

# Hiatus





# ABOUT THE COVER



**Hiatus** (hi-a-tus), a noun, signifies a temporary pause or gap in a sequence, series, or process.

For ATI CALABARZON, “hiatus” is not merely a pause but a profound act of growth and preparation for a brighter, purpose-driven future.

ATI CALABARZON regards 2024 as a hiatus—a pause or ‘breather’ to reflect on milestones reached, challenges faced, lessons learned, and progress made. This period of reflection allows the Center to draw wisdom from past experiences while envisioning and reimagining the path ahead.

Emerging from this hiatus, ATI CALABARZON aims to mark a ‘turning point’—a transformation into a revitalized and proactive organization, ready to deliver more impactful agriculture and fishery extension services across the region.

**SHERYLOU C. ALFARO**

Assistant Center Director



# Hiatus

2024

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## OUR VISION

A competitive and prosperous agriculture and fisheries sector towards vibrant economy.

## OUR MISSION

Empowering stakeholders through a resilient and responsive agriculture and fisheries extension system.

## ATI'S CORE VALUES

**Citizen-centric** - We give the best.

**Commitment** - We serve with passion.

**Innovation** - We keep raising the bar.

**Accountable** - We work with integrity.







## Message from the **CENTER DIRECTOR**

**This year, the Center faced triumphs, setbacks, and challenges.** This year may have been a *hiatus* for the organization.

However, we did not pause, and we did not stop. Just like a farmer practicing a fallow period on their rice field—understanding that the land needs time to recover its nutrients to sustain future crops—we, too, have taken a step back. We took a moment to pause, breathe, and recalibrate our path to continue delivering the best services to our clients. Through this bold step, the organization remains committed to moving forward and embracing innovation.

We are stronger and better because behind our success are the resilient men and women of our organization—adaptable to change and driven by a hunger for progress. Through strengthened collaboration within the organization and with our partners, ATI CALABARZON successfully implemented agricultural extension programs and services across the region.

We are very optimistic about the coming year, with a strengthened strategic direction that focuses on empowering our human resources with 21<sup>st</sup>-century skills and continuing to provide top-notch training to Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), youth, and farmers.

As we enter the year 2025, we extend our gratitude to all our partners and look forward to becoming the best versions of ourselves.

  
**ROLANDO V. MANINGAS, PhD**  
Center Director





# DA-ATI CALABARZON: Driving Progress through Meaning

The Center’s mission of addressing challenges in the AFE landscape drives the organization to reinforce its commitment to strengthening the sector in the Region through innovative capacity-building activities and knowledge dissemination.

It is also important to note that achieving excellence in extension service delivery also requires active engagement and empowerment of personnel responsible for delivering these services. The following are innovative projects implemented for FY 2024:

## Steering Digital Transformation to LSAs and PAF-ESPs through AGRI360

Recognizing the transformative power of digital technologies, AGRI360 aligns with the Department of Agriculture’s three-year strategic plan, emphasizing digital transformation. The project advances agricultural modernization by creating a platform that enhances the visibility, accessibility, and marketability of LSAs and PAF-ESPs. AGRI360 aims to position LSAs and PAF-ESPs as knowledge hubs and agri-tourism destinations.



## Project ATI EnGAgE: Enhancing Governance in Agri-fishery Extension

Project ATI EnGAgE (Enhancing Governance in Agri-fishery Extension) aims to bridge the gap between policy directives and on-ground implementation. The project, is comprised of various components such as Capacity Building on Design Thinking; Inhouse Assessment; and Project Pitching Guidance Session, aligning with the Department of Agriculture’s (DA) mission to enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of agricultural extension services by recognizing that empowered employees key contributors to innovation, sustainability, and continuous improvement.







# gful Services

## **INGENIARE: Improving kNowledGe and Essential TechNical Skills for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers through Relevant Extension**

The project INGENIARE organized and developed a specialized curriculum track prioritizing the required technical skills of ABE extension workers in the region. By engaging in such programs, ABEs are better equipped to execute various projects and initiatives effectively, thus fostering the overall development of the agricultural sector in their respective LGUs.

## **Strategic Triad: Empowering Agriculture Through Collaborative Partnerships (An LSA-Led Internship Program)**

The project is a collaboration between DA-ATI CALABARZON, Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU), and Yumi's Farm located in Tayabas City, Quezon. Through this partnership, which ran from April 17 to May 11, 2024, the organizations pooled their expertise to create a comprehensive “learning by doing” environment, offering students valuable

insights and practical experience in agriculture. This partnership aims to enhance agricultural education and extension services through a structured internship program.

## **SkillsUp: Online Course on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Development**

The online course focuses on enhancing participants’ capabilities in designing effective and visually appealing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials. By utilizing the user-friendly graphic design platform Canva, learners gain hands-on experience in creating professional-quality designs, such as social media posts, presentations, infographics, and more. This course equips participants with the tools and knowledge necessary to produce materials that effectively convey messages and engage diverse audiences.







# AFFE

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

# Enhancing Capacities for Efficient Production

Boosting local production guarantees sufficient supplies for the demands of the country. Thus, the use of modern and appropriate technologies is imperative in mitigating the challenges influencing agricultural production.

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



## Key Initiative 1.1. Improve capability exchange of AEWs and ESPs to become competent new extensionists on appropriate and modern AF technologies



The DA-ATI CALABARZON, in its capacity and dedication to providing stakeholders with up-to-date and appropriate agriculture and fisheries technology, in addition to strong collaboration and working together 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 implementing suitable innovations and flexible transfer of knowledge in every sector.

Recognizing the importance of partnership building in agriculture and fishery development, the Center continues to implement the **Extension and Training Management Capability Development Course (ETMCD)** to fortify linkages, consolidate, and complement resources, and additionally develop consistent guidelines for carrying out extension and training programs in the region, and increase the capabilities of new extension workers in performing their services.

The activity was conducted on March 4-27, 2024 at the DA-ATI CALABARZON Training Hall, Brgy. Lapidario, Trece Martires City, Cavite. **25 new Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs)** from Local Government Units (LGUs) and other DA-attached agencies in the region received personality theory training to gain a clearer and deeper understanding of themselves, evaluate mental health wellness and resiliency, characterize extension principles and concepts, assess the qualities of extension workers including

approaches, strategies, and methods, and understand the connection between various stages of training and their critical tasks.





Furthermore, the Center recognizes the need to train new personnel to lead local agriculture offices in assuring the delivery of basic services and the provision of adequate facilities for agricultural services. In line with this, two activities were orchestrated this year: the **Leadership Skills Training for New Breed of Agricultural and Fishery Extension Workers** was conducted last March 20 to 22, 2024, at the DA ATI-CALABARZON Training Hall, Trece Martires City, Cavite, to develop the leadership skills of the 25 AEWs.

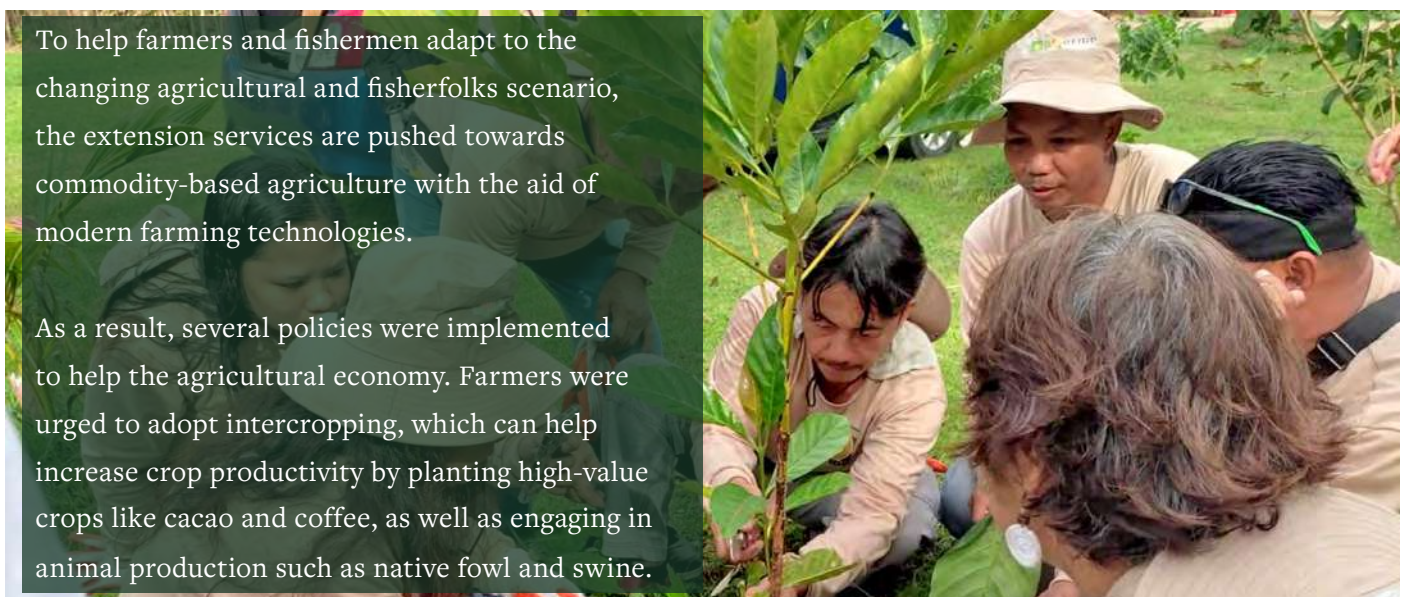


The **Supervisory Development Course (SDC) Track 1** training, which was conducted in collaboration with the Civil Service Commission and aimed at strengthening leadership and management skills, was also held from April 22 to 25, 2024 for **33 new supervisors** from Local Government Unit (LGU) partners.

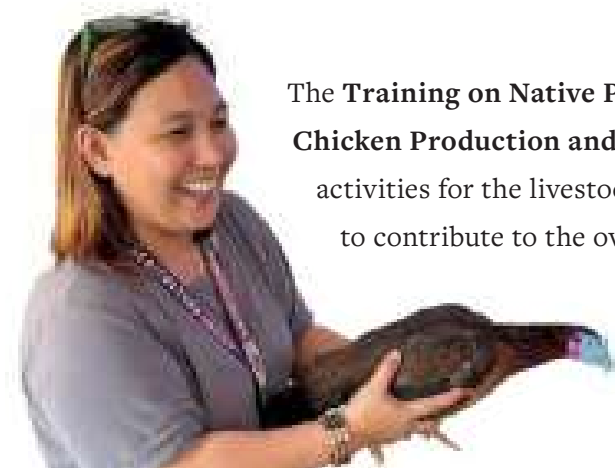
## **Key Initiative 1.2. Strengthen capability exchange of farmers/fishers in the adoption of appropriate and modern technologies**

To help farmers and fishermen adapt to the changing agricultural and fisherfolks scenario, the extension services are pushed towards commodity-based agriculture with the aid of modern farming technologies.

As a result, several policies were implemented to help the agricultural economy. Farmers were urged to adopt intercropping, which can help increase crop productivity by planting high-value crops like cacao and coffee, as well as engaging in animal production such as native fowl and swine.







The **Training on Native Pig Production and Management** and **Training on Native Chicken Production and Management** were on top of the capacity development activities for the livestock sector as **seven batches** each were conducted this year to contribute to the overall resilience and sustainability of smallholder farming communities and empower farmers with the tools and techniques to maximize the productivity and profitability of their enterprises.



For the crop production side, **seven batches of Training on Coconut-Coffee Farming System** were designed as an intercropping technology for the coconut farmers to have an additional income while waiting for the maturity of the newly planted coconut seedlings.



Additionally, 15 batches of the Farmer Field School on Corn Production and Management were also conducted to boost the production of corn, a staple crop in the region.



# COCONUT PRODUCTS AND BY-PRODUCTS

Furthermore, to address the needs of the farmers for an additional source of income aside from production, a series of training programs focusing on value-adding and marketing were also included in the roster of training this year. Five batches of Training on Coconut Products and By-products were conducted to support the goal of having a more competitive, sustainable, and productive enterprise for the farmers.







# COCONUT FARM BUSINESS SCHOOL

Likewise, **four batches** of Training on Coconut Farm Business School were also conducted to equip the farmers with the essential knowledge and skills to help promote the entrepreneurial mindset of farmers by emphasizing the agribusiness side of agriculture.



## SEMINARS ON URBAN AGRICULTURE along the Value Chain Technologies

Moreover, to promote urban farming in the region, **eight batches** of Seminars on Urban Agriculture along the Value Chain Technologies were conducted under the National Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP).





## Key Initiative 1.3. Upskill farmers/fishers, AEWs, and ESPs through distance learning programs and knowledge-sharing activities

As a knowledge bank, the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) also implements strategic interventions to equip its stakeholders with the necessary knowledge and skills. This is through innovative distance learning and knowledge-sharing initiatives that ensure that the dissemination is flexible in terms of modality and available in various forms of media to reach even the far-flung communities that seek access to agricultural extension services.

### Knowledge Products Development



In 2024, the Center developed **two technology-based IEC materials**. *Mga Pakinabang sa By-product ng Palay* is a tri-fold brochure aiming to inform readers about the proper management and utilization of main rice by-products (i.e., rice straw, rice husks or hulls, and rice bran) for energy and non-energy uses (e.g., for the agriculture sector and animal fodder production).

Meanwhile, the bi-fold brochure titled *GAP on Coconut* aims to educate readers regarding the components and importance of good agricultural practices (GAP) for coconut farming to promote efficient production and improved livelihood.

Copies of these IEC materials were distributed to Farmers’ Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers and Kiosks and participants in related Center-led training programs. They were also made available on the Center’s official website.



In total, the Center distributed **32,800 IEC materials** under various programs, including both the newly developed and reprinted ones. These were disseminated during training, seminars, other extension and corporate image-building activities, as well as visits of walk-in clients to the e-Extension Hub of the DA-ATI CALABARZON.

On top of these, the Center also developed **three more printed materials** and documented **four success stories** of DA-ATI CALABARZON program/project beneficiaries.



