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The SPAAFI
Chronicles
180 degree journey on
ORGANIC AGRICULTURE

8-11



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KAUGMARAN (n) Cebuano-Bisaya term
for development

ON OUR COVER: SPAAFI, is the Extension Service
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Central Visayas produces Batch 2 AgriTech TP graduates

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD



The AgriTechTP scholars pose with their mentors from ALS-DepEd , TESDA and key personnel from ATI-RTC 7 during their culmination ceremony at ATI-7 Training Complex in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City last August 20, 2018

BOHOL. – The Academic and Technology Education Program (ATI-EP) of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) was revised/modified by ATI-7 and now dubbed as Agricultural Technologies Training Program (AgriTech TP), a training intervention for the Out-of-School Youth who are graduates in the secondary level of the DepEd Alternative Learning System (ALS). This is in support of the Youth Empowerment through a Sustainable (YES) Program of the 4-H Club of the Philippines to prepare the youth as a new breed of competent farmers of the present generation.

Twenty out-of-school youth in the region who are high school ALS graduates completed the 75-day intensive in-house and on-field training from June 7 to August 20, 2018. The Graduation and Closing Ceremony was held at ATI-RTC 7 Training Complex, Tagbilaran City on August 20, 2018.

The guest speaker of the activity was Dr. Roland V. Villegas, Education Program Supervisor II, DepEd Region 7 wherein he stressed on his message that under the Applied Track subjects in Technical-Vocational-Livelihood (TVL), the Agri-

Fishery Arts strand got only 35% of the enrollees compared to that of 65% Home Economics; and 90% for Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and Industrial Arts respectively.

Thus, Dr. Villegas is happy knowing that ATI is having this kind of program that will help facilitate the need. On his message, he further emphasized that farmers are unsung heroes because they fed the majority three-times a day/7days a week infinitely.

Moreover, ATI7 Center Director , Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio on her message of support, encouraged the youth to adhere Go Negosyo's TIPS (Theory, Inspiration, Practical and Start) since they already have the knowledge and skills acquired, thus materializing this unto their respective farms depend upon them, therefore, Dr. Daquio challenged the graduates by saying: "Who among you who will invite us to do a visit to your farm is yet to be known."

Lilibeth Caroro, Provincial Agriculturist of the Province of

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KAMMP Roll Out in Negros Oriental

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO



Forty-seven mentees from the different cooperatives of Negros Oriental during the Kapatid Agri Mentor Me Program (KAMMP) held at Plaza Maria Luisa Suites Inn in Dumaguete City las September 6, 2018.

DUMAGUETE CITY. – The Agricultural Training Institute-VII and the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office-VII in partnership with Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) – Go Negosyo recently concluded a batch of 47 mentees/graduates of the Kapatid Agri Mentor Me Program (KAMMP) on September 6, 2018 at Plaza Maria Luisa Suites Inn, this city.

The objectives of this activity are to promote agricultural development by providing support services needed for domestic and export-oriented business enterprises and to equip agripreneurs with the proper production techniques, practical knowledge and strategies, mindset and values, and consultation services to foster successful and sustainable agri-enterprises.

KAMMP aimed to help scale up agricultural workers from farmer associations and cooperatives across regions through intensive modules for business and entrepreneurship with the aid of expert agri-business practitioners. Modules on Entrepreneurial Mind Setting and Values Formation, Marketing, Basic Accounting for Non-Accountants, Finance Management, Farm Operations Management, Agri Supply and Value Chain Management, Basic Coop Management, Business Law, and Business Plan Development are delivered by a pool of mentors through partner institutions who are farm-owners and business practitioners with extensive experience. Aside from mentoring, the goal of the program is to engage the mentees with money and market partners from Go Negosyo to ensure success.

