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Cover Story 8-11

Jessa Mae Magsayo

farming is life

in the hindsight of a
young farmer



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On our cover features
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KAUGMARAN
(n) Cebuano-Bisaya term
for development



21 AEWs undergo simplified INTERNAL GUARANTEE SYSTEM (IGS)

by maryjane flor patulilic

NEGROS ORIENTAL – Twenty-one (21) agricultural extension workers (AEWs) from Negros Oriental were trained on Internal Guarantee System (IGS) for organic farming. The training was held on April 6-8, 2021 at the Holy Family Formation Center, Bacong, this province.

The training served as a venue to inform the extension workers about the Republic Act (RA) 11511, an amendment to RA 10068 or the Organic Agriculture Act of 2010, and the updated Philippine National Standards for organic agriculture.

REPUBLIC ACT (RA) 11511 WILL REINFORCE THE NATIONAL ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM AND PROMOTE THE CONSUMPTION OF ORGANIC PRODUCTS. IT WAS STATED IN THE ACT THAT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CAN FORM A PARTICIPATORY GUARANTEE SYSTEM (PGS).

PGS – A LOCALLY FOCUSED QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM – IS NOW RECOGNIZED AS A CREDIBLE AND AFFORDABLE WAY TO CERTIFY ORGANIC PRODUCE. THIS WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE SMALL FARMERS THE RIGHT TO LABEL AND MARKET THEIR PRODUCE AS ORGANIC IN A MORE COST-EFFICIENT WAY. THUS, IT IS INDISPENSABLE FOR AEWs TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE PRODUCT CERTIFICATION THROUGH THE INTERNAL GUARANTEE SYSTEM.

Training participants learned about: basic principles of organic farming among the smaller groups; effective quality assurance tool; describe the Internal Control System (ICS) structure, personnel, criteria, requirements and duties and responsibilities; documentation process; and acknowledge the sanctions and violations for non-compliance to the organic agriculture standards.

The training also looked into gender and development (GAD) aspects. Here, both men and women agricultural extension workers were given equal opportunity to join and participate in the training. There were six female and 15 male attendees who successfully completed the three-day training.

The familiarity of AEWs about PGS, complemented with strong policy support from local government units, will support to sustain and enhance the growth of the organic agriculture industry in the country.

The training was facilitated by Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay, project officer, and assisted by Ryan Joshua Villena and Quennie Lou Vistal as members of the training management team. Invited resource persons were Janel Geconcillo and Angelina Bondad.



ATI-7 CAPACITATES EXTENSION AGENTS ON DATA TABULATION/ANALYSIS

TAGBILARAN CITY – Twenty (20) Agricultural Extension Workers from the municipalities of Alicia, Antequera, Baclayon, Balilihan, Bien Unido, Calape, Candijay, Cortes, Dimiao, Duero, Inabanga, Lila, Loon, Maribojoc, Panglao, Pilar, Sagbayan, San Miguel, Tubigon and Ubay successfully completed the three-day Training on Data Tabulation, Analysis and Interpretation held at Bohol Sunset Villa, Taloto District, this city last May 19-21, 2021.

The objective of the training is to enhance the knowledge and skills of the agricultural extension workers on data management and interpretation.

Since, basic knowledge on data tabulation and analysis using Microsoft Excel is an important skill for agricultural extension workers, thus, it is believed that knowledge about information management flow and the importance of data analysis and organization will later on help their respective office to make informed decisions.

Glaiza Vallejera, training participant disclosed as quoted: **“This**

training is very timely for us. Our local government unit is currently preparing a sectoral comprehensive land use plan. We are struggling on how to tabulate and interpret our data in order for us to make informed plans. We are still amidst our preparation. Hence, I am thankful to this training as this will help us a lot in making our job a lot easier and faster.”

The participants learned some basics of Microsoft Excel Program such as cell referencing, formatting and entering formula; sorting of data and filtering of data; use of conditional formatting; data cleaning; use of different charts in data presentation; analysis and interpretation so with the importance of knowledge management and how to write concept notes and others.

The pool of resource speakers includes Lhea Glory Mae B. Arana, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer and Maryjane Flor S. Patulilic, Media Production Specialist II, both staff from ATI-7 while Angelie B. Menede served as facilitator and Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay as the Project Officer.

FOOD SAFETY, GMP, A MUST FOR CONSUMER'S SAFETY

NEGROS ORIENTAL – The food processing industry provides the foundation for the food safety system. Safety of the consumer is a top priority by ensuring the quality of materials, products and processes in the food industry.

