

ISSN: 2719-0382

VOLUME 12 | ISSUE NO. 15 | July to September 2022

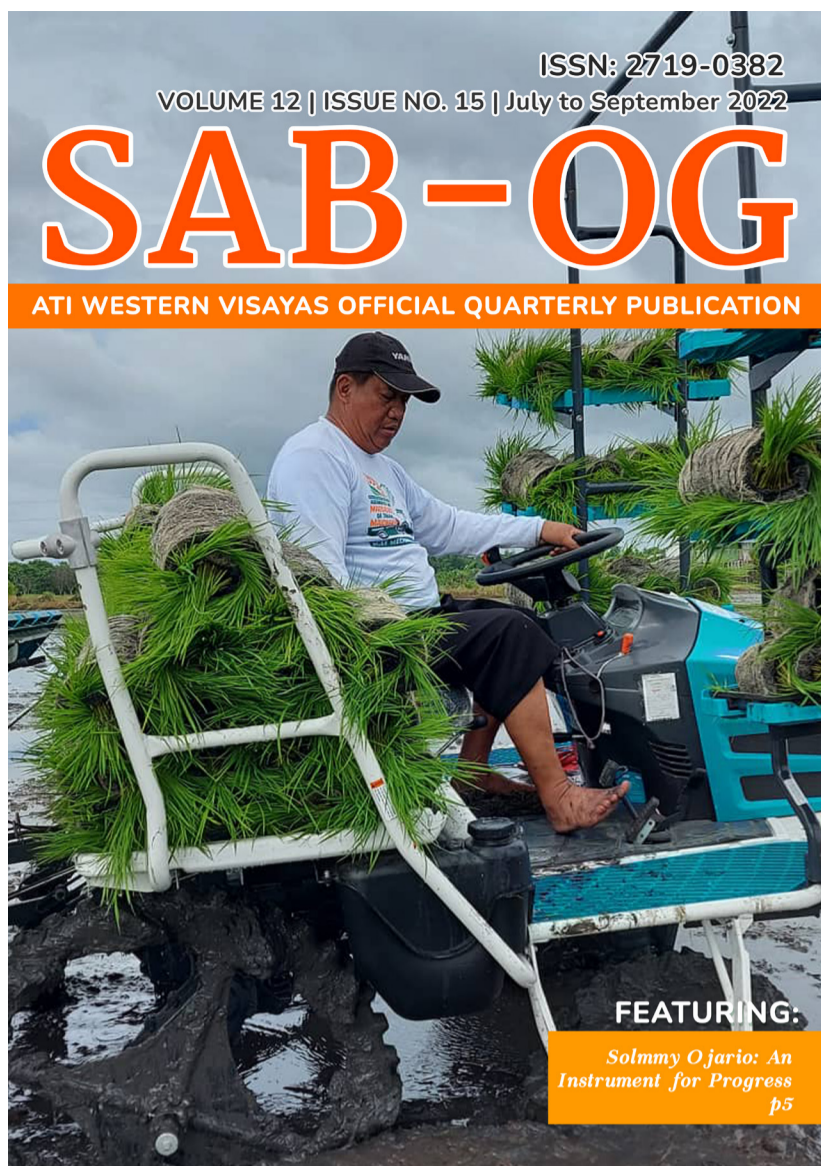
SAB-OG

ATI WESTERN VISAYAS OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



FEATURING:

*Solmmy Ojario: An
Instrument for Progress
p5*



About the Cover

Solmmy Ojario of Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo, stands as the instrument of success. He started as an agricultural crop technician for multinational corporation marketing seeders and transplanters and a private farm service provider. Today, he embraces the new technology in agriculture, specifically farm mechanization, ready to utilize his vision of seeing his co-farmers succeed.

He is just like Agricultural Training Institute, which is ready to take on the challenges amidst the new technologies and hoping to see its clients drive toward success.



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Printed in the Philippines.

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ON FEATURE

Solmmy Ojario: An Instrument for Progress

ATI DEVELOPS NEW BREED OF EXTENSION SPECIALISTS IN THE PROVINCES OF AKLAN AND CAPIZ

By: Vianney T. Ojerio



The 25 AEWs from Aklan and Capiz present their training certificates as the first batch of the ETMC completers.