The said program started last August 1, 2018 with 47 Mentees from 17 Cooperatives/Associations in the Province of Negros Oriental consists of the Valencia Dairy Cooperative (VADCO), Zamboaguita Small Coconut Farmers MPC (ZASCOFAMCO), Pamplona MPC (PAMPACO), Dauin Coconut Farmers Development MPC (DACOFADEMCO), Bacong Small Coconut Farmers MPC (BASCOFADCO), Sta. Cruz MPC (SCMPC), Ramrod Agricultural MPC (RAMPUCO), Southern Negros Agri-Fisheries MPC (SONAMCO), Cauliflowers Farmers Association, Bagawines Ulay Cabulihan Farmworkers Association (BUCFWA), Mabinay Farmers Scientist Organization (MAFSO), Pandaitan Farmers Association (PFA), Dauin Vegetable Growers Association (DAVEGA), Lumapao-Aquino-Malaiba-Pula Balangon Integrated Growers Association for Sustainable Farming (LAMP-BIGAS), Panaghugpong sa Gagmayng Bayanihang Grupo sa Oriental Negros (PAGBAG-O INC.), Mabunao Proper Farmers Association (MPFA), Kapunungan sa mga Mag-uuma sa Abante (KAMA) participated the 10 modules of the KAMMP.

To complete the program, mentees per organization submitted a business plan as part of the training output. This was presented to the panelists represented by the DA-RFO, ATI7, DTI, LBP and PCE-Go Negosyo.

Meanwhile, special awards like Most Innovative Proposal and Best Business Plan were awarded to PAGBAG-O Inc. while the Best Presenter goes to PAMPACO. Follow through activities like monitoring and evaluation is scheduled to check on mentees application on the knowledge gained from the program.

Eskwelahan sa Hayopan sa Kahanginan airs in Siquijor and Bohol

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 based in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City conducted two School-on-the-Air (SOA) dubbed as Eskwelahan sa Hayopan sa Kahanginan (SOA on Livestock) at Siquijor and Bohol provinces respectively.

SOA Siquijor was launched last June 11, 2018 over Radyo Bisdak 105.7 and aired from June 11 to July 25, 2018 with 425 enrollees and 356 graduates which rites was held last July 31, 2018 at the Capital Square, Maria, Siquijor. The coverage includes the towns of Maria, Enrique Villanueva, Siquijor, San Juan, and Larena where farmers who are also livestock raisers reside.

Meanwhile, another SOA on Livestock was aired over station dyTR 116 khz which launching was done last August 20, 2018 with 577 enrollees and 492 graduates which culmination was done last September 27, 2018 at the Metro Center Hotel, Tagbilaran City. Towns covered on this SOA include the following: Loboc, Albur, Baclayon, Corella, Catigbian, Balilihan, Cortes, Maribojoc, Antequera, San Isidro, Calape, Loon, Tubigon, Tagbilaran and Panglao.

To note, SOA is one of ATI's distance learning program with a comprehensive and complete package of technology to facilitate the enrollees' knowledge, skills and attitude in production and application of livestock production.

The "Eskwelahan sa Hayopan sa Kahanginan" aimed to explain current status of the livestock industry in the country; discuss new and appropriate production technologies through listening and participating to a daily one-hour Broadcast/Radio Program; enumerate and elucidate on Livestock Production and other Agri-Related Programs of the Department of Agriculture which ultimate output geared towards practical application on the knowledge and skills they have learned from the SOA.

These SOA is a collaborative effort between ATI-7 and the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian of Siquijor and Bohol. Resource persons during this one-month SOA were: Dr. Bernadita S. Tabada, Merlita P. Yabo, Erra D. Elvinia, Luisito C. Pabinguit, Marlue E. Lomosad, Basilio B. Castillon, Evangeline B. Bantilan of Siquijor and Dr. Stella Marie Lapiz, Dr. Meydallyn Paman, Dr. Ma. Vendra Dongel, Mr. Johnny Samson, Dr. Domino Bayron of Bohol. Joseph G. Lumantao, ATI-7 Technical Support Staff while Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay who was the Project Officer anchored the program.



Small farmers, fishers undergo financial literacy

by REYNADEZ M. LIM



Small farmers and fishers of President Carlos P. Garcia actively participates the two-day Financial Literacy Training last September 20-21, 2018

BOHOL. - In support to the easy access on financing programs of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center VII (ATI 7) in collaboration with Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) conducted “A Peso a Day is Ok: A Financial Literacy Training” to the provinces of Bohol and Negros Oriental. The training was jointly launched with the “TIENDA” program last August 16-17, 2018 in Tagbilaran City, this province which was attended by DA Sec. Emmanuel Piñol, some executives and representatives from different offices both private and government.

