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ATIng KAUGNAY

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE - REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER 5

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ATI Bicol

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About the Cover

This edition features Melinda Yee, the owner of Leslie Pili Products, and Roberto Diesta, a young farmer and 4-H Club member of Guinobatan, Albay.

DA-ATI Bicol, Nakiisa sa 1st Bicol Tourism Expo

PILI, Camarines Sur –

"Sinong mag-aakala na ang ating mga bukirin na ating pinupuntahan at tinatamnan ay magiging tourist spots?"

pahayag ni ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa Parot sa kanyang espesyal na mensaheng ibinigay sa pagbukas ng 1st Bicol Tourism Expo.

"Exploring New Frontiers and Extraordinary Experiences. This theme captures perfectly the fruits of farming. Farming brings bountiful produce and products, along with these are the many challenges and breakthroughs. Farming is an extraordinary profession – it supports life, it is indispensable." Dagdag pa nya, ang DA-ATI ay kasama sa pagsulong ng Farm Tourism Law na layong maingat ang antas ng mga bukirin sa bansa.
Kaya naman nakiisa ang DA-ATI Bicol sa isinagawang 1st Bicol Tourism Expo na pinangunahan ng CamSur Chamber of Commerce and Industry kasama ang Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), at pribadong sektor. Layon nitong pasiglahin ang industriya ng turismo na masyadong naapektuhan ng pandemya.

Bahagi rin ng 1st Bicol Tourism Expo ang mga Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) bilang DOT-accredited at potential agri-tourism sites. Ang LSA ay katuwang ng DA-ATI Bicol sa pagpapalaganap ng karunungan at kahusayan sa agrikultura.
Labing-tatlong LSA ang sumali sa expo na kinabibilangan ng:

a. MikeLiz Integrated Farm
b. Sonrisa Farm
c. Nesting Place
d. Pasto De Iriola Agri-Tourism and Family Farm
e. Albay Farmers' Bounty Village
f. Carmel Agri-Learning Farm
g. Badlis Farm
h. Cristina's Strawberry Farm
i. Grajo's Farm Enterprises
j. Manuel's Garden Integrated Farm
k. Viani Farm Resort
l. Neliza Farm and Training Center
m. Tanquing's Farm

Ang 1st Bicol Tourism Expo ay kasalukuyang ginaganap sa Capitol Convention Center sa Pili, Camarines Sur simula Hunyo 16 hanggang Hunyo 18, 2022.
Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.

DA-ATI Bicol Now a CPD Provider for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering

LEGAZPI CITY, Albay -- The Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) has approved the application of DA-ATI Bicol as a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Provider for Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering.

The PRC's CPD Council of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering has approved DA-ATI Bicol's accreditation and communicated it through an email to DA-ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa A. Parot on June 20, 2022.

The Center has been a CPD Provider for Agriculture since June 2021. Since then, it has conducted 33 training courses with CPD points. This is in line with its primary mandate to "**lead in the professionalization of the Philippine agricultural extension service towards food security and prosperity.**" ***Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.***

ATI Bicol Development Management Officer II Justine Rose C. Tubig suppresses fire using fire extinguisher.

DA-ATI Bicol Staff "On Fire" Mode during the Symposium on Fire Prevention

PILI, Camarines Sur -- The Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center 5 (DA-ATI Bicol), thru Information Services Section and in partnership with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Pili, spearheaded the Symposium on Fire Prevention on March 14, 2022 at Isarog Hall, ATI Bicol Compound, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur. The said symposium was part of observance of the Fire prevention Month with this year's theme, "*Sa Pag-iwas ng Sunog Di Ka Nag-iisa*".

BFP Pili Fire Officer III Agusto A. Bares and Fire Officer I Darwyn R. Daos featured series of topics such as: History, Vision and Mission of BFP; Basic Components and Elements of Fire: Characteristics of Fire; Classifications of Fire and; Ways to Extinguish Fire. DA-ATI Bicol staff also participated the hands-on activity on proper operation of fire extinguisher.

The symposium aimed to promote awareness on fire safety and prevention. ***Christian T.R. Tosoc***

DA-ATI Bicol Holds TOT on Mango Production and Post-Harvest Handling in Masbate

MASBATE CITY, Masbate

"Our goal is to be the top producing mango in the Philippines by enhancing our cultural management practices and postharvest handling,"

said Provincial Agriculturist Engr. Jonel B. Orteza during the opening program of the Training of Trainers on Mango Production and Postharvest Handling with GAD Concepts. He challenged the participants to be the hope of the mango industry in Masbate.

The main objective of the training is to increase the production volume of mangoes in Masbate through extensive awareness and education of agricultural extension workers. It was supported under the Provincial Commodity Investment Plan (PCIP).

Mr. Emmanuel Orogo, ATI Bicol High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) Point Person, stressed the importance of the training that has 15 Continuing Professional Development units. He shared that this is part of the professionalization effort of the Center to its clientele.

Additionally, Ms. Cita F. Cana, the provincial HVCDP coordinator, discussed the Philippine Mango Industry overview and its management practices. Among the sub-topics were quality planting materials, land preparation, design and distance of planting, cultural management of young and bearing trees, and flower induction and management.
Provincial Mango Coordinator Mr. Kenth Reynard Munoz talked about cultural management practices. He addressed subtopics that included proper harvesting, storage facilities, integrated pest and disease management, fertilizer management, pesticide management, farm management, and worker's health, safety, and welfare.

Ms. Kristine Rebaya of the Technological Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)- Masbate demonstrated mango food processing by making a mango jam. She discussed the step-by-step process, and

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DA-ATI BICOL ET AL. HOLDS 14 NATIONAL RICE TECHNOLOGY FORUM

BULA, Camarines Sur
The largest and the most challenging event the DA-ATI Bicol held by far.

In collaboration with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 5, the Rice Board, the local government of Bula, Camarines Sur, and private agricultural companies, the DA-ATI Bicol staged the 14th National Rice Technology Forum (NRTF) at the Brgy. San Ramon, Bula, Camarines Sur from April 19-22, 2022.

