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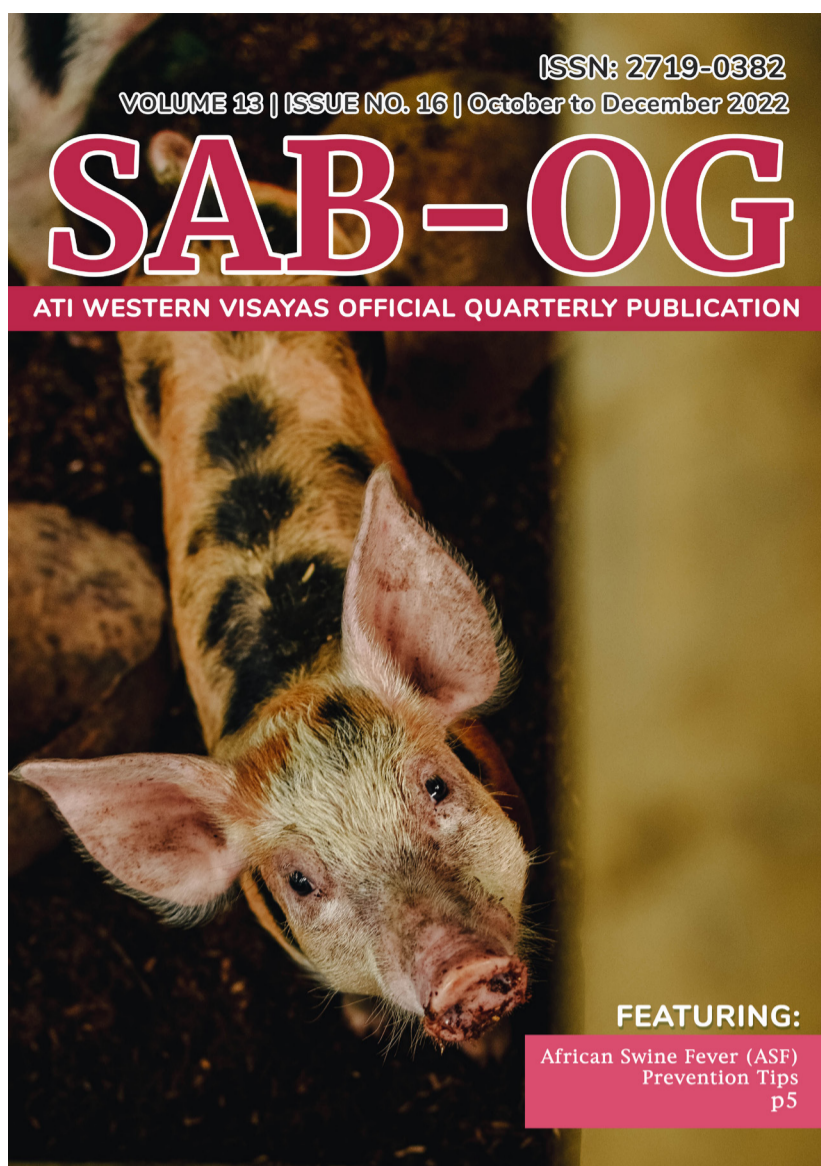
SAB-OG

ATI WESTERN VISAYAS OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION



FEATURING:

African Swine Fever (ASF)
Prevention Tips
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About the Cover

African Swine Fever (ASF) breaks into Western Visayas during this quarter, particularly in the Province of Iloilo, threatening the progressive swine industry in the Region. This difficulty measures eagerness, especially in practicing the necessary measures to deal with such a disease. It also amplifies concerned agencies' collaborative effort to eradicate and lessen the spread to non-ASF areas in the Region.

This issue features the prevention of ASF, which provides essential points in avoiding further spread. ATI Region 6 hopes for the best in this trying time.

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ON FEATURE

African Swine Fever (ASF) Prevention Tips



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ATI 6 WELCOMES DELEGATES OF THE 2022 BANNER PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT

By: Kit O. Apolinario



ATI National Director Remelyn R. Recoter and Partnerships and Accreditation Division chief Nemelyn P. Pangilinan leads the awarding ceremony during the culminating activity of the National Banner Programs Assessment.

