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Learning Site Assessment Paper bags 2nd Place on R&D

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO

TAGBILARAN CITY - The Central Visayas Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resource Research and Development Consortium held a National Research and Development Symposium on November 20-21, 2018 at Bohol Island State University – Main Campus, this city. The event was participated by different representatives of selected universities and government agencies in Central Visayas to include Agricultural Training Institute-VII (ATI-7).

The symposium is not just a competition but intended to share in the form of paper presentation, the research accomplishments and generated technologies of each individual member-institutions to researchers, students, farmers, clients and interested researchers in the areas of agriculture, aquatic, forestry, and natural resources (AAFNR).

The activity involved presentation of research, evaluation and awarding.

ATI-7 researchers headed by its Center Director Carolyn May O. Daquio, PhD presented the Assessment of ATI Learning Site towards Agri-Tourism Development of Central Visayas. It has been known that the importance of food security implies making agriculture productive and sustainable.

Driven by the principles that encourage learning, practice and sustainable enterprise, the ATI Learning Sites play an important role, thus, the assessment.

Further, it is a good tool to find out the status of the learning site and can greatly help in identifying mechanisms and strategies to further improve the extension services to make it more empowering on the part of the cooperators and giving opportunities in fostering organic farming.

ATI-7 was awarded 2nd place Best Paper under Food Production and Development.



Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio (third from Left) together with other presenters with the pool of evaluators and moderator in their paper presentation during the National Research and Development Symposium held at BISU-Main Campus, Tagbilaran City last November 20-21, 2018

IEC distribution during 15th NOAC

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

CEBU CITY – The 15th National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) with this year’s theme: “Organic Agriculture: Advancing the Local Food Culture Movement in the Philippines which the Department of Agriculture is spearheading was held at the Waterfront Hotel, Salinas Drive, this city last November 13-15, 2018.

ATI who is an active partner in this endeavor distributed a variety of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials to 610 clients both organic agriculture practitioners, enthusiasts and advocates based on the acknowledgment sheets provided.



The Information Services Section (ISS) of ATI-RTC 7 together with the Organic Focals joined the three-day Crystal Anniversary of National Organic Agriculture Congress (NOAC) and distributed various Information Education Communication materials among walk-in clients

ATI-7 receive 3 IS Achievers’ Awards 2018

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD



ISD Chief Antonieta J. Arceo handed the certificates to ISS Staff, Doris Isabel J. Racho, IO II during the IS Limitless; 3rd KM Updates 2018

QUEZON CITY - The Information Services Division (ISD) of ATI Central Office located in Diliman, this city has consistently recognized performing centers across the network particularly in the implementation of enhancing access to agriculture, fishery and extension knowledge products services.

This year, ATI in Central Visayas through the Information Services Section (ISS) reap three (3) major awards, to wit: 1) Milestone Award, e-learning Course on Basic Urban Gardening, being the highest number of enrollees and graduates; 2) KAUGMARAN Magazine, 3rd Place in Best Newsletter; and 3) 3rd Place in Best in Local Media Presence. The awarding took place during the IS Limitless; 3rd Knowledge Management Updates last December 3-7, 2018 at Diliman and Roheim Farm and Wellness Resort in San Fabian, Pangasinan.



Representatives from the 3 Learning Sites are flanked with ATI-7 personnel and guests from partner agencies in the awarding of Certificates during the 15th NOAC last November 13-15, 2018 at Waterfront Hotel, Lahug, Cebu City

ATI-7 certifies 3 Learning Sites in the Region

by JUN ALGUIN B. OLIVER

TAGBILARAN CITY - The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 at Cabawan Dist., this city awarded Certificates to three (3) Cebu – based Organic Farms as Accredited Learning Sites (LS) of the agency during the 15th National Organic Agriculture Congress held at the Waterfront Hotel, Cebu City on Nov. 13 – 15, 2018.

The 3 LS awardees were Charis Health & Wellness Garden, Basak, Lapu - Lapu City; Armson Polytechnic Institute, Bagacay, Barili, and the First Consolidated Cooperative Along Tanon Seaboard (FCCT) Integrated Demo Farm of Tuburan town.

