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TRASH TO CASH:

RITCHIE NEIL ANGHAG STORY

Organic farming thru
vermicomposting 8-10



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KAUGMARAN (n) Cebuano-Bisaya term for development

ON OUR COVER: RICHIE NEIL ANGHAG, 41 years old, a resident of Caipilan, Siquijor, was once a construction worker before he joined organic farming through vermicomposting

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Digital Farmers Program 101 held in Bohol

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

DAUIS, BOHOL – The Bohol Digital Farmers Program 101 (DFP) was conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI-RTC 7) at Egay's Farm in Bingag, this town last October 24, 2019, with a total of 30 participants composed of 15 farmers and 15 youths respectively.

The Digital Farmers Program (DFP) is a project between the Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) and SMART Communications, Inc. which consists of a ladderized approach in teaching small-scale farmers nationwide with basic digital tools and technologies, particularly social media.

The project aims to be a precursor to the Government's goal on advancing the local industry's adoption to more advanced forms of technology in farming such as the use of drones, analytics, precision farming, Artificial Intelligence (AI), climate and weather monitoring Information Technologies (I.T.) solutions, digital apps, e-money, blockchain, and other multi-layer platforms that would necessitate basic knowledge of emerging technologies and deeper comprehension of its potential by its end-users.

According to House Bill No. 5336 dated March 2017, Filipino small-scale farmer's age is 57 years old with an average educational level of 5th grade. More than 70% or a great majority of the country's farmworkers did not finish primary and secondary levels albeit public school offerings. In addition, Philippine Institute for Development Studies' (PIDS) research paper published last November 15, 2017 (Series No. 2017-31) states a negative annualized growth of -1.1% in the population of Filipino farmers from a baseline of estimated 12 million in 2012 (according to Bureau of Agricultural Statistics).



Actual demonstration of video shooting using smart phone between a youth-farmer participant during the DFP 101 Seminar last October 24, 2019 at Egay's Farm, Bingag, Dausi, Bohol



The DFP Team composed of personnel from ATI, SMART Communications, TV5 and PROBE

In summary, the Philippine Agricultural landscape has a web of complex challenges, interrelated systemic problems and solutions are not expected to be single and simple. Hence, this program aims to be one of the many possible building blocks

of digital inclusion on small-scale farming.

As a premise, part of Smart Communications' continuous campaign is Tech4D or Technology for Development

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8 batches RCEF Information Caravan held in the region

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

REGIONWIDE – The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in Central Visayas conducted the series of Information Caravan on Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) in the region through clusters in order to meet the number of participants considering the distance of each target areas.

The 8-part series aimed to disseminate information about RCEF to the rice Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and Farmers of the 22 towns in the province of Bohol and 14 towns in the province of Negros Oriental respectively.

A total of 786 participants out of the 800 targets that made around 98% briefed.

The agencies present during the Info Caravan were representatives from the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), Philippine Center for Postharvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech), LandBank of the Philippines (LBP), Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), National Food Authority (NFA), National Irrigation Administration (NIA), Philippine Crop

Insurance Corporation (PCIC), Provincial Agriculture Office (PAO), and Department of Agriculture-Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (DA-PATCO).

The open forum gave way for the clarification of information that is crucial for the beneficiaries of the program. The basic requirements for the individual farmers and farmer groups were highlighted during the briefing, especially the farmer's registration to the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture (RSBSA). Also, the participants were able to know the benefits they can get from the four programs of RCEF, namely Seed Program, Mechanization Program, Credit Program, and Extension Program.

The 8 batches of the information caravan were conducted last October 15,16, 22, 23, 29, 30 and December 17 and 18, 2019 respectively.

The information caravan team of ATI-7 was spearheaded by Information Officer III, Ma. Erma F. Lucero; Media Production Specialist II, Dr. Merrian Piquero Soliva; Planning Officer, Merigine C. Otara and Technical Staff, Ma. Pamela N. Respecia.



The Cluster 2 participants composed of Agricultural Extension Workers and Farmers during the RCEF Information Caravan held in Ubay, Bohol last October 16, 2019



The resource person of the free seminar last November 21, 2019 at Queen Gate, Larena, Siquijor is Ms. Merigine C. Otara, Planning Officer of ATI-7, who is also a culinary coach

served. However, vigorous evidence showing that many chronic diseases occurred in recent years from the food we eat. Some foods are loaded with preservatives, high in sodium, saturated fat, trans fat, and cholesterol that could eventually create a multitude of health constraints for the people.

