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ATING KAUGNAY

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



at
bicol

#SARABAY CHANNEL

EMBRACING TECHNOLOGIES & OPPORTUNITIES



DA-ATI Bicol Online Seminar
Reaches Thousands
Page 3

Learning Sites Lead for
Food-Secure Communities
Page 5

DA-ATI Bicol Brings In-Depth
Info Thru #Sarabay Channel
Page 7

INSIDE

NEWS

- DA-ATI Bicol Launches "COVID" 1
Amid COVID-19 Pressure, 2
Let This Be Our Finest Hour
- Work from Home, Plant at Home 6 RCEF Goes Online
- DA-ATI Bicol Starts 3 7 DA-ATI Bicol Brings Daily In-Depth Info
10-Day Special Broadcast Thru #Sarabay Channel
- DA-ATI Bicol Online Seminar 8 DA-ATI Bicol #Sarabay Channel Reaches
Reaches Thousands 80K People In a Week
- Record Breaking Number of New LSAs, SPAs 4 9 DA-ATI Bicol Provides Free Seeds,
Seedlings, IECs
- Learning Sites Lead for 5 DA-ATI Bicol Visits Barangays,
Food-Secure Communities Distributes Starter Kits
- 10 Number of e-Learning Enrollees
in Bicol Surges



ATING KAUGNAY NEWSLETTER

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DA-ATI Bicol Launches ((-)) COVID

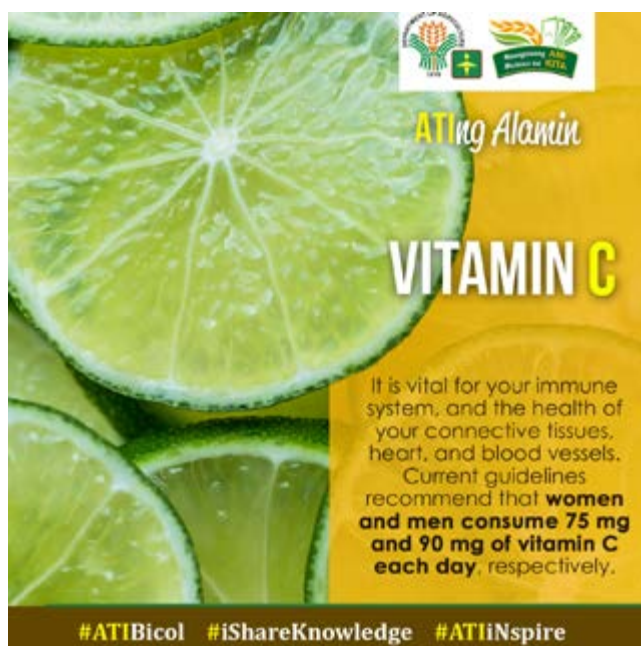
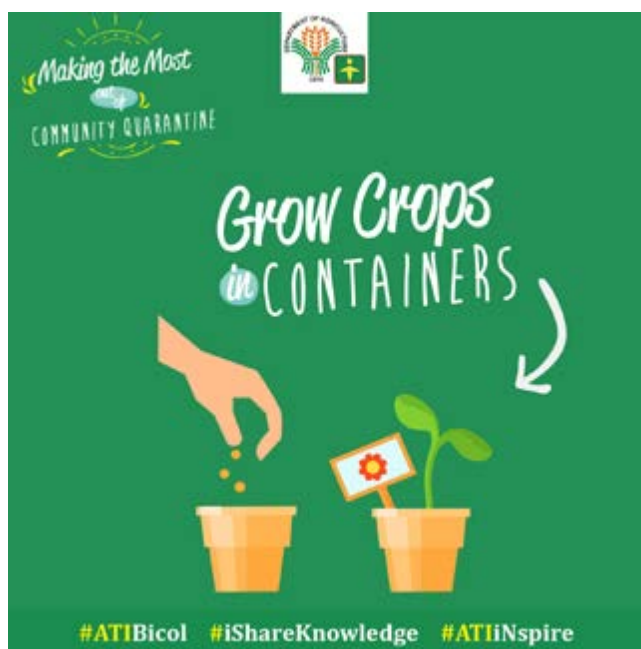
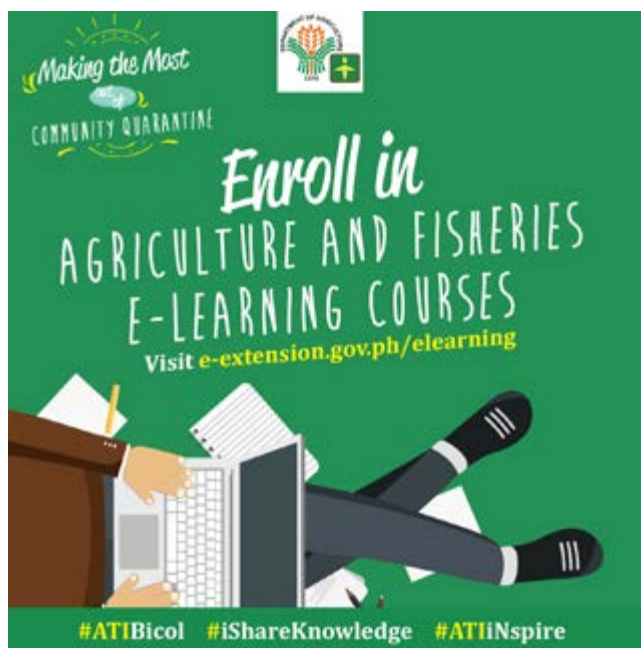
PILI, Camarines Sur- Not the disease, of course.

