

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ATI IN CENTRAL VISAYAS

KAUGMARAN

APRIL - JUNE 2023

VOLUME 7 | NO. 2



Tay' Ursulo

Seafarer turned corn-farmer-
breeder-producer in Bohol 8-11



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On our cover features
"Tay' Ursulo,
Seafarer turned corn-farmer-breeder-
producer from Dimiao, Bohol"



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(n) Cebuano-Bisaya term
for development

First F2F AgriTalk Held in Siquijor Island

by shanemie carelle d. pradera



SIQUIJOR. The AgriTalk 2023 entitled Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Stand Balance Fertilization Strategies in the Region spearheaded by the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV), had its first face-to-face on April 19, 2023 at E.I. Suites this province with over 50 participants including farmers, fishers, youth, and women, among others.

The one-day seminar aimed to (1) Explain the latest agricultural technologies on climate change adaptation and mitigation; and (2) Describe the benefits and significance of balance fertilization strategy.

Ms. Grace Len Dagala, Science Research Specialist from the Department of Agriculture - Bohol Agricultural Promotion Center (DA-BAPC) discussed the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Strategies. In addition, Mr. Felix Tubiano, Science Research Specialist from DA-BAPC talked about Balance Fertilization Strategy.

The activity is the 1st batch of AgriTalk conducted this year; the 2nd batch is scheduled in the second semester which will feature high-value crops. Started in 2020, AgriTalk is a webinar series that focuses on the latest agricultural technologies.



Training on Banana Processing Held in Cebu

CEBU. A three-day Training on Banana Processing with Emphasis on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and Food Safety was held on May 3-5, 2023, at Cocohub, Lamac Multi-purpose Cooperative in Mohon, Colonia, Tuburan, this province. The training had participants coming from the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, and Negros Oriental. A total of 19 agricultural extension workers and farmer leaders completed the training.

Said activity aimed to enhance the knowledge, attitude, and skills of participants on banana processing technology with a particular emphasis on GMP and food safety protocols. By the end of the training, participants were expected to have learned about GMP, different food safety protocols, the significance of post-harvest processing, demonstrated the banana post-harvest processing, and crafted a doable re-entry plan.

Participants expressed their satisfaction with the training, Kevin Gasatan, an instructor at Bohol Island State University, shared how he appreciated the facilitators' kindness and the resource persons' willingness to share their expertise. Furthermore, he praised the training venue's food and accommodation, recommending it as an ideal one.

Another participant, Helen Marabulas, an agriculture technician from LGU-Dagohoy, emphasized the training's practicality, particularly in the safe preparation of food. Helen commended the Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center 7 staff, Lamac MPC management, and resource persons for their support throughout the training. She also expressed her hope that ATI could conduct more training sessions like this in the future.

Everperlie Vicente, a farmer-leader from BELA-Tuburan, expressed gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the training. She described the training as a great help to their livelihood, as it provided additional knowledge in banana processing, which could generate more income for their group. Moreover, she was astounded by the hospitality of the Lamac community and their comfortable training venue, summing it up as an excellent experience.

Overall, the training was an intensive and informative workshop that enhanced participants' knowledge and skills in banana processing technology. The training also fostered a sense of togetherness among the participants and provided a platform for sharing knowledge among each other.



AEWs Undergo Extension Delivery Systems

CEBU. Agricultural extension workers (AEWs) are vital members of the agriculture industry. They provide important services and extension support that help farmers improve their agricultural practices and enhance their productivity. To develop the skills of newly hired AEWs, a three-day Training on Extension Delivery Systems was conducted from May 2-4, 2023, at the Golden Prince Hotel & Suites in Cebu City, this province.

The training had several enabling objectives, which included defining extension delivery services, discussing the approaches, strategies and extension methodologies, appreciating the importance of farmers' participation in extension services, improving communication and presentation skills, enhancing skills in facilitating group discussions, and developing skills in preparing visual aids.

Participants came from different municipalities and cities of Liloan, Danao City, Tuburan, Santander, City of Naga, Alegria, Samboan, City of Carcar, Alcantara, Cordova, Sogod, Argao, Minglanilla, Compostela, Badian, San Francisco, Ronda, San Remigio, and Cordova from the province of Cebu.

The main expected output from this training is the microteaching, where participants conducted individual teaching demonstrations among the whole group.