BANGA, Aklan – More than 100 delegates across the ATI network gathered in ATI Region 6's Training Hall for this year's Banner Programs Assessment on December 5-9, 2022, with the theme: "Building a Foundation for Knowledge Creation for Banner Programs: Sharing of Best Practices and CY 2023 Planning Consultation," which provides a venue for discussion and presentations of the regions' accomplishments, best practices, innovations, and plans related to the implementation of its banner programs.

ATI's banner programs include the Rice Program, Rice Competitiveness, and Enhancement Fund-Rice Extension Services Program (RCEF-RESP), Corn Program, Organic Agriculture Program, and High-Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP).



ATI National Director Remelyn R. Recoter addresses the delegates of the 2022 Banner Programs Assessment during the 2nd day of the activity.

Another activity highlight is the Award's Night, where ATI Region 6 bagged the 2nd place award for the HVCDP implementation. The Award's Night recognized the ATI network's outstanding and exemplary accomplishments and innovations in implementing its banner programs.

Partnerships and Accreditation Division in Central Office spearheaded the 2022 Banner Program Assessment.



An ati-atihan-themed dance welcomes the delegates of the activity, in photo are participants from ATI Region 2 (Cagayan Valley).

To welcome the delegates, ATI 6 partners with the Aklan Provincial Tourism Office, Kalibo Atiatihan Festival Board (KAFEB), and Kalibo Tourism Office for the Atiatihan-themed dance at the Kalibo International Airport.

ATI National Director Remelyn R. Recoter also graced the event and discussed the DA's policy directions for 2024. She encouraged the ATI network to adhere to these directives in implementing its extension programs and activities.



ATI 6 Officer-in-Charge Mary A. Ramos (3rd from left) and HVCDP Focal Person Emily R. Revesencio (4th from left), together with their colleagues from the Center, receive the plaque of appreciation for the outstanding implementation of the HVCDP.

THE LAST LEG OF THE RCEF INFORMATION CARAVAN IN THE REGION TOOK PLACE

By: Liezel Margie Lou S. Bastian-Ocheda



Engr. Katherine Casiano from Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) discusses the highlights of RA 11203, or the Rice Tarrification Law, with the participants.

MAKATO, Aklan – Thirty rice farmers in the municipality of Makato gather to attend the last batch of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Information Caravan at the Mayor's Conference Room on October 4, 2022.

Representatives from the four RCEF significant components, namely Seeds, Mechanization, Credit, and Extension, discussed their corresponding roles in implementing the program. The representatives are Engr. Katherine Casiano from PhilMech, Fennie Lyn Pantin from PhilRice, Bernardo Moises from Landbank Kalibo, Mark Anthony Dolinog from TESDA, and Rodel Leyson from ATI. After the orientation, the participants took the chance to ask about their concerns regarding the program. Among the issues raised are the schedule of seed distribution, minimum requirements in applying to acquire farm machinery, interest rates for loans, and qualifications for training.

Before the closing program, they received Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, a hand trowel, shovel, cane cutter, seedling tray, and ten packs of vegetable seeds as support. This activity aims to equip the participants with knowledge and attitude on RCEF.

25 DSWD SLP BENEFICIARIES CAPACITATED IN CHICKEN EGG PRODUCTION AND GENDER ROLES

By: Kit O. Apolinario



Participants keenly observe and take notes of steps on how to make their chicken feed.

PAVIA, Iloilo - To promote sustainable livelihood for low-income individuals, ATI Region 6, together with the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the National Irrigation Administration, conducted two batches of the three-day training on Chicken Egg Production cum Gender Role Awareness last October 20-22, 2022 at the Taytay sa

#AGRITALK2022 IN THE REGION CONCLUDES WITH BALANCED FERTILIZATION STRATEGIES (BFS) IN CORN



Onofre S. Corpuz, Ph. D., VP for Research and Extension/College Professor of Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology, answers the questions of Corn Farmers and AEWs during the Open Forum.

