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**At home in a garden  
at Jolit's Ecofarm**

8-11



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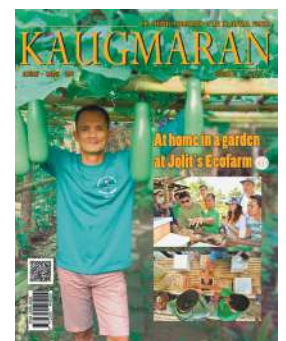
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KAUGMARAN  
(n) Cebuano-Bisaya term  
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## BOHOL ASPIRING CERTIFIED SEED GROWERS UNDERGO TRAINING

by maryjane flor patulilic

**T**AGBILARAN CITY - A continuous and reliable supply of high-quality inbred rice seeds is one of the major goals of the Department of Agriculture. There is a continuous call for increased adoption of certified inbred seeds through the promotion and distribution of certified seeds of inbred rice varieties, mobilization and strengthening of local seed production, and support for variety development. Hence, the importance of seed growers in attaining this goal is immense as they play a significant role in the distribution and production of high-quality inbred rice seeds.

On February 7-11 2022, the Agricultural Training Institute -Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) 7, in collaboration with the Bureau of Plant Industries – National Seed Quality Control Services Division (BPI-NSQCS) 7, conducted the Training Course on Inbred Rice Seed Production and Certification for Seed Growers in Panda Tea Garden Suites, this city.

Twenty-six (26) rice farmers, who aspire to become accredited rice seed growers, from the municipalities of Bilar, Carmen, Dagohoy, Lila, Mabini, Pilar, San Miguel, Trinidad, Ubay and Valencia Bohol completed the five-day training. These training participants were selected based on the criteria and recommendation of BPI-NSQCS 7.

In the course, the participants learned about the status of implementation of rice program and buffer stocking in the region; mechanics, policies and guidelines on seed testing and certification for rice; how to classify varietal selection and characteristics of the approved national seed industry council varieties; differentiate the insect pest management, integrated nutrient management, and integrated cultural management for rice seed production; the harvest and post-harvest technology for rice seed production; and how to apply the seed testing procedures and standards.

A special session about Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture - Decision Support Tools (AMIA-DST) in farming activities was also introduced to the farmers. Here, they learned about the different weather information products that they could use in their farming.

There was also a field activity for the participants to learn how to conduct field inspection, rouging, seed sampling, bagging and tagging. Participants also learned how to determine moisture content, germination rate, varietal selection and physical purities in the seed laboratory of BPI-NSQCS 7 at Ubay, Bohol.

Jonathan O. Sumagang and Jorge Fat Trinidad from ATI RTC 7; Marcheta C. Brina and Christine Calamba of BPI-NSQCS in Ubay, Bohol; Rico Rommel A. Varquez, Wilfreda C. Malayao and Felix N. Tubiano of Department of Agriculture- Bohol Agricultural Promotion Center shared their expertise on the topics discussed as resource persons while Ryan Joshua Villena of ATI RTC 7 as support staff.



## GAP/FOOD SAFETY TRAINING ON EDIBLE LANDSCAPING FOR AEWs

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – Twenty seven (27) agricultural extension workers in Central Visayas with 17 female and 10 male completed the three-day Gender-based Training on Edible Landscaping with emphasis on Good Agricultural Practices and Food Safety last March 1-3, 2022, this city.

Joemelyn A. Sumagang, Training Specialist II at the same time the project officer and trainer spearheaded the activity with the objective of equipping and/or enhancing the knowledge, attitude and skills of the AEWs on vegetable production and edible landscaping emphasizing on good agricultural practices and food safety while recognizing gender roles and responsibilities.

The lecture-inputs include the

Basic Concepts of Gender and Development; Good Agricultural Practices in the production of quality fresh vegetables; food safety practices in the production of fresh vegetables; and edible landscaping technologies. Also a session on the Adaptation and Mitigation Initiatives in Agriculture decision support tools to address climate change issues.

The pool of trainers was composed of ATI-7's Training Specialist III/Career Development Management Services Section Chief, Ma. Gracia S. Pungay and Information Officer II, Doris Isabel J. Racho; with Teacher III, Pablita R. Cabarles of Manga National High School, Manga, Tagbilaran City, Bohol while Angelie Mencede served as member of the training management team.

Ma. Daisy Flores from LGU Corella, Bohol, one of the training participants said: *"I learned many things during the 3-day training, most especially in the field of edible landscaping. I now have ideas and strategies on how to make edible landscaping in my prospect area. I do hope that it can be realized in the following days. I also learned how important it is to keep our food safe, the 5s for Good Housekeeping practice to be used in our home, offices, and workplaces. Also, I learned about GAP and its importance, lastly about gender and development to treat men and women equally in the community. Hopefully, as I return to my respective office, I can turn my learnings into reality and share all of these to our clientele. I am looking for a positive impact through these training to be fulfilled."*

## ATI-7 PERSONNEL UNDERGO WELLNESS CUM GAD TRAINING

**C**ORELLA, BOHOL – The personnel of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 undergo a three-day Gender-based Training on Health and Wellness last March 8-10, 2022 at Greenthumb Farm, this town.

