

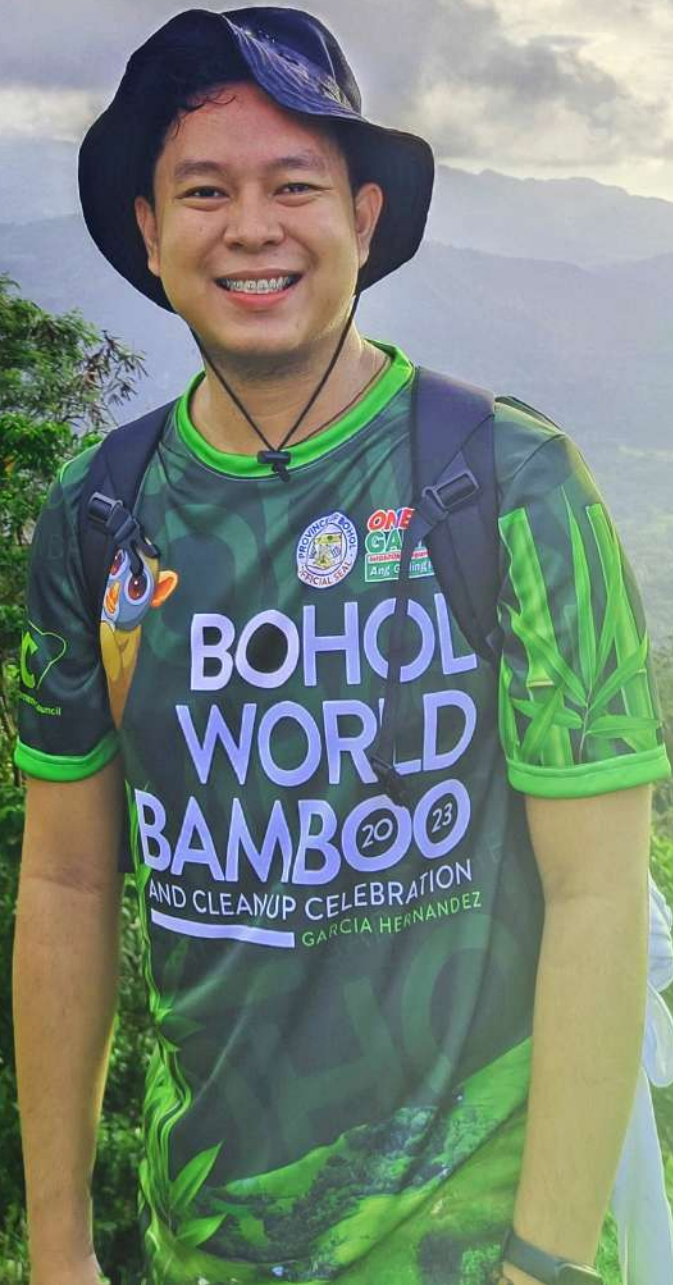
KAUGMARAN

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2023

VOLUME 7 | NO. 4

How passion turns into a robust career:

Junry Maca Naypa's Success Story



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On our cover features
Junry Maca Naypa
from Garcia Hernandez, Bohol



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(n) Cebuano-Bisaya term
for development

Bohol's Livelihood Empowerment: ATI-7 and RAFI Microfinance Collaboration

by doris isabel j. racho



To continue the collaboration of Agricultural Training Institute - Central Visayas (ATI-7) and RAFI Microfinance Inc. - a Non-financial Services, four (4) batches of training thru its Sustainable Livelihood Training Program (SLTP) was conducted to the latter areas of coverage namely: Clarin on April 15, Catigbian on June 10, Carmen on August 12, and Tagbilaran City on October 21 in the province of Bohol all in 2023. Ninety (90) Participants completed the training were taught Meat/Food Processing with Basic Food Safety and Good Manufacturing Practices. Resource Persons were Doris Isabel Racho, Food Safety Focal

Person of ATI-7, and Rachelle Y. Madrigal – Gender and Development Staff of Bohol Agriculture Promotion Center, while Stephen Paculaba of RAFI Microfinance Bohol spearheaded the event and facilitated provision of training materials.

In 2022, the Agricultural Training Institute Central Visayas partnered with RAFI Microfinance Inc. to implement the Sustainable Livelihood Training Program (SLTP) and Clustering Livelihood Program (CLP). The SLTP, which is a flagship initiative of RAFI, is designed to teach essential survival skills and innovative business ideas. The program

aims to empower clients by providing support and opportunities, and by fostering the development of resilient business competencies.

On the other hand, the Clustering for Livelihood Program (CLP) is an initiative launched by the Business Development Services team of RAFI. Its main objective is to provide access to educational opportunities through targeted training interventions. Additionally, the program serves as a platform for product marketing and establish essential linkages, creating a supportive environment that fosters sustainability.

turn to page 6...

REGULAR activities

by shanemie carelle d. pradera

Gearing up when disaster and fire strikes

BOHOL – Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV) conducted its annual skills training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM): Skills Training in Handling Hazards for ATI Employees at ATI 7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, on November 06, 2023.

The center invited the city DRRM and the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) team as resource speakers during the refresher and simulation course.

The one-day training aimed to refresh ATI personnel on standard first aid in a workplace, demonstrated on how to perform basic bandaging, apply different carrying rescue techniques, demonstrate how to perform firefighting techniques, demonstrate how to use rope in rescuing, perform Earthquake Simulation, and perform Fire Drill Exercise.