The Department of Agriculture - Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center (DA-ATI Bicol) has been on the work-from-home scheme since March 17. It complies with the government directive following the imposition of Enhanced Community Lockdown to contain the dreaded virus.

Nonetheless, it continues to provide service to its stakeholders through COVID or Continuous Online Visibility for Information Dissemination.

Using the reach and influence of social media such as Facebook, the DA-ATI Bicol has launched an information drive on urban agriculture, particularly on urban gardening. It is also in support of the Department of Agriculture's commitment to provide adequate, accessible, and affordable food for every Filipino family through the AhonLahat, PagkaingSapatKontra-sa COVID-19, or ALPAS COVID-19, otherwise called the Plant, Plant, Plant program.

Daily advisories on health, planting tips, and technologies were disseminated through ATIngAlamin infographics. Some farmer-scientists and Learning Sites for Agriculture in the region were also tapped for the information campaign. They shared tips in growing easy-to-grow fruits and vegetables such as tomato, ampalaya, eggplant, and squash. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**



Amid COVID-19 Pressure, Let This Be Our Finest Hour

PILI, Camarines Sur – As each of us work from home, stay at home, and submit to contract tracing to avoid spreading the novel coronavirus, let us remember 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.'"

In 1940, barely six weeks in office as prime minister, Churchill strengthened Britain's resolve to fight on after the fall of France. Together with American and Russian military, it vanquished the German armies that had overrun Europe.

These words, 80 years later, should spur us to do our civic duties and work in bayanihan to stop the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) not just in the Phil-

ippines but in the world.

PROMPT RESPONSE

Presidential Proclamation No. 929 declared a state of calamity throughout the Philippines and imposed an Enhanced Community Quarantine throughout Luzon from midnight of March 16, 2020 to April 12, 2020.

Even before its issuance, DA-ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa Parot called for a Management Committee (ManCom) where she discussed the Work From Home (WFH) as an alternative work arrangement. Civil Service Commission (CSC) Memorandum Circular No. 07, s. 2020 WFH mechanisms pursuant to Proclamation No. 922 issued on March 8, 2020, which declared a state of public health emergency in the Philippines.

Thus, effective March 17, 2020 after a half-day preparation by all personnel of their respective work targets from March 17 to April 12, DA-ATI Bicol proceeded to their respective homes and complied with WFH. This is possible through teleconferencing, online exchange of ideas and documents, as well as the promotion of e-Learning courses and other internet-based services of ATI.

Initially, after the ManCom meeting but prior to the Proclamation No. 929, DA-ATI Bicol planned for four-day work-week as another alternative work cited under Memorandum Circular No. 07. All training courses scheduled from March 16 to April 2020 were indefinitely postponed.

Primalou B. Imperial

Work from Home, Plant at Home

PILI, Camarines Sur – For ATI Bicol, Work From Home (WFH) means taking to heart DA's mandate of ensuring a food-secure Philippines at the basic units of society – the home and local communities.

While delivering basic extension services during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) which took effect on April 17, 2020, DA-ATI Bicol personnel led by Center Director Elsa Parot each pursued backyard and container vegetable gardening in their respective homes.

