

ANNUAL REPORT 2020



AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
Regional Training Center V (ATI Bicol)



almasi'

sow /sō/
verb
plant (a piece of land)
with seed.

ABOUT THE COVER

Seeding impacts the livelihoods of agricultural communities. Crop quality depends on the seeds sown, and the seeding process. It is important to plant the right seeds in a favorable environment.

For DA-ATI Bicol, 2020 was a year for sowing. The soil was prepared and ready to receive and nourish good seeds. The seeds of teamwork and cooperation. The seeds of #Sarabay.



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

The year 2020 brought unprecedented challenges to us all. For our Center, innovations came out of the need to overcome limitations caused by the global health crisis.

In previous years, particularly since my first full year as DA-ATI Bicol Center Director in 2019, I made it a point to emphasize the need for hard work, cooperation and discipline among members of my team.

We tilled the soil, infused it with nutrients and prepared the fields for sowing. It was a time for planting good seeds, because full-yielding crops had to be grown.

Thus, this year, the Sarabay spirit took root. With care and diligence the seedlings emerged, reached out towards the sunlight, and bore fruit.

Despite nationwide restrictions on movement to contain the spread of the 2019 Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), the moratorium on face-to-face training and other assemblies, we

continued to deliver training and extension services primarily through online and mass media platforms.

These services filled the void created by fear and uncertainty among the general public. Continuous stream of information and interventions showed the way for us – not just DA-ATI but all stakeholders in agriculture – to address the Bicolanos' most basic need for food and sustenance amid the national health emergency. The Plant Plant Plant and Urban Agriculture programs introduced multi-pronged approaches – seed and starter kits distribution, barangay Farmers Information and Technology Services Kiosks, free webinars via the social media and radio, among others.

We received an overwhelmingly positive response from our clients and partners, who communicated their needs to us. These feedbacks generated more innovations and partnerships with co-implementers in the private and public sectors.

The Sarabay momentum spread, unstoppable and spontaneous. Teamwork and bayanihan made it possible for us to counter the repercussions of the African Swine Fever which entered the Bicol Region followed by three successive super typhoons.

Three typhoons and a pandemic tested our resolve, determination and capacities. In the process of overcoming the odds, we found strength. Truly #ATInspire #Possible #LiwanaSa-Dilim.



ELSA A. PAROT
Center Director

3 TYPHOONS AND A PANDEMIC: THE YEAR THAT WAS

On January 30, 2020 a 38-year-old female Chinese national became the first COVID-19 patient in the Philippines. By March, 462 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the Philippines resulted to 33 fatalities.

To control the spread of the dreaded disease, Presidential Proclamation No. 929 declared a state of calamity and imposed a state of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) throughout Luzon from midnight of March 16, 2020 until April 30, 2020.

The Bicol Region remained under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) when the ECQ was lifted.

Pursuant to Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 07series of 2020, DA-ATI Bicol observed the Work From Home (WFH) arrangement from March 17 to April 12, 2020. With resumption of the 5-day work week, the Center enforced strict adherence to health and safety protocols in the workplace.

Meanwhile, travel restrictions and mandatory quarantine gave way to grave concerns on food sufficiency. Agriculture Secretary William Dar emphasized the need to build resilience to threats such as Covid-19 and climate change under the principles of “survive, reboot, and grow.”

To survive the pandemic, DA-ATI provided fast-moving interventions to intensify urban agriculture and backyard gardening. These included starter kits under the Plant, Plant, Plant Program.

The Sarabay Channel became the Center’s virtual training hall. It became the online platform for

training and extension services – an alternative training delivery system.

Derived from the Bicol word for “altogether,” which means teamwork, the ATI Bicol Sarabay Channel sought to continuously provide the needed services for the agriculture sector.

The impetus emerged to come up with daily advisories on health and planting during the quarantine period. These were delivered via Facebook and YouTube, as well as linked to radio broadcasts. The social media appealed to younger segments of the population, while the radio broadcasts were more accessible to conservative audiences.

The new modality evolved into the Online Distance Learning (ODL). An innovation born out of necessity, ODL is multi-location, web-based and delivered with face-to-face component. Conducted properly, the blended approach of ODL improves the knowledge, skills, and learning of its participants. It is the future of training.

Toward the end of the pandemic year, three typhoons successively hit the Bicol Region in three weeks. After each typhoon, the ATI Bicol personnel trooped to their respective work places to clean up and resume work.

Notwithstanding the three typhoons and a pandemic, 2020 proved to be a year of triumphs. Strengthened by the will to serve despite adversity, DA-ATI Bicol echoes Winston Churchill’s words: “Let us therefore brace ourselves to our duties, and so bear ourselves that men will still say, ‘This was their finest hour.’”

VISION

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

MISSION

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

QUALITY POLICY

The Agricultural Training Institute, as the orchestrator of the National Extension System, ensures harmonized management of agricultural and fishery extension delivery systems in empowering the farmers and fishers for food security, poverty alleviation and social equity for sustainable development.

CORE VALUES

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

Customer Focus. “We give the best.”

Commitment. “We serve with passion.”

Innovation and Excellence. “We keep raising the bar.”

Resource Stewardship. “We work with integrity and teamwork.”

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LEARN:
Strengthening Competency and Competitiveness through Capability Building

This thematic area is focused on the provision of training services. It aims to capacitate the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), farmers, fisherfolk, rural women, youth, and other stakeholders along the value chain to adopt innovative, sustainable, productive, and new techniques in social and production technologies of farming and fishing.

It encourages the holistic approach in delivering training services by enhancing the development of the curriculum and agents of extension, effective modalities, techniques, and strategies to the sustainability of interventions.

In the first quarter of the year until March 16th, the DA-ATI Bicol seamlessly pursued its planned programs, projects and activities.

However, Presidential Proclamation No. 929 declared a state of calamity throughout the Philippines and Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) was enforced throughout Luzon starting midnight of March 16, 2020 to limit the spread of COVID-19.

With restrictions on face-to-face activities and large gatherings in the Region under General Community Quarantine (GCQ) and Modified GCQ, the Center even more relentlessly pursued adherence to the agency's core values of customer focus, commitment, innovation, excellence, and resource stewardship.

The training and extension activities channeled through the radio and social media widened the Center's audience reach and range through the ATI Bicol Sarabay Channel, the virtual training hall of DA-ATI Bicol.