The training was conducted with the objective of increasing the sensitivity among employees to the implications of gender inequality and demanding problems like that

of gender discrimination and at the same time keeping in mind the health and wellness of everyone.

Aside from the lecture-input and team building activities, ATI-7 provided a free cardiac panel to all staff both regular and job orders.

Center Director, Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio in her message emphasized that the well-being of the staff are also among the top priority of the institute in order to continue to deliver the training and extension services to clientele.



**REGULAR activities**  
by maryjane flor patulilic and merrian piquero soliva, phd

# 49 AEWs UNDERGO TOT ON REMOTE TRAINING

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center-7 based in this city conducted two (2) batches of Training of Trainers on Remote Training via virtual platform last January 25-27, 2022 and March 15-17, 2022 respectively.

The activity was designed due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic where activities that entailed direct contact or face-to-face through large crowds were strictly prohibited. Many are affected, from business to schools to government transactions.

The agriculture sector especially the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) were not spared because they are also greatly affected. Thus, many employers, government and private agencies, as well as business owners, have decided to embrace digital means to continuously provide services to their respective clients.

With this premise, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas heeds the call from partner agencies and Local Government Units in the region to conduct training to capacitate employees,

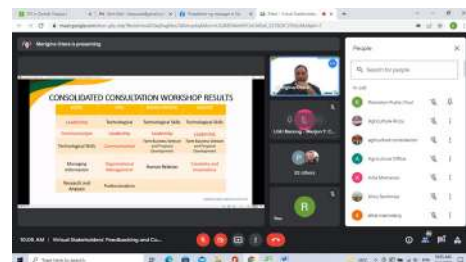
particularly Agricultural Extension Workers who need skills in remote learning and training.

Remote training (sometimes used interchangeably with 'remote learning', though this term is more closely tied to education) is the practice of upskilling your employees digitally, regardless of their physical location.

The objective of this activity is to capacitate participants to the proper steps in conducting Remote Training most specifically by learning the basics of remote training; usage of different virtual platforms and demonstrating skill set through actual simulation.

The 49 participants composed of AEWs in Central Visayas were very enthusiastic to participate because they found this training fitted their need.

The pool of trainers was spearheaded by the Project Officer, Merrian Piquero Soliva, Ph.D. together with Doris Isabel J. Racho, Information Officer II; Ma. Pamela R. Macaambac, Technical Support Staff; Joemelyn A. Sumagang, Training Specialist II and Maryjane Flor P. Bonilla, MPS II with May Joy Pia Luzon, as support staff.

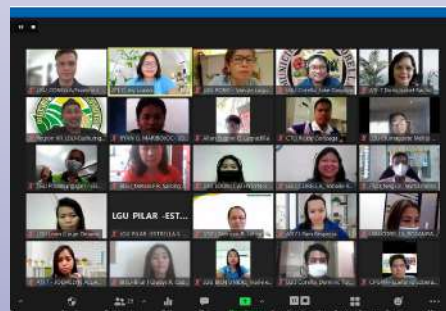


## VIRTUAL STAKEHOLDER'S FEEDBACKING/ COMMITMENT SETTING HELD IN THE REGION

**C**ENTRAL VISAYAS – With its aim of generating commitment among stakeholders in order to efficiently deliver the agricultural extension services, the Agricultural Training Institute in the region spearheaded the virtual Stakeholder's Feedbacking and Commitment Setting on Training and Other Concerns for FY 2022 last February 16, 2022 via google meet with 25 partners attending.

Facilitating the activity is Planning Officer, Merigine C. Otara of ATI-7 with Development Management Officer I and Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Designate, Lhea Glory Mae B. Araña. They presented the approved trainings and other Agriculture, Fishery and Extension (AFE) activities intended for the particular province in order to generate recommendations.

Present during the virtual activity was ATI-7 Center Director, Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio together with the representatives from the Local Government Units in the island provinces of Central Visayas together with personnel from State Universities and Colleges.



LR: Photo shows the TOT Remote participants from Batch 1 and 2 respectively who are composed of Agricultural Extension Workers from the Local Government Units and State Universities and Colleges in Central Visayas. The Training was conducted via virtual platform last January 25-27 and March 15-17, 2022.