Miss Reigel R. Montecillo of LGU-Tuburan expressed her gratitude and considered it a great privilege to attend the training. She learned different strategies, approaches, and even how to be an efficient communicator, making her confident enough to extend or deliver services to people effectively.

Mr. John Niño T. Lucero from LGU-Minglanilla found the training to be very helpful and that it exceeded his expectations. He appreciated the facilities provided and the wise selection of resource persons, who made the training practical and entertaining.

Mr. Lemuel T. Celeste from LGU-Alcantara on the other hand was also impressed by the skills and knowledge of the different facilitators. He appreciated how they managed their time well and made the training interactive and enjoyable. He found the training to be essential with a lot of tips and good suggestions for extension workers in agriculture.

Overall, the training was a success, achieving its objective of developing the skills of newly-hired AEWs on extension delivery systems. The participants had learned new tools, approaches, strategies, and methods in delivering services to farmers, making them more efficient and productive in their duties as extensionists.

Enhancing Knowledge and Skills: AEWs Attend Training on Proposal Development



REGIONWIDE. Picking the Right Need: Training on Proposal Development in ATI-7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol was successfully concluded on June 15, 2023. A total of 20 agricultural extension workers and farmer-leaders from Bohol, Cebu, and Siquijor attended the three-day training. The terminal objective of the training is to enhance the participants' knowledge and skills in producing measurable, attainable, and realistic project proposals.

The enabling objectives of the training include identifying the basic concept of project proposal development, developing writing skills fit for project proposal development, designing or developing a comprehensive project proposal, and crafting a doable re-entry plan. The participants had the opportunity to learn from experienced resource persons and actively engage with their co-participants from diverse locations.

The facilitators and resource persons received high commendations from the attendees for their friendliness and expertise in the field of project proposal development. The training venue, accommodation, and food were conducive to learning and provided a healthy surrounding for the attendees to relax and inhale fresh air while assimilating information.

Some attendees shared how they benefited from the training. Anameh C. Patiga, an agricultural extension worker of LGU-Badian, Cebu, stated that she learned important information that would help her in her interactions with farmers and fisherfolk. Ma. Reina P. Perez, a Farm Owner (LSA) of Gazebo de Loondon, Loon, Bohol, shared how challenging the training was, but it was worth it. She is confident that the knowledge and skills she gained from the training will aid her in handling different cooperatives in Bohol.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the Agricultural Training Institute for providing this much-needed training. The training on proposal development was essential for the participants to improve their writing skills fit for project proposal development and to design comprehensive project proposals. The attendees have gained practical knowledge and skills that they can apply in their line of work. With the success of this training, more agricultural extension workers, farmers, and fisherfolk can improve their access to necessary services and reach success in their endeavors.

Infographics training held

CENTRAL VISAYAS. 20 agricultural extension workers (AEW) from various local government units in Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, and Siquijor have participated in a training on "Think Before You Click: Training on Infographics" last May 23-25, 2023. The training, which was hosted by ATI-7 Training Complex in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, aimed to cultivate development-oriented perspectives and functional capabilities among agricultural extension workers for sustainable agricultural development.

The three-day training covered various topics such as lay-outing and basic principles of designs, the basics of photoshop, how to use online tool in IEC development, and crafting a viable re-entry plan. At the end of the training, participants were expected to be able to create their own IEC materials using photoshop and Canva. Two experts from the Agricultural Training Institute Regional Training Center 7, May Joy P. Luzon and Rhea Kristene Q. Bongcac, served as resource persons during the three-day training.

For Louis Jun Daga-ang, an AEW of LGU-Sevilla, Bohol, the training was very informative, especially in today's age of social media where information is primarily distributed through the internet. *"This training and learnings that I have acquired will be used to create IEC's and other materials to disseminate more information to farmers and fisherfolks,"* Daga-ang said.

Nicole Ness Jecca Carin, Information Officer of the Provincial Agriculture Office in Negros Oriental, shared that the various strategies on IEC, photoshop, and Canva taught in the training would help AEWs mold and use their knowledge on creating IEC materials. *"I hope this would apply to future use and help our co-workers in order to achieve a positive outcome,"* Carin added.

Similarly, Nicole Jimmy Ybañez, an Information Officer from DA-RFO 7 in Cebu City, expressed gratitude towards ATI for the opportunity to participate in an educational and informative training. *"As an information officer, I could already communicate better and disseminate information using infographics through utilizing photoshop and Canva that was taught by ATI,"* Ybañez said.