ATI - 7 will provide the awardees technical and financial assistance based on the approved development plan and capability building interventions for the continuing enhancement of the LS farmer and at the same time will be assisted in acquiring competency certificates from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

The LS is a farm practicing applicable agricultural technology, employing double farming strategies and operating successfully thus, worthy of emulation. The farm is relatively advanced compared to many of the farmers. The LS serves as a model or an example to showcase applicable agri-technology, thereby help improve farming capabilities among small farmers.

Meanwhile, the 15th National Organic Agriculture Congress served as a platform for discussion and the resolution of emerging issues of national importance for the progress of the industry, as well as matters and accomplishments of the present development in Organic Agriculture.

“ To a farmer dirt is not a waste, it is wealth. ”
~Amit Kalantri~

“ An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. ”

~Benjamin Franklin~

Food Safety campaign held in Siquijor

by JUN ALGUIN B. OLIVER

SIQUIJOR - In response to the growing problem on human health as far as agriculture is concerned and to basically explain why awareness on food safety now becomes a global trend, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas conducted a one-day Aflatoxin and Awareness on Food Safety at the IE Suits, Poblacion, Siquijor, this province on October 11, 2018.

Seventy-five farmer-leaders, agricultural extension workers, food processors and Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) Teachers of the Department of Education (DepEd) of the island-province of Siquijor gained insights on food safety, the effects of aflatoxin in agriculture and food and the prevention and control of aflatoxin.

The activity was held in collaboration with the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist of Siquijor.

The resource persons of the one-day activity were Engr. Joelline Ann Ates, Science Research Specialist of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST-Siquijor) and Artemia A. Gotardo, member Bohol Food Safety Team.

Various decision support system for FITS Centers conducted

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

TAGBILARAN CITY. The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 conducted a three-day Training on Various Decision Support System to 40 participants composed of Agricultural Extension Workers and Farmers in the region last December 4-6, 2018 at the Training Complex, Cabawan District, this city.

The objective of the training is to adopt new tools in making farming and business operations easier which input include the use of the National Color-Coded Agricultural Guide Map, Climate Information Systems, Nutrient Management Technologies and the Farmers' Information and Technology Services (FITS) Information System.

Supplementing the theory, the participants demonstrated and performed the actual application of the tools to maximize its uses which is also the expected output of the training.

The Resource Persons of the three-day activity were Dr. Merrian Piquero Soliva of ATI-7 on the FITS-Information System; Jonathan Pierre P. Limocon of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 7 on Rice Crop Manager (RCM) Advisory Services; Leonardo F. Samar of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) on Climate Information System; Engr. Jonathan O. Sumagang of ATI-7 on Minus One Element Technique (MOET) Application and Ms. Joemelyn Allianic-Sumagang also of ATI-7 who is the project officer who handled the National Color Coded Agricultural Guide Map.

Jomer M. Balag, MS of LGU-Batuan, Bohol on his impression said: "Pasalamat kaayu kog dako nga naka attend ko ani. Dili baya pod ni first time nga nakaanhi



FITS Center's representatives from various Local Government Units in region 7 actively participated the 3-day Training on Updating of Various Decision Support System last December 4-6, 2018 at ATI-7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City

ko sa ATI pero matag seminar gyud nako, basta ug ATI nay mohandle, unforgetable jud kay daghan gyud ko ug makat-onan. Kita no, pasalamat ta nga ang ATI Region 7 sa kanunay sa mga farmers parihas namu, nga usa pod ko nga nahimong learning site sa ATI. Kani ilang moral support, financial support ug technical support naa, ilang gibubo sa mga learning sites ug kanatong tanan. Unya ang akong ikasulti sa atong training karon, excellent kaayu labi na gayud sa atong mga speakers nga mihatag sa ilang mga huna-huna, mga pahibalo, so ato gyud masud sa atong tagsa-tagsa ka huna-huna kay ang ilang gipang istorya pulos jud maka ayo nato nga magamit nato sa atong mga opisina ug panginabuhi, labi na gayud sa pag convince sa atong mga farmers." (Thankful to ATI-7 for always supporting their clients such as farmers like me because they are very supportive not just technical but also moral and financial support. As a grantee for the Learning Site, ATI-7 is excellent in doing their job in training and extension because all the inputs they have shared can help facilitate our tasks not just in the office and our daily undertaking but also in convincing our farmers).