Through this activity, ATI employees are more equipped with the necessary knowledge on how to react immediately and appropriately when an earthquake and fire strikes that could significantly reduce accidents and loss of lives.

A total of 35 ATI-CV employees participated in the activity with Mr. Jorge F. Trinidad as the Project Officer and Ms. Julie Ann Buhion as support staff.



Harmony in Quality: Navigating the ISO 9001:2015 Reaudit Journey

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL. Recurring ISO 9001:2015 audits can be tricky and may have a big impact on an organization's Quality Management System's (QMS) overall effectiveness and sustainability.

Organizations are given a systematic way to evaluate their QMS over time by repeat audits. Through this method, the management can pinpoint areas for improvement and put remedial measures in place, fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

In addition, process owners are able to recognize possible risks and weaknesses in their processes by conducting recurrent evaluations. By implementing risk mitigation techniques, this proactive strategy lessens the possibility of non-conformities and operational disruptions.

In this regard, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in Central Visayas underwent the Repeat Audit – ISO 9001:2015 held at ATI-VII Training Complex, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol on November 17, 2023 with a total of 35 ATI staff participating the activity thru Ms. Gracia F. Arado, Ph.D., Training Center Superintendent (TCS) II leading the body.

ATI Central Visayas is one of the six (6) Regional Training Centers including the Central Office to undergo audit from TUV-SUD, an external auditor for the Re-Certification of ISO 2001:2015 for the Quality Management System (QMS) to further strengthen its drive for excellence in public service.

Conducting the audit is Mr. Xavier Lance Dy of TUV-SUD together with the presence of IQA Team Leader from ATI Central Office, Ms. Athena A. Baguisi, Media Production Specialist III with Ms. Marlene Q. Pintac, Head, Records Office.

Regular ISO 9001:2015 audits are an essential tool for businesses that value quality control. It encourages constant development, reduces risks, upholds a culture focused on quality, and eventually helps the company succeed in the long run in a cutthroat market.



BAFS Conducts Surveillance Audit to Core PGS Group

BOHOL – The Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standards (BAFS) in collaboration with the Agricultural Training Institute-Central Visayas (ATI-CV), Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA), and the Department of Agriculture - Regional Field Office VII (DA-RFO VII) conducted its Surveillance Audit to the Core Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) group on November 07-09, 2023.

BAFS awarded the Participatory Organic Certificate (POC) to five members of the Bohol Participatory Guarantee System Association (BPGSA). This recognition was given during the closing program of the 2023 Bohol Agri Fair held at the Old Airport, Tagbilaran City, Bohol on July 19, 2023.

The five recipients of the POC are Jomer M. Balag, Rona C. Deque, Efrenia C. Holt, Marilou M. Escalona, and Emmanuel A. Gamonez. Each member has received the POC for a specific scope. Jomer M. Balag focuses on crop production and beekeeping, Rona C. Deque specializes in special products, particularly mushroom cultivation, Efrenia C. Holt focuses on crop production and processing, Marilou M. Escalona is in both animal and crop production, and Emmanuel A. Gamonez is on agricultural input, crop production, and processing. With the POC, these five farmers are now given the privilege to label and sell their products as organic.

Moreover, four of these five certified organic farms are learning sites of the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) in the region: the Green Garden of Hope which is owned by Mr Gamonez, the Egay's Farm which is owned by Ms. Escalona, the Green Thumb Farm which is owned by Ms. Denque, and the Jolit's Eco Garden Integrated Farm which is owned by Mr. Balag. This is a significant milestone to the learning sites for agriculture of ATI.

The PGS core group audit is in compliance with BAFS guidelines in maintaining the integrity and quality of the members organic practices with regards to the Philippine National Standard (PNS) on Organic Agriculture.

The five members of the PGS group underwent farm inspections headed by Mr. Vincent Limsan from BAFS-Central Office. The Accreditation Certificate issued by BAFS has a validity of five (5) years and is subject to annual surveillance.

The PGS certification offers a more accessible and cost-effective avenue for these farmers to penetrate the organic market while fostering trust and building relationships with consumers and the local community. PGS is considered an alternative approach to the traditional third-party certification systems provided by international organic organizations.



ATI-Central Visayas Undergoes 2nd Internal Quality Audit

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL. -- The Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas (ATI-7) has just completed ISO 9001: 2015 2nd Internal Quality Audit (IQA) held at the ATI-7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, this city on October 26-27, 2023. The center was the subject of a two-day in-person audit by the IQA team.

The IQA team is spearheaded by Dr. Merrian Piquero-Soliva, Team Leader and Media Production Specialist (MPS) II with Ms. Ma. Gracia Soliva-Pungay (TS II and Chief of Career Development and Management Services Section (CDMSS); Ms. Lhea Glory Mae B. Araña, Development Management Officer I; Engr. Rizaldy C. Mercadal, Agriculturist II; and Mr. Jorge F. Trinidad, Training Specialist II of ATI-Central Visayas.

Center Director, Gracia F. Arado, Ph.D., thanked all the staff during the closing program for their dedication and sacrifices in support of ATI-7's continued growth and development.

Since awarding the ISO 9001:2015 (Quality Management System) in 2018, the IQA team has bi-annually examined the network's compliance.

