

KAUGMARAN

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2022

VOLUME 6 | NO. 3

Sustainability starts within...

retired professors turn
full-time farmers 8-10



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July-September 2022
VOLUME 6 NO. 3

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KAUGMARAN
(n) Cebuano-Bisaya term
for development



REGIONWIDE. The agriculture and fisheries sector constantly faces various challenges in modernization and industrialization.

According to studies, the average age of Filipino farmers is 53 years old and more than 70% or a great majority of the country's farm workers did not finish primary and secondary levels despite public school offerings.

In addition, research published by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies states a negative annual growth of -1.1% in the population of Filipino farmers from a baseline of an estimated 12 million in 2012.

This means that fewer Filipinos are going into farming, and those who remain are advancing in age—unfamiliar with and unable to maximize digital technologies that can help boost their livelihood.

As a precursor to the Government's goal of advancing the agriculture industry's adoption to more advanced forms of technology in farming, such as the use of precision farming, e-Farming, and other digital solutions, it is deemed necessary to first capacitate the local sector about the basic knowledge on operating emerging technologies.

Given this, the Agricultural Training Institute and Smart Communications, Inc. intend to contribute to narrowing down the digital skills gap and aim for overall digital inclusion in farming through the Digital Farmers Program (DFP).

Through training of trainers (TOT),

TOT GRADUATES CONDUCT DFP-ROLLOUT IN THE REGION

by merrian piquero soliva

technology can boost agriculture in the Philippines.

The DFP Rollout commenced last September 10-11, 20-21, and 29-30, 2022 but ran until October 4 to 28, 2022. The expected participants trained are 92 pairs of youth-farmer



the program will not only prepare extension workers as well as learning site cooperators to implement the DFP at the grassroots level but also encourage them to embrace the role of information and communication technology (ICT) guides for farmers and maximize their service delivery through ICT tools.

With this backdrop, ATI in Central Visayas, through its pool of trainers composed of graduates of the TOT,



conducted eight (8) batches of a two-day Digital Farmers' Program (DFP) Rollout where 6 of these batches are Local Government Unit-Agricultural Extension Workers (LGU-AEWs)-led while 2 are Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA)-led.

During the rollout, the LSAs and AEWs facilitated and implemented the training by experiencing it firsthand; and explaining how



participants.

The DFP rollout enabled the youth representatives mainly assist his/her partner farmer in the hands-on exercises and help answer any questions his/her farmer representative may have, and ensure that his/her partner farmer will be able to accomplish his/her homework on time and submit them within the deadline.

The rollout was spearheaded by its project officer, Media Production Specialist II, Dr. Merrian Piquero Soliva, and Technical Support Staff, May Joy P. Luzon.



ISS CONDUCTS TECHNO-GABAY SUMMIT



CEBU CITY. ATI Central Visayas concluded its Techno Gabay Program (TGP) Summit for the provinces of Cebu and Negros Oriental held at One Central Hotel on Sept. 15-16, 2022, this city.

Joining the Summit are the staff of the Farmers Information Technology Services (FITS) Centers composed of Manager (City/Municipal Agriculturists/Officers), Information Service Specialist (ISS) and Technology Service Specialist (TSS).

FITS centers managed or supervised by the Municipal/City Agriculture Officers of LGUs provide assistance

to a large number of farmers, rural women, students, entrepreneurs, and other clients through available Information, Education and Communication (IEC), Information Communication & Technology (ICT), and advisory services.

ATI being the lead agency in the agricultural and rural extension maintain the program and continuously supported the FITS Centers by capacitating the manning team and upgrading its facilities. ATI-7 envisioned to upgrade every municipal/city agriculture offices to become a functional and responsive FITS Center which can carry out

the objectives of the Techno Gabay Program (TGP). Thus, the TGP Summit.

The summit aims to revitalize the TGP and a venue to orient and re-orient FITS Staff.

Participants presented their FITS center and its best practices.

They were capacitated in crafting their own IEC/Techno guide. Special awards were given to FITS Bayawan City for Best FITS Center, FITS Valencia, Negros Oriental for Best Developed

Technoguide and FITS Consolacion, Cebu for Best Enhanced Technoguide.

ATI-7 FITS Focal Person Doris Isabel Racho spearheaded the event assisted by May Joy Luzon and Ma. Pamela Macaambac.

REGULAR activities

by shanemie carelle d. pradera and doris isabel j. racho

ATI-7 SPEARHEADS PAFEC-BOHOL SET-UP

TAGBILARAN CITY. Former Agriculture Secretary William Dar has directed the Department of Agriculture (DA) regional executive directors (REDs) to make Bohol a model for the agency's Province-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Systems (PAFES), one of the major strategies under the "OneDA" reform agenda to transform Philippine agriculture.