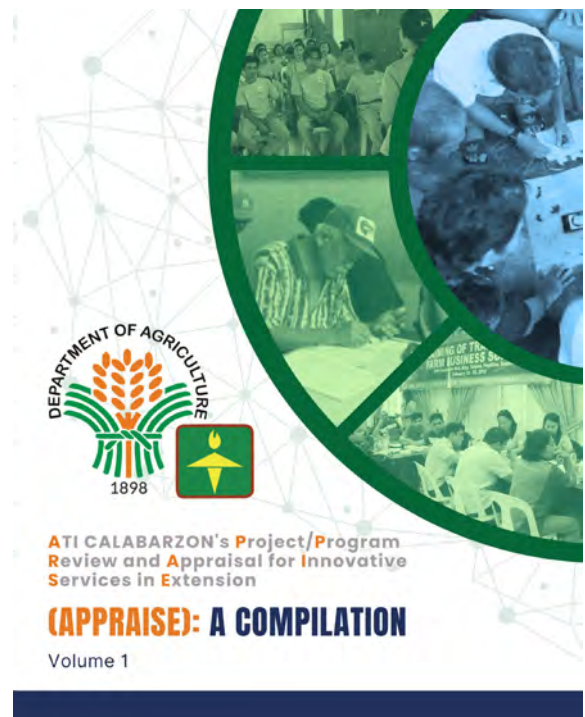
The 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> issuances of SIKLAB, the semi-annual newsletter of the Center, not only flaunted a new look with its rebranded layout and page design but also a refined style in writing featured write-ups that gave more weight to the objectives and impacts of the Center’s interventions. Meanwhile, a collaborative effort with the DA-Philippine Coconut Authority Region IV-A was highlighted as two featured stories on SIKLAB 15<sup>th</sup> about the flourishing Sama-Sama sa Kaunlaran Multipurpose Cooperative and the success of farmer-leader Minda Giangan were written by the staff from the said agency.



Another by-product of collaboration was the publication of the first volume of **ATI CALABARZON’s Project/Program Review and Appraisal for Innovative Services in Extension (APPRAISE)** which is a compilation of three evaluation studies about selected programs of the Center, conducted by partner state universities in the region.

These studies were Cavite State University’s *CALABARZON Farm Business School: An Impact Study (Facilitators’ Level and Farmers’ Level)*, as well as the University of Rizal System’s *Assessing*

*the Outcomes of Season-long Training of Trainers on Rice Production and Appraising the Outcomes of Season-long Training of Trainers on Integrated Crop Management for Corn*—highlighting findings and recommendations that can be considered in recalibrating the training programs of the Center. Copies were distributed to other Regional Training Centers and extension partners of DA-ATI CALABARZON.



**APPRAISE:**  
A COMPILATION VOL. 1



**Figure 4.** Farmer-Beneficiaries of FBS Sessions held at Agdangan, Quezon (2018) and Amadeo, Cavite (2018) (from top-left to bottom-right)

farming practices. A minority (33%) reported no significant changes due to lack of resources or opportunities.

**D. Results**

The FBS training led to varied outcomes. Some participants reported better farming practices, increased income, and improved

social capital. They also noted better family support, such as sending children to school. However, six participants reported no significant changes. In terms of home and farm improvements, participants cited enhanced livestock management, financial savings, and personal development, though a small group saw no change.



Bringing the Center's AFE services to the forefront and highlighting the accomplishments of its interventions in the lives and livelihood of its clientele, DA-ATI CALABARZON continues to document **Success Stories** under different banner programs.

This year, DA-ATI CALABARZON featured the innovative and organic pig farming practices of *Ms. Agripina Replan-Ochoa*, *Mr. Joe Kim U. Cristal's* unwavering commitment to empowering rice farmers in their locality, *Silang Livestock Agriculture Cooperative's* success and promising ways forward, and *Ms. Astralet Marbella's* passion for farm expansion and helping their farming community.

Their stories were uploaded to the AgriStudio YouTube channel of DA-ATI CALABARZON and the narrative components were also made available on the webpage of the Center.



Natatanging Tekniko ng Candelaria, Huwarang Lingkod ng Agrikultura



Ang kwento ng tagumpay sa pagsasaka ni Agripina Replan-Ochoa



Kung paano pinagyayaman ni Astra ang binhing itinanim ng kaniyang yumaong asawa



Silang Livestock Agriculture Cooperative: Samahan tungo sa Tagumpay sa Pagbababuyan

## Knowledge Resource Centers

To efficiently circulate knowledge on agriculture and fisheries at a larger scale, the Institute remains committed to strengthening its information drive and distribution of technology-based IEC materials through the **Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers and Kiosks** across the region.





FITS Centers and Kiosks serve as a one-stop service facility nearest to the groups of farmers, entrepreneurs, and other clients in a given area. Anchored on the Techno Gabay Program (TGP), each provides fast access to information and technologies in forms appropriate to the client’s needs.

The Center also evaluates and endorses Magsasaka Siyentista (MS), and offers capability enhancement training programs to both FITS personnel and MS.

## FITS Centers

To date, there are **75 FITS Centers** in the region, covering **53% of 142 cities/municipalities** in CALABARZON. Meanwhile, **64 FITS Kiosks** have been established at DA-ATI CALABARZON’s extension partner farms, partner State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), barangays at the local government units (LGUs), and Agricultural Program Coordinating Office (APCO), to name a few.

This year, **three FITS Centers** were established in the Municipal Agriculture Office of these LGUs:

LGU	ADDRESS	FUND SOURCE	DATE LAUNCHED
<b>Atimonan, Quezon</b>	Municipal Agriculture Office, Purok Munting Sambat, Brgy. Tagbakin Atimonan, Quezon	RCEF	August 2024
<b>Paete, Laguna</b>	Municipal Agriculture Office, Brgy. Ibaba del Sur, Paete, Laguna	RCEF	September 2024
<b>Mabitac, Laguna</b>	Municipal Agriculture Office, Brgy. Nanguma, Mabitac, Laguna	RCEF	October 2024

## FITS Kiosks

Known as the extension/service facility of the FITS Center and usually located in a small space or corner within an institution, farm, or at barangay, FITS Kiosks provide easy access to IEC materials and services for farmers and clients within the community.

In 2024, **two FITS Kiosks** were established in the region:

LOCATION	ADDRESS	FUND SOURCE	DATE LAUNCHED
<b>Masaganang Bukid Agricultural Learning Center</b>	Brgy. Banilad, Nagcarlan, Laguna	RCEF	June 2024
<b>Laguna State Polytechnic University - Siniloan Campus (Siniloan, Laguna)</b>	Community Outreach Center (COC), LSPU Siniloan Campus, L. de Leon St., Brgy. Acevida, Siniloan, Laguna	RCEF	July 2024



## Magsasaka Siyentista

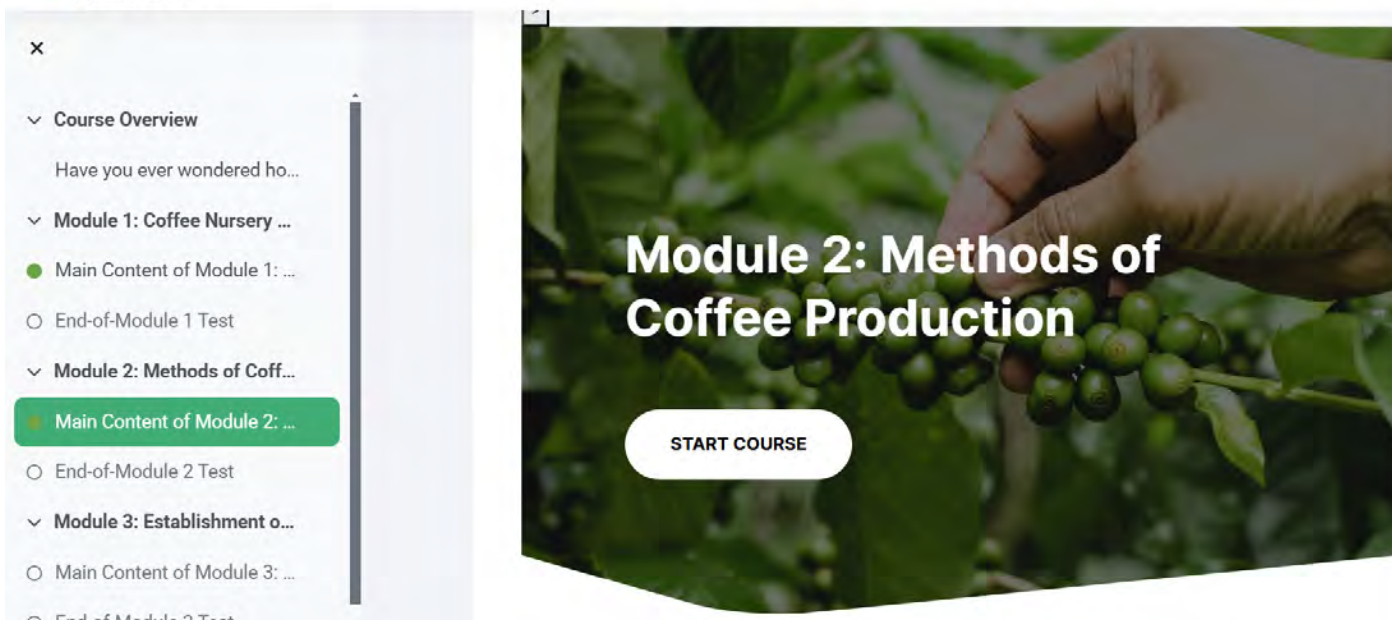
Another component of the TGP is the Magsasaka Siyentista (MS) or Farmer Scientist which refers to an outstanding farmer adopter of various packages of technologies, showcasing various Science and Technology-based practices to other farmers and researchers.

In 2024, the Center evaluated and endorsed **eight new Magsasaka Siyentistas** focusing on various commodities such as rice, organic agriculture, and high-value crops.

MAGSASAKA SIYENTISTA	FOCUS COMMODITY	FITS CENTER
Genoveva Estrella Villegas - Antonio	Rice	Pila, Laguna
Pedrito V. Mergilla, Sr.	Rice	Luisiana, Laguna
Suzette S. Sales	Organic Agriculture/PGS	Sta. Maria, Laguna
Jerimiah Bravo	Integrated Diversified Farming	Sta. Cruz, Laguna
Abner Javier and Leni Espiritu	Rice and Integrated Diversified Farming	Office of the Provincial Agriculturist - Laguna
Marilyn Dela Cruz	High-Value Crops	Indang, Cavite





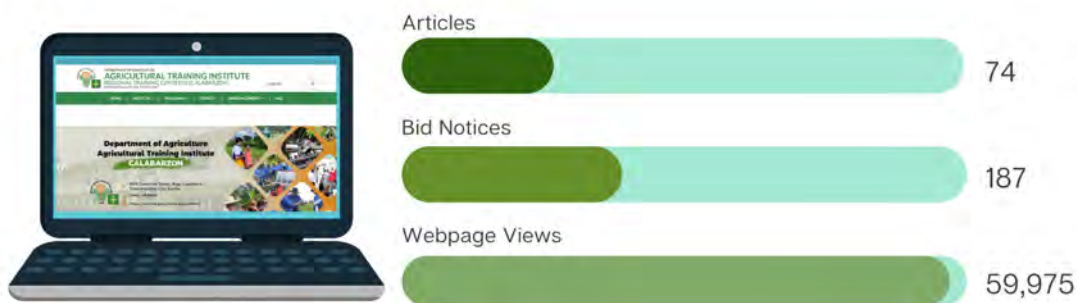


## e-Extension Program Management

The e-Extension program is an electronic delivery of extension services undertaken through a network of institutions that provide a more efficient alternative to a traditional extension system for agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources sectors.

Aiming at maximizing the use of information and communications technology (ICT) to attain a modernized agriculture and fisheries sector, DA-ATI CALABARZON effectuates its migrated course **Juan and Coffee Talk: Robusta Coffee Production** where interested learners may enroll online.

The said website can be visited through: e-Learning for Agriculture and Fisheries ([e-extension.gov.ph](http://e-extension.gov.ph))



## Corporate Image-building Activities Website Optimization

This year, **74 news articles** about the Center’s training programs, activities, and remarkable accomplishments were posted on the website, as well as **187 bid notices**, in compliance with the Republic Act No. 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act.

The webmasters continue devising strategies to increase web traffic such as cross-posting news articles and important announcements. In 2024, the Center recorded a total of **59,975 webpage views**.



## Local Media Engagement

One essential component of good governance is strengthening relationships not only with the stakeholders but also with partners in local media and other national government agencies, as they aid in disseminating the vision of the Institute and the Department.

On July 15 to 19, 2024, DA-ATI CALABARZON joined forces with Radyo Pilipinas Lucena and the DA-Regional Field Office IV-A for the radio program **Usapang Agrikultura**, aired every 5:00 - 6:00 in the morning. As part of the Bagong Pilipinas' thrust, this initiative aims to promote an array of programs and services of DA and its attached bureaus and agencies.



During the five-day run, DA-ATI CALABARZON's technical support staff Mr. Archie Linsasagin served as the co-host and the following key officials of the Center served as the resource persons:

Date Aired	Resource Person	Topic Discussed
July 15, 2024	Dr. Rolando V. Maningas Center Director	ATI CALABARZON's Policy Directions
July 16, 2024	Ms. Vira Elyssa L. Jamolin CDMS Chief	Training Services
July 17, 2024	Ms. Abegail L. del Rosario OIC-PAS Chief	Partnerships and Accreditation Services
July 18, 2024	Ms. Maridelle G. Jaurigue ISS Chief	Information Services
July 19, 2024	Ms. Sherylou C. Alfaro Asst. Center Director	Special Projects/Activities of ATI CALABARZON



On top of these, the Center continuously pitched its press releases to various local media outfits and sent them invitations for the coverage of DA-ATI CALABARZON's major events/activities, some of which were face-to-face mass graduation ceremonies and milestones like the Center's first-ever Coconut Expo.

Further, the Center partnered with various radio stations across the region to broadcast live airings of the School-on-the-Air (SOA) on Good Agricultural Practices for Coconut, in order to bridge the need for a more dependable modality, particularly in remote areas in the region. These partner radio stations include 106.3 Radyo Natin Laguna, 92.7 Spirit FM Infanta, and 102.5 Radyo Natin BonPen.



### Coconut farmers receive training under DA's School on the Air' program

OCT 14, 2024, 3:37 PM

OpinYon News Team  
News Reporter

A total of 729 coconut farmers in the Calabarzon region were able to receive training on how to improve their sector, thanks to the "School-on-the-Air" program of the Department of Agriculture (DA).



### Inflation Rate recorded at 1.8 percent in CALABARZON for the month of September 2024

#### De Claro assumes leadership of the Social Security System

The Social Security System (SSS) has announced the appointment of Commissioner Robert Joseph M. De Claro as its new Director General, effective October 15, following the resignation of former Director General Antonio M. de Guzman. De Claro, who has served on the SSS since January 15, 2016, representing the Department of Labor, brings a strong background in the field of social security, having served in the 17 and 18th and 19th Social Security Commissions and participated in key committees covering social, risk, investment, and governance.