Overall, the training not only equipped the participants with technical skills but also helped them communicate better and disseminate information more effectively to their target audience. This was evident through their respective training outputs, where they have created their IECs using the tools introduced to them. As AEW, the knowledge and skills they have acquired would be highly beneficial in promoting sustainable agricultural development in their respective areas.



Technical Briefing on Selected ICT Tools in Rice Production Held in Bohol and Siquijor

CENTRAL VISAYAS. Rice is a staple food for many people around the world. In order to meet the increasing demand for this crop, farmers must constantly adapt to new technologies that can help improve their yields and reduce losses. In response to this demand, a Technical Briefing on Selected ICT Tools in Rice Production was conducted on June 21, 2023, at E.I. Suites, Poblacion, Siquijor, Siquijor, and on June 23, 2023, at Berachah Inland Resort & Recreation Center – Sto. Nino, Talibon, Bohol.

The aim of this technical briefing was to provide farmers and agricultural technicians with an understanding of the importance of basic ICT tools in rice production and to demonstrate the function of each tool. During the briefing, several apps were discussed, including Binhing Palay, Edamuhan, MOET and AgriDOC. These apps are designed to help farmers in seed selection, weed identification, nutrient diagnosis and farm record keeping.

Jessica Torreon, an agricultural extension worker (AEW) from LGU-Talibon, Bohol, stated, **"It has a good impact on the farmers. I hope we can share what we have learned today not only with the farmers but also with the younger generation so that they can be excited about agriculture."** The sentiment was echoed by other participants, including Allan C. Aurit, a farmer from Brgy. Sto. Niño, Talibon,

Bohol, who expressed his gratitude for being able to attend the seminar and how helpful it was for the farmers.

The technical briefing was also an excellent opportunity for farmers to learn about the digital way of living, as discussed by Harvy M. Yarag, an agricultural technician from Lazi, Siquijor. He said, **"it's a great pleasure and privilege to be part of this training because I've learned a lot about ICT tools and their importance. They are applicable to everybody, especially to farmers who need to adopt these new technologies to make their work easier."**

Teodosia A. Evangelista, a Secretary of the Irrigators Association, San Roque, Talibon, Bohol, added, **"I learned about ICT Tools in rice production that are so helpful for the farmers and agricultural technicians. These tools can help us to make work easier."**

In conclusion, the Technical Briefing on Selected ICT Tools in Rice Production was an informative and educational seminar that provided farmers and agricultural technicians with an understanding of the importance of ICT tools in rice production. The knowledge shared will help them improve their yield and reduce potential losses. It was also an opportunity for them to learn about the digital way of living and be excited about modern agriculture.



OFPRAB first PGS Certified; road to Organic Certifying Bodies (OCB) in Central Visayas

Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. A batch of organic farmer-practitioners from this party, the Organic Farmer-Practitioners Association of Bayawan City (OFPRAB), completed a training on the Certified Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Group Towards Accreditation as Organic Certifying Bodies (OCB) on June 12 – 16, 2023 at Julsams Pension House and Function Hall in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. OFPRAB is the first in Central Visayas to be certified as OCB.

The training aimed to enhance the participants' skills and knowledge on developing internal standards and manuals of operation, the requirements and procedures for accreditation, and the conduct of peer review and certification protocols.

The Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) is an alternative approach to organic certification that involves the active participation of local stakeholders in the verification process. It is a grassroots system that enables farmers to certify each other's produce as organic based on defined standards agreed upon by the community. This helps to ensure that organic agriculture is accessible to small-scale farmers who may have difficulty meeting the requirements of conventional certification...

To be continued on page 7

Empowering Farmers and Extension Workers: The Success of the Training of Trainers on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Batch 2

CEBU CITY. The Training of Trainers on Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) Batch 2 was held in Golden Prince Hotel & Suites, this city from May 8 - 17, 2023. The 10-day training aimed to capacitate PGS groups on establishing and operating in compliance with the organic agriculture standards and corresponding technical regulations. Twenty farmers and agricultural extension workers participated in the said training.

During the training session, participants successfully completed the necessary objectives and gained a clear understanding of various important provisions, including the implementing rules and regulations of the Organic Agriculture Act amended by RA 11511. This includes Participatory Guarantee Systems (PGS), Organic Agriculture Standards, the National List of Permitted Substances for Organic Agriculture, general requirements and procedures for PGS group accreditation, protocol for peer review and

certification, and current applicable Philippine National Standards (PNS) for organic agriculture.