ATI-7 performs earthquake drill

by REYNADEZ M. LIM

TAGBILARAN CITY. With the objective of strengthening its disaster readiness and resiliency, the Agricultural Training Institute – Region VII (ATI 7) conducted the "Shake Out Skills Training in Handling Hazards in support to the Institution's DRR Measures" last November 5-7, 2018, this city.

The Tagbilaran City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) staff Mr. Marko Immanuel Longjas, RN presented to ATI-7's staff basics on bandaging and basic life support while Ms. Maricel C. Oncog, RN gave her inputs on the standard first aid and basic wound care orientation. They both shared their true-to-life experiences on their rescue operations which made the discussion more interesting.

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Bohol hosts 1st Livestock Expo

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO

TAGBILARAN CITY - The Agricultural Training Institute-VII (ATI-VII) in collaboration with the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC), Agricultural Training Institute-International Training Center on Pig Husbandry (ATI-ITCPH), Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), National Dairy Authority (NDA), National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) and with the Provincial Government of Bohol sponsored the Second Day of the 1st Livestock Technology Expo 2018 on October 9, 2018 at Bohol Cultural Center, this City.

With the theme, “Masaganang Paghahayupan sa Teknolohiyang Maaasahan,” the expo was conducted alongside two other events: the 4th National Carabao Conference and the 4th Bohol Milk festival. It was an opportunity to share and impart new and modern technologies which purvey effective ways of enhancing livestock production, creating linkages, and generating job opportunities.

Senator Cynthia Villar who graced the event praised Bohol for its initiatives in livestock and calling the island the dairy capital of the Philippines. She cited the example of her experience of the rural women in Ubay, Bohol milking carabaos and sold the milk to the rural women’s cooperative operating under the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) known as Dairy Box which process and distribute to local stores, malls and some tourist spots in the province. Such initiatives should be a model to be followed by every town in the Philippines, she said.

Other stakeholders who participated the event were the Local Government Units - Barangay Livestock Aides in the Province of Bohol, selected Students and Teachers from the National Highschool of Manga, San Isidro and Dr. Cecilio Putong, and livestock producer/farmers and LGU

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The participants of the Biyaheng Agripreneur with (L-R standing) ATI-7 Information Officer II, Doris Isabel J. Racho; Regional NRCO 7 Coordinator, Mr. Dexter Paro and ATI7 Director, Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio during the Biyaheng Agripreneur last November 7-8, 2018

DOLE-NRCO-7, ATI-7 conducts Biyaheng Agripreneur

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO

TAGBILARAN CITY. The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) through the National Reintegration Center Office (NRCO) for Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) of Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) in collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute-VII (ATI-7), conducted the Biyaheng Agripreneur at the ATI Regional Training Center-7, Cabawan District, this City and selected learning sites/demo farms in the province of Bohol on November 7-8, 2018.

Biyaheng Agripreneur provided opportunities for exposure visits, experiential learning and skill enhancement training specifically in agricultural business. It allowed participants to acquire first-hand information in handling agriculture business, its current trends and issues, experience one-on-one interaction with a successful owner and develop a deeper sense of personal awareness of their capacity to venture on agribusiness.

Participants of the 2-day activity were 30 OFW returnees who are agri-enthusiasts

whose families are from the provinces of Bohol and Cebu.

The pool of speakers include Ionne Elena Villagonzalo of Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources-VII (BFAR-7), Roman Dabalos, Acting Manager of DA- Bohol Agri Promotion Center (APC), Dr. Larry Pamugas of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), Ms. Ligaya Castillo of Bohol Investment and Promotion Center (BIPC) and Jun Alguin Oliver of ATI-7 who presented their agencies’ programs and services, while Dexter Paro assisted by Rembrant Ranay of DOLE NRCO-7 and Doris Isabel Racho of ATI-7 facilitated the event.