#### DTI highlights importance of feedback to improve customer service, product quality

October 15, 2024 - CALANGUYAN CITY, Laguna (DTI) - The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is urging consumers to provide feedback on the products and services they avail, which is crucial for customer satisfaction and business growth.

#### Strengthened coconut industry eyed as over 700 farmers graduate from ATI CALABARZON's School-on-the-Air program

SAN PABLO CITY, Laguna - After the 10-week, online of lecture discussions, 729 coconut farmers across the region graduated from the "School-on-the-Air (SOA) on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Coconut" of the Department of Agriculture - Agriculture Training Institute (DA-ATI) CALABARZON.

#### Ragong Ragang at Agway Center Sustainable Livelihood Program Sa Nagcarlan, Pinaricayan?



#### PHILPOST TUMATANGGAP NA MULING NG APPLICATION FOR POSTAL ID

PHILPOST is now accepting applications for the Postal ID program. The program is a voluntary initiative to provide a secure and reliable means of identification for citizens.





## Attendance and Participation in Various Activities

In 2024, DA-ATI CALABARZON also actively participated in activities/events where the Center was given the opportunity to promote its programs and services and establish rapport with partner institutions. Among these include attendance in launching ceremonies and fora, booth setups for its IEC materials, and conducting region-wide activities in support of various national celebrations/congresses concerning the agri-fisheries sector.

Activity/Event	Date
ATI 37 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration	January 29-30, 2024
Kadiwa (Quarter 1)	January 29, 2024
Agri Asenso ATI Learning Sites Product Expo and Techno Forum	February 2-4, 2024
Filipino Food Month Celebration	April 2024
Calacatchara Festival (Calaca, Batangas)	May 2, 2024
Kadiwa (Quarter 2)	May 28, 2024
Regional Organic Agriculture Congress	July 10-11, 2024
Distribution of Presidential Assistance	July 11, 2024
Radyo Pilipinas' Usapang Agrikultura	July 15-19, 2024
CALABARZON Coffee Expo	August 11, 2024
First Asia-Pacific Young Farmers Camp and Agrilympics (YFCA)	August 12-16, 2024
PCA Region IV-A's Coconut Day	August 15, 2024
Bagong Pilipinas Serbisyo Fair	August 24-25, 2024
AgriLink/FoodLink/AquaLink	October 3-5, 2024
DA CALABARZON's Talakayang Pansakahan sa CALABARZON	October 16, 2024
Kadiwa (Quarter 3)	October 30, 2024
National Rice Awareness Month Celebration	November 2024
Organic Agriculture Month Celebration	November 2024
Regional Livestock Congress	November 4, 2024
SDGCoco Closing Ceremony	November 14, 2024
Coconut Expo/TGP Summit	November 18-22, 2024
NRAM Info Caravan	November 20, 2024
STAARDEC's 2nd Regional Research and Innovation Week	November 27-29, 2024
Araw ng Magsasaka (Mataasnakahoy, Batangas)	December 2, 2024



## Social Media Presence

The Center continues to optimize social media platforms as tools for information dissemination and engaging with clients and partners. This 2024, DA-ATI CALABARZON bolstered its social media presence and strategies through thematic posting and livestreaming in support of various nationwide celebrations and proactive content that correspond to the current situations.



### Facebook

The corporate Facebook page of the Center served as the main avenue for providing real-time updates regarding the conduct of training programs and other extension activities. Moreover, scholarship and job opportunities were announced on the page and cross-posted through the website.

To gain a wider reach, DA-ATI CALABARZON also kept taking on Facebook Reels for its major activities and engaged in some trends that were linked to the AFE system. Through these strategies, the Center succeeded in sustaining its Facebook page with a total of **900 Posts; 2,201,222 Reach; 52,445 Followers; and 40,826 Likes.**

### YouTube

Success stories and live streaming of the Center’s major events, webinars, AgriStudio Live episodes, and School-on-the-Air on Good Agricultural Practices for Coconut were the highlights of this year’s ATI CALABARZON YouTube channel. These continuous uploads paved the way for the channel to reach a total of **63,256 Views and 21,949 Subscribers, gaining 864 new subscribers** this year.

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

Augmenting extension programs for far-flung farmers and fishers, DA-ATI CALABARZON, in partnership with the DA-PCA Region IV-A, implemented the 20-episode **School-on-the-Air on Good Agricultural Practices for Coconut**, in collaboration with the Provincial Agriculture

Offices and 11 participating LGUs through the City/ Municipal Agriculture Offices.







Dubbed as **Masaganang Coco-buhayan: Radyo Eskwela sa Pagniniyugan**, the program trained over 700 farmers and farming enthusiasts on effective and efficient coconut farming strategies or GAP and ultimately strengthened the coconut industry in CALABARZON by highlighting its potential as a sustainable livelihood and innovative enterprise for farmers.

## Special Program Segments

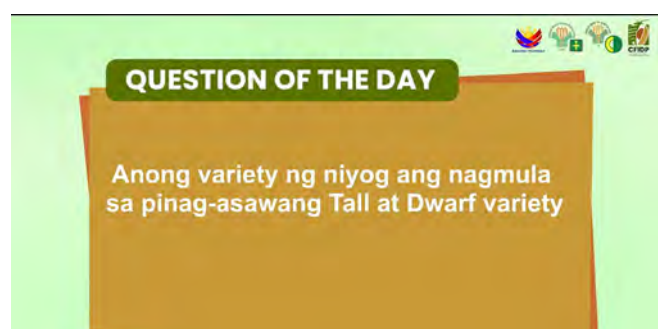
Innovating the SOA implementation through the years, DA-ATI CALABARZON introduced new program segments to engage learners even more with each episode.

**Coco-Balita** - brings the latest news on programs, projects, and activities under the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), delivered by a segment host from PCA IV-A.

**Coco-buhayang Panalo** - features various products made from or with coconut that can be transformed into a lucrative venture, hosted by a segment host from PCA IV-A.

**Lucky Sharer of the Day** - engages the participants with the program as it selects a lucky viewer who actively shares SOA episodes.

**Question of the Day** - is a form of text promo that encourages viewers to engage in and be attentive to the discussions.







## ATI CALABARZON's First-ever Coco Expo

On its eighth year of consistent implementation, the **Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Summit** came back bigger and grander as DA-ATI CALABARZON integrated its **first-ever Coconut Expo** with the program on November 18-19, 2024, at Pacific Mall in Lucena City, Quezon.

Themed **Kultura, Sining, at Agham tungo sa Makabagong Industriya ng Pagniniyugan**, the Center brought together various stakeholders to share best practices and success stories among farmers and implementers, highlighting how technology and community collaboration could uplift the coconut industry.

In collaboration with PCA IV-A, featured exhibitors were **9 cooperatives** and small-scale coconut enterprises in the region, showcasing an array of coconut products such as lambanog, coco pots, coco sugar, virgin coconut oil, mouth and nasal spray, soap, cooking oil, and even delicacies such as buko pie, among others.





# Innovative Extension Programs and Services Using Digital Platforms

True to its commitment to fostering a culture of innovation, DA-ATI CALABARZON consistently capitalizes on online modalities to deliver extension programs and services to its clientele and beyond.



## ATI@Home

Offering free online seminars on various farming technologies and livelihood ideas, DA-ATI CALABARZON produced another episode of Agricultural Technologies thru Internet at Home (ATI@Home) in support of the Filipino Food Month celebration with the theme: “*Kalutong Filipino, Lakas ng Kabataang Makabago.*”

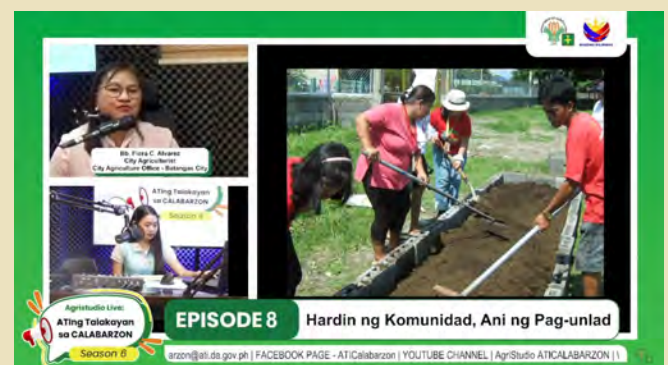
This year’s episode featured some of the best local delicacies of Quezon province that boasted coconut as one of its key ingredients. The making of heirloom pinais, puto bao, and white haluhalo was demonstrated by Cortijo De Palsabangon farm owner, Ms. Ayrin Llorin.

## AgriStudio Live

Another online program brought by DA-ATI CALABARZON is AgriStudio Live which invites guests and resource persons from various agencies and extension partners to shed light on topics that the AFE clients must know about.

In 2024, two seasons of AgriStudio Live: ATIng Talakayan sa CALABARZON were produced.

During the first semester, Season 5 highlighted the best practices and success stories of farmers’ cooperatives and associations, individual agribusiness ventures, and learning sites for agriculture (LSAs) based in the region. Meanwhile, for the second semester, Season 6 delighted listeners and viewers with knowledge of nutrition-sensitive agriculture and healthy diets.





# Capability Enhancement Training

Through the Information Services Section, the Center also capacitates FITS Centers' and Kiosks' personnel, Magsasaka Siyentista (MS), agricultural extension workers (AEWs), information officers, and support staff from different partner institutions through capacity enhancement interventions — equipping them to be the Center's offshoot. counterparts and partners in delivering quality information services.

## Training on IEC Materials Development

As part of its capability enhancement intervention for FITS Centers' personnel, DA-ATI CALABARZON equipped 30 agricultural extension workers (AEWs) in the region with knowledge and skills in developing substantive and effective IEC materials that they would utilize in delivering more efficient information and technology services to their clientele.

Participants learned more about making IEC materials and reels through **SkillsUp: Training Course on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials Development Using Online Graphic Design Platform (Beginner Level)** held on May 6-10, 2024, at the Center.



## Training on Beekeeping

Thirty-one farmer leaders in the region completed the **Honey to Money: Training on Beekeeping**, held at DA-ATI CALABARZON from April 30 to May 2, 2024.

Magsasaka Siyentista (MS), Rural Improvement Club (RIC) members, and staff from Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs) were equipped with knowledge and skills in beekeeping management and its potential as agribusiness. This was through farm tours at Profeta's Integrated Farm (Tanza, Cavite) and Mai Kanlungan (Indang, Cavite); hands-on activity for splitting and harvesting; as well as lectures by resource persons from Cavite State University's Bee Research, Innovation, Trade, and Extension (BRITE) Center.







## Training on Digital Tools for Rice Production

To strengthen the use of digital tools for rice production, the DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted **The Future of Rice: Training on Digital Tools for Rice Production**, aiming to capacitate MS and staff from LSAs in utilizing the latest digital tools in the rice industry.

Over the course of three days from June 25-27, 2024, participants revisited their competencies in employing applications such as Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service (RCMAS), Binhing Palay App, Rice Doctor, and drone technologies in rice fields.

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## Training on Basic Radio and Online Broadcasting

DA-ATI CALABARZON led the second batch of Hitting the Airwaves: Training on Basic Radio and Online Broadcasting, wherein **25 information officers from partner national agency agencies and extension workers** underwent a series of workshops on news writing, program development, broadcast delivery, and simulation of their own radio program during the four-day training held from March 12-15, 2024.

Commenced in 2023, Hitting the Airwaves intends to produce a new breed of community broadcasters that will utilize radio and online platforms in delivering extension services on agriculture and fisheries.

The training also served as hands-on practice to gear up DA-ATI CALABARZON's program partners, particularly the PCA IV-A technical team, for the SOA implementation as the program co-host and segment hosts.





## Key Initiative 1.4. Foster resilience and adaptation to climate change and disaster risks



The Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) recognizes the importance of climate-smart technologies to address challenges posed by climate change and disaster risks. These 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 also proven to improve production and increase farmers' productivity.

Through the Digital Farmers Program (DFP) and Rice Crop Manager Advisory Services (RCMAS), DA-ATI CALABARZON remains dedicated to equipping the knowledge and capabilities of its training beneficiaries on digital agriculture.

### Digital Farmers Program (DFP)

To create future-ready rice farmers by introducing smart agriculture technologies (SATs), the Center led a series of training intended for farmers, especially the senior ones. They, with the help of their youth counterparts, were trained on how to utilize smartphones (i.e., precision agriculture and decision-making applications) to boost their production and marketing practices.





This year, DA-ATI CALABARZON delivered the following activities under the Digital Farmers Program (DFP):

Training/Activity	Date	Venue/Modality
Training of Trainers on Digital Agriculture Course Under Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (TOT DAC4RCEF) Evaluation	May 20-21, 2024	PCA IV-A, Lucena City, Quezon NIA IV-A, Pila, Laguna
Training of Trainers on DFP 101 & 102 for Farm Tech	June 5-7, 2024	Municipal Hall, Lucban, Quezon
DFP Farm Learn (Phase 2: DFP 103)	June 25 -27, 2024	Siniloan, Laguna
Digital Farmers Program: Farm Connect	July 1, 2024	Siniloan, Laguna
Turnover Ceremony of Digital Farmers Program (DFP) Farm Tech Package	July 29, 2024	DA-ATI CALABARZON Training Hall, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Turnover Ceremony of Digital Farmers Program (DFP) Farm Tech Package	November 4, 2024	Habilin Farms, Tayabas City, Quezon

## 4D Farms

DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted a four-day training titled **Regional Rollout for the Use of Outcome-based Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Tool (4D Farms)** on September 10-13, 2024, at Ouan's The Farm Resort in Lucena City, Quezon.

The participants were **10 pairs of agricultural extension workers and local farmer technicians/rice farmer technicians**. The training also featured hands-on activity on operating the MEL tool through interviews with rice farmers in Brgy. Wakas, Tayabas City, Quezon.





The activity aimed to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the Rice Crop Manager’s recommendations and to further enhance the participants’ capacity to operate, use, and train others on the 4D Farms’ MEL tool.