The PAFES is one of the 18 key strategies under the "OneDA Reform Agenda," anchored on four major pillars: consolidation, modernization, industrialization, and professionalization.

Thus, the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) spearheaded the Organization and Management Set-up of the Provincial-led Agriculture and Fisheries Extension Center (PAFEC) together with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 7 (DA-RFO-7) on August 11, 2022, at JJs Seafood Village, K of C Drive, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

The activity aimed to organize and set up the PAFES along with partner stakeholders.

In addition, identify and finalize the composition of the PLGU-PMC, PAFEC and PLGU-TWG, and secretariat to manage the implementation of the PAFES; as well as draft and finalize Executive Order (EO) for the establishment of PAFES.

Dr. Larry S. Pamugas, Provincial Agriculturist of Bohol and PAFEC Director presented the Collaborative Provincial Agriculture and Fishery Extension Program (CPAFEP) plan for 2022-2024.

Furthermore, Center Director, Gracia F. Arado, OIC-Center of ATI-7 discussed the

Agreements and Next Steps with the guests and participants of the activity.

Representatives from the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Technical Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), DA's attached bureaus and agencies, Local Government Unit (LGU) board members, municipal agricultural officers in the province of Bohol attended the said activity.



CFIDP ROLLS OUT IN THE REGION

REGIONWIDE. Four (4) batches of Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) Information Caravan was held in the 4 provinces of Central Visayas.

Responsive to the long been clamor of the coconut stakeholders, the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA), formally launched the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP).

The CFIDP was drafted following the signing of Republic Act 11524, better known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Fund Act, of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte on February 26, 2021. The plan was approved through Executive Order 172, which was signed on June 2, 2022.

On August 17, 2022, a Regional Launching cum Information Caravan was held at the Bohol Cultural Center, Tagbilaran City, Bohol. It was graced by PCA Administrator Benjamin R. Madrigal, Jr. Joining him is PCA-7 Manager Brendan Trasmonte and Bohol Provincial Administrator Aster Caberte representing Governor Aristotle Aumentado. Heads and representatives of the other CFIDP implementing agencies (IAs) were also present during the event.

Coco farmers and the information officers from the Association of United Development Information Officers (AUDIO) Bohol participated the activity. It was a blended event, face-to-face and hybrid as other stakeholders from the provinces of Cebu, Negros Oriental and Siquijor also joined virtually.

Likewise, Information caravans were also concluded in the provinces of Cebu on August 19, Negros Oriental on August 26 and Siquijor on September 6 this year.

It was also joined by the coco farmers and other stakeholders.

CFIDP Information Caravan aimed to inform the different stakeholders and beneficiaries.

Specifically, explained CFIDP program and its major components and present briefly programs and projects of implementing agencies.



ATI-7 & SMART COMM COLLABS DAC-RCEF

CEBU CITY. Twenty (20) Agri Extension Workers (AEWs) from Central Visayas concluded the 3-day Training of Trainers on Digital Agriculture Course for Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund at One Central Hotel, this city on September 26-28, 2022.

The program aims to capacitate and prepare AEWs to implement a digital literacy training for farmers in their respective areas.

Pool of Resource Speakers are graduates from Digital Farmers Program 101 & 102 Doris Isabel Racho, Dr. Merrian Piquero Soliva

and Ma. Pamela Macaambac of ATI-7 and Janille Rose Gultiano of Smart Communications.

The training is a partnership between ATI Central Visayas and Smart Communications, Inc. Some of the topics include social media marketing, e-commerce platforms, and digital or mobile payments among others—which will be cascaded down to participants respective municipalities' farmer organizations.

Meanwhile, with ATI-7 strong partnership with Smart Communications, Inc., 10

brand new units of Smartphones are turned-over in replacement of the damaged units during Typhoon Odette last December 2022.

These units will be used in the conduct of the Digital Agriculture Course (DAC) and Digital Farmers' Program (DFP) Rollout in the region.





4-H REGIONAL SUMMIT CONVENES POST PANDEMIC

DAUIS, BOHOL. The Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-7) spearheaded the conduct of the 4-H Regional Youth Camp 2022 with 50 participants from across the region including young farmers and 4-H/RBO focal persons on August 31- September 02, 2022, held at Hinagdanan Bayview Resort, Bingag, this town.