Sec. Piñol in his message reiterated that our small farmers and fishers (SFFs) need financial literacy training because the situation now is very different from the past. He said that SFFs should think farming is a business that needs to earn profits not just a source of food for consumption. Now that DA is widely promoting the Production Loan Easy Access (PLEA) program, he thought that the SFF should undergo the training to learn the right way of managing their finances to help them and their businesses grow respectively.

Meanwhile, in Pres. Carlos P. Garcia, Bohol, a series of six (6) batches was conducted from August 16-September 21, 2018 which was attended by 211 participants. Likewise, in Negros Oriental, three (3) batches were done in the city/municipalities of Valencia (August 23-24), Bais City (August 28-29) and Mabinay (August 30-31) which trained a total of 125 SFFs.

As this developed, participants were grateful for the support given by the department from the financial assistance to the series of training. They were

challenged to apply what they have learned so far in their daily lives especially on the concept of saving, budget, and investment. Furthermore, the municipal and barangay local government units extended their gratitude for giving their constituents the opportunity to be the participants of the training.

Highlights of the training were a series of discussion on financial literacy and other related topics. Participants have tried recording their financial transactions (budget vs expenses) and computed their total capital and profits during the workshop on the financial recording.

The pool of trainer-facilitators for these training who shared their time and expertise were Mr. Jorge F. Trinidad, Training Specialist II, Ms. Reynadez M. Lim, Agriculturist I together with their support staffs Mr. Arnel Navarro, Mr. Jeffrey O. Awas and Mr. Jovanie Picot with ACPC representatives Mr. Alvin U. Cobato and Ms. Dina Mejias.

ATI-CDA partners training

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO

NEGROS ORIENTAL. - The Agricultural Training Institute – VII (ATI-7) in partnership with the Cooperative Development Authority – VII (CDA-7) recently concluded three (3) batches of Organizational Development Training to selected cooperatives in the province. The said training was simultaneously held on August 6-7, 2018 in the municipalities of Sta. Catalina and Dauin and in Dumaguete City on August 8-10, 2018.

The partnership of ATI and CDA in Region VII started when the Department of Agriculture (DA) and CDA entered into a memorandum of understanding last January 2017 to empower cooperativism among farmers and fishers.

ATI being the training arm of DA, was tasked

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AgriTech TP...

from PAGE 3

Siquijor gave her impression as the Local Government Unit's Representative that the AgriTech-TP graduates are the province's advantage especially that Secretary Manuel Piñol on his visit last July 2017, declared Siquijor, as an Organic Island. Ms. Caroro thanked ATI for this program because of its timeliness to the call.

Meanwhile, Maricel O. Dagoy, DepEd ALS Coordinator in Siquijor, also expressed her gratitude to ATI in her impression because of the low turn-out of enrollees of ALS in the province. With this partnership, she hopes that this is not the end of it, rather the beginning of the long journey towards alternative learning. She was emotional while thanking ATI because this program gives hope to their graduates who do not know where to go after availing the ALS for their secondary education.

Elnard Ympal, the two-time National Gawad Saka Awardee for Young Farmer, who is the host and mentor of this AgriTech-TP, encouraged the graduates to press on. He stressed that through attitude and passion, all will be in its place. He said as quoted: "Do not mind others who considered us (farmers) as low key because we are responsible for feeding them all."

The AgriTech-TP scholars were equipped with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes in agriculture to enable them to become farmer and trainer in the future.

The integration of the Department of Education's-Alternative Learning System (DepEd-ALS) curriculum, as well as the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)'s skills assessment and ATI's training and extension services, made the holistic package that these scholars are gaining. Most of their input-practicum was learned at Elnard's Integrated Farm in Candura, San Juan, Siquijor where they were trained and honed for 60 days and got two (2) National Certificates (NC) at TESDA on Organic Agriculture and Animal and Poultry Productions respectively. The

remaining 15 days were spent at Que Alegre Farm in Alegria, Cebu, Binhi sa Panginabuhian Demo Farm and Training Center in Maribojoc, Bohol and at ATI-7.

To learn, the first batch of 20 ATI-EP is composed of elementary level aged 14-21 years old which were conferred last

May 27, 2017, after they completed the six-months in-house and on-field training spearheaded by ATI in Central Visayas with the partnership of Department of Education-Alternative Learning System (DepEd-ALS).