The NRTF showcases modern technologies, practices, and strategies aimed at enhancing production, raising income, and reducing costs in line with the DA's slogan of 'Masaganang Ani. Mataas na Kita."

With the theme, "*Increase Production through Hybrid Rice Technology,* " more than 3,000 farmers, national and local government agriculture officials, rice focal persons, experts, and marketers flocked to the 105-hectare techno farm of San Agustin San Ramon Agrarian Reform Farmers Cooperative (SARFC) that showcases hybrid rice technologies. In addition, forums on hybrid rice technology, farm and fishery clustering and consolidation (f2c2), balanced fertilization, and drone technology were held at the adjacent local public school's vast makeshift plenary hall.

DA Undersecretary Engr. Ariel Cayanan personally opened the annual event. DA-RFO 5 Regional Executive Director Rodel Tornilla, Bula Mayor Amelita Ibasco, Rice Board President Recher Ondap, and DA-ATI Center Director Elsa Parot joined him.

Senator Cynthia Villar, head of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, and DA Secretary William delivered their respective messages via audio-visual presentation.

Aside from being the largest NRTF event, it is also the first time the event was stretched to four days from the usual three days to accommodate more numbers of participants. The impressive numbers did not go unnoticed as Usec. Cayanan had declared, "Good job, Bicol."

Indeed, the big shoe to fill in for the next host region, the Ilocos Region. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**

DA Undersecretary Engr. Ariel Cayanan (front, fourth from the left) and other officials flash the 'one' sign symbolizing One DA, together with the participants during the opening of the the14th National Rice Technology Forum (NRTF) at San Ramon, Bula, Camarines Sur.

Photo by ATI-CO ISD

Photo by DA-PhilRice

DA-ATI Bicol Supports GOLDEN RICE in Bicol

Catanduanes Gov. Joseph Cua addresses the event (above), while a farmer receives a sack of Golden Rice seeds during the ceremonial handover ceremony (below).

VIRAC, Catanduanes - To support the acceleration and expansion of Golden Rice seed production in the Bicol, the DA-ATI Bicol has inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), the DA-Regional Field Office V (DA-RFO V), the DA-Bureau of Plant Industry (DA-BPI), the Lone District Representative of Catanduanes, the Provincial Government of Catanduanes and the Municipal Governments of Viga and Virac.

Golden Rice is a type of rice that contains beta-carotene, a source of Vitamin A. It aims to address the Vitamin A deficiency (VAD), the leading cause of preventable childhood blindness worldwide. Based on studies, Golden Rice can provide 30-50% of the estimated average requirement (EAR) for children and women of reproductive age. It is intended to complement existing nutrition interventions to address VAD.

The province of Catanduanes has been chosen as the sole province in the Bicol Region, where the Golden will be initially produced and distributed. It will be done in the municipalities of Virac and Viga.

Governor Joseph Cua welcomed the initiative. "The province of Catanduanes is honored and humbled to be selected as a pilot province for the launching of this program...We recognize that this program is important in making sure we are food-sufficient. It also addresses the issue of child malnutrition.", he stated.

Governor Cua led the MOA signing. ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa Parot, who was on official business, was represented by this writer. Aside from the MOA signing, there was also a ceremonial handover of Golden Rice seed materials to the farmers.

The event was held at Rakdel Inn, Virac, Catanduanes, last June 9, 2022. ***Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.***

RCEF Training to Certify New Seed Growers

NABUA, Camarines Sur

Seed growers play a vital role in the rice seed supply system. By producing high-quality inbred rice seeds, they are the key players in agricultural production. They widen and maintain genetic diversity in their fields, thus setting the ground for seed exchange and improvement of inbred rice varieties.

Compared with farmer-saved seeds from the previous harvest, certified inbred seeds distributed under Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) gives at least 10% higher yield as these seeds have high seedling vigor, purity, and uniform crop stand.

To serve more farmers, there is need to train more potential seed producers.

As the capability builder, knowledge builder, and catalyst of extension system, ATI Bicol conducted a five-day training course on Inbred Rice Seed Production, Certification, and Quality Control for Potential Seed Growers with Gender and Development (GAD) Concepts. This was conducted at Macagang Business Center in Nabua, Camarines Sur on February 21-25, 2022 with on-site practicum and hands-on sessions at DA-Regional Field Office No. 5 (DA-RFO 5).

Exactly 30 potential seed growers from various provinces in the Bicol Region were equipped with knowledge about mechanics, policies, and guidelines on seed certification for inbred rice seed production; role of seed growers; cultural management practices of inbred rice seed production; seed testing methods, procedures, and laboratory standards.

They were provided with field-based learning on field inspection and rouging, seed piling, tagging, and sampling, seed testing methods, procedures, and laboratory standards such as moisture content determination, physical purity test, varietal test, and germination test.

DA-RFO 5) and the Bureau of Plant Industry-National Seed Quality Control Services V (BPI-NSQCS 5) provided technical guidance and assistance in the conduct of the training.

The training aims to enhance the capability of rice seed growers to produce high-quality inbred rice seeds. Ultimately the training seeks to accredit the trainees as seed growers. It was spearheaded by Asst. Center Dir. Vivien Carable, together with the RCEF Technical Team, namely Mr. Jobenel De La Torre and Ms. Charlene Freeman. ***Charlene O. Freeman***

Melinda Yee at ang LESLIE PILI

"I ENJOY THE PILI BUSINESS.

Taong 2018, sa edad na 62, nag-retiro si Melinda Yee bilang Agriculturist II ng Sorsogon City. Nagsilbi syang Agricultural Extension Worker ng City Agriculture Office sa loob ng tatlumpo't pitong (37) taon. Nagtapos ng BS Agriculture in Major in Agronomy sa Bicol University, nakita nya ang halaga ng mga pagsasanay.

"Several trainings ang na-attend ko. Nakita ko na malaki ang potential ng pili sa export market. Through trainings, several trainings tungkol sa pili, palagi akong present, so parang nakukuha ko lahat na technologies. Aside from that, yung experience ko." Kaalaman at mga pagsasanay ang nagsilbing panimula ng Leslie Pili Products noong 1990.