BANGA, AKLAN – Twenty-five Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from different local government units in the provinces of Aklan and Capiz completed the Extension and Training Management Course (ETMC) for Agriculture and Fisheries Technologists held on June 6-29, 2022, at ATI Training Hall, ASU Compound, Banga, Aklan.

This training course aimed at empowering the newly installed AEWs in the provinces of Aklan and Capiz by enhancing their knowledge, skills, and attitude and create a pool of trainers as ATI's partners on agricultural extension and community development. AEWs immersed themselves in the three phases of the training course namely: Phase I-Extension Delivery System; Phase II-Training Management; and Phase III-Social Mobilization. After which, they undergo microteaching and community immersion to apply the learnings gained from the lectures and workshops. They submitted their outputs on case analyses and designing training and conducted hands-on training program for farmer leaders in the municipality of Banga.

"We came here with lots of expectations. Yet, ATI did not fail us. They provided the best training for us. The challenge, however, is how we will implement the learnings in our respective places? ATI provided us with the appropriate knowledge and skills. They encouraged and motivated us to turn these learnings into action as we continue our journey of catalyzing the transformation of our less capable clients and their communities. Despite the challenges of blended learning, our camaraderie rose above all. That is something we are proud of as a batch," said Nelly A. Delaguna, top one among the graduates of ETMC Batch 1.

Resource persons in this training are the present and former trainers and community mobilizers of ATI-RTC 6, the latter already connected with other agencies or private practice. The training used a blended learning approach where half of the module was delivered online and the remaining half was conducted face-to-face. Moreover, this course was accredited with 34 CPD points by the Professional Regulation Commission and the CPD Council for Agriculture.

This is the first batch of the three batches of the extension and training management program. The second batch commenced on July 5 until July 27, 2022, for the provinces of Antique and Guimaras, and the third batch will be on August 9-31, 2022, for the Province of Iloilo.

MUNICIPAL RICE COORDINATORS AND REPORT OFFICERS GET UPDATED ON THE 2021 REVISED PALAYCHECK SYSTEM

By: Jeflor L. Dela Cruz



Participants immerse themselves in the process of AESA and MOET.

KALIBO, Aklan – Nineteen Municipal Rice Coordinators and Report Officers completed the Refresher Course on Updated PalayCheck System and ICT Services in Rice Production held last August 22-26, 2022, at Bee Bee Lodge, Old Buswang. This training course aimed to enhance the knowledge, skills, and attitude of Municipal Rice Coordinators of the Region on the updated PalayCheck System and ICT services in rice production.

Food sufficiency, as one of the marching orders of DA Secretary-President Ferdinand Marcos Jr., was emphasized by Mary Ann Ramos, ATI Region 6 Officer-in-Charge as she welcomed the participants. "It is nice to see old faces, the pioneers of PalayCheck System attending this training. You need this training to be updated with the new technology as well as the revised PalayCheck system. You could be of great help to our farmers to increase their productivity and to the rice industry as a whole," Ramos stressed.

A series of modules and special topics were discussed, which include Rice Industry Situationer in Western Visayas, Transformational Leadership, Rice Morphology, and Growth Stages, Overview of the PalayCheck System, Key Checks 1-9, and some special topics on Characteristics of the National/Regional Recommended Varieties, Methods of Crop Establishment, Methods of Raising Healthy Seedlings, INM Concepts and Principles, Essential Elements and their Deficiency Symptoms, Fertilizers and Fertilizer Computation, Tools to Assess Nutrient Deficiencies, Water Saving Technologies, IPM Concepts and Principles, Insect Pests and their Natural Enemies, Agro-Ecosystem Analysis (AESA), Crop Cut, Yield and Yield Component, and Introduction to ICT Services in Rice Production. The actual conduct of AESA and MOET was also performed in the field.

"I've learned a lot about rice production and how to become an effective Agricultural Extension Worker. This training made us realize how important it is to be capacitated to help our clients - the farmers for them to become updated with the technologies, and not just rely on their old practices. We are so lucky to have attended this training," LGU Nabas Agricultural Technologist Remelyn Castro shared during the closing program.

Designed to professionalize the agriculture sector, the course was applied to Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) for Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and was accredited with 24 CPD points.