On April 6–8 2021, a Gender-based Capacity Enhancement Training on Food Safety and Good Manufacturing Practices was conducted in Dumaguete City, this province with 25 participants from the municipalities of Amlan, Ayungon, Basay, Bacong, Bais City, Bayawan City, Guihulngan City, Mabinay, Pamplona, San Jose, Siaton and Valencia, who successfully o completed the three-day training.

The training aimed to capacitate participants with knowledge and skills on food safety and good manufacturing practices with inputs on nutritional analysis. During the training, participants were taught about food safety and its importance, risk associated with food safety hazards, requirements of good manufacturing practices and the importance and benefits in implementing good manufacturing practices. Further, they were also introduced to the basics of nutritional facts.

Meanwhile, the training also looked into gender and development (GAD) aspects. Here, both men and women agricultural extension workers were given equal opportunity to join the training. GAD applies gender analysis which follows a framework in comparing the relative advantages and disadvantages faced by women and men in various spheres of life. It uncovers ways in which men and women work together, presenting results in neutral terms of economics and competence. There were 24 females and 1 male attendees.

The training was facilitated by Jorge Fat Trinidad, Project Officer and assisted by Jovannie A. Picot and Ryan Joshua Villena. Michelle A. Naranjo and Ruth Ann S. Entea from Siliman University, Circe C. Monte de Ramos from LNA, Diet-Care Negros Polymedic Hospital, Geraldine S. Quinoñes from Negros Oriental State University and Josefina C. Columna from Gender and Development Coordinating Center were tapped as resource persons.



REGULAR activities

by maryjane flor patulilic and merrian piquero soliva, phd

BOHOL-SIQUIJOR AEW'S ATTEND BLENDED TRAINING ON IEC PRODUCTION

CENTRAL VISAYAS – On June 22 – 24, 2021, a blended Training on Information, Education and Communication (IEC) production and infographics was conducted which was participated in by 32 extension workers: 16 were from Bohol and 16 from Siquijor.

Training participants from Bohol joined the training online, through the Google Meet platform, while participants from Siquijor were gathered at the Ocean View Farm and Cottages, Maria, Siquijor.

The training aims to cultivate development-oriented perspectives and functional capabilities among agricultural extension workers, needed to carry-out relevant extension service delivery for accelerating the development of agricultural and rural areas.

In the three-day course of the training, participants learned key principles on IEC production. They also acquired basic photography skills. Further, participants were introduced to Microsoft Publisher (an entry level desktop publishing tool), and Canva (an online graphic design platform). Skills acquired by the extension workers are useful once they start to develop their respective IEC materials.

"The knowledge and skills that I learned from this training is very useful. For extension workers, development of IEC materials plays a very big part of our job. Through IEC materials, we would be able to disseminate the information that we want to give to our farmers. This training enhanced my knowledge and skills on IEC materials production and on infographics development. I learned techniques on how to produce a catchy and informative IEC material. I also learned the techniques on how to take good photos," said Ma. Michelle Felisan of LGU Guindulman – one of the training participants.



Maryjane Flor Patulilic, Media Production Specialist II and May Joy Luzon, Admin Support Staff from the Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center 7 acted as resource persons while Engr. Mary Daphny Tumala and Angelie Menede served as members of the training management team with Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay, the Project Officer.



SOA ON CORN REAPS 524 GRADUATES

by doris isabel j. racho

BOHOL – Five Hundred Twenty Four (524) Corn farmers from the municipalities of Alburquerque, Antequera, Baclayon, Balilihan, Batuan, Calape, Corella, Davis, Dimiao, Loon, Maribojoc and Sevilla of this province completed the one-month School-on-the-Air on Corn Production aired at station dyTR-AM 1116 khz in Tagbilaran every 3:00-3:30PM which airs from April 5-30, 2021.

SOA Coordinator/Farmcaster and Information Officer II of ATI-7, Mr. Jun Alguin B. Oliver anchored the program with Subject Matter Specialist and Corn Focal Person, Licensed Agriculturist, Mr. Jeffrey O. Awas.

The objective of this SOA is to enhance the learners' knowledge and skills on the new production technologies of corn as well as integrating different components of farm management system particularly marketing in the hope of increasing farm income.



AEWS, OPERATORS TRAINED ON COMPOSTING FACILITIES FOR BIODEGRADABLE WASTES OPERATION

TAGBILARAN CITY – Enriches soil, helps retain moisture and suppress plant diseases and pests are amongst the benefits of composting. Thus, reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Use of compost for crop productivity is another important element in organic agriculture.

One of the activities under the National Organic Agriculture Program (NOAP), which complements and supports DA plans and programs to increase crop productivity through sustainable agriculture, is the provision of composting facilities to farmers' associations and cooperatives, LGUs, academe and civil society organizations.