The Online Distance Learning (ODL) modality evolved from primarily online seminars or webinars. The far-reaching Facebook and YouTube served to deliver content to groups of participants gathered together in remote locations, making to Blended Training possible. Multi-location ODL catered to farmers and stakeholders who did not have individual access to Internet.

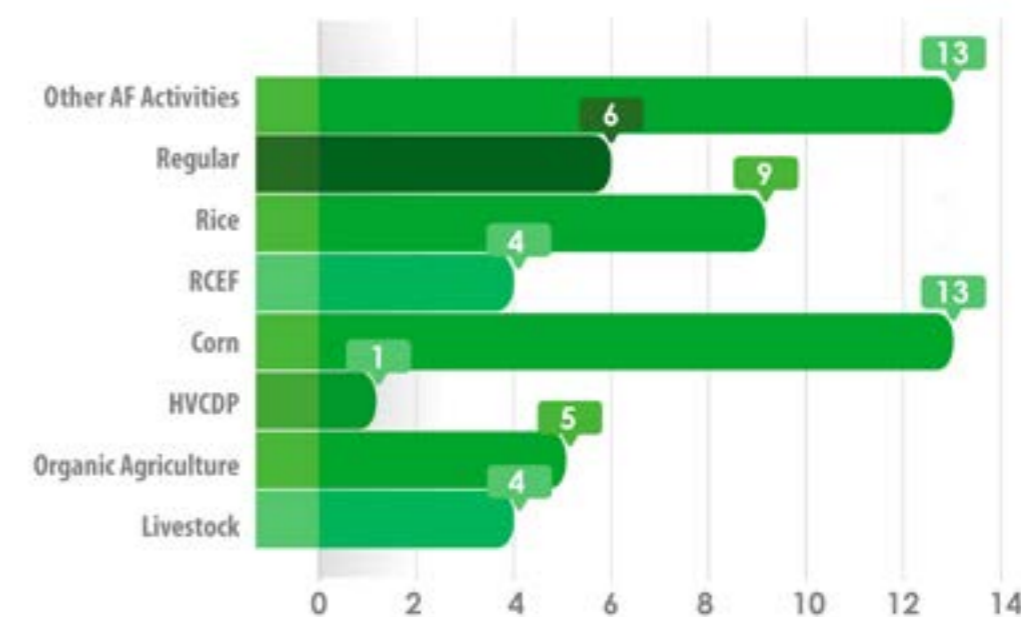
The ODL locations accommodated 15 to 20 participants from the locality who strictly observed health and safety protocols. The ODL venues included Learning Sites where the attendees participated in practicum sessions and remote lectures.

The ODL could also be viewed by individual learners, as the ODL courses could be viewed online in real time or asynchronously.

On the other hand, highly specialized ODL courses designed for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and Learning Site cooperators happened via Zoom and Google Meet. With participants located in various provinces, the face-to-face multi-location practicum took place in designated Learning Sites.

Through barangay-based training activities, the Center delivered face-to-face capability-building activities to stakeholders despite travel restrictions. As locally accessible venues, Learning Sites played a key role in training and extension activities during the community quarantine period.

The Center conducted 42 training programs and 13 other activities.



Distribution of Training Programs

Below are the activities conducted under the Banner Programs:

A. Regular Program:

1. Seminar on Vermicomposting
2. Urban Agriculture
“Harvest What You Sow, Eat What You Grow”
3. Seminar on Urban Container Gardening
4. Seminar on Urban Agriculture (3 Batches)

B. National Rice Program:

1. Capability Enhancement for AEWs: Technology Updating on Rice Production and Project Development Preparation
2. Training of Trainers on Climate Resiliency Farm Business School
3. Intensifying Farmers’ Income through Rice-Duck Integrated Farming System (6 Batches)
4. Distance Training for Trainers on Rice Crop Manager (RCM) Advisory Services

Under the Rice Program, ATI Bicol responded to information needs of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in Camarines Sur, Catanduanes and Sorsogon through a Technology Updating on Rice Production and Project Development Preparation.

The Distance Training for Trainers on Rice Crop Manager (RCM) Advisory Services materialized. The training went online, the first for RCM nationwide. More than 30 AEWs from all six Bicol provinces joined the training. The trainees learned User Registration, Farmer and Field Registration (FFR), measuring of farm lots using the Global Position System (GPS) device, uploading of a GPX file, as well as using the RCM ID Maker, the RCM questionnaire, the RCM Messenger, the RCM Statistics, and the RCM Contact Us interphase. As their training output, the participants each registered a farm, measured this farm using a GPS or geotagging device, and provided an RCM-generated fertilizer recommendation.

C. Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund

1. Retooling on Inbred Rice Seed Production for Seed Growers
2. Blended Training with Zoom Application: Training of Trainers (TOT) on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization (3 Batches)

D. Corn Program

1. Barangay-Based Training in Corn Based Farming System with after Training Support (3 Batches)

2. Farmers Scientist Training Program (FSTP) Phase I
3. Farmers Scientist Training Program (FSTP) Phase II
4. Training of Trainers on Farmers Scientist Training Program (FSTP)
5. Training on Financial Literacy (2 Batches)
6. Barangay-Based Skills Training on Corn Processing and Utilization with after Training Support (4 Batches)
7. Skills Training on Rice-Corn Blend and Cassava Processing for Women (GAD)

A Skills Training on Rice-Corn Blend and Cassava Processing for Women propelled initiatives of the Corn Program in the island province of Masbate.

Under the new normal, the Center conducted face-to-face activities with strict observance of health and safety protocols. These include four batches of the Barangay-Based Training on Corn-Based Farming Systems with After-Training Support.

E. High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP)

1. Cacao Production, Postharvest and Value Adding

The High-Value Crop Development Program (HVCDP) funded a training on Cacao Production, Postharvest, and Value-Adding Processing for cacao growers in Camarines Sur.

F. Organic Agriculture Program (OAP)

1. Retooling on OA (LTC)
2. Distance Training on Stingless Beekeeping
3. Distance Training on Gender and Development
4. Training on Candle Making and Vegetable Carving
5. Training on Beekeeping

G. National Livestock Program (NLP)

1. Training on Feednovation
2. Training on Basic Animal Health Care and Management for Barangay Animal Health Care Workers (BAHWs) (2 Batches)
3. Training on Sustainable Pig Farming (SPF)

Other Agriculture Fishery (AF) Activities:

A. Rice Program (9 Activities)

1. Technical Briefing/KSL Rice-Based Production Technology (6 Batches)
2. Road Show/ Rice Summit
(National Rice Awareness Month Celebration)
3. Rice Crop Manager Briefing (2 Batches)

A Rice Crop Manager (RCM) briefing served as the first-ever extension activity of the Center in the 5th class municipality of Gainza, Camarines Sur.