An actual learning exposure was held to ATI-7 assisted demo farms and learning sites like the Municipality of Corella Nursery and Eco Farm for its diversified high-value crops; Mushroom Production of CN-4H Organic Integrated Farm in Agape, Loboc; Maribojoc Organic Farming Center, and Manga National High School for its Gulayan sa Paaralan as a learning center for organic agriculture advocacy and adaptation to climate change.



Farming shapes lives: the **ELNARD YMPAL,** **Success Story**

by PRIMALOU IMPERIAL

As a teenager, Elnard Ympal took up farming on a mountainous terrain near their home. Lack of water in the area did not deter him. Instead, it fueled his initiative to develop a modified drip irrigation system that earned him national awards and recognition.

After high school, Elnard chose to study agriculture as a scholar of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). He said there was no chance he could have studied in college. He was the third among 10 siblings. At one point, he felt called to be a priest, but after trying out to study in a seminary Dumaguete, his application did not come through.

Perhaps a taste of things to come, his mentors cited Elnard as outstanding corn farmer and recognized his exemplary performance in agricultural research and development.

While doing his studies, Elnard practiced at home what he was learning in school. When he saw that his efforts were working, Elnard answered the challenge to try something bigger. He tilled the family's upland farm half a kilometer away from their home. His family used to plant at the farm only self-supporting crops such as corn and sweet potatoes.

Tilling the land meant Elnard had to walk 4 to 5 minutes going there.

On this way up, he would carry two pails of water tied to a pole balanced on his shoulders. The arduous climb spilled out the water,

leaving only little by the time he reached the farm.

Still, Elnard looked back on the experience quite cheerfully. Eventually, the Ympal family came together to help Elnard work at the farm.

From necessity to improvisation to enthusiasm

The journey from a 10-square meter plot to an integrated, diversified organic farm was not easy.

With the lack of water in the area and the steep slopes of the road going to the site, Elnard had to endure back-breaking trips to fetch water – several times in a day.

It was in this moment that he was able to develop an innovative drip irrigation, using a 1.5 liter bottle and coconut midrib since drip irrigation is very expensive with the whole package costs 25,000.

Elnard did several tries, until he got the technique right. He used lightweight polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles to hold the water, acting as a sort of dextrose. The bottle is hung upside down, its bottom cut off so the water is poured through this end.

Cover Story

He inserted a short piece of midrib and a nylon string on a small hole punched on the bottle cap.

His invention caught the attention of Siquijor's Provincial Agriculture Office, which nominated him for the 2007 Gawad Saka Search for Outstanding Agricultural Achievers in the Young Farmer Category. Elnard was 20 years old then, tilling 500 square meters of farm land. He won the second prize at the national level.

In 2010, the Department of Agriculture (DA) declared Elnard as national winner in the Gawad Saka Search for Outstanding Young Farmer for his farming techniques and community leadership roles in the 4H Club – a group of farm-based youths organized by the local government's Agriculture Office. He had expanded his drip irrigation area to cover more crops.

Regaining the nobility of farming in paradise

Siquijor's unspoiled beauty and natural resources draw foreign and local tourists, like a flame to countless moths. Its white beaches, pristinely clear seawater, scenic mangroves and forests, as well as peace-loving people make it a 'healing island' in more ways than one.

Elnard's simple but ingenious farming technologies earned him the title of Magsasakang Siyentista (MS). An MS is a farmer leader who partners with the Agriculture Office to bring science and technology information and services to farmers.