The participants have shared their positive feedback about the training. Lilibeth B. Carillo, of the Organic Agriculture Practitioner Association in the City of Naga, expressed her gratitude for the informative sessions and the opportunity to learn more about PGS. She noted the cooperation of the other participants and their respect and trust in one another. Ronilo R. Montejo, from Cebu Organic Agriculture Cooperative, gave the training management team a 9 out of 10 rating, commending their effort and commitment in successfully facilitating the training. Gloria G. Pocot, of PGS Sugbo, shared how the training provided both theoretical learning and practical action, empowering them to engage in service for others. Finally, King Phillip Caballes, of Seed4Com Masters Farm, highlighted the resource person's ability to effectively convey their knowledge and experiences to the participants.

Based on the evaluation from the participants, they highly appreciated the mock inspection exercise during a farm visit on the 9th day of the training. The exercise provided an avenue for them to practice and put into action all the theoretical learning they have learned in the past few days of the training.

In conclusion, the TOT on PGS Batch 2 was a success in providing essential tools to empower different stakeholders towards promoting PGS. All participants gained a lot of learnings, which they can apply to their organic farming. Furthermore, the co-participants' diversity in personalities and experiences allowed them to learn from one another. The resource persons were effective in transmitting their knowledge, and the training management team made the training productive and fruitful.



First PGS Certified; road to OCV... continuation

The training was attended by 20 members of the OFPRAB. The participants praised the training program, calling it informative and well-organized. They appreciated the comprehensive coverage of important topics, which they believed would be crucial to their success in operating the OFPRAB PGS as an OCB. The participants also commended the food served

during the training and the venue, which was quiet and conducive to learning.

The co-participants were well-versed and participative, making the training engaging and interactive. The resource persons were knowledgeable and able to clarify difficult topics with ease. The Training Management Team (TMT) was also praised for being approachable, amiable, and helping the participants in all the activities. The participants were thankful for the support and training capability provided by the DA RFO 7 and ATI RTC 7.

In conclusion, the training program was highly successful in enhancing the skills and knowledge of the OFPRAB members in the PGS system. With this training, the OFPRAB will be better equipped to operate as an OCB and provide certification services to organic farmers in Bayawan City, Negros Oriental. Overall, the training on the Certified PGS Group Towards Accreditation as OCB is a step in the right direction towards ensuring that small-scale farmers have access to organic certification. The PGS system is a valuable tool that promotes community, transparency, and integrity in the organic supply chain. It has the potential to improve the livelihoods of countless farmers and to promote sustainable agricultural practices for the benefit of all.





Seafarer turned

Corn-farmer-breeder-producer in Bohol

COVER story 
by merrian piquero-soliva, ph.d

“Good produce comes from quality seeds. We cannot achieve this if we are dependent on commercial seed producers. Corn breeding is not only for experts but also for big companies. Farmers or, shall I say, smallholders, too, are capable of producing high-quality seeds, and I am a manifestation of this. Of course, this cannot be done without our all-out dedication, continuous learning, and hard work.” These are the very words of Ursulo V. Taganahan, Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) on Corn Cooperator.

Humble beginning

Schooled by a corn-farmer father, Ursulo V. Taganahan, 60 years old, from Cabanbanan, Dimiao, Bohol, is a corn farmer by heart, and he attributed his farming prowess to his father, who labored to support his family.

Tatay Ursulo is married to Imelda with four (4) successful children and has been a corn farmer for nearly five (5) decades. He considered himself evolving since, like typical farmers, he also practiced the old ways. His love and dedication fueled Tatay Ursulo to continue farming and do more. Armed with experience and traditional methods, he thrived to become one of what he is today.

He recalled starting corn farming when he was around 10 or 12 years old. The land and the field were his playground. He never considered farm activities a burden; instead, it was a place full of fun and contentment because he enjoyed seeing the fruits of his labor.

Tatay Ursulo is a graduate of a two-year course in seamanship at the Philippine Maritime Institute (PMI)-Bohol and graduated last 1996. He was an international seafarer for 18 years as Buson (someone who handles the sails, and supervising deck crews) where he taught and manages personnel. When, he came home during off-contract, he made sure that his corn farming is his priority. Once, called back for duty overseas, his wife Imelda will take charge in the farm.