The men and women behind the success of the AgriTech TP receive their certificate of appreciation from ATI-RTC 7 through Center Director, Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquico (5th from Left, back row)

Coop joins organic agriculture bandwagon

by JUN ALGUIN B. OLIVER

NEGROS ORIENTAL. - Being in the era of a more health-conscious generation, ATI-7 continues to implement capability buildings that prioritize organic farming in collaboration with the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) and the identified priority cooperatives of Sta. Catalina, this province.

In line with this, the CDA tied up with ATI 7 in implementing the Technology Course for the Priority Cooperatives of Negros Oriental on Organic Farming and Livestock Production.

Thirty-one (31) coop member-farmers underwent activities on the Formulation of Organic Fertilizers and its Application and the Livestock Health Management on August 28-30, 2018 in Barangay Manggulod, Sta. Catalina, Negros Oriental.

Said activity was in response to the memorandum issued by DA Sec. Piñol on strengthening the cooperatives.

A 180 degree journey on organic agriculture, the SPAAFI chronicles

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

“It was Mr. Aurelio “Auring” L. Timtim, ATI7’s Training Specialist II who discovered and invited us to join in the Writeshop on Internal Control System (ICS) in 2012 and at the same time conduct the Farmers’ Field School on Swine Raising with 46 farmers and 6 community organizers. From that moment onwards, we had a strong coordination with them that made us what we are now in the field of organic agriculture not just in the province of Cebu but in the entire Central Visayas in general. “Sir Auring is the Noah of Ark for us. He opened the doors for us to be in this journey,” disclosed Cristino L. Villamor, Jr., the Project Manager of the Community Outreach Department of SPAAFI and the current Punong Barangay of Poblacion, Alegria, Cebu.



Background

The Saint Peter Academy of Alegria Foundation Inc. (SPAIFI) is a Catholic non-profit secondary school based in Alegria, Cebu and duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). It is founded by the Aktionsgruppe Kinder in Not e.V. of Germany. The institution is committed to transform learners into service-oriented citizens who are globally competitive. There are over one thousand students of the Kindergarten Schools and High School of Saint Peter Academy of Alegria, Inc., the Education component of SPAIFI.

The school offers scholarship for the students not only in Alegria but also to the neighboring towns. SPAIFI is a 34-year-old organization it has been offering different programs and services for the locals like Education, Health, Livelihood and Community Outreach.

A glimpse of the past

It was in September 2000 that SPAIFI, Inc. through the Community Outreach Department had started its initiative of supporting the farmer families of its students by means of agriculture. This was established to respond to the parents' need for income augmentation and increase production.

Thus, SPAIFI launched the Lepanto Upland Project with the expert support of Mag-uugmad Foundation, Inc. and the financial assistance from a German Support group under the leadership of Mr. Manfred Doetsch. The project created a great impact among farmer families because the farm yield had dramatically augmented their income.

In 2006, the project was replicated to other four upland barangays and no longer under Lepanto but with Community Outreach Department. The extension services in sustainable agriculture had reached out to several farmers in barangays Montpellier, Guadalupe, Valencia and Compostela.



Meanwhile, the Lepanto Upland Project continued through the Lepantohanong Hugpong sa Kalambuan (LEHUK), an active people's organization which was organized to support and sustain the initiative.

After several years, LEHUK had managed various projects such as livestock dispersal, contour farming, forest trees production, vegetable and crop production and various capability building activities to empower many farmers.

The so-called transition

With all the experiences on-farm activities, SPAIFI is honest enough to disclose that the kind of produce they are into is heavily and intensively fertilized and treated with chemicals. All the data generated from 2005-2006 showed that all of these are unsafe practices, thus it was on 2007 that Dr. Gilberto Magallon, SPAIFI President who is a Medical Doctor and an OB-Gynecologist by profession and a farmer by vocation encouraged the Community Outreach Department to explore organic agriculture.

Thus, all staff went to Bansalan, Davao and in Don Bosco,



Cover Story



Makilala, North Cotabato to visit organic farms and emulate some good practices unto their farm.

Moreover, through coalition in Cebu, the Pagtambayayong Foundation of Cebu under Francisco Fernandez visited SPAAFI and taught them Nature Farming System with Fr. Domingo Saladaga, the former Parish Priest of Laray, Talisay, Cebu.