Photo by Leslie May Pili

"Actually, nag-start ako as a hobby. Luto-luto lang, parang nagka-interes ako as processor ng pili. So yun ang naging start ko. Pero nasa office ako. Then nagkataon na ako ang naging Municipal or City-wide High-Value Crop Coordinator," bigkas ni Melinda Yee.

"Sabado at Linggo, nagluluto ako ng mga confectionaries. Iba-iba, gaya ng glazed. Then nagkataon na naipadala yun sa States. Tapos nag-order na sila. Masarap daw. Talagang na-inspire ako dahil sa trainings. Na-realize ko na malaki pala ang potential for export."

Sa gabay ng mga kaalaman tungkol sa pili (Canarium ovatum), naiparehistro nya ang Leslie Pili Products sa Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) bilang single proprietorship noong 1995. Leslie ang pangalan ng kanyang bunsong anak.

MGA PRODUKTO

Naging produkto ng Leslie ang iba't ibang uri ng prinosesong pili –honey glazed, dehydrated, activated, roasted, mazapan, salted, hot chili, pastillas. "Activated o dehydrated ang medyo malaki ang demand sa amin. Niluluto yan, pina-process thru dehydrator, moisture lang ang naaalis pero ang nutrients nandyan pa rin. Compared to roasted o salted, kapag dinaan sa oven, nababawasan ang nutrients."

Kinikilala bilang isang superfood, ang pili ay may taglay na kakaibang sustansya. Ito ay may omega fatty acids na mainam sa kalusugan ng puso, gayundin ang mga bitamina at mineral tulad ng magnesium, manganese, at Vitamin B1. Ang laki at hugis nito ay maihahalin-tulad sa almond, ngunit ang lasa nito ay malapit sa Brazil nut.

"Ang pili ay talagang may antioxidant properties. Ang nuts and oil ay may antioxidant properties. May vitamin E, vitamin A, phosphorus, potassium. Marami po ang mga nutrients na nakukuha natin sa pili," pahayag ni Ginang Yee.

Bukod sa mga lutong pagkain mula sa pili, gumagawa na rin ang Leslie ng tatlong klaseng pili oil – ang pulp oil, kernel oil, at elemi oil. Ang Leslie ay pioneer sa pagproseso ng pili pulp at kernel oils.

"Ang pili pulp oil ay galing sa fresh pili drupe, yung prutas. Ang pili kernel oil ay galing sa nuts, we extract the oil. Ang elemi oil ay galing sa resin," bigkas ni Ginang Yee.

"We consider the pili as tree of hope. Zero waste tayo sa pili, wala po tayong tapon. Even the exocarp, yung balat ng drupe – may gamit po yan. Yung shell meron po. Yung pulp ginagamit sa pag-process ng oil. Ang shell ginagawang mga abubot."

MAHAHALAGANG LANGIS

Gumagawa ang Leslie Pili Products ng pili pulp oil para sa personal care use – pantanggal ng makeup, pangkontrol sa paglagas ng buhok, ginagamit rin bilang massage oil. Gumagawa rin sila ng food grade pili pulp oil at pili kernel oil na maaaring gamitin sa paggawa ng salad, cakes, at cookies.

Samantala, ang elemi oil ay nanggagaling sa resin o katas ng puno ng pili. Upang maging sustenable ang produksyon ng elemi oil, itinuturo ng Leslie Pili Products ang tamang pagkuha ng resin o resin tapping. "Kasi kung basta-basta lang gagamitan ng itak, mamamatay ang puno. Nagpapa-training kami ng right process of resin tapping. Kaya meron tayong resin, still namumunga pa ang pili."

Napakahalagang maalagaan ang mga puno ng pili. Ito ay kabilang sa Burseraceae, ang "incense tree family" kung saan nanggagaling ang frankincense (Boswellia) at myrrh (Commiphora). Ang raw resin ng pili ay may bangong taglay, kaya ginagamit rin itong air freshener.

Kapag naproseso at ginawang elemi oil, ito ay ginagamit sa paggawa ng pabango, sabon, hair conditioner, at shampoo. Ang mga malalaking kompanya sa cosmetics tulad ng Chanel ay gumagamit ng elemi oil. Ang elemi oil mula sa Pilipinas ay binibili ng iba't ibang bansa tulad ng France para sa kanilang perfume industry.

MGA DOKUMENTO

Bago naantala ng pandemyang dulot ng Covid-19, malakas ang pakikipagkalakaran ng Leslie sa mga kustomer nila sa ibang bansa. "Meron kaming markets sa Australia, New York, Boston Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland."

Upang makapasa sa mga hinihinging sertipikasyon, iba't ibang ahensya ang nilapitan ng Leslie. Bukod sa pahintulot mula sa DTI na magnegosyo bilang single proprietorship, obligado rin ang Leslie na kumuha ng License to Operate mula sa Food and Drugs Administration (FDA). "Maraming agencies tumutulong sa amin – ang DTI sa registration ng business name, sa Halal certification, at shared service facility (SSF) para sa grupo.

"Several analyses, maraming parameters o requirements sa pili ang dapat i-comply sa FDA," ani Ginang Yee.

Tumutulong rin ang Department of Agriculture sa pag-subsidize ng pagpa-analyze sa FDA. "Sa pili may 10 parameters, more or less ang babayaran ay aabot sa P90,000. Ang DA ay nag-subsidize sa certification ng organic. Ang DOST ay tumutulong sa training, pagpa-analyze. TESDA training pa rin, as well as ATI. Ang LGU tumutulong din."

Bukod dito, dahil sila ay nagbebenta sa labas ng bansa, kumuha rin ang Leslie ng kaukulang permit mula sa DTI-Export Marketing Bureau. "Marami ding nagta-tap sa amin. Ang DTI Switzerland Attaché ay nag-tap sa amin para sa supply ng activated or dehydrated pili nuts na organically produced. Target nila organic certified."

MAKATARUNGANG PAGNENEGOSYO

Nagmamay-ari ang pamilya Yee ng 8.5 ektaryang pili farm na may 1,800 matatandang puno ng pili, at 4 na ektaryang extension farm na may 1,300 asexually propagated pili – grafted at inarched. "Three to five years namumunga na ang asexually propagated. Dyan kami kumukuha ng raw materials namin that is certified organic."