The center's tangible dedication to enhancing its services with a focus on customer satisfaction may be seen in the ISO 9001:2015 Certification.

BISU Bilar Campus represents Central Visayas during the National Kabataang OA 2023 Quiz Bee

Bohol Island State University – Bilar Campus, under the guidance of Fryan Rey Villarubia and the representation of Ashley Dominique Aninipot, took pride in representing the Central Visayas at the National Kabataang Organic Agriculture (OA) 2023 Quiz Bee. This event was held on November 23 at the Agricultural Training Institute Central Office in Quezon City, bringing together 14 State Universities and Colleges from different regions, all competing enthusiastically as 2023 Kabataang OA Quiz Bee Champion.

Aninipot was the regional quiz bee winner held on November 14, 2023 at the New Capitol Building, Tagbilaran City, Bohol, making her qualified to compete for the national quiz bee competition. The said regional quiz bee was conducted alongside the celebration of the OA Month in the province of Bohol.

The laureates of this competition are as follows: the Champion is Bulacan Agricultural State

College representing Central Luzon; securing the Second position is Sorsogon State University – Castilla Campus from the Bicol Region; the Third position is claimed by Mindanao State University – Gensan Campus representing SOCCSKSARGEN; attaining the Fourth spot is Mindanao State University – Naawan Campus representing the Northern Mindanao Region; and the Fifth position is earned by Southern Luzon State University – CALABARZON Region.

The theme for this year's celebration of Organic Agriculture Month, "Kabuhayang OA, Kinabukasang OK," resonated throughout the competition, emphasizing the importance of sustainable and organic farming practices. Central Visayas participation has contributed meaningfully towards the commitment to fostering knowledge and awareness about organic farming practices, especially the younger generation.



Bohol's Livelihood Empowerment: ... continuation from page 3

The Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. (RAFI) endeavors to uplift the lives of the entrepreneurial poor by offering comprehensive access to both financial and non-financial services. Their objective is to enhance the well-being of members, their families, and communities in a dignified manner.

This involves a threefold approach: (a) providing training for knowledge enhancement and skills development, (b) incorporating a financial component, and (c) creating opportunities.

These three elements are crucial for empowering members and contributing to poverty alleviation. Simultaneously, the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), responsible for training not only agricultural extension workers but also their clientele, conducts multi-level training programs to foster and expedite rural development, exemplifying their commitment to this cause.

Eight OA Youth Scholars complete 9-month internship

Eight promising youth scholars have successfully completed a rigorous 9-month internship with esteemed farm partners associated with the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), specialising in Organic Agriculture (OA). Throughout this immersive experience, the scholars engaged in hands-on learning at designated agricultural sites, gaining invaluable insights into the intricacies of OA practices. This internship serves as the inaugural phase of a comprehensive scholarship program.

The culmination of their internship took place on December 5, 2023, at Bellview Kuzzina Bar & E.I. Suites in Siquijor, Siquijor. This milestone marks the beginning of the next chapter for these scholars, as they are set to receive a total grant of 150,000 Philippine pesos each. This financial support serves as the initial capital for launching their chosen enterprises, aligning with the principles of Organic Agriculture.

These scholars will embark on a dedicated journey of hands-on practice and implementation of their proposed organic enterprises.

Each scholar has been strategically paired with a farm partner in Bohol, Cebu, Negros Oriental, and Siquijor, based on the specific type of organic agriculture farming activity they will be undertaking. The partnerships are as follows:

This scholarship initiative is a collaborative endeavour between the Department of Agriculture - National Organic Agriculture Program (DA-NOAP) and the DA-ATI. The primary objective of the program is to offer comprehensive support to the scholars until their enterprises are not only established but also financially sustainable. The emphasis lies on fostering a conducive environment that boosts the morale of these aspiring entrepreneurs.

The program's design reflects a highly specialised internship, tailored to instill and develop in the trainees a profound appreciation for organic agriculture. By nurturing these scholars through practical experiences and financial support, the initiative aims to contribute to the growth and success of organic agriculture practices in the region.



organic agriculture activities
by maryjane flor s patullilic



How passion turns into a robust career:

Junry Maca Naypa's Success Story

COVER story —
by: merrian piquero soliva, phd



“Farming to me is part of my existence. Tilling the soil makes me happy because my passion is rooted in the land,” quips Junry whenever he is asked why he loves farming.

Pure Passion

Regarding his love for gardening, nobody taught nor encouraged Junry to do so because it is his way of destressing, for it completes his day.

Watching his plants thrive and sharing knowledge and experience-based farming to a mere complement makes Junry's heart swell joyfully. This is because agriculture is his lifelong passion.

He even takes pride that his 17-year farming is rooted in his grade school years, where he wanted to become Grades 4 and 6 directly without passing through 1, 2, and 3 because only those level have their school garden as part of the curriculum through the teaching of Mam Librada "Baday" Galon, the school garden in-charge.

However, he never let his enviousness put to waste.





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ALLELOPATHIC EFFECTS OF LANTANA (*Lantana camara* L.) LEAF EXTRACT ON BARNYARD GRASS [*Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.) Beauv.]