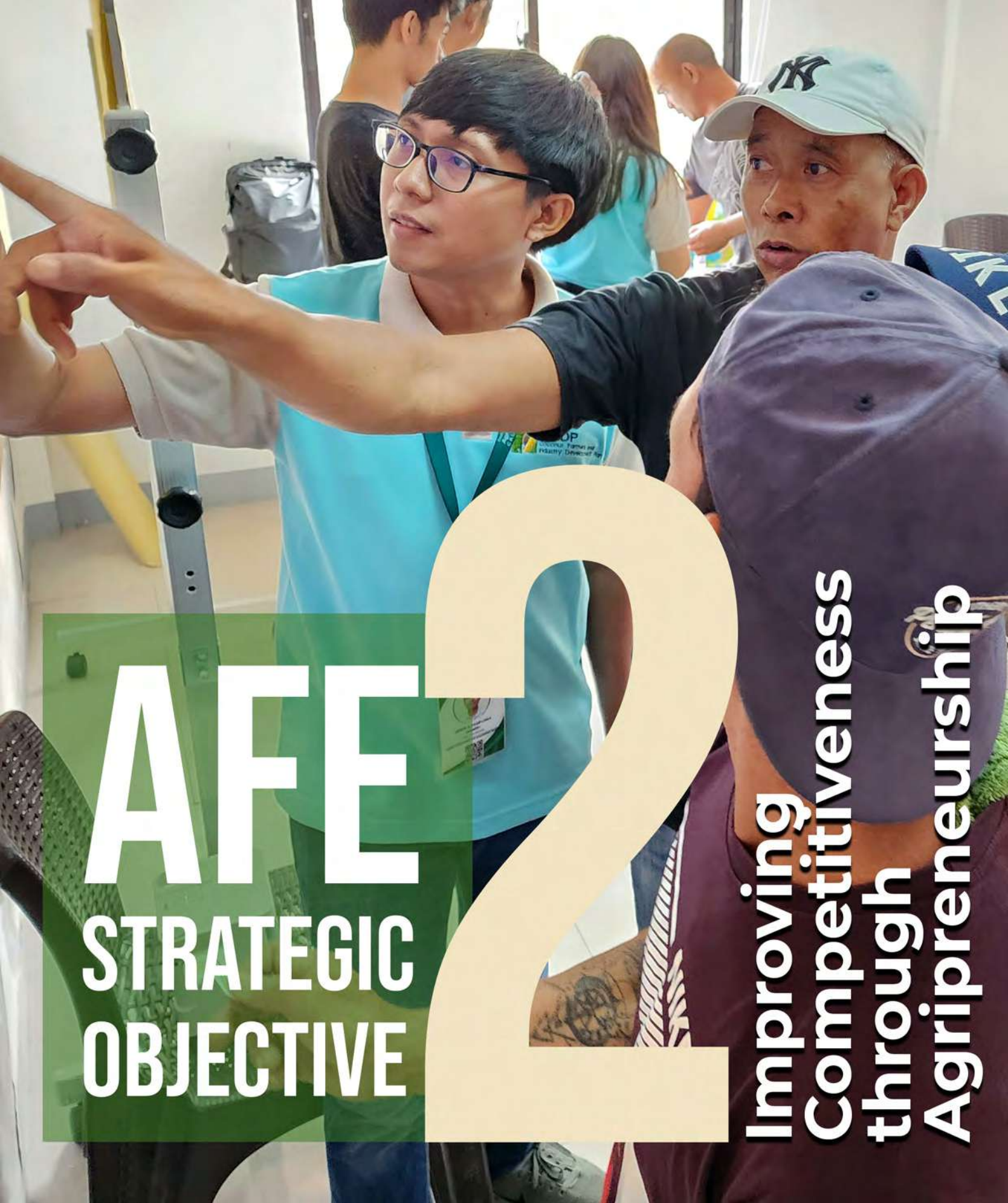


## Rice Crop Manager Briefing

Facilitating the meaningful sharing on the importance of appropriate season and the type and exact amount of fertilizers to be applied to rice fields, DA-ATI CALABARZON held consecutive briefings on Rice Crop Manager (RCM) in Lobo, Batangas (July 4, 2024) and Bay, Laguna (July 5, 2024). About **40 farmers** from the two towns received RCM recommendations for their rice farming.







# AFFE

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

# 2

Improving  
Competitiveness  
through  
Agripreneurship

Agripreneurship, defined as the integration of entrepreneurial practices into agriculture, has become a critical pathway to enhancing the competitiveness, sustainability, and profitability of the Philippine agriculture and fisheries sector. As one of the primary sectors in the country, agriculture plays a vital role in providing employment, ensuring food security, and driving rural development.





# EMPOWERING YOUTH TOWARDS AGRICULTURE

The significant role of the youth sector in agriculture has been accentuated through the years, with the enactment of the Republic Act No. 10679, otherwise known as the “Youth Entrepreneurship Act.” In this light, offering interventions that shall hone knowledge and skills of the youth towards agripreneurship has been one of the priority programs of the Center.

## Binhi ng Pag-asa Program

To develop the agricultural and entrepreneurial skills among young individuals, the Binhi ng Pag-Asa Program (BPP) was launched in Laguna by the DA-ATI CALABARZON, in partnership with the Office of Senator Grace Poe (OSGP) and other collaborating agencies. As the program concluded, successful youth agripreneur graduates were provided with starter kits to promote the program’s sustainability. These kits included options such as free-range chickens, hydroponics systems, agricultural tools and inputs, and food processing equipment.



The activities under the BPP were designed to enhance the leadership skills and values of youth beneficiaries while equipping them with the knowledge needed to effectively manage their agribusinesses, fostering pathways to successful agripreneurship.

In collaboration with its partners, the Institute organized one Provincial Training of Trainers and 20 batches of Municipal/City Training, delivering a total of 21 activities under the Binhi ng Pag-asa Program. These activities successfully trained **430 youth** and were conducted at accredited Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA).



20   
MUNICIPALITY/CITY  
TRAINING

21   
ACTIVITIES

430   
TRAINED  
YOUTH

The program concluded with a national summit held on December 27-29, 2024, in Binondo, Manila, themed “*Magsasaka’t Mangingisdang Kabataan, Pag-asa at Lakas ng Matatag na Agrikultura.*” Participants from the province received awards across multiple categories. Ms. Ava Minaer Velasco of Nagcarlan claimed the championship title in the Booth Competition, while Mr. RJ Amor of San Pablo City earned first place in the Kwento ng Pag-asa: A BPP Provincial Video Competition. Ms. Reysalyn V. Abrera of Biñan City secured second place in the AgriLegislative: Policy Solution Competition.



In the Agri-Innovation: BPP Project Pitching, Ms. Cheerly Antonete C. Azusena from San Pablo City and Ms. Arriane B. Dorado from Nagcarlan achieved third and fifth places, respectively. Furthermore, Ms. Danlene T. Delos Reyes, Mr. Christian T. Fernandez, Ms. Reysalyn V. Abrera, Ms. Mary Grace C. Maraña, and Mr. John Michael R. Dayapera earned third place in the Provincial Feud: BPP Knowledge Competition.



## Training on Agripreneurship for Youth in Agriculture

To actively engage the youth sector as active partners in agriculture, DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted the **Kabataang de Kalibre: Training on Agripreneurship for Youth in Agriculture** last November 4-8, 2024, at Gintong Bukid Farm and Leisure in Nagcarlan, Laguna.



The training aims to empower **25 young farmers** in the region by equipping them with essential agripreneurial skills, innovative techniques, and strategic business approaches to strengthen their capabilities as skilled agripreneurs. As part of the program, participants developed business proposals highlighting innovative, tangible, and practical products. These proposals were then presented to a panel of mentors for further polishing and improvement.



## Key Initiative 2.2. Enhance capacities of Farmers' Cooperative and Associations (FCAs) and Rural Based Organizations (RBOs) in Agri-fishery enterprise development

The Department of Agriculture (DA) prioritizes agri-fishery enterprise development, introducing various strategies to unify and empower farmer organizations into cluster cooperatives. In support of these initiatives, the Center implemented the following activities in 2024:



## Farm Business School

The DA-ATI CALABARZON first launched the Training of Facilitators on **Farm Business School (FBS)** in 2014. To date, the Center has completed **23 batches** of the program.



The Center, in partnership with Villar SIPAG Foundation, implemented **two batches of Training of Facilitators** on FBS under the Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund— with a total number of **60 new FBS Facilitators** from regions I, II, NCR, CAR, CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and Bicol.



A highlight to note in the conduct of FBS in the region is the roll-out of the **Farmer-Level 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 developing their capacity for running a profitable business.

The coconut-based enterprise that was tapped for the activity is Hiraya Integrated Farm in Tayabas City, Quezon. After this, the participants visited the following coconut-based enterprises: Rosales Supplies and Services Plant Propagation (Padre Burgos, Quezon), Quezon Federation and Union of Cooperatives (Pagbilao, Quezon) which produces virgin coconut oil, and M. Ilagan Coconut Trading (Sariaya, Quezon) which is known for producing charcoal briquettes from coconut shells.

Subsequently, **three batches of farmer-level training with 90 coconut farmer graduates** were conducted in the municipalities of Lobo, Batangas; Magallanes, Cavite; and Polillo, Quezon. A mass graduation was held last August 28, 2023, at Ouans Worth Family Farm Resort in Lucena City, Quezon.



## Youth Scholarships and Grants

Provision of scholarships attract deserving youth to the sector as this will provide access to formal education and employment opportunities. Grants for non-formal education towards engagement in agriculture and fisheries production, as well as agriprenurship, must also be upscaled to encourage more youth participation in the sector.

## Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture (YIPOA)

### Batch 1

Concluding the first batch of the National Youth Internship Program on Organic Agriculture (YIPOA), the achievements of the program and its interns were celebrated through a graduation ceremony and symposium held at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City on December 17, 2024.





This 21-month internship program, which started in April 2023 and was implemented by the Department of Agriculture, National Organic Agriculture Program, and Agricultural Training Institute, aimed at empowering youth and advancing organic agriculture.

The program was able to grant each graduate a 150,000-peso start-up fund to implement their respective projects. In the region, there were **11 YIPOA graduates** with their OA projects namely:



**START-UP  
FUND**

**1. Francis B. Cuento**

Nagcarlan, Laguna

Project: B-Rice Healthy (Taste the Purity of Nature, One Grain at a Time)

**2. Franz Victor P. Mendoza**

Pangil, Laguna

Project: HI-FATE (Hermetia illucens-Feedganic and Agri-Technology Enterprise)

**3. Jefferson C. Planillo**

Mabitac, Laguna

Project: Jeff's Organic Pig Production

**4. Jerome A. Francisco**

San Pablo City

Project: Jerome's Organic Poultry Enterprise

**5. Marcelino L. Jalosjos, Jr.**

Calamba City

Project: Sa Masustansyang Mais, May Kitang Kanais-nais

**6. Matthew B. Profeta**

Tanza, Cavite

Project: May Money sa Mani!

**7. Rey Anthony S. Lamac**

Padre Burgos, Quezon

Project: Lamac Naturally-raised Chicken

**8. Romark Glen C. Navarro**

Calamba City

Project: Tiwala at Pag-asa sa Soya!

**9. Jovelyn D. Bandillo**

Sta. Maria, Laguna

Project: Vertical Farming Using Organic Inputs

**10. Christian T. Fernandez**

San Pablo City

Project: Christian Hoggish Eco-Friendly Enterprise

**11. Michael O. Medenilla**

Sta. Maria, Laguna

Project: Organikong Babuyan para sa Pamayanan

The following are the **farm-partners** who successfully mentored the graduates for a span of 21 months, to wit:

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



## Batch 2

The second batch of YIPOA comprised **ten young farmers and five (5) farm partners** from various parts of the region. They are still in the seventh month of YIPOA Batch 2 implementation. The ninth month of the program will end in February and these interns are deployed in the following farm partners:

- Chad's Nature Farm (Mataasnakahoy, Batangas): John Paulo D. Belen & Ariel M. Ramos
- Glinoga Integrated Farm (Pitogo, Quezon): Gemereah M. Reynoso & Jefherson C. Talavera
- Agrie's Integrated Farm (Magdalena, Laguna): Niño Jhammel L. Loba & Richard Rae Reyes
- Ouan's The Family Farm Resort (Lucena, City, Quezon): Camille Diana L. Maralit and Jino A. Aunzo
- Adhika Nature Farm (Majayjay, Laguna): Paul Rafael S. Avendaño and Claudette Anne E. Aguila



The DA-ATI CALABARZON, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office IV-A and with the approval of the National Corn Program, launched the **Youth Scholarship Grant for Corn Young Farmers** from October 2024 to April 2025 (Phase I).



This seven-month comprehensive internship program is designed for youth to gain expertise in corn farming practices and activities along its value chain. Trainees will receive continuous support throughout the program until their enterprises reach full sustainability.

The program was officially launched on October 3, 2024, following the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement between Kenneth Timagos, Corn youth farmer intern, Mr. Pablo Flores, General Manager of CUFAMCO Integrated Farm as the farm partner. The DA-ATI CALABARZON takes on the responsibility for program management, catering to one (1) intern. The trainee will be awarded with 150,000 pesos for the implementation of their business plan.





## 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 participation in agriculture among 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-hold farmers and fishermen who wish to pursue a degree program in agriculture and other agriculture-related courses.



This year, the first batch of EAsY Agri Batch 1 has produced **three graduates with Latin honors and eight board passers** on Agriculture, Forestry, and Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

Name of Scholar	Achievement
Clarice Bleza	Cum Laude, BS Forestry Forester Licensure Examination Passer
Adrian Averion	Magna Cum Laude, BS Agriculture Licensure Examination for Agriculturist Passer
Don Wesley Manalo	Magna Cum Laude, BS Agriculture Licensure Examination for Agriculturist Passer
Jenebyl Cipres	Licensure Examination for Agriculturist Passer
Carmin Cayetano	Licensure Examination for Agriculturist Passer
Wilberto Babasa	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer Examination Passer
Jolina Asi	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer Examination Passer
Yvonne Faurillo	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineer Examination Passer

To evaluate the program's progress and strengthen the bond among youth scholars, a Scholarship Year-End Assessment was conducted on December 6–7, 2024, at the DA-ATI CALABARZON Training Hall in Trece Martires City, Cavite. The event brought together 51 scholars from the three batches of EAsY Agri. A resource person from Laguna State Polytechnic University facilitated discussions on technical writing and utilization of artificial intelligence (AI) tools during the activity.

# FY 20 ACCOMPLI

**20** Trainings &  
Other Activities

**601** Participants



CORN

**7** Trainings &  
Other Activities

**213** Participants



OA

**34** Trainings &  
Other Activities

**1084** Participants



Regular

**23** Trainings &  
Other Activities

**748** Participants



Livestock

**48** Trainings &  
Other Activities

**1979** Participants



CFIDP

**37** Trainings &  
Other Activities

**1166** Participants



Other  
Extension

# 243

Trainings Conducted  
and Other Activities





# 24 ACTIVITIES



RICE

**23** Trainings & Other Activities

**658** Participants



HVCDP

**3** Trainings & Other Activities

**90** Participants



RCEF

**7** Trainings & Other Activities

**175** Participants



BPP

**21** Trainings & Other Activities

**430** Participants



PAFES

**8** Trainings & Other Activities

**204** Participants



NUPAP

**12** Trainings & Other Activities

**396** Participants

# 7,744

Trained Individuals





# International Internship Programs for the Youth

Collaborating with various international partners offers valuable opportunities for young farmers and agripreneurs. These programs include the **Young Filipino Farmer Leader Training Program in Japan (YFFLTPJ)** and the **Filipino Young Farmer Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT)**. The primary goal of these initiatives is to develop young farmer-leaders and agripreneurs by exposing them to modern agricultural management and technological practices in their respective host countries.