ATI REGION 6 LAUNCHES BINHI NG PAG-ASA PROGRAM IN ILOILO

By: Kit O. Apolinario



Implementers of the BPP program in the province of Iloilo are all set to empower the youth in the agriculture sector.

TIGBAUAN, Iloilo – With the goal is to attain food sustainability through youth empowerment in the agriculture sector, ATI Region 6, in partnership with the Office of Senator Grace Poe (OSGP), launched the Binhi ng Pag-Asa Program (BPP).

The launching activity was attended by the municipal and city agriculturists and 4H focalists/coordinators from the 17 target municipalities in the province of Iloilo.

Part of the program was the open forum where questions regarding the implementation of the program were addressed. It has also helped to generate solutions to anticipated and

foreseen challenges in the project implementation. Likewise, fundamental agreements in the execution of municipal-level training were set by the coordinators and representatives.

Tigbauan Municipal Mayor Virgilio Teruel graced the event and gave his words of support to the delegates and participants of the activity. He encouraged the municipal/city agriculturists to continuously support the young generation's engagements in agriculture.

Likewise, in his inspirational message, Ildelfonso Toledo, Provincial Agriculturist, reiterates to the participants to fully support the youth.

Meanwhile, Mary Ann Ramos, ATI's OIC-Center Director shared her hopes for the youth. "I am hoping that we could not only teach the younger generation to produce but to earn and immerse in agribusiness," she said during her message.

ATI Region 6, through the BPP Program, will continue to uphold its commitment to strengthening the competency and competitiveness of young farmers through capability building and after-training support.

The BPP also aims to enhance the youth's knowledge, skills, and attitude on leadership and various technologies in agriculture.

The program launched was held on July 18, 2022 at Soly Mar Family Beach Resort, Tigbauan, Iloilo.

ATI REGION 6 REIGNITED DURING 1ST MANAGEMENT REVIEW AND TEAMBUILDING FOR 2022

By: Sheena Angelique D. Zante



A moment of reflection. ATI personnel, together with the Resource Person, process emotions and aspirations during the bonfire session.

BALETE, Aklan – To recalibrate and further improve services through efficient teamwork and partnerships, ATI Region 6 conducted the FY 2022 1st Semester Management and Performance Review last July 14-15, 2022 at Bullo Hillside Integrated Farm at Balete, Aklan. The two-day event started with a one-day teambuilding activity facilitated by Gender and Development-advocate and community affairs professional Maranatha Estrada-Vargas. ATI Region 6 personnel participated in lectures and activities that allowed them to get to know themselves and each other further. Team dynamics, attitude, strengths, and weaknesses were also showcased and processed through indoor and outdoor games and exercises.

The staff, together with the ATI Management, also identified and articulated the Center's direction towards achieving its updated goals through the magazine cover exercise. A bonfire and reflection activity followed in the evening.

The second day marked the management review of the different sections and programs under banner commodities through reporting of accomplishments for the first semester of the year. Targets for the second semester were also presented for the management documentation. Issues and concerns from each section and focal person were also raised and were addressed accordingly by the Management.

Personnel movement and re-assignment of tasks were also tackled to manage responsibilities for maximum productivity.

"I am glad we were able to pause and have this activity. Some burdens were unloaded on my part. Management meetings are usually heavy, but we ended up feeling untaxed and happy. I am thankful," expressed Bea Ismil, Accountant, during her impression.

"Our goal in the next three to five years, as we have identified through our activities and exercise, is to be a top-performing Center and be able to change lives in the process. Why do we have to wait for the next three years, when we can start changing lives today," challenged Mary Ann Ramos, newly appointed OIC-Center Director.

An election of officers for the ATI Employees Association was also conducted during the activity. Schedule for the following management reviews and staff meetings were also sorted to synchronize the Center's calendar.

The activity concluded with the ATI Region 6 team ready to plan and aim toward greater heights.

LS COOPERATORS CONVENED FOR SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS TOWARDS EFFECTIVE TRAINING IMPLEMENTATION

By: Kit O. Apolinario



Learning Site Cooperators share experiences in their operations and endeavor during the workshop.

TIGBAUAN, Iloilo – To enhance its Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) cooperators' knowledge and attitude toward sustainable partnerships, ATI Region 6 through its Partnerships and Accreditations Section (PASS) hosted the LSA quarterly meeting.

