



RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND

# RCEF

## ANNUAL REPORT 2020

of the Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center V (ATI Bicol)



## About the Cover

Annually, 10 percent of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) supports training and extension activities to enhance the capabilities of Fund beneficiaries on modernized inbred rice and seed production technologies for improved competitiveness and income.

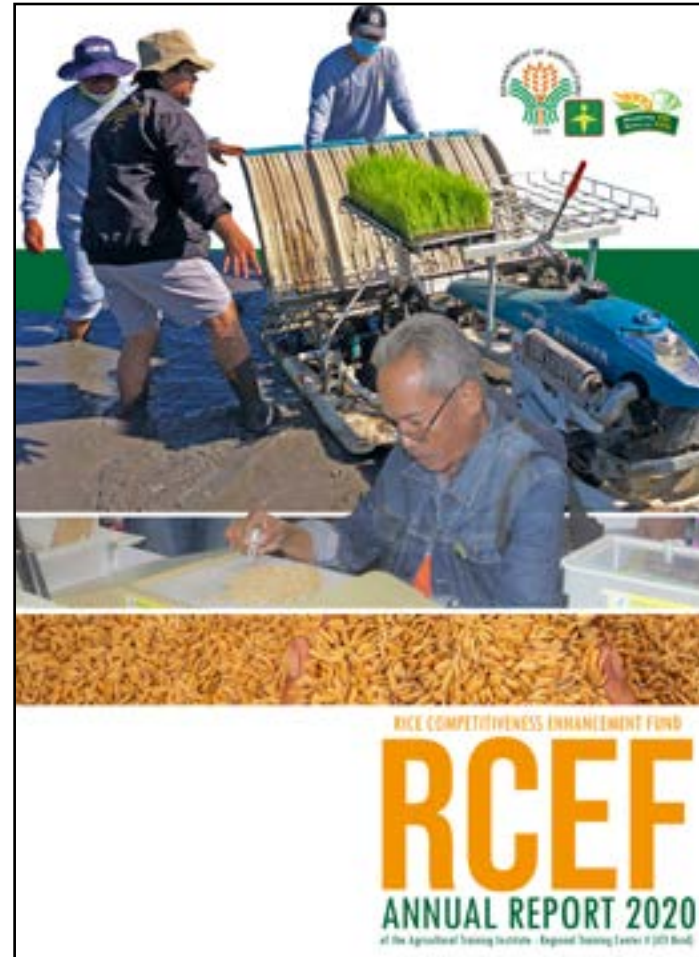
With the real and present danger of the pandemic, training activities evolved to circumvent the restrictions on mass gatherings in 2020.

DA-ATI Bicol adopted the blended learning modality which combined face-to-face and online learning.

Conducted in ATI-accredited Learning Sites serving as RCEF Farm Schools, the hands-on activities reinforced lectures with hands-on practicum on rice machinery and equipment operation, agro-ecosystem analysis, seed testing, among others.

In implementing the training activities, DA-ATI as RCEF lead implementing agency worked with its partner agencies – the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), as well as various Local Government Units (LGUs).

Covid-19 did not stifle but fired up the bayanihan spirit among the Bicolanos. As Center Director Elsa Parot puts it, in the face of adversity, "we were able to discover our creativity, resiliency, and resourcefulness."



### RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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## ATI Bicol Director's Corner



The year 2020 marked many breakthroughs for the ATI Bicol RCEF Team. As a special project with high-impact results, the Assistant Center Director and Training Center Superintendent I, Ms. Vivien Carable, serves as the RCEF Team Leader.

From the first month of the year, it became clear that 2020 would be more challenging than the previous one. Inter-agency training and extension activities were going full steam.

In the thick of implementing the initial RCEF activities, the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) showed its obnoxious head. The subsequent pandemic halted face-to-face activities. The RCEF Team quickly reconsidered its options and reconfigured its plans.

Despite the battle against this unseen enemy and other challenges – including the succession of super-strong typhoons that hit the Region – the Center realized its goals and met its targets. With ATI as overall manager of RCEF Rice Extension Services Program (RESP), the

responsibility for implementing RCEF's capability building activities in the Region rests primarily with ATI Bicol.