Since the foundation has no area for this proposed project, Dr. Magallon acquired a personal lot in Barangay Legaspi, Alegria to be used as a demonstration farm for organic agriculture with an arrangement by Usufruct (a Civil Law term referring to the right of one individual to use and enjoy the property of another, provided its substance is neither impaired nor altered).



As a transition, it took two-years (2007-2008) for SPAAFI to embrace the organic agriculture process in conformity with zero-fertilizer usage to buffer zones and the like. Until 2009, SPAAFI declared that they are into it.

Basic crops are planted in the DEMO Farm such as Chinese kangkong, eggplant, string beans, okra, malunggay, cherry tomato, lemon grass, and basil.



The ATI7 partnership

In 2013, the SPAAFI Team was exposed to Binhi sa Panginabuhian Organic Demo Farm in Bayacabac, Maribojoc, Bohol. The team was able to visit and experience the good agricultural practices on organic agriculture through livestock. The group also visited the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7's office located in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City to meet and interview the personnel. They also have lunch in Bohol Bee Farm in Dauis where the salad served ignited their interest to produce more high-value crops such as cabbage, pechay, and watermelon.



When ATI7 invited Mr. Cristino L. Villamor, Jr. to Costales Farms in Majayjay, Laguna, the experiences generated from that trip ignited more enthusiasm to do more; hence the SPAAFI team was able to apply the learning into their farm. Hog production was started and dubbed as "Happy Pigs Raising and Maintaining a Healthy Environment", a good practice on nature and organic farming. From the two (2) initial sows to 11, then to 10 piglets and 160 counting present. The hog raising project yielded a very good result.

Cover Story

However, it was at that time, when marketing problem was experienced with diligence a market opportunity was found. In 2014, Gaisano Grand in Dumanjug started. It established with SPAAFI partnership starting from an order of three (3) heads every other day to 8 until 15 as of today. The partnership agreement even expanded to Gaisano in Moalboal.

The partnership with SPAAFI ballooned through the effort of another ATI7 staff, Carmela A. Secuya, Training Specialist III who brought multi-stakeholders participants and beneficiaries to personally learn and experience the efforts made by the foundation. It has paved the way for SPAAFI to offer diversified farming by having tilapia production, poultry, herbs production and vertical gardening being adopted in schools as well as by the respective households in the area.

Other achievements

In 2015, SPAAFI applied as ATI7's Extension Service Provider on March 14, 2018, the certification for SPAAFI as Extension Service Provider was awarded.

Moreover, when the office of Senator Cynthia Villar visited SPAAFI, it was declared as Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) Farm School in 2017 offering Organic Production National Certificate (NC) II.

It was in this year that through the effort and achievements made by SPAAFI in Organic Agriculture, the municipality of Alegria was a regional awardee as an Organic Municipality by the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 7.

Meanwhile, Mr. Cristino L. Villamor, Jr. who labored from the start until SPAAFI's status today, had also reaped major achievement as a full pledge NC II Trainer on OA Production and eventually will become an OA Production Assessor.

Indeed, SPAAFI made a 180-degree journey on Organic Agriculture because, from a highly chemical practice, they made the right decision to choose the best, that is for life safety, food security and most especially for the betterment of the consumers.

As the renowned Japanese farmer and philosopher who celebrated for his natural farming and re-vegetation of desertified lands, Masanobu Fukuoka once said: "The ultimate goal of farming is not the growing of crops, but the cultivation and perfection of human beings."



ATI7 joins Sandugo Agri Fair 2018

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

BOHOL. – The yearly celebration of Sandugo Festival in this province every July is one of the most-sought after activities among natives and tourists alike. One of the many highlights was the week-long Agri Fair last July 17-21, 2018 spearheaded by the Office of the Provincial Agriculture with the objective of promoting both the agriculture and fishery sector of the province.

The Agri Fair showcased different products from respective municipalities and at the same time provided the public a glimpse of a healthy, sustainable and thriving agri fisheries sector on the diversified products from our farmers and fishers who are essential human resources that secure food and sustain economic development.

This year’s theme is “Produktong Bol-anon Palamboon, Malungtarung Pagpanguma ug Pagpangisda Padayunon: Kabatan-unan Angay Madasigun” (Develop Boholano Products more, continue sustainable farming and fishing; youths’ enthusiasm are encouraged). The agri fair was held at the Bohol Agricultural Promotion Center Grounds, Tagbilaran city.