Junry M. Naypa, Bachelor of Science in Agriculture,
Bohol Island State University
Zamora, Bilar, Bohol, Philippines 6317

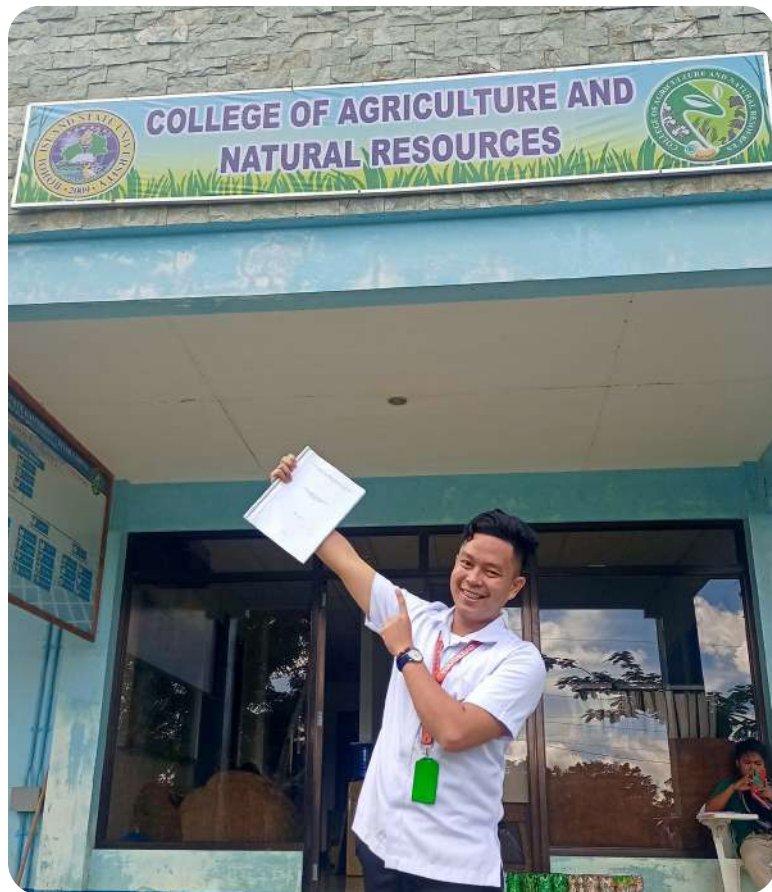
Instead, he translated it into positive manifestation by having his container garden at home and asking Mam Baday for seedlings, which continues until today, with his own planting materials already.

Realizing Dreams

Junry Maca Naypa, passed the Licensure Exam for Agriculture (LEA) last December 2022, and he is now an Agricultural Extension Worker holding a position as a Resident Agriculturist in his hometown of Garcia Hernandez, Bohol, under the Office of the Municipal Agriculturist.

His stint in the Local Government Unit of Garcia Hernandez significantly impacted his personal development by allowing him to participate in various trainings pertaining to agriculture and leadership, which he applied to his real-life situation.

Before his present status, he was the President of the Future Farmers of the Philippines Collegiate Chapter-Bohol Island State University (BISU)-Bilar, Bohol campus, where he earned his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture.





In this organization, he became one of the Binhi ng Pagasa Program recipients under the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI).

Binhi ng Pagasa is a program under the Department of Agriculture (DA), through the ATI and the Office of Senator Grace Poe (OSGP), which aims to empower young people to become competent agripreneur by undergoing training on leadership and agripreneurship so they can become partners in community development.

As to Junry's journey with Binhi ng Pagasa, his agriculture skills were honed more, enabling him to share technology-based advisories among farmers and advocates.

Moreover, ATI has played a significant role in honing his leadership skills, which has shaped his development as a communication deliverer among farmers and built solid connections among others since 2015.

With his love for farming, he maintained his 150 square meter lot garden at Purok 2, West Ulbujan, Garcia Hernandez, Bohol, with Grapes, Strawberries, and Dragon Fruit as his primary commodities. Many are in awe of the two (2) crops he is into, considering Bohol's climatic situation.

He also planted fruit trees such as Sweet Giant Catimon Mango, Eviarc Jackfruit, Durian, Rambutan, and Philodendrons flower.

Junry is the youngest of two (2) siblings from parents Maria Fe M. Odarbe, a house helper, and Hugo P. Naypa, Jr. (deceased), who was once into farming at the same time a casual carpentry. He is 24 years old, born on August 29, 1999.

He is proud to say that his best farming practices include organically grown produce with zero chemical-based inputs and producing quality planting material to attain food safety.

In terms of income, Junry made waves, especially

during the pandemic, with his income ranging from P800.00 to P23,000.00 where he sold approximately 12,500 grapes cutting outside Bohol particularly in Davao, Cebu and Negros Oriental.

Consider his grape cuttings of 3 nodes (bare cuttings), which cost 800 to 1,200 pesos per branch, and he could sell more than ten branches.

For his philodendron flower, two (2) chimera variegated anthurium magnificum that grew from seed is a rare plant, and one of his collections was sold to a collector in the amount of P23,000.00. His farm income continues, enabling him to return to school to take his master's degree at the Visayas State University–Main Campus in Baybay, Leyte, for the degree of Master in Agricultural Development.

Currently, he is giving online consultation and personal instruction on growing grapes and strawberries to his clients.

His vision of providing suitable quality planting materials, is achieved because he lived by his words.

Moreover, he wanted to reorganize the 4H Club in their municipality because there is really a need for both the In and Out-of-School youths to be revisited particularly in this generation where love of farming is no longer their priority.