ATI could not have done this alone. RCEF partner agencies' active response fueled our resolve and ignited the successful outcomes.

Particularly, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), Bureau of Plant Industry-National Seed Quality Control Services (BPI-NSQCS), LandBank of the Philippines (LandBank) Lending Center, Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP) Lending Center, as well as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) extended extra effort to collaborate with us.

Because we worked together, RCEF gave our rice farmers the best opportunity to realize high yield and income – "Masaganang Ani at Mataas na Kita."

**ELSA A. PAROT**  
Center Director



### Rice Extension Services Program

Republic Act 11203 (Rice Tariffication Law) seeks to replace the quantitative restriction (QR) on rice imports with tariffs. It lifts the quantitative export restrictions on rice. It amends Republic Act 8178 or the Agricultural Tariffication Act that aims to stop damages of the rising inflation, which has been hitting the poor including our farmers. Also, it intends to achieve greater food security that would benefit farmers, consumers, traders and the economy.

The Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) or Rice Fund, creates Php10 billion annual appropriation for the next six years. Of this, 50 percent will be for the rice farm machineries and equipment to be released and implemented by the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech); 30 percent for the rice seed development propagation, and promotion which will be released to and implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice); 10 percent for the expanded rice credit assistance to be made available in the form of a credit facility with minimal interest rates and minimum collateral requirements to rice farmers and cooperatives, to be managed equally by the Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP); and 10 percent to be made available for extension services such as teaching skills on rice crop production, modern rice farming techniques, seed production, farm mechanization, as well as knowledge and technology transfer to be provided by the ATI, PhilMech, PhilRice and TESDA.

The program has four components namely: rice farm machinery and equipment; rice seed development, propagation, and promotion; expanded rice credit assistance; and rice extension services.



To ensure the continuous support to our clientele, the Institute shall deliver and conduct training programs for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), Potential Seed Growers, Seed Inspectors, Trainers and Rice Farmers to improve their knowledge and skills particularly on inbred rice and seed production, and farm mechanization.



Rice seed growers undergo hands-on activities on rice seed production.

### Rice Seed Growers Trained for Re-Accreditation

Rice seed growers play a crucial role in improving the productivity of rice farmers. Sufficient, appropriate, and timely availability of seeds are needed for farmers to realize high yields and return on investment.

With this in mind, the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Training Institute in Region V (DA-ATI Bicol) conducted the Retooling on Inbred Rice Seed Production for Seed Growers on February 26-28, 2020 at Isarog Hall, ATI Compound, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur.

Rice seed growers have to maintain the genetic identity and purity of rice seeds, and make high quality seeds of superior varieties available to farmers. Thus, the three (3)-day training equipped the participants with the technical competencies on inbred rice seed production and farm mechanization.

Major activities during the capability building are the laboratory and hands-on activities such as germination test, varietal purity test, physical purity test, and moisture content determination. These were done at the Bureau of Plant Industry's National Seed Quality Control Services (BPI-NSQCS) located at the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 5.

The training participants comprised 32 seed growers from Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, and Camarines Norte.

The Resource Persons were technical experts of the Department of Agriculture (DA), BPI-NSQCS, the Seed Coordinator of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg) in Camarines Sur, PAGASA-Pili, Agromet Station, and PhilRice Bicol.

Having acquired updated knowledge and skills on producing high quality inbred rice seeds, the participants may renew their rice seed grower accreditation at BPI-NSQCS, Pili, Camarines Sur after the training.



Participants learn to use farm equipment during practicum in selected learning sites in various provinces.

### Trainers Trained on Inbred Rice under RCEF

Amid the challenges of COVID-19 in the Bicol Region, the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) launched the Training of Trainers (TOT) on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice & Seeds and Farm Mechanization under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) on September 8, 2020 via Zoom Platform and Facebook Live.

DA-ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa A. Parot acknowledged the important roles of the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), TESDA Representatives and Learning Site Cooperators in the training.

The TOT aimed to demonstrate training management skills and knowledge in facilitating the RCEF Farmer Field School on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice, Seed Certification, and Farm Mechanization.

It used the Blended Learning modality which is a strategic mix of face-to-face training with online learning. The face-to-face component delivered simultaneous and nonsimultaneous activities such as microteaching from different locations.