On June 9-11, 2021, in partnership with the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM), the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas conducted the Capacity Enhancement on the Operations of Composting Facilities for Biodegradable Wastes (CFBW) training. The three-day training was held in Bohol Sunset Villa, Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Twenty (20) agricultural extension workers, and waste operators from the local government units of Calape, Carmen, Davis, Guindulman, Corella, Inabanga, Loon, Maribojoc and Tubigon successfully completed the training.



This training aims to enhance the capacity of beneficiaries on the full utilization and effective operation of the composting facilities for biodegradable wastes. During the three-day training, participants learned about the principles and processes of composting and its importance for solid waste management in their respective communities, the protocol of CFBW, and the application operation of in-vessel composting facilities, including the appropriate maintenance.

"I have fully internalized how we can best use our waste – from households and communities – by converting these into a more useful input, like fertilizer. This is very sustainable since we can do this at a very minimal cost," said Julie Ann Albaran – one of the training participants.

Leolito D. Siase, Engr. Troy Paolo R. Espiel and Jose Ariel G. Almeda from DA – BSWM, Central Office shared their expertise on the topics discussed as resource persons while Jeffrey O. Awas served as member of the training management team with Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay, Training Specialist III, Project Officer.

ATI-7 UPDATES VISAYAN-ESKAYA ON ORGANIC VEGETABLE PRODUCTION PRACTICES



BOHOL – Accordingly, indigenous people have been practicing sustainable agriculture since time immemorial. Indispensably, it is important to further educate members of the indigenous community on the updated organic vegetable

production.

The Eskaya – also known as "Visayan-Eskaya", is an indigenous tribe found in the environs of the towns of Duero, Guindulman, Pilar and Sierra Bullones in Bohol province. The tribe was established in the 20th century and is currently settling at Biabas, Guindulman. Accordingly, this tribe can only be found in Bohol province. Eskaya has their own unique cultural heritage, uses a distinct language and literature, and has traditional practices that dates way back to pre-Spanish times.

Between April 20-22, 2021, eighteen (18) vegetable farmers, from the Eskaya tribe together with some agricultural extension workers, participated in the 3-day training on Organic

Vegetable Production. The training was conducted in the Eskaya Tribal House, Biabas, Guindulman, Bohol. The training aims to enhance the knowledge, attitude and skills of indigenous people on the new technologies developed for organic vegetable farming, and help boost their interest to revive the organic vegetable industry in their respective localities.

The training was facilitated by Ma. Gracia S. Pungay, Project Officer, and assisted by Maryjane Flor Patulilic as member of the training management team. Experts from the Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center – 7 were the resource people: Andrew Macaambac, Merigine C. Otara and Jorge F. Trinidad.

REFRESHER COURSE ON CORN AND CASSAVA PRODUCTION HELD

TAGBILARAN CITY - The National Corn and Cassava Program is one of the banner programs of the Department of Agriculture that aims to increase the production of quality corn and cassava for human consumption, feeds, and industrial uses as well as empower corn and cassava farmers.

With vast improvements in corn seed genetics, farming practices and technology, the agricultural extension workers (AEWs) play a vital role in disseminating this vital information to the farmers. This is to support them in trying to obtain maximum yield production.

Hence, the Agricultural Training Institute-7 through Project Officer, Jeffrey O. Awas, conducted a three-day Refresher Course on Corn and Cassava Production Technology for newly-hired AEWs last May 17-19, 2021 at the Bohol Sunset Villa, this city.

Seventeen (17) AEWs from the municipal agriculture offices of Anda, Bien Unido, Bilar, Calape, Candijay, Carmen, Danao, Dimiao, Getafe, Inabanga, Mabini, Sagbayan, San Miguel, Siera Bullones, Tubigon and Ubay participated in activity.

Overall, the training aims that the participants will be able to gain knowledge and skills on extension and the technical activities in corn and cassava production for sustainable agricultural development. In detail, participants learned cultural management practices of corn production, corn-based farming system, mycotoxin prevention and control for corn, and cassava production and its management.

Participants visited a corn breeder farm in Dimiao where corn breeding was tackled. The corn farmer shared his personal experiences and tips on corn management and production.

The training has an extension delivery service component which aims at instilling the crucial role of extension workers in bridging research-based information to the farmers. They were taught on what is extension and its approaches, strategies, and methodologies.

"My technical learnings on cassava and corn production are important and should be shared with farmers. My gained knowledge on extension delivery services from this training will contribute a lot on how I can effectively communicate technical knowledge to our farmers," said Artemia Hamo – one of the training participants.



ATI-7 TRAINS TOP CORN PRODUCERS IN CENTRAL VISAYAS

CENTRAL VISAYAS – The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 held two-batches of Corn-based Farming System in Support to Gender and Development training in Cebu and Negros Oriental last March 16-18, 2021 and April 13-15, 2021 respectively.

