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**THE EMPOWERING
GROWTH OF
ANNABELLA**
from Farmer to
Community Leader

8-15



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On our cover features
Annabella Villabeto, Local Farmer's Technician from
Camanaga, San Miguel, Bohol

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(n) Cebuano-Bisaya term
for development



Coconvergence Summit Unites Stakeholders for Sustainable Coconut Industry

by doris isabel j. racho



Dumaguete City – The Agricultural Training Institute-VII (ATI-7) in collaboration with the Save Coconut Foundation Inc. (SCFI) spearheads a one-day Summit dubbed “**COConvergence of Stakeholders Towards Sustainability of the Philippine Coconut Industry**” featuring: **CFIDP Progress and Technology Showcase** held on August 24, 2024 at Negros Oriental Convention Center, this City.

Gracing the event was Hon. Manuel “Chaco” L. Sagarbarria, Governor of the Province of Negros Oriental, and Engr. Remelyn R. Recoter, MNSA, CESO III and National Director of Agricultural Training Institute. The activity was participated in by 700 individuals, including coconut farmers, representatives from various Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) implementing agencies, and

COCOFED scholars.

The COConvergence provides a platform for dialogue among PFEM-COCOFED scholars' alumni, coconut farmers, implementing agencies, and other relevant government agencies. It aims to strengthen collaborations, provide coconut farmers with insights, new knowledge, and updates about the coconut industry, and raise awareness about the programs and projects of different implementing agencies (IAs). Additionally, it aims to inform stakeholders and participants about CFITF and CFIDP, including their components.

Dexter R. Buted, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer of the Philippine Coconut Authority served as the Keynote Speaker. Moreover, Hon. Congresswoman Camille Lydia Aguilar Villar-Genuino, Deputy Speaker of the

House of Representatives gave the inspirational address.

During the afternoon session, Ms. Luz Brenda P. Balibrea, Division Chief III of the Trade Information and Relations Division, PCA discussed “The Philippine Coconut Industry: Challenges and Business Opportunities”.

Meanwhile, Dr. Manuel L. Logroño, President & Founder of Maize Life & Farming Sciences shared his talk on “Crop / Animal Integration Potential for Coconut Replanting Program”.

The summit also showcased coconut-based products and by-products, awarded Learning Site for Agriculture certificates and scholarships, and facilitated direct engagement between farmers and implementing agencies through interactive booths.

REGULAR activities

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

OWWA recipients trained on Food Safety at ATI-7

Tagbilaran City – Twenty-two (22) Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) livelihood beneficiaries and recipients of OWWA's reintegration program in food processing concluded the training on Basic Food Safety on September 16, 2024, at Agricultural Training Institute-VII (ATI-7) in this city.

The training aims to capacitate participants' knowledge, skills, and orientation/attitude on food safety and good manufacturing practices. Specifically, it seeks to explain the basic requirements and importance of food safety in food production/processing; Describe the elements of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and

their significance in food processing/manufacturing; Practice personal hygiene, cleaning, and sanitation in preventing food contamination.

The resource person is Doris Isabel Racho, DM who is the ATI-7 Food Safety Focal Person and soon-to-be a regular member of the Bohol Food Safety Team (BFST). Also gracing the training were Atty. John Gabriel Ramos & Rolaine Uy of the Bohol Chamber of Commerce Inc. (BCCI), and Noemi Olaer of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) Bohol as the training is one of the final requirements of Dr. Racho in the BFST.

The topics discussed include Introduction to Food Safety, Significance of GMP in

Food Processing, Preventing Food Contamination: The Crucial Role of Personal Hygiene, Cleaning, and Sanitation. The training is in collaboration with OWWA Bohol spearheaded by Mr. Reymark Madulara its Family Welfare Officer.

“Basic food safety is very relevant and important in my processing business, the topics are practical and there's a lot to cope with. My prayer this office will continue to conduct training most especially for the grassroots community to enhance more learnings and to give importance to food safety.” – said Mrs. Marcelina Castillon, one of the participants.





ATI in Central Visayas joins the Second Bohol-World Bamboo Day

The personnel of the Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas joins the Second Bohol-World Bamboo Day at Lila, Bohol with the highlights of bamboo planting activity held on September 28, 2024.

In consonance of the Proclamation No. 1401 series of 2022 that declares every September of every year as "**Philippine Bamboo Month**," that conformed under the United Nation's Global Compact, which is the World Bamboo Organization that follow to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and spreads the word about the importance of bamboo.

To support this proclamation, the Provincial Government of Bohol also executed the Provincial Executive Order No. 32 Series of 2024 that directs that the Second Bohol-World Bamboo will be celebrated on 28th of September 2024.