The training required face-to-face or hands-on activities for the topics with practical and skills components, including rice machinery and equipment operations, agro-ecosystem analysis, and seed testing procedures.

Hands-on activities were held at: Salvador and Emerteria Farm located at Barangay, Cagmanaba, Ocampo, Camarines Sur; Palayamanayon ni Tiyo Edgar Farm located at Polangui, Albay; Rapsing Intyegreded Agricultural Learning Site Farm located Barangay Cabitam, Mandaon, Masbate; and Sorsogon City.

The attendees consisted of 64 participants from the provinces of Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate.

The TOT is a partnership project with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPAg) Camarines Sur headed by Ms. Luzena N. Bermeo, Albay Provincial Agricultural Office (APAO Albay) headed by Ms. Cheryl O. Rebeta, OPAg Sorsogon headed by Mr. Nestor A. Nava, and OPAg Masbate headed by Engr. Jonel P. Orteza.



## RCEF Info Caravan Boasts First-Ever 4-Province Simulcast Radio Broadcast, YouTube Stream

In response to the prohibition on mass gathering in light of Covid-19 pandemic, the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute has redesigned the conduct of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Information Caravan to attune to the new normal.

Instead of the usual face-to-face encounter involving the rice farmers and extension workers, and the RCEF team hopping from one province to another, the information caravan was simulcasted in the four provinces in Bicol via radio broadcast and the social media platform of ATI Bicol, the #Sarabay Channel on YouTube.

The activity, called 'RCEF Information Caravan On Air,' aims to educate rice farmers about the features of the Republic Act 11203 otherwise known as the Rice Tariffication Law. The law seeks to ensure affordable rice prices for consumers and at the same time raise the income of rice farmers.

DA-ATI Bicol Assistant Center Director Vivien V. Carable and Engr. Kristine O. Olila, the rice focal person are spearheading the agency's RCEF program implementation in the region.

The Info Caravan radio broadcast can be viewed via YouTube. It was also broadcasted over the radio in four priority provinces of Bicol -- Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, and Catanduanes. The one-hour daily program was aired for eight days, Tuesday to Friday from July 7 to 17, 2020.



Participants of the SOA on RCEF observe health protocols such as physical distancing & wearing of face mask during group viewing of the twice-weekly episodes.

## First School-On-Air on RCEF 'Harvests' 500 Graduates

Five hundred (500) registered rice farmers from the province of Camarines Sur successfully completed the ATIng Kaugnay School on-the-Air (SOA) Program on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Program.

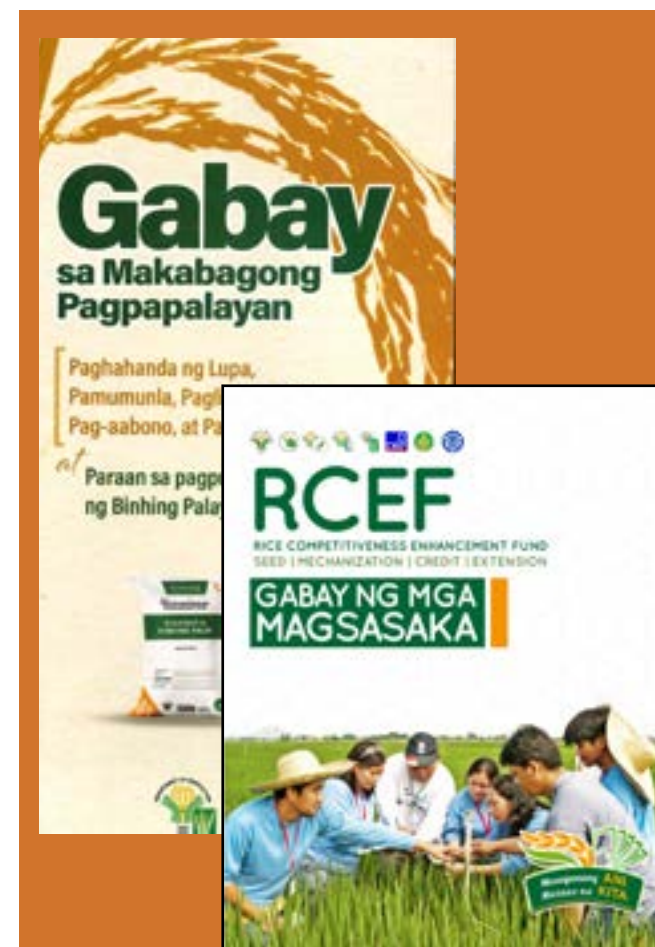
The SOA Program is one of ATI's distance learning modality to promote the complete package of rice farming technologies. It is a series of radio roadcasts which presented the subject matter systematically and progressively.