The three-day activity aimed to abreast all 4-H members with current and relevant information most especially on opportunities for Agri and fishery development and sustain their interest through team building activities.

Mr. William M. Aranilla, President of Youth Lead Philippines, discussed Intergenerational Leadership with the participants during the first day of the camp.

In addition to being challenged to learn about their roles in agricultural development through the lectures and breakout sessions, the young individuals also displayed their skills and talents during several competitions.

During the activity, they had a

4-H debate discussing issues that run with the youth and agriculture today. They also conducted a contest on Innovative Technology in Organic Fertilizer Production where the youth demonstrated the formulation of different organic fertilizers. A Video Making contest was also conducted before the camp promoting 4-H and its impact on the youth in various areas in the region. And lastly, the search for the Lakan and Lakambini of 4-H in Central Visayas.

The following are the list of winners: Organic Fertilizer Production: 1st Placer – Baby Lou B. Roda (Bayawan City, Negros Oriental); 2nd Placer – Nicole D. Dacayana (Bogo City). Debate Competition: Best Speaker – Angelo Samidara (Bogo City) and the Winning Team – Angelo Samidara (Bogo City) & MJ Juanitas Landero (Bayawan City, Negros Oriental). For Quiz Bee: 1st Placer – Ella Joy Velandria (Bogo City); 2nd Placer – James R. Icao; and 3rd Placer – Ernie V. Galan (Bayawan City, Negros Oriental). Promotional Video Making: 1st Placer – Carlo A. Alesgar (Bayawan City); 2nd Placer – Liam Bandulon (Bogo City) and 3rd Placer – Angel Mae

L. Llorente (Dumaguete City). Lakan and Lakambini 2022: 1st Placer – Karen Francisco & Kobe Juanillo (Bogo City) and 2nd Place – Joan M. Trinidad & Allan M. Balbon (Bayawan City). For the Special Awards: Best in Barong & Filipiniana – Kobe Juanillo (Bogo City); Club Advocacy - Karen Francisco & Kobe Juanillo (Bogo City) and Best in Regional Costume - Karen Francisco & Kobe Juanillo (Bogo City).

The candle lighting ritual illuminated the night sky on the second night of the activity. This activity is a mainstay of every 4-H camp that represents the ambitions for a better life shared by youngsters and 4-H supporters across the nation.

The recently concluded 4-H Regional Youth Camp was made possible with the collaboration of ATI-RTC 7 with the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 7, Local Government of Dauis, Bohol, Office of the Provincial Agriculture, Provincial Youth Development Office, Provincial Information Office, and 4-H Club Central Visayas.

AEWS UNDERGO FEED FORMULATION USING LOCAL MATERIALS TRAINING



INFORMATION CARAVAN ON ORGANIC AGRICULTURE STRENGTHENS IN THE REGION

REGIONWIDE -- Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) conducted the Information Caravan on Organic Agriculture technologies with Regional Convergence Initiative – Technical Working Group (RCI-TWG) at Basdio Marine Sanctuary Training Center, Basdio, Guindulman, Bohol on August 03, 2022.

The one-day info caravan aimed to: (1) Explain what the Carood Model Watershed Forest (CMWF) program is; (2) Briefly discuss the organic agriculture approach; (3) Introduce organically grown products; and (4) Present briefly programs and projects of participating RCI.

Ms. Maria Christine Zambrano, Watershed Development Officer from Cogtong, Candijay, Bohol talked about the Introduction to Carood Watershed Management Council (CWMC) and the RCI-TWG. Moreover, Ms. Eloiza Marie P. Flores, Project Assistant III of the Agricultural Credit Policy Council (ACPC) discussed the ACPC programs.

Furthermore, Mr. Andrew M. Macaambac, Project Evaluation Officer I and Alternate Organic Agriculture Focal Person of ATI-RTC VII explained the Organic Agriculture Program.

A total of 50 participants including farmers, fishers, youth, and women, among others, participated in the said activity.

"To forget how to dig the earth and to tend the soil is to forget ourselves."
— Mahatma Gandhi

BOHOL. Nineteen (19) Agricultural Extension Workers from the Local Government Units of this province completed the three-day Training on Feed Formulation using Local Materials.

The objective of the training is to let the participants learn the knowledge and acquired skills in formulating his own feeds for livestock and poultry using locally available ingredients in his farm particularly corn by-product and adaptation of natural/organic farming technology in raising crops.

