



VOLUME 3 ISSUE 4 | SPECIAL ISSUE | ISSN 2719-0293

# ATING KAUGNAY

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



# RCEF

Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund  
SEED | MECHANIZATION | EXTENSION | CREDIT

RCEF Takes Off in Bicol  
Page 1

RCEF Goes Online  
Page 5

RCEF: Farmers' Immense  
Boost of Optimism | Page 8

## INSIDE

### NEWS

- 1 RCEF Takes Off in Bicol
- 2 Potential Seed Growers Engage in Inbred Seeds Production
- 3 DA-ATI Bicol Holds RCEF Extension Consultative Meeting
- 4 RCEF Info Caravan Boasts First-Ever 4-Province Simulcast Radio Broadcast, Youtube Stream
- 5 RCEF Goes Online  
RCEF Transitions to New Normal via SOA
- 6 Trainers Trained on Inbred Rice under RCEF
- 7 First School-On-Air on RCEF 'Harvests' 500 Graduates
- 8 RCEF: Farmers' Immense Boost of Optimism
- 9 DA-ATI Bicol, Partner Agencies Report 2020 RCEF Extension Performances



#### ATING KAUGNAY NEWSLETTER

##### Editorial Board:

##### Technical Advisers |

ELSA A. PAROT  
VIVIEN V. CARABLE  
DR. FRANKLIN BEL T. ISIP  
ENGR. JOEY A. BELARMINO

##### Editor-in-Chief |

##### Editor |

PRIMALOU B. IMPERIAL  
ISAGANI C. VALENZUELA, JR.

##### Layout Artists |

CHRISTIAN T.R. TOSOC | KRISHELL E. BALISORO

##### Contributors |

MA. LOUIZA SB. TENA | KRISHELL E. BALISORO | RAMONA INES B. RANESES, LIB, PhD.

##### Photo Credits |

PROJECT IMPLEMENTERS

This newsletter is published every semester by  
Department of Agriculture  
Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center V (Bicol)  
through Information Services Section  
Diversion Road, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines Sur  
[www.ati.da.gov.ph/ati-5](http://www.ati.da.gov.ph/ati-5)

Printed in the Philippines

Copyright 2020. All Rights Reserved

## RCEF Takes Off in Bicol



**PILI, Camarines Sur** – A series of activities kicked off the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) implementation in the Bicol Region starting October 2019.

Four (4) training courses and eleven (11) information caravan/technical briefing propelled the RCEF in the priority provinces of Albay, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon.

Three (3) Training of Trainers (TOT) on Inbred Rice Seed Production and Farm Mechanization served 95 rice industry stakeholders. The first and second batches were for 70 agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and owners/farmer cooperators of Learn-

ing Sites which shall become Farm Schools managed by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). The third batch was for 27 agrarian reform beneficiary organizations (ARBOs). The fourth training courses was a Training on Inbred Rice Seed Production and Farm Mechanization for Seed Growers.

Meanwhile, from November to December 2019, the eleven (11) batches of information caravan/technical briefing informed a total of 800 farmers and farm workers on the four (4) RCEF components – seeds, mechanization, credit, and extension. The activity also discussed the process of enlisting in the Registry System for

the Basic Sector in Agriculture (RSBSA). The RSBSA registration is a requirement for those availing themselves of seed and mechanization assistance under RCEF.

RCEF provides an annual appropriation of 10 billion for the next 6 years with the enactment of Republic Act 11203. The increasing population growth and per capital consumption, together with more extreme weather events that limit the worldwide rice supply, are just some of the reasons why we need to achieve a more competitive, profitable, resilient, and responsive rice industry for a rice-secure Philippines. **Primalou B. Imperial**

## Potential Seed Growers Engage in Inbred Seeds Production

**PILI, Camarines Sur** – The Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) enforces measures that will improve rice farmers' productivity. One of these is the Training Course on Modernized Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice Seeds for Seed Growers.

The 31 training participants represented the four RCEF-priority provinces in the region – Albay, Camarines Sur, Masbate, and Sorsogon. The training took place at Isarog Hall, ATI Compound, San Agustin, Pili, Camarines on last October 14-18, 2019.

The activity honed the skills of prospective seed growers who will produce high-quality inbred rice seeds. Indoor and

outdoor activities were done including Seed Sampling, Sample Preparation and Routing of Samples, Field Inspection and Rouging in Inbred Rice Fields, Seed Bagging and Tagging, Harvest and Postharvest Management Technology and Seed Testing Methods.

As the participants anticipated engaging in inbred rice seeds production and be accredited as seed growers, they formed a Seed Grower Association with Mr. Andres Paclibar of Pioduran, Albay as president-elect. They named their group ALCAMAS which stands for Albay, Camarines Sur, Masbate and Sorsogon.