The two-month modified SOA under RCEF ran from August 4 – September 24, 2020, instead of four months. It was aired every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-6:30 in the afternoon over DWNX 91.1 MHz FM and DWNX 16.11 kHz AM. Also, this was streamed via YouTube and Facebook Live thru ATI Bicol #SarabayChannel.

The training's main objective is to promote the updated technologies on the production of high-quality inbred rice and seeds and farm mechanization in the region.

The SOA participants came from the 25 municipalities and two cities in Camarines Sur namely: Baa, Balatan, Bato, Bombon, Buh, Bula, Cabusao, Canaman, Del Gallego, Gainza, Lagonoy, Libmanan, Lupi, Magarao, Minalabac, Nabua, Ocampo, Pamplona, Pili, Ragay, Sagñay, San Fernando, San Jose, Sipocot, Tinambac, Iriga City and Naga City.

Virtual Graduation Ceremony was streamed via ATI Bicol YouTube Live and broadcasted over the radio last September 29, 2020.



## RCEF - Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Materials

A total of 11,122 IEC materials (RCEF Farmer's Guide, Gabay sa Magsasaka at Gabay sa Pagpapalay) were distributed to the intended clients. They were also shared to the social media accounts and website of the agency for wider reach of information.



City/Municipal Coordinators of the RCEF Info Caravan gathered together participants for group viewing of the YouTube Live Stream of the radio broadcasts.





### Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Learning Sites for Agriculture (RCEF-LSA)

DA-ATI Bicol has established four (4) Rice-Based Learning Sites for Agriculture in 2019, namely Salvador Emeteria Farm, Palayamanayon ni Tiyo Edgar, Ocbian Nature Farm and Rapsing Integrated Agricultural Learning Sites in the provinces of Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate, respectively.

The abovementioned farms were certified as Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund-Learning Sites for Agriculture (RCEF-LSA) and were granted with establishment support in the form of proposal-based financial assistance.

Utilizing the ATI financial assistance, said farms were able to upgrade their capacity to serve as venue of the Farmer Field Schools (FFS) that are being implemented by the RCEF-LSAs in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

Presently, except for Salvador Emeteria Farm, the

three RCEF-LSAs are actively conducting several batches of RCEF FFS with TESDA.

In 2020, DA-ATI Bicol completed the certification of two (2) RCEF-LSA namely Good Grass Park/V.Ala Palay Seed Grower and Distributor and Nabua West Multi-Purpose Cooperative, in the provinces of Albay and Camarines Sur, respectively. Both are recipients of proposal-based establishment assistance.

Another three (3) farms received RCEF-LSA certification with proposal-based enhancement financial assistance specifically Darwel Agricultural Farm, CATNAFI Farming-Training Center, both in Masbate province and Reyes Farm in Albay.

The establishment and enhancement of RCEF-LSAs is an extension modality that aims to contribute to the promotion, information dissemination, productivity, and profitability of rice farmers practicing rice-based farming systems in the identified rice-producing provinces and local government units (LGUs) by harnessing their full potential.