Kumuhuha rin sila ng raw materials mula sa siguradong pagkukunan. "May mga farms kaming pinagkukunan na organic farming practitioners, members ng SPOFA (Sorsogon Provincial Organic Farmers Association)."

Pinipili nilang mabuti ang ginagamit na pili nut, at hindi gumamit ng nabubulok na pili. "Ang hindi pa matured na pili drupe ay nagbibigay ng bulok na lagting o pili with shell. I usually buy pili drupe, so we are sure na ang kernel ay may magandang quality."

Ang pili resin ay nanggagaling naman sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Sorsogon City at Albay. Ang pinagkukunan nila ay tinuruan din ng tamang pagkuha ng pili resin upang masigurong hindi masisira ang puno ng pili.

"Sa community, 'pag nagka-conduct ng training as a Resource Speaker, binibigay ko lahat na technology, gaya ng elemi oil at pili pulp oil extraction. Kung kinukuha ako as Resource Speaker, ibinibigay ko lahat na technology, walang sekreto.

"'Pag may order sa aming malaki, yung workers sa farms na nasa baba ng processing area namin, hina-hire ko. Nagpapa-training kami sa oil extraction, karamihan mga babae. Dito kasi sa amin, may mga makina na, gumagamit kami ng mga makina. Pero nagha-hire pa rin ako ng gagawa ng manual extraction kasi kahit babae pwede mag-extract ng oil. Hina-hire ko pa rin sila."

KABUHAYAN AT KASIYAHAN

Ang negosyo ay nagbigay sa kanyang pamilya ng ibayong tulong, paglalahad ni Ginang Yee. Ito halos ang nagpa-aral sa apat nyang mga anak. "Yung isa Electronics Computer Engineer, ang pangalawa Civil Engineer, ang pangatlo Electrical. Ang youngest, si Leslie – nakapangalan sa kanya ang kompanya – licensed Med-Tech at sa ngayon waiting for result sa medicine," pagsasaad ni Ginang Yee na may halong galak at emosyon.

Subalit mabilis nyang dinagdag na kailangan ang pagti-tiyaga. "Two years, three years nasa pandemic na tayo, walang pumapasok na orders outside the Philippines. Kaya yun ang naging problema namin. Sa local meron din, pero konti kumpara sa orders mula sa labas ng Pilipinas."

Naging instrumento ang Leslie Pili Products upang mas marami pang tao ang matulungan. "Dati, tinatapon lang ang balat. Naging pioneer ang Leslie sa pili pulp oil extraction. Sabi ko nga kung nagpapa-training, sa basura malaki ang pera pala, kaya wag na nyong itapon ang pulp. Extract the pulp oil, then may pera kayo, nakakatulong pa sa environment."

Ano ang sekreto ng kanyang pagtagumpay sa makumpetensyang larangan na ito? Pinapahalagan nya ang mga kontribusyon ng pili sa bansa – ang pagbigay ng pagkain, kalusugan, kabuhayan, at kasiyahan. ***Primalou B. Imperial.***

Photo by Leslie May Pili

ANG LISTA NI BERT DIESTA

Jala-Jala
Balik-Probinsya
Japan
Balik-Pinas

Sa Bicol, kung kailangan ng mukha ng kabataan na nagtagumpay sa agrikultura, si Roberto "Bert" Diesta ang isa sa ipapakita.

Isang anak ng magsasaka at Barangay Heath Worker sa Brgy. Muladbucad Grande, Guinobatan, Albay, ang 28-anyos na binata ay dating miyembro ng Sangguniang Kabataan ng kanilang barangay. Pero ang pag-anib nya sa 4-H Club ang nakapagbago sa kanyang buhay. "Noong nag-stop ako, iyon naman ang naging opportunity ko sa 4H dahil nagkaroon ako ng time."

Pero kay Bert, mas mas naghikayat pa sa kanya. Marami pala syang makukuha sa pagiging myembro. "Nabasa ko yung 4H handbook. Nabasa ko doon na kung naging member ka, ito ang mga benefit. Noong nabasa ko yun, gumawa ako ng checklist. Ang aim ko noon ang lahat ng program o project ng 4H, gusto ko ma-experience lahat. Ito ay para ma-inspire ko ang 4Her na kung ano ang nakalagay sa handbook ay kaya din nilang abutin."

Hindi nya natapos ang kurso niyang Bachelor of Science in Agri-Business sa Bicol University dahil sa kakapusan ng pera. Pero ika nga kung may nagsara, mayroong magbubukas ng pagkakataon.

Jala-Jala

"Nalaman ko sa aming coordinator na may pa-exam para sa scholarship. At full scholarship ito, walang talagang gagastusin kaya nag-apply talaga ako noon. Ang dami naming nag-exam noon. Maraming kaming nag-exam hanggang sa paunti-unti. Sinwerte naman ako. Nakapasa sa qualification. Ang tawag sa scholarship ay Youth Empowerment for Sustainable Program o YES."

Ang kurso nya ay Diploma in Entrepreneurship specialized in Farm Business Management. Pero kailangan nyang makalayo sa kanyang pamilya dahil ang paaralan ay nasa Jala-Jala, Rizal. Ito ang MFI Polytechnic Institute. Isang beses sa isang taon lang sila nakaka-uwi sa pamilya. "Kada December po kami umuuwi. Ang maganda dito, sinusindo kaming mga scholar ng ATI para makapag-bakasyon."

Lumawak ang kanyang karanasan. "Ang program nya talaga ay napakaganda para ma-develop ang skill. Doon kasi tr-semester sya for two years. Per semester, one month lang kami sa school. Tapos three months kaming on-the-job training. So, halos walo ang farm ang napuntahan ko, na-experience ko. Doon ko nakita ang mga opportunity sa pag-engage sa farm. So iyun yong nagamit ko dito.