Among the learnings generated are identification of various corn by-products for livestock and poultry feeds; development of skills in making of Natural Farming inputs/concoctions; determination of the various nutrients composition of common feed ingredients, feed texture/form; promote awareness in adapting organic farming technology to attain our endeavor for sustainable agriculture; undergo hands on in actual feed formulation using various ingredients composition and proportion/customized feed ration; promotion of the ethnoveterinary medicine as a viable alternative for livestock and poultry therapeutics; and formulation of a doable action plan.

The activity was conducted at ATI-7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City on September 20-22, 2022 with Mr. Vherney C. Cabasag, II, Development Management Officer I/ Livestock Focal Person as the Project Officer and Ms. Jessa Polo, Technical Support Staff while Mr. Reyland P. Jabonillo, Owner, Junjabs Farm, Punsod, Maribojoc, Bohol as the resource person.



Sustainability starts within...
retired professors turn full-time farmers

The Labonite's are neither famous nor illustrious, but they are "recognized" in their community.

Having served as college professors in the then Bilar Agricultural College (BAC), now Bohol Island State University (BISU)-Bilar, Bohol Campus for almost four decades, the Labonite couple etched their names in the arena of agriculture, research, and extension.

Now retired and into five (5) years of full-time farming, the Labonite's are exemplary in their fields.

LABONITE FARMS, LOOKING BACK!

Forty-three years ago (1979), Marina Añora and Jose G. Labonite married early after serving a few years with their parents (farmers). Through their meager income (P 387.00 monthly salary) from teaching, they raised five (5) beautiful children of whom successful in their own rights.

Ma. Jonalee L. Pombo, eldest, graduated Doctor in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) at the Visayas State University (VSU) in Baybay City, Leyte, a licensed DVM and worked as OFW in New Zealand; second, Marjoe Rey A. Labonite, finished BS Agriculture major in Plant Breeding at VSU, a Registered Agriculturist with Master's degree in Public Administration at Southwestern University, Cebu City, now taking Master in Agricultural Development at BISU-Bilar with a scholarship grant from ATI-RTC 7 while working as an Agricultural Technologist at the Provincial Agriculture Office, Tagbilaran City; third child, Eunice Kenee L. Serño, completed Bachelor of Science in Biology major in Ecology and Master of Science in Tropical Ecology minor in Botany at VSU, also a licensed Teacher and currently an Assistant Professor 3 of the College of Biological Sciences at same university; the fourth child Jose A. Labonite, Jr. graduated BS in Industrial Technology at BISU-Bilar, now engaged in full-time farming as Inbred Rice Seed Producer; and the youngest, Ma. Angelee A. Labonite, finished BS Psychology at Holy Name University, a Registered Psychometrician, serving as Faculty at BISU-Bilar. These children are already raising their own families except the youngest.

Mam Marin, or Doc Marin, as she was popularly known in BISU, was born last June 9, 1958, and graduated Doctor of Philosophy in Education with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture major in Entomology and a Master in Agricultural Development major in Agricultural Technology Education.

On the other hand, Sir Joe was born on August 27, 1955. He had completed his academic requirements in Doctor of Philosophy with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture major in Agronomy and a Master in Agriculture major in Soil Science.

Their credibility is an X factor in why their farm thrives in just five (5) years because all the necessary elements are there, hence, all in one package.

Labonite Family Farm is a certified Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) of the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7. The 20-hectare farm is situated at Purok 3, Barangay San Isidro, in Pilar, province of Bohol.

The 20-hectare area had 8-hectare upland, and the ownership of the property is conjugal. It was already sub-divided for tilling to their five children, who are very supportive of their farm activities, including their in-laws and grandchildren. The couple intentionally conceptualized the farm as a Family Farm to involve their young children and grandchildren in farming. "Because everybody loves to eat cereals, fruits, vegetables, eggs, and meat; thus, we need to cultivate more love in agriculture", beamed Mam Marin.

She further shared that they could not have what they wanted unless they farmed. Products of all hard work cannot be eaten except the product of farming. We can only live healthfully and peacefully through agriculture.



LABONITE FAMILY FARM TODAY

The commodities planted on the farm are Rice, bananas, vegetables, fruits, and ornamentals, and they also raise native chicken, ducks, and turkey. Our carabaos and cattles are raised by our co-farmers for-a-share. Vermi-composting and vermi production are also important components of the farm.

Their best farming practices include allowing rest period for the farm as people need to relax too; thorough land preparation as we need to educate ourselves for us to grow and develop mentally; use of quality seeds of excellent and suitable variety; employing rice-duck farming for a holistic pest problem management; maximizing reliance on the role of beneficial organisms in the farm environment for pest management, soil fertility conservation, pollination and food production; azolla production; soil and crop nutrition using right element, amount and timing; harvesting at the right time; efficient postharvest handling and storage management.