B. Regular Programs (3 Activities)

1. Staff Development Activities
2. Kapatid Agri Mentor Me Program (KAMMP) Online
3. Community GAD Film Showing and Seminar

A staff development activity, the “Advanced Training and Extension Management Appreciation Course with Special Topics on Project Planning and Development” geared up ATI Bicol personnel for CY 2020 with a 20/20-clarity of vision. It turned out as most appropriate opener for what turned out to be a most unusual year.



In partnership with Go Negosyo, DA-ATI Bicol launched the KapatidAgri Mentor Me Program (KAMMP) Online via the Zoom with 50 mentees. Delivered in virtual form, KAMMP Online helped the agri-entrepreneur mentees survive and thrive despite the COVID-19 pandemic setbacks. The modules focused on entrepreneurial mind-setting and values formation, business model canvass, marketing and digitalization of the agri marketplace, accounting basics, farm operations management, agri supply and value chain, obligations and contracts, good business practices and business ethics, and business plan development.

A Community Film Showing/Seminar introduced the Gender and Development (GAD) Program initiatives in the island province of Masbate.

C. National Livestock Program (1 Activity)

1. Advocacy Campaign (Sustainable and Scientific Livestock and Poultry Production)

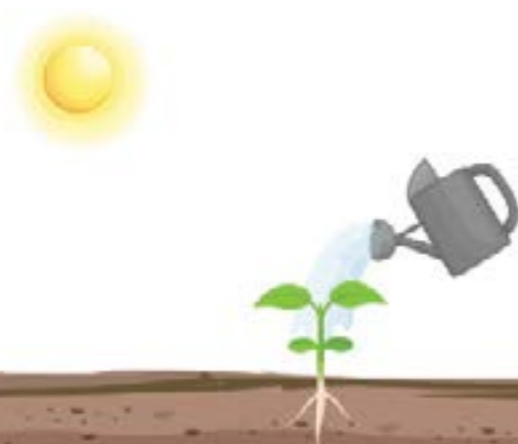


The capability-building activities on various commodities addressed the knowledge, skills and attitude (KSA) needs of 1,396 AF clients and stakeholders nationwide including Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), farmers and fisherfolk, youths, RBOs, agri-enthusiasts and partner agencies

The 55 trainings and other activities served 157 AEWs, 968 farmers, and 278 various participants.

SOWING TIP # 1

Crops vary in terms of growing conditions they require, much like people. They have different sunlight and water requirements. Knowing the ideal conditions for each crop is key to good crop growth.



EaSy Agri Scholarship Program

To encourage more young people to take up careers in agriculture, the EaSyAgri Scholarship Program helped 14 college students to enroll in various agriculture-related courses.

The program aims to provide scholarships to deserving youths especially the children of small farmers and fishermen, to continue their college education.



Bachelor of Science in

Agricultural and Biosystem Engineering:

1. Angelo B. Salvante Bicol University
2. Carmelo B. Boneo, Jr. Bicol University
3. Betty Mae C. Morales Bicol University
4. Jaziel S. Marco Bicol University

Bachelor of Science in Agriculture:

1. Nerwin T. Tarroquin Catanduanes State University
2. Camelle T. Caranza Catanduanes State University

Bachelor of Science in Fisheries:

1. Janna S. Delos Santos CamNorte State University
2. Francis N. Toltol Catanduanes State University

Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness:

1. John Marson S. Tabuzo Catanduanes State University
2. Sarah Jane B. Quides Bicol University
3. Janevah Rose A. Nabus Partido State University
4. Jeralyn A. Llagas Polangui Community College

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Technology:

1. Radley B. Nunez Bicol University
2. Winalyn A. Rodriguez Central Bicol State University of Agriculture



Before large gatherings became unacceptable or too risky to conduct because of COVID-19, the Center conducted free seminars on Bonsai-Making, Aquaponics, and Beekeeping which assembled in four separate occasions.

Bonsai-Making, Aquaponics Amaze Public

On its 33rd anniversary, DA-ATI Bicol conducted two simultaneous free seminars for the general public. These are the free seminars on bonsai-making and aquaponics. These free seminars aim to encourage the participants to venture into bonsai-making or hydroponics by utilizing their learnings acquired from the sessions.

The seminars featured the potentials of bonsai as a source of additional income; steps, and techniques in bonsai shaping; care and maintaining the bonsai plants; and aquaponics technology primarily for those living in urban areas.

The seminars attracted more than 600 participants consisting of students, teachers, agri-enthusiast, and farmers all over the Bicol Region. These were held at ATI compound in San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur on January 29, 2020.



Beekeeping in the Month of Love

Since beekeeping provides economic opportunities for both livestock and crop growers, DA-ATI Bicol recognizes the need to cascade this technology to interested individuals who wish to venture in beekeeping. Thus, it conducted two free seminars on this. The first one was at ATI compound in Pili, Camarines on February 13, and another at Carmen Hotel, Naga City, on February 16, 2020.

More than 100 participants from various walks of life joined the events. They consisted of farmers, farm owners, teachers, students, and other professionals who would like to venture into beekeeping.

Honeybees are among of the most organized living creatures on earth. They produce nutritious golden juice popularly known as "honey." Rearing honeybees or beekeeping provides a variety of benefits. Products from the bees' honey down to their sting, as well as apiary end-products such as pollen, queen substance, propolis, and beeswax are used as health and beauty products.



Urban Agriculture (UA) Starter Kits

With Agriculture Secretary William Dar's declaration that household food security is a priority amidst the COVID-19 crisis, DA-ATI Bicol launched a campaign to promote urban farming in communities.

A total of 3607 UA starter kits were distributed in four (4) mainland provinces of the region namely:

- Albay - 385 starter kits
- Camarines Sur - 1567 starter kits
- Camarines Norte - 1129 starter kits
- Sorsogon - 526 starter kits

Each starter kit includes: IEC Materials on Urban Agriculture, Production Guide for fast-growing crops including Pole Sitao, Okra, Pechay, Eggplant, Squash, and Upland Kangkong; Vegetable Seeds such as Pole Sitao, Okra, Pechay, Eggplant, Squash, and Upland Kangkong; and 500g Vermicast.