# ATI-7 CONDUCTS BLENDED TRAINING ON MANAGEMENT SKILLS FOR AEWs

**C**ENTRAL VISAYAS - To ensure continuity in the efficient and effective delivery of services, capacity development interventions will be continuously provided to agricultural extension workers (AEWs).

Further, with the implementation of Mandanas Ruling, which will provide opportunities for improving service delivery through enhanced decentralization, the role of the local government unit in providing agricultural extension and on-site research services and facilities, through the provincial, city and municipal agriculture offices, will be deepened. Hence, there is a need to capacitate AEWs in training management.

On March 1-3, 2022, the Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center (ATI-RTC) 7 conducted a Training Management Skills Enhancement Course. The training was conducted through a blended approach – participants coming from Negros Oriental and Siquijor were gathered in one location while other participants joined online through Google Meet. In Negros Oriental, the venue was in Stella Maris Retreat House, Bacong, while venue in Siquijor was in Ocean View Farm and Cottages in Olang, Maria. A total of 29 individuals participated in the three-day training: 15 from Negros Oriental, 9 from Siquijor and 5 online joiners.

In the course of the three-day training, participants learned about the code of ethics for government employees; agricultural extension management; effective leadership in extension; and the whole training system components from pre, during and post training activities.

After the discussions, the participants were grouped and did an actual demonstration on how they would facilitate training. Each member of the group played their respective roles when they performed the demonstration.

Dir. Alice May S. Parcon from Civil Service Commission; and Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio, Dr. Gracia Arado, Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay, Maryjane Flor S. Patullilic, and Lhea Glory Mae B. Araña from ATI-RTC Central Visayas shared their expertise on the topics discussed as resource persons. Ryan Joshua Villena, Mary Daphny Tumala and Jonathan O. Sumagang of ATI RTC 7 supported the training as members of the training management team.



## NFS TRAINING REACHES ESKAYA MEMBERS IN SIERRA BULLONES

**B**OHOL – The organic agriculture which is anchored on the principles of care, ecology, health and fairness, also provides economic opportunities for beginning, and small and mid-scale family farmers as they help build strong rural communities and that includes the indigenous communities. Most of these groups depend on agriculture for subsistence. Despite the fact that they have their own cropping methods, they have shown interest in adopting the new farming systems, the organic vegetable production.

Hence, on March 15-17, 2022, Training on Organic Vegetable Production for Indigenous People (IP) was conducted in Cantaub, Sierra Bullones, Bohol. A total of 20 participants who are members of the Eskaya Tribe IP community were able to complete the three-day training.

Overall, the training aims to enhance the knowledge, attitude

# PGS TRAINERS IDENTIFIED IN NEGROS ORIENTAL



**N**EGROS ORIENTAL – In 2020, the Republic Act No. 11511 or the Act Amending RA 10068 (Organic Agriculture Act of 2010) was enacted to recognize the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) as an option for organic

and skills of our indigenous peoples' group on the new technologies developed for organic vegetable farming, and help boost their interest to revive the organic vegetable, and swine and poultry industry in the locality.

During the course of the three-day training, participants were able to learn about climate change and its effect on agriculture, health, food security and ecosystem; concept and principles of natural farming system; cultural management practices in organic vegetable production; appropriate production technology on native chicken and swine production; and financial literacy.

Jorge Fat Trinidad from the Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center 7; and Reyland P. Jabonillo, a private practitioner, shared their expertise while Jovanie Picot served as a member of the training management team.

certification. Item (g) of Section 14 (Participatory Guarantee System) of the amended OA Act of 2010 states that, ***“The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), in close coordination with the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS), shall make available the required training program on organic agriculture standards and processes for PGS groups applying for accreditation.”***

In support of this mandate, the ATI in collaboration with BAFS identified a set of preparatory activities for the implementation of PGS. These include the development of training modules, and series of capability-building activities for organic implementers and identified PGS organizations. To ensure the trainers' capacity in the establishment and practice of PGS, the ATI together with DA RFO has to conduct a Training of Trainers on PGS. Hence, on March 14-25, 2022, a Training of Trainers on Philippine Guarantee System was conducted in Stella Maris Retreat House, Bacong, Negros Oriental. Twenty participants were able to complete the extensive ten-day training.

This training aims to capacitate PGS Groups on the establishment and operations consistent with the organic agriculture standards and corresponding technical regulations.

During the three-day training, participants learned about the salient provisions, including the implementing rules and regulations, of the Organic Agriculture Act as amended by RA 11511 on Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS); the Organic Agriculture Standards and the National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture; the general requirements and procedures for accreditation of PGS group; how to conduct of peer review and certification protocols; and the current Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture.

Andrew M. Macaambac and Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay from ATI RTC -7; Mae Montecillo from Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 7; and Emmanuel A. Odothan from DA-Provincial Agriculture Technology Coordinating Office have shared their expertise on the topics discussed as resource persons while Ryan Joshua Villena served as member of the training management team.