With these growing concerns, it all can be prevented by balancing our body with nutritious foods throughout the day and make healthier choices whenever possible. As Dr. John La Puma describes in ChefMD's Big Book of Culinary Medicine, culinary medicine is a new evidence-based field that blends the art of food and cooking with the science of medicine.

It magnifies the importance of real food and seeks to empower people and to cook more for their health.

The resource person of the event was Merigine C. Otara, Planning Officer of ATI-7 who is a culinary coach being a graduate of the Full Course on Culinary Medicine conducted by Dr. Mechelle A. Palma, Medical Director - Remnant Institute of Alternative Medicine based in Iloilo City.

Meanwhile, Technical Staff of ATI-7, Jeffrey O. Awas was the project officer.

Free Seminar on Culinary Medicine in Siquijor

by JEFFREY O. AWAS

LARENA, SIQUIJOR – A free seminar on Culinary Medicine was conducted by the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas at Queen Gate Center, in this town last November 21, 2019, with the objective of escalating the importance of Culinary medicine with simple dietary changes.

A total of 52 individuals attending who were composed of farmers, agricultural extension workers, and health enthusiasts.

This free seminar was conducted with the rationale inspired by the Center for Young Women's Health; Fast Food Facts that in today's modern food lifestyle, there's a lot of fast-food chains, restaurants, products, food recipes and/or menus that can be



The participants attentively listened to the lecture-discussion during the Free Seminar on Culinary Medicine

National Rice Awareness Month Celebration (NRAM) 2019

by REYNADEZ LIM-CURAYAG



The Participants and guests during the Kick-off Program of the National Rice Awareness Month Celebration (NRAM) 2019 last November 7, 2019 at the Ceremonial Hall, Provincial Capitol, Tagbilaran City

TAGBILARAN CITY – Other than observing All Saints and All Souls’ Day, November was declared as the month to celebrate National Rice Awareness in the Philippines by virtue of Proclamation No. 524 signed last January 5, 2004. Since then, the Department of Agriculture (DA) had led its month-long celebration every year together with its line agencies and other stakeholders in the rice industry.

This year in Central Visayas, DA-Regional Field Office VII (DA-RFO 7) thru Regional Agricultural and Fisheries Information Services (RAFIS) in collaboration with DA-Agricultural Training Institute VII (ATI 7) and Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) – Bohol, had agreed during its preparatory meeting last October 22, 2019, that they will set an activity every week in November.

As a launching activity, a Kick-Off Program was held at the Ceremonial Hall, Provincial Capitol, Tagbilaran City last November 7, 2019. A motorcade activity with all of the DA line agencies, guests and students starting from Camp Bernido to the venue served as the start of the program. Upon arrival, we had registration and preliminary activities. Ms. Reynadez L. Curayag, Agriculturist I-ATI 7 shared the rationale and objective of the celebration and emphasized the theme “Buy Local. Eat Local”.

Highlights include talks on how is the rice industry in the province by Ms. Lorebien N. Lagapa, Head-Rice Unit of OPA-Bohol and the importance of rice and no wastage by Ms. Cheryl Dela Victoria, Chief-RAFIS.

There was also an on-the-spot poster making contest in relation

to the theme which was participated by ten (10) students and a raffle draw of the different advocacy materials facilitated by ATI 7.

Before the program ended, as a token of ATI 7’s gratitude to all who took part in the celebration, the awarding ceremony was held for the speakers and winners.



Ms. Lorebien N. Lagapa, Head-Rice Unit of OPA-Bohol awards the First Prize winner of the on-the-spot poster making contest from BISU-Tagbilaran City Campus during the kick-off program of NRAM 2019 at the Ceremonial Hall, Provincial Capitol



Mr. Reyland Jabonillo of JunJabs Farm discussed the Free-Range Chicken Production during the DA Mapagmalasakit Information Caravan held at Bacong Gymnasium, Bacong, Negros Oriental last October 10, 2019

426 participates DA Mapagmalasakit Seminar

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

NEGROS ORIENTAL – A one-day Massive Information Caravan dubbed as DA Mapagmalasakit was conducted at Bacong Gymnasium, Bacong this province last October 10, 2019, with the objectives of determining the process of Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation (PCIC) insurance; reporting early signs and symptoms of disease that may happen in their locality; protecting the entry of meat products in their province and availing of government programs and projects thru establishment of livelihood.

A total of 426 participants composed of the majority of farmers plus agricultural extension workers and other agriculture advocates joined the activity where topics on PCIC Insurance Program, African swine fever info talk and Free-range chicken production with resource speakers include Mr. Reyland P. Jabonillo of JunJabs Farm in Maribojoc, Bohol; Daniel C.