Achievements Unlocked

Being a dynamic youth, Junry has been a Green Fields 4H Club member in their municipality since 2016. As an agricultural extension worker, he has kept this organization active.

Among the accolades he received so far in his lifetime include the following: Best Paper in Agriculture strand during the Student Research Congress 2022 at BISU-Bilar; Best Paper Presenter during the 5th International Science Technology Agri-Fishery Mathematics Research Congress (i-steam) 2022; Winner of Home/Urban Green (HUGS) Photo Contest in 2022 and Top 2, Regional Kabataang Organic Agriculture Quiz Bee in 2020 and On-going Publication of Research Paper at the Annals of Tropical Research in the Visayas State University.

He was also a former Vice President for External



Affairs at Empowered Student Council Association of Bohol (2019 – 2020); and served as Focal Person of the 1st Bohol World Bamboo Day in September 2023.

Indeed, Junry is one of the many youths whose principles and practices are worth emulating among his generation because he turned his passion into a robust career.



Palms of Success – A Coconut Production and Management Webinar

BOHOL. For a variety of reasons, webinars are extremely relevant in today's world and have grown in popularity as a useful tool for collaboration, education, and communication.

Participants in webinars can participate remotely from any location with an internet connection. Due to its accessibility, conversations and educational sessions can be participated in by people all over the world.

In addition, organizing in-person events is frequently more expensive than hosting a webinar. It becomes an effective means of communication and information exchange when on travel, venue rental fees, and other associated expenditures are removed.

Thus, fifty (50) farmer-participants from Corella and Loon, Bohol attended the activity entitled "COCOsayA, COCOiba: Coconut Production and Management Agri Flix Webinar held on December 20, 2023 via Facebook live, respectively.

The activity aimed that the participants will be able to learn and apply the latest agricultural technologies on coconut production.

"Sa akong kabahin ang lubi dakong makatabang tungod kay parti sa bunga magkopras, gamiton sa bisan unsang gamit, magulay, or uban pa bisan asa nga dapit aduna gyoy mga kalubihan alang sa komunidad. Kini nagkinahanglan pud sa atiman, hinlu-an, abonohan, aron mamunga ug daghan. Apil pod ani ang mangita ng nindot nga semilya, sama sa dwarf coconut kay mga pila lang kang ka tuig 3 to 5 years. Makabunga na ug dugang sa kita," shared Elizabeth G. Anuba.

Jobs are created by coconut farming and processing at every stage of the value chain, from planting and harvesting to processing and selling. This helps to alleviate poverty and sustains a rural livelihood.

The growing popularity of remote work has underscored the value of online communication platforms such as webinars. They are an essential tool that businesses use to communicate with stakeholders, clients, and distant workers.

ALBUQUERQUE, BOHOL. The economic viability of coconut farming may be enhanced by the use of hybrid coconuts. Growing coconuts can be a more practical and profitable endeavor for farmers if yields are increased and product quality is improved.

Technological and scientific developments in agriculture are frequently involved in the creation and marketing of hybrid coconut varieties. This promotes innovation and teamwork within the agricultural sector by facilitating the transfer of technology and knowledge.

Using cutting-edge coconut hybrid technology can help coconut-producing nations become more competitive on the international market. This enables them to effectively compete with other coconut-producing regions and achieve worldwide quality standards.

In this regard, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas conducted the training entitled "Let's Do CocoHybrid: Training on Coconut Hybrid Production (Batch 1)" held at Talimbaw Café, East Poblacion, this municipality on November 14-16, 2023.

The training aimed to capacitate the beneficiaries, communal hybrid nursery operators, and hybrid on farms of the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) to



continuously aid the production, distribution, nursery raising and field planting of hybrid planting materials.

In addition, farmers were equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP), delving into intricacies such as nursery accreditation and the nuanced aspects of coconut hybrid production. The training sessions were dynamic, incorporating intensive hands-on demonstrations that covered a spectrum of essential practices, including emasculation, pollination, varietal identification, and the establishment of seedbeds.

Importantly, farmers actively engaged in the practical application of the knowledge and skills acquired during the training. The emphasis was not only on theoretical comprehension but also on the ability to translate this newfound expertise into tangible actions. This approach ensures that the training's impact extends beyond the learning environment, directly benefiting the coconut industry at the grassroots level.

Furthermore, to support the farmers in their hybrid production endeavors, the PCA region has committed to providing high-quality seedlings of hybrid coconut varieties. This collaborative effort fosters a sustainable and mutually beneficial relationship between the PCA and the farmers, ultimately contributing to the overall advancement of the coconut industry.

“Daghang salamat sa taga ATI sa ilang pag host sa training. Daghan kaayo mig og nahibaloan uban sa taga PCA nga among facilitator og labi na gyod sa among Municipal Agriculture Office (MAO) sa Alburquerque nga nahimo ni nga training. Og pasalamat sa pagkaon wala ko ika estorya sa ka maayo. Salamat sad sa akong mga kauban nga naminaw og dali ra nakakat-on sa among training, kaninyong tanan salamat,” expressed Arcadio Omosura, farmer of LGU-Alburquerque, Bohol.

A total of 20 participants composed of one (1) Agricultural Extension Worker (AEW) and 19 farmers attended the activity, respectively.