This year, the delegate representing the Center for YFFLTPJ is Mr. Jairo P. Rabano from Tiaong, Quezon. He was sent off in April 2024 and is set to complete his internship by March 2025. Meanwhile, Ms. Lisette N. Pural, an intern under the FYFIPT from Majayjay, Laguna, began her program in July 2024. She is expected to finish her internship in September 2025.



Additionally, on November 11, the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) Central Office sent off 50 young farmers from across the country. Among them were Cherry Huerra (Indang, Cavite), Phia Paula Dejesa (Naic, Cavite), Angeli Grace Ilaog (Nasugbu, Batangas), and Dan Renbert Ferma (Mendez, Cavite).

Furthermore, Jade Destasura from Indang, Cavite, a successful intern in the FYFIPT Batch 2023, was awarded an additional 150,000-peso grant after securing first place in the Outstanding Agribusiness Proposals for FYFIPT Batch 3 Graduates, with his project on Bokchoy Production.







# Certification and Provision of Enhancements Support to LSAs

Accreditation of farms to become **Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs)** encourages more farmers/fishers to engage in farming businesses, adopt value-adding technologies and practices, and link their products efficiently and effectively to markets.



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 who 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.



**28**  
ADDITIONAL  
FARMS



**55%**  
OF ALL  
MUNICIPALITIES  
/CITIES IN  
CALABARZON  
HAVE AT LEAST  
ONE LSA

Expanding the network of local agricultural industry practitioners — the extension partners — have been incorporated into the growing number of certified LSAs this year.

	NAME OF FARM	LOCATION
1	South Maya Integrated Farm	Amadeo, Cavite
2	Profeta Technical and Vocational School	Tanza, Cavite
3	Greens for Growth	Indang, Cavite
4	Casama Agricultural Farm	Maragondon, Cavite
5	4JG Mushroom Farm	Alfonso, Cavite
6	Cross-Roads Haven Integrated Farm	Luisiana, Laguna
7	La Casa Organika	Pagsanjan, Laguna
8	Caliraya Ecoville Farm and Resort	Cavinti, Laguna
9	Zion Academy of Batangas	Nasugbu, Batangas
10	Molinete Farmers Association	Laurel, Batangas
11	NM Punzalan Farm	Sto. Tomas City, Batangas
12	St. Iganatius Training Center	General Luna, Quezon
13	Mentong Agricultural Farm	San Antonio, Quezon
14	KTI Integrated Farm	Lopez, Quezon
15	Yumi Yami Farm	Guinayangan, Quezon
16	Southwinds Nature Farm	Guinayangan, Quezon
17	Eldemar Integrated Farm	Buenavista, Quezon
18	dRR Farming School	Sampaloc, Quezon
19	Rallos Integrated Farm	Tayabas City, Quezon
20	De LAs Alas Agricultural Farm	Sariaya, Quezon
21	Lipata Agricultural Farm	Panukulan, Quezon



22	Versatily's Nature Farm	Jomalig, Quezon
23	Inolpe Integrated Farm	Polillo, Quezon
24	Casamelan Integrated Farm	Tayabas City, Quezon
25	PCA Coconut Agro-Nursery Demonstration Farm	Lucena City, Quezon
26	Ilapan Farm PH Honey Bee Farm	Tagkawayan, Quezon
27	Aquilina Integrated Farm	Catanauan, Quezon
28	Castillo's Adventure Park	Lopez, Quezon

## Road to One LSA per Municipality/City

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 who 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.



PROVINCE	TOTAL NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES/CITIES	NUMBER OF MUNICIPALITIES/CITIES WITH AT LEAST 1 LSA	PERCENTAGE
Cavite	24	11	46%
Laguna	30	18	60%
Batangas	34	16	47%
Rizal	14	5	36%
Quezon	41	29	71%
CALABARZON	143	79	55%

## Enhancement Support to LSAs

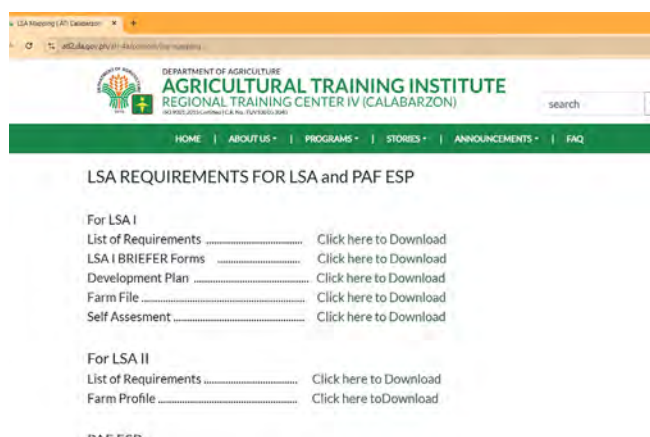


Several LSAs received financial assistance from DA-ATI CALABARZON through its targeted LSA Enhancement Funds across banner programs. The financial assistance was utilized to upgrade farm facilities, thus expanding the LSA's capacity to provide accessible learning opportunities to farmers in the community.

	NAME OF FARM / LOCATION	SUPPORT GIVEN	PROGRAM
1	Ole Farm Well <i>Padre Garcia, Batangas</i>	Vermicompost Drying Facility	Regular
2	JNY Nature Farm OPC <i>Cavinti Laguna</i>	Multi-purpose Vermicomposting Facility	Regular
3	Aquilina Integrated Farm <i>Catanauan, Quezon</i>	Various Agri Inputs and Construction Materials	RCEF
4	Eldemar Integrated Farm <i>Buenavista, Quezon</i>	Construction Materials	Rice
5	Jomalig Integrated Farm <i>Jomalig, Quezon</i>	Post-Harvest Facility	HVCDP
6	Cortijo de Palsabangon OPC <i>Pagbilao, Quezon</i>	Coconut Sap Production Facility	CFIDP
7	RNC Cacao Farm <i>Tanay, Rizal</i>	Various training equipment / supplies	CFIDP
8	RLI Fruit Farm <i>Bauan, Batangas</i>	Oil Press Machine, Oil Refinery Machine	CFIDP
9	Villa Socorro Farm <i>Pagsanjan, Laguna</i>	Various training equipment/supplies	CFIDP
10	Lipata Integrated Farm <i>Panukulan, Quezon</i>	Various training equipment/ supplies	CFIDP

## Online LSA Application

Taking advantage of technology can involve a range of practices and strategies, depending on individual or organizational goals. DA-ATI CALABARZON, through its website, continues to effectively leverage technology by allowing farms seeking application as DA-ATI extension partners to browse the list of requirements and download forms, making the application process more efficient, transparent, and accessible.





## LSA Technologies

LSAs are part of an innovative extension modality that involves successful farmers sharing their technologies with others. In CALABARZON, LSAs continue to set a high bar for quality, community engagement, and innovation. They have developed applicable agricultural technologies and doable farming strategies making agriculture a lifelong learning to their clients.



NAME OF FARM / LOCATION	TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASED
Omaña Farm Corporation Unisan, Quezon	Smart Water Irrigation
Bukid Amara Agri Farm Lucban, Quezon	Commercial Greenhouse and Hydroponics Production
Cross-Roads Haven Integrated Farm Luisiana, Laguna	Black Soldier Fly Production/Culture
Solanzo Integrated Farm Training and Assessment Center Corp. Siniloan, Laguna	Vermicast Production and Organic Concoction Production
Carolina Bamboo Garden Antipolo City, Rizal	Bamboo Propagation, Production and Processing
Ole Farm Well Padre Garcia, Batangas	Organic Agriculture Production
Gintong Bukid Farm and Leisure Nagcarlan, Laguna	
Luntiang Republika Ecofarms Alfonso, Cavite	
Javier Eco Farm Calauan, Laguna	Rice Production and Farm Machinery Operation
Vin Vie Integrated Farm Mataasnakahoy, Batangas	Cacao Leaf Fossilization
Auspere Nature Farm Silang, Cavite	Chocolate Production and Cacao Value-adding
Sta. Maria Dairy Farm Training and Tours Corporation Lipa City, Batangas	Dairy Production
DNPH Smart Agri-Tech FRSHBYT Farm Ibaan, Batangas	Smart Agriculture/Climate Control System
Iglesias Farms Malvar, Batangas	Coconut Water Production and Value- adding
Bounty Harvest Farm Indang, Cavite	Post-harvest Processing
CUFAMCO Integrated Farm Calamba City, Laguna	Corn Production and Management

# Empowering the Swine Industry: The Success of the INSPIRE Program



The **Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion (INSPIRE)** Program has made remarkable strides in its mission to revitalize the Philippine swine industry in 2024. Launched to address the twin challenges of recovery from the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak and the need for sustainable growth, the program has become a cornerstone of the government's agricultural recovery initiatives.





In 2023, the Institute entrusted the Silang Livestock Agricultural Cooperative (SLAC) with the implementation of a vital recovery project aimed at revitalizing the local swine industry. As part of the initiative’s innovative repayment scheme, SLAC has taken a significant step forward by distributing F1 breeder pigs to hog raisers in Silang, Cavite, who were among the hardest hit by the African Swine Fever (ASF) outbreak.



This strategic distribution marks a critical milestone in supporting affected farmers, enabling them to restart their swine production and regain their livelihood.

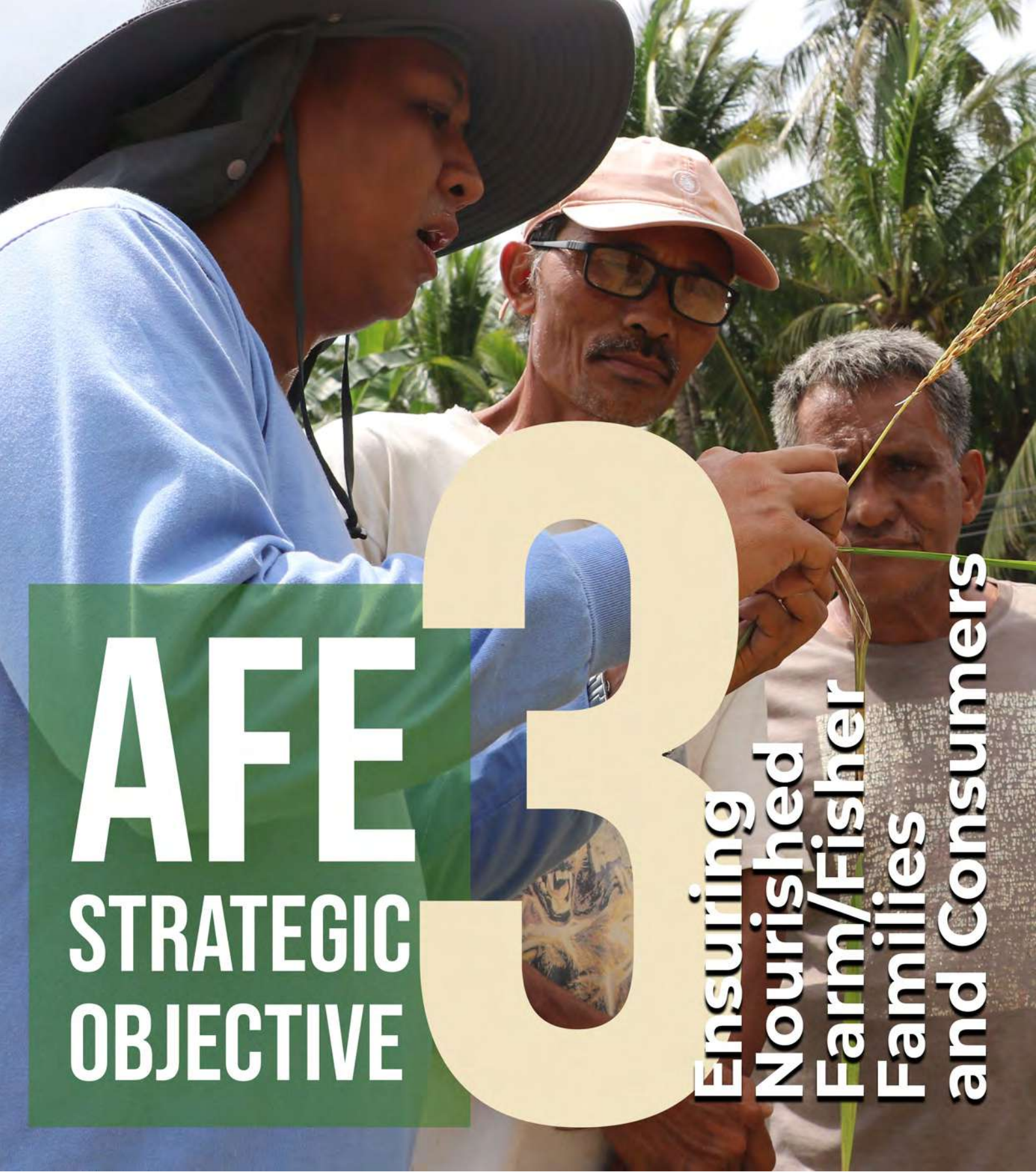


This initiative underscores the cooperative spirit and shared commitment to overcoming challenges and fostering long-term growth in the agricultural sector.

<b>Production data as of December 2024</b>	<b>Number</b>
Born Alive	265
Mortality	18
Dispersed	32
Sales	75

\*\* Dispersal was put on hold last April 2024 due to ASF cases in Silang





# A FE 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 nutrition-sensitive is vital to overcoming 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 3.1. Intensify provision of nutrition-sensitive agriculture extension programs to increase availability and access to nutritious and healthy food



### Participatory Guarantee System (PGS)

This year marks a significant milestone for the Organic Agriculture Program in CALABARZON as the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (DA-BAFS) awarded Certificate of Accreditation to **two PGS groups** namely the Batangas Organic and Natural Farming Cooperative (BONFAC) on June 26, 2024; and the Upland Cavite Farmers Agriculture Cooperative (UPCAFA) on December 5, 2024.



Both cooperatives successfully met the requirements and completed the assessment procedures, which included office assessments and witness audits, under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). These cooperatives are now recognized as PGS organic certifying bodies (OCB) in the Philippines.