Mam Marin enthused by saying, "we started farming at an early age, and we found that agriculture is never the same as before. That time, we did not read but listened for farming technologies from our fore parents."

Today, it keeps changing, updating, and inspiring while getting more competitive. Being a DA-ATI-Certified Learning Site for Agriculture, farming is different. Apart from producing food and other products, it develops one's ability to serve as a model and channel of both indigenous and new-generation technology while making innovations to increase yield with the least cost amidst the threatening impact of climate change.

Farmers' responsibility is no longer confined to production but to serving others by extending our resources, especially our Knowledge, Skills, and Attitude (KSA).

KSA enrichment prepared Mam Marin and Sir Joe to serve others through the opportunity accorded to them by the Department of Agriculture through the Agricultural Training Institute (DA-ATI) as a certified Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA); the financial and information communication tools (ICT) support to operate as an LSA; management-enrichment training by making us a training venue; the funds generated from the training allowed them to sustain



their 12 farmworkers, three office staffs, and the three accommodation and food service working force.

Meanwhile, material awards for them are negligible. They recalled that they never promised their family, parents, and siblings. They did not and will not dream of awards; instead, they pray for mere success in almost everything they do and be very grateful for it. It is up to God or any circumstance to reward them rather than dream of it. Indeed, God gave to give them more than they deserved.

Awards for the Labonite Couple are honestly given without effort, and they, too, are joyful during disappointments because these teach them more than achievements can provide.

For them, the trust and confidence given to them by the Bohol Island State University-Bilar, where they retired from government service, and their new partner agencies since 2020, particularly DA-ATI RTC 7 and TESDA-Bohol are more than significant rewards for the efforts they spent for others.

Labonite farms' plans

Training young families and their children rather than teaching educated and well-experienced farmers. Today, nearly 620 farmers graduated from their Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) funded Farmers' Field School in collaboration with the DA-ATI's Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) Project.

Young lovers of plants and animals should start farming as early as possible on whatever commodity they want and most importantly, must consider it a business enterprise. Our aging farmers may leave us soon. Do not be afraid; start small.

We must do our part in making agriculture productive to provide the needed nutrition for our own families, thus, making our communities secure of food for every constituent and feeds for the animals and organic matter for farm soil enrichment.

Attaining food sufficiency and security for our families is modeling self-reliance, resiliency, independence, and discipline, which are essential ingredients of a prosperous and contented life.

Engaging in agriculture at an early age extends your life healthfully as you work in the open field with four out of seven Doctors of Nature: Dr. Sun, Dr. Air, Dr. Water, and Dr. Energy.

Therefore, the beginner-farmer will gain these early, not discounting the better income and the knowledge, skills, and attitude (KSA) enrichment. We need farmers to start young so that the coming generations will follow.

Moreover, the Labonite Family Farms is hoping that government and non-government agencies should consider farmers' needs like prioritizing the construction of farm-to-market roads (based on the population of farmer-users of the facility), accessible market outlets of perishable farm products to reduce food losses (construction of District Fresh Food Terminal per district); accessible supply of farm inputs to lower transport cost (construction of District Farm Input Supply Center per district); accessible repair center for farm machinery (construction of District Farm Machineries Maintenance and Repair Center per district).

We need to unify our thinking with our feelings and what we do to provide available, accessible, safe, and nutritious food to our families, communities, and country for God's glory.

Indeed, Mam Marin and Sir Joe are living manifestations that sustainability starts within. Their unguarded conversations are honest desires for the farming community, especially for our aging and young farmers. To the Labonite's, may your tribe increase.





NEGROS ORIENTAL GAINS 19 AEW-TRAINERS ON CORN

NEGROS ORIENTAL. Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) conducted the Training of Trainers cum Refresher Course on Corn Production Technologies specialized in the Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM) Batch 3 held at Southview Hotel, Brgy. Banilad, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental on August 02-04, 2022.

The three-day training aimed to: (1) Discuss the status of the Philippine Corn Industry; (2) Promote and apply the principles of SSNM for Maize production; (3) Discuss the Fertilizer and Fertilizer Use Seeds; OPV, Hybrid, and Traditional; (4) Demonstrate the use of Nutrient Expert Module for Maize production; and (5) Formulate a doable re-entry plan.

"I gained new knowledge about agriculture technologies, especially gathering data in my municipality even in a short time/period. Enlighten our minds to do better in our area assigned. I hope every one of us will be able to share and apply this new idea to farmers. Thank you ATI for inviting us and God bless us all," shared Jesusima M. Torres, Agricultural Extension Worker (AEW) from LGU Mabinay, Negros Oriental.

