CFIDP
11	Vitamin C Integrated Farm	Multipurpose Hall	CFIDP
12	Auspere Nature Farm	Concrete Walkway	CFIDP
13	Iglesias Farms	Coco Processing Facility	CFIDP
14	D'Farm	Various training materials	CFIDP
15	BTC Farms	Multipurpose Hall	CFIDP
16	PARC Agricultural Learning Site and Demo Farm	Facility Improvement	HVCDP
17	Roqueza's Integrated Farm	Facility Improvement	Rice
18	VFNR Agricultural Farm	Storage Area	Rice
19	Encarnacion Farm	Facility Improvement	Corn
20	WEST8 Institute of Technical Skills	Farm Inputs	Corn



Meanwhile, in the same year, thity - three 33 farms were given LSA Certifications only:

	Name of Farm	Name of Owner/Institution	Location
1	RV Redondo Agricultural Farm	Romano V. Redondo	Brgy. Suplang, Tanauan City, Batangas
2	Union Theological Seminary Integrated Eco Farm	Union Theological Seminary Inc.	Brgy. Sampaloc I, Dasmarinas City, Cavite
3	Adoress Farm Training and Assessment Center	Amador P. Sanchez	Brgy. Matalatala, Mabitac, Laguna
4	Gintong Bukid Farm and Leisure	Lourdes J. Arcasetas	Brgy. Buboy, Nagcarlan, Laguna
5	IDA VITA Corporation	IDA VITA Corporation	Brgy. Bulakin I, Dolores, Quezon
6	Taal Maranan's Farmville Inc.	Michael Maranan	Brgy. Iba East, Taal, Batangas
7	Marelson Farm and Educational Center OPC	Brian A,. Belen	Brgy. San Juan, San Pablo City, Laguna
8	OARDEC	University of the Philippines, Los Banos	Los Banos, Laguna
9	Terrapedrito Farm	Ruthfreya Teresita Avila	Brgy. Mangilag Sur, Candelaria, Quezon
10	Graco Farms and Leisure, Inc.	Ma. Esperanza R. Evangelista	Brgy. San Antonio, Pila, Laguna
11	JNY Nature Farms OPC	Norilyn A. Mesina	Brgy. Ina-awan, Cavinti, Laguna
12	Aina Integrated Farm	Johnray Nieva	Brgy. Bigo, Pagbilao, Quezon
13	Classique Farm	Lorlyn D. Ilagan	Brgy. Banaba South, Batangas City
14	Moolk Creamery Corp Moolk Farm	Patrick K. Mendoza	Brgy. Plaza Aldea, Tanay, Rizal
15	Sta. Maria Dairy Farm Training and Tours Corporation	Jose E. Tapay Jr	Brgy. Malagonlong, Lipa City, Batangas
16	Yumi's Farm	Alicia A. Valdoria	Brgy. Ilayang Bukal, Tayabas, Quezon
17	Jomalig Integrated Farm	Adjoy G. Rubio	Brgy. Talisoy, Jomalig, Quezon
18	Dieta Integrated Farm	Florida C. Dieta	Brgy. Ibabang Palsabangon Pagbilao, Quezon
19	Greens for Growth PH	Marilyn T. Dela Cruz	Brgy. Calumpang Lejos, Indang, Cavite
20	DA-RARES	DA-RARES	Brgy. Cuyambay, Tanay, Rizal

	Name of Farm	Name of Owner/Institution	Location
21	Sehaliah Agricultural Farm	Marie Ann Daplas	Brgy. Pangil, Amadeo, Cavite
22	RNC Cacao Farm	Nancy M. Casco	Brgy. Plaza Aldea, Tanay, Rizal
23	Glinoga Integrated Farm	Nenieveh F. Glinoga	Brgy. Payte, Pitogo, Quezon
24	Quality Lifelong Learning Institute, Inc.	Edna V. Bacarra	Sitio Yapak, Brgy. Lagundi, Morong, Rizal
25	La Corazon Farm	Irvin M. Alcala	Brgy. Bantique, Pagbilao, Quezon
26	Maranatha Nature Farm	Marjorie D. Ona	Brgy. Pinagpala, Buhay na Sapa, San Juan, Batangas
27	DNPH Smart Agri-Tech Farm	DENSO Philippines	Brgy. Pangao, Ibaan, Batangas
28	Vin Vie Integrated Farm	Irene Rita M. Becerra	Brgy. Bubuyan, Mataasnakahoy, Batangas
28	Zeyen Farming School	Maricel D. Talisic	Brgy. Caglate, Alabat, Quezon
29	Zeyen Farming School	Maricel D. Talisic	Brgy. Caglate, Alabat, Quezon
30	BB Agriventures OPC	Lavern Luke L. Burce	Brgy. Mamala, Sampaloc, Quezon
31	BCB Abundant Greens Flower Farm	Mary Rose R. Bagaris	Brgy. Tiawe, Lucban, Quezon
32	Auspere Nature Farm	Ricky O. Perez	Brgy. Lumil, Silang, Cavite
33	D'Farm	Citadel Santos-Anareta	Brgy. Caldong, Sampaloc, Quezon



### Activities in Support to Farm Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2)

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck in 2020, the Department of Agriculture (DA) recognized the need to reinvent its strategies in delivering services and interventions to its stakeholders. Hence, the issuance of DA- Administrative Order No. 27 s. 2020 institutionalized the establishment of *"Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation Program (F2C2) towards greater inclusive Agri-business Development in the Country."* It is mandated to strategize clustering and consolidation as a strategy to all banner programs and enhance productivity and income of Filipino farmers and fisherfolks.

The F2C2 program aims to advance the interest and conditions of small farmers and fishers by encouraging them to adopt the strategy of clustering and consolidation of their production, processing and marketing activities as community business enterprises, including the pooling of assets, labor and other resources. The program prioritized and focused on the community production and processing projects that promoted better coordination, organized production and value chain systems that increased productivity as against the small stand-alone traditional farming.