WESTERN VISAYAS – Twenty-five Akeanon farmers assemble at the ATI Training Hall, ASU Compound, Banga, Aklan. At the same time, Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and other Corn Enthusiasts join through various online platforms such as Facebook, YouTube, and ZOOM for the last leg of #AgriTalk2022 in the Region with the topic Balanced Fertilization Strategies on October 7, 2022.

Onofre S. Corpuz, Ph. D., VP for Research and Extension/College Professor of Cotabato Foundation College of Science and Technology, served as the Resource Person. He highlighted the various strategies for implementing balanced fertilization in corn and discussed the advantages of BFS in terms of climate-smart adaptation and increasing fertilizer prices.

"Thank you for this seminar. I have been a corn farmer for a long time, but today, I learned many techniques and new information about cultivating my corn produce. Thank you so much, ATI, especially for the opportunity that you have given us. We feel delighted and honored to be part of this activity. I hope there will be more to come. Thank you for remembering us, corn farmers," expressed Ramir Yupano during the Closing Program of the activity.

AgriTalk is brought to you by the Agricultural Training Institute in partnership with Agriculture Magazine, Manila Bulletin, and Smart Communications.

Kauswagan Skills and Knowledge Institute Inc. in Barangay Mali-ao. The said training was implemented under the Enhanced Partnership Against Hunger and Poverty (EPAHP) of the government.

Twenty-five participants were educated on comprehensive topics, which include Poultry Industry Situationer: Current Situation of Poultry Production in the Philippines, Prospects in Layer Production, Physical Anatomy and Physiology of Chicken, Body Systems, External Anatomy, Molting, Internal Systems, Growth and Development of Chicken, Health Management and Biosecurity in Chicken, Common Diseases and Symptoms in Chicken, Vaccination and Disease Prevention, Requirement in Layer Farming, Site selection, Housing, Stocks selection, and culling, Strains of Layers, Feeds and Feeding, Layer Management; Egg Harvesting, Handling and Delivery, Harvesting, weighing & sorting, Handling and storage, Delivery, Farm Recording System: Importance of a Recording System; Production Standards, Calculations of Layer Performance and Cost and Return Analysis. In addition to the practical knowledge, the orientation on Women's Role in Farming: Philippine Plan for Gender-Responsive Development for Women 1995-2025 was also emphasized during the sessions.

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ASF

AFRICAN SWINE FEVER Prevention Tips



1

Avoid feeding swill to your pigs. Use commercial feeds or prepare your feed mixture. If cannot be avoided, practice safe swill feeding. Cook swill thoroughly before feeding (boil for 30 minutes).

2

Practice tight biosecurity measures on your farm. Do not allow visitors and vehicles to enter your farm. Allow only authorized personnel to enter and attend to your pigs.

3

Regularly disinfect your surroundings and the things used in your farm. These includes the pigpen, warehouse, vehicles used, etc.

4

Take a bath or change clothes when entering the farm. Use a separate set of clothes for your farm. Take a bath once again after leaving your farm.

5

Do not bring pork and pork products from ASF-infected areas. ASF virus can spread through clothes, things, and infected meat.

6

Buy safe pork. Look for a meat inspection certificate for ASF-free pork. Buy from reliable sellers who get pork from ASF-free farms.

7

Separate new pigs from sick pigs. Separate new pigs under observation at least for 30 days. Separate any sick pig from the herd and observe for any clinical signs.

8

When hunting clean or disinfect your boots, slippers, things, and clothes before entering the forest and after leaving the forest.

9

Observe and comply with border control requirements. Disease outbreaks are seen to be associated with the transboundary movement of pigs.

10

If your pigs become ill or die, contact the municipal Agricultural Office, City/Provincial Veterinary Office, or ASF task Force near you.

PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS FOR COCONUT FARMERS AND WORKERS DISSEMINATED IN WESTERN VISAYAS

By: Catheryn M. Villorente



PCIC Chief of Marketing and Sales Division Jose Ma. Torres, Jr. discusses crop insurance under the social protection component of the CFIDP during the information caravan in Tigbauan, Iloilo.