Earlier this year, the DA-ATI CALABARZON, in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office IV-A, provided a training entitled Fostering Organic Expertise: Transforming Certified PGS Group to Organic Certifying Body (OCB) to these groups on February 12-16, 2024. The training aimed to enhance their members' capabilities in the accreditation process and finalize their Manuals of Operations in alignment with organic agriculture standards and relevant technical regulations.





As the second and third OCBs in the region, these cooperatives are now authorized to certify their members and issue Participatory Organic Certificates (POCs) under the PGS framework.

Furthermore, the Center also trained **two more groups** this year, the Majayjay Organic Farming Association (MOFA) on March 11-22, 2024 at Gintong Bukid Farm and Leisure, Nagcarlan, Laguna; and the Yakap at Halik Multi-Purpose Cooperative on April 15 to 26, 2024 at Teofely Nature Farms, Silang, Cavite—expressing their intent to be certified and accredited under the PGS with a total of 52 members.



Meanwhile, **50 members** of Marikina Kaysakat Watershed Association in Antipolo City, Rizal had also been trained for Phase I of the Training of Trainers on Participatory Guarantee System, in partnership with the DA-Regional Field Office IV-A Organic Agriculture Program and Regulatory Division.



## National Kabataang OA 2024

In view of the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> Organic Agriculture Month, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) hosted the **3<sup>rd</sup> National Kabataang OA Quiz Bee** with the theme, “Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK: PGS Pinalakas para sa Bagong Pilipinas.” This nationwide competition, focused on organic agriculture, brought together regional champions from across the country to vie for the prestigious title was held on November 14, 2024, at Axiaa Hotel in Quezon City.



**Mr. Joseph Carlo L. Viray** from **Southern Luzon State University** emerged as the overall champion, proudly representing the CALABARZON region. Prior to this, Mr. Viray previously secured the regional championship, besting competitors from seven universities and fifty Agriculture students last September of this year.



CALABARZON has established a remarkable legacy in the National Kabataang OA Quiz Bee, claiming victory in the pilot implementation and achieving a commendable fifth place last year. This year's triumph marks a momentous milestone for the region, as it not only reclaimed the prestigious title of National Kabataang OA Champion but also reinforced its reputation as a consistent leader in promoting OA excellence.

## Webinars on OA



As part of the Organic Agriculture Month celebration, the Center hosted a webinar titled **ATI@Home: Tiny and Tasty-Growing Organic Microgreens**, presented by Ms. Andrea Karina Alforte of ARTFARM Sustainable Solutions, a PGS-certified farm based in Bay, Laguna.

The DA-ATI CALABARZON, in collaboration with DA-Regional Field Office IV-A, also held the OA Webinar Series: Understanding the Philippine National Standards on Organic Crops, Swine, and Poultry Production from August 13-14, 2024, via Zoom and attended by **100 participants** from various parts of the region.



Various topics on the Philippine National Standards for Crops, Swine, and Poultry have been discussed by the personnel from the Regulatory Division of DA-RFO IV-A namely, Mr. Marianito E. Mendoza Jr., Ms. Lielani L. Galanido, and Mr. Jun Villarante.



## Key Initiative 3.2. Enhance the education of Filipino consumers to healthy diets



As part of the government's commitment to making sure that every Filipino household, especially those in urban areas, has access to enough food at a reasonable price, the Department of Agriculture (DA) has been implementing the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP). The DA's dedication to supplying the Filipino people with sufficient and easily available food has the full support of the Center.

The Center successfully trained a total of **431 individuals** through **11 training activities** conducted such as webinar/seminar series held in various parts of the region.

**431**  INDIVIDUALS

**11**  TRAINING ACTIVITIES



Additionally, the Center employed a combination of online and face-to-face approaches to deliver content in the following initiatives:



**Honey to Money: Training on Beekeeping**



**Capability Building for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Technologies Phase 1**



**Capability Building for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Technologies Phase 2**



**“Dunong at Diwa sa Sentrong Pasanayan”: Seminar on Urban Agriculture through Soilless Crop Production Batch 1**



**“Dunong at Diwa sa Sentrong Pasanayan”: Seminar on Container Gardening Batch 2 and AgriKids**



**“Dunong at Diwa sa Sentrong Pasanayan”: Seminar on Indigenous Vegetable Production (along with KADIWA Batch 3)**





**“Dunong at Diwa sa Sentrong Pasanayan”: Seminar on Container Gardening (along with KADIWA Batch 4)**



**Masustansyang Baon, Malusog na Empleado: ATI Bento Box Contest**



**AgriNanay: Nurturing Healthier Families through Container Gardening**



**Seminar on Urban Agriculture Technologies**



**Seeding Sustainability: Seminar on Organic-based Urban Agriculture**



**2024 Regional Search for the Best Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Garden**



**Agri-Teens: Capacitating Youth Leaders on Sustainable Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture Technologies**





# Partnerships

## SAVERS Technology

The DA-ATI CALABARZON, in partnership with the Japan Agricultural Exchange Council (JAEC), successfully installed *mokusaku* facilities and held a seminar on **Safe Vegetable from Rich Soils (SAVERS) Technology**. These operations were carried out in key areas such as Binangonan, Rizal; Batangas City; Tanza, Cavite; and Calauan, Laguna.



**Two hundred farmers and agricultural extension workers (AEWs)** were equipped with cutting-edge information and resources to improve farming methods. It is expected that *mokusaku* will be produced from the mokusaku facilities and distributed to nearby farmers. This initiative seeks to advance sustainable agriculture practices and enhance soil health.



## Internship Program

The Center, with the Laguna State Polytechnic University (LSPU) and Yumi's Farm (Tayabas City, Quezon) forged a partnership dubbed as **Strategic Triad: Empowering Agriculture Through Collaborative Partnerships**. This tripartite partnership was intended to provide an effective and efficient learning environment based on the concept of “learning by doing”.



It was implemented from April 17 to May 11, 2024, to enhance agricultural education and extension services through a structured internship program, leveraging the strengths and resources of each entity and participated by **10 Bachelor of Science in Agriculture students** from Laguna State Polytechnic University Siniloan Campus who underwent a 240-hour internship program at Yumi's Farm, one of the LSAs of DA-ATI CALABARZON.

## Philippine Association of Agriculturists Sierra Madre Chapter

The DA-ATI CALABARZON, in partnership with the Philippine Association of Agriculturists (PAA) Sierra Madre Chapter, conducted a Training on Organic Agriculture Production Technologies on December 12-14, 2024, at Rizal Agriculture Research Experiment Station. It was attended by **50 members** of Rizal Agri-Farm Association (RAFA).







## Enhanced Partnerships Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) & ComGardenPh

As part of its commitment to the Enhanced Partnerships Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP), the DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted a seminar titled, **Seeding Sustainability: Seminar on Organic-based Urban Agriculture** on June 8, 2024, at Brgy. Puray, Rodriguez, Rizal. The event was attended by 30 farmers from the barangay and aimed to equip them with foundational knowledge and skills in organic-based urban agriculture technologies. This initiative supports the establishment of ComGardenPh, a project of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), with which the Center has also partnered.



## Climate Resilient Farmer Field School for Corn

The Center and the Conservation International – Philippines (CIP) inked the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the partnership entitled **Conduct of Climate Resilient Farmer Field School (CRFFS) for Corn in Batangas City** held on April 22, 2024.







The said project aimed to improve the integration of agriculture development and climate responsiveness and achieve food security and broader development goals under changing climate and increasing food demand, specifically to assist the City Government of Batangas in achieving climate-resilient corn production.

Batangas City is one of six cities where the project Climate Resilient Cities (CRC) is being supported by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

The said Climate Resilient FFS on Corn was conducted from April to August 2024 and was participated by 30 corn farmers from various barangays of the City.



### Key Initiative 3.3. Strengthen organizational and individual capacity of ESPs towards NSA



## Training on Organic Production and Processing of Corn and Soya

In line with the celebration of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Organic Agriculture Month, themed “*Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK: PGS Pinalakas para sa Bagong Pilipinas,*” the DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted a three-day **Training on Organic Production and Processing of Corn and Soya** at Gintong Bukid Farm and Leisure in Nagcarlan, Laguna. The training, held from November 18-20, 2024, was organized upon the request of the Samahan ng Organikong Industriya ng Laguna (SOIL) in preparation for their upcoming organic feed mill project. Notably, SOIL is the first accredited organic certifying body (OCB) in CALABARZON and the fourth in the Philippines under the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS). It was participated by **25 members** of the mentioned group.



# Farmer Field School on Organic-based Inland Aquaculture Production

The Center conducted a **Farmer Field School (FFS) on Organic Inland Aquaculture Production** in two locations: Brgy. Poblacion 1 in Nagcarlan, Laguna, and Brgy. Tatala in Binangonan, Rizal. In Nagcarlan, **30 farmers** completed the program, which began on May 3, 2024, while **another 30 farmers** graduated from the program in Binangonan, which commenced on May 4, 2024.



This initiative, the first of its kind in the region for organic inland aquaculture production, was made possible through a collaborative effort involving the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region IV-A, Laguna Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, and Nagcarlan Municipal Agriculture Office.



The FFS emphasized the critical importance of advancing the local aquaculture sector by promoting sustainable and organic practices. It aimed to empower farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to enhance production while preserving ecological balance.





# Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Summit

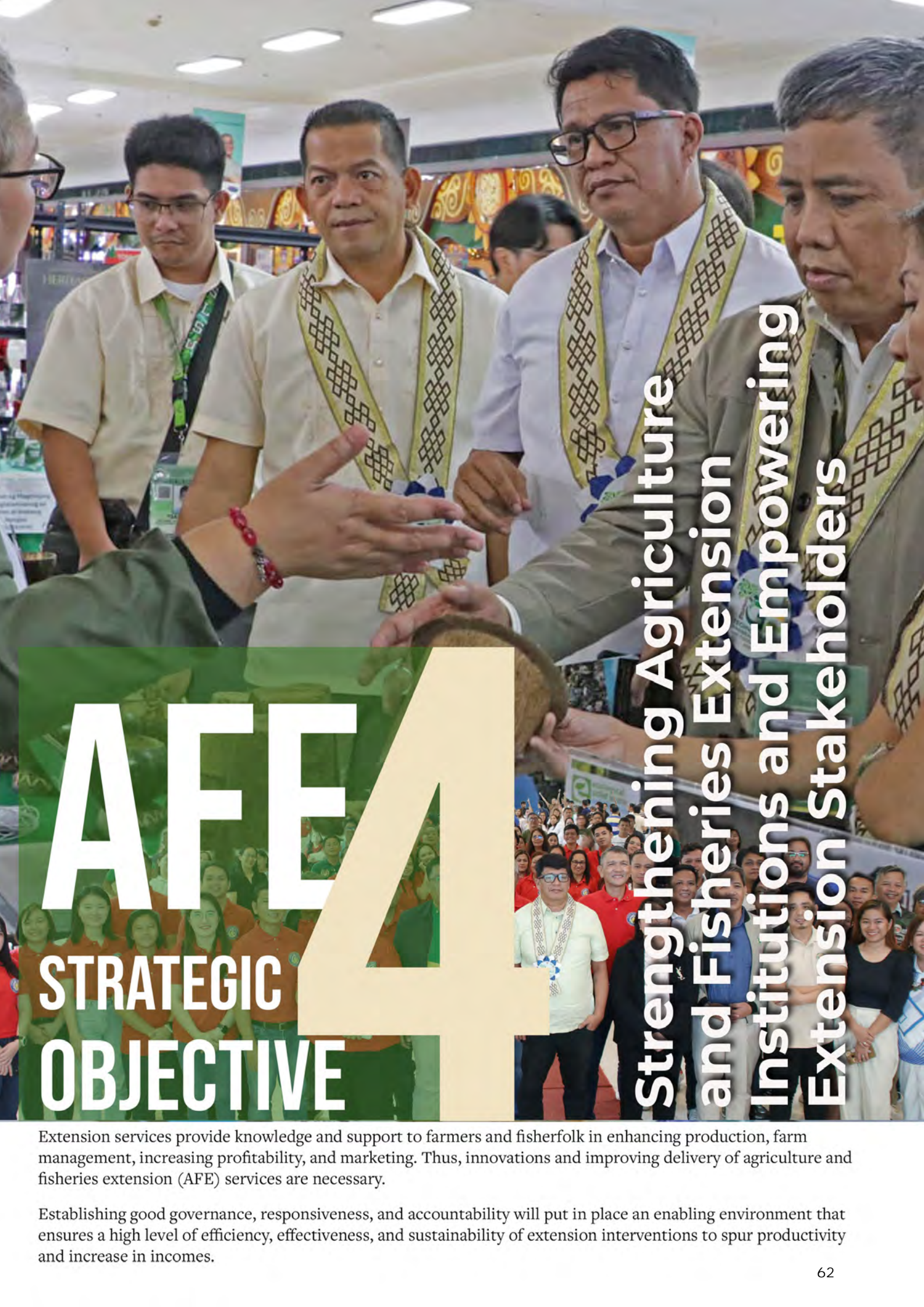
Luntiang Republika (Alfonso, Cavite) and Gintong Bukid (Nagcarlan, Laguna), both certified Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs) by the DA-ATI CALABARZON, were recently visited by delegates of the **1<sup>st</sup> International Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Summit**.

This event was organized by the DA-National Organic Agriculture Program (DA-NOAP), led by Dir. Bernadette F. San Juan, with support from various DA-attached agencies.

Through benchmarking, **100 foreign and local delegates** gained valuable insights from the farms' best practices, achievements, and challenges within the PGS framework.







# A FE 4

STRATEGIC  
OBJECTIVE

Strengthening Agriculture  
and Fisheries Extension  
Institutions and Empowering  
Extension Stakeholders

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 agriculture and fisheries extension (AFE) services are necessary.

Establishing good governance, responsiveness, and accountability will put in place an enabling environment that ensures a high level of efficiency, effectiveness, and sustainability of extension interventions to spur productivity and increase in incomes.





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

Multi-sector collaborations address systemic issues by leveraging the resources of various sectors—business, government, and nonprofit. This collective approach enables organizations to exert greater influence and effort in achieving their common goal.

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



The key objective of the PAFES is to improve the capacities of the LGUs ensuring an enabling environment that supports the provision and implementation of frontline AF extension programs and services to farmers and fishers.

Consequently, once the capacities of LGUs are improved, there will be an improved delivery of AFE programs and services based on the crafted Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP) that focuses on interventions for agro-enterprise development, location-specific technology development and demonstration, information/knowledge sharing, and capacity building.

For the past two years, several activities based on the CPAFEP of each province were funded by the DA-ATI

CALABARZON and conducted by the respective Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Center (PAFEC). For FY 2024, among the training programs provided for agricultural extension workers (AEWs) were **Training on Basic Monitoring and Evaluation for AFEWs of Rizal Province** conducted on April 17-19, 2024, and Training on Damage Assessment on Crops and Fisheries held on May 14-16, 2024 in Quezon Province. Both activities empowered 25 AEWs with the necessary skills that will aid in overseeing extension projects.