Recognizing the importance of farm clustering and consolidation for our farmers to easily access the government interventions and assistance and in support to the F2C2 program, DA-ATI CALABARZON, in close coordination with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office- CALABARZON, conducted **three (3) trainings** under the corn and livestock program.

To prepare the INSPIRE beneficiaries for F2C2 consolidation, a *Training on Financial Planning, Record Keeping and Business Plan Preparation* for INSPIRE Beneficiaries was held at the National Irrigation Administration, Pila, Laguna on September 25-27, 2023, participated by twenty **(20) beneficiaries** from the provinces of Laguna, Batangas and Quezon.





#### **Regional Livestock and Poultry Congress**

In celebration of the National Livestock and Poultry month, the Center held the first *Regional Livestock and Poultry Congress* after the pandemic. The activity was held last October 26, 2023, at the DA- ATI CALABARZON Compound. **One hundred fifty (150) delegates** composed of agricultural extension workers, Livestock farmers and farmer cooperatives attended the three-part seminar focusing on **Itik-Pinas production, Beekeeping**, and **Meat Safety** for consumers.



The congress started with a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the livestock product display and immediately proceeded with the formal opening of the activity. As a highlight, the outstanding grant for the INSPIRE project was awarded by CD Dr. Rolando V. Maningas of DA-ATI CALABARZON to Mr. Lynil Torres, General Manager of Silang Livestock and Agricultural Cooperative, witnessed by the representatives of livestock implementing agencies of the region.



# AFE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 3: Ensuring Nourished Farm/Fisher Families, and Consumers



With food as a common entry point of agriculture and nutrition, making extension and advisory services nutritionsensitive is vital to overcome nutritional challenges in the country. This strategic objective focuses on three strategies in order to put a limelight on ensuring the nutritional well-being of farm/fisher families and consumers through intensification of nutrition-sensitive agriculture (NSA) extension programs to increase availability and access to nutritious and healthy food, enhancing education of Filipino consumers to healthy diets, and strengthening the capacities of ESPs towards nutrition.



*Key Initiative*: Intensify provision of nutrition-sensitive agriculture extension programs to increase availability and access to nutritious and healthy food

#### Technology Demonstration Site Dubbed As UrbanATIn'To Garden

The Center continuously develops its demonstration site in line with the Department of Agriculture's efforts to achieve household food security by boosting vegetable production at home and introducing innovative approaches to crop cultivation using diverse urban agriculture technologies. In pursuit of these objectives, the DA-ATI Regional Training Center CALABARZON employs various strategies aimed at showcasing and amplifying local food production such as technology demonstration known as the *UrbanATIn'To* garden within the compound of the Center. This features the latest urban agriculture technologies, aimed at enhancing the knowledge of urban dwellers and visitors frequenting the Center. The said technology demonstration site showcases the following:

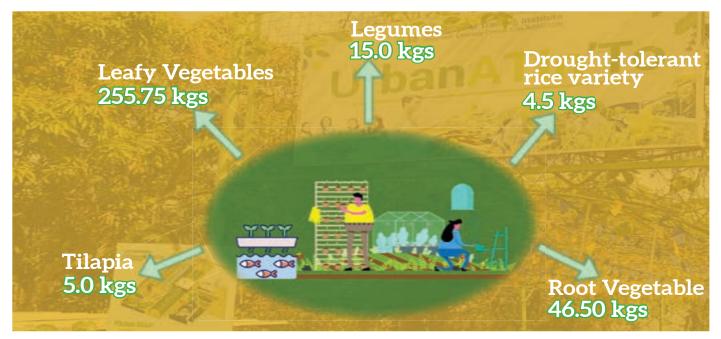
- 1. Raised-bed garden
- 2. Container garden
- 3. Tower garden
- 4. Hanging garden
- 5. Square Foot garden
- 6. Mini-rice terraces
- 7. Hydroponics
- 8. Aquaponics
- 9. Greenhouse Technology
- 10. Beekeeping
- 11. Drip irrigation technology







UrbanATIn'To garden has recorded the following harvest on various commodities in 2023:



#### **Creation of Participatory Guarantee System Groups**

Aligned with the commitment to ensuring the well-being of farms, fisher families, and consumers, the *Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)* received official recognition through Republic Act No. 11511, amending the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010. This legal acknowledgment establishes PGS as a viable avenue for organic certification in the Philippines, with the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) mandated to conduct training programs on organic agriculture standards and processes for PGS groups seeking accreditation.

A significant accomplishment of the Center involves the **accreditation of the Samahan ng Organikong Industriya ng Laguna (SOIL)** by the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) on January 9, 2023. This milestone grants the SOIL PGS group the authority to provide organic certification services in both animal and crop production to its farmer-members. Recognized by the DA-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), SOIL has become the 5th organic certifying body in the country where core members & officers include LSA & PAF-ESP cooperators of ATI such as Sweet Nature Farms, Gintong Bukid Farm & Leisure, Costales Nature Farms and Agrie Integrated Farm. The SOIL PGS group underwent thorough surveillance audits and monitoring by DA-BAFS, successfully passing each evaluation.

Futhermore, two more Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) groups secured certification from DA-BAFS. The **Batangas Organic and Natural Farming Cooperative (BONFAC)** obtained its certification on July 7, 2023, followed by **Upland Cavite Farming Agricultural Cooperative (UPCAFA)** on December 15, 2023. Notably, members of these two PGS groups already attended training courses of the Center in previous years and some of the members are extension partners of the Center (LSAs). As part of its ongoing support, the Center has allocated a training program for the upcoming year to further enhance their capabilities.

Further highlighting the Center's success was the successful conduct of three batches of Training of *Trainers on the Participatory Guarantee System* in February, June and December, 2023. The said activities took place in Sta. Maria, Laguna, Sto. Tomas, Batangas, and Tayabas City, Quezon. A total of 65 farmer-leaders were trained through these training sessions, and their farms received endorsement as certifiable from the DA RFO IV-A.

Within the framework of PGS, all collaborative initiatives consistently involve partnership with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office IV-A and the LGUs. Serving as resource persons, the staff from the Organic Agriculture Program and Regulatory Division actively assisted the Center's OA Team throughout the duration of the training program. These efforts work to enhance partnerships, ensuring a more successful implementation of PGS in the region.