The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in Central Visayas, an active partner in extension and development joined in the week-long celebration through Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials distribution among clients and passersby.

One hundred thirty-six individuals logged in to our acknowledgment sheets who apparently received a variety of IEC materials from the institute which include corporate communications, crops and livestock, briefers about the programs, services offered and a lot more.



Walk-in clients grab IEC materials at ATI-7’s booth during the Sandugo Agri Fair 2018 at Bohol APC Grounds, Tagbilaran City last July 17-21, 2018



Farmers and Agricultural Extension Workers together with the resource speakers during the four-day Training Course on Corn By-Products held at Amlan, Negros Oriental last September 25-28, 2018.

Farmers, AEW participates corn-by-products course

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

NEGROS ORIENTAL . - With the intention to equip participants with skills in formulating their own feeds for livestock and poultry using locally available farm by-products particularly corn in the adaption of natural farming technology in the farm, the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 convened a four-day Training Course on Customized Feed Form Using Corn-by-products last September 25-28, 2018 at Amlan, this province.

Thirty-three participants composed of farmers and agricultural extension workers from Amlan, Mabinay, Pamplona and Sta. Catalina finished the four-day course with Mr. Cristino L. Villamor Jr., Saint Peter Academy of Alegria Foundation, Inc. (SPAIFI) Farm Manager and Aurelio L. Timtim, Training Specialist II of ATI-7 as resource speakers respectively.

“ One man’s trash is another man’s treasure, and the by-product from one food can be perfect for making another. ”

~Yotam Ottolenghi~

ATI turns over computers to Central Visayas FITS Center

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO

To equip the Farmers Information and Technology Service (FITS) Centers in Central Visayas with additional Information and Communication Technology (ICT) tools, the Agricultural Training Institute – VII (ATI- 7) hands over 40 sets of computers to selected FITS Centers for the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, Siquijor, and Negros Oriental.

FITS or Farmers Information and Technology Service is an information and technology delivery service facility which is aimed at improving access of farmers, traders, processors, entrepreneurs and other stakeholders to information and technologies in agriculture and fisheries. FITS Centers are mostly located in the Municipal Agriculture Offices in every municipality. The series of turnover was held on July 31, August 3, August 7 and October 5 this year in the provinces of Siquijor, Bohol, Negros Oriental, and Cebu City, respectively.

Municipal Agriculture Officers (MAOs) and representatives participated in the turn-over. Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio, ATI-7 Center Director in her message, mentioned that the computer sets will help in the delivery of extension work.



FITS Centers in Bohol received the ICT tools from ATI-7 in Central Visayas last July 31, 2018 at ATI7 Training Complex based in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City



Mr. Vicente Alcesto of Cebu City Agriculture Department showed the women-participants the step-by-step process in preparing seedbed and planting during the Training on Urban Agriculture at the Cebu City Nursery last September 25-27, 2018

Women in Cebu, take part on urban agriculture

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

CEBU CITY - Some thirty (30) urban women successfully completed the three-day Training on Urban Agriculture with Learning Site Establishment held on September 25-27, 2018 at Palm Grass Hotel, this city.

This training geared towards Glamourizing agriculture in the Metro thru containerized urban gardening and edible landscaping. The participants had their learning journey at Cebu City Nursery, wherein they had experienced actual farming activities.

Mr. Vicente Alcesto of Cebu City Agriculture Department, served as the Resource Person during the Training with topics handled include Containerized Gardening, Factors to Consider in Establishing Urban Gardening, Cultural Management Practices and with some hands-on demonstration on Organic Concoctions, Soil Medium Identification, and Vermi Composting.

Meanwhile, Mr. Gemiel Hermita, 4-Her from Cebu handled the Urban Edible Landscaping topic.

Ma. Pamela N. Respecia, ATI7 Technical Staff was the project officer duly supported by Mr. Andrew M. Macaambac, ATI7 Planning and Evaluation Officer I.

Josefina Laugo, a participant on her impression expressed: “We will become very enthusiastic women when it comes to agriculture. Enthusiastic enough to be aware of providing healthy food to our family by applying what we have learned from Sir Gemiel Hermita and Sir Inting Alcesto.”