The goal for the corn program is to increase the production of quality corn for human consumption, feeds and industrial uses, as well as empower the farmers and increase their income, thereby improving the quality of life.

Since, Cebu is the top producer of corn in Central Visayas, while Negros Oriental comes next, thus, corn-farmers are capacitated on this training regarding the key roles of men and women hence, the training looked into gender and development (GAD) aspects. Here, both men and women agricultural extension workers and farmers were given equal opportunity to join the training. In total, 41 farmers completed the three-day training: 10 female and 10 male from Cebu, and 6 female and 15 male from Negros Oriental.

The participants came from the key cities of Cebu namely Bogo and Tabogon which are among the top corn producers in the province. While in Negros Oriental, the farmers came the municipalities of Amlan, Bacong, Valencia and Dumaguete City.

Each of the participants was able to receive one bag of OPV corn seeds, one bag of vermicast, one bag of complete fertilizer, one kilo of peanut seeds and one kilo of mungo seeds.

The training was facilitated by Jeffrey O. Awas, Project Officer with support staff, Arnel S. Navarro for Cebu and Ryan Joshua Villena for Negros Oriental. The resource persons in Cebu were corn coordinators from the Agriculture's Office in Bogo City, San Remigio and Tabogon while Angelina L. Bondad, private practitioner and George Ubag, Jose Proceso G. Inopia and Rhandee Kim V. Otodera of Provincial Agriculture's Office in Negros Oriental.

CORN-CASSAVA *activities*
by maryjane flor patulilic and merrian piquero soliva, phd



FARMING IS LIFE IN THE HINDSIGHT OF A YOUNG FARMER

Jessah Mae Daug Magsayo

Jessa's driving force in farming is when she saw her plants grow for it defines how her hard work paid off. For her, challenges in the farm are form part of its cycle, sometimes we win, sometimes we lose. Not all roads are easy to traverse because there are slopes, bumps, boulders, and trails along the way. To her, success is 99% failure, thus, if one variety fails, there are still others that survive.

Farming is her passion

Farming is not just about tilling the soil and planting under the heat of the sun. Farming is life. Through farming, we all survived and continued to traverse our different chosen journeys.

Jessah Mae Daug Magsayo grew-up with farming as their means of income. Her parents, Julito (deceased) and Sonia encouraged their children to go into the farm, thus, Jessah, being the fifth child, appreciated corn production so much because she is thrilled to watch the seed, she had sown sprouted day by day. She recalled that at that very fragile age, she is already delighted that she contributed to the duty of putting food to the plate from the farm.

With her first-hand experiences and hands-on activities, farming for Jessah becomes her passion because farmers, though, considered a speck in the universe, are vital in our daily existence for they are providing food for all, in short, farmers are responsible for our day-to-day survival.

Her decision to become a farmer

Jessah, a native of Logucan, Maria, Siquijor was born on March 20, 1996. At 25, she already has a feather on her cap in terms of farming.



She started farming at a young age, but, go full-time to her 0.25-hectare family-owned lot in 2012. She became a 4-H Club member in their town in 2010 and served as the Provincial Federated Vice President of 4-H Club Siquijor from 2016-2018 and on 2019 up to the present, she is their Municipal Federation President.

Jessah is a TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) National Certificate (NCII) Holder for Horticulture in 2012 and Animal Production in 2013. As a TESDA grantee, they were given starter kits for gardening such as seeds, sprinklers, and shading net for the seed-house. Watching the seed grow, marked her fulfillment as a farmer because her little endeavor urges her to go full-time. In her farm, she planted "pinakbet" varieties – vegetables found in the dish (pinakbet) like Eggplant, Squash, Stringbeans, Okra, Tomato, Ampalaya, Sponge Gourd (Sikwa), and Pepper.

Farming realities such as dirt and heat so with failures did not hinder Jessah to venture into farming because it provided them food not just for her family but to the consumers in general. Besides, she is proud to claim that her product is proven safe since it is naturally grown.

Aside from vegetables, her farm is also raising livestock such as native chicken, native swine, goat, and ducks. Fruit trees on the other hand like Guyabano and Cacao are also available as well as other crops like Banana.

To complement its diversity, Jessah is now into vermicomposting where farm wastes are utilized to produce vermicast which is an additional earning.

Partnership means success

With her active 4-H participation, as a young farmer, Jessah is grateful for being a part of the organization. All her achievements are attributed to 4-H because it changed her life 180-degrees. After all, she was a grantee of the Adopt-a-Farm-Youth Program and also the Youth Empowerment through Sustainable (YES) Program respectively of the Agricultural Training Institute.