#### Key Initiative: Enhance the education of Filipino consumers to healthy diets

The Department of Agriculture (DA) has been implementing the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture (NUPAP) as part of the government's dedication to ensuring sufficient, accessible, and affordable food for every Filipino family, particularly in urban areas. The Center fully supports the DA's commitment to providing adequate and accessible food for the Filipino nation.

The Center successfully trained a total of **731 individuals through 29 webinar/seminar series** held in various parts of the region. Additionally, the Center employed a combination of online and face-to-face approaches to deliver the following topics:

- 1. Paghahalaman Gamit ang Tubig
- 2. Paggawa ng Natural na Pestisidyo
- 3. Paggawa ng mga Organikong Pataba
- 4. Cutflower Production and Management and Ornamentals Production and Management
- 5. Native Chicken
- 6. Meat Processing: Tocino
- 7. Native Chicken Meat Processing: Nuggets
- 8. Filipino Food Month Special: Sinigang, Sagobe, Budin and Bulanglang
- 9. Basic Urban Gardening
- 10. Organic-Based Vegetable Production Technologies under Peri-Urban Setting
- 11. Edible Landscaping
- 12. Herbs and spices
- 13. Basic Beekeeping
- 14. Native Chicken Production and Management
- 15. Urban Agriculture



The established community gardens received production inputs and small gardening tools, namely:

No.	Community Garden	Location
1	Young Moms of Sampaloc Community Garden	Sampaloc, Quezon
2	Pulo National High School Urban Farm School	Cabuyao City, Laguna
3	Calendola Urban Garden	San Pedro City, Laguna
4	Mika Farmyard Villa Olympia	San Pedro City, Laguna
5	Cavite State University	Maragondon Cavite
6	Agri-Savers Club	Alfonso, Cavite
7	4H Club Malaoa	Tayabas City, Quezon
8	Sta. Catalina Farmers' Association	San Pablo City, Laguna



#### Interventions for PWDs, Senior Citizens & Indigenous People (IPs)

In recognition of the importance of persons with disabilities (PWDs), senior citizens (SCs), and indigenous people (IPs) to nation-building and upholding their rights and welfare, the Center organized various activities involving these groups.

A notable initiative involved hosting of a Seminar on *Urban Organic Gardening: Safe and Nutritious Food for Children at Virlanie Foundation, Inc.* in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, on April 26, 2022. This seminar was participated by **20 staff and residents of the foundation**, aiming to enhance their knowledge and skills on basic organic vegetable production and urban gardening technologies. To formalize the collaboration, the Center and Virlanie Foundation, Inc. inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), referred to as the *Halamanan sa Bahay Kalinga Expansion Program*.

Concurrently supporting the Halamanan sa Bahay Kalinga Project initiated in 2022, the Center, in partnership with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist of Rizal and the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist of Rodriguez, Rizal, organized the *Cottolengo Filipino: Farmers' Field School (FFS) on Integrated Diversified Organic Farming System Towards PWD-Sensitive Demonstration Site (IDOFS)* from February 3 to April 28, 2023. The program capacitated residents and staff in organic agriculture principles and practices, covering areas such as Organic Vegetable Production, Organic Chicken and Hog Production, Organic Soil Amendments, and Organic Concoctions/Extracts. This initiative significantly contributed to the development of their garden.



In addressing the nutritional needs of the Indigenous People (IPs), the Center conducted the *Seminar on Urban Organic Agriculture Technologies for Indigenous People* on May 31, 2023, at Brgy. Makiling, Calamba City, Laguna. Emphasizing the farm-to-table concept and focusing on urban organic agriculture technology, **twenty members (20) of the Aeta Tribe** of Calamba City actively participated the said activity and they also received kits to start their own gardens.



Additionally, recognizing the nutritional requirements of the elderly sector, the Center organized Agri-wellness Seminar on Basic Hydroponics for Elderly Sector on June 23, 2023, in Tayabas City, Quezon. This activity encouraged 21 participants to engage in home-grown food production, placing particular emphasis on basic hydroponics technology. The approach aimed to provide affordable and safe food, ultimately promoting the health and wellness of the elderly sector.



#### Key Initiative: Strengthen organizational and individual capacity of ESPs towards NSA

In parallel, the Center organized a *Training on Membership Expansion and Strengthening: Capability Building on Organizational Management and Farm Business Operation* from August 14-18, 2023, at Gintong Bukid Farm & Leisure in Nagcarlan, Laguna. This event was participated by **twenty-two (22) new and potential members** of SOIL PGS group.

Additionally, the partnership with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) under the Enhanced Partnerships Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) Program was renewed on July 10, 2023. The said program aims to foster stronger collaboration and coordination between urban and rural communities, bolster social capital, and maximize the economic resource foundation. Additionally, the program also encourages the involvement of community-based organizations as partners and service providers in government procurement efforts.

Subsequently, the Center in partnership with DSWD and the Municipal Agriculture Office of Sampaloc conducted a series of *Seminar on Organic-based Vegetable Production Technologies in Peri-Urban Setting* at the Municipal Conference Hall, Sampaloc, Quezon.

This event was part of the project entitled KAbabaihang handang LINangin ang GAling sa Organikong Agrikultura (Kalinga sa OA), which aims to empower and educate young moms from various barangays of the aforementioned municipality. The initiative is an extension innovation of DA-ATI CALABARZON and aligns with the commitment to EPAHP Program.





## AFE STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 4: Strengthening Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Institutions and Empowering Extension Stakeholders





Institutions drive change and development in any society. For the agriculture and fisheries (AF) sector, the Department of Agriculture leads in the development of the AF sector with various offices, bureaus, attached agencies and corporations implementing its production support, regulatory, research and development and extension services. With the gradual growth of the sector and the high poverty incidence rate amongst the main actors, the farmers and fisherfolk, it is imperative that institutional strengthening should remain a priority for good governance, inclusive growth and sustainable development. Extension services provide knowledge and support to farmers and fisherfolk in enhancing production, farm management, increasing profitability and marketing, thus, innovations and improving delivery of AFE services is necessary.