His journey in corn farming

When you come to Dimiao, Bohol, and ask for a whole year-round corn farmer, the place and person that the locals point to is barangay Cabanbanan, where Tatay Ursulo lives.

His corn farm is situated in a sloppy area. He recalled that he had difficulty in the production, most especially during the rainy season.

Until such time, he embraced the Sloping Agricultural Land Technology (SALT), otherwise known as contour farming, by using an A-Frame. There, he discovered that the cuttings and the roots of the newly-harvested corn are best for preventing soil erosion and a good fertilizer source.

He shared that the cuttings are placed on the contour lines, thus creating a living barrier that traps sediments and gradually transforms the sloping

land into terraced land.

After two (2) weeks, he started to plant anew. His tip is to alternately plant one variety to the other. This is to reap good harvest.

He beamed with pride that he planted his farm four (4) times a year, alternating corn seed varieties with good yield, regardless of the weather.

Self-taught corn-seeds breeder

Tatay Ursulo disclosed that all the corn seeds he planted are products of his breeding, apart from those given to him by Bohol's Department of Agriculture-Provincial Agricultural Technology Coordinating Office (DA-PATCO).

He learned his breeding skills through eagerness and willingness. He first encountered this activity in South Cotabato, where Bio Seeds trained farmers. More so, he keeps innovating and experimenting until he can produce the kind of high-yielding corn seeds he calls his own.

When he went to Hungary with his wife Imelda to visit his daughter, who



married a Hungarian who happened to be a private technician in the country specializing in corn breeding, his skills were elevated, espousing his acquired and honed learning to the practice of one of the fastest developing country.

His advocacy and contribution

Tatay Ursulo is a certified Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) on Corn by the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI-RTC 7). He is very prominent in the Local Government Unit of Dimiao, Bohol, through his achievements. Hence, he is considered a model farmer because some neighboring farmers also ventured into corn farming. One of his strong advocacies, which he consider to be among the community's strengths, is he is very much willing to help farmers and teach them how to breed corn. However, his



requirements include utmost dedication, passion, and sincerity because, with these virtues, all is possible.

He even calls youths engrossed with social media or mobile-based games to stop. Instead of wasting their time on this activity, why not give importance to corn farming, where great income awaits. He said: "Imagine, a one-hectare corn farm, if nurtured well, can harvest with a whopping income of P80,000.00 to P90,000.00 pesos"

Continuing calling

Tatay Ursulo also emphasized that corn farming is not all coated with sweets because there are also a lot of barriers along the way. Part of this is the market. Though he confessed that corn is now considered to have a growing market demand by the public, especially on boiled young corn cob locally known as "tilaub", there are also instances that there are downtimes in terms of sales.

Hence, he encouraged his co-farmers to refrain from selling their harvested corn to middlemen. Instead, have it dried, milled into cracked corn, and directly sell to local agrivet supplies, wherein they have a high buying price for this with the corn bran and corn meal.

As to pests infestation, Tatay Ursulo's farm is not spared especially on fall army worm. He even recalled half of his produce was affected, resulting in low yield and production loss.

Such ill effects did not hamper his will; instead, he persevered continuously to plant corn. What he learned from the experience is to monitor the crop constantly. Once white specks are visible on the corn leaves, insecticide application is recommended during the morning and early evening.

"Trials during farming are part of the process. Sometimes, we are winners, but often, losers. Thus, success comes with full-time dedication and courage. So, let us embrace all facets of farming," disclosed Tatay Ursulo.

Plans

With the growing demand for corn, Tatay Ursulo hoped that the government would provide them with farm inputs such as fertilizer and farm tractors that could help them prosper in their farm activity. Most significantly, farm labor is scarce since the community lacks enough workforce. Notably, he is very hopeful that his corn farming will thrive, and he also encouraged new generation of farmers to make the industry productive continuously. Without eagerness and turnover, farming will be only a thing of the past.



CFID PROGRAM activities

by maryjane flor s. patulilic



20 AEWs and farmers, now coconut specialist

Central Visayas. The Regional Coconut Specialist Training Course was held in Pacheco's Inn, Poblacion, Ubay, Bohol from March 23 to April 4, 2023. The 12-day specialist course was attended by twenty agricultural extension workers (AEWs) and farmers from the provinces of Bohol, Cebu, and Negros Oriental. The goal of the training was to equip the participants with the necessary knowledge to become resource persons on topics related to the coconut value-chain.