Balik-Probinsya

Sa kanyang pagtatapos, ginawaran sya ng panimulang kapital para mag-umpisa ng kabuhayan at sa i-apply ang natutunan. "Ito ay ampalaya production... Yun amapalaya, noong 2017 hanggang 2018, maganda ang result kasi sakto naman, maganda ang presyo ng ampalaya noon. Ngayon, continuous po yun. Mayroon akong kinita. Ang kinita ko sa ampalaya, binili ko sya ng kalabaw."

Maliban dito, nabigyan sya ng trabaho.. Nakapasok siya sa Department of Agricultural Regional Field Office sa Camarines. Sur. "Two months kami as enumerator sa rice, Project MANA (Maunlad na Agrikultura sa Nayon)." Pero nag-uumpisa pa lang ang lahat.

Japan

Isa si Robert sa piling mga kabataang nakasama sa Young Filipno Farmers Training sa Japan. Isa sya sa 21 batang magsasaka na natanggap sa programa. Napatunayang hindi lang sa Bikol ang kanyang charisma. Siya ang napiling lider. "At kahit mahina ako sa Nihonggo, ako parin ang pinili nilang lider sa grupo."Yun mga kasamahan ko po kasi, is magagaling po kasi kahit yung lider nila ang hindi napakagaling sa Nihongo, lagi sila sa likod ko pata mah-interpret pag may problema po.

At sabi nya, masuwerte din sya sa pamilyang kumupkop sa kanya ng 11 buwan. "Yong farm, 'yong host family ko. Very open sila. Sabi nga, blessed ako kasi doon ako napunta."

HInakayat syang matuto. "Sabi sa akin, 'Ngayon gusto ko, pag-uwi mo sa Pilipinas, marami kang matututunan.' Sabi nya, 'magbigay ka sa akin na mga gusto mo pang matutunan dito sa Japan.' Ang sabi ko gusto ko ay iyong Smart Dairy Farming. So, ipinadala nya ako doon sa friend nya na may dairy farm. Tapos sabi ko gusto ko pa matutunan iyong Japanese Mushroom. Kaya sinend nya din ako doon sa friend. Kaya mga sa ,list ko gusto kong matutunan, pinadala nya ako kung saan-saan. So halos nalibot ko din oo iyong Japan."

Balik-Pinas

Sa pagbalik nya Pilipinas, taglas ang mga natutunan kasama ang ipinamahaging puhunan, nagtayo sya ng pagkakakitaan. Grapes farming ang gusto nya at dahil wala syang nakitang mas magandang variety na angkop sa kanilang lugar, ang pag-aalaga ng baboy ang naging alternatibo nya.

"Hindi dapat ako mag-swine production. Kaso ang project ko galing sa ATI ay fattening talaga sya. Kaso nagkaroon tayo ng problema sa ASF (African Swine Fever). Ngayon ang positive naman na naibigay ng ASF is tumaas ang presyo ng baboy. Sakto bago ako mag-dispose nakuha ko ang mataas na presyo ng baboy. Bago ako mag-dispose, nahihirapan naman ako humanap ng mga biik na isi-second cycle ko. Ngayon ang sabi ko mag-iiwan akong isang baboy na magiging inahin. At ito na nga sya. May isang inahin ako. Nanganak na at may 12 piglets sya. Sa ngayon, ang walo, pinagbenta ko na. At meron ako ditong iniwan para sa fattening at magkakaroon ako ng dadgdag na inahin."

Ika nga, sa tiyaga , may nilaga. Kay Bert, ito ay lupa.

"Ang bentahan dito may bumiling 4,000 at 4,500. Dati kasi ang bentahan 100-120 per kilo. Dahil sa nagkaroon ng problema sa baboy dahil sa sakit, umabot sa 170 to 200. So nakuha ko yong 200 kaya sinwerte. At iyong kinita ko, iyon ang binili ko ng lupa. Mga .5 hectare sya."
Plano nya pang palawakin ang kanyang bukirin. Idinagdag nya ang stingless bee production.

Ganon pa man, hindi nya isinasarili ang kanyang natutunan sa Japan. Kasalukuyan syang consultant sa Albay Provincial Agriculture Office (APAO) kung saan kanyang ipinapalaganap ang mga kaalama't teknolohiya gaya ng Smart Dairy Farming. Plano nya maging Learning Site ang kanyang farm. Ito ngayon ang kanyang pinagsisikapan. "Ang plan ko ay maging LSA. Tapos maging farm school para maka-offer din ako ng TESDA course na NCII na related sa agriculture. At Farm Tourism (Site) din.

Isa Na Lang

Sa kabila ng tagumpay, mayroon pa siyang pinapangarap. Ang natitira sa kanyang checklist. "Sabi ko nga may, two years pa ako. 30 years old kasi is ano na, graduate na. So sa two years na yon, may isa pa kasi sa checklist. At least kong hindi ako maka-compete sa National (Convention). At least, maka-attend ako, okay na ako."

At marahil sa pinakitang sipag ni Bert, hindi makakapagtatakang sa malapit na hinaharap, kumpleto na ang checklist. ***Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.***

DA-ATI Bicol, Isinagawa ang mga Pagsasanay sa DIGITAL FARMERS PROGRAM

Limampung (50) kalahok mula sa iba't ibang bayan at Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSAs) ng Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte at Albay ang nagtapos ng pagsasanay tungkol sa Digital Farmers Program (DFP). Apatnapong (40) mga kalahok nito ay Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) samantalang sampo (10) naman ay mga magsasakang namumuno ng mga organisasyon at LSAs.

Isinagawa sa dalawang (2) pangkat ng mga kalahok, ang pagsasanay ay naganap sa pakikipagtulungan ng Digital Agriculture and Innovation Center ng Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBSUA).

Ang unang batch ay isinagawa noong ika-24 hanggang ika-26 ng Mayo sa ATI Bicol sa Pili, Camarines Sur habang ang ikalawang batch ay ginanap noong ika-21 hanggang ika-23 ng Hunyo sa Prime Suite Hotel, Daet, Camarines Norte. Para sa hands-on ng mga kalahok, ginamit ang sampong (10) pirasong smartphones mula sa ATI na naglalaman ng iba't ibang Agricultural at Marketing Apps.