**ORGANIC AGRICULTURE** *activities*  
by maryjane flor patulilic and doris isabel j. racho



**AT HOME IN A GARDEN**  
*at Jolits ecofarm*

“  
Lita and I make sure our kids  
pick on the habit, because  
all who know how to eat  
must know how to plant,  
”  
- quips Jomer





Thousands of graduates proceed with their lives in jobs not really related with their college courses. In Bohol, two young agriculturists never thought banking on their extensive years in integrated pest management can lead them to build a home where their kids wake up to a garden in a middle of a model learning site for integrated diversified organic farming here.

Now with the Agricultural Training Institute's (ATI) certification as an Agricultural Learning Site, Jolit's Garden and Eco Farm, owned by couple Jomer Meletante Balag and Lita Ocho Balag in Barangay Cambacay Batuan sprouted from a 100 square meter farm testing in aquaculture on a sandy clay soil characteristic of the area.

In fact, developing that small patch that may not really sustainably feed a family has earned criticisms from neighbors who know that without much water in the area, growing, much more relying on a garden to feed the family is next to foolhardy.

The designated farm area is an undulating lot with bushes typical of clay soil and some shallow depressions with stagnant shallow water which the rains have left. Behind is a tall hill with secondary growth timberlands. Nothing really promising.

Not to Jomer Balag, whose life has been toughened by overcoming challenges.

In his final years in high school in Lourdes in Panglao, he joined 7 other students who hoped to get scholarships from a Japanese company to proceed to college. Born in Danao, Panglao and dreaming of getting a better life, Jomer hurdled each test mostly associated with the lack of financial capacity to buy his way out of problems. He had his first strike at luck when he earned a college scholarship through the Japanese company as benefactor. Even with a college scholarship, where most men of raw timbre would just lie down and await for the next bell for class, Jomer still tried to find work.

Accepted as school striver assigned at the registrar's office while at the Central Visayas State College for Agriculture, Forestry and Technology, now Bohol Island State University in Bilar, Jomer dug a hole of diligence where he could sow his future.

Knowing he would need hard work to bleed out food from his small patch of land in Panglao, Jomer had to brutally test his muscles in hard work and take his studies to heart. His heart incidentally found a girl, beautiful, modest and equally hardworking. To him, Lita Sabijon Ocho was a girl worthy to be his wife, and motivated him to double up work even harder. Also a working student of a faculty member in school, Lita was then taking Bachelor of Agriculture major in Integrated Pest Management.



Truly intent on pursuing his dreams and his love for Lita, his persistence, hard work and diligence sprouted a love story, finding each other a motivation to escape the wretched life. Graduating Bachelor of Science in Agriculture Major in Integrated Pest Management, Jomer found himself taking on the same course that preoccupied her, knowing that if luck wills it, they both will have to work together to make their chances in farming better. Married in 2005 after graduation, Jomer felt he needed a stable job he would need to start a family. Not farming as the pay was not as promising and cash came only after harvest. This led him to take on an offer for him to work in Japan, care of his benefactor. He immediately went on a crash course in Basic Japanese Language in Cebu and by November, was off to Japan.

Three years, before the contract ends and Jomer knew Lita has delivered his first child, one a father would never have missed. But, feeding a family now becomes even more pressing. Homesick, tired and alone, Jomer still performed well to the delight of his benefactor until he decided to come home to his wife after his contract ended. That was when husband and wife started to plan together to get a serious look at farming. A farm around a garden and a home in the middle. Starting off with a 100 square meter patch of land in Cambacay Batuan where Lita's family owned, Jomer first found a strength at the characteristic clay soil which is ideal for keeping water, something that they can get only after some rains. Starting off by developing a fishpond, the young couple earned criticism from family and neighbors.

*"You dig a fishpond in an area that has water problems, that is a problem,"* his father in law accordingly told him. Clay soil however has great water keeping qualities, both young agriculturists know, so they did not mind the queer looks from neighbors. A cutflower and vegetable farmer while young, Jomer's experience in his home in Danao Panglao was his ace on the sleeve. Cutflower and vegetable sales supplied his school needs in

elementary and high school.

Now in Batuan, far from his birthplace, Jomer and Lita started on a cutflower and a vegetable garden, taking in his experience and heaped it with the science that they learned in school. Cutflowers attract bees, and so they ventured into a culture of pollinators.

From that idea, their garden became a home to wild stingless bees as pollinators to their vegetable and flower garden.

*"With pollinators, you get 30-40% more of the harvests,"* he claimed, knowing too that stingless bees are sometimes decimated by farmers who do not know the insect's critical roles in flowers and fruiting vegetables.