At the end of the training, the participants were able to discuss the Philippine Coconut Industry Situation and Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) and identify different leadership styles commonly used in organizations. They were also able to discuss the different parts and functions of a coconut and seed nut, recommend appropriate coconut varieties based on farmer needs, and recommend appropriate plantation management methods and practices.

Moreover, the participants were able to distinguish symptoms of common coconut pests and diseases, explain different methods of farm diversification, demonstrate proper harvesting and postharvest practices applied to coconut, and apply effective communication strategies through microteaching. They recognized economic variables that affect profits in the coconut value chain, described the environmental and personnel safety precautions to be observed along the coconut value chain, discussed the importance of farm clustering, assessed farms based on their Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) requirements, and crafted a doable re-entry plan.

The training was a success, and the participants had a lot to say about their experiences. For instance, Roxan Degamo of PCA said that the training equipped her with additional knowledge, and the facilitators were approachable and knowledgeable. Ella May Ejoc from LGU-Catigbian shared that the training was informative and could be a great help for all coconut farmers. She also appreciated the facilitators, the RP, and her co-participants. Jesson Tamundoc from Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative praised the TMT headed by Joemelyn Sumagang for the knowledge he gained from the training.

In conclusion, the Regional Coconut Specialist Training Course was a successful training that equipped participants with the knowledge, skills, and attitude to become resource persons on topics related to the coconut value-chain. The facilitators, RP, co-participants, training venue, accommodation, and food selection were all praiseworthy, and the participants expressed their gratitude to all those involved in organizing the training.

Newly train GAP on Coconut graduates, Ready to Educate Others

CENTRAL VISAYAS. Training of Trainers (TOT) on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for Coconut was conducted on April 24 – 28, 2023 at ATI-7 Complex Hall, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol. This training was attended by 19 agricultural extension workers from different Local Government Units in Central Visayas. The main goal of this training was to enable the participants to effectively deliver topics related to GAP on coconut. The participants were able to gain new knowledge and develop skills through a series of enabling objectives.

In the course of the five-day training, participants were able to learn various topics related to coconut GAP. Firstly, they were briefed about the Philippine Coconut Industry and the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP). Secondly, they identified the most commonly used coconut varieties in the Philippines and their environmental requirements. Next, they were able to understand the coconut plantation management processes and describe the concept of farm diversification vis-a-vis coconut intercropping. They also learned about the harvesting and post-harvest handling processes of coconut as well as the economics of coconut, and different appropriate management techniques against the pests and diseases of coconut. Lastly, the participants applied the GAP coconut certification requirements during their actual certification process in their field practicum.

Some of the participants expressed their gratitude towards the organizers of the training. Jorgette Fathy Q. Balorio from PCA-Region 7 was thankful for the knowledge gained from the training, while Grecilda S. Angco from LGU-Tuburan praised the excellent and delicious food served during the event. Romeo Pique Jr. from LGU-Guihulngan was grateful to the facilitators, co-participants, and ATI-7 for the successful event. The training management team were praised for their efforts in conducting such an informative and well-organized event.

In conclusion, the TOT on GAP for Coconut was a success and highly beneficial to the participants. The new knowledge and skills acquired will be useful in their respective fields and hopefully, will have a positive impact in the coconut industry in the region.





Maximizing Land Utilization Through Coconut-Cacao Farming

CENTRAL VISAYAS. Maximizing the utilization of land through proper intercropping methods is a crucial aspect of sustainable agriculture. The Coconut-Cacao Farming System is a prime example of a successful intercropping model. The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI-RTC 7) organized a Training of Trainers (TOT) on Coconut-Cacao Farming System. The training was held from June 19 to 23, 2023, at the ATI-RTC 7 Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Agricultural extension workers and farmers from different barangays in Negros Oriental, Cebu, and Bohol attended the TOT.

The TOT aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to educate others on coconut-cacao intercropping. The terminal objective of the training was for participants to be able to effectively deliver topics related to the farming system. The enabling objectives included identifying the components of the CFIDP, defining the importance of intercropping coconut lands, describing the advantages and benefits of coconut-cacao intercropping, contrasting the farm layouts of the coconut-cacao cropping model, demonstrating recommended farming practices, discussing economic opportunities, explaining planning considerations for presentations, and formulating a doable re-entry plan.