Fostering Growth Through Innovative Nursery Training in Coconut, Cacao, and Coffee Accreditation

TUBURAN, CEBU. A properly managed nursery guarantees the development of seedlings of superior quality. These sturdy seedlings boost the general health and production of the plantation by giving the coconut, cacao, and coffee crops a strong start.

By following industry standards, accredited nurseries encourage consistent crop qualities and uniform growth. By doing this, growers may be guaranteed to receive seedlings with consistent traits, which will increase yield consistency.

Thus, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas conducted a Training on Nursery Establishment, Management and Accreditation for Coconut, Cacao and Coffee Batch 2 held at Cocohub, Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC), Mohon, Colonia, Tuburan, Cebu on October 10-12, 2023.

In general, the training aimed to capacitate the coconut-farmer beneficiaries on Nursery, Establishment, Management and Accreditation for coconut, cacao and coffee.

Proper nursery management practices include disease prevention measures. Accredited nurseries follow strict protocols for sanitation, reducing the risk of introducing or spreading diseases. Early detection and management at the nursery stage can prevent widespread crop infections.

Seventeen (17) farmers from Tuburan and Pinamungahan, Cebu were trained.

“Daghan me ug nakat-onan sa maong training karun. Sama sa pagtanum ug lubi, cacao ug kape, nga nindot jud diay nga nay motudlo nato kung unsay pamaagi sa pagtanom. Dako mig pagpasalamat sa mga resource person nga usa sila nga ni tudlo kanamo ug sa matag usa kanamo nga mga participants nga mo cooperate sa mga ipabuhat nga demonstrations.” expressed Emelia A. Gemarino, participant from San Jose Womens Coco Cluster.



Safeguarding Palates: Basic Meat Inspection Mastery Course

REGIONWIDE. Strict procedures for inspecting meat help to establish and preserve customer trust. Customers are more inclined to trust the safety and quality of the meat they buy when they are informed that the products have passed a thorough inspection.

Additionally, in order to manage and stop the spread of diseases from animals to people, meat inspection is essential. Early disease diagnosis in animals that have been slaughtered aids in the prevention of pathogen transmission that could endanger human health.

Professionals with training in meat inspection are certain to be knowledgeable about national and international laws pertaining to the meat business. For organizations to function legally and fulfill the necessary criteria, compliance with these regulations is vital.

With this, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas organized a training on

Basic Meat Inspection held at NMIS Building, Mandaue City, Cebu on September 11, 2023 – October 06, 2023.

The 20-day training aimed to equip the participants with proper knowledge, skills, and hands-on experiences on basic meat inspection with twenty-two (22) AEWs

The significance of upholding strict quality standards in the preparation of meat is emphasized throughout this course. Appropriate inspection methods aid in determining elements like freshness, color, texture, and contamination-free status that may impact the meat's overall quality.

"All the learnings acquired through this training is very useful at the same time very applicable to our LGU since Carcar City is known for the "best lechon" so its high time to really regulate and ensure that all pork for lechon purposes undergo meat inspection hence slaughtered in the registered meat establishment, assuring food safety," expressed Dr. John Pal C. Alcuirez – Veterinarian I, Local Government Unit (LGU) Carcar City, Cebu.

Meat inspection training equips participants with useful skills that advance their careers. Career progression is contingent upon the knowledge obtained from a Basic Meat Inspection Training Course, regardless of the workplace—regulatory bodies, slaughterhouses, or food safety organizations.

Moreover, it contributes to the reduction of financial losses brought on by the disposal of tainted or dangerous meat products. Corrective action can be taken sooner when problems are identified, which lessens the financial burden on both producers and consumers.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM activities
by shanemie carelle d. pradera

Bovine Brilliance: Advancing Expertise in Large Animal AI & Pregnancy Diagnosis

REGIONWIDE. Appropriate Animal Artificial Insemination (AI) and Pregnancy Diagnosis (PD) training facilitates resource optimization by allowing breeders to meet reproductive objectives with fewer males. This enables better resource allocation in addition to saving money on the maintenance of surplus men.

In addition, for individuals working on animal breeding initiatives seeking to improve genetics, constant training is essential. AI makes it possible to strategically choose better sires, maximizing desired qualities in offspring and enhancing the herd as a whole.

Moreover, the financial sustainability of livestock enterprises is directly impacted by effective reproductive management. Higher conception rates, shorter calving intervals, and more high-quality cattle produced are the results of improved breeding techniques, which boost farmers' and breeders' financial gains.

In this regard, thirteen (13) Agricultural Extension Workers (AEW) from across the region participated in the Advanced Training Course on Large Artificial Insemination (AI) and Pregnancy Diagnosis (PD) on Cattle & Buffalo held at Ubay Stock Farm, Lomangog, Ubay, Bohol on September 28, 2023 until October 13, 2023.

The activity aimed to provide technical knowledge and practical skills on Estrus Synchronization in Artificial Insemination and Pregnancy diagnosis.

Practitioners can quickly diagnose and treat reproductive problems through pregnancy diagnostics. Early identification lowers the chance of illness transmission within the herd and enables prompt treatments.

"The training is very useful to us since this helps us to improve our skills on palpation especially in ovaries. Also, identify the right dates that the animal is ready for ovulation," shared Ronie Paul Catacutan, Agricultural Technologist from Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental

The ability to effectively manage reproduction becomes increasingly important as the demand for premium animal products increases worldwide. Experts in their fields help to meet this need by guaranteeing a steady and dependable supply of animals for the production of meat and dairy products.