Mr. Jeffrey O. Awas, Project Officer, explained the Corn Industry Situationer and the Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM) Nutrient Expert Tool for Maize. Moreover, Ms. Fe S. Pilosopo highlighted the Corn Production Technology, Crop-Cut Data, and Fertilizer Management Computation. A total of 19 AEWs from across Negros Oriental participated in the activity.

LEARNING SITE *updates*

3 LSA'S CERTIFIED; 5 OTHERS RECEIVE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

CENTRAL VISAYAS. Three (3) Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) in the region are certified by the institute effective July 1, 13 and 20, 2022 respectively. These are DMC Farm, an RCEF LSA based in Campagao, Bilar, Bohol with Mr. Danilo M. Calamba, cooperador together with Tompar's Farm of Mr. Antonio P. Tompar, Lunas, Asturias and KR Integrated Friendly Farming Corporation of Mr. Roy T. Bosque of Sifio Gabi, Sudlon II, Cebu of Cebu province.

Borja Agricultural Farm and Palingcod Agricultural Farm of Bohol while Gomentoc Valley Farm of Negros Oriental.



Meanwhile, five (5) LSA's received financial assistance from ATI-7 amounting to P650,000.00. These LSA's are the following: Elnard Integrated Organic Farm of Siquijor; Egay's Farm,





NEW MEAT INSPECTORS, TRAIN UNDER NMIS-ATI7

REGIONWIDE. Consumers can be guaranteed that their food is safe, hygienic, and nutritious through meat inspection. Meat inspection can aid in the detection and prevention of public health risks including food-borne infections or chemical contaminants in food of animal origin through inspection of the live animal, carcass, offal, abattoirs, equipment, people, and transport.

Thus, the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) initiated the Basic Meat Inspection Training Course (BMITC) at ATI-7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol on August 8-31, 2022. The 20-day activity aimed to (1) Define and discuss NMIS's vision, mission and mandates; (2) Discuss operating meat establishment procedures, environment management, and food defence; (3) Identify the anatomy and physiology; (4) Enumerate and discuss the general principles of disease in food animals; (5) Discuss proper handling of food animals before slaughtering procedures and post meat establishment control; and (6) Enumerate and explain the laws, regulations and other issuances related to meat inspection.

The topics discussed during the month-long training include: Pregnancy Diagnosis, Post Meat Establishment Inspection & Enforcement Protocol, Meat Science, Beef Primal Cuts, Pork Cuts & Waste Management, Anatomy and Physiology of Food Animals (Large & Small Ruminant, Hogs, Horse, and

Poultry) system; Lymph Node m-Vital Organs, Meat Inspector, Qualifications of Meat Inspectors, Duties and responsibilities, Meat Inspector's Gadgets & Personal Protective Equipment, Overview of Meat Inspection by the Meat Inspector; Emerging and re-emerging disease Non-infectious diseases & other related conditions of dressing plant concern; Ante Mortem Inspection Procedures Postmortem Inspection Procedures; Certificate of Fitness for Human Consumption, Meat Microbiology, Handling & Disposal of Condemned or other Inedible Products & Risk Materials, Meat Safety & Quality Assurance, and Humane Handling and Slaughter of Food Animals.

The pool of trainers were Mr. Vherney C. Cabasag II, Development Management Officer-I at the same time the Project Officer of ATI-7 while the team from the Department of Agriculture – National Meat Inspection Service (DA-NMIS) include: Roseller L. Manolo, Senior Meat Control Officer; Mae Nimfa R. Cruz, Supervising Meat Control Officer; Rona Regina I. Reyes, Chief Meat Control Officer; Ma. Liz Calunsag, Meat Inspector III; Hannah Lou C. Ejercito, Meat Inspector III; Shiela S. Cepedoza, Senior Meat Control Officer; Iris Angeli C. David, Meat Inspector III Jacinto A. Mabulay, Senior Meat Control Officer.

A total of 21 participants composed of Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from across the region participated in the activity.

22 AEWs TRAIN ON RICE DUCK FARMING SYSTEM

PILAR, BOHOL. Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) conducted the Training on Rice Duck Farming System at Labonite Family Farm, San Isidro, this town on August 16-18, 2022.

The three-day activity aimed to: (1) Identify the basic components of the rice-duck farming system; (2) Enumerate the advantages and disadvantages; (3) Identify the requirements in duck raising; and (4) Demonstrate feed preparation.