Similarly, Nestor Campaner, Municipal Agriculturist from Compostela, Cebu, expressed his gratitude for the valuable insights and learnings obtained from the training, ***"I gained a deep understanding of the best practices for cultivation, including land preparation, seed selection, and pest management. I also learned about effective harvesting techniques, post-harvest processing, and value-added product development. The training emphasized sustainable farming methods such as organic fertilizer and integrated pest management."***

The TOT provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of the coconut-cacao farming system and its benefits. It also provided an avenue to equip participants to become effective trainers and promote the growth of this sustainable intercropping model.

Integrated Pest and Diseases Management in Mango: A Training for AEWs and Farmer-Leaders

CENTRAL VISAYAS. Farming is a significant source of livelihood in many parts of the world, especially in Southeast Asia. Among the popular crops grown in the region, mango is among the favorites for its sweet and flavorful taste. But like any other crops, mangoes are prone to pests and diseases that can affect its yield and quality.

To address these challenges, a three-day training on Integrated Pests Diseases Management in Mango was held on May 17-19, 2023, at Hotel Eight-Fifty, Ipil, Jagna, Bohol. It aimed to equip Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and farmer-leaders with the knowledge and skills to manage pests and diseases in mango using integrated approaches. This training was participated by agricultural extension workers and farmers from the different provinces of Bohol, Cebu and Negros Oriental.

Further, the training aims that the participants will possess a comprehensive understanding of Integrated Pests Management (IPM) principles and methods. They will be capable of listing the objectives and components of IPM, explaining the concepts behind IPM, and providing a detailed analysis of both the advantages and disadvantages of IPM. Additionally, they will acquire the skills to execute integrated pests and diseases management in mango production and demonstrate an understanding of Agro-Ecosystem Analysis.

The participants shared their reactions and insights about the training. They acknowledged the knowledge and skills they gained and how it could help them impart the learnings to the farmers. They also appreciated the training management team's effort for organizing the event and being accommodating and approachable.

The Agricultural Training Institute RTC 7 is hopeful that the participants could apply and share the IPM practices to their respective communities and promote better mango production. By imparting knowledge through training and hands-on experiences, participants can improve their capacity to contribute to the development of their communities and the region's agricultural industry. Overall, the training on IPM in Mango was a success.



Be Amazed with Bambooning: Training of Trainers on Sustainable Bamboo Production and Enterprise

Bamboo is a resource that grows quickly, is renewable, and is simple to cultivate. It is an incredibly flexible material with numerous uses such as construction, clothing, food, and fuel. This wonderful plant grows in both tropical and temperate areas and is extremely durable, requiring no pesticides or herbicides to thrive.

Ingredients from the black bamboo stalk are used to treat renal disorders in China. The roots and leaves of this plant have also been used to treat venereal disease and cancer. According to accounts from a tiny community in Indonesia, water from the culm (the side branches) is used to effectively treat bone disorders.

Shoots are used mainly in Asian food preparations. In Japan, the antioxidant properties of the bamboo skin prevent bacterial growth, and are used as natural food preservatives.

Exotic woods, such as mango, are frequently utilized in Oriental rugs. Purchasing a bamboo rug ensures the preservation of a tree. The possibilities and its uses are endless.

Seeing its economic potential, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas based in Cabawan, Tagbilaran City, Bohol conducted the Be Amazed with Bambooning: Training of Trainers on Sustainable Bamboo Production and Enterprise.

The training aims to capacitate the Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) in the region on bamboo production, processing, value adding and marketing. Specifically, discuss the ecological & economic importance of bamboo; examine the value chain of bamboo; identify the important bamboo species in the Philippines and in the world and its importance; enumerate the propagation techniques and nursery establishment; perform and demonstrate the rehabilitation, harvest and post-harvest handling for bamboo.

"It is a pleasure to be part of this great learning experience which really gave me so many insights on the sustainable bamboo production & enterprise. During this seminar I acquired new information and new experience. I learned the problems encountered and the malpractices of harvesting bamboo and in order to correct it is to adapt & apply the 5 basic steps on the bamboo rehabilitation of unmanaged clumps. I am satisfied with the information received during these 5 days seminar", expressed Mr. Niel Clyde A. Rubia -Revegetation Officer/ Farmer-Leader from Carmen Copper Corporation, Inc.

23 participants from across the region participated the activity held on June 26-30, 2023 at Sea Dream Resorts, Sea Dream Drive, Masaplod Sur, Dauin, Negros Oriental.