#### Key Initiative: Establish robust AFE networks through multi-sector collaboration

#### Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System (PAFES)

PAFES is being implemented as a strategy for transforming the province as an extension hub that synchronizes agricultural plans and programs, and orchestrates the activities of the various stakeholders. In its second year of implementation, DA-ATI CALABARZON has conducted discussion and information dissemination in each province through Kapehan at Kumustahan: A Farmers' Forum and "Consultative Meeting with MLGUs." The activity provided updates about the accomplishments of the Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension System. Correspondingly, plans and activities under the Collaborative Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP) were also presented during the series of consultative meetings and fora. Also discussed were the legal references and project components of PAFES, supporting documents in establishing PAFES, and the co-investment scheme between the Department of Agriculture and Local Government Units. Each batch of the farmers' forum

was participated by **20 farmer-leaders**, while **20-25 AEWs** participated in the consultative meetings.

As the government moves towards the full implementation of EO 138, the involvement and commitment of the municipal local governments is very crucial and it is imperative that farmers fully understand the mechanism of PAFES to be able to maximize its benefits for the betterment of agricultural communities.





#### Key Initiative: Develop organizational capacities of ESPs and clientele

To ensure that AFE services are efficiently and effectively managed, the following capability-building activities were implemented:

#### Strengthening of Agricultural & Biosystems Engineering Group at the Local Government Units in CALABARZON

Republic Act No. 10601 or the Agricultural and Fisheries Mechanization (AFMech) Law Section 29, stipulates that "the agricultural engineering division/section of the agriculture offices of the LGUs shall serve as the planning, coordinating, regulating and implementing bodies at the provincial, city and municipal levels on agricultural and fisheries engineering, mechanization and infrastructure programs and projects.



In support of RA 10601 and pursuant to EO 138, DA - ATI CALABARZON in collaboration with DA-Bureau of Agricultural and Fisheries Engineering (BAFE) and DA-RFO CALABARZON Regional Agricultural Engineering Division (RAED) conducted the activity dubbed as Strengthening of Agricultural & Biosystems Group at the Local Government Units Engineering in CALABARZON. The activity includes a discussion on DA-DBM-CSC-DILG Joint Memorandum Circular No. 02 Series of 2020 known as the Implementing Guidelines on the Strengthening and Establishment of the Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Groups of the Local Government Units (LGUs) and establishment of Agricultural Biosystems Engineering (ABE) unit in every LGU. It also served as a venue for collaboration and complementation of activities related to agri-fisheries mechanization, irrigation and other infrastructure projects. The activity was attended by 80 Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers & representatives from various LGUs in the region on July 12, 2023 at Ouan's The Farm Resort, Lucena City, Quezon.



#### Training-Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) Stakeholders

The agri-fishery extension services' role in advancing grassroots agriculture and fisheries development has been increasingly vital with the recent global and local trends affecting the agriculture and fisheries sector as well as foreseen structural and fiscal reforms brought about by the implementation of the Supreme Court ruling on the Mandanas-Garcia cases and the PAFES. In effect, AFE stakeholders must go back to the drawing board and develop a strategic plan for their respective offices.

As part of DA-ATI CALABARZON's commitment to strengthen the competencies and capacities of agricultural extension workers (AEWs) in formulating an Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Strategic Plan for their respective provinces or municipalities, the Center conducted the *Training-Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) Stakeholders* on July 25 to 28, 2023 at NIA Region IV-A, Pila, Laguna. The capacity-building activity equipped 20 AEW-attendees with appropriate knowledge and skills in strategic planning to ensure that resources are better allocated and utilized.

The knowledge gained from this activity will serve as a tool in crafting more effective plans and innovative strategies as the provinces are transforming as the center of extension initiatives.

### Supervisory Development Course Tracks 2 and 3

Leaders play a crucial role in every organization, and the development of leadership skills such as critical thinking, relationship building, creativity, and employee motivation among others, evolves over time. It is imperative for a rank-and-file employee, transitioning to a supervisory position to prepare for the new role, to become an effective leader.

Hence, DA-ATI CALABARZON collaborated with Civil Service Commission (CSC) Region IV to equip the supervisors in partner NGAs and potential heads of Provincial/Municipal/City Agriculture Office in the LGUs. The Center led *Supervisory Development Course (SDC) Track 2 and 3*, a ladderized training course held on February 14-17, 2023, and March 7-10, 2023 respectively, at DA-ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite and attended by **22 graduates of SDC Track 1**. SDC is one of the flagship programs of the CSC which aims to develop competent and credible civil servants in their areas of work.



#### Technical Guidance Session on Basic Monitoring and Evaluation: *Understanding the Data Life Cycle*

Executive Order 138 emphasizes the importance of having a comprehensive development plan for AFE sector, hence, a robust M&E system should be established. Monitoring and evaluation (M & E) are essential components of any project or program, as they are considered core management functions that aid in planning a course of action or decision-making. With this, the Center conducted the Technical Guidance Session on Basic Monitoring and Evaluation: Understanding the Data Life Cycle last August 29 to 31, 2023 at the DA-ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite. The activity was attended by **22 participants** consisting of AEWs from the Offices of the Provincial Agriculturists and Veterinarians. Graduates from the OPA-Rizal and OPA-Cavite served as Resource Persons in the Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Center (PAFEC)-led Training on Basic Monitoring and Evaluation in their respective provinces.

It is evident that through these activities, DA-ATI CALABARZON recognizes the critical role of the LGUs in the agriculture and fisheries sector, specifically in the delivery of training and other extension initiatives.



#### Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Training Programs

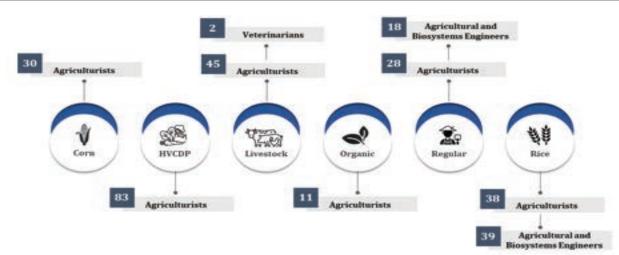
Amidst the current trends affecting the agriculture and fisheries sector and the need to maximize the potential of the extension workforce, continuing learning opportunities are vital to increase productivity and accelerate career growth of professionals in the AF sector.

Adhering to its mandate of strengthening and professionalizing the agricultural extension workforce, DA-ATI CALABARZON has been providing latest and relevant accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training programs for the past three (3) years. This gave a total of **eight 8 training activities** in 2021 and **20 activities** in 2022 respectively.

In 2023, the Center conducted a total of **21 accredited trainings** in various programs such as Corn, Organic Agriculture, Rice, Regular, Livestock and High Value Crop and Development Program. It awarded CPD credit units to **294 licensed attendees** comprising the professions of **Agriculture**, **Veterinary Medicine and Agricultural Biosystem Engineering**.

No.	Program	Title of Program/ Training applied	Approving CPD Council	Credit Units
1	HVCDP	Training of Trainers on Pineapple Production and Postharvest Handling Technologies	Agriculture	11 units
2	HVCDP	Training of Trainers on Insecticide Resistance Man- agement for Mango	Agriculture	8 units
3	HVCDP	Training on Lowland Vegetable Production	Agriculture	8 units
4	HVCDP	Training on Vegetable Nursery Establishment and Management	Agriculture	8 units
5	HVCDP	Training of Trainers on Banana Production, Pests and Diseases Assessment and Management	Agriculture	10 units
6	HVCDP	Training on Smart Agriculture Technologies	Agriculture	6 units
7	Organic Agriculture	Training on Risk-based Pre-Assessment of Farms for Organic Agriculture	Agriculture	5 units
8	Livestock	Training on Proper Laboratory Sample Collection, Processing & Handling for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs)	Agriculture	7 units
9	Livestock	Training on Proper Laboratory Sample Collection, Processing & Handling for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs)	Agriculture	7 units
10	Livestock	Basic Meat Inspection Course	Agriculture	62 units
		Basic Meat Inspection Course	Veterinary Medicine	20 units
11	Livestock	Training on Basic Meat Processing with Good Manu- facturing Practices	Agriculture	7 units
12	Livestock	Training on Beekeeping	Agriculture	7 units
13	Corn	Training of Trainers on Corn Cluster Development (Fall Armyworm Management)	Agriculture	8 units
14	Corn	Training of Trainers on Site Specific Nutrient Man- agement for Cassava	Agriculture	14 units
15	Rice	Training on Rice Technology Updates and Farm Mechanization for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs)	Agriculture	12 units
16	Rice	Training on Rice Technology Updates and Farm Mechanization for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs)	Agriculture	16 units

No.	Program	Title of Program/ Training applied	Approving CPD Council	Credit Units
17	Rice	Training on the Regulations of Agricultural and Fisheries Machinery	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	10 units
18	Rice	Specialized Training Course on the Preparation of Feasibility Study for Agricultural and Fisheries Facil- ity and Mechanization Program	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	5 units
19	Regular	Training on 2D-3D CAD Modelling for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers (ABE)	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	5 units
20	Regular	Extension and Training Management Capability De- velopment (ETMCD) Course for Agricultural Exten- sion Workers (AEWs)	Agriculture	21 units
21	Regular	Training of Trainers on Digital Agriculture for AEWs (DFP 101 & 102)	Agriculture	7 units



#### Figure 1. Summary of Training Activities with CPD Units

#### Educational Grants for Extension Workers (EdGE)

Acquiring new skills and knowledge continually is essential. It helps develop both personal and professional aspects of an individual, open doors to new opportunities, and achieve full potential. DA-ATI CALABARZON's commitment to providing learning opportunities for continuous improvement of technical, cognitive and interpersonal skills of AEWs is evident in the offering of scholarship program. The Educational Grants for Extension Workers (EdGE) intends to support deserving and capable AEWs in pursuing post-graduate degrees in agriculture and fisheries.

Now on its 2<sup>nd</sup> year of implementation, the Center has seven **(7) scholars** under the following programs: Master of Science in Agriculture Major in Crop Production (3), Master of Science in Extension Education (1), Master of Science in Plant Pathology (1), Doctor of Philosophy in Management (1), and Doctor of Philosophy in Aquaculture (1).

Partner state universities include Central Luzon State University (CLSU), Cavite State University (CvSU), University of the Philippines Los Banos (UPLB), University of Rizal System (URS) and Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU).



#### Learning and Development Activities

DA-ATI CALABARZON sees Learning and Development (L&D) as a vital aspect for its employees to enhance their skills, stay competitive, adapt to evolving technologies, and empower hem to become better public servants. For this year, the Center's LnD has implemented various training programs tailored to the needs of the personel.

To highlight a few; the *Seminar on the Development of Farmers' Cooperative for the Philippines* proved to be a successful learning experience for Mr. Ric Jason Arreza, Development Management Officer I, who successfully completed the training held on July 12 - August 1, 2023, in Wuzi, China. The said training was geared toward understanding the economic contributions of farmer cooperatives and identifying potential areas for collaboration between the Philippines and China.





Additionally, Ms. Soledad Leal, Agriculturist II, participated in the training *Training on the Production, Marketing and Logistic System* in Nagano Prefecture and Tokyo, Japan conducted last September 24 to 30, 2023. The training aimed to disseminate technologies related to farmers improvement of vegetable packing and shipment technology and Safe Vegetable from Rich Soil (SAVERS) Technology.

Moreover, Ms. Abegail Del Rosario, Planning Officer II, attended the *Short Course on Leadership and Management* aimed at capacitating participants with bridging leadership and program management skills in support to the implementation of PAFES. The said course was participated by prospective leaders within the ATI network, DA-Regional Field Offices and PLGUs. It was held on April 10 to 21, 2023 via online application and at the Asian Institute of Management, Makati City.