A member of the World Trade Organization since 1995, the

Philippines sought to protect Filipino rice farmers from the influx of imported rice by enacting the Agricultural Tariffication Act (RA 8187) in 1996. The law exempts rice from tariffication.

However, the Rice Tariffication Law or Republic Act (RA) 11203 enacted in 2019 liberalizes rice trade. Quantitative restriction on rice imports are replaced with a tariff system.

Nevertheless, an annual appropriation of PhP10 billion from the tariffs on imported rice shall be used for measures under RCEF that will improve rice farmers' productivity. This includes the training of potential seed growers. **Krishell E. Balisoro**



## DA- ATI Bicol Holds RCEF Extension Consultative Meeting



**PILI, Camarines Sur** – The Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center V (DA-ATI Bicol) spearheaded the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) – Extension Component Consultative Meeting at Isarog Hall, ATI Dormitory, ATI RTC V, San Agustin, Pili last 31 January 2020.

ATI Center Director Elsa Parot gave the opening remarks and highlighted Sec. William Dar's mantra "Masaganang Ani, Mataasna Kita" as the beginning of 2020 project implementation.

The main objectives of the activity are to harmonize the programs' activities extension targets as well as discuss the issues and concerns and actions taken regarding RCEF implementation in the Bicol Region. Presented also were the 2019 accomplishments and target activities of program implementers for this year.

Twenty-five participants from different partner agencies attended the meeting. These are the Department of Agriculture represented by Ms. Phoebe San Buenaventura;

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority represented by Camarines Sur Provincial Director Alejandro Cortez, TESDA Albay Provincial Director Ruth Dayawen and Maria Bella Atienza, TESDA Masbate Ms. Laura Cabug, Mr. Roberto DelasLlagas from TESDA Camarines Sur;

Bureau of Plant Industry-National Seed Quality Control Services (BPI-NSQCS) Mr. Jose Tormes and Ms. Caroline San-

chez;

Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice Bicol) Mr. Michael Satuito and Ms. Arlene Narvasa;

Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization Mr. Mark Anthony Isureña, Mr. Glenn Joshua Fumigay, Mr. Joseph Corporal, Jr. and Ms. Edlin Kate Banton.

LandBank Camarines Lending Center Ms. Jhoan Salcedo, and Development Bank of the Philippines Lending Center Mr. Mark Bragais.

Present also were the representatives from different Provincial Agriculture Offices in the region. They are Ms. Hilda Lopez, Ms. Rosalinda Belodo, and Ms. Rochelle Adivina of Albay; Mr. Ulysses Cabrera of Masbate; and Mr. Levi Barcelona with John Rey Olivenza of Sorsogon.

ATI and TESDA will expedite registration of additional Farmer Field Schools (FFS) on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice Seed Certification and Farm Mechanization to ensure the smooth implementation of the program. Remaining slots for 2019 for FFS will be realigned to Solar Power Irrigation System Operations and Maintenance.

Other agreements were discussed through an open forum and agreed on the complementation of resources and the schedule of extension activities for the effective implementation of RCEF activities in the Region.

Director Ruth Dayawen ended the activity with her closing message. **Krishell E. Balisoro**

## Rice Seed Growers Trained for Re-Accreditation

**Camarines Sur** – 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 comprises 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.

The training initiated the year's series of interventions under the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). **Krishell E. Balisoro**

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

**Philippines' Road to a Liberalized Rice Trade**

- Joined WTO in 1995; opened up agricultural market to other WTO member-countries
- Established tariffication system in 1996 through RA 8178 or Agricultural Tariffication Act
- A "special treatment" under Annex 5 of the WTO AoA granted the country 10-year exemption for the lifting of the QR on rice; expired on 30 June 2005
- Negotiated and extended by seven years (7) or up to 30 June 2012; another extension for a 5-Year waiver granted until 1 July 2017
- RA 11203 - An Act Liberalizing the Importation, Exportation and Trading of Rice, Lifting for the Purpose the Quantitative Import Restriction on Rice, and for other purpose

Seed Component with Engr. Gina C. Nuñez, Regional RCEF Coordinator, PhilRice - Bicol

#SARABAYCHANNEL Today: Information Caravan on Air AGRICULTURAL TRAINING INSTITUTE-BICOL

**PILI, Camarines Sur** – In response to the prohibition of 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 as 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 is 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 and benefits 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 publicly via YouTube. However, it is broadcasted on radio in four priority provinces of Bicol – Camarines Sur, Albay, Sorsogon, and Catanduanes. The one-hour daily program is aired for eight days, Tuesday to Friday from July 7th to July 17th.