With a strong partnership, ATI-7 supports the cause through the able leadership of Dr. Gracia F. Arado, Center Director.

Excellence in Focus: Scholarship Assessment and Culminating Activity for EASY Agri Batch 1

TAGBILARAN CITY, BOHOL. The Excellence in Focus: Scholarship Assessment and Culminating Activity for EASY Agri Batch 1 (AC 2020-2024) held at JJ's Seafood Village, this city on August 30, 2024.

The ATI has intensified its provision of scholarships to further encourage and increase participation in agriculture amongst the Filipino youth by offering EASY Agri which stands for Educational Assistance for Youth in Agriculture.

Moreover, 10 of the 14 scholars from Batch 1 finished their degrees on July 2024 at Bohol Island State University and Negros Oriental State University, respectively.

In addition, as part of the post-implementation activity of the scholarship program the conduct of scholarship assessment and ceremonial awarding of certificates/plaques and monetary incentives of scholars with latin honors was conducted during the program.

For interested applicants, the EASY Agri scholarship covers the following degrees for the next academic calendar namely: Agriculture and Fisheries, Environmental Science & Management, Food Sciences, Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering (ABE), Forestry and Natural Resources, Veterinary Medicine, and other agriculture-related courses.



ATI-7 Information Officer takes the helm of RADIO-7 President

by doris isabel j. racho



Dumaguete City – The Regional Association of Development Information Officer – VII (RADIO – 7) successfully held its 26th regional convention with its theme “Communicating the Government’s Peace Agenda to push for Sustainable Tourism Development” on September 4-6, 2024 at Bethel Hotel and Negros Oriental Convention Center in this city.

RADIO-7 is the umbrella organization of five public information officer associations in Central Visayas, namely, the Association of Negros Oriental Public Information Officers (ANOPIO), Cebu Association of City and Municipal Public Information Officers (CAOCAMPIO), Association of United Development Information Officers in Bohol (AUDIO-Bohol), Siquijor Association of Information Disseminators (SAID), and Association of Government Information Officers in Region 7

(AGIO-7).

The event was joined by information officers and tourism officers from the different local government units in the region for the three-day regional conference of government communicators. The convention highlighted the government’s peace agenda and sustainable tourism efforts in the region.

One of the convention’s highlights is the election of RADIO-7 officers. Agricultural Training Institute – VII (ATI-7) Information Officer Doris Isabel J. Racho, DM currently the AUDIO-Bohol President is elected as the President of the RADIO-7. Joining her as newly elected officers were Alvin Duazo (CAOCAMPIO) as Vice President; Zarline Sambas (Audio-Bohol) as Secretary; Margaux Dela Paz (AGIO-7) as Treasurer; Imee Taer Tapon (Audio-Bohol) as Auditor; and Mary Ann Dimabayao (AGIO-7) as the Press Relations Officer.

The convention aims to exchange insights on effectively communicating development programs and projects. The discussions focused on the critical role of information officers in disseminating timely, accurate, and relevant information that empowers communities.

“I stand before you today with a profound sense of responsibility and determination to serve every one of you with integrity, compassion, and dedication,” Dr. Racho said in her acceptance speech. “As we move forward, remember that our strength lies in unity, diversity, and unwavering commitment. Together, we can overcome any obstacle and achieve greatness. So let us join hands, work together, and write the next chapter of RADIO 7,” she added.

Administering the oath-taking is Gov. Manuel Sagarbarria as Negros Oriental is the host province for this year’s convention.

ATI-7 inks MOU with CVAARRDEC

Tagbilaran City – The Agricultural Training Institute-VII (ATI-7) together with the Central Visayas Agriculture, Aquatic, & Natural Resources Research & Development Consortium (CVAARRDEC) forged a Memorandum of Understanding on September 16, 2024, in this city.

In 2009, the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) program was launched under the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCARRD), and in 2012 it was transferred to ATI. Its modalities include Farmers Information Technology Services (FITS) Center, Magsasaka Siyentista (MS) or farmer scientist, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) Support, and Information Communication Technology (ICT) Utilization.

For Region VII, a total of 104 FITS centers were established with minimal assistance through the

provision of ICT & IEC support under the ATI-7 FITS enhancement project. With this new development, FITS centers can also avail of the CVAARRDEC services by submitting project proposals. This collaboration would also maximize the consortium's goal of promoting Agriculture, Aquatic, and Natural Resources (AANR) projects and programs in the region.