3607
Starter Kits
distributed



**EXHIBIT:
Modeling Technologies, Best Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Practices and Innovations**

This thematic area is focused on the provision of technology demonstration services. This is the most effective way to introduce and showcase the success of new and innovative technology or practice, its processes, techniques, and end results to individuals and communities.

It encourages innovations to thrive as new farming systems are applied and integrated in demonstration farms. Further, this serves as a platform for farmers and fisherfolk to feedback on-farm problems to extension workers and researchers as different technologies and practices are being demonstrated and tested in their farms.

DA-ATI Bicol established 30 new Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA), as well as upgraded three LSAs into School for Practical Agriculture (SPA), thru fund outlay for regular activities of the Institute.

DA-ATI Bicol completed 31 field validations. With travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Center innovated by virtually validating the LSA and SPA applicants' farms via Zoom. After 10 online or virtual validation activities, nine farms were certified:

1. Joross Farm (SPA), Ligao City, Albay
2. Baluzo Farm (SPA), Daet, Camarines Norte
3. Reyes Integrated Farm, Ligao City, Albay
4. Navera Symbiotic Farm, Guinobatan, Albay
5. Grajo's Farm Enterprises, Casiguran, Sorsogon
6. Redhill Natures Farm, Castilla, Sorsogon
7. Arjona's Farm, Bacacay, Albay
8. Prayer Mountain Farm, Event and Learning Site, Inc., Virac, Catanduanes
9. Neliza Farm and Training Center, Virac, Catanduanes



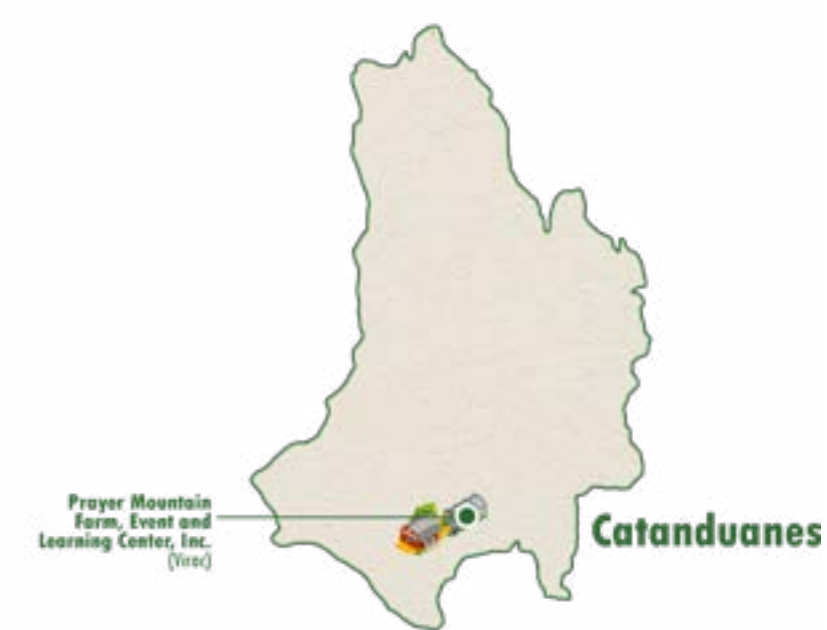
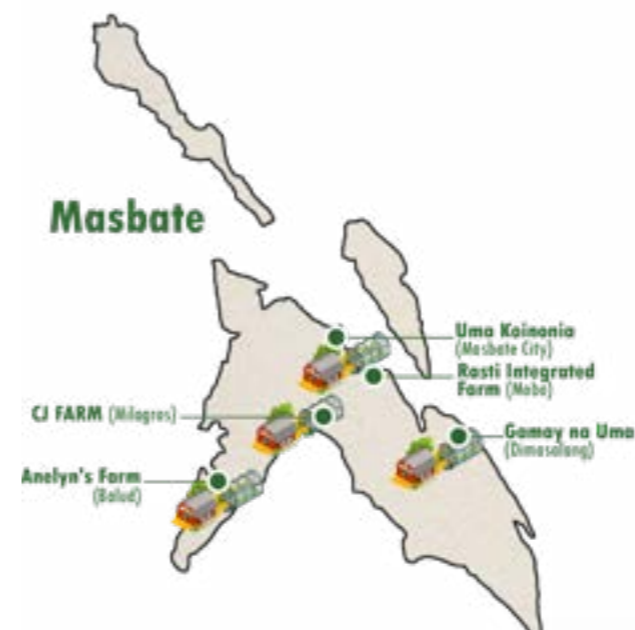
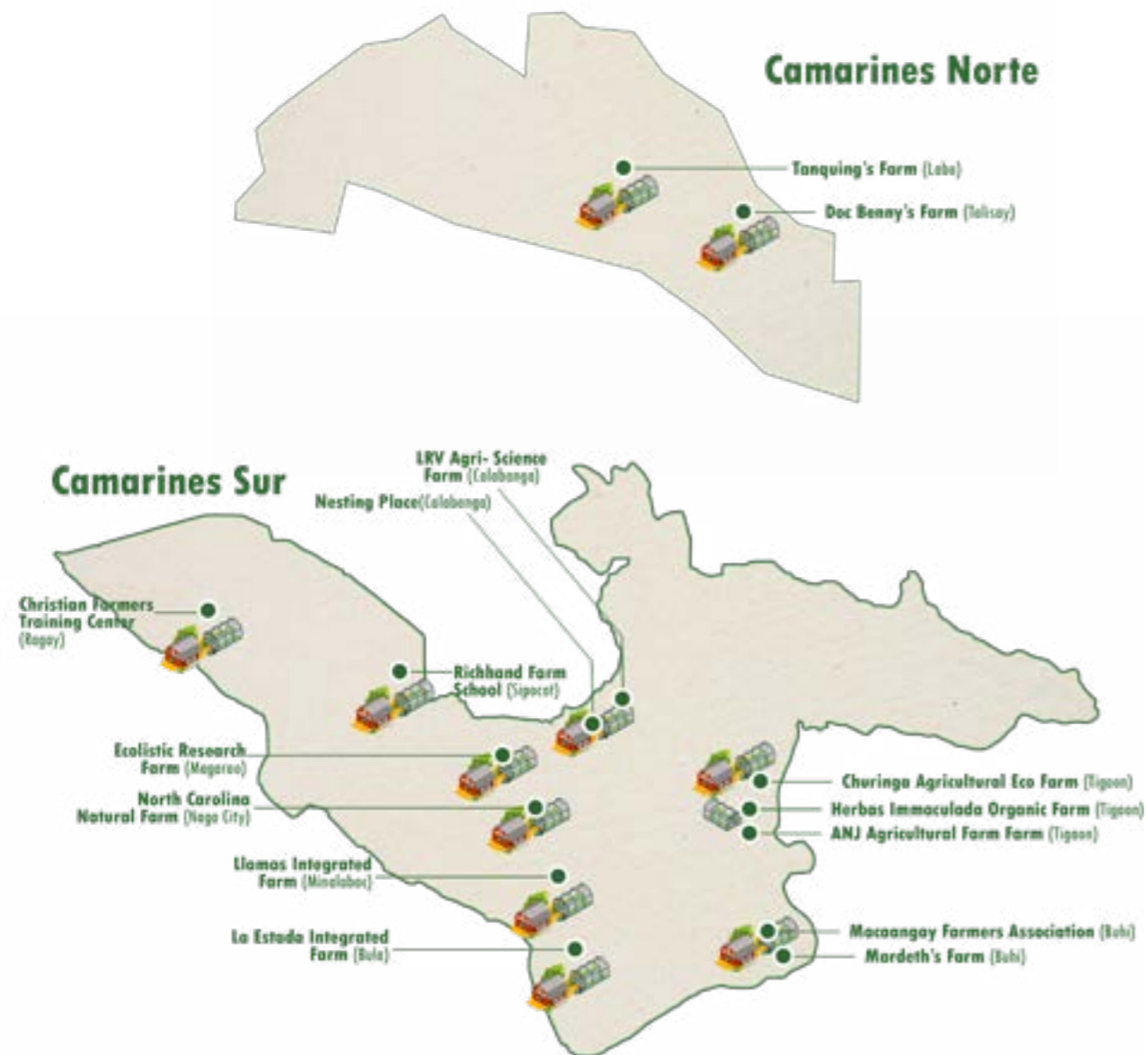
The new LSAs and SPAs were officially launched at their farms, during which the Center Director awarded the establishment support and signed the memorandum of agreement (MOA) with the LSA and SPA cooperator.