During the meeting, obligations and responsibilities of the LSA cooperator's was reiterated to the participants. Furthermore, certificates were awarded to the six newly-approved LSA applicants and financial support for the other seven qualified LSA. A workshop supervised by PASS OIC- Chief Vianney Ojerio was also conducted to cater issues and concerns and for the sharing of best practices.

Meanwhile, RCEF Focal Person Rodel Leyson, assured the LSA cooperators of the Institute's backing in their training endeavors. "We will continue our support for our LSA's in their efforts to conduct effective and efficient training programs for our rice farmers", he said during his message.

By participating in the meeting and workshop, LSA cooperators were given the skills necessary to functions as Learning Sites for Agriculture and Farmer Field Schools. This is a step toward preventing potential problems and observing best practices.

The meeting was participated by 30 LSA cooperators and was held last July 28, 2022 in Namocan, Tigbauan, Iloilo.

ILONGGO AEWS UPDATE SKILLS ON POULTRY AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION AND MANAGEMENT

By: Jonh Flor Emmanuel V. Salmorin



Dr. Wendy Camarista-Degillo demonstrates deworming of goats during the hands-on activity of the Retooling for Agricultural Extension Workers on Poultry and Livestock Production and Management Practices.

CARLES, Iloilo – In support of the Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion Program (INSPIRE) launched by the Department of Agriculture, ATI Region 6 conducted the Retooling for Agricultural Extension Workers on Poultry and Livestock Production and Management

continue to back cover...

UA ESTABLISHES FIRST UNIVERSITY-BASED FITS KIOSK IN WESTERN VISAYAS

By: Christine Mae B. Tubera



From left to right: Nicolasita G. Gallego awards ICT equipment to UA's Prof. Noel M. Montaña, Campus Director, Nova Grace Puod, RECETS Director and Prof. Cecilia S. Bastian, e-Learning Coordinator.

HAMTIC, Antique – With the objective to increase the knowledge and skills of students, faculty, and clients engaged in farming and agriculture, the University of Antique (UA)-Hamtic Campus inaugurated its e-Learning Hub and Farmers Information and Technology Services (FITS) Kiosk.

ATI Region 6 provided information, education, and communication (IEC) materials and ICT equipment such as desktop computers and printer during the launching program of FITS Kiosk.

"The e-Learning platform has more than sixty courses/programs available, and I believe that this will not only benefit the students but the faculty as well. This is also one of the avenues wherein we can enhance our knowledge by accessing these different e-Learning courses," expressed Noel M. Montaña, Campus Director.

"This will not only benefit the university but the farmer clientele as well because we will be opening this facility not only for our students and faculty but also for our alumni and other clientele, especially in our extension programs," he added.

Meanwhile, Nicolasita G. Gallego, chief of the Information Services Section of ATI RTC 6 remarked: "It is our goal in extension that we must help our country produce young farmers, and these young farmers are here in the university. With our meager resources, I think we can help our students love agriculture because these young farmers will compete with other Asian countries in terms of agricultural productivity. This ICT equipment can be accessed by our students not only for e-Learning but also for research."

Also, Nova Grace Puod, Research Extension and Continuing Education Training Services (RECETS) Director, expressed appreciation for the opportunity to work with ATI Region 6 in transforming lives and building communities in contribution to agricultural development.

As a partner institution of ATI Region 6, UA also committed to assist in the implementation of the e-Extension program and disseminate agriculture information by incorporating e-Learning modality in agriculture subjects.

The FITS Kiosk serves as an extension and satellite facility of the FITS Centers. Its main function is to provide ready access to IEC materials and services for farmers, students, and other clients within the community.

Region 6 has a total of 6 FITS Kiosk located in Iloilo and Antique as of the publishing of this article.

The inauguration of e-Learning hub and FITS Kiosks was held last June 26, 2022 at the University's Farm Agribusiness Development Center. It was attended by the University faculty and staff, and ATI Region 6's Information Services Section.

Solmmy Ojario: An Instrument for Progress

By: Sheena Angelique D. Zante



Solmmy immerses in the rice field's muddy waters to prepare for the next planting activity through the aid of the transplanter.



Solmmy gets ready the carbonized rice hull for the soil media preparation.



Solmmy actively responds to DA-RFO's invitation for radio interview to inspire farmers via on-air.