Through continued collaborations, the stakeholders can improve the institutional capabilities of Provincial/Municipal/City LGUs in agricultural and fisheries extension and enhance rural livelihoods—thereby increasing household income.



Furthermore, DA-ATI CALABARZON, in partnership with various private agriculture and fisheries extension service providers (PAF-ESPs), continues to empower local farmers through comprehensive capability-building activities aimed at improving agricultural practices and enhancing livelihoods. The collaborations with Villar Foundation Farm School and Tourist Farm, Sweet Spring Country Farm, and other local learning sites have played a key role in expanding the reach of agricultural extension services, addressing the diverse needs of farmers in CALABARZON.



## Key Initiative 4.2: Develop organizational capacities of ESPs and clientele

Developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources of ESPs are vital to perform their core functions effectively and efficiently and achieve its strategic goals and objectives. The interventions should be focused on the areas of digital literacy, organizational development, and performance enhancement.

### Capability-building Activities for Extension Service Providers

As part of intensifying the capacities of AEWs in digital literacy, DA-ATI CALABARZON initiated the **Training on 2D-3D CAD Modelling for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers** last March 12 to 15, 2024. Modern computer-aided design (CAD) software in the agricultural industry is crucial since it provides better solutions for factors like deformation and stress. It also increases working life and lowers the cost of tillage equipment.

**25 AEWs** mostly Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers participated in the activity, gaining knowledge on AutoCAD commands, 2D Fundamentals, AutoCAD detailing and plotting ad drawings using SketchUp software. As a requirement, the participants submitted individual/group action plan indicating their activities in cascading the knowledge they gained to their fellow AEWs.



Being the frontliners in agricultural extension, AEWs must be capacitated not only with the latest technology advancements in agriculture and fisheries, but also with the necessary skills of an effective leader. On March 20 to 22, 2024, DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted the **Honing Future Leaders: Leadership Skills Training for New Breed of Agricultural and Fishery Extension Workers**. It was participated by **25 AEWs** who have gained understanding on the importance of appreciating diversity in organization, qualities of a good leader, leadership styles and the importance of self-esteem as a requisite to human growth and development.



Moreover, in support of the municipal and city agriculturists who serve as leads in the local agriculture office, DA-ATI CALABARZON facilitated **Supervisory Development Course Track 1** on April 22-25, 2024 at Trece Martires City, Cavite. The course was conducted in cooperation with the Civil Service Commission (CSC) as mandated by Executive Order No. 292, also known as the Revised Administrative Code of 1987, to formulate, administer, and evaluate programs relative to the development and retention of qualified and competent workforce in the public service.

The training course developed the leadership and management skills of **33 participants**, including reframing their outlook and reinforcing communication-related competencies as a supervisor.



The course consists of three modules: Module 1 - Enhancing Personal Effectiveness, Module 2 - Supervision: A Challenge and Commitment, and Module 3 - Communication: The Secret to Organizational Effectiveness. The participants' implementation of action plan was monitored, six month after attending the said training..

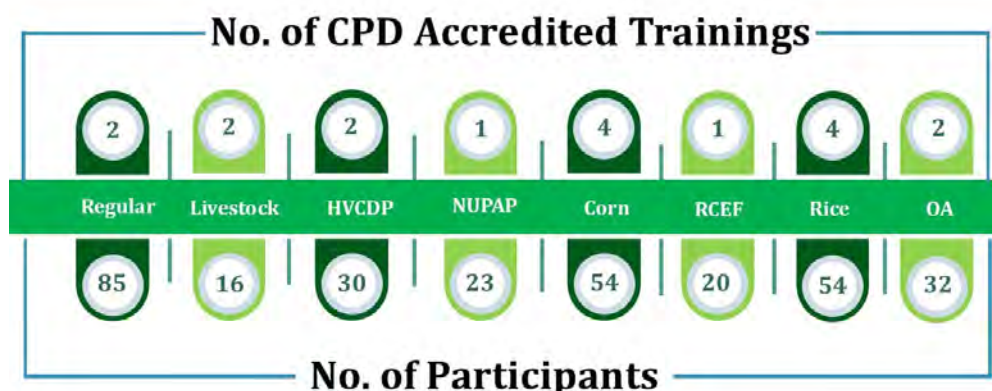
These activities prove that DA-ATI CALABARZON fulfills its commitment to continuously harness the competencies of AEWs as they serve as partners in extension delivery.

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Training Programs

The agriculture and fisheries sectors in the Philippines are advancing by adopting modern technologies and sustainable practices. A key driver of this progress is the professionalization of stakeholders in agricultural extension services, which equips farmers and industry professionals with essential skills and knowledge.

In line with its mandate to strengthen and professionalize the agricultural extension workforce, the DA-ATI CALABARZON has been offering up-to-date and relevant accredited Continuing Professional Development (CPD) training programs over the past four years.

For Fiscal Year 2024, a total of **18 accredited training programs** were conducted by the Center in various programs such as Corn and Cassava, Organic Agriculture, Rice, RCEF, Livestock, High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP), National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP), and Regular Program. It awarded CPD credit units to 228 licensed professionals as participants/attendees, consisting of **Agriculturists and Agricultural and Biosystems Engineers**.





# Educational Grants for Extension Workers (EdGE)

In order to ensure that farmers and fishermen can maximize the services designed to improve their condition, the Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) keeps enhancing and strengthening the agri-fishery extension sector's competitiveness and capabilities. Part of the agency's mandate is to create a comprehensive program by providing educational support through scholarships not only for Agriculture Extension Workers (AEWs) but also for the children of smallholder farmers and fishers poised to become the next generation of agri-entrepreneurs and agriculture professionals.

One of the scholarships being offered by the agency is the Educational Grants for Extension Workers (EdGE) to support the deserving and capable AEWs from the region to pursue higher education through a Master's or Doctorate degree in agriculture and fisheries.

Currently, the Center has **one batch of EdGE Program of which five are taking master's degrees and two are taking doctorate degrees**. The program was focused on capacitating the beneficiaries through a wider range of opportunities for their career development and building a pool of well-equipped professionals in the delivery of extension services for social and production technologies.

Meanwhile, two of the EdGE scholars presented their Thesis/Dissertation to the DA-ATI CALABARZON Regional Scholarship Committee to ensure that it was aligned with the priority areas identified by the DA and ATI.

Scholar	Degree
1. Maureen G. Tamayo	Doctor of Philosophy in Aquaculture <i>Dissertation: Product Development of Invasive Black Chin Tilapia (Sarotherodon Melanotheron) into Powdered Bagoong</i>
2. Sherylou C. Alfaro	Doctor of Philosophy in Management
3. Madora Abril D. Gallegos	Master of Science in Plant Pathology <i>Thesis: Application of Trichoderma as a Growth Promoter and Biological Control Agent Against Rice Sheath Blight Disease Caused by Rhizoctonia Solani under Continuous Flooding and Alternate Wetting and Drying Conditions</i>
4. Madeliene C. Pelipada	Master of Science in Extension Education
5. Rojean Paul E. Bruce	Master of Science in Agriculture Major in Crop Science
6. Gian Mae D. Nanea	
7. Bernadette S. Amparo	

## Key Initiative 4.3: Develop, enhance and implement AFE policies, standards, plans, programs and projects and monitor and evaluate AFE performance

AFE policies and plans create a solid operational framework for ESPs, enhancing efficiency and accountability. They direct the execution of programs, projects, and activities, ensuring procedural consistency for better management of AFE services.

### Operational Planning

The planning process aids decision-making and encourages management to look into the future and make decisions based on several alternative plans of action.

Subsequently, operational planning (OP) is geared towards creating actionable steps to meet the goals in the strategic plan. In adherence with the timeline indicated in the Integrated Planning and Budgeting System (IPBS), DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted the activity entitled **Redefining Strategies: FY 2024 Operational Planning and FY 2025 Preparation of Plans and Budget Proposals** on February 6-8, 2024 at DA-ATI CALABARZON Training Hall, Trece Martires City, Cavite.



The management, including all technical and administrative personnel, discussed the implementation details of targeted activities for FY 2024. Pertinent outputs of the activity includes Accomplished FY 2023 2<sup>nd</sup> semester IPCR form, FY 2024 IPCR form and FY 2025 firm-ed-up plans and budget proposals. The annual activity is being conducted to outline the strategies to be adapted in ensuring smooth implementation of targeted activities.

Planning and budgeting are essential processes carried out by DA-ATI CALABARZON. Alignment of these processes ensures appropriate allocation of funds for growth. It is a mechanism where an understanding of programming and spending priorities are determined and a deliberation of issues that are considered a priority are well thought of.

On November 7-8, 2024, section and unit heads, including all banner program focal persons/project officers and other concerned personnel from the Finance Unit, convened and participated in ***Refining Goals and Strategies: Presentation of Revised FY 2026 Plans and Budget Proposals (PBPs)***.

Moreover, the activity examined and modified the FY 2026 plans and budget proposals of all banner programs, incorporating the directives and comments by the ATI Directorates to ensure that plans are innovative, relevant, and responsive and that funds are efficiently allocated.

The activity was held at Don Leon Nature Farms, one of the certified Learning Sites for Agriculture of DA-ATI CALABARZON located in San Juan, Batangas.



## Performance Review and Assessment

Performance assessment determines the contributions of the organization to development results. DA-ATI CALABARZON, being proactive in continuously improving its operations, conducts performance assessment bi-annually.

Through the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (PMEU), the activity entitled ***Mapping Accomplishments towards Achieving Organizational Targets: Midyear Performance Review and Assessment FY 2024*** was conducted on August 8, and 15 to 16, 2024 at Taal Maranan's Farmville in Taal, Batangas.

The three-day activity served as a venue for discussing the strategies and future directions of the Center. An awarding ceremony that acknowledged the contributions of every employee to the achievement of the Center's goals was also included in the event.

Similarly, the Midyear Performance Review acts as an essential checkpoint for the ATI, helping to ensure that it remains aligned with its goal of delivering high-quality services and supporting stakeholders in the agriculture and fisheries sectors.



With the vision of DA-ATI CALABARZON to have standardized Agricultural and Fisheries Extension (AFE) services, consistent provision of quality interventions is made more effective and efficient through harmonized extension interventions within the region.

On its second year of implementation, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) continues to boost the income and productivity of coconut farmers; encourage equity, education, and poverty reduction; and revitalize and modernize the sector.

Being one of the implementers of CFIDP, DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted the **Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Program (CFIDP) Accomplishment Mapping and Planning Workshop** on July 30-31, 2024, at Ouan's The Farm Resort, Lucena City.

Representatives from different implementing agencies (IAs) assessed and evaluated their performance in relation to conducted CFIDP activities. Also, through the planning workshop, best practices as well as the challenges encountered that can be used as opportunities in providing better services to stakeholders were identified.

The two-day assessment and planning workshop served as an avenue to form convergences and formulate a synchronized plan for CFIDP activities in the coming years.



## Regional Private Agriculture and Fishery Extension Service Provider (PAF-ESP) Meetings

The role of the Regional PAF-ESP Council cannot be undermined. Being responsible for accrediting PAF-ESPs, the Council continuously evaluates the capabilities and competence of regional PAF-ESPs and ensures that policy guidelines are being followed.

For 2024, the Council held **two regular meetings** which highlighted the need for PAF-ESPs to provide substantial accomplishments. The said meetings were conducted on May 17, 2024 and October 30, 2024, respectively.

Moreover, on December 16, 2024, the Council initiated a virtual orientation for potential applicants regarding the requirements for and opportunities in becoming an accredited PAF-ESP. **15 farm owners/representatives** attended the orientation.





## Key Initiative 4.5 : Administer resources needed for AFE services

As partners in extension delivery, certified PAF-ESPs were tapped to provide training to various clientele.

### Grants awarded to certified Private Agriculture and Fisheries-Extension Service Providers (PAF-ESPs)

The MoCA Family Farm RLearning Center in Padre Garcia, Batangas, a partner of DA-ATI CALABARZON since 2017, facilitated a total of six training activities for FY 2024. The **Training on Coconut-Based High-Value Food Products and Coconut Shell Crafts** that capacitated the beneficiaries from San Juan and Padre Garcia in Batangas; and Dolores and Atimonan in Quezon, on product development of higher-value food products, and the use of coconut shells in the arts and crafts was conducted last March 20-22, 2024. Additionally, the farm conducted two batches of the **Training on Utilization of Coconut Shells for Crafting and Arts** last May 27-29, 2024 and August 29-31, 2024.

Similarly, in support of the livestock sector, the farm also conducted **Training on Meat Processing with Good Manufacturing Practices** that aimed to safeguard consumer health by minimizing the risk of foodborne illness by integrating Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) into meat processing operations. Moreover, to enhance the knowledge and skills of the participants on farm school operations and management in accordance with the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) System, two batches of **Training on Farm School Operations and Management** were also conducted and attended by 50 farm-cooperators and staff of various **Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs)** across the region.

Another PAF-ESP partner of the Center since 2021, **Gourmet Farms, Inc.** in Silang, Cavite also catered two training activities as part of their commitment to widen the reach of agricultural extension in the region. The **Training on Post-Harvest Handling Practices on High-Value Crops** was conducted to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills on postharvest handling technologies on high-value crops and vegetables, highlighting the different standards of food safety. Further, the **Training of Trainers on Nursery Establishment, Management and Accreditation** focused on enhancing knowledge and skills in the establishment and management of nursery facilities, accreditation process, and various propagation techniques.

#### Training on Coconut-Based High-Value Food Products and Coconut Shell Crafts



#### Training on Utilization of Coconut Shells for Crafting and Arts





## Training on Meat Processing with Good Manufacturing Practices



## Training on Farm School Operations and Management



## Training on Post-Harvest Handling Practices on High-Value Crops



## Training of Trainers on Nursery Establishment, Management and Accreditation





## Extension Partners' Forum

On October 29-30, 2024, DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted the Extension Partners' Forum with the theme, *Seizing Opportunities in Agriculture and Fisheries* at Caliraya Ecoville Recreation and Farm Resort, Cavinti, Laguna. It was participated by several certified Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs) and accredited Private Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Service Providers (PAF-ESPs).

This yearly activity is designed to provide an avenue for extension partners to discuss updates, concerns, and accomplishments, as well as to recognize exemplary performing farm cooperators. In addition, the participants gained more knowledge on financial programs and ways to avail of grants from the invited resource persons.