### RCEF-RESP Baseline Survey

**RCEF-RESP Baseline Survey for Farmers** with 399 respondents from January to June 2020

Masbate - 58 respondents  
Albay - 99 respondents  
Sorsogon - 62 respondents  
Camarines Sur - 180 respondents

**RCEF-RESP Baseline Survey for AEWs** with 31 Respondents:

- a. Graduates of 'Training of Trainers (TOT) on Inbred Rice Seeds Production and Farm Mechanization (Batch 1 and 2)
- Masbate - 7 respondents  
Sorsogon - 3 respondents  
Albay - 7 respondents  
Camarines Sur - 14 respondents



### Enhancing Farmer's Information and Technology Services (FITS) Centers for RCEF

Five (5) Barangay FITS KIOSKS namely Brgy. Del Pilar, Brgy. Rizal, Brgy. Grijalvo, Brgy. Pamukid, and Brgy. Planza in San Fernando, Camarines Sur were enhanced under the RCEF Program

The five FITS-RCEF Kiosks received information and communication technology (ICT) equipment, furniture and IEC materials. These consist of one unit each of 32" Smart TV, coffee table with two chairs, IEC rack, and tarpaulin posters. In addition, each received 200 copies of Gabay sa Magsasaka brochure and 100 copies of Gabay sa Makabagong Pagpapalayan pamphlets.

The FITS Kiosks are expected to increase the capacity of the Barangay LGU and extension workers in providing information and technology services to rice farmers to realize the goal of the Rice Tariffication Law (RTL).



**DA-ATI Bicol, Partner Agencies Report RCEF Extension Performance**

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic still on the horizon and the successive typhoons that hit the region, the rice sector's performance in Bicol did not turn out bad after all.

This was the gist of the discussion as the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Rice Extension Service Program (RESP) component members met to assess the Program's performance in 2020 and harmonize the RCEF RESP plans for 2021 during its biannual harmonization meeting held at ATI Compound, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines last November 24, 2020.

Under Republic Act 11203 or Rice Tariffication Law, the government allots P1 billion every year for the RESP component to enhance rice farmers' capacities to become competitive in rice production.

The RESP intends to enhance the capabilities of the Rice Fund beneficiaries on modernized inbred rice and seed production and other relevant skills for improved competitiveness and income, with the following projects: Design and Delivery of Training Programs, Enterprise Development Assistance and Communication Support Services; Development of Farm Schools; and the Implementation of a Training Scholarship Scheme.

The Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) serves as the lead implementing agency. Other partner agencies are the Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

During the year-end meeting that was also participated by Landbank and accredited farm schools,

DA-ATI reported that it has served more than 2,000 rice farmers through the training, school-on-the-air, information caravan, and delivered more than 7,000 information, education, and communication (IEC) materials. It also established and supported eight RCEF Learning Sites.

Next year, DA-ATI Bicol plans to roll out more training for agriculture technicians (Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds and Farm Mechanization), seed growers (Inbred Rice Seeds Production, Certification, and Quality Control), and farmers (Agripreneurship).

It shall also conduct certification and support to new rice-based Learning Sites and enhancement of rice-based Learning Sites. It will also continue its School-On-the-Air program and information caravans.

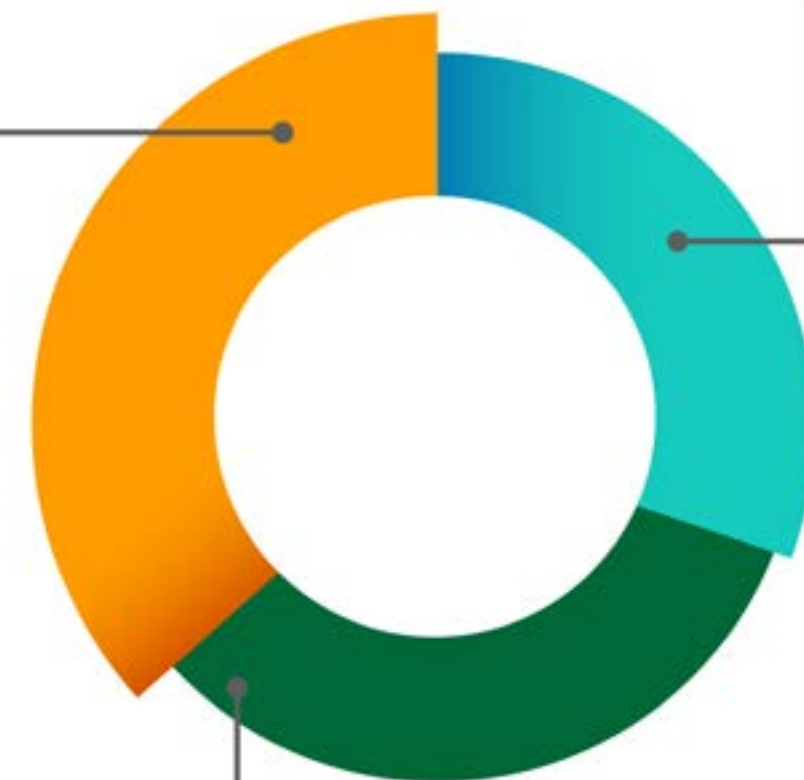
TESDA, PhilMech and PhilRice reported their accomplished activities. Landbank also shared its RCEF-related projects.