"The first rule of any technology used in a business is that automation applied to an efficient operation will magnify the efficiency." – Bill Gates

For farmer Solmmy Ojario of Barotac Nuevo, Iloilo, the actual work starts with mastering farm mechanization. Solmmy was an agricultural crop technician for a multinational corporation marketing seeders and transplanters and a private farm service provider for five years before he became a Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund Program trainer. One can see how active he is in the field through his social media posts and constant attendance at capacity-building activities of the Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Training Institute.

"I decided to become a full-fledged trainer under the RCEF program because I see my specialization, crop establishment, as an integral part of the farming process. I want to be a role model to my fellow farmers. We must walk the talk," Solmmy recalls his journey.



Solmmy poses with his co-trainers before the practicum activity of Training of Trainers on Rice Production and Mechanization.

Solmmy was part of ATI Region 6's first batch of Training of Trainers on Rice Production and Mechanization last 2019, along with other promising trainers who became catalysts of change since their graduation. He was tagged as the 'The Greatest Philosopher' of the batch, as he expresses his strong opinions with a booming voice and constant bursts of energy.



His everyday scene and routine - muddy feet, dirty hands, and soaking under the sun.

"Solmmy is very infectious. Whenever we teach classes together, we also get inspired by his approach. He keeps the ball rolling," comments Jeremias Borreros, Solmmy's fellow instructor at Crisel Integrated Farm in Sta. Barbara, Iloilo. Solmmy also extends his expertise to several farm schools in Iloilo like Dreamer's Valley and Ephrathah Farms. During free time, Solmmy visits other farm schools in the region and assists them with their RCEF programs.

Solmmy estimated that he already taught about five hundred students so far. "I am blessed to have touched so many lives since I became a trainer," he expressed. He credits his mastery of the lessons and his dedication to his practice as reasons why farmers look forward to their classes.

Since his strength lies in farm mechanization, Solmmy also calls for the expansion of training on focusing on the machines. "In my assessment, issued seeders and transplanters, for example, has a utilization value of about two percent. Since crop establishment is an expensive process, training on the operation of such machines must be focused on to avoid extensive losses," Solmmy stressed.



Embracing the new technology, driving the transplanter is the key.

His expertise in crop establishment is a testament not just to his role as an RCEF trainer, but as a catalyst. "I like to consider myself as an RCEF Ambassador as well," he shares with a cheeky laugh. "I cannot stress enough how important it is to do well right from the first step. In the case of Rice Production, crop establishment and growing seedlings can make or break the process. So, we must get good at it. That is one of my greatest advocacies,"

Solmmy dreams of a big future for rice farmers and the rice industry in Western Visayas, and he aims to continue 'walking the talk' for the years to come, paving the way for Western Visayas RCEF farmers in becoming agricultural leaders.

4-H YOUTH CAMP CALLS FOR YOUTH AGRIPRENEURSHIP FOR NATION-BUILDING

By: Sheena Angelique D. Zante



Selected representatives from 4H Clubs across Region VI and ATI-RTC 6 convenors carried the event out with vigor.

BANGA, Aklan – To promote and highlight the role of rural youth in agriculture and nation-building, ATI Region 6 hosted the 4-H Regional Youth Camp last August 16-17, 2022 at ATI Training Hall, ASU Compound. 4-H youth and coordinators from Aklan, Iloilo, Guimaras, Capiz, and Negros Occidental participated in the said event.

The Opening Program charged the event with messages of inspiration, support, and encouragement from honored guests namely: ASU President Emily Arangote, Governor Joen Miraflores represented by Sangguniang Panlalawigan Member Jay M. Tejada, and Mayor Noel Redison represented by 4-H Coordinator Eugenio Beltran. ATI Region 6's Officer-in-Charge Mary Ann A. Ramos delivered the keynote speech.

Comprehensive talks on digital platforms followed after the Opening Program, with topics like Social Media in Farming delivered by Vance Raphael Praire, Binhi ng Pag-Asa Program National Trainer, and Digital Agri Tools and Platforms by Christine Mae Tubera, Agriculturist of ATI Region 6.

The evening highlights include getting to know each other and networking activities and the traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony to re-establish camaraderie and commitment among members. Furthermore, the much-anticipated 4-H Lakan and Lakambini 2022 was also staged. Proclaimed and crowned winners are Adrian Nazrene Bitoon of Capiz as Lakan ng 4-H 2022 and Kimberly Dominguez of Aklan as Lakambini ng 4-H 2022.