In addition, he became a Farmer Scientist after he attended the Farmer Scientist Training Program (FSTP). A cropping season-long training program in corn production from planting to postharvest, FSTP was sponsored by the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

As FSTP's youngest participant, he learned to mingle with older participants as well as the provincial and municipal coordinators in agricultural extension in Siquijor. It was here he learned that



“Do not mind others who considered us (farmers) as low key because we are responsible for feeding them all.”
~Elnard Suan Ympal~



comparing various fertilizers or soil conditioners – chicken manure, urea, and complete fertilizer – chicken manure produced the best results. The findings nudged him to adopt organic agriculture and veer away from synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.

He was also elected president of the 4-H Club he organized in his barangay, as well as the municipal, provincial, regional, and national 4-H federations he became part of.

The experiences enriched not just the people he taught, but Elnard himself. He gained confidence as youth leader. Not long after winning the 2007 Gawad Saka award, Elnard attend various trainings. He studied organic farming, earning his National Certification II.

Elnard said his organic farming practices improved as he attended training after training.

Being young as he is, Elnard took to computers quite naturally. He completed an online course on organic farming under the electronic learning (e-Learning) program of ATI.

His love for farming made him excel in it, so that he was tapped by the Agriculture Office and by other organizations as a trainer. He became consultant on vegetable farms in Siquijor and installed greenhouse in Negros Oriental.

He was able to travel the whole Philippines and had been to Korea and Japan as a young farmer.

He walked to various farms and training venues, as a lecturer in seminars for farmers, youths, and other sectors of society – even when he did not receive any payment for his efforts.

A family on the forefront

Elnard wanted to help his family. This motivated him to work, and work harder.

Farming drew Elnard's family closer. In a very concrete way, it helped them when Elnard got national recognition for his ingenuity.

Elnard's house before it was repaired was really small, they used the prize of 100,000 from the 2010 Gawad Saka to repair the house.

With the foresight and tenacity he may have inherited from his parents, Elnard sought to help provide for his family's daily food needs and the education of his siblings.

A time to reap

As he embraced organic farming, he diversified the way he enriched the soil and took care of the crops. Working together with other family members, Elnard came to own various farm animals – at least 13 goats, 4 cows, a carabao, ducks, and free-range native chicken.

In addition to African night crawlers for vermicomposting, Elnard raises rabbits near his home to produce organic fertilizers. He collects the rabbit manure and process it into compost, along with that of other farm animals.

He produces various crops on open fields or plots, in greenhouses, and in containers or grow bags. Elnard explained that the scent of some crops serve to ward off pests in other crops, thus he intentionally grows together these plants. He gets a lot of help from his friends – garden-variety friends, the bees. He started growing bees to help in pollinating the plants.





Elnard grows vegetables in greenhouses because foreigners visiting and living in Siquijor look for organically grown greens such as Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, and cabbage. At their home, buyers would come including foreigners residing in Siquijor who knew Elnard was producing organically grown foods. The Ympal family would sell the rest at the Barangay Food Terminal in San Juan town proper, about 3 kilometers away.

Elnard grows herbs and spices such as basil and ginger, as well as various fruit-bearing trees including guyabano, lanzones, langka, and cacao. He produces sweet corn, melon, and various vegetables particularly onion, cucumber, Chinese cabbage, eggplant, patola, string beans, pepper, okra, ampalaya, tomatoes, and squash.

Root crops comprise an important part of Elnard's Farm, as self-sustaining crops such as sweet potatoes, gabi, and kamote can be planted along zero-tillage areas. Elnard has about 100 ube plants growing around his farm. He said should each plant produce a kilo of ube in 8 months and he could sell each kilo for 25 pesos, he could earn 2,500 pesos from the plant. He also grows goats which could be sold at 150 per kilo of live weight. A mature goat weighs about 27 kilos, so in 3 to 4 months he could earn 4,050 pesos for each goat. However, Elnard knows that reaping the rewards of hard work takes time.

Young leader

With all these developments, more and more people are now walking to Elnard's Farm. It is now a Learning Site where youths, in particular, see and acquire farming techniques with Elnard as their farm coach. In particular, he motivates many youths to embrace farming.