Nagsilbing tagapagsalita si Karlos Miguel Haber, Information Technology expert ng CBSUA, tungkol sa paggamit ng internet at GPS Field Area Measure. Tinalakay nina Engr. Kristine Olila, Agriculturist II ng DA-ATI Bicol, at Rona Dollentas, Supervising Science Research Specialist ng Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) Bicol, ang iba't-ibang Agricultural Apps na makakatulong sa mga magsasaka. Karamihan sa mga agri apps ay binalangkas ng PhilRice.

Sina Michael Villezar, Isagani Valenzuela Jr., at Christian Tosoc ng DA-ATI Bicol ay nagturo tungkol sa smartphone, paggamit ng social media, mga apps tulad ng Payong PAGASA, QR Code Technology, Rice Crop Manager, at eLearning. Kabilang din sa pagsasanay ang talakayang ibinahagi ni Danico Canave tungkol sa paggawa ng online poster, maging ang paggamit ng iba't ibang e-commerce platforms at online transactions/payments tulad ng PayMaya at GCash.

Ang DFP ay itinataguyod ng DA-ATI at Smart Communications upang makapagsanay ng mga AEWs at farmer leaders tungkol sa digital farming. Ang mga AEWs at farmer leaders ang magiging katuwang upang matulungan ang mga magsasaka na ma-access ang mga impormasyong kailangan upang makagawa ng mas mahusay na desisyonsa pagsasaka.

Layon ng DFP na pagbutihin ang mga kahusayan at kasanayan sa paggamit ang digital technology, at palawakin ang oportunidad para sa mga magsasaka upang maibenta nila ang kani-kanilang ani sa paraang mas maayos at mas makatutulong sa kanilang kabuhayan. ***Christian T.R. Tosoc***

Resource Person Engr. Kristine Olila demonstrates on how to use LCC App.

Bantay ASF sa Barangay Training goes to Sorsogon City

SORSOGON CITY, Sorsogon The DA-ATI Bicol held the 7th and the 8th batch of Bantay ASF (African Swine Fever) sa Barangay: Training on Specimen Collection for Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) at the Paradise Resort, Hotel, and Restaurant, Crossing Pangpang, Sorsogon City last April 26-27 and 28-29, 2022. The consecutive two-day activities were in coordination with the Provincial Local Government Unit of Sorsogon (PLGU – Sorsogon) through its Provincial Veterinary Office (PVO) and Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg).

Before Sorsogon, similar training was held at Daet, Camarines Norte; Virac, Catanduanes, and Masbate City, Masbate.

Forty BBOs across the province completed the activities to capacitate them with knowledge and skills in ASF monitoring, sample collection, handling, storage, and transport of laboratory specimens for ASF tests.

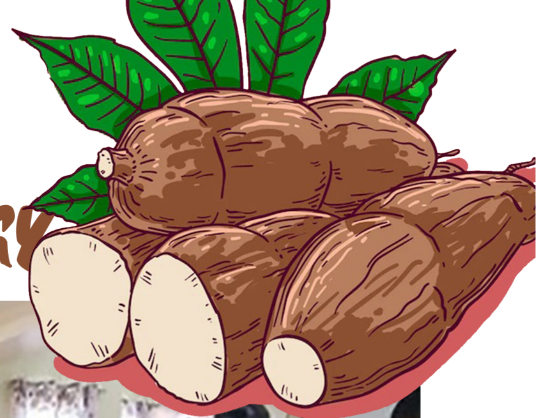
Subject matter specialists from the Regional Animal Disease Diagnostics Laboratory (RADDL) of the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office 5 (DA-RFO 5), Bureau of Animal Industry – Regional Veterinary Quarantine Station 5 (BAI – RVQS 5), and Provincial Veterinary Office of Sorsogon served as resource persons during the conduct of the activity.

Information dissemination was done through lectures and discussions. In addition, studies on ASF disease, the status of ASF in the province of Sorsogon, the Regulation and Control of Animal Diseases, Roles and Responsibilities of BBOs, filling-out of reporting forms, and environmental sample collection, handling, storage, and transport of laboratory specimens for ASF tests were discussed in the activity. Afterward, hands-on activities in environmental and blood sample collection and filling out of reporting forms were done during the training to ensure the mastery and familiarization of the participants with the topics discussed during the lecture and discussion.

Consequently, an open forum was facilitated to address issues and concerns raised, such as the sentinel animals, BBO Kits, incentives, and situational cases like the sudden death of swine during specimen collection and coordination with backyard raisers. Moreover, sharing experiences between the participants and resource persons were adopted by other participants in their respective municipalities.

As indicated in the re-entry plan, weekly monitoring of swine in their respective communities will be implemented to prevent the spread of ASF. ***John Kenneth Gelario***

DA-ATI Bicol holds TOT on CASSAVA PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY



PILI, Camarines Sur - The Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute Bicol (DA-ATI Bicol), in collaboration with the Provincial Corn Coordinators of Albay, Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, and Masbate, had conducted the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Cassava Production Technology and Value Adding with Gender and Development (GAD) Concept. ATI Bicol held it at its Dormitory and Training Hall in Brgy. San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur last March 8 to 10, 2022.

Twenty-two Corn/Cassava Provincial and Municipal Coordinators participated in the training. The activity also coincided with the Women's Month celebration. It aims to equip the participants with skills and knowledge on cassava production technologies, processing, and value-adding.

The training includes three modules. These are the Gender and Development (GAD) Sensitivity Concept, Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC), and Magna Carta of Women; Cassava Production, Postharvest and Processing Technology; and

A participant tries his hand in cooking cassava polvoron.

Cassava Value Adding (food products development).

ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa A. Parot opened the activity with the message. Preliminaries followed, including grouping, house rules, training expectations, and pre-test.

The participants cooperated during the training as they participated in the lecture discussions and the cooking demonstration using cassava products.

The Professional Regulation Commission accredited the training with 17 CPD points. ***Valourie DC. Banes***

DA-ATI Bicol Commemorates Women's Month with G-BEST for Staff

PILI, CAMARINES SUR - In commemoration of National Women's Month, the Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) recently conducted a Gender-Based Effectiveness Skills Training (G-BEST) for its staff last March 7-11, 2022.