The second day of the activities showcased the skills and talents of the 4-Hers through the Promotional videos on Agricultural Technologies Competition and the Innovative Technology on Organic Fertilizer Production Contest. In the afternoon, the 4-H Party Quiz also challenged members in their awareness of the organization and its background. Winners of the different contests are as follows:

Promotional videos for Agricultural Technologies Competition

1st Place - Kit Jasper Llanes (Negros Occidental)

2nd Place – Edmar Zamora (Aklan)

3rd Place – Are Silva (Capiz)

Innovative Technology on Organic Fertilizer Production Contest

1st Place – Philip Jan Ezra Cachuela (Iloilo)

2nd Place – John Lloyd Fuentes (Aklan)

3rd Place – John Rey Delos Santos (Capiz)

“This is my first time attending this regional youth camp and I really appreciate my experience. To the organizers of this activity, my salute, and congratulations. Every time I attend a 4-H activity, I always have a positive experience. The resource speakers enlighten me more about Social Media in Farming and Digital Tools in Agriculture. Thank you for all the wisdom, experience, and good facilitation of the activities. Arangkada, kabataan!” expressed by Jess Franzel Ducasi, 4-H Member from Iloilo.

Moreover, participants also affirmed their learnings which include how important social media is in farming, becoming a modern farmer with the right attitude and behavior, how to maximize social media platforms as tools in digital agriculture, and becoming role models in the community. The participants also felt empowered as contributors to the agriculture industry and appreciated the exchange of ideas and projects to address current organizational issues and concerns.

This year's youth camp was participated by 100 delegates from Western Visayas.

BINHI NG PAG-ASA PROGRAM EMPOWERS ILONGGO YOUNG FARMERS TO BECOME AGRIPRENEURS

By: Kit O. Apolinario



Participants during their brainstorming session under the SPIN Workshop.

TIGBAUAN, Iloilo - ATI Region 6 prepared young Ilonggo farmers to become competent and effective agripreneurs through the Skills Training on Leadership and Agriculture Technologies under the provincial level training of the Binhi ng Pag-Asa Program (BPP).

This training was conducted in two batches respectively; on July 19-21 at Sol y Mar Family Beach Resort, Tigbauan, Iloilo for the first batch, and on August 2-4, 2022 at MO2 Westtown Hotel, Iloilo City for the second batch. It was participated in by sixty (60) young farmers in the province of Iloilo.

Office of Senator Grace Poe (OSGP) Political Officer, Armani Miguel G. Narca, opened the program with heart-warming words on behalf of Senator Grace Poe, encouraging the youth to not just engage in agriculture, but to become successful agripreneurs.

A series of leadership and values formation lectures developed by the OSGP were conducted during the first day. Other topics and activities include the national socioeconomic profile of the Philippines, Situation, Problem, Implication and Needs (SPIN) Workshop, agricultural legislations, agripreneurship and farming in social media. Agriculture technologies subjects were also tackled, including organic vegetable and livestock production, preparation of project proposal and action plan, product packaging and labeling and basic farm record keeping.

During the culminating activity youth participant, Aljon P. Grande expressed, “This training helped us to become more knowledgeable in the field of agriculture. As a young leader or a young farmer, this training will lead me to share and inculcate ideas to our local farmers. The resource speakers enlightened me, because I only know basic farming and some of the ideas that the speaker taught us are new to me. Sharing ideas, opinions, and suggestions helped me become more knowledgeable. Binhi ng Pag-Asa Program proved that every grain of rice is a hope. We, the young farmers will lead. We are the drivers of a productive future. I am thankful that I am part of this program.”

As part of their output, youth participants committed to prepare project proposals and action plans pertaining to their project of choice.

Being true to its commitment, ATI Region 6 will continue to uphold its commitment to strengthen competency and competitiveness through capability building and providing after-training support to the young generation of farmers in Western Visayas.

DEVELOPMENT COURSE TRANSFORMS RPs IN WESTERN VISAYAS

By: Sheena Angelique D. Zante



Participant from Negros Occidental Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Elizabeth Magno, discusses the topic, Provincial Crop Insurance on Rice, during the microteaching activity.