WESTERN VISAYAS – Aiming to provide awareness and understanding of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Program (CFIDP), ATI Region 6 conducted a series of regional information campaigns. About 400 agricultural extension workers, representatives from the local government units, and coconut farmers and workers from the provinces of Antique, Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo, and Negros Occidental were gathered and provided with first-hand information on the components, services, and technologies extended to the beneficiaries of the CFIDP.

Representatives from the various implementing agencies also discussed their programs for the coconut farmers, workers, and their families under the CFIDP. Agencies that were present during the series of the information campaign were the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), the lead implementing agency of the CFIDP, the Cooperative Development Authority, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office VI-High Value Crops Development Program, Department of Trade and Industry, Development Bank of the Philippines, National Dairy Authority, Philippine Crop Insurance Council (PCIC), Postharvest Development and Mechanization, and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Local chief executives also graced the activity and expressed support for the coconut farmers and CFIDP-related programs. In Antique, Vice Governor Edgar Denosta encouraged the farmers to participate in all of the activities and projects under the program.

He said, "Each of us has a role to play, and to fulfill our roles, we have to talk about it. This information caravan is our starting point to revitalize the coconut industry here in Antique. Let us try to implement the program efficiently here in our province."

Meanwhile, in Guimaras, Mayor Emmanuel Galila stressed that the program would significantly benefit the province.

"Our coconut industry needs support. So, you must encourage the members of your associations to join the program. We have here the various implementing agencies that will help us. I hope our shared efforts will bring progress here in our province," he remarked.

During the last leg of the information caravan held in Kabankalan City, Mayor Benjie Miranda shared his experience utilizing coconut, specifically coconut water.

"When I'm in the military, we have survived by consuming coconut water. We drink it for it is safer than the water in the area. We cook rice using it. It cleanses our body and keeps us going," he shared. Also, he emphasized that the CFIDP will give importance to the coconut industry, and when it materializes, it will significantly help the city through coconut planting in upland areas.

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BUSINESS PLAN: A GUIDE TO SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS OPERATION OF FARMER COOPERATIVES AND ASSOCIATIONS OF WESTERN VISAYAS

By: Jeflor L. Dela Cruz



Vanessa Mae C. Ebron, an AEW and one of the participants, presents her output on the Business Plan as part of their final activity.

BANGA, Aklan- "For us Agricultural Extension Workers, this training workshop is very useful to us kay kita naga-support farmer, cooperatives, and associations sa ila operation. So, better gid nga may ara kita idea regarding sa plan on how to prepare before producing and introducing the products to the market. We hoped that more AEWs pa ang maka-acquire sang amo ni nga training," shared by Dia Mae N. Corneja, one of the participants during her impression in the closing program of the Training Workshop on Business Plan Preparation on October 17-21, 2022, at ATI Training Hall.

Twenty-nine Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) of Western Visayas attended the said training. Most of them came from selected municipalities under Farm and Fisheries Clustering and Consolidation (F2C2). They are now equipped with the knowledge and skills they needed in the implementation of their projects and are willing to share that knowledge with their cooperatives and associations being handled.

The activity aims to enhance and strengthen the knowledge and skills of the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW) on business plan preparation that will enable them to train the farmer-members of the association in their area to become successful agripreneurs. This is under the "OneDA Reform Agenda" by the Department of Agriculture (DA) as an approach to increasing the productivity and profitability of farming and fishery activities.

"Why we were able to conceptualize this training? Required ngayon sa Department of Agriculture na kung magbibigay ng projects ay legitimate na mga associations. Hindi sila nagbibigay sa mga individual recipients, usually mga organized farmers or cooperatives. At kayo ang nag-aassist sa kanila sa mga requirements nila, sa paggawa ng mga proposal at plans para ma strengthen ang cooperative or association nila. So dapat kayo mismo ay equipped with the knowledge and skills. Isa sa mga i-capacitate sa inyo ay how to make project proposals and business plan," said Mary Ann A. Ramos, ATI Region 6's Officer-in-Charge in her message during the Opening Program.