This capacity-building activity aims to convert the ATI Bicol employees as gender and development (GAD) champions and be potential resource persons for two batches of G-BEST for Agricultural Extension Workers in the Bicol Region. In addition, twenty-eight (28) administrative and technical employees underwent a series of lecture discussions and workshops to gain additional knowledge and strengthen their technical know-how.

On the first day of training, Center Director Elsa A. Parot infused participants with knowledge on Shaping of Perception. In addition, she included workshop activities such as The Perfect Star and the IP People to set up the mood of the participants on her lecture discussion. She also highlighted the Historical Overview of Male-Female Differences during the Pre-Colonial Era and Early 70's to Modern Times. Finally, she discussed significant contributions for various decades to reminisce the past.

On the second day of training, Assistant Center Director Ms. Vivien V. Carable talked about the Sex and Gender Socialization Process and Scripts. She emphasized the difference between sex and gender. She also added activities such as the differences between men and women regarding their values, character, roles, and other aspects.

Career Development and Management Services Section Chief Dr. Franklin Bel T. Isip discussed brain wiring. He gave the participants a brain wiring test to determine if they were

Continue reading on page 18

DA-ATI Bicol, 15 LSAs join DTI-Cam. Sur's NATT The USUAL Project

NAGA CITY, Camarines Sur The Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) has inked a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Department of Trade and Industry-Camarines Sur on its collaboration project called NATT the USUAL or Negosyo, Agrikultura, Teknolohiya at Turismo : Undisrupted, SUstainable And Lucrative.

According to DTI-Cam. Sur, the project aims to increase the revenue streams of farm businesses by making them farm schools and tourist destinations at the same time.

Hence, 15 Learning Sites for Agriculture or LSAs in the province were tapped to join the endeavor. These are:

- Salvador Emeteria Agri-Tourism Farm in Ocampo
- Emiliano Nature Farms in San Fernando
- ANJ Agricultural Farm in Tigaon
- Christian Farmers Training Center (CFTC) in Ragay
- Arnzy Integrated Farm in Ragay
- Mercedes Science Farm in Libmanan
- Isarog Farming School in Bula
- Coop Land in Minalabac
- Magel Golden Integrated Farm in Lupi
- Badlis Farm in Calabanga
- Nette's Agri Farm in Del Gallego
- Doña Barbara Integrated Farm in Tinambac
- Manuel's Garden Integrated Farm in Goa
- GOLD- C Agricultural Learning Center in Libmanan
- Pangarap na Pag- Asa Integrated Farm & Resort in Pamplona

These LSAs shall also be supported by other government agencies and business organizations, namely: the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of Tourism (DOT), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Metro Naga Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI).

DA-ATI Bicol Assistant Center Director Vivien Carable signed the MOA on behalf of Center Director Elsa Parot, who was on official travel. She was joined by ATI Bicol Partnership and Accreditation Section Services Chief Dr. Joey Belarmino, Information Officer Isagani Valenzuela, Jr, and LSA Point Person Alexander Vargas.

The MOA signing was held at Robinson's Place, Naga City, last March 25, 2022. ***Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.***

DA-ATI Bicol Assistant Center Director Vivien Carable (left) signs the MOA with the officials of TESDA, DTI, DOST, and MNCCI.

Continuation from

DA-ATI Bicol Holds TOT on Mango Production...

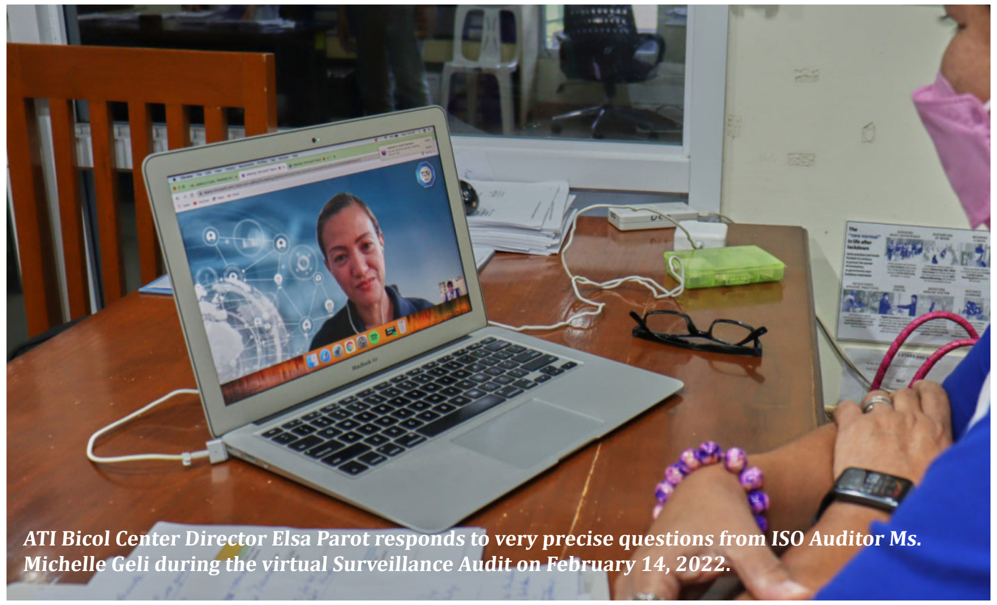
the participants were able to perform their hands-on activity for their return demonstration. After the hands-on, Ms. Khristine E. Orquita of DTI discussed product packaging, labeling, and marketing.

In commemoration of National Women's Month, Ms. Rita M. Gallego of the Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO) discussed the topic of gender and development (GAD) concepts. In addition, she talked about the Magna Carta for women and the violence against women and their children.

The participants had their lecture and hands-on on asexual plant propagation at one of the learning sites for agriculture (LSA) of ATI Bicol. The owner of Rasti Integrated Farm at Mobo, Masbate, welcomed the participants and assisted the group during the actual grafting activity. After the field visit, each participant demonstrated a ten-minute microteaching session to gauge their understanding of the topics and their communication and presentation skills. Ms. Cana, Ms. Gallego, Mr. Munoz, and Mr. Orogo served as the panelist and confirmed that all the participants passed the activity.