"Before ECQ may munting rooftop garden na kami (Before ECQ we already have a small rooftop garden)," explained Director Parot in her post showing various potted vegetables and even a fruit-bearing grape plant.

Jesse Gonzales, Media Production Specialist II, also featured his kitchen waste composting technique with the hashtags #SurvivingCovid and #helptheenvironment. "Sa inyong bahay mag-segregate. Ang nabubulok na tirang pagkain aming iniipon sa isang lagayan. Para hindi bumaho nilalagyan namin ng kapeng nadurog LIBRE mong mahihingi sa Starbucks o sa kahit anong kapehan. Ihalo at pag nabulok na ilagay namin sa aming farm BILANG PATABA. (In your house, do waste segregation. The biodegradable kitchen wastes we place in a container. To eliminate foul odor, we put coffee grounds which you can get FREE from Starbucks or other coffee shops. Mix and when decomposed we place these in our farm AS FERTILIZER.)"

With the hashtag #MamaBackyardgardening, Fatima Olimpo-Ayende wrote a post showing various fruits and vegetables, "Pag maigos magtanom, may aanihon." (When one plants diligently, there will be crops to harvest.)

Justine Rose Caayao Cano, Agriculturist I, also posted photos of upland kangkong and pechay seedlings with the hashtag #ContainerGardening.

Presidential Proclamation No. 929 declared a state of calamity throughout the Philippines and imposed ECQ throughout Luzon, vastly limiting people's mobility so as to contain the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). The ECQ was extended until April 30, 2020.

Primalou B. Imperial



DA-ATI Bicol Starts 10-Day Special Broadcast

NAGA CITY, Camarines Sur

- The Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) has launched special broadcast for this time of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

Dubbed as "ATIngKaugnay Special Broadcast sa Panahon ng Enhanced Community Quarantine," the project will have 10-day airing of discussions and tutorials on various agricultural technologies from 12 noon to 1 pm over DWOS-FM and also streamed live over Facebook. It started last April 18 and will end on April 30, which is coincidentally the deadline of Luzon-wide ECQ to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

The topics are as follows:

- Urban Agriculture & Department of Agriculture Services
- Edible Landscaping
- Pest Management
- Herbal Processing
- Vermicomposting
- Rice By-Products
- Alternative Feeds
- Preparation of Concoction
- Food Processing
- DA & Department of Trade & Industry Services

The special broadcast is also in support of the Department of Agriculture's Plant PlantPlant Program to ensure sustained food production and availability, food accessibility and affordability amidst the threats of COVID-19. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**

DA-ATI Bicol Online Seminar Reaches Thousands

PILI, Camarines Sur - Despite the Extended Community Quarantine that forces a lot of people to stay and work at home, the Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) has initiated a way to reach out to its stakeholders through the social media and the conventional media.

With the use of Facebook Live, the center has launched its very first online seminar that featured container gardening. The live event was broadcasted from its compound at Pili, Camarines, last April 15, 2020.

DA-ATI Bicol Agriculturist I Justine Rose C. Cano and Administrative Assistant Danjhan Layco hosted the one-hour episode that has reached almost 12,000 people and generated almost 7,000 views.

The seminar is the first of the series of online seminars, which will run until the end of the quarantine on April 30. The upcoming episodes are expected to reach a wider audience as these will also be aired live over a leading FM radio in the province, the DWOS-FM. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**

Record-Breaking Number of New LSAs, SPAs



PILI, Camarines Sur – “Sa DA-ATI Bicol noong ECQ (enhanced community quarantine), with virtual visit sa ating mga kliyente, lumawak ang mundo,” Center Director Elsa Parot described the Center’s operation.

True to form, since the start of ECQ on March 16th, ATI Bicol expanded its roster of private partners by 16. These include 2 Schools for Practical Agriculture (SPA), 13 Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA), and 1 LSA for the implementation of activities under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF).

True to its tagline “Excellent extension services beyond boundaries,” DA-ATI Bicol conducted validation of SPA and LSA applications through virtual farm visits and inspection as well as IT-mediated interviews.

LSAs showcase farmers’ and farm families’ attitudes, knowledge, and skills in agriculture, thus allowing other farmers to learn from them. These farms can become Tourism-accredited Farm Tourism Sites if they meet the requirements.

SPA operators, on the other hand, are able to implement the four extension services of Farm Business Advisory,

Demonstration, Information Dissemination, and Training Services. Thus SPAs partner with ATI in providing extension services to other farmers.