Below is the list of trainings attended by DA-ATI CALABARZON staff locally and internationally:			
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Name of Staff	Title of Training	Duration	Venue
	Manager's Role in Capacity Building	February 7-9, 2023	Virtual via Zoom
Sherylou C.	Training on Event Management	March 30-31, 2023	DOST-PCAARRD
Alfaro	Exploring Excellence: Benchmarking Activity at the Philippine Coconut Authority-Zamboanga Research Center	Sept 11-14, 2023	PCA- ZRC San Ramon, Zamboanga City
Ric Jason T. Arreza	Seminar on Development of Farmers' Cooperative for the Philippines	July 12-August 1, 2023	Wuxi, China
Darren B. Bayna	Training on Cacao Production, Processing, Posthar- vest and Coconut Intercropping	August 28 - September 1, 2023	USM, Cotabato City, Mindanao
Jilliane Claire L. Bugas	National Training of Trainers: Use of Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Tool	March 13-17, 2023	Northern Mindanao Integrated Research Center, Malaybalay, Bukidnon
Janine L. Cailo	National Training of Trainers: Use of Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Tool	March 13-17, 2023	Northern Mindanao Integrated Research Center, Malaybalay, Bukidnon

Name of Staff	Title of Training	Duration	Venue
Junohan M	Capability Training for the Regional Pre-Assessment Team on Participatory Guarantee System	July 17-21, 2023	Magsaysay, Occi- dental Mindoro
Juvelyn V. Dela Cruz	Training on Philippine National Standards on Or- ganic Agriculture	October 16-20, 2023	ATI RTC XI, Pana- bo City, Davao del Norte
Abegail del Rosario	Leadership and Management Development Program	April 11 - 21, 2023	AIM, Makati City
Lizbeth L. David	Vegetable Specialist Training Course	June 19 - October 30, 2023	Malaybalay, Bukidnon
Hans Christopher C. Flores	National Training of Trainers on the use of Moni- toring and Evaluation & Learning (MEL) Data and Dashboards Analytics	October 24-27, 2023	Negros, Occidental
Angelo H.	Users' Training for the Unified Extension Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Information System	February 6-10, 2023	ATI Central Office, QC
Hernandez	National Training of Trainers on 4DFarms	March 13-17, 2023	Malaybalay, Bukidnon
Vira Elyssa L. Jamolin	Exploring Excellence: Benchmarking Activity at the Philippine Coconut Authority-Zamboanga Research Center	Sept 11-14, 2023	PCA- ZRC San Ramon, Zamboanga City
	Training on the Production, Marketing and Logistic System for Fruits and Vegetable	September 24-30, 2023	Nagano Prefecture and Tokyo, Japan
Soledad E. Leal	Training on Philippine National Standards on Or- ganic Agriculture	October 16-20, 2023	ATI RTC XI, Panabo City, Davao del Norte
	Capability Training for the Regional Pre-Assessment Team on Participatory Guarantee System	July 17-21, 2023	Magsaysay, Occidental Mindoro
	RCEF Refresher Course for Rice Trainers	September 25- October 6, 2023	PhilRice CES, Nueva Ecija
	Instilling Knowledge on Strategic Rice-Based Enterprise Clustering Approach: Training of Trainers (TOT) on Agro-Enterprise Clustering Development	August 7-11, 2023	Cagayan de Oro City
Mary Grace P. Leidia	Rice Technology Transfer Workshop (RTTW)	June 6-8, 2023	Bicol Region
	Digital Knowledge and Tools for Precision Farming	March 14-16, 2023	IRRI, UPLB
	Gender Sensitivity Training (Massive Open Distance eLearning Cours)	March 1-11, 2023	University of the Philippines Open University (Online Course)
Marian Lovella A. Parot	National Training of Trainers on Corn Cluster De- velopment	March 27-31, 2023	Manolo Fortrich, Bukidnoon
	National Training of Trainer on Site Specific Nutri- ent Management for Cassava	August 14-18, 2023	Baybay City, Leyte
Roy Roger D. Victoria	e-Learning Migration Workshop	May 22-26, 2023	Coron, Palawan

Additionally, DA-ATI CALABAZON also has initiated various training and activities conducted within the Center in support of the learning and development of its employees, namely.

Title of Training /Activity	Objectives	Date Conducted
Public Service Ethics and Accountability	To deepen the understanding and further educate on the norms and standards of government institutions.	February 8-9, 2023
Pepping Up for 2023	To further motivate the employees and strength- en collaboration within the Center's sections/units through various recreational activities.	March - September 2023
Summer League 2023: Larong Lahi Natin	To embrace sports and culture towards DA-ATI CALABARZON employees' physical and mental well- ness development, featuring the various Filipino traditional games.	May to June 2023
Igniting Awareness: Empowering DA- ATI CALABARZON with Life Saving Knowledge on Fire Safety and Preparedness	To provide knowledge on fire safety and preparedness for fire emergencies.	November 20, 2023

The employees of DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted a month-long celebration in consonance with the country's observance to Women's Month. The activity was initiated by the GAD point persons in recognition of the role and importance of women in all aspects. The said activities involved dedicating a space in the Center where female employees can do "chitchats over coffee" during their free time and a painting competition was also conducted anchored to the theme: *Women and Everyone (WE) for Gender Equality and Inclusive Society.* 

DA-ATI CALABARZON promotes that people should be treated equally and get the dignity and respect they deserve despite their gender preferences.







*Key Initiative:* Develop, enhance and implement AFE policies, standards, plans, programs and projects and monitor and evaluate AFE performance

#### **Regional Extension Service Provider (RAF-ESP) Council Meetings**

The Regional Extension Service Provider (RAF-ESP) Council carries out the substantive tasks in the accreditation, monitoring, and evaluation of Private Private Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Service Providers (PAF-ESPs) in the region. As such, their attendance to meetings and quora are deemed necessary in providing policy guidelines and direction to the program.

Performance monitoring of accredited PAF-ESPs, drafting of internal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the presentation of PAF-ESP accomplishments were among the key topics and recommendations discussed during the meetings.