BANGA, Aklan – Twenty-five staff of ATI Region 6 and Local Government Units (LGUs) in Western Visayas completed the recently concluded Resource Person Development Course held last August 15-19, 2022 at ASU Compound in Banga, Aklan.

Mary Ann A. Ramos, ATI Region 6 Officer In-charge welcomed the participants during the opening program. She emphasized President Bongbong Marcos’ marching order on “food sufficiency” and how the participants as extension workers must catalyze change to alleviate the problems encountered by the agriculture industry.

Meanwhile, Vianney T. Ojerio, OIC – Chief of the Partnerships and Accreditation Services Section (PASS), discussed transformational leadership where he encouraged the participants to inspire positive changes in those who follow them. Mary Ann A. Ramos expounded on the topics of brain orientation, multiple intelligence survey, Maslow’s hierarchy of needs, and Johari Window.

As part of the resource person development, Roland F. Democrito, Education Program Specialist II of the Department of Education – Aklan, elaborated on effective communication, presentation and facilitation skills, and instructional materials development in preparation for the participants’ microteaching session.

“As a resource person or speaker, you should be responsible, because you will be allowed to share what you know and what is on your mind. Along with that, are the responsibilities and the accountability to share what is right and accurate. Always remember that our credibility and integrity as resource persons matter a lot. Always choose to improve and grab all the opportunities in the future. The true measure of success of ATI is seeing you speak in front of the farmers, fisher folks, and clients.” expressed Ojerio, who closed the program on behalf of Ramos.

Also, the four best speakers were recognized during the closing ceremony. They hailed from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist-Negros Occidental, ATI-Information Services Section, LGU-Kalibo, and ATI-PASS.

The said course aims to enhance the participants’ effectiveness as resource persons. Moreover, the participants were required to prepare instructional materials, present during the microteaching session, and accomplish a re-entry plan before the end of the said training.

PIONEER EASY AGRI SCHOLARS COMES HOME TO ATI



EAsY Agri Scholars #BatchPanganay during one of their teambuilding sessions with Regional Scholarship Committee Member Vianney Ojerio.

BANGA, Aklan - For the first time since the COVID-19 outbreaks, the pioneer batch of the EAsY Agri Scholars for Western Visayas were gathered during the 2022 EAsY Agri Scholarship Midyear Assessment last August 13-15, 2022 at ATI Training Hall, ASU Compound. Twelve scholars attended the said gathering.

Aiming to generally assess the performance and well-being of the scholars, a series of activities were conducted to boost their acquaintance with ATI and the center’s values.

Vianney T. Ojerio, Regional Scholarship Committee Member facilitated the teambuilding and open forum activities to assess the scholarship performance. Challenges, issues and concerns were also addressed during the said activity.

Furthermore, the scholars had an open forum and session with Aklan State University Guidance Counselor Mary Loannie G. Tenazas to process the ups and downs of being a college scholar. They were guided on how to manage stress, practicing coping strategies, and were provided tips on maintaining good grades.

“You have to take charge of your own reality and embrace change,” encouraged Tenazas.

“Through this wonderful activity, I got to know myself better. My self-confidence was boosted through the different speaking opportunities and the exchange of ideas and friendships with my fellow scholars. I will bring home the learnings on unity, cooperation and respect for others. I am overwhelmed with ATI’s hospitality. I am full physically and mentally,” voiced Rofahmae Y. Benitez, a scholar from Guimaras.

During the commitment checking, all of the participants, who proudly call themselves #BatchPanganay, promised to be responsible and focused scholars in order to maximize their resources as they navigate through the final years of their college education.

ATI Region has a total of 14 pioneers EAsY Agri Scholars.

RICE CROP MANAGER ADVISORY SERVICE TOWARDS INCREASED RICE PRODUCTION

By: Christine Mae B. Tubera



The participant explains the one-page RCM recommendation to the Rice farmers of Barangay Lopez Jaena, Murcia, Negros Occidental right after they were registered to the Farmer and Farm Lot Registration and verified their field using GPS.

BACOLOD CITY, Negros Occidental - Twenty-three Agricultural Extension Workers from the different municipalities and FITS Centers of Negros Occidental were trained on the Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service v.4.0 last August 23-26, 2022 in Bacolod City.