## FY 2024 Financial Performance

The Center's total allotment for FY 2024 amounted to **P114,601,985.00**. After deducting **Personal Services (PS)** and the Continuing Appropriation, which were **P15,882,760.99** and **P747,000.00**, respectively, the remaining **P97,972,224.01** was allocated for **Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE)**. This represents a **5.07% increase** compared to the FY 2023 MOOE.

While some programs experienced a decrease in allotments compared to the previous year, the addition of the **Swine Industry Recovery Project (SIRP) Component 2**, amounting to **P9,169,050.00**, contributed significantly to the overall increase in the Center's total allotment.

For FY 2024, the Center received a total cash allocation of **P100,311,355.05**.

Despite some adjustments, the Center successfully utilized its budget and cash allocation as planned.

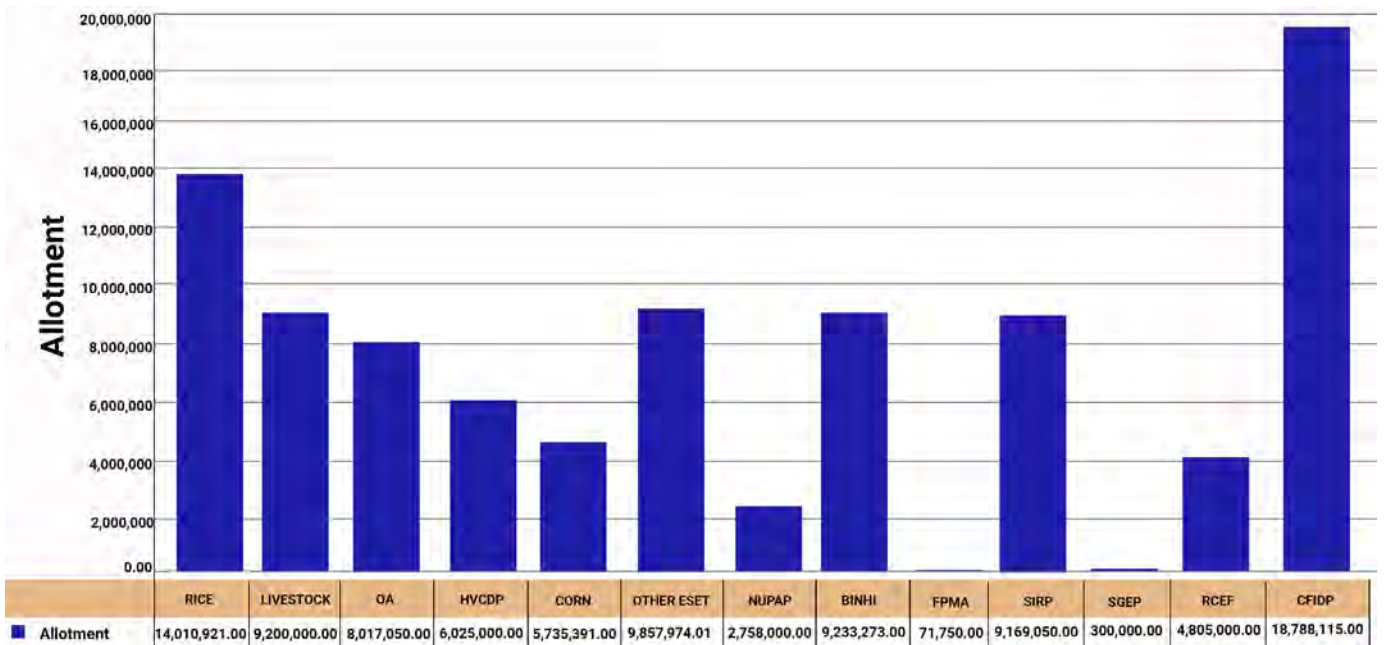
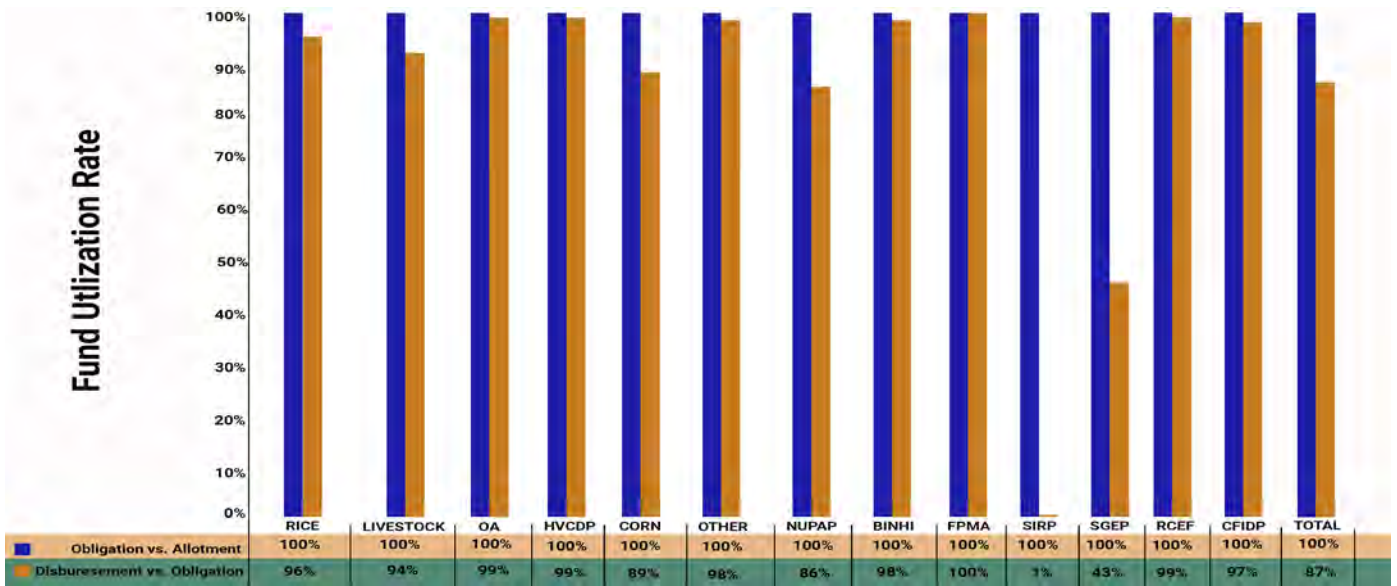
**Table 1: FY 2024 MOOE Allotment, Obligation, and Disbursement**

PROGRAM	ALLOTMENT	OBLIGATION	DISBURSEMENT
RICE	14,010,921.00	14,010,921.00	13,456,140.07
LIVESTOCK	9,200,000.00	9,200,000.00	8,639,233.02
OA	8,017,750.00	8,017,750.00	7,915,240.00
HVCDP	6,025,000.00	6,025,000.00	5,967,242.10
CORN	5,735,391.00	5,735,391.00	5,126,328.58



PROGRAM	ALLOTMENT	OBLIGATION	DISBURSEMENT
OTHER ESETS	9,857,974.01	9,857,974.01	9,661,111.78
NUPAP	2,758,000.00	2,758,000.00	2,379,999.41
BINHI	9,233,273.00	9,233,273.00	9,067,919.66
FPMA	71,750.00	71,750.00	71,750.00
SIRP	9,169,050.00	9,169,050.00	72,743.34
SGEP	300,000.00	300,000.00	130,284.85
RCEF	4,805,000.00	4,805,000.00	4,742,484.86
CFIDP	18,788,115.00	18,788,115.00	18,318,406.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,972,224.01</b>	<b>97,972,224.01</b>	<b>85,548,883.67</b>

### Fund Utilization



# Learning and Development (L&D) Activities

In today's rapidly changing work environment, learning and development initiatives are essential for maintaining a motivated workforce, ensuring organizational agility, and fostering a culture of continuous improvement. Hence, DA-ATI CALABARZON employees are engulfed in several training programs to empower them to become better public servants who can provide quality public service to clientele and stakeholders of the Center.

Listed below are the training activities attended by DA-ATI CALABARZON employees:

NAME OF EMPLOYEE	TITLE OF TRAINING	DURATION	VENUE
Sherylou C. Alfaro	Training on Performance Coaching and Mentoring for Successful Leadership	October 20-21, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City
	Demystifying Rice Competitive Enhancement Fund	August 26-28, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City
	11th National Congress and 2024 Philippine Agriculturist Summit	July 1-5, 2024	Clark Freeport, Pampanga
	PPMEvolve: Innovation Workshop on ATI's Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	May 21-23, 2024	Cebu City
	Orientation on Strategic Performance Management System and Other Human Resource Management Policies	May 7-8, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Ric Jason T. Arreza	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Janine L. Cailo	RCEF-RESP Strategic Communications Midyear Assessment	June 17-21, 2024	Marzon Hotel, Kalibo, Aklan
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	Learning Session on Writing Gender-Fair Press Releases	March 27, 2024	NEDA Regional Office IV-A, Calamba City, Laguna
	Briefing on Gender and Development (GAD) and Mainstreaming of GAD in Extension	March 18, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City
Lizabeth L. David	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Abegail L. Del Rosario	11 <sup>th</sup> National Congress and 2024 Philippine Agriculturist Summit	July 1-5, 2024	Clark Freeport, Pampanga
	PPMEvolve: Innovation Workshop on ATI's Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	May 21-23, 2024	Cebu City
	Training on Foundations of Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) Governance: The Fundamentals of Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Batch 2	April 15-19, 2024	Baguio City, Benguet
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite



Juvelyn V. Dela Cruz	Foundations of AFE Governance: The Fundamentals of Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Batch 2	August 6-8, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	PPMEvolve: Innovation Workshop on ATI's Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	May 21-23, 2024	Cebu City
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Hans Christopher C. Flores	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Angelo H. Hernandez	PPMEvolve: Innovation Workshop on ATI's Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation	May 21-23, 2024	Cebu City
	Foundations of AFE Governance: The Fundamentals of PPME	April 15-19, 2024	Baguio City, Benguet
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Vira Elyssa L. Jamolin	Foundations in Rubric Development: Basic Training for Effective Performance Assessment	December 2 - 6, 2024	Quezon City
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	Training on Cassava Post Harvest Technologies	January 22-26, 2024	DA-Agricultural Training Institute
Soledad E. Leal	Training of Trainers on Philippine National Standards on Organic Agriculture and Updating of Various OA Plans	October 16-20, 2024	Panabo City, Davao del Norte
	Training on Foundations of Agriculture and Fisheries Extension (AFE) Governance: The Fundamentals of Policy Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Batch 2	August 6-8, 2024	DA-ATI, RDEC Hall, Diliman, Quezon City
	Training on Farm Business School for Organic Agriculture-based Business/ Enterprise	June 9-13, 2024	DA-ATI Region 8, Baybay City, Leyte
	OA Level Up: Technical Guidance Session on the Implementation of Organic Agriculture Program	April 1-5, 2024	Albay, Bicol
Mary Grace P. Leidia	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	Technology Updates on Integrated Rice-Based Farming System and 2023 RCEF Year-End Performance Review	January 15-19, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City
Jennifer A. Marges	Training on Soybean Production	June 17-21, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City

	Training on Cassava Postharvest Technologies as Alternative to Rice	January 22-27, 2024	Nueva Ecija
John M. Mendoza	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	Training on Urban Agriculture through Soilless Crop Production	January 15-19, 2024	Agricultural Training Institute
	Values Restoration Seminar	June 19-21, 2024	Benguet State University
	Training Course on the Fundamentals of Rabbitry Production and Designing for Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture	December 2-6, 2024	Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Marian Lovella A. Parot	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Jaypee V. Patricio	Orientation on Strategic Performance Management System and Other Human Resource Management Policies	May 7-8, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Arianne G. Peñalba	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Lovely S. Ravelo	Skills Enhancement Training Workshop on ISO 9001:2015 Documented Information Control	April 4-5, 2024	ATI Central Office, Quezon City
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Jeniffer E. Sobrevilla	Supervisory Development Course Track 1	April 22-25, 2024	CSC Region IV
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	Advancement of Women Empowerment in the Workplace for ATI Staff	March 11, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Roy Roger D. Victoria II	Supervisory Development Course Track 1	April 22-25, 2024	CSC Region IV
	ATI EnGAgE: Training Workshop on Design Thinking	April 1-3, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
Archie C. Linsasagin	iStorya: ATI Success Story Writeshop	August 27-31, 2024	Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon
	Hitting the Airwaves: Training on Basic Radio and Online Broadcasting	March 12-15, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	Extension and Training Management Capability Development (ETMCD) Course for AEWs	March 4-27, 2024	ATI CALABARZON, Trece Martires City, Cavite
	Learning Session on Writing Gender-Fair Press Releases	March 27, 2024	NEDA Regional Office IV-A, Calamba City, Laguna





In addition to that, the Center’s Directorates, together with the Chiefs of the Career Development and Management Services Section (CDMS) and Information Services Section (ISS) joined the benchmarking activity held at Kasetsart University Bangkok and Kampaengsen campuses in Thailand last August 26-30, 2024. Entitled, **Fostering Innovation: Empowering Southern Tagalog Agriculture, Aquatic and Resources Research, Development and Extension Consortium (STAARDEC)’s Regional Research and Development Coordination Council (RRDCC) Members, Respective Alternates, and the Consortium Secretariat through Engagement with Thailand’s R&D Institutions in the Agriculture and Natural Resources (AANR)**, they learned best practices on their fisheries research station, swine research and training center, rice science center, and national training center.

Moreover, DA-ATI CALABARZON conducted several activities and programs within the Center as part of the learning and development of its employees, such as:

TITLE OF TRAINING AND ACTIVITY	OBJECTIVES	DATE CONDUCTED
Stronger Together: Building Connections through Self-Care and Solidarity (A Learning and Development Activity)	To promote and foster self-care and solidarity among the DA- ATI CALABARZON employees;  Engage employees in activities that can boost their physical, mental, and emotional health by participating in advocacy campaigns and team activities.	December 9-11, 2024
DA-ATI Luzon Cluster B Sportsfest 2024	Provide an avenue for friendly competition among DA-ATI employees;  Promote camaraderie and teamwork through the conduct of various games and sports competitions.	February 22-24, 2024



The remarkable accomplishments of DA ATI CALABARZON for FY 2024 are a testament to the dedication and resilience of the 51 men and women, who have embraced this period of hiatus as an opportunity for growth and renewal. The collective efforts have not only contributed to the region’s progress but have also set the stage for a transformative future in the delivery of agriculture and fishery extension services.

With renewed purpose, WE, at ATI-CALABARZON, are poised to continue making a lasting impact in the years to come.





# Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center CALABARZON

Brgy. Lapidario, Trece Martires City, Cavite

## Organizational Chart as of December 31, 2024











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