Lastly, Mr. Orogo delivered the topics on social technology, such as situational leadership (SL) and extension delivery system. He administered the SL test and shared the result with the participants. As a result, the participants knew their current leadership style and how to handle it.

The training was held at Freshco Beach Resort in Masbate City from March 21-25, 2022. A total of 26 AEWs from all districts of the province attended the training. ***Emmanuel L. Orogo***



ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa Parot responds to very precise questions from ISO Auditor Ms. Michelle Geli during the virtual Surveillance Audit on February 14, 2022.

ATI Bicol Achieves Breakthrough in ISO Surveillance Audit

PILI, Camarines Sur

"We don't have any findings. Congratulations, everyone!."

Ms. Michelle Geli said during the wrap-up of the 2nd ISO Surveillance Audit conducted virtually on February 14, 2022.

Together with Mr. Charlie Labrador, Ms. Geli audited the ATI Bicol particularly the Quality Management System (QMS) of the Office of the Center Director led by ATI Center Dir. Elsa Parot; the Career Development and Management Section; the Partnerships and Accreditation Section; General Services; as well as Purchasing, Property and Supply Management.

In preparation for the ISO Surveillance Audit, the fleet of Internal Quality Auditors (IQA) led by Isagani Valenzuela Jr., Information Officer II, conducted the internal audit on January 31, 2022 covering the operations of the Center for the period July 1 to December 30, 2021. The Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Services meanwhile spearheaded the 8th Management Review on February 3-4, 2022.

ATI Bicol was ISO certified in 2018 and had its 1st surveillance audit in 2019. In 2020, the Center passed re-certification audit. Supposedly to be conducted in 2021, the recently concluded 2nd surveillance audit validated the #SarabayKita QMS-based teamsmanship. ***Primalou B. Imperial***

Continuation from

DA-ATI Bicol Commemorates...

highly feminine or masculine. He also discussed the distinction between masculine and feminine-wired individuals.

On the third day, Information Services Section Chief Ms. Primalou B. Imperial, Information Officer III, immersed the participants in Breaking the Barriers. Afterward, Dr. Franklin Bel T. Isip imparted knowledge about Internalizing Gender Issues.

On the fourth day, Ms. Maristela T. Santy, an Independent GAD Consultant of the Philippine Commission on Women, introduced The Gender Journey: Significant Milestone, International Calls for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Magna Carta for Women, and GAD Budget Policy.

On the last day of training, all the participants underwent microteaching to test their communication and presentation skills. They all passed. ***Joyca O. Labios***

DA-ATI Bicol, DepEd, Cam High Support COMMUNITY URBAN GARDEN

NAGA CITY, Camarines Sur

"START SMALL, DREAM BIG!"

DA-ATI Bicol Director Elsa A. Parot said during the MOA Signing.

The Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Training Institute – Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) has inked a Memorandum of Agreement on the Establishment of Community Urban Agriculture Garden with a project title, "Foodscaping: Grow Your Food, Glow Your Health" for the Solo Parents Organization of Calauag, Naga City on May 5, 2022. This project was initiated by the Department of Education (DepEd) through Camarines Sur National High School (Cam High). According to Justine Rose C. Tubig, DA-ATI Bicol Urban Agriculture Point Person, the project aims to establish a communal garden or container gardens in the Barangay Calauag, Naga City. Specifically, it aims to: promote organic vegetable production in the communities; establish and showcase urban garden or network of container; and instill the value of urban gardening for the purpose of food availability and security in the household.

The DA-ATI Bicol also provided IEC materials and garden tools such as plastic mulch, seedling trays, sprinklers, rake, shovels, spades, tire wires, big drums, garden hose, vegetable seeds and vermicast.

DA-ATI Bicol Director Elsa A. Parot signed the MOA. She was joined by Solo Parents Organization President Ernesto J. Aban Jr., Calauag Brgy. Captain Corazon M. Penaflor, Naga City Agriculturist Francisco M. Mendoza and DepEd PSOS District III Michael A. Del Rosario. ***Christian T.R. Tosoc***

DA-ATI Bicol, Nanguna Bilang BEST TRAINING CENTER

PILI, Camarines Sur - Sa unang pagkakataon, nasungkit ng DA-ATI Bicol ang karangalan bilang 'No. 1 Training Center with Exemplary Performance' sa network ng ATI training centers sa buong bansa.

Si ATI National Director Dr. Rosana P. Mula mismo ang nag-anunsyo ng pagkapanalo ng ATI Bicol sa okasyon ng ika-35 anibersaryo ng ATI sa ginawang online ceremony na nasaksihan ng buong ahensya na kinabibilangan ng 15 Regional Training Centers sa pamumuno ng ATI-Central Office.

Naglulundag sa saya sina Center Director Elsa Parot at mga naghihiyawang mga kasamahan sa trabaho nang nabanggit ang pangalan ng ATI Bicol bilang overall winner. "Ang pangarap ko lamang ay ang ATI Bicol na maging one of the best. But you made us the best!" sabi ni Director Parot sa kanyang emosyonal na pagtanggap ng karangalan para sa center na kanyang pinamumunuan ng tatlong taon.

Dagdag nya, "We did not raise the bar. We set our own bar." Binigyang-diin nyang ang pagkapanalo ng ATI Bicol ay bunsod ng pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan ng mga masisipag na empleyado at mga partner-agencies ng ATI Bicol kabilang ang mga pamahalaang lokal, mga State Universities at Colleges, mga nasyonal na ahensya ng gobyerno, at ang pribadong sektor.

Ang Physical Accomplishment, Financial Accomplishment, Timeliness of Report Submission, Timeliness of Target Submission, Timeliness of Compliance, Quality of Services as Received by clients, at Adoption ang naging mga basehan sa pagbigay ng parangal bilang 'Outstanding Achievement Award.' Nakakuha ang ATI Bicol ng 91.84 puntos.

Pumangalawa bilang Training Center with Exemplary Performance ang ATI Calabarzon na may 89.97 puntos, at sinundan ng ATI Caraga na may 89.52 puntos.

Isagani C, Valenzuela, Jr.

ATING KAUGNAY NEWSLETTER

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