During the opening episode, DA-ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa A. Parot thanked the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office (DA-RFO)

headed by Dir. Rodel P. Tornilla, as well as the Provincial Agriculturists, namely Engr. Jonel Orteza of Masbate, Ms. Che Rebeta of Albay, Ms. Che Bermejo of Camarines Sur, and Mr. Nestor Nava of Sorsogon for their continued assistance and support to RCEF.

According to Dir. Tornilla,

*"Ang programa ay tugon sa pangangailangan na mag siwalat ng mga mahahalagang kaalaman at impormasyon sa ating mga magsasaka na hindi kailangan magkakaharap dahil sa banta ng CoViD-19."*

Dir. Parot added, that this info caravan is an example of the agency's "uninterrupted service" even though we are now experiencing pandemic.

**Ma. Louiza SB. Tena**

## 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.**

## RCEF Transitions to New Normal via SOA



**PILI, Camarines Sur** – "In every adversity comes opportunity. Along with leaving our comfort zone, we need you. We can only do so much at ATI if our support system is not with us."

With these words, DA-ATI Bicol Center Director Elsa Parot acknowledged the crucial role of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in delivering information to rice farmers and other members of farming communities.

This happened during the orientation meeting with AEWs for the upcoming ATing Kaugnay School-on-Air (SOA) on the Production of High Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds held at ATI Bicol.

On its second implementation year, ATI Bicol is conducting extension activities on the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) through a modified SOA which shall involve limited interpersonal communication as well as radio and social media broadcasts.

Republic Act 11203, also known as Rice Tariffication Law (RTL), was signed into law in February 2019 appropriating Php 10 billion annually. Known as RCEF, it shall fund four interventions aimed at improving the productivity of Filipino rice farmers – seed, mechanization, credit, and extension services.

With the Covid-19 pandemic putting restrictions on large gatherings

of people, ATI Bicol is channeling RCEF extension services through blended face-to-face and radio communication, according to the RCEF Team Leader and Assistant Center Director, Ms. Vivien Carable.

During the orientation meeting, AEWs confirmed that only 10 to 25 percent of farmers have access to the Internet. Thus a radio-mediated communication is preferred provided the radio station selected has a strong signal in the intended areas.

The time of airing also has to be considered. Should farmers be unavailable on the allotted time, the AEWs said they are prepared to meet the farmers on specific times and replay the missed episodes as well as administer periodic assessments.

The modified SOA on RCEF shall start on August and end in September. It shall air for twice a week in Camarines Sur where 36 municipalities are RCEF-priority areas.

"We are facing challenges because it's difficult if we can't do face-to-face," Center Director Parot told the future SOA facilitators. However, she encouraged everyone to overcome challenges.

"Do not stop. When we're at sea, we can only wonder what's out there. We cannot know if we do not go beyond the shore. When passion meets purpose, exciting things happen. **Primalou B. Imperial**

## Trainers Trained on Inbred Rice under RCEF



The RCEF Team of DA-ATI Bicol led by Assistant Center Director Ms. Vivien Carable during Zoom -channelled Training of Trainers

**PILI, Camarines Sur** – 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) last Tuesday, September 8, 2020 via Zoom Platform and Facebook Live.

*“This is one way to appreciate what the pandemic has given us. Hindi lang siya puro problema. We were able to discover our creativity, resiliency, and resourcefulness.”*

With these words, 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 systematic 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 will be held at these locations: Salvador and Emeteria Farm located at Barangay. Cagmanaba, Ocampo, Camarines Sur; Palayamanayon ni Tiyo Edgar Farm located at Polangui, Albay; Rapsing Intyegrated 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. Cheryll O. Rebeta, OPAg Sorsogon headed by Mr. Nestor A. Nava, and OPAg Masbate headed by Engr. Jonel P. Ortez. **Krishell E. Balisoro**

## First School-On-Air on RCEF ‘Harvests’ 500 Graduates

**CAMARINES SUR** – Five hundred (500) registered rice farmers from the province of Camarines Sur successfully completed the training course on 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 programs which present 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.

Participants of SOA were from the 25 municipalities and two cities in Camarines Sur namely: Baa, Balatan, Bato, Bombon, Buhi, 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 Radio Broadcast last September 29, 2020. **Krishell E. Balisoro**



The school-on-air students from the municipality of Ragay attend their virtual graduation.

## RCEF: Farmers' Immense Boost of Optimism

**Oas, Albay** - Have you ever stopped to think about people such as Tio Tonyo? A 60-year old farmer brooding at dusk in the corner of his rice field, he seems unmindful of his environment. Moving closer to this lowly farmer, you see his eyes puffy from crying. Worry is bugging his mind and spirit. "Where do I get funds for our daily living? Where do I get money to buy my wife's medicine?"