*"Besides, you can harvest better honey sacs from wild stingless bees,"* Jomer who now also sells honey in 250 and 1000 gram tubes proudly confessed.

In the background, the Balag's youngest kid along with kids his age, totes a bolo and tucks a cutting along the pathway in the now 4,000 square-meter family farm.

*"We, with Lita, make sure our kids pick on the habit, because all who know how to eat must know how to plant,"* he jokes in between the informal interview.

After the bees come insects: bees, butterfly and even frogs drawn to the ponds that refuse to drain. These incidentally also attract birds, and the most notable among them is a pair of the endemic Philippine Frogmouth, now a rare bird sighted in only very few areas in Bohol.

A frogmouth feeds on grasshoppers, cicadas, crickets and beetles, insects that could only survive in areas where inorganic chemical fertilizers and pesticides are in-existent.

The good this is that these couple has been regularly nesting in the farm, Lita shared, and pointing to a nestling sitting alone on a nest of downy feathers, its telltale yellow trim on the beak tracing the frogmouths characteristics. Anytime soon, the female would sit on the nest, the male has just ended his duty watching the nestling and would start hunting for food. Frogmouths are generally nocturnal, she added.

The stagnant waters here also offer refuge for the endemic Asian box turtles, and a pair they found in the area is now as much as 500 individuals from hatchlings to mature adults.

An enclosure houses these box turtles, amphibians at that, with the comforts of a mossy swimming pond and a crawling yard that lets the turtles bask and swim to adjust their body temperatures.



*"Every 10 eggs, I get two which I leave to hatch outside. This is our share for nature's recovery,"* Jomer said. With abundant shades, plenty of water ponds and food, it would be no wonder of a hatching would opt to stay, now at home among the organic litter in the farm.

*"Next on the family's list is breeding a softshell turtle which has more meat than the native box turtles,"* he shared as he guided a team touring the farm. Jolits Eco Farm also has a family carabao, sheep, goats, pigs, native chicken, turkey, geese and native ducks, all sustained with the organic feeds they harvest from the farm. The animal wastes also go to a pile that becomes fertilizer, or mixed with molasses, fruit and vegetable extracts for use within the farm. The old fishpond now has golden tilapia: the pond regulates the garden temperature, attracts dragonflies whose nymphs control tilapia fingerlings and wrigglers that can be dengue carrying mosquitoes if not controlled, he explained during the tour.



Everything here is organic, Jomer points out. Near the restroom is a rain water collector which draws mosquitoes away from the restrooms, golden tilapia prowl under the water, eating the wrigglers mosquitoes breed and lotus and aquatic plants float to control the water temperature and make it crystal clear.

Elsewhere are duckweeds and azolla ponds, these two plants supply the biofeeds the farm needs for their livestock.

Here, passion fruit, panyawan vines, blue ternates, a trellis for grapes and other tendrils form a natural canopy, while the pathways winding around the farm are plants in every collector's dream, Jomar rattles off scientific and English names only the scientific community can get on.

Calathea, philodendron, caladium, sansevieria, begonias, coleus, hibiscus, orchids, palms and an endless list of ornamental and cutflowers flank the stone pathways.

Herbs and medicinal plants also interspace the garden, plants placement carefully planned so a pest of one plant can't attack because a natural plant pesticide is nearby.

After opening the farm in December 2010 as an integrated diversified organic farm garden, Jolits Eco Farm capped the second place for the district's Bahay Kubo Food Always in the Home, Herbal Organic Plants Everywhere and Chicken Always Raised In The Yard (FAITH, HOPE, ChARITY) backyard garden contest.

With the children also actively owning shares in the chores, it has now become a lighter work for the couple who only hires helpers on major farm jobs. One takes on the carabao to pasture, another one takes the sheep and goats, one goes to the fowl coop were native chicken, geese, turkey and ducks are kept.

By 2017, the Balag Family reaped the Suhid sa Mag-uumang Bol-anon Farm Family Category and took it again in 2018. That same year, Batuan again picked the Balag family home in a garden as best Balay Batuanon. As member of the Kapunungan sa mga Bol-anong Organikong Mag-uuma, the Balag's share and co-share technologies with visitors interested in organic farming, and as member of the United Small Ruminants Raisers Association, the farm also helps train ruminant livestock farmers. With native free-range chicken in the farm as member of the Bohol Native Chicken Growers Association, it was never hard for the



farm and the family to be certified as an agriculture learning site.

### The paycheck?

Jomer Balag, who found that his flower garden is his ace, sells hundreds of sprouted seedlings, grafted saplings and potted plants would only timidly smile. The give-away however is that his neighbors have also displayed potted flower and ornamental plants in their yards, showing that they too now know there is money in ornamental plants. The best of all, Jomer said, for years now, the frogmouth has been a constant visitor, the farm itself becoming a nesting site for the rare endemic bird.