Ms. Ma. Vendra B. Dongel, Veterinarian from the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian-Capitol Building Site, Cogon, Tagbilaran City discussed the Bird Flu Updates; Introduction and Situationer of Rice Duck Farming System in the Philippines.

Moreover, Ms. Marjoe Rey A. Labonite, an Agricultural Technologist from the Office of the Provincial Agriculture, Tagbilaran City, Bohol spoke about Duck Industry Bohol Situation; Rice Duck Project Experience in 2012; Rice Duck Farming as a Social Enterprise; Rice Duck Value Chain; Rice Duck Culture Basic Requirements; Azolla Culture: Setting up Azolla Pond; Rhodo Culture; Protocols for Duck Housing; Setting up Low Cost Rice Duck House; Setting up Perimeter Fence.

In addition, Ms. Marjorie A. Licatan, Veterinarian from the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian explained the Duck Diseases its treatment Prevention and Control; Feeds and Feeding Management (Nutrition); Recommended Plant-based Protein Sources for Ducks.

A total of 22 Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) participated in the activity.



24 AEWs COMPLETE TRAINING ON RESOURCE PERSON DEVELOPMENT COURSE

DUMAGUETE, NEGROS ORIENTAL -- Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) implemented the Refresher Course for AEWs cum Resource Person Development Course on Rice Production Technology at Southview Hotel, Banilad, this city on September 19-23, 2022.

The five-day activity aimed to: (1) Demonstrate the qualities of a good presenter; (2) Perform presentation skills; (3) Discuss and explain the topic being assigned as a resource person; (4) Deliver briefly effective services as a speaker; and (5) Prepare extension action plans on the delivery of different topics assigned.

Mr. Rizaldy C. Mercadal, Agriculturist II from the ATI 7 discussed the Introduction to Rice Production Technology. Moreover, Ms. Rowena L. Castillo, Manager from International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) spoke about Rice Crop Manager.

In addition, Mr. Felix John M. Refamonte, Instructor I from Northwest Samar State University-College of Agriculture and Technology explained the Pests and Diseases of Rice and its management.

A total of 24 farmers participated in the activity.



CEBU FARMER LEADERS TRAIN ON CONTROLLING ILLNESSES AND PESTS IN RICE

PINAMUNGAJAN, CEBU -- Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) conducted the Capability Enhancement Course on the Updated Palaycheck System with Rice Pest & Diseases Management for farmer leaders (Batch 4) at Lamac MPC- Pinamungajan, Cebu on August 16-18, 2022.

The three-day activity aimed to: (1) Discuss the principles and concepts of the updated PalayCheck System; (2) Identify major rice pests and diseases and their management; (3)

Perform the Agro Ecosystem Analysis and;(4) Discuss the Balance Fertilization Strategy. Mr. Arnel S. Navarro, Agricultural Technologist from the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) -Cebu discussed the Rice Morphology and Growth Stages; Overview of the PalayCheck System; KeyCheck1: Use quality seeds of a recommended variety; KeyCheck2: Well levelled field.

Moreover, Ms. Maria Salome Tabaranza, Agriculturist II from OPA, Cebu City spoke about the KeyCheck3: Practiced synchronous planting after a rest period; KeyCheck4: Sufficient number of healthy seedlings; KeyCheck5: (Nutrient Management) Sufficient nutrients from tillering and EPI and flowering; Balance Fertilization Strategy.

In addition, Mr. Joseph E. Dela Cerna, Senior Agriculturist from OPA, Cebu City explained the KeyCheck6: (Water Management) Avoided excessive water or drought stress that could affect the growth yield of the crop; KeyCheck7: (Pest Management) No significant yield loss due to pests; Special Topic: IPM, Major Insect Pest and their Natural Enemies; Special Topic: AESA; Hands-on: AESA; Processing of AESA Results and Observations and Presentation and Critiquing.

Furthermore, Mr. Jonathan O. Sumagang, Development Management Officer II from ATI-RTC VII talked about KeyCheck8: Cut and threshed the crop at the right time; KeyCheck9: Dried, Cleaned and Stored the Seeds Properly.

A total of 30 farmers participated in the activity.

AGRITALK ON HIGH VALUE TECH PRODUCES MORE THAN 100 PARTICIPANTS

CEBU PROVINCE -The AgriTalk 2022: High-Value Commodity Development Program, a webinar series on the latest agricultural technologies spearheaded by the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV), reached more than 100 participants including farmers, fishers, youth, and women, among others, on July 26-28, 2022 conducted at the municipalities of Compostela, Sogod and Borbon this province.