Ventura Jr. of DA-RFO 7; Junriel Aba and Anecito Rebayla of PCIC-Bohol Office and Christian Owen Vallejos of PCIC Dumaguete City.

As a background, the government launched several programs in 2017 to boost the Philippine agriculture and fisheries sectors to provide quality, affordable and steady food supply for Filipinos and one of the initiatives that the government launched is the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) that provides agricultural loans to our farmers to start an agricultural enterprise or farm development.

Last year also, the Department of Agriculture (DA) in collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute nationwide launched the Back to Basics: Scientific and Sustainable Livestock and Poultry Production and provide poultry to the participants to help farmers acquire good

traits of poultry and start their small business for livelihood. Moreover, they also launched the Artificial Insemination (AI) sa Barangay wherein the ATI provides two boars, laboratory equipment and AI paraphernalia to help farmers hasten their livelihood thus, increasing their income. Previously the country was intruded by bird flu or the avian flu but luckily through the effort of the DA, it was immediately controlled.

For today, the Philippines Agriculture nationwide strongly exerts effort to protect the swine industry in the country to the threat of African Swine Fever (ASF).

Thus, in order to inform the public about all government programs and initiatives, the ATI-7 conducted this seminar spearheaded by its Project Officer, Vherney C. Cabasag II with Doris Isabel J. Racho, Support Staff.



TRASH TO CASH:

THE RITCHIE NEIL ANGHAG STORY

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO

Organic Agriculture is known to be a production system that sustains the health of soils, ecosystems and people. It relies on ecological processes, biodiversity and cycles adapted to local conditions, rather than the use of inputs with adverse effects.

Organic Agriculture combines tradition, innovation and science to benefit the shared environment and promote fair relationships and a good quality of life for all involved - IFOAM Organics International

The benefits of organic agriculture, according to Ritchie Niel Anghag, attracts Siquijodnons in the province of Siquijor, these benefits not only to the consumers but to many farmers who are into organic farming and even entices others not just farmers to engage such production.

Mr. Anghag, a resident of Caipilan, Siquijor, was once a construction worker before he joined organic farming through vermicomposting. At 41 years old with 4 kids, the money he earned from the construction was not enough, he said. It was in 2014 when he started attending seminars on Organic Agriculture initiated by the Office of the Provincial Agriculture (OPA) of Siquijor in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute – VII. Part of the training was the production of vermicast as an input to organic farming.

The idea to produce organic vegetables and vermicast fascinated him as it would give additional household income to his family. Knowing the burgeoning need on organic products he decided to maximize vermicast production not only for the requirement of his mini farm but to supply other organic vegetable producers as well, thus his mass production on vermicomposting.



Cover Story



At first, he found it a bit difficult as the production was through bagging instead of the usual bedding technology. He can only produce 30 bags/month which is quite small for the growing demand required by the OPA whom he has an existing marketing tie-up and to his other suki.

Knowing its potential, OPA and ATI-7 through its Learning Site program has granted him assistance to increase his production. With the initial aid of forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00) he was able to construct 3 beds and additional capital/inputs to his production, and now with more focus on vermicast production, he can now produce as much as 200 bags/month from the usual 30 bags which cost at P300.00/bag.



According to Ritchie Neil, vermicast production has given him a lot of help and opportunities, aside from increased income, there was also an opportunity to learn more through enhancement trainings, and help other farmers/producers by giving them techniques through demo in his farm. Likewise, it provided additional income to his community by supplying him inputs for his production. A good marketing tie-up/agreement is also essential in any enterprise, he added.



The idea to produce organic vegetables and vermicast fascinated Richie Neil as it would give additional household income to his family.

Search for 1st Regional Kabataang OA conducted

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD



The participants with the winners and judges of the Search for 1st Regional Kabataang OA last October 23, 2019 at the Panda Tea Garden and Suites, Tagbilaran City

TAGBILARAN CITY – To encourage more young people to perceive farming as a profitable business and a rewarding career, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas conducted the Search for the 1st Regional Kabataang OA 2019 last October 23, 2019 at the Panda Tea Garden and Suites, this city which was spearheaded by ATI-7's OA Focal Person, Media Production Specialist II, Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay.

As a background, engaging youth in agriculture has been a growing concern not only in the region but all over the country. Young people nowadays are not very much interested in farming because they don't see much prospect in the future of agriculture. Likewise, they don't see it as an active profession in the long-run thus many of the smallholder farmers are quite aged.

This prompted the Department of Agriculture (DA) specially the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) to implement various programs to facilitate synergies that will result in increased employment opportunities for youth within organic agriculture value chains.