The newly accredited and Central Office-validated SPAs and LSAs are as follows:

1. Baluzo Farm in Daet, Camarines Norte (SPA trainer: Mr. Eduardo Baluzo)
2. AM Nature’s Farm in Goa, Camarines Sur (SPA trainer: Mr. Alberto Calooy)
3. Reyes Integrated Farm in Ligao City, Albay (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Nestor Reyes)
4. Arjona’s Farm in Bacacay, Albay (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Sanson Arjona)
5. Navera’s Symbiotic Farm in Guinobatan, Albay (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Dhen Angelo Navera)
6. Tangguing’s Farm in Labo, Camarines Norte (LSA co-oper-ator: Mr. Reilan Leeboy Quibral)
7. North Carolina Natural Farm in Naga City, Camarines Sur (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Randy Dagooc)
8. Churinga Agricultural Eco Farm in Tigaon, Camarines Sur

(LSA cooper-ator: Ms. Gilda Baduria)

9. Richhand Farm School in Sipocot, Camarines Sur (LSA cooper-ator: Ms. Donna Demafelis)

10. Neliza Farm and Training Center Inc. in Virac, Catanduanes (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Arnel Sarmiento)

11. Prayer Mountain Farm, Event and Learning Site, Inc. in Virac, Catanduanes (LSA cooper-ator: Ms. Maria Concepcion Gray)

12. Anelyn’s Farm in Balud, Masbate (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Edgardo Lopez Jr.)

13. Gamay in Uma in Dimasalang, Masbate (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Florante Bulalague)

14. Grajo’s Farm Enterprises in Casiguran, Sorsogon (LSA co-oper-ator: Mr. Manuel Grajo)

15. Redhill Natures and Agricultural Farm in Castilla, Sorsogon (LSA cooper-ator: Mr. Bernabe Mendez)

16. V. Ala Palay Seed Grower and Distributor (Good Grass Park) in Legazpi City (LSA-RCEF cooper-ators: Mr. Victorio Ala and Ms. Maria Cecilia Ala)

Primalou B. Imperial

Learning Sites Lead for Food-Secure Communities

PILI, Camarines Sur – More than 50 ATI-assisted and accredited farms in Bicol are now practicing innovative agricultural technologies, employing doable farming strategies, operating successfully. These are the Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA).

As the region face the COVID-19 crisis, these LSAs served as frontliners in ensuring sufficient food within and outside their respective localities.

In Albay, Longabela's Kalikasan Farm in Daraga spearheaded a Seedlings Sharing Program dubbed "Pinatubo Ko, Itanum Mo." This initiative reached beneficiaries not just in Albay but also in some municipalities of Camarines Sur. Marlon Longabela, the LSA manager, explained that the project is spearheaded by his farm with the assistance of ATI Bicol, Second District of Albay's Sustainable Livelihood Projects, and Organic Agri-Advocates and in partnership with Association of Law Students of the Philippines (ALSP) South Luzon Chapter.

Baluzo Nature Farm in Daet, Camarines Norte "shared God's blessing by distributing 20 packs of upland kangkong, string

beans, Japanese cucumber, radish and pomelo to our frontliners."

In Camarines Sur, Angelita Dacara who manages Dacara Farm in Pili, an ATI-accredited LSA, gave out free organic vegetables to neighbors. "Our simple way of sharing God's bounty in this time of crisis," she said.

Myrna Prades, manager of the Prades Vermi Farm in Nabua, Camarines Sur led the way for neighbors to follow – intensifying the planting of various vegetables. "Unang tanim ng i-declare ang lockdown, ang kamatis may bunga na angt along may bulaklak na. Tamang-tama sa walang perang pambili, produce our own veggies."

In Catanduanes, Delicia's Farm in Pandan gave vegetable seedlings to community leaders, youth volunteers, and individual vegetable growers in various barangays. "Let us build the Food Security of our town, one seed at a time!" is the project's battle cry, according to Michael Tidon, LSA manager.

Yen Sarmiento of Virac, Catanduanes also implemented the CO-VEG 30 challenge, giving free seeds and seedlings to

communities, families and individuals. "Basta promise po na kapag nakapadakkol kamo mana-o man po kamo sa iba (Make sure when you produce more, give also to others)," she said.

In Masbate, various LSAs also shared their blessings to neighbors.

The Summer Agri Learning Site in Castilla, Sorsogon shared to the Bantay COVID-19 Task Force on duty food packs consisting of pechay, lettuce, sili, organic egg and sibulyeno.

These initiatives support the DA-implemented Plant, Plant, Plant Program or "AhonLahat, Pagkaing-Sapat (ALPAS) Laban sa Covid-19" program. It also foreshadowed the Department's distribution of free vegetable seeds and planting materials nationwide.

"We need to explore all strategies to ensure that food productivity, availability and sufficiency is attained, particularly in this challenging time," said Agriculture Secretary William Dar. **Primalou B. Imperial**

RCEF Goes Online

PILI, Camarines Sur - The activities for Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund or RCEF have gone online too.

According to Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute V (DA-ATI Bicol) Assistant Center Director Vivien Carable, who serves as team leader of RCEF, they have utilized social media to continue their activities, which were preempted by the global pandemic.

It was made possible through ATI Bicol #Sarabay Channel which is streamed over Facebook Live.

The RCEF was created through the Republic Act 11203 or Rice Trade Liberalization Law. It was promulgated to lift rice import restrictions to make the food staple more affordable to Filipinos.

RCEF has a PHP 10 billion annual appropriation for the next six years to be allocated and disbursed for its four major components, namely; mechanization, seed distribution, credit, and extension service. ATI plays a significant part in the latter.

The activities conducted

online last month were the Briefer on the Rice Tariffication Law, the RCEF Rice Extension Services Component of ATI, the RCEF Extension Component & 2020 Target of Activities, and the RCEF Mechanization Component.

These activities generated more than 4,000 views and reached more than 13,000 people.

Ms. Carable also added that they will go on the air soon with the launching of the school-on-air and information caravan. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**





DA-ATI Bicol Brings Daily In-Depth Info Thru #Sarabay Channel

PILI, Camarines Sur – “Our virtual Training Hall,” The Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute V (DA-ATI Bicol) Center Director Elsa Parot called the ATI Bicol Sarabay Channel.

“Initial offering this week is Stingless Bee Culture for Camarines Norte’s pre-identified participants with workbooks. We will be having our first batch of 20 graduates using our Sarabay Channel as the virtual training room. It’s business as usual mga Bicolanos, but this time with that pandemic twist! Congratulations Batch 1 and thanks to the Provincial Veterinary Office of Camarines Norte for the cooperation and support! Truly necessity breeds innovation.”

This happened during a five-day test run which launched the new ATI Bicol Sarabay Channel on social media platform starting May 11, 2020.

The Blended Learning methodology uses content-based Workbooks and taps the widely accessible Facebook social networking service. ATI Bicol also uses other information delivery tools such as YouTube and other online learning resources.

One-hour discussions are aired via FB Live or radio broadcast for a certain number of days. The training participants receive their certificates after successfully completing the course, provided they have registered with the concerned Agriculture or

Veterinary office prior to the training.

With the threat posed by the novel coronavirus that causes the Covid-19 pandemic and the ongoing moratorium on face-to-face training until June 2020, Blended Learning serves as ATI Bicol’s alternative training delivery system.

This comes after the marching orders from Agriculture Secretary William Dar “to continuously provide needed services to our varied clientele, most particularly to small farmers and fishers, under the ‘new normal’ environment. We should focus on three principles, namely survive, reboot, and grow,” he said. **Primalou B. Imperial**



Resource Person: Prof. Lilia C. Pasiona
Director, Regional Apiculture Center
Central Bicol State University of Agriculture

Training: Distance Training on Stingless Beekeeping
Date: May 11-15, 2020
Participants: Daet, Camarines Norte



#SARABAYCHANNEL TOPIC: Stingless Beekeeping
AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE-BICOL

DA-ATI Bicol #Sarabay Channel Reaches 80K People In a Week

PILI, Camarines Sur – The five-day test run of the #Sarabay Channel of the Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) has generated 25,585 total views, and reached 80,911 people. This information is according to Facebook page analytics. On the average, #Sarabay Channel got 5,000 views and reached 16,000 people daily.

ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa Parot announced that the Stingless Bee Culture Training for Camarines Norte served as the center's initial offering during the test run from May 11 to 15, 2020.

The Stingless Beekeeping discussions registered 15,174 total views. This topic got the highest viewership on the #Sarabay Channel, which aired multi-media broadcasts during the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) period from April 18 to 30, 2020.

On the other hand, The ECQ- aired discussions on aquaponics had 4,300 views while those

of hydroponics and container gardening received 10,000, and 11,000 views, respectively.

The #Sarabay Channel airs FB Live webcasts simultaneously with a radio broadcast of selected topics, complemented with Workbooks for registered participants. The multi-media modality ensures that information reaches more segments of society. The FB webcast appeals to younger audiences while the radio broadcasts make the #Sarabay Channel accessible even to more conservative, non-social media audiences.

The #Sarabay Channel includes various platforms that deliver information to ATI clients. It consists of the FB webcast, radio broadcast, and YouTube videos.

As a modified training modality, the center works with local government units (LGUs) in pre-identifying participants who will be given workbooks. "We will be having our first batch of 20 graduates using our Sarabay Channel as the

virtual training room. Thanks to the Provincial Veterinary Office of Camarines Norte." said Center Director Elsa A. Parot.

One-hour discussions were aired via FB Live and broadcast over 103.9 radio frequency for a certain number of days. The training participants receive their certificates after completing the course, provided they have registered with the concerned Agriculture or Veterinary office before the training.

This mode serves as ATI Bicol's alternative training delivery system in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic and current restrictions on face-to-face training.

Everyone is welcome to watch the #Sarabay Channel social media broadcasts. However, only registered and pre-identified participants with Workbooks who met the post-training test passing mark shall receive training certificates.

Primalou B. Imperial

DA- ATI Bicol Provides Free Seeds, Seedlings, IECs

PILI, Camarines Sur- With Agriculture Secretary William Dar's declaration that household food security is a priority amidst the ongoing enhanced community quarantine due to COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) has launched a campaign to promote urban agriculture. It includes the provision of seeds, seedlings, and IECs or information, education and communication materials to encourage the establish-

ment of a home garden in every household.

The seeds, seedlings, and IECs are for bottle gourd (upo), tomato, eggplant, string beans, Chinese chard (pechay), water spinach (kangkong), and squash. An IEC for e-learning is also available.

These are free to the general public and are available at its office located at Diversion Road, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**



DA-ATI Bicol Visits Barangays, Distributes Starter Kits

PILI, Camarines Sur - To up the ante of the campaign for the Plant, Plant, Plant Program, the Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute Regional Center V (DA-ATI) visited various barangays in Pili, Camarines and distributed starter kits for household gardening.

The starter kit includes seedlings of string beans (sitaw), okra, cucumber (pipino), and bottle gourd (upo). It also contains Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials, and one kilogram of vermicast as fertilizer and soil conditioner.

The Plant, Plant, Plant Program of DA promotes urban and community agriculture to ensure availability of and access to food nationwide.

More than 400 individuals from the Barangays of Cadlan, Caroyroyan, Palestina, and San Jose were recipients of the starter kits. In compliance with the Enhanced Community Quarantine measures, physical distancing, and the wearing of face masks were practiced.

The distribution activities were held last April 29 & 30, 2020. More barangays will be visited in the coming days. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**

Number of e-Learning Enrollees in Bicol Surges



PILI, Camarines Sur - The enrollees in the e-learning courses offered by the Department of Agriculture- Agricultural Training Institute V (DA-ATI Bicol) has grown substantially in the Bicol Region.

The e-learning is a major component of the DA-ATI e-extension program, which provides an alternative to the traditional extension service in agriculture, fisheries, and natural resources sectors through the use of information and communication technology.

Based on the data provided by the DA-ATI Farmers Contact Center, Bicol has around 200 enrollees in the first quarter

of last year.






However, this year, it has registered more than double the number in the same period as last year. In fact, during the period of enhanced community quarantine imposed in Luzon last March 16 up to writing, it has registered 332 enrollees.

The e-learning offers more than 70 courses ranging from crops, livestock, fisheries, social technology, to sustainable agriculture. It has more than 20 techno kits and agri-videos.

The free online course can be accessed through www.e-extension.gov.ph/elearning.

Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.

Steps on How to Register in e-Learning

-  Visit the e-extension site (e-extension.gov.ph) and click the e-Learning component.
-  Click the "Create New Account" link.
-  Fill-out the form for account registration.
-  Applicant will receive email/sms for the confirmation of the account.
-  Login using your account.

You may ask for enrollment keys through the Shoutbox or text 09228436439 | 09498895479 | 09204563008