As a 4-H Scholar, she was able to proceed formal schooling representing the province of Siquijor. Moreover, she also proudly shared that she learned a lot from various training and seminars that she had attended. These activities encouraged her more to make the best better as the 4-H motto states.



Adding her feathers in her cap, she was one of the recipients, representing Region 7 to the Young Filipino Farm Leaders Training Program in Japan (YFFLTPJ) last 2019. They were the last batch prior to the pandemic wherein they were sent to Japan for an 11-month homestay training for them to experience and learn Japan's way of farming as well as appreciate and embrace their culture.

Moving forward

After her 11-months homestay in Japan, Jessah brings home with pride because her knowledge on farming was developed and the cultural experiences honed her skills to love the soil more. She is very much delighted





to the support of her family, the Local Government Units of Maria and the Province of Siquijor as well as the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 for keeping her dream alive.

Her experiences in Japan provided her with so much humility. She learned the value of time and dedication. Her passion for farming becomes stronger and she is determined to move forward with what she started.

Today, Jessah is still into full-time farming and at the same time employed as Job Order in LGU-Maria, Siquijor where she is assigned in the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist.

She further reiterates that she wanted to encourage her fellow youth to go into farming because agriculture is the backbone of our economy and the youth are the hope of the nation, thus, it is but proper for us, to do our part for our generations and the next generations to come.

Farming is life, as long as people need to survive.



2 BATCHES FARM MACHINERY OPERATION, MAINTENANCE TRAINING CONDUCTED IN THE REGION

CENTRAL VISAYAS – Two (2) batches of the training Course in the Operation and Maintenance of Rice Machinery and Equipment was conducted in the region. The first batch was held at Labonite Family Farm in San Isidro, Pilar, Bohol – a Learning Site Cooperator owned by Jose Labonite, Sr. last May 24-28, 2021 with 22 Agricultural Extension Workers from the municipal agriculture's office of Alicia, Batuan, Bien Unido, Candijay, Danao, Guindulman, Pilar, San Miguel, Talibon, Ubay and ATI-RTC 7 staff.

The other batch was conducted in Tatope Travel Lodge, Valladolid, Carcar City, Cebu on June 7-11, 2021 with a total of 18 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW), and Local Farmer Technicians (LFT) from the different municipalities and cities of Alegria, Argao, Asturias, Balamban, Barili, City of Carcar, Dalaguete, Pinamungahan, Ronda and Toledo City.

Both batches of the training delves in the areas where participants were taught on the: different hand tools and power equipment used in rice farming; concept of operation and maintenance of the rice machinery and equipment; and maintenance activities on the agricultural holdings.

The two batches were made possible in collaboration with DA-RFO 7 through Mr. Rico Rommel Varquez, Bohol Island State University- Bilar Campus through Engr. Erwin G. Ludevese and Engr. Jamel M. Salo, Roy Manzano from DA Regional Field Office 7, Mr. Jeric N. Embalzado from Carcar City Agriculture's office in Cebu, and Mr. Jeremy P. Mondejar from Cebu Technological University - Barili Campus who served as resource persons. The training was facilitated by Engr. Jonathan O. Sumagang, Ms. Angelie B. Menede and Mr. Ulyses U. Alesna of ATI RTC 7.

Among the participants' impressions include Jessivel Ayuban of Bohol as quoted: ***"I did appreciate all the efforts of the resource people. They gave us many ideas, and at the same time, our knowledge on proper land preparation to harvesting, using farm machinery, has been updated through the virtual and face-to-face training. For the virtual training, each resource person delivered their topics effectively and precisely. I am thankful for their patience during the hands-on training where they demonstrated and taught us on how to operate the different kinds of machinery. They also helped me in reviewing some of the lessons I had when I was in college."***

"On these five days of training I learned a lot about farm machineries, specifically on tractors. I learned about the operations, the parts and the maintenance. My husband keeps on telling me that he is the only one looking after our tractor. With this training, I can be of more help to him in managing our tractor and farm," Marieta M. Bradford, Cebu



INBRED RICE SEED PRODUCTION AND CERTIFICATION FOR SEED GROWERS HELD AT BOHOL EXPERIMENT STATION

BOHOL – The province is considered as the major rice producer in Central Visayas and is considered as the priority of the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) program that will further support the region in ensuring food security and to make the country's agriculture sector viable, efficient and globally competitive.

The seed program, which is among the four components of RCEF, is mainstreamed among farmers and seed growers. Thus, the conduct of the three-day Refresher Training Course on Inbred Rice Seed Production and Certification for Seed Growers held in Bohol Experiment Station (BES), Gabi, Ubay, Bohol last April 6-8, 2021.