Furthermore, DA is also strengthening the institutional capacity of the local organizations to effectively meet the needs of youth seeking information and employment within the organic agricultural sector.

Ms. Javerly Jane Tamala of Bohol Island State University (BISU) Bilar Campus emerged as winner and represented Region 7 at the National Level last November 5, 2019.



The participants during the elimination process of the Search for 1st Regional Kabataang OA

ATI-7 ISS Bags 5 Awards

by DORIS ISABEL J. RACHO



Dr. Merrian Piquero Soliva of Information Services Section received the five awards from Information Services Division Chief, Antonieta J. Arceo during the Knowledge Management Updates held in Bataan last December 2-6, 2019

TAGBILARAN CITY - The Information Services Section (ISS) of the Agricultural Training Institute-VII (ATI-7) this city, recently received 2 major and 3 minor Information Services Achievers' Awards during the ATI National Knowledge Management Updates held in Bataan on Dec 2-6, 2019.

Rising Star and Milestone Award are two of the major awards that recognize ATI-7 as the most improved center in terms of all information services related areas namely: e-Extension Management, Knowledge Products Development and Knowledge Resource Center Management, and the Basic Urban Gardening (developed by ATI-7) an e-Learning course with the highest number of enrollees and graduates nationwide, respectively. Likewise, 3 minor awards were also garnered during the event that includes Best in Local Media Engagement, Best Center in Knowledge Product Development, and Highest Number of School-on-the-Air graduates.

The award giving body which is the Information Services Division of ATI Central Office recognized the top performing centers Nationwide in their invaluable contribution in enhancing the stakeholders' access to information on agriculture and fisheries in the Philippines.

ATI-7 Center Director Carolyn May O. Daquio, Ph.D. commended the efforts of the ISS team composed of Ma. Erma Lucero, Merian Piquero Soliva, Ph.D., Doris Isabel J. Racho, Jun Alguin Oliver, and Reynadez L. Curayag during the recent year-end assessment and management review. She also expressed her gratitude to all partners and stakeholders of ATI-7 as they played a huge contribution to these Awards

Cebu Farmers trained in Abaca Production

by REYNADEZ LIM-CURAYAG

PILI, DANAOCITY – This year, the High-Value Crops Development Program of the Agricultural Training Institute VII (ATI 7) allotted 8 slots for Farmer Field School Season Long Trainings (FFS-SLT) for the whole Central Visayas. One of the active partners of ATI 7, the City Local Government Unit of Danao City through City Agriculture Office had launched one of the sites for the FFS-SLT on Abaca Production. This is with technical supervision from PhilFIDA 7 and funding from ATI 7.

The launching program was done last August 20, 2019, where PhilFIDA assured that they will be there every step of the way during the training as they are the lead agency in assisting the farmers in the fiber industry. PhilFIDA 7 Regional Director Benjamin S. Gomo further encouraged the farmers by sharing the business opportunities of abaca production for both producers and processors.

After 14 weeks of thorough discussion and hands-on sessions, last December 10, 2019, a total of 38 farmers from Barangay Pili, Danao City, Cebu graduated from the said training. One of the highlights of the graduation was a field visit to their demo site where farmers were asked about their studies like treatments and practices. They were so eager to show their abaca plants which some grew from corms and others from suckers.

Participants also showcased their abaca produce at the stage which was true of quality. HVCDP Alternate Focal, Ms. Reynadez Lim Curayag expressed her gratitude on behalf of ATI 7 and extended its congratulations to the graduates and thanks to all who took part in the training most especially to Dir. Gomo and his staff for being the resource persons of the training, Mr. Mario T. Gorre, City Agriculturist and his HVCDP coordinators, Mr. Feliciano A. Capuno and Ms. Rhoda J. Capangpangan for facilitating the training.

Before the graduation ended, a thanksgiving lunch was prepared for everyone.



The 38 farmers of Barangay, Pili, Danao City, Cebu during the FFS Graduation last December 10, 2019

Digital Farmers...

from PAGE 1



The DFP 101 participants composed of youths and farmers

which aims to narrow down the digital gap or more commonly known as the digital divide. Generally, it is the Company's goal and commitment to support the 17 Sustainable Goals of the UN, with emphasis on 'No Poverty' and 'Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure' goals.

Through this goal and commitment, collaborating with DA-ATI and acting as a conduit to the Government's national plan on sustainable agriculture and inclusive growth may directly accelerate access to productivity-improving farming technologies and solutions which currently show delayed market adoption and limited industry growth.