With this, the family, which feels it has made the bird feel safe with them, and the food abundant here, only makes the family stick more to organic technology as chemicals could kill the rare bird. And the native turtles. And the fresh water lobster that thrives in a cement pond below the Balag house window. Food in here is as fresh as can be: cooked within five minutes after picking from the garden, aromatic herbs garnishing, and the delectable scent of home cooking a Boholano house is famed for, spills into the neighborhood. For the Balag kids, play is as fun as grating coconuts for the milk, riding the carabao and waking up to the smell of fresh flowers in the yard, the crow of roosters and the symphony of birds: everything one dreams of a home in a garden farm.



**COVER** story.  
by rey anthony chui (pia-bohol)

## AEWS IN CENTRAL VISAYAS UNDERGO CORN PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

**C**ENTRAL VISAYAS – Two (2) batches of the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Corn Production Technologies for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) were conducted in the region. The first batch was held last March 2-4 2022 at B&J Tagbilaran City, Bohol with 26 AEWs coming from the municipalities of Alburquerque, Alicia, Antequera, Baclayon, Balilihan, Batuan, Bien Unido, Bilar, Buenavista, Calape, Candijay, Carmen, Catigbian, Danao, Dimiao, Duero, Garcia Hernandez, Inabanga, Loon, Mabini, Maribojoc, Pilar, Sagbayan and Talibon in Bohol.

The second batch was conducted on March 22-24, 2022 at Diamond Suites & Residences, Escario St., Cebu City, Cebu with 21 AEWs from the municipalities/cities of Alcantara, Alegria, Badian, Bantayan, Barili, Boljoon, Borbon, Candijay, Cebu City, City of Naga, City of Talisay, Dalaguete, Moalboal, Oslob, Ronda, San Remigio, Santander, and Tabuelan in Cebu.

The aforementioned three-days training are among the five batches of TOT on Corn Production Technologies. These series of training courses are part of the thrust of the Agricultural Training Institute to deliver science-based information in terms of seed genetics, farming practices and technology from the level of AEWs down to the farmers.

The pool of trainers include the following: Merrian Piquero-Soliva, PhD, Joemelyn O. Sumagang and Jeffrey O. Awas from the Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center 7; Jayrell Gamayon Adanza of Municipal Agriculture Office in Dimiao, Bohol for Bohol batch while Anna Luz V. Duhaylungsod of Municipal Agriculture Office of Davis, Bohol; Christine A. Torlao, Jorge A. Odiaman and Mr. Bienvenido Acabal Jr. from the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 7-Regional Crop Pest Management Center of Maguikay, Mandaue City, Cebu; and Marya Zea A. Villaganas from Office of the Provincial Agriculturist, Cebu City for the province of Cebu batch.

Moreover, each batch provided a representative on the things they learned during the training. Mr. Antonio P. Luyao of LGU Tabuelan, Cebu, said: "First



*and foremost, I would like to commend ATI RTC 7, headed by Dr. Carolyn May Daquio, and to the TMT headed by Sir Jeffrey Awas. I am amazed, as always, every time I participate in a training organized by the ATI due to lots of learnings I gained. I will try my best to share all my learnings to the farmers and my fellow technicians in my town. All I can say is that there are still so many things to do hence there are still so many things to learn."*

While, Marie S. Elicano of LGU-Bien Unido, Bohol also said: "I don't have rich knowledge specific to corn even though I am a graduate of Agriculture. That is why, I am very thankful to the Agricultural Training Institute for the invitation to join this training. I have learned technologies specifically on how to control insect pests and diseases – which I can share to my fellow AEWs and farmer clientele once I return to my town."

Overall, the training aims to enable the participants to gain knowledge and skills on extension and the technical activities in corn production technologies for sustainable agricultural development. In the three-day course, participants learned about the cultural management practices of corn production; insect pests and diseases of corn particularly the fall armyworm management; the prevention and control of mycotoxin; and recognize the site-specific nutrient management (SSNM) nutrient expert as a tool for corn production.

Mr. Jeffrey O. Awas, ATI-7 Corn Focal Person is the project officer with Charlou A. Ampit and Joemelyn A. Sumagang as the support staffs.

# BARANGAY BIOSECURITY OFFICERS TRAINED ON SPECIMEN COLLECTION

**C**ENTRAL VISAYAS – The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 through its Livestock Program conducted four (4) batches of Training on Specimen Collection to Barangay Biosecurity Officers (BBOs) in the provinces of Cebu and Negros Oriental in support to Babay African Swine Fever (ASF).