The 3-day seminar aimed to update the

HVCD PROGRAM *activities* by shanemie carelle d. pradera and isabel j. racho



participant's knowledge, attitude, and skills on High-Value Crops Production Technology with emphasis on Pests and Diseases and its Integrated Control and Management and the use of Biocons Identification and Proper Handling of Hazardous Chemicals.

Ms. Ofelia Acabal, an Agriculturist, from the regulatory Division of DA-RFO 7 discussed the topic of High-Value Crop Production Technology (Vegetables and Banana) with Emphasis on Insect Pests and Friendly Insects and Its Integrated Control Measures and Management and the Use of Biocons. In addition, Mr. Elmer Alcosoba, from DA-RFO 7, talked about the Identification and Proper Handling of Hazardous Chemicals. Furthermore, Dr. Bienvenido Acabal Jr, Chief of the RCPC Division of DA-RFO7, explained the

topic of Vegetable and Banana Diseases and Its Control Measures and Management; Identification and Proper Handling of Hazardous Chemicals, and How to make Organic Pesticide Remedies.

The activity is the last batch of AgriTalk conducted this year; the first batch was held in June 2022 and aired via ATI-Central Visayas' Facebook Page which featured corn technology and best practices.



CACAOIBA: REFRESHER COURSE ON CACAO REHABILITATION POST HARVEST OPERATION AND CROP MAINTENANCE

REGIONWIDE. Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) implemented the Refresher Course on Cacao Rehabilitation Post Harvest Operation and Crop Maintenance held at Hotel Gabriella, Dao District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol on August 16-18, 2022.

The three-day training aimed to: (1) Discuss the Situation of the Philippine Cacao Industry; (2) Enumerate the crop management in the rejuvenation of old and unproductive cacao trees; (3) Demonstrate the techniques of cacao rehabilitation; (4) Explain the cost and return analysis of cacao production; (5) Elaborate the postharvest operations and crop maintenance of cacao farm; and (6) Craft a doable re-entry plan.

"First time nako nga mu-attend ug training nga ingon ani gyud ka bongga. Very accommodating ang training management. Mura man ug dili na lang unta ta muundang ug training. Nagpasalamat ko ni sir Henry nga nadungagan ang amung kahibalo sa farm management. Lahi ra gyud mo conduct ug training ang taga sa government, nindot kaayu. I-promise nako ni sir Henry, nga ang imung gitudlo nako sir, ihatag nako ni sa mga farmer. Kay naa may gina-ingon nga ang kabalo nga atung nakat-unan, dakong

garbo nga ikashare ngadto sa atung mga farmers nga wala pa gyud sila kahibalo ug unsaon pag atiman sa cacao," expressed Noel Tinambacan, Member of Bohol Cacao Council.

Mr. John Dennis R. Ranario, Project Officer, explained the Situation on Philippine Cacao Industry. Moreover, Mr. Henry S. Binahon highlighted the following topics: (1) Selection of Cacao Variety; (2) Rejuvenation of Old Cacao Trees/Crop Management; (3) Demonstration of "Renew to Restart"; (4) Post-Harvest Practices of Cacao Production; and (5) Cost and Return Analysis.

"Nagpasalamat ko sa ATI no, kay naapil ang amung lungsod ng ana invite ani nga training. Last year naka attend ko ug virtual training sa cacao rehab. I think si sir Henry rapod gihapon to ang resource speaker, pero lahi ra jud kaayu ug impact ang naay actual experience sa field. Kanang makasulay gyud ko sa hands-on ug unsaon gyud nimu pag plano sa cacao. Sa training management team, I can see that they very dedicated sa ila nga trabaho, very accommodating, very humble, considerate sila sa concerns sa matag usa. Thank you kaayu ninyo mam, especially sa transport. Sa atung resource person, ofcourse well versed kaayu, very informative sa pagdeliver sa discussion, and na meet gyud niya atung expectations. Sa co-participants, during sa hands-on and lectures makita gyud nato ang participation ug cooperation sa matag usa. Thank you kaayu nga vibe ra gyud kaayu tang tanan," shared Christian Rabor, Technician from LGU, Amlan, Negros Oriental.

A total of 25 participants composed of 21 AEWs and four farmers from across the region participated in the activity.

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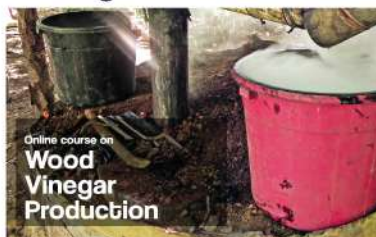
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