To accredit new Extension Service Providers (ESP), the Center organized the Regional ESP Advisory Council which is chaired by the President of Central Bicol State University of Agriculture (CBSUA), Dr. Alberto Naperi.

As venues of face-to-face training more accessible to participants, the Learning Sites initiated various extension activities during the community quarantine period.

1. Baluzo Farm (Training on Vermicomposting)
2. Grajos Farm Enterprises (Training on Stingless Beekeeping)
3. AM Natures Farm (Aphis Mellifera Beekeeping Technology Course)
4. Longabela Kalikasan Farm (Vermiculture Management Course)
5. North Carolina Natural Farm (Kitchen Waste Composting with Black Soldier Fly)
6. Carmel Agri-Learning Farm Inc. (Introduction to IDOF with Farm Planning)
7. Churinga Agricultural Eco Farm (Training on Mushroom Production)
8. CJ Farms (Vermicomposting and Organic Fertilizer Training)
9. Joross Farm (Disaster Resiliency and CCA through Organic Agriculture Technology Course)





Baluzo Farm in Daet, Camarines Norte, AM Nature Farm in Goa, Camarines Sur and Joross Farm in Ligao City, Albay successfully upgraded into SPAs.

The farms are accredited DA-ATI LSAs in Bicol. This year, AM Nature Farm, Baluzo Farm and Joross Farm acquired SPA certification after passing the standard SPA requirements.

The LSA and SPA are frontline extension service providers particularly during this time of pandemic, collaborating with ATI so as to continuously fulfill its mandate as training arm of the Department of Agriculture.

The SPA status is the third step upwards in the ladderized extension approach of ATI. In the SPA, the Farm Trainer will serve as resource person who shares agriculture and fishery technologies. In addition to the demo farm and processing facilities, the farm shall have functional facilities for live-in training and extension activities. These include at least a modest lodging facility, toilet and bath, as well as classroom with training equipment.

Also initiated this year, the Center-based LSA was dubbed ATIng UMA which stands for "Unlimited Mentorship for Agriculture." UMA is the Bicol word for farm. Thus, ATIng UMA literally translates to Our Farm. Various components showcase technologies, ranging from container gardening to livestock farming.

The government's Ahon Lahat, Pagkaing Sapat (ALPAS) Laban sa Covid-19 initiative fueled the Agriculture Department's Plant Plant Plant Program, which revitalized the Institute's Urban Agriculture (UA) Program.

DA-ATI Bicol established 28 new UA Techno Demo Farms, 6 Barangay Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Hub with Gulayan sa Barangay and Integrated UA Communal Garden (5 Sites):

UA sa Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) Community Farms

1. SK La Purisima, Pili, Camarines Sur
2. SK Del Rosario, Pili, Camarines Sur
3. SK Sagurong, Pili, Camarines Sur
4. SK Curry, Pili, Camarines Sur
5. SK Binanuaanan, Pili, Camarines Sur
6. SK Anayan, Pili, Camarines Sur
7. SK Pawili, Pili, Camarines Sur
8. SK Binobong, Pili, Camarines Sur

Establishment of Youth Gardens:

1. Leo Almandrones - Vinzons, Camarines Norte
2. Christopher Nocos - Jovellar, Albay
3. Billy James Apanti - Baras, Catanduanes
4. Allan Cinco, Jr. - Masbate City, Masbate
5. Jason Aquilino - Bula, Camarines Sur
6. Ryan Del Prado - Barcelona, Sorsogon

Establishment of RBO Gardens :

1. Virginia Blaza - Canaman, Camarines Sur
2. Maria Belinda Barizo - Talisay, Camarines Norte
3. Francia B. Morilla - Caramoan, Camarines Sur
4. Yolanda De Leon - Gubat, Sorsogon
5. Corazon Vega - San Fernando, Camarines Sur
6. Eden Gaspar - Canaman, Camarines Sur

ATIng UMA-Alaga Components:

1. OA Component Techno Demo Area - ATIng UMA Project
2. HVCDP Component Techno Demo Area - UMA-Angat
3. Rice Program Component Techno Demo Area - UMA-Ariba
4. Livestock Program Component Techno - UMA-Alaga

Swine Artificial Insemination (AI) Centers sa Brgy. Projects:

1. AI Center sa Brgy. Project - Bula, Camarines Sur
2. AI Center sa Brgy. Project - Pamplona, Camarines Sur
3. AI Center sa Brgy. Project - Juban, Sorsogon

Brgy. FITS Hub with Gulayan sa Barangay

1. San Juan, Tabaco City, Albay
2. Brgy. 18 Cabangan West, Legazpi City, Albay
3. Sta. Cruz, San Fernando, Camarines Sur
4. Camambugan, Daet, Camarines Norte
5. San Pascual, Bacon District, Sorsogon City
6. Banacud, Magallanes, Sorsogon

Integrated UA Communal Garden

1. Rural Improvement of Club of Tinangis, Pili, Camarines Sur
2. RIC of San Roque, Castilla, Sorsogon
3. Samahan ng Nagkakaisang Kababaihan ng Zone 7, Libon, Albay
4. RIC of Poblacion II, Basud, Camarines Norte
5. Barangay Senior Citizen Association of Magallang, Libon, Albay

Through RCEF, the Center established two RCEF-LSAs which implemented modeling technologies and practices in agriculture and fisheries extension (AFE):

1. Nabua West Multi-Purpose Cooperative at Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Nabua, Camarines Sur
2. V. Ala Palay Seed Grower and Distributor (Good Grass Park) at Pawa, Legazpi City

In addition, three LSA were upgraded under RCEF:

1. Darwel Agriculture Farm at Batuhan, Masbate City
2. Canaan Training and Natural Farming Institute Inc. at Domorog, Cataingan, Masbate
3. Reyes Farm at Brgy. Binanoan, Ligao City



ADVISE: Empowering Farmers and Fisherfolk through Advisory Services

This thematic area involves the provision of farm or business advisory services. It includes on-demand knowledge sharing and advisory on production and post-production technologies, linking producers to the market, investments, and other strategic resources and support services with various stakeholders in agriculture and fisheries.

It also covers financial and management advice, especially for farmers, fisherfolk, and their organizations. These are technical services on rural-based organization development, marketing-related assistance, feasibility study preparation, project proposal development, technology-based knowledge sharing, and farm visits.



The Center recorded 1,729 technical assistance. Of these, the Rice Crop Manager (RCM) advisory calls accomplished at least 30 advisories per month. RCM is a web-based platform that provides farmers with a personalized crop and nutrient management recommendation for rice fields through a one-page printout and a series of text messages per cropping period for farmers. The RCM advisories includes recommendations regarding the right nutrient source, amount and timing of fertilizer application, weed and water management, among others.

One e-Learning course on the establishment of plant nursery for the pili species (*Canarium ovatum*) was initiated in partnership with the Department of Agriculture's Albay Research and Development Center, the R&D center for pili technology development.

One of the Bicol Region's banner crops, pili has diverse economic uses. The high demand for raw materials and export potential of pili calls for massive planting of pili trees. DA is supporting the establishment of pili plant nursery towards ensuring sustainable production of raw materials for pili-based products.

e-Learning is a major component of the DA-ATI e-extension program, which provides on-demand extension services in agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources sectors through the use of information and communication technology (ICT).

From 1,208 enrollees in 2019, the e-Learning enrollment in the region increased to 1,770 in 2020. Correspondingly, the e-learning graduates increased from 1,000 in 2019 to 1,521 graduates in 2020.

Advisory services were given to the enrollees as the need arises.

Advisory services also comprised responses given to social media-channeled queries.

The queries channeled thru the social media surged up during the quarantine period. The concerns primarily focused on agencies that could assist the clients in setting up their farms, the need for seeds and inputs such as vermicompost, schedule of online webinars and training, commercial sources of starter livestock animals, among others.

SOWING TIP # 2

To properly grow plants from seeds, choose the right container for each crop. Very small seeds need different plant spacing compared to medium and large seeds. Proper plant spacing encourages good light and air movement, as well as discourages pests and diseases.



DISSEMINATE: Enhancing Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Knowledge Products and Services

This thematic area deals with different extension clients/stakeholders' need for fast access to up-to-date agriculture, livestock, and fisheries-related information and knowledge. It includes development, translation, packaging and distribution of knowledge products through multimedia (print, broadcast, TV, and internet) and all other communication modes that fit specific client systems.

Knowledge products management includes development and distribution of all knowledge products such as technology-based, corporate materials, books, compendium, among others.

The Center logged at least 480 social media posts and webpages uploaded. It developed printed and web-based technology-based knowledge products (KPs), as well as translation of KPs to local dialects.

It launched its local initiative, the Continuous Online Visibility for Information Dissemination (COVID), to counter the vacuum of information created by the fear and uncertainty caused by the pandemic.

The Center came out with daily advisories on urban farming through an infographic-based ATIngAlamin posts in the first days of the ECQ. ATIngAlamin later evolved to include the short video format to better deliver its developmental messages.

DA-ATI Bicol disseminated information dissemination via the social media, primarily through Facebook and YouTube broadcasts that were linked to local radio stations. A 10-day advocacy campaign in the form of radio broadcast with FB Live simulcast focused on UA, edible landscaping, pest management, herbal processing, vermicomposting, rice by-products, alternative feeds, preparation of concoctions, and food processing.

480 Webpages
uploaded

20 Awareness Campaign
with 1,761 participants

32 Promotions
in various media

1 Agri-Trade Fair
participated



With their wide audience reach, social media and mass media ensured visibility and accessibility of the Institute's services even during the pandemic months. The social media played a key role in delivering information under the 'new normal.'

The dual channel approach came out with digital broadcasts thru the social media which appealed to younger audiences, while the radio broadcasts are more accessible to conservative audiences.

This evolved into the eight-hour daily programs which became known as the ATI Bicol Sarabay

Channel. Featured segments include Biyaheng LSA, Production Hour, KusinaSerye, and News Updates.

The pandemic year also generated the development of several printed corporate materials: the 2018-2019 Compendium of Best Practices and Success Stories, 2019 Annual Report, Sarabay Coffee Table Book, two regular semestral issues of the ATInKaugnay Newsletter, a COVID issue of the ATInKaugnay that documented the evolution of the Sarabay Channel, and another special issue that delved on the notable achievements of RCEF.



56,564
Knowledge Products
distributed



8 Knowledge Products
translated to local dialects

Knowledge Products Management

One technology-based knowledge product titled "Reference Modules for the Training course on Organic Agriculture towards Development of Herb and Culinary Medicine" was developed

Information services also included reproduction of 56,122 and distribution of 56,564 technology-based KPs. Downloadable KPs published on social media and the official website further ensured their accessibility to intended clients of the Institute.