The MOU aims to strengthen the consortium's presence in Region VII through the mutual sharing of experts, facilities, and other resources. Specifically, it seeks to help the Techno Gabay Program (TGP) under ATI-7 assisted Farmers Information Technology Services (FITS) Centers.

The event was joined by Consortium Director Ivy Corazon Manga-ay, PhD alongside her CVAARRDEC Team: Science Communication Cluster Coordinator Mary Jean Faustino, Dr. Lloyd Tejano-Deputy Consortium Director, Engr. Phillip Glenn Libay - ICT Cluster Coordinator, Conchita Lorejo – Science Research Assistant, and Maria Geneva Cait. Additionally, Center Director Gracia F. Arado, PhD, FITS Focal Person Doris Isabel J. Racho, DM and Information Services Chief, Merrian P. Soliva, PhD represented ATI-7.



regular program activities

by doris isabel j. racho

Digital Farmers Program Reaches Brgy. Taptap, Cebu City

The Agricultural Training Institute in Central Visayas conducted the Digital Farmers Program (Farm Learn) in collaboration with Cebu City Resource Management and Development Center (CREMDEC), PLDT & Smart Communities PLDT-Smart Communications Inc., and Food Link held at Brgy. Taptap, Cebu City, Cebu held on September 11-13, 2024.

The activity aims to capacitate farmers and farmer cooperatives in using digital tools in farming, marketing, and online payment transactions.

As part of their outputs, the participants created their own social media marketing plan, social media card, and re-entry plan per cluster.

In addition, they were also able to use advanced agriculture apps such as Spidtech, Payong Pag-asa, Binhing Balay, and e-Damuhan.

The DFP team, headed by Information Services Chief, Merrian Piquero-Soliva, Ph.D., along with Ms. Shanemie Carelle D. Pradera, Information Officer II; Ma. Pamela R. Macaambac, Technical Staff; and Ms. May Joy P. Luzon, Technical Staff, served as resource speakers during the three-day activity.

A total of 20 farmers joined the training, composed of farmers and youth from Brgy. Taptap, Cebu Technological University (CTU), and Visayas State University (VSU).



Successful Digital Marketing Training for Central Visayas Farmers

A successful collaboration between the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI-RTC 7) and the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office 7 (DA-RFO 7) was held on September 9-10, 2024, at the Cebu Business Hotel. The event aimed at enhancing the digital marketing skills of representatives from various farmer cooperatives and associations in Central Visayas.

The training, which focused on digital marketing strategies tailored for the agriculture sector, was spearheaded by Ms. Joy Ebarita, Section Chief of the Agribusiness Promotion Section (APS) at DA-RFO 7's AgriBusiness and Marketing Assistance Division (AMAD). Ms. Ebarita was supported by Ms. Irish Cortes and Mr. Steve Michael Flores, who helped coordinate the activity.

The training sessions were led by experts from ATI Central Visayas' Digital Farmers' Program Team. Among the trainers were Ms. Shanemie Carelle D. Pradera, Information Officer II, along with May Joy P. Luzon and Ma. Pamela R. Macaambac, both Technical Support Staff. The program also saw the participation of Merrian Piquero Soliva, the Chief of the Information Services.

The event is part of the ongoing efforts of ATI-RTC 7 and DA-RFO 7 to equip farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate the digital landscape, promoting modern marketing tools to improve agricultural business practices in the region.

The success of the training marks another milestone in the partnership's continuous commitment to empowering local farmers through education, technology, and innovation.



AEWs in Central Visayas Complete Basic Agricultural Extension Course

A group of 21 agricultural extension workers (AEWs) from across the Central Visayas region successfully completed the 10-day Basic Agricultural Extension Course (BAEC) training, marking a significant step in enhancing the capacity of local agricultural support services. The training, which ran from August 14 to 23, 2024, took place at the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI RTC 7) Complex in Cabawan District, Tagbilaran City, Bohol.

The BAEC, a newly introduced program by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), is designed to serve as the foundational course for agricultural extension in the region. It targets newly appointed AEWs from various local government units (LGUs) to equip them with the essential skills and knowledge needed to support farmers and fishers effectively.

Throughout the 10-day course, participants were trained to enhance their critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication abilities, which are vital for providing effective agricultural extension services. The training emphasized practical approaches that will enable AEWs to address challenges faced by the agricultural sector and improve the productivity and well-being of farmers and fishers.

The completion of the course is expected to help strengthen the extension services in Central Visayas, ensuring that local agricultural workers are better prepared to support the region's farming communities and contribute to the overall growth of the agricultural industry.

This initiative reflects ATI's commitment to empowering agricultural extension workers and enhancing the agricultural workforce's capacity to deliver meaningful support to local farmers and fishers.