Thirty six (36) BBOs from Negros Oriental were trained from March 15-16, 2022 at Southview Hotel in Dumaguete City and at Holy Formation Center and Southview Hotel last March 17-18, 2022. Meanwhile, there were 45 BBOs from Cebu Province which training were conducted from March 22-23, 2022 at Ging-ging Resort and Oslob Social Center and in March 24-25, 2022 at the Covered Court of Barili, Cebu.

The purpose of the training is to capacitate BBOs to gain additional knowledge on the principles of appropriate handling and restraining technique; proper transport of specimen and the proper preparation of supplies, materials, tools in collection of samples; select and prepare good animals for collection and hone their skills on the collection of specimen for laboratory testing.

Spearheading the four (4) batches is Mr. Vherney C. Cabasag, II, Development and Management Officer I at the same time the Livestock Focal. With him, the pool of trainers were: Daniel C. Ventura Jr., Supervising Agriculturist; John Jamael Patagoc, Veterinary II; Dr. Zeam Voltaire E. Amper, Agriculturist II; Estrella B. Mellomida, Veterinarian II and Joven Galleposo, Agricultural Technologist of Department of Agriculture RFO-7, Mandaue City; Melody Dulce Amor L. Vilan, ACC I of the Provincial Veterinary Office-Negros Oriental; Carlo Eugenio N. Tutor, Agriculturist II, Provincial Veterinary Office-Bohol with Ma. Maureen M. Manito, Veterinarian II, DA-Ubay Stock Farm, Lomangog, Ubay, Bohol.



**LIVESTOCK PROGRAM** activities  
by merrian piquero soliva, phd



Participants from the LGU watched the message of ATI-7 Center Director, Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio during the opening program of the 3-day virtual TOT on DFP

## 2 BATCHES TOT ON DIGITAL FARMERS PROGRAM IN THE REGION

**V**IA ZOOM – The two (2) batches of the Training of Trainers (TOT) on Digital Farmers' Program reaps 71 trainers composed of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in the region.

The online activity was conducted last February 16-18 and 22-24, 2022 respectively.

The main thrust of the TOT is to train extension workers in the local units as well as the accredited Learning Sites of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI-RTC7) in implementing the Digital Farmers Program in their respective areas.

Moreover, the trainers are also expected to: 1) to present and explain the components of the Digital Farmers Program; 2) present and discuss the DFP toolkit, modules, and other resources; 3) conduct a simulation of different in-training scenarios; and 4) Develop a DFP Action Plan.

Composing the pool of resource speakers were: Ma. Pamela R. Macaambac, Technical Support Staff; Doris Isabel J. Racho, Information Officer II and Merrian Piquero Soliva, PhD, Media Production Specialist II at the same time the Project Officer.

Representative from SMART Communication thru Ms. Janille Rose C. Gultiano, Public Affairs Officer-Visayas with Mr. Bryan Enerio, Regional Business Head of Paymaya Region 7.



## ASIAN DIVINE LIGHT LEARNING SITE ACCREDITED

**B**OHOL – The Partnership and Accreditation Services Section (PASS) of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 shared that one (1) learning site for agriculture in the region was accredited which effectivity commenced last January 17, 2022 and valid until January 17, 2027.

The accredited learning site is the Asian Divine Light College, Inc., located at Cabalit Street, Taloto District, Tagbilaran City, this province.

The farm is owned and managed by Reynaldo C. Estrosos, cooperador/implementer.

Asian Divine Light is a diversified farm with different herbs as well as livestock.

## CAPABILITY ENHANCEMENT TRAINING FOR AEWs AND LEARNING SITE COOPERATORS

**D**AUIS, BOHOL – A two-day training on Capability Enhancement for Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and Learning Site Cooperators was conducted last March 15-16, 2022 at Mithi Resort and Spa, this town.

The activity was conducted by the Partnership and Accreditation Services Section (PASS) through its Agriculturist II at the same time, the Project Officer, Engr. Rizaldy C. Mercadal, PhD., with the aim of capacitating and updating AEWs, Learning Site and School for Practical Agriculture Cooperators about the Guidelines as effective partners in developing and/or modernizing the agriculture and fishery sectors and also provide inputs on how to be healthy and responsible citizenry especially among the farming families.

There were 38 participants who attended the activity. The resource persons include: PASS Chief, Senior Agriculturist, Ms. Lydia B. Borbano who discussed on the Guidelines while Dr. Edna S. Lao, Owner/Proprietor of Lao Medical Clinics located at 82 Multinational Ave, Multinationals Village Parañaque City discussed Health and Wellness in the Workplace.



## CPAFEP CONSULTATION-WORKSHOP

**T**AGBILARAN CITY – A total of 128 participants participated the two-day Consultation-Workshop on Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Program (CPAFEP) for FY 2022-2024 last March 9-10, 2022 at the MetroCentre Hotel and Convention Center, Carlos Garcia P. Avenue, this city.