Under the Plant Plant Plant Program, technology-based KPs reproduced and distributed focused on fast crop production technologies. These formed part of 3,607 UA extension support and starter kits distributed to FITS Centers and Hubs, farmers and youths, as well as walk-in clients.

The UA Starter kit included information materials on UA, production guide for fast-growing crops such as pole sitao, okra, pechay, eggplant, squash, and upland kangkong. These also included vegetable seeds such as pole sitao, okra, pechay, eggplant, squash, and upland kangkong, as well as 500 gm vermicast.

The Center also distributed 11,122 copies of KPs under RCEF.

Eight knowledge products were translated to local dialects.

Inspiring success stories of Rebecca Purisima and the Farm Family Modelling Project beneficiaries of Barangay Planza, San Fernando, Camarines were documented this year. They shared how the family-based vegetable production improved their quality of life and economic status.



Knowledge Center Management

Four LGU-based FITS Centers were enhanced through RCM interventions which included ICT equipment:

1. Provincial FITS Center in Albay
2. Provincial FITS Center in Camarines Sur
3. Municipal FITS Center in Guinobatan, Albay
4. Municipal FITS Center in Bato, Camarines Sur

The Center enhanced five FITS Centers thru RCEF, providing them with information tools which include IEC rack, 32" Smart television, various information materials, a home wifi unit, and external drive.

1. Municipal Agriculture Office in San Fernando, Camarines Sur
2. Provincial Agriculture Office in Albay
3. OPAg in Camarines Sur
4. MAO in Guinobatan, Albay
5. MAO in Bato, Camarines Sur

Under the Plant Plant Plant Program, the Center enhanced the farms of three Magsasakang Siyentista by providing them with seeds, garden tools, and vermicast:

1. Anafe Besinio of Baao, Camarines Sur

2. Chiqui Sandagon of San Fernando, Camarines Sur
3. Melinda Mabulo of San Fernando, Camarines Sur

As Techno Gabay Program extension agents in their respective communities, 45 Magsasakang Siyentista were evaluated and endorsed for re-appointment.

In addition, 11 FITS Kiosks were established in various provinces in coordination with their mother FITS at the City/Municipal Agriculture Office.

1. RCEF-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Del Pilar, San Fernando, Camarines Sur
2. RCEF-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Grijalvo San Fernando, Camarines Sur
3. RCEF-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Pamukid, San Fernando, Camarines Sur
4. RCEF-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Planza, San Fernando, Camarines Sur
5. RCEF-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Rizal, San Fernando, Camarines Sur
6. UA-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. San Juan, Tabaco City
7. UA-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Canbangan West, Legazpi City
8. UA-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Sta Cruz, San Fernando, Camarines Sur
9. UA-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Camabugan, Daet, Camarines Norte
10. UA-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. San Pascual, Bacon District, Sorsogon City
11. UA-FITS Kiosk at Brgy. Banacud, Magallanes, Sorsogon

ICT-Based Information Services

As a new normal approach, the RCEF Information Caravan On-Air logged 1,671 participants comprising 68 AEWs and 1,603 farmers. The two-week Information Caravan aired twice weekly in four radio stations in the four RCEF priority provinces namely Albay (15 AEWs and 468 farmer participants), Camarines Sur (20 AEWs and 401 farmer participants), Masbate (13 AEWs and 350 farmer participants), and Sorsogon (20 AEWs and 384 farmer participants). The radio broadcasts aired simultaneously at the ATI Bicol Sarabay Channel.

Modified School-On-Airs Produce Graduates

Three Schools-on-Air (SOA) each broadcasted 16 episodes to discuss the rudiments of RCEF, Rice, and Corn.

DA-ATI Bicol launched the modified ATIng Kaugnay School-On-the-Air Radio Magazine Program on Hybrid Rice Production, Corn Production and Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice, Seed & Farm Mechanization (under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Program) in Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur, respectively. These SOA programs reached 1,129 enrollees in all.

Modified to conform to the requirements of the time, the SOA aired one-hour episodes twice a week for two months via radio and the Sarabay Channel. In areas where the enrollees have access to either radio broadcast or social media, they listened or watched individually or in small groups.

The local government unit (LGU)-based SOA Coordinators downloaded the episodes, which they watched and discussed with the SOA enrollees at their convenient location and schedule.



1,129 School-on-Air graduates



Refocused services during the new normal period included awareness campaigns via radio and the social media recorded in the Center-based improvised radio room.

Video advocacy campaigns aired via Facebook and YouTube also marked the Center-based National Rice Awareness Month and Organic Agriculture Month celebrations.

The refocused services during the new normal implementation period included advocacy promotion and awareness campaigns in various media, specifically through Facebook Live tutorials and

instructional videos, as high-impact extension modalities. This include online celebration of the National Rice Awareness Month back-to-back with Organic Agriculture Month.

The AgriTalk on Taro served as advocacy campaign. It combined field documentation with lecture-discussions, delivered via Facebook Live and radio broadcasts. The activity involved all pillars of extension – the academe, national government agency particularly DA, the LGU, and the private sector. The AgriTalk participants included LGU-facilitated groups of participants in Albay, CamarinesNorte, and CamarinesSur. Likewise, individual online participants could register via Google form.



SUPPORT: Improving Enabling Environment and Governance for Agriculture & Fisheries Extension (AFE)

This thematic area deals with the need of extension agencies for policy support, planning, monitoring, and evaluation (PME) mechanisms, human resource management budget, infrastructure, and facilities.

The Center recorded two internal planning workshops, two internal performance reviews, as well as a midyear and a yearend assessment.

DA-ATI Bicol passed the ISO-recertification audit, and conducted one management review as well as one annual audit in the organization.

It established a Meat Processing Hub within the DA-ATI Bicol compound.

Four inter-agency consultation workshops focused on HVCDP, OAP, NLP, and the Corn Program.

Likewise, activities for external stakeholders included the RCEF Extension Component Consultative Meeting in January, the RCEF Harmonization Meeting in November, and the First Quarter Meeting of the Bicol Agriculture and Fishery Extension Network (Bicol AFEN).

The Center also conducted two extension researches, the Results-Based Monitoring and Evaluation Study, as well as Documentation of the project “Increasing Agricultural Productivity Towards Food

Security and Poverty Alleviation: Extension Support to the Twenty Two Provinces Highest Poverty Incidence in the Philippines” (T2ES22PPP).