Council meetings also served as venue for awarding plaques of appreciation to outgoing council members. Additionally, the council was able to validate the accomplishments and conformance to the requirements of PAF-ESPs, leading to the renewal of accreditation of Teofely Nature Farms, Inc. and MoCa Family Farm RLearning Center Inc. as regional PAF-ESP in CALABARZON.

#### Midyear and Annual Performance Review and Assessment



Evaluation is an important tool for improving management. Through organizational assessment, the effectiveness of an organization is measured in terms of its program implementation and accomplishments.

*Performance assessment* in DA-ATI CALABARZON is a semestral review that helps assess how effectively employees are performing and serves as an avenue to revisit organizational visions and evaluate goals to ensure that implementation of extension activities is in accordance with ISO standards. This year, the Center's midyear assessment took place at DA-ATI CAR, La Trinidad, Benguet on June 13 to 16, 2023. Part of the activity was a visit to various well-established certified Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs) in CAR to learn new technologies and skills that can be used and applied back to CALABARZON. Primarily, the activity served as a venue for knowledge-sharing and exchange of best practices being carried out by both Centers.

Subsequently, the annual performance review and assessment was conducted at DA-ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite on December 18 to 20, 2023. In addition to the customary performance assessment, the Center, in adherence to its corporate social responsibility, visited *Cottolengo Filipino Incorporated*. One of the beneficiaries of urban agriculture initiatives, the orphanage is home to 36 abandoned and neglected male children who are differently abled, ages ranging from 5 to 31. The management and staff of DA-ATI CALABARZON provided some of the basic needs of the children and observed the progress of awarded extension initiative, *Halamanan sa Bahay-Kalinga*, a 513.5 square meter garden designed for individuals with disabilities (PWDs). DA-ATI CALABARZON Center Director, Dr. Rolando Maningas, formally handed over the cash prize earned during the 1<sup>st</sup> Regional Research and Innovation Week wherein *Halamanan sa Bahay-Kalinga: An Extension Innovation on Inclusivity and Empowerment*, was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Best Extension Project category.





Also included in the day-long event, was the benchmarking in various divisions of the DA-ATI Central Office. It was also an opportunity for a courtesy call with ATI Director Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter and Deputy Director Antonieta J. Arceo.

These activities achieved the promotion of communication and provision of useful feedback about job performance that contributes to professional development. The assessments also provided opportunities for DA-ATI CALABARZON personnel to observe operations of other Regional Training Center and validate the effect of extension initiatives to clienteles.





#### **ISO Recertification Audit**

Transparency is fundamental to government organization. Quality Management System is essential both at the municipal level and national level such as DA-ATI. Government entities that are ISO 900:2015 QMS certified ensure that their frontline services meet the global management standards and requirements of their clients.

DA-ATI CALABARZON underwent the *ISO* 9001:2015 *Re-certification* Audit facilitated by TÜV SÜD last December 7, 2023, to reassess its management system and ensure the quality of services it delivers. The Center is one of the five (5) selected Regional Training Centers to have undergone the said audit.

Among the scopes of certification include the development and provision of training, knowledge products and services, accreditation of extension services providers, scholarships, alliance building, national extension system planning, and monitoring and evaluation.



#### Assessing the Outcomes of Season-Long Training of Trainers on Rice Production

The country's diversity of AFE participants needs greater collaboration and cooperation among the ESPs. The University of Rizal System (URS) has been an active partner of the Center, delivering pertinent studies on matured technologies and information that could accelerate sector development. This year, DA-ATI CALABARZON and URS achieved another milestone by developing the evaluation study entitled Assessing the Outcomes of Season-Long Training of Trainers on Rice Production. Forty-seven (47) season-long graduates from FY 2010 to 2012 served as respondents in the said evaluation study.

The study provided significant information about the appropriateness of the training program, extent of improvement and applications of learnings, social and economic return on investment, and the participants' challenges and opportunities.



#### Grants awarded to PAF-ESPs

To encourage participation of extension service providers in providing quality training and other complementary services, accessible funding support is necessary.

For this year, **MoCA Family Farm RLearning Center Inc**. in Padre Garcia, Batangas, a DA-ATI CALABARZON accredited PAF-ESP conducted two (2) trainings under the AFE Grant System.

On May 24-26, 2023, **twenty (20) AEWs** from Batangas and Laguna were trained Lowland Vegetable Production. The training was designed by MOCA Farm as a three - day course covering a range of topics towards:

- Identifying suitable sites for lowland vegetable production and preparing the site for planting;
- Selecting high-quality seeds and propagating them using appropriate techniques;
- •Managing soil fertility and applying appropriate crop management techniques;
- •Harvesting, handling, and storing lowland vegetable crops to ensu re maximum yield and quality; and
- Marketing lowland vegetable products and applying basic business management principles.

Subsequently, Empowering Coconut Communities through High-Value Utilization: Training on Coconut-Based Higher-Value Food Products and Coconut Shell Crafts was conducted last December 13-15, 2023 under the CFIDP. **Twenty-seven (27) coconut farmers** coming from different municipalities in Batangas Province actively participated in the training wherein they were able to gain knowledge, skills, and resources on the high-value utilization of coconut, specifically in the sector of food, arts, and crafts.

Public-private partnerships in agricultural development truly can enhance efficiency, as PAF-ESPs bring innovation DA-ATI on the other hand provides funding support. This synergy will lead to improved technology adoption, increased productivity, sustainable farm practices, and lessened workloads benefiting both the Center and its stakeholders.





#### **Extension Partners' Forum**

The Center continues to empower its extension partners (LSAs and PAF-ESPs) on enhanced agricultural product knowledge through the conduct of Extension Partners' Forum being held annually. This year's forum was themed *United Voluntarily towards Agricultural Development*. The said undertaking was in support of the national policies for rural development designed to help farmers become organized so that the delivery of services could be channeled through them.