Reden Mark F. Costales, the owner of Costales Nature Farms, served as the sole resource person of the activity and discussed the topics namely: The Agricultural Industry Landscape; Production Management; Financial Management; Marketing Management; Human Resource and Operations Management; Record Keeping; Business Plan Development; and Writing of Farm Business Plan. A Series of workshops were also done on every topic discussed. Two days were allotted for Business Plan Preparation and Presentation. Mr. Costales also served on the panel. Each of the participants was required to prepare such.

The three best business plans were selected, and they were assisted
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AKLAN TASK FORCE MOBILIZES FOR ASF PREVENTION

By: Jonh Flor Emmanuel V. Salmorin



The Aklan ASF Task Force gets active to strategize preventive measures against African Swine Fever.

BANGA, Aklan – Due to the confirmed African Swine Fever case in the Province of Iloilo, the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian and co-chairperson of the Aklan Provincial ASF Taskforce, Dr. Maria Cyresa Leen Mabel C. Siñel, called for a conference last October 19, 2022, at the ASU Conference Hall, Banga Aklan. ATI Region 6 co-hosted the said conference.

The activity aims to gather municipal members and partner agencies to intensify awareness and strengthen collaborative efforts in the prevention of ASF from entering the province.

“ASF is both a disaster and challenge to our backyard raisers,” Mary Ann A. Ramos, ATI Region 6’s Officer-in-Charge, highlighted as she discussed the importance of the roles of partner agencies in helping swine raisers. The agency, according to Ramos, commits to supporting the OPVET’s operation to prevent the entry of ASF into Aklan.

Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) and Veterinary Quarantine Inspectors were gathered the following day to review and assess biosecurity procedures and veterinary quarantine protocols, and disposition implemented in their municipalities and border control checkpoints. Dr. Joseph Lachica, Provincial Animal Health Coordinator, headed the lectures and workshops to capacitate the biosecurity officers. The said officers lead the implementation of area risk management, monitoring, and surveillance.

Currently, the Province of Aklan remains ASF-free.

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25 DSWD SLP..

After the lectures, participants went on a learning trip to two different chicken layer farms in Iloilo and learned the actual care and management of the different classifications of layer chickens. They were also educated on how to make chicken feed using available resources in their backyards.

“We learned a lot about how to manage and care for our native chickens. This is something

POTENTIAL LS FOR AGRI MECHANIZATION LAUNCHED IN WESTERN VISAYAS



ATI, through the leadership of National Director Remelyn R. Recoter, welcomes INA Farmers Learning Site and Agri Farm as the newly accredited Learning Site for Agriculture in Western Visayas. The said LS would offer training on farm machinery, equipment repair, and maintenance.

BAROTAC NUEVO, Iloilo – Agricultural Training Institute National Director Remelyn R. Recoter graces the Opening Program of the Farmers Week 2022 of the Iloilo New Agri-Industrial Marketing and General Services (INA) Learning Site and Agri-Farm at Brgy. Agcuyawan Calsada on November 21, 2022. ATI Region 6 certified INA as a Learning Site for Agriculture during the said event by awarding the Certificate as a Learning Site.

“This inauguration of INA Farmers Learning Site and Agri-Farm is the start of the commitment of our company to the farmers’ community of our land-based agriculture,” said Ely P. Bagtasus, owner of INA Farm.

In her message, Director Recoter underscored how the agriculture and fisheries sector greatly suffered due to extreme weather events, transboundary diseases, and the increasing average age of our farmers, which led to higher production costs and indifference of the youth to the agriculture and fisheries sector. As such, she commends the INA Farmers Learning Site for giving opportunities to the out-of-school youth through various outreach programs and as an avenue for the farmers to learn low-cost production technologies.

ATI Region 6’s Officer-in-Charge Mary Ann A. Ramos committed full support to collaborate and assist the organization with the new learning site.