The water problem, which pushed Elnard to search for a solution that turned out to be serendipitous, was addressed by the local government of Siquijor. With Elnard was one of the recipients of the Provincial Government's bulb onion production project, the Governor awarded him a water harvesting facility in support to the vegetable production project. People will still see the innovative drip irrigation technology at Elnard's Farm on selected crops.

At the same time, as agriculture developed at Elnard's Farm, he did not always stay here. He walked to more places. He walked as an AGGIE Ambassador. He talked before representatives of various agencies "to promote skills for K-12 and he talked before various 4-H groups.

With characteristic simplicity, Elnard describes his work lightly. This young man walks and goes places – nurturing his family, fostering many friendships, producing good food, working with people, effecting positive change in communities. He makes his mark on the world as he answers his calling in agriculture. His response is inspiring.



4H Youth Encampment with Mushroom; Containerized Gardening

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

NEGROS ORIENTAL. – A three-day youth encampment among 4Hers in this province with the emphasis on mushroom production and containerized gardening was held at Formation Center in Bacong last October 3-5, 2018.

Forty-six 4H youth members participated in the said activity wherein they are expected to adapt and replicate the technology of containerized gardening and mushroom production in their respective residences/clubs.

Aside from input-discussion, the youths demonstrated the different ways to maximize used containers for planting plants and how mushroom are cultured through a guided hands-on workshop.

Besides, the encampment also provided camaraderie among youth-members wherein their commitment and enthusiasm were refreshed through the various activities and ceremonies. Facilitating the activity were Angelina Bondad, Chief RIDD of the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist and multi-awardee farmer, Elnard Ympal, of Elnard Integrated Farm of Candura, San Juan, Siquijor.

The 4Hers' disclosed that they learned the importance of farmers that fed the entire nation. Indeed, learning by doing will keep the youths become best and better.

Ma. Pamela N. Respecia, spearheaded the activity being the Project Officer and duly supported by Technical Staff, Jovanie Picot.



Top photo: 4Hers from Negros Oriental experienced the actual preparation of Mushroom Planting during the encampment last October 3-5, 2018 at Bacong.



The strong force of 4Hers in the province of Negros Oriental who actively participated the three-day encampment

Bohol hosts...

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representatives coming from the different regions.

Meanwhile, ATI through the ITCPH showcased the technology on how to grow hydroponic fodder. The technology is a state-of-the-art technique for producing food in a controlled soilless setting. It is ideal for livestock producers with the small area while giving the necessary nutrient requirements to their produce.

Happening also in the event includes Product presentation of the Dairy box, Talakayang Pang Teknolohiya that discussed NDA Communal farming Scheme, ATI and BAI Technologies (Swine Production and Waste Management); Itik Pinas, Lactic Acid Bacterial Solution (LABS) and Native Chicken; and also Featured Technologies in PCC I-Ask.



Participants and walk-in clients grab various kinds of IEC materials to ATI-7's booth during the First Livestock Expo held at the Bohol Cultural Center, Tagbilaran City last October 9, 2018

ATI-7 performs...

from PAGE 6

As part of the training, staffs performed a return demonstration on responding to victim using cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

On the last day, CDRRMO Chief Gerard Lavadia, together with his team discussed and assessed the performance of ATI-7's staff during the earthquake drill.

Based on the participants' impressions, the training is timely because of the helpful information that can be used not just in the office but in their respective homes in case of emergencies.



ATI-7 staff during the Basic Life Support and Earthquake Drill exercises during the Skills Training in Handling Hazards last November 5-7, 2018 at Vantage Resort, Daus and ATI7 Training Complex, Tagbilaran City

Regional Internal Control System Training held

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO



Organic farmers and agricultural technicians from Bohol participated the ICS Training last October 16-19, 2019 at ATI7 Training Complex, Tagbilaran City

TAGBILARAN CITY - In consonance with the Organic Act of 2010 in the Philippines which seeks “to promote, propagate, develop further and implement the practice of organic agriculture in the country” the Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) continuously conduct training and extension activities geared towards organic farming. Thus, recently ATI Region VII conducted training on Internal Control System (ICS) to a total of 30 organic farmers and agriculture technicians coming from the different parts of Bohol on October 16-19, 2018 at ATI-7 Regional Training Center, Cabawan District, this City.