Fostering Growth Through Innovative Nursery Training in Coconut, Cacao, and Coffee Accreditation

TUBURAN, CEBU. A properly managed nursery guarantees the development of seedlings of superior quality. These sturdy seedlings boost the general health and production of the plantation by giving the coconut, cacao, and coffee crops a strong start.

By following industry standards, accredited nurseries encourage consistent crop qualities and uniform growth. By doing this, growers may be guaranteed to receive seedlings with consistent traits, which will increase yield consistency.

Thus, the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas conducted a Training on Nursery Establishment, Management and Accreditation for Coconut, Cacao and Coffee Batch 2 held at Cocohub, Lamac Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MPC), Mohon, Colonia, Tuburan, Cebu on October 10-12, 2023.

In general, the training aimed to capacitate the coconut-farmer beneficiaries on Nursery, Establishment, Management and Accreditation for coconut, cacao and coffee.

Proper nursery management practices include disease prevention measures. Accredited nurseries follow strict protocols for sanitation, reducing the risk of introducing or spreading diseases. Early detection and management at the nursery stage can prevent widespread crop infections.

Seventeen (17) farmers from Tuburan and Pinamungahan, Cebu were trained.

“Daghan me ug nakat-onan sa maong training karun. Sama sa pagtanum ug lubi, cacao ug kape, nga nindot jud diay nga nay motudlo nato kung unsay pamaagi sa pagtanom. Dako mig pagpasalamat sa mga resource person nga usa sila nga ni tudlo kanamo ug sa matag usa kanamo nga mga participants nga mo cooperate sa mga ipabuhat nga demonstrations.” expressed Emelia A. Gemarino, participant from San Jose Womens Coco Cluster.



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Mindful Metrics: Knowledge Gains in the Regional MEL Tool Implementation

BOHOL. Monitoring and evaluation are useful tools for assessing if a program is producing the desired results and goals. Frequent evaluations shed light on how well various elements and activities work.

By regularly assessing program activities, organizations can identify inefficiencies or areas where resources are not being used effectively. This allows for adjustments to be made in real-time, optimizing resource allocation and improving cost-effectiveness.

In this regard, 20 participants composed of seven (7) Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs), eight (8) farmers, and five (5) agri-enthusiast attended the Regional Roll out of the Use of Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Tool held at ATI-RTC 7, Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol on December 11-14, 2023.

The activity aimed for the participants to be able to gather data on the outcome of the

department's rice interventions using the MEL tool.

Moreover, participants were equipped with a comprehensive understanding of the Department of Agriculture (DA) adapt to modernize the agriculture industry through digitalization. In collaboration with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) developed the Rice Crop Manager Advisory Service (RCMAS) that provides one-page Rice Crop Management Advisory tool that encompasses various stages of rice crop production such as crop establishment, fertilizer, pesticide, irrigation and weed management practices as well as harvest prediction through historical data and crop variety characteristics.

Additionally, participants actively engaged in the actual hands-on interview of the farmers. They were able to know how to use the MEL tool in monitoring the farmer's lot. In order, for the farmers to know the cost and return in their rice production. Participants equipped new skills and knowledge in dealing with

farmers during interview. The 4DFarms' Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) application shall serve as a digital tool for DA's Rice Program to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the various rice program interventions to farmers.

Likewise, to support the participants in their role as enumerator in their respective regions; intensive training and hands on exercise on random sampling procedure and familiarization with the MEL application and its use would ensure quality information for analysis and reporting. This activity is intended to capacitate partners to serve as enumerators in their respective regions for a seamless roll out of the MEL application that is expected to provide reliable information and reporting for the DA Management.

"Daghang salamat ATI nga gitagaan ko'g kahigayunan nga makaapil ani nga training. Ani nga training, daghan ko'g nakat-onan. Ilabina sa actual nga pag interview sa mga farmers through cellphone. Daghan ko'g nakat-onan sa mga farmers pud sa ilang pag-uma ug naka ginansiya ba sila. Sa tool ug actual survey is more likely duol-duol ra sila, so I would say na effective siya. This training needs a lot of effort and patience. When we facilitate the farmers, paningkamotan jud nату nga ma achieve ang atong goal or purpose as facilitators. So, with ATI, 100 percent jud na sila. Thank you kaayo sa mga TMT ani nga training kay approachable ug friendly sila; so, keep up the good work. Maayo sad ang mga RP. Kini nga group ilabina sa akong mga co-participants, ani ko naka embrace ug joy and new friends. Overall, you're in good hands in ATI," expressed Mae L. Sosoban LGU Alicia-Rice Coordinator.

RICE PROGRAM activities

by: shanemie carelle d. pradera

NRAM Launching in Bohol

TAGBILARAN CITY – On Monday, November 6, 2023, the Office of Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) spearheaded the start of National Rice Awareness Month (NRAM) in Bohol.

The kick-off ceremony was held in the atrium of the Bohol Quality (BQ) Mall this city, and attendees included farmers, youth sector representatives, agricultural extension workers, municipal agriculturists, rice technologists, agriculture line agencies, and private seed businesses.

The Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office-7 (DA-RFO), the Agricultural Training Institute - Regional Training Center VII (ATI-RTC VII), and the Office of the Provincial Agriculturist (OPA) collaborated on this endeavor.