DA-RFO 6 Negros Occidental Research Outreach Station covered the following lectures with demonstrations: Overview of RCMAS v.4.0; RCM User Registration; RCM Online and Offline platforms; Troubleshooting Tips; Measuring of Farm Lot using GPS, RCM, and SSNM; and Basic Fertilizer Calculation. With these topics, the participants were able to gain knowledge and skills in using the Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service v.4.0 and its complementary tools.

Furthermore, a field activity was conducted at Brgy. Lopez Jaena, Murcia, Negros Occidental was attended by 24 Rice Farmers of Lopez Jaena Irrigators Farmers Association. They were able to register in the Farmer and Farm Lot Registration, geotagged and verified their fields, and acquired a one-page RCM recommendation. These were discussed and explained to the farmers by assisting AEWs.

RCMAS provides a new user interface (web-based platform) for accessing RCM and complementary tools and services such as RCM User Registration, RCM Farmer and Field Registration application, RCM Farmer ID Maker, Rice Crop Manager (RCM), and RCM Farming Monitor. With the optimized RCMAS version, all applications from the RCMAS are combined into one platform with additional features and functionalities added to maximize its use. To date, the optimized version consists of new features as follows: login authentication, defined user access level, user-centric dashboard analytics, data controller page, enhanced data accessibility, data privacy management, and responsive mobile and offline version.

adopt.” She was also glad that these three LSAs are inspiring not only the farmer parents but their sons and daughters as well to go into agriculture. They are implementing training programs intended for these young farmers. “We are campaigning agriculture to our youth because our farmers are aging. With your initiatives, we are assured that there will be younger generations involved in agriculture. Thank you for partnering with us,” Ramos added.

Vianney T. Ojerio, OIC-Chief of PASS also highlighted the big brother-small brother concept wherein these LSAs are being trained and supported by ATI so that they will also train

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LSAs IN CAPIZ RECEIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ENHANCEMENT

By: Vianney T. Ojerio

CAPIZ, Western Visayas - “Our dream is to help our fellow farmers. This assistance means a lot to us. Thanks, ATI, you are always there to support us,” said Johiakim F. Deondo, co-owner of Deondo’s Integrated Farm during the awarding of financial support worth Php100,000 for the enhancement of

their farm production and training facilities on September 2, 2022. Along with them were Paro’s Integrated Farm and DC Integrated Farm.

Mary Ann A. Ramos, Officer-In-Charge, emphasized during her message the goal of the LSA program, that is, to bring information and technologies closer to farmers. With the presence of LSAs in various areas of the province, farmers have access to successful farms and capture adaptable technologies. She further expressed, “the farmer’s mantra is to see is to believe that is why we bring them to successful farms that model innovative technologies. When they prove that these technologies are working, they are convinced to

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ILONGGO AEWS UPDATE

Practices last August 17-19, 2022 at the New Head Beach Resort. Twenty-three Agricultural Extension Workers participated in the three-day training.

In her message, ATI Training Center Superintendent I and National Livestock Focal Person, Mary Ann A. Ramos, urged the participants to implement and oversee the provision of extension services aimed at modernizing the agricultural and fishing industries in their own Local Government Units. "ATI will always be in service to our stakeholders, especially now with the threat of ASF (African Swine Fever)," she added.

Rowena Antenor, Agriculturist I of LGU-Banate, Iloilo shared that "I am confident that when I get back to our LGU, I have brought with me the knowledge that can help our farmers/raisers I look forward to the commercial farms in my municipality becoming skilled with the implementation of biosecurity measures, which I hope to pass on to them."

Participants were able to identify concerns in their municipality during the Biosecurity Workshop and drafted re-entry plans to provide solutions to these problems.

The trained AEWs are committed to effectively relaying their learnings and applying them in their respective municipalities.

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LSAs IN CAPIZ....



ATI Region 6 and LSA's representatives sign the Memorandum of Agreement that seals the enhancement of farm production and training facilities.

their fellow farmers through their farms and the technologies that they have. He challenged them to innovate further and create unique brands for their farms because sooner or later they will also become extension service providers and farm tourism sites in the province of Capiz.

As of writing, there are more than 60 farms that are already certified LSAs in Western Visayas and the agency is continuously monitoring their programs and activities.



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