ICS is a system which is part of the certification process to be complied by the organic producer to be certified. It has been known that Organic Act stressed for the promotion of community-based organic agriculture systems which includes farmers produced purely organic fertilizer such as compost, pesticide, and other farm inputs, together with a nationwide educational and promotional campaign for their use and processing as well as the adoption of organic agriculture system as a viable alternative.

The 4-day training involved lecture-discussion, structured learning exercises, workshop, critiquing and evaluation and mock-up demo of ICS installation with the members of the approving body, quality control and inspection committee doing the participatory guarantee system process at JQL Farm, Luyo, Dimiao, Bohol. Said farm is a Learning Site applicant of ATI-7.

ICS training was aimed to produce more organic certified producer, increase the availability of organic certified products and to protect the consumers from fake organic producers.

Participants were encouraged to re-echo the training to other farmers or farmer leaders and to come up with a re-entry/action plan as part of their training output.

The pool of resource persons were Jannel Geconcillo and Merlissa I. Garcia who were Negros Island Certification Services (NICERT) Inspectors, while Andrew M. Macaambac acted as project officer and assisted by Jun Alguin Oliver of ATI-7.

Management Review cum Cohesion Building for ATI-7 personnel held

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

TAGBILARAN CITY - To cap the year with the institute's targets and accomplishments, the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 based in Cabawan District, this City held two activities in three days last December 12-14, 2019 at MJS Campsite in Boctol, Balilihan, Bohol and the center's training complex.

The one-day Cohesion Building and Collaborative Learning Session is a team building activity where facilitators from Bohol Island State University (BISU), Tagbilaran City Main Campus were tapped by ATI-7. The goal of the activity was to draw camaraderie among personnel to improve the institute's services that involve teamwork. It was also expected that the employees

understand each other's strengths, weakness, and interests. This understanding helps them work better especially in their workplace and the clients they served. The activity was held last December 12, 2018 at MJS Campsite in Boctol, Balilihan, Bohol.

Meanwhile, to conform with the ISO Audit and Certification, the institute held its two-day Management Review on December 13-14, 2018 at the training complex with the objective of ensuring that the ISO9001:2015 quality management systems are appropriate, acceptable and effective. This review also assessed opportunities to improve the need to change the quality objectives and risk assessment plan.

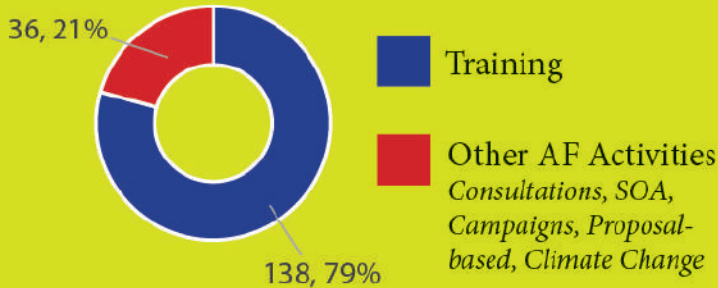


Team ATI-7 after the rigorous team building activity, pose with three (3) facilitators from BISU-Tagbilaran City Main Campus (seated in front row from right: Maylane Simo, Jocelyn Sophia Olavivar and Team Leader: Amethyst Jane Magdoza) at MJS Campsite in Boctol, Balilihan, Bohol last December 12, 2018

ATI-RTC7

Physical Accomplishment 2018

TRAININGS & OTHER AF ACTIVITIES



PARTICIPANTS TRAINED

7,910

TRAINING CONDUCTED

121 88% of the target (138)

* on going training until January 2019
* 8 FFS (HVCDP), 1 SLTOT, 1 Agridoc, 4 CSFBS, 3FBS



3,426 | 43%
MEN

4,484 | 57%
WOMEN



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7 41% of the target (17)
Learning Sites

24 100% of the target
FITS Centers

11 91% of the target (12)
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