4-Hers' Sensing Journey at Ata Community in Mabinay

by MA. PAMELA N. RESPECIA



Youth participants with the Tribal Elders, leaders and family members of the Ata Community in Canggohob, Mabinay, Negros Oriental during the 4-H Sensing Journey held on September 10-14, 2018.

NEGROS ORIENTAL. Eleven 4-H Youth Regional Officers and 4-H Coordinator successfully completed the five-day Sensing Journey to Indigenous People's (IP) Community in Canggohob, Mabinay this province on September 4-6, 2018.

The activity aims to increase the level of awareness of the youth to the tradition and culture of the IP community for a better involvement and services to the community. Providing 4-H Youth an interactive exchange of experiences, insights, and lessons on cultural sensitivity.

Substantive inputs include Cultural Sensitivity and Competency delivered by Dr. Aileen Rosette V. Mahinay-Felix, Negros Oriental State University (NORSU) Professor. Which largely involve; Culture: Race, Ethnicity, National Origin, Social Class; Culture and Education; Culture Identity and Culture Misinformation.

Meanwhile, Ms. Angelina Bondad, Chief RIDD of PAO-Negros Oriental, facilitated the Skills Training on Community Immersion which focuses on community organizing, participatory rural appraisal, and values orientation.

During the focus group discussion (FGD), participants together with Chieftain Rostom Bornea, some Tribal Elders, Youth leaders, and members were able to identify the needs of the community.

Marketing Support thru Farm Business Training & Education Farmers were having difficulty to sell their farm products to the market. Aside from the transportation issue, buyers and middlemen demand lower prices and they do not have any choice but to give in.

For Agricultural Services Support, the identified needs for agricultural service include Training on Local Feed Formulation; Provision of farm tools (eg. sprinkler, seedling tray, shovel, etc), vegetable seeds & fruit seedlings and Handicraft Processing 'lumbang'

For Social Services Support, the identified needs are Water system (tap with LGU) and Scholarship for the Youth.

Meanwhile, the Opportunities are the following: Potential Agri-tourism resources near caves, waterfalls and panoramic views; and Lumbang products (for export) used as main materials for novelty souvenir items.



Here are some impressions from the youths who attended the training:

“This project should still remain part of the yearly activity of 4-H, so that the youth be aware and sensitive about culture, emotions, norms, and practices of your Indigenous People,” Gemiel Hermita, 4-H Regional President.

“Having this journey in my life was one of the most memorable things yet fun, exciting and full of learning. Friendship was built. People were touched and inspired.” NJ Rendoque.

“Learned the process of gathering information if ever I’ll be given a chance to visit a community like Aeta/Ata in Canggohob, Mabinay.” Raffy Tinagan.



TOP PHOTO: Sensing journey team were joined by the tribal members
 BELOW: The successful participants compose of selected 4-Hers in the region during the five-day Sensing Journey at Cannghob, Mabinay, Negros Oriental last September 4-6, 2018

“*The secret of leadership is simple: Do what you believe in. Paint a picture of the future. Go there. People will follow.*”

~Seth Godin~

ATI-CDA partners...

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to facilitate the conduct of said training. Capacitate recipient cooperatives in manning their coops and understand the principles of cooperativism, which is also in line with the thrust of the government to increase food production and income.

A total of 59 officers, management staff and members coming from the Multi-Purpose Cooperatives (MPC) of Dauin Farmers Development MPC (DACOFADEMCO), Mangulod Farmers MPC (MAFARMPUCO) and Bacong Small Coconut Farmers MPC (BASCOFADCO) attended the Organizational Development Training.

The input includes the fundamentals of cooperative, governance and management. The pool of trainers were Gracia Nenita Banogon and Ramon Buenavista of CDA Negros Oriental, Victoriano Dugal of CDA Bohol, Cipriana Mumar, CDA Regional Office, and Jeysel Roble of CDA Siquijor, while Doris Isabel J. Racho of ATI 7 acted as

the facilitator/project officer with Jeffrey Awas as support staff. The activity involved lectures, workshops and submission of an action plan as basis of the coops’ proposed activity or course of action after the training.



Some members of the cooperatives during the Organizational Development Training conducted by ATI-7 with in coordination with CDA



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