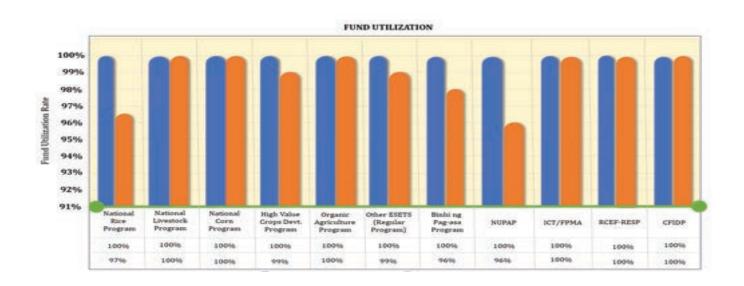




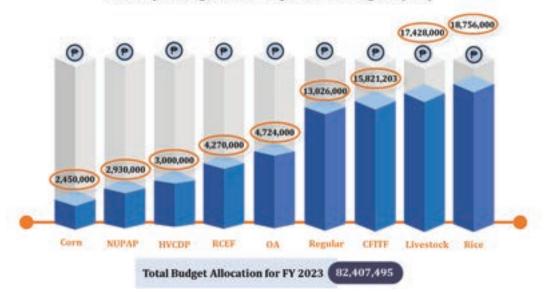
#### FY 2023 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The Center's allocated budget for FY 2023 for the implementation of various Programs/Projects/Activities (PPAs) was **PhP 93,245,845.00**. It was 17.74% higher than the prior year's total budget. The Center ensured proper budget utilization and cash allocation resulting to zero reversion for FY 2023.

On the other hand, the current year's Fund Utilization Rate for Disbursement vs. Obligation marked a notable reduction in Center's accounts payable from the prior year. With **a total reduction of 81.43%**, the Center complied with the directive from the Central Office to **reduce the accounts payable to at least 50%**.

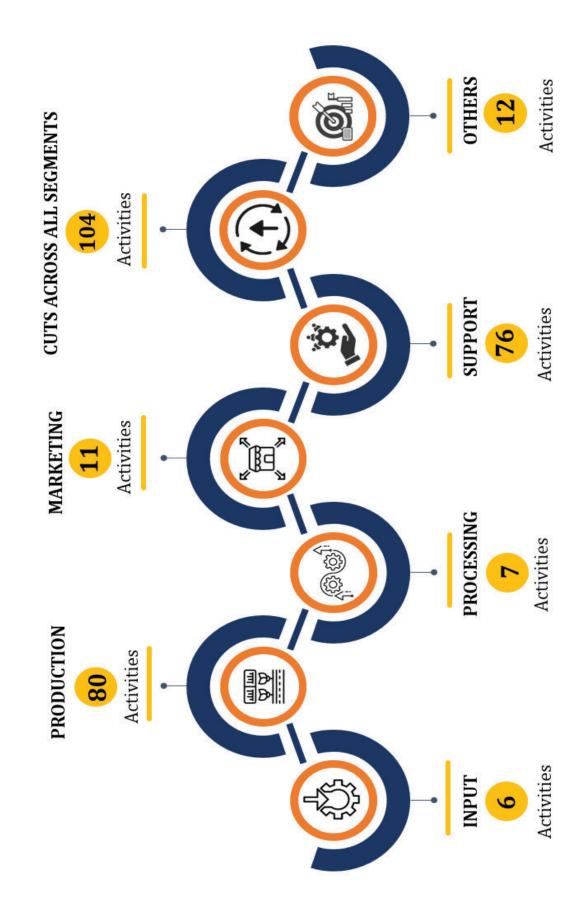


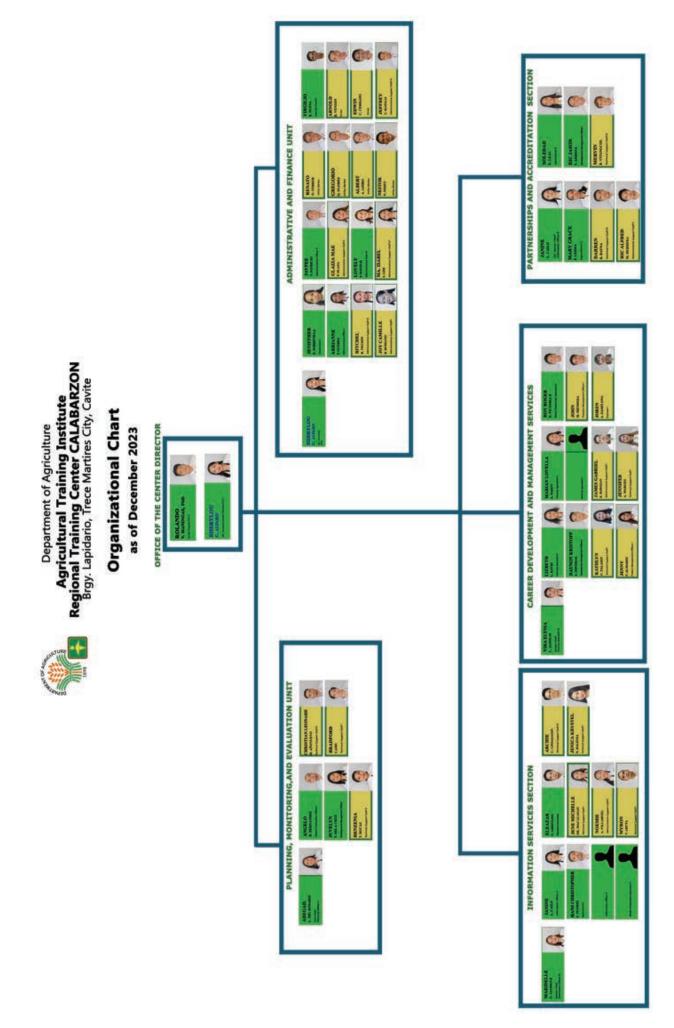
#### Summary of Budget Allocation per Banner Program (PhP)



For the past years, DA-ATI CALABARZON has ensured that the implementation of trainings and other AFE activities is in accordance with the standards. The Center has been proactive in continuously improving its processes to date maintaining remarkable performance in terms of accomplishing its annual physical and financial targets.









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