Another batch of farmer leaders and AEWs on Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice Seeds and Farm Mechanization

REGIONWIDE. The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Central Visayas conducted a Training of Trainers (TOT) on the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice Seeds and Farm Mechanization with Re-Entry Plans on April 10 - 21, 2023. The objective of the training was to help farmers become competitive through the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) and to improve yield and income of rice farmers in non-RCEF provinces.

The training was held in the Labonite Family Farm in San Isidro, Pilar, Bohol and attended by 28 agricultural extension workers and farmer leaders from various municipalities and cities in Bohol, Cebu, and Siquijor provinces. The participants were trained on the modified season-long Farmer Field School for the Production of High-Quality Inbred Rice Seeds.

The training covered various topics, including the interpretation of the sense of mission to help farmers become competitive through RCEF, the principles of the PalayCheck System on the production of high-quality inbred rice seeds, and training management skills and knowledge on basic financial management.

Participants appreciated the training, highlighting its practicality and helpfulness in increasing their yield. Farmers also praised the excellent sharing of knowledge by the resource persons who provided them with knowledge and skills that would help them improve their farming practices.

The TOT, with re-entry plans, was designed to complement interventions to improve the yield and income of rice farmers in non-RCEF provinces. Participants of these training programs shall be beneficiaries of the inbred rice seeds to be distributed by PhilRice.

The success of the training signifies the importance of providing continuous support and training to farmers to help them become competitive and increase their income. It is an essential part of the government's efforts to improve the overall agriculture sector in the country.

19 AEWs attend Rice Seed Production and Certification Training in Siquijor

CENTRAL VISAYAS. Last May 23 to 25, 2023, some 19 agricultural extension workers from different LGUs in Bohol, Negros Oriental, and Siquijor attended a refresher course on inbred rice seed production and certification for seed inspectors. This was held at Ocean View Farm and Cottages in Olang, Maria, Siquijor.

The primary goal of this training is to evaluate the seed inspectors' capabilities in performing their functions and providing technical services to seed growers. The course aims to enable the participants to understand the guidelines, policies, and mechanics on seed certification for rice seed production and classify varietal selection and characteristics of the approved National Seed Industry Council varieties.

Furthermore, it allowed the participants to differentiate the insect pest management, integrated nutrient management, and integrated cultural management for rice seed production, describe harvest and post-harvest technology for rice seed production, demonstrate the seed testing procedures and standards, apply field inspection and rouging, seed sampling, bagging, and tagging, and employ the roles of seed inspectors.

The program concluded with feedback from the participants expressing their gratitude towards the agencies and personnel who supported the event. Francisco S. Yaeso, from Bayawan City, Negros Oriental, said, **"Attending training is an opportunity for the employee to acquire knowledge, new ideas and upgrading of guidelines and policies. Thanks for upscaling my capacity to do my task in the rice industry."**

Rosie S. Autentico, a seed inspector from DA-BES 7, Ubay, Bohol, added, **"I was refreshed and was updated about the new technologies for rice production and our responsibilities as seed inspectors. Further, my knowledge on policies and guidelines on seed certification, seed sampling, and seed tagging was also refreshed."**

Abrian A. Leonardo, from OPA-Siquijor, shared, **"I am thankful that I am part of this training, this is a big help for me as a new seed coordinator as well as seed inspector because I can enhance my skills and knowledge to perform the role and function of being a seed inspector."** Attending training and upgrading one's skills and knowledge is vital to providing quality service and performing both old and new responsibilities.



RICE PROGRAMactivities

by maryjane flor s. patullilic

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April-June 2023

LEARNING SITE updates



ATI certifies 2 Learning Sites in the region

CENTRAL VISAYAS – The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) has certified additional two (2) Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) in the region for the second quarter of 2023.

The following farms are the newly certified LSAs. For Bohol, it is Tan-Awing Perma Farm at Brgy. Bicao, Carmen with Manuel B. Decasa, Jr. as farm co-operator.

For Cebu, it is UNI-ECO FARM AGRIVENTURE OPC based at Union, San Francisco, Camotes with Duke Seiji E. Bensig as the farm co-operator.

The Learning Site for Agriculture (LSA) is a farm that employs workable farming



techniques, practices appropriate agricultural technologies, and runs successfully as a result. Comparatively speaking to the other farmers, the farmer/farm family owner is quite advanced.

The official publication of ATI in Central Visayas

KAUGMARAN

April - June 2023

Vol 7, No. 2



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