A total of 17 seed growers from the municipalities of Candijay, Carmen, Duero, Guindulman, Pilar, San Miguel, Talibon, Trinidad and Ubay successfully completed the training which aims to update the rice seed growers on new applicable technologies about rice seed production systems. They were also updated about the criteria and requisites for re-accreditation and subsequent roles and responsibilities for accreditation.

In details, participants were informed about the mechanics, policies and guidelines on seed testing and certification for rice; varietal selection and characteristics of the approved National Seed Industry Council varieties; insect pest management, integrated nutrient management, and integrated cultural management for rice seed production; harvest and post-harvest technology for rice seed production; seed testing procedures and standards; and rouging, seed sampling, bagging and tagging. The training was facilitated by Engr. Jonathan O. Sumagang, Project Officer at the same time resource speaker and assisted by Technical Staff, Ms. Angelie B. Menede as a member of the training management team.

Resource Persons during the activity includes from Region 7, Marcheta Brina from Bureau of Plant Industry - National Seed Quality Control Services (BPI-NSQCS) Region 7; Felix N. Tubiano, Rico Rommel A. Varquez and Wilfreda C. Malayao from the Department of Agriculture – Regional Field Office (DA-RFO) Region 7, Rogelio Davalan from DA - Soil and Water Resources Research Development Services.

RCEF CONDUCTS 2 BATCHES RICE CROP ESTABLISHMENT USING MECHANICAL TRANSPLANTER

CENTRAL VISAYAS – The growing support towards rice farmers continue in Bohol and Negros Oriental. In view of intensifying local farmer technicians (LFTs) knowledge and skills on how to use rice machineries, two batches of training for Rice Crop Establishment using Mechanical Transplanter were conducted in Bohol and Negros Oriental on April 12–16, 2021 and April 19-23, 2021, respectively. A total of 40 LFTs successfully completed the 5-day training: 20 in Bohol and 20 in Negros Oriental.

In detail, participants were taught on: how to prepare their rice fields suitable for mechanical transplanter; seedling preparation for mechanized rice transplanting; and the operation and maintenance of the mechanical rice transplanter.

The training indirectly supports the Mechanization Program component of Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF). RCEF program seeks to ensure food security and to make the country's agriculture sector viable, efficient and globally competitive.

RCEF Learnings Sites of the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas were utilized as venue and demonstration site for the training: Labonite Family Farm in San Isidro, Pilar, Bohol and Cagri, Complex-Learning Farm in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental.

The training was facilitated by Jonathan O. Sumagang, Project Officer, and assisted by Angelie B. Mencede as a member of the training management team.

The resource persons of the five-day training were: Mr. Rico Rommel Varquez of DA-RFO 7; Dr. Severino Salera of Bohol Island State University and Learning Site Cooperator Jose Labonite, Sr. for Bohol while in Negros Oriental, experts from the Agri- Engineering Division of the City Agriculture Office of Bayawan City and Ms. Rosario C. Villabito, the regional LFT focal person.



BIO-AGENTS USE FOR NATURAL PESTS' ENEMIES AND PREDATORS

BOHOL – Integrated pest management is intended to reduce ecological and health damage from chemical pesticides by using biological agents to control pest populations. Philippine government has this goal of obtaining high yield and low production cost while protecting human and environmental health.

Resistance to insecticides and pesticides among insect pests – such as black bugs and stem borers – is a challenge for their control. Use of biological agents to effectively suppress insect pests' populations in the rice field is important.

On 4 – 6 May 2021, a training course on stem borer and black bug management using biological agents was conducted. In this training *Metarhizium* (fungus that grows upon insect host cuticle) and *Trichogramma* (a genus of minute polyphagous wasps) were used as biological agents. Accordingly, *Trichogramma* is the most used biological control agent in the world.

Twenty-one (21) rice farmers from Alicia, Dagohoy, Pilar and San Miguel this province, attended the training. The participants learned different principles on pest management specifically: understanding the nature and factors in the abundance of rice black bugs and stem borers; pest control and management; how to apply pest management approaches; how to do a biological pest management approach; what are the natural enemies and predators for black bugs and stem borers.

Moreover, light trapping operation and control of black bug infestation so with the proper release of the *Metarhizium* and *Trichogramma* in the rice field was also taught.

Dr. Marina Labonite, a Learning Site Cooperator from Labonite Family Farm in San Isidro, Pilar, Bohol and Julius Llorente Ludevese from the Department of Agriculture – Regional Crop Protection Center (DA-RCPC) Region 7, have shared their expertise around these subject matters as resource persons.