The farm schools namely Palayamanon ni Tiyo Edgar of Albay, Salvador Emeteria Farm of Camarines Sur, Ocbian Nature Farm of Sorsogon, and Rapsing Integrated Agricultural Learning Site of Masbate, also joined to share their best practices. They also served as ATI's Learning Sites.

DA-ATI Bicol Assistant Director Vivien Carable, who is also the Center's RCEF Coordinator presided over the event. "Your presence here has furthered our resolve to have a common and unified direction to achieve food security through a competitive rice sector," she emphasized.

**Budget Allocation**  
6,321,748.00

**Total Obligation**  
6,321,748.00



**Total Disbursement**  
6,428,711.23

**Financial Accomplishment**

For the Fiscal Year, 2020, the ATI Bicol Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund - Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP) had an allocated budget of 6,321,748.00.

Out of the said budget allocation, 100% were obligated and 6,428,711.23 were disbursed.



Assistant Center Director Vivian V. Carable, RCEF-RESP Team Leader, leads the discussion during the Harmonization Meeting of partner-agencies.

**WAYS FORWARD 2021**  
**Training and other related activities**

For year 2021 and in the next six years, ATI Bicol will continue to provide and maintain standards in conducting trainings to attain the goal of having "Masaganang Ani at Mataas Na Kita"

**Meet the DA- ATI Bicol RCEF Team**



**VIVIEN V. CARABLE**  
 RCEf Team Leader



**ENGR. KRISTINE O. OLILA**  
 RCEf Assistant Team Leader



**REGINA CARLA R. PADRE**  
 RCE-LSA Focal Person



**JOBENEL R. DELA TORRE**  
 Technical Assistant



**KRISHELL E. BALISORO**  
 Technical Assistant



**ANGELYKA O. TEVES**  
 Administrative Staff

**SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES**

• **STRENGTHENING COMPETITIVENESS THROUGH CAPABILITY BUILDING**

Training on Inbred Rice Seeds Production, Certification and Quality Control for Potential Seed Growers (with GAD Concepts)  
 February 22-26, 2021 | Albay

Training of Trainers (TOT) on Production of High Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization (Batch 1)  
 March 15-27, 2021 | Albay

Training of Trainers (TOT) on Production of High Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization (Batch 2)  
 June 14-26, 2021 | Sorsogon

Training on Agripreneurship (with GAD Concepts)  
 August 17-19, 2021 | Sorsogon

• **MODELING TECHNOLOGIES AND AFE PRACTICES**

Certification and Support to New Rice Based Learning Sites  
 April to October 2021

Enhancement of Rice Based Learning Sites/Farm Schools  
 April to October 2021

• **ENHANCING AFE KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES**

Information Caravan  
 April 13-16, 2021 | Sorsogon  
 April 20-23, 2021 | Sorsogon  
 May 4-7, 2021 | Masbate  
 May 11-14, 2021 | Masbate  
 May 25-28, 2021 | Albay  
 June 1-4, 2021 | Albay  
 July 6-9, 2021 | Camarines Sur  
 July 13-16, 2021 | Camarines Sur

School-on-the-Air for Rice with RCEF  
 July to October, 2021 | Albay

Enhancing FITS Centers for RCEF  
 July to October, 2021

• **IMPROVING ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND GOVERNANCE FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXTENSION**

Consultation Meetings/Inter-Agency Meetings and Workshops  
 February 18, 2021 | Camarines Sur

Consultation Meetings/Inter-Agency Meetings and Workshops  
 November 25, 2021 | Camarines Sur







Department of Agriculture  
**AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE**  
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**RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND - RICE EXTENSION SERVICES PROGRAM**