The Empowering Growth of Annabella

from Farmer to Community Leader





COVER story

by: doris isabel j. racho

Anabella Villabeto, from Camanaga, San Miguel, Bohol, is a testament to how passion, hard work, and continuous learning can transform not only one's life but also the lives of those in the community. From her early days helping on her parent's farm and despite only completing high school, Anabella has evolved into a respected farmer, trainer, and community leader with a story that inspires and motivates.

From Training to Triumph

Anabella's journey to success was significantly shaped by the various rice-related programs she participated in from Agricultural Training Institute- Central Visayas (ATI-CV) and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority. These interventions provided her with essential knowledge and skills on producing high-quality inbred rice, seed certification, farm mechanization, climate resiliency, integrated nutrient and pest management for local farm technicians, and advisory service delivery. Anabella has adopted innovative techniques, such as the PalayCheck Sytem, drastically improving her rice production and overall farm management.

Through continuous learning and growth, she transformed her potential into tangible achievements, making these capacity building programs a corner stone of her successful journey as valuable resource in her community.

The local government unit tapped her into becoming one of its local farmer technicians (LFT), where she played an essential role in helping fellow rice farmers' enhance their practices.

Anabella yearned to know more. She knew that true expertise required a broader perspective. She decided to explore other commodities such as corn and mushroom, attending several training programs which not only deepened her understanding of other crops, but also enhanced her ability to make informed decisions. These experiences led to her involvement as a facilitator and resource person in the capacity building initiatives of some Farmer Fields Schools (FFS) in her community, the Balloca Family Farm School and Labonite Integrated Farm School which are certified Learning Sites for Agriculture (LSA) of Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Central Visayas.





In this new role, she started teaching farmers training courses on the PalayCheck System, financial budget and record keeping, financial literacy, and National Seed Quality Control Services guidelines. Her knowledge and experiences played a key role in educating and inspiring them. Today, about 1,900 farmers have already graduated from both farm schools. Several of these trainees have shared positive feedback after the training. They credit the training for equipping them with practical techniques and insights that directly contributed to more efficient farming practices, better crop yields, and ultimately a more profitable and sustainable livelihood.



Years later, her leadership abilities were further recognized when she was appointed as the chairwoman of Purok 4, Barangay Camanaga, and President of the Camanaga Women's Association (CAWA).

In these roles, she empowered others, particularly women, to engage in agricultural activities and improve their livelihoods. She led the group in venturing into laundry and bath soaps; chicken, cow, carabao, and swine dispersal. These livelihood interventions have also given additional income to her co-members.



Mastering Courage and Balance

Despite her progress, Anabella faced significant challenges. As a trainer, Anabella often encountered participants who questioned her abilities, perhaps because she was a woman in a field traditionally dominated by men or simply due to her humble background as a high school graduate and a farmer only. These doubts weighed heavily on her, causing moments of self-doubt and questioning her worth as a farmer and leader.

Yet, instead of succumbing to these negative feelings, Anabella used these experiences to fuel her determination. Instead of being discouraged, she saw these moments as opportunities to demonstrate her knowledge and skills. She believed that actions speak louder than words, with patience, persistence, and respect, she engaged them in hands-on activities, proving her expertise through practical application. She also continually refreshed her knowledge, especially in areas like chemical use and machinery, to stay ahead and provide accurate guidance. She gradually won over the trust and respect of her participants.

Moreover, Anabella thrived from her roles as a farmer, trainer, and community leader. Her days were long and busy, often starting on the farm and stretching into the night as farmers sought her advice. With meetings and training sessions overlapping, she had to be everywhere at once.

However, Anabella embraced this as an opportunity to master time management. By organizing her schedule and prioritizing her tasks, she ensured that every responsibility received the attention it deserved. This careful planning allowed her to fulfill her roles effectively.





The true measure of Anabella's success became evident after Typhoon Odette in 2021. A series of training were conducted at the farm schools which resulted in her earning more income through resource person's fee. The training on the Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) and the continuous support from ATI and the farm schools allowed her to realize the extent of her growth. Since then, her success has continued to manifest through her ongoing work and contributions to her community.

Another measure of success is that she was able to help her siblings graduate from college with the income she earned from farming.

Today, Anabella's farm covers an area of 1 hectare, and her income, learning, and overall productivity have significantly increased. Her production yields have improved, and she now stands as a confident leader and teacher, inspiring others in her community to rise above their challenges and achieve success.

A Legacy of Perseverance

The Anabella P. Villabeto's story is more than just a tale of personal success; it's a story to motivate confidence in others, and the