TOT ON HVC PLANTING MATERIAL PROPAGATION-PRODUCTION GENERATES 53 COMPLETERS

CENTRAL VISAYAS - The COVID-19 situation has brought more awareness among people about eating healthy. Considering the high level of awareness, it is essential to push further the work around high-value crops, such as fruits and vegetables, production and consumption.

Between April 19 to 26, 2021, a Training of Trainers on High-Value Crops (HVC) Planting Material Propagation and Production with emphasis on Good Agricultural Practices was conducted. The training was conducted in two phases; participants of phase one (April 19-21) must proceed to phase two (April 22-26) to complete the course.

The virtual training was participated by 53 agricultural extension workers (AEWs)/ high-value crop development program (HVCDP) technicians in the region.

The training aims to equip and/or enhance the knowledge, attitude and skills of AEWs/ HVCDP technicians on different high value crops planting materials, from propagation stage up until the production level, following good agricultural practices. Along with the promotion of growing high-value crops, participants were also encouraged to later emphasize to the farmers the importance of value adding to their produce; so they don't have to throw away any surplus food products when there's a bountiful harvest; and even, make money out of it.

The training was facilitated by Joemelyn Sumagang, Project Officer and assisted by Charlou Ampit and Maryjane Flor Patulilic as members of the training management team. Aurora de Guzman, Diana SJ Tabudlong, Mike Cuerto and Noli P. Garcia from Bureau of Plant Industry - National Seed Quality Control Services (NSQCS) - Region 7, and Henry Binahon from Binahon Agroforestry Farm in Bukidnon served as resource persons during the six-day training.

MANGO ORCHARD RESTORATION: FOR SUSTAINABLE AND GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE INDUSTRY

CENTRAL VISAYAS – Mango is the third most important fruit crop in the Philippines next to banana and pineapple. It has been said that mango, the country's national fruit, is considered as one of the finest fruits in the world. The country has a Philippine Carabao Mango variety which is said to be one of the best mango varieties in the world. Mango has an established domestic market and has promising opportunities for the international market.

To regain position in innovation on production technology, post-harvest, product development, and export marketing in order to supply consistently safe and high-quality products is the vision of the 2017-2022 Philippine Mango Industry Roadmap. Different initiatives have been done to achieve this mission, including capacity building activities to extension workers and mango farmers.

On June 23-25, 2021 a region wide blended Training of Trainers on Mango Rehabilitation: Orchard Restoration was organized. It was participated by 28 participants from Bohol, Cebu and Negros Oriental. The training was attended by HVCDP focals and mango farmers.

Twenty-one (21) participants from Bohol attended the training in Hotel 850, Ipil, Jagna, Bohol. While participants from Cebu and Negros Oriental joined the training online, through Google Meet platform. Five of the participants in Bohol are members of the Jagna Mango Growers Association who are currently enrolled in the farmer field school for mango production.

The training enabled the participants to learn about the situation of Philippine mango industry. In the course of the training, participants were able to learn crop management in the rejuvenation of old and unproductive mango trees, techniques of mango rehabilitation, cost and return of investment of mango production, and code of good agricultural practices for mango.

John Dennis Ranario from DA Regional Field Office 7, Henry Binahon from Binahon Agroforestry Farm in Bukidnon, and Mary Queen Atup from Office of the Provincial Agriculture of Bohol shared their expertise on the topics discussed as resource persons. Maryjane Flor Patulilic, and Julie Buhion of ATI RTC 7 served as members of the training management team.

"From this training, I have learned different mango production technologies such as flower induction and fruit management. I am going to apply all of these learnings in my mango farming management," said Celso Nayga – a member of the Jagna Mango Growers Association and a training participant.

TOT ON CACAO REHABILITATION

CENTRAL VISAYAS – In view of the current trend for the cacao industry by which the production of cacao in the Philippines remains low compared to the high demand, thus, the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 conducted a region-wide Training of Trainers on Cacao Rehabilitation last March 29-31, 2021 via online with 27 agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and/or High Value Crops Development Program (HVCDP) technicians completed from Bohol, Cebu and Negros Oriental respectively.

The training aims to equip and enhance the knowledge, attitude and skills of the participants on the rehabilitation of unproductive and old cacao trees and also about the cost and return analysis of cacao production.

HVCD PROGRAM *activities*
by maryjane flor patulilic

ATI-7 HOLDS LSA-ESP COOPERATORS FORUM

BOHOL – The Partnership and Accreditation Services Section (PASS) of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional 7 spearheaded by its Chief, Senior Agriculturist, Lydia Borbano together with the Project Officer, Engr. Rizaldy Mercadal conducted a blended Learning Site for Agriculture-Extension Service Provider (LSA-ESP) Cooperators Forum last June 9, 2021 at the South Farms in Panglao, this province, an accredited LSA of ATI-7 for the face-to-face while the virtual was held last June 14, 2021 at the center's training complex in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City.