The purpose of the consultation workshop is to orient and brief the stakeholders from all Provincial Local Government Units-Provincial Agriculture, Fishery and Extension Extension Services (PLGU-PAFES) and national partners in the three non-pilot provinces in the mapping out of CPAFEP in the provinces of Bohol, Cebu and Siquijor respectively.

This is to also harmonized and or approved CPAFEP CY 2022-2024 for these three (3) provinces by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan.

The workshop was also attended by representatives from the Department of Interior and Local Government, Department of Science and Technology, Technical Skills Development Authority, Commission on Higher Education, Department of Trade and Industry, Department of Agriculture's attached bureaus and agencies, LGU board members and municipal agricultural officers of Bohol.

The outputs of the consultation are the agreed financing arrangements among the PLGU-PAFES partners and the perfected Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the co-financing among PLGU PAFES partners.

Spearheading the consultation is Dr. Carolyn May O. Daquio, ATI-7 Center Director with Ms. Merigine C. Otara, Planning Officer at the same time the project officer.



## 2 BATCHES VEGETABLE PRODUCTION TECHNICAL BRIEFING HELD

**B**OHOL – The Career Development and Management Services (CDMS) of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 conducted two (2) batches of Technical Briefing on Vegetable Production reaching 53 farmers with the aim of providing technical knowledge on vegetable production particularly in the proper techniques in seedling and potting media preparation last February 23 and 24 at Bayongan, San Miguel and NIA Office in Calanggamán, Ubay this province.

After the briefing, the participants were provided with starter kits so that they can start their vegetable farming activity or maintain their already established gardens.

Ms. Merigine C. Otara, Planning Officer II of ATI-7 who is also a licensed agriculturist is the sole resource speaker of the activity. With her, Ms. Maryjane Flor S. Patulilic, Media Production Specialist II was the project officer while Mr. Charlou A. Ampit, as Technical Support Staff.

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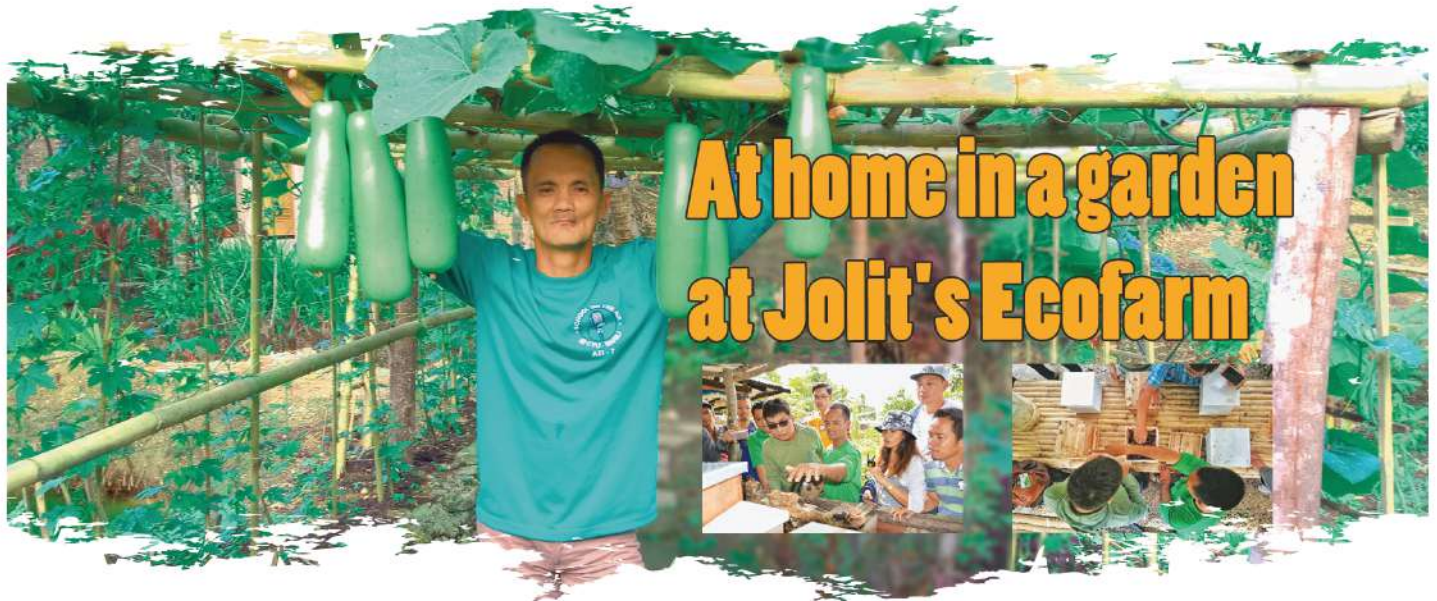
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