ATI Director Gracia Arado greeted attendees and interested parties and emphasized the annual event's theme, "Be RICEpossible."

Roman Dabalos, APCO- Bohol based at Bohol Agricultural Promotion Center (BAPC), advocated for the province's agriculture sector to continue working together in the implementation of the rice program on behalf of DA-Central Visayas Director Angel Enriquez.

Dabalos pointed out that, as per Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) data, 78% of Central Visayas' rice needs are met by Bohol.

Activities for the month-long celebration include the following: feeding program to island barangays in Ubay, Bien Unido and Talibon, Bohol on November 15-17, 2023, respectively; RICEponcible fun run on November 25, 2023; Farmer's Big Day on November 29, 2023, radio and Facebook rice trivia.





LEARNING SITE FOR AGRICULTURE APPLICATION PROCESS



1 IDENTIFICATION

- Letter of intent
- endorsement
- recommendation



8 ISSUANCE OF ATI CERTIFICATE

LSA Certificate and the ATI LSA Signage shall be issued by the ATI Central Office. This will be displayed at the farm.



2 ORIENTATION

- Orientation on the responsibilities as a Learning Site.



7 MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

Upon approval of the development plan, the "Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for LSA establishment" will be signed.



3 FARM PROFILE FORM

Upon acceptance after the orientation, the prospective LSA will be required to accomplish the "Farm Profile Form."



6 DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Preparation, evaluation and approval of the LSA development plan.



4 FIELD VALIDATION

ATI will conduct ocular inspection of the prospective LSA, aided by the "LSA Acceptance Evaluation Form."



5 ACCEPTANCE

The prospective LSA signs the "Acceptance to become a LSA Form."

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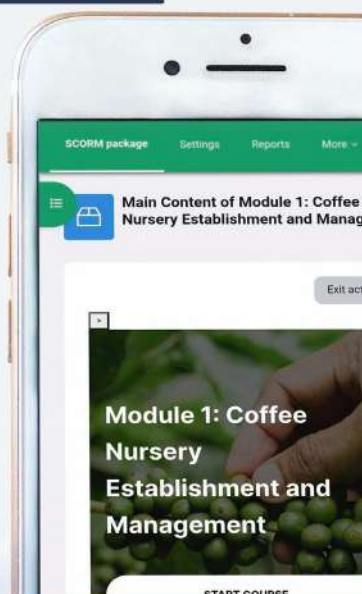
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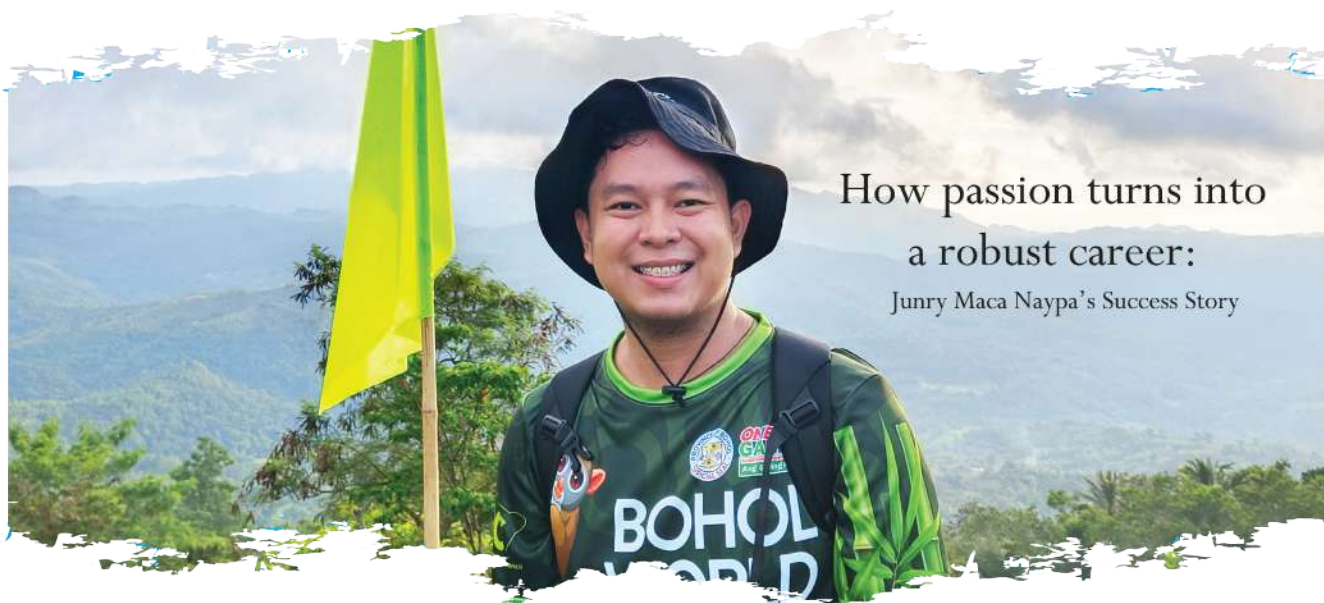
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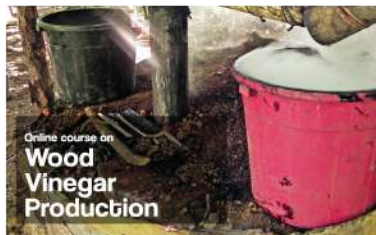
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