The INA Farmers Learning Site is an organization that commits to a total thrust in promoting agriculture and farm mechanization.

The said activity aims to increase farm productivity and efficiency, achieve food security, increase farmers’ potential income, and support developing and deploying modern, appropriate, and cost-effective agricultural technology and equipment.

we need and we want more training like this because we want to have zero hunger in our community,” expressed Lorna Regodos, a participant.

ATI REGION 6 UPHOLDS THE A-B-K-D OF RICEPONSIBLE IN NATIONAL RICE AWARENESS MONTH CELEBRATION

By: Eligrace Z. San Buenaventura



Rice farmers, policymakers, government officials, consumers, and the public takes part in giving importance to the country’s rice industry.

BANGA, Aklan – The annual celebration for the National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM) 2022 was conducted last November 3, 2022, by ATI Region 6 with the theme, “Be RICEponsible: A – dlay, mais, saba, atbp. ay ihalo sa kanin; B – rown rice ay kainin; K – anin ay huwag sayangin; D – apat bigas ng Pilipinas ang bilhin,” highlighting responsible rice intake, mixing rice with other staples, patronizing of locally produced rice, best practices, and technologies in rice production. The activity was participated by various stakeholders from different municipalities in the province of Aklan.

On behalf of Mary Ann A. Ramos, ATI Region 6 Officer-in-Charge, Eraldgen N. Bernaldo, Career and Development Management Services Section (CDMSS), OIC – Chief, conveyed her support to the activity. She emphasized that everyone has a part in achieving rice sufficiency in the country through valuing every grain produced by local farmers, sustainable rice production, and RICEponsible consumption.

Gladys May G. Cristobal, DA-PhiRice’s Science Research Specialist II, served as the Resource Person. She discussed the importance of the Golden Rice. She said that it is a new type of rice that has a significant amount of beta carotene in its grains. Furthermore, participants also acquired updates on the Philippine Rice Industry situation and gained knowledge on Balanced Fertilization Strategies and Digital Agriculture Applications.

The participant and the ATI staff recited the Panatang Makapalay, the consumers’ pledge to prevent rice wastage. They also received IEC Materials, t-shirts, and 50 kilograms of locally produced rice as part of the celebration.

NRAM is observed every November according to Presidential Proclamation No. 524, s. 2004.

This training is in support of the government’s sustainable livelihood projects aimed toward food availability and sustainability.

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PROGRAMS AND BENEFITS...

Every information caravan also has an open forum to give the participants an avenue to raise their clarifications and questions regarding implementing the CFIDP in their respective provinces.

The CFIDP is part of the undertakings stipulated by Republic Act No. 11524, also known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Act (CFITFA). Under the law, implementing agencies led by the PCA will implement social protection programs for coconut farmers, farm workers, and their families. Likewise, the law includes the organization and development of coconut farmers, innovative research projects and their practical application, community-based enterprise, and integrated processing of downstream coconut products. All of these aimed to increase income, alleviate poverty and achieve social equality for the poor and marginalized coconut farmers in the country towards "MASAGANA, MATATAG, AT PROGRESIBONG INDUSTRIYA NG NIYOG SA BANSA."

The series of information caravans were held last October 10, 2022, in SanJose, Antique; October 11 in Banga, Aklan; October 12 in Roxas City, Capiz; October 13-14 in Lemery and Tigbauan, Iloilo; October 18 in Jordan, Guimaras and October 19-20 in Talisay City and Kabankalan City, Negros Occidental, respectively.

BUSINESS PLAN: A...

in the finalization of comments and suggestions by the panel. They are as follows: Dia Mae N. Corneja of DA-RFO VI with a business plan entitled "Production of Insulin Plant Juice", Lykeen L. Salmoro of LGU-Dingle Iloilo with "Alegria Bamboo Crafts", and Roline D. Tamayo from LGU-Zarraga, Iloilo with "TUPALIFIA as a Farm Service Provider." They were also required to prepare a Project Proposal which may be funded later if budget allocation permits.

YEAR-END PHOTOS



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