This activity aims to introduce farmers and their families various mobile and digital technologies and subsequently, train and empower them with select applications and tools (including both software and hardware) for their use on their livelihood as a live case study or proof-of-concept in enriching agriculture.

The pool of Trainers include: Ms. Lai Asilo of SMART Communications and Mr. Jay Jay Orense of PROBE with Merrian Piquero Soliva, Media Production Specialist II as the Project Officer.



3rd RAFEN 7 Summit

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

CEBU CITY - The Regional Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Network (RAFEN)-7 held its third Summit last November 14, 2019, at the Diamond Suites and Residences, this city with 31 participants.

RAFEN-7 is composed of member-agencies/representatives of DA line agencies, where they regularly meet to present the extension interventions of each agency and harmonize the extension delivery since each agency is serving the same clientele.

RAFEN-7 was formally organized last September 2, 2016, while the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding during their first quarter meeting in February 2017.

On this occasion, the output was the compilation of programs and activities for the youth which was implemented by the different member agencies.

Dr. Gracia F. Arado, Training Center Superintendent I of ATI-7 was the project officer of the summit.



The RAFEN-7 members happily pose during the Summit held at Diamond Suites and Residences, Cebu City last November 14, 2019

“ Let us not forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins, other arts will follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization. ”

~DANIEL WEBSTER~

ATI-7 Staff undergo skills training in handling hazards

by MERRIAN PIQUERO SOLIVA, PHD

TAGBILARAN CITY – A three-day skills training in handling hazards was conducted at the Agricultural Training Institute’s (ATI) Training Complex in Cabawan, this city last December 9-11, 2019 with Joemelyn Allianic-Sumagang, Training Specialist I as the project officer.

The objectives of the skills training were learning the things to do before, during, and after the occurrence of a certain disaster and fire safety practices and demonstrating and simulation of earthquake and fire drill exercises respectively.

The pool of trainers was from City Disaster Risk Reduction Management Office (CDRRMO)-Tagbilaran City in the persons of Emmanuel Marco Longjas and Gerard Lavadia with SFO1 Ronel R. Lofranco, FO3 Joseph Francis Rueno and FO1 Pearl Marie Pogoy of the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Tagbilaran City.

This training is designed since ATI, as one of the national agencies performing education and extension services, should also ensure the safety of their clientele, employees and its facilities.



The personnel of ATI-7 together with the immersion students of Corella National High School during the skills training in handling hazardz last December 9-11, 2019 at ATI-7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City

Urban Greens_ through Young Agripreneurs #ugyap

The program dubbed as #UGYAP is in partnership with the Agricultural Training Institute-7, Provincial Local Government of Bohol, City Government of Tagbilaran City and DepEd City Division which aims to provide sustainable and available food for everyone (SAFE) and to institutionalize culinary medicine in both elementary and secondary schools.

OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

on September 23, 2019 at ATI 4H Hub, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City with more than 80 students, in-school 4-H Club officers, teachers, partner LGUs and private stakeholders participated in the activity



Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquiao, ATI-7 Center Director together with Governor Art Yap, and Tagbilaran City Mayor John Geesnell "Baba" Yap lead the sowing of Kale seeds which stand for a new hope of agriculture development through revitalizing the participation of the youth.



DA-ATI

Clienteles:

- Students
- Teachers
- Government Workers
- Academe
- Private Sector
- Service provider
- Farmers & fishers
- Cooperatives
- Rural based Organization



DEP-ED

Specialization
(Planting Materials)
Showcase
Edible Landscaping

PTA



LGU

Policies
Agriculture (City,
Municipal, Province)
Health
Social Welfare



PRIVATE SECTOR

Malls
used glasses/
plastic cups



IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM

- 1.) Conduct Training of Trainers (TOT) – City Gov. of Tagbilaran., DSWD, SP-Agriculture, SP-Tourism, City Agriculture
- 2.) Partnership with City DepEd Division thru Manga National High School, Cogon Eastern Elementary School, Dao Elementary School, Dr. Cecilio Putong National High School,
- 3.) Tapping the potentials of partner learning Sites – Egay's Farm, Robert, Green Thumb, Jomer Balag, USFA-Mayana, Jagna
- 4.) Institutionalizing the program to other DepEd District Divisions



STRATEGY

- I. Provision of five (5) planting materials for vegetables, spices and herbs
- II. Cascading to schools, PTA, Students-starter kits
- III. Allied Enterprises: 4-H members supply planting materials as source of additional income



COLLABORATING AGENCIES



DepEd- City Division

Agricultural Training Institute-Region 7



ENROL NOW

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