The Institute is the lead implementer of the RCEF-Rice Extension Services Program (RESP). As such, DA-ATI Bicol conducted two baseline surveys, one for rice farmers and another for AEWs

The RCEF-RESP Baseline Survey for Farmers generated 399 respondents from January to June 2020, while 31 graduates of Training of Trainers (TOT) on Inbred Rice Seeds Production and Farm Mechanization served as respondents for the the RCEF-RESP Baseline Survey for AEWs.

The Center also conducted the UA baseline survey. The first round of monitoring activities in September 2020 focused on the first batch of 50 respondents in their first cropping in the provinces of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur.

The second round of monitoring activities included a total of 100 respondents comprised of 50 for the first batch and another 50 for second batch of new respondents.

SOWING TIP # 3

Do not plant seeds too deeply. Some seeds need light to germinate and should not be covered. Those planted too deep may not germinate or emerge at all. Seeds planted too shallow may wash away or be eaten by wildlife.



AF Extension Network Meet

DA-ATI Bicol spearheaded the First Quarter meeting of the Bicol Agriculture and Fishery (AF) Extension Network (Bicol AFEN) held at the ATI Compound in Pili, Camarines Sur on February 26, 2020.

During the meeting, Emmanuel Orogo who heads the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Services of DA-ATI Bicol discussed the Output Monitoring and Information System (OMIS).

He also facilitated the consensus-building activity among the member agencies in order to come up with the group's 2020 activities.

DA-ATI is mandated to monitor the AF Extension Support, Education and Training Services (ESETS), thus it set up OMIS as a tool to track inter-agency AFEN activities in the region. Bicol AFEN members have to complement one another's services to ensure harmonized extension delivery. The Bicol AFEN member agencies presented their 2019 AF extension activities and the 2020 extension targets. The agencies include the following: Local government units; Provincial Agriculture and Provincial Veterinary Offices; State Universities and Colleges; National Government Agencies; Private sectors; Regional Agriculture and Fishery Council (RAFC) and Bicolandia Greenfields Development Organization, Inc. (BIGFIS).

DA-ATI Bicol Holds Performance and Management Reviews

DA-ATI Bicol conducted the FY 2020 Midyear Review and Planning Workshop on July 28, 2020 at Isarog Hall, ATI Compound, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur.

Central to the discussions of the Midyear Review, ATI Bicol personnel assessed the refocused services of the Center which were drawn up to address the pandemic-related restrictions that started in March.

Point persons and team leaders presented the physical accomplishments of the regular and banner programs vis-à-vis the original Work and Financial Plan targets and the refocused targets.

The ATI Bicol #Sarabay Channel, which is the Center's social media-based platform for sharing information and activities, was also evaluated in terms of the number of posts, followers, people reached, as well as engagements which include clicks, reactions, comments, and shares.

Discussions likewise focused on the accomplishments of the administration and finance unit, as well as the development of the Center-Based Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) to serve walk-in clients. All ATI Bicol personnel shall be involved in creating, building, and



maintaining the various components which showcase different commodities.

The Midyear Review immediately followed the Fifth Management Review on July 27th. Process owners presented their respective accomplishments in terms of the Center's Quality Objectives, as well as their updated Risk Assessment Plans following ISO 9001:2015 standards.

On the other hand, the Annual Performance Review was held on December 16, 2020 at ATI Bicol, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur.

Center Director Elsa A. Parot lauded the whole staff for their unwavering commitment to serve its clientele amidst the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and the spate of successive typhoons that battered the Bicol Region in the latter part of the year.

During the activity, the physical accomplishments in terms of training and extension services were reported by the respective section and unit heads. Aside from accomplishments, they also reported their best practices, issues, and concerns.



ISO Recertification Spotlights Risks and Readiness

It's official: the ATI head office in Quezon City and all 16 ATI Training Centers in various regions passed the TÜV SÜD ISO recertification audit series, the last of which took place on November 25, 2020.

The online audit of all units in the Center took place five days after Typhoon Quinta destroyed structures as well as communication and electric power lines in most of the region. Needless to say, it did not spare the ATI Bicol offices and farms.

With just a week's respite, an even stronger typhoon struck Bicol – Category 5 Super Typhoon Rolly. It may have prevented any congratulatory messages, but rising up after two strong typhoons and standing tall after a third party audit brought the lessons home: preparedness.

The TÜV SÜD audit emphasized safety, security and sustainability. The Covid-19 pandemic and natural calamities in Bicol, sitting as it does on the Philippine typhoon belt, further emphasized the importance of proper risk assessment planning.

The Bicol Region survived three howlers in three weeks. Happily, in the midst of these, ATI Bicol survived the ISO Recertification Audit. Center Director Parot summed it up thus: "With two 2 minor non-conformities and 4 opportunities for improvement, the findings were really very minor and 1 minor MC has been resolved, 2 OFIs not really action items. I have to give it to the #Sarabay Team Ati Bicolandia!"

As the entire ATI head office and network of centers passed the latest organizational milestone, the personnel's commitment to excellent services beyond boundaries is renewed.

Community Outreach Program

DA-ATI Bicol held this year's Community Outreach Program on December 17th in a creek-side area called Sitio Talistis Gilid in Barangay Vinagre, in the municipality of Tigaon, Camarines Sur.

The community comprises 50 low-income families whose houses were flooded, un-roofed or levelled by the series of typhoons that recently hit the Bicol Region.

Dubbed ATIng Pama5kong Handog #GivePlayCareShare, the activity was co-sponsored by Trans-Global Services for Professional and Entrepreneurial Development Inc. through its founder and leadership coach, Tzarina Gimena Saldana.

Through her fund drive called Maligayang NIPAsko! Coach Saldana organized the Learning for a Cause Workshop Series, the proceeds of which sponsored nipa and cocolumber for the Sitio Talistis Gilid residents.

DA-ATI Bicol management and personnel visited the area, interacted with the community folks, and gave farm tools, grocery items and hygiene kits to 36 households, 12 senior citizens and persons with disabilities. Meanwhile, ATI Bicol personnel donated the gifts for children.

Led by Center Director Elsa Parot, they distributed roofing materials, particularly waterproofed canvass (trapal), corrugated sheets (yero), and thatched nipa for 36 houses.

The activity gave hope to the residents of rebuilding their homes in time for Christmas Day and New Year celebrations.





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