Such was the dismal and devastating situation of many a downtrodden coastal farmer, who, like Tio Tonyo, suffered a lot as a result of the downscaling of the price of palay. Farmers cried for help as palay prices dropped.

On Septemebr 10, this year, the lowly farmers in the coastal barangays of Oas, Province of Albay received a new shot in the arms. A total of 100 farmers in five coastal barangays were given the opportunity to learn the scientific way of rice farming through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF), as scholars of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) in Albay Province. To be implemented by the MA-DA Bustamante Family Farm, TESDA provided four batches of TRaining on Production of High Quality Inbred Rice scholarship, with 25 farmers in each batch.

The RCEF training came at an opportune time when the farmers of the

five coastal barangays were down-trodden as a result of very low price of palay. Hungry and devastated, the farmers felt they had nowhere to turn to for relief. They could only scream with heart full of disappointment, darkened by the sad state of agricultural affairs. To the farmer-trainees, the introduction of RCEF was a relief from lethargy and passivity towards optimism and positivism. The three month study period was an exciting experience for them, with the rice field used as a classroom.

As the classes reeled off, the farmer-trainees developed a clearer outlook in rice farming as they gained insights on the salient features of RA 11203 and the Rice Tariffication Law on the first few days of their training. It was a novel and delightful experience for the farmer-trainees to be positioned in the rice field at 5:00 in the morning to capture the insects swarming the palay for identifying and knowing the harmful effects. Through the AESA and Rouging hands-on experiences, the farmer-trainees learned to be conscious about the insects that attack the palay, and how to curb their damaging effects and technique in removing aberrant palay stalks. The lectures on Rice Morphology, Palay Checks Water Saving Technology, Basic Financial Seed, Certification Process, Crop Cut Yield Component and Final Analysis completed their knowledge on scientific rice farming. Rice specialists with expertise on the particular field/area, from PhilRice, APAO and ATI handled the classes.

Harvesttime brought unparalleled happiness to the farmer-trainees. Notwithstanding the inclement weather, heavy rains and typhoon, yet watchful that the classes poised to reap the benefits of their investments in time, effort and resources, the harvest was set for October 22, 2020, or three days prior to the onslaught of typhoon Quinta. A good harvest was reaped striking an impressive Two-hundred percent (200%) increase in the production yield from the past farming. In 2019, the ricefield produced only 16 sacks of palay, while this 2020, 70 sacks were harvested. Important to note that the continuous heavy rains and strong winds for several days prior to harvest inundated almost one-fourth of the ricefield. This heavily affected the ready-for-harvest palay and had a tremendous effect of damaging approximately 25 sacks of the projected total harvest, over and above the actual harvest.

RCEF helped boost the morale of the farmer-trainees. With RCEF they saw the silver lining, a sign of hope in an otherwise negative situation. It infused OPTIMISM into their well-being. With optimism the farmer-trainee opens doors to himself leading to a happy life. The RCEF training has ingrained in the farmer-trainees' minds the motto, "think only of the best, work only for the best, expect only the best." Happy and contented, oozing with enthusiasm to proceed, they go back to their respective rice fields with this thought in mind, "Endeavor to make your farming better by implementing the strategies you just learned in this RCEF training."

Tio Tonyo, also a farmer-trainee now beams with smile on his face as he enjoys watching with glee the RCEF infused silver lining. **Ramona Ines R. Bustamante-Rañeses, LIB., PhD.**

## DA-ATI Bicol, Partner Agencies Report 2020 RCEF Extension Performance



DA-ATI Bicol Assistant Center Director Vivien Carable, who is also the center's RCEF Coordinator reads her message during the opening of the RCEF-RSEP Harmonization Meeting.

**PILI, Camarines Sur** -- 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 its 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 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. **Isagani C. Valenzuela, Jr.**





- 1** Training of Trainers for ARBOs
  - 2** FARMERS' TRAINING  
| Inbred Rice Seed Production and Certification for Potential Seed Growers  
| Retooling Course for Seed Growers
  - 5** batches of Training for Trainers  
| Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization
- 228** PARTICIPANTS TRAINED

**18** batches of TECHNICAL BRIEFINGS/  
INFORMATION CARAVAN  
for Camarines Sur, Albay, Masbate & Sorsogon

**3,439**  
PARTICIPANTS  
ORIENTED on RCEF

**10,754**  
RCEF IEC Materials  
DISTRIBUTED



**9** RICE-BASED LEARNING SITES  
Established/Enhanced



**2** HARMONIZATION MEETINGS  
on Rice Extension Services Program

**1** batch School-on-the Air Program on  
| Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice and Seeds, and Farm Mechanization

**500** SOA PARTICIPANTS  
GRADUATED