Forty LSA Cooperators attended the forum and were explained with the provisions of Learning Site/Schools for Practical Agriculture (LS/SPA) guidelines to become an effective partners in developing and/or modernizing the agriculture and fishery sectors to be healthy and responsible citizenry especially among the farming families.



FIVE LSA ACCREDITED IN CENTRAL VISAYAS

CENTRAL VISAYAS – Covering April to June 2021, five (5) Learning Site for Agriculture in the region were certified from the Agricultural Training Institute which expires on 2026.

The certified LSA are as follows: 1) Borja Agricultural Farm of San Isidro, Sagbayan, Bohol with Cesar M. Borja as the Cooperator; 2) Jorac's Family Farm of Jantianon, Amlan, Negros Oriental with Cooperator, Justiniano S. Racal; 3) Taganahan Agricultural Farm of Cabanbanan, Dimiao, Bohol with Cooperator, Ursulo V. Taganahan; 4) Gomentoc Valley Farm of Gomentoc, Ayungon, Negros Oriental with Cooperator, Joseph M. Calumba and 5) Santa Clara Farm of Sta. Cruz, Dagohoy, Bohol with Cooperator, Eufemia G. Saraspe.

.5M FUND RELEASE TO LSAS

CENTRAL VISAYAS – To help in the facilitation of the continuous implementation of the Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) in the region, the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center-7 releases more than half a million grant fund to six (6) cooperators, namely: Florante J. Vicuña of VICAMO Farm; Edwin Baguio of Camelo Farm; Nestor M. Pestelos of Kahayag Farm & Social Action Center; Raymond Micheal B. Roldan of Vita Isola Leisure Farm; Noe S. Cempron of Don Albertos' Farm and Jeanette Pinat of Manay's Farm.

The sources of fund were from the Regular, Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) and Organic Agriculture (OA).

BLENDED SWINE AI CONDUCTED



BOHOL – Last June 28-30, 2021, Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Institute 7 conducted a blended Swine Artificial Insemination training to 20 participants composed of Agricultural Extension Workers and Barangay Livestock Aide (BALA) with the aim of providing proficiency in semen evaluation, processing and insemination; also expected to familiarize themselves with the set-up of a functional AI Laboratory and the use of basic equipment for a successful AI program.

Prior to the actual demonstration, the participants enrolled the e-learning course titled: Walay Aray sa AI: Artificial Insemination in Pigs.

Mr. Vherney C. Cabasag II, DMO I is the Project Officer with Ms. Julie Ann G. Buhion as the support staff while Mr. Rogaciano Torrejano, Farm Owner of JedRocel Farm Anislag, Corella, Bohol is the resource person during the hands-on.

4 BATCHES QGIS TRAINING HELD

CENTRAL VISAYAS – A total of 36 Agricultural Extension Workers from the island provinces of Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor completed the Training on Quantum Geographic Information System (QGIS) last May 11-12; 18-19; 20-21 and 25-26, 2021 respectively with the objective of capacitating Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) to gain additional knowledge and skills on encoding data and preparing a zoning map intended for Artificial Swine Fever (ASF) monitoring and surveillance.

Mr. Vherney C. Cabasag, ATI-7 Livestock Focal Person is the project officer with Julie Ann G. Buhion as the Technical Support Staff together with resource speakers spearheaded by Daniel C. Ventura Jr., Supervising Agriculturist, Elvin J. Milleza, Information System Analyst and Anneath V. Maribojoc, Computer Maintenance II of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 7.



LIVESTOCK PROGRAM *activities*

by doris isabel j. racho

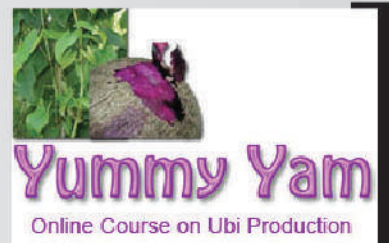
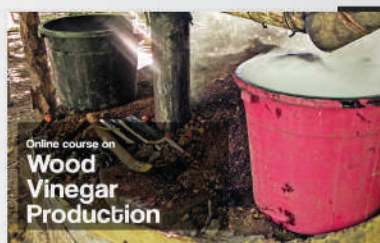
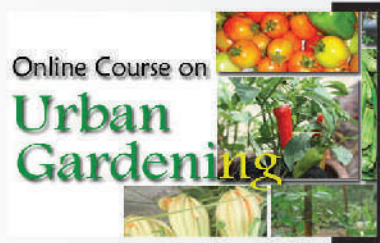
KAUGMARAN

Cover Story 8-11

Jessa Mae Magayo

farming is life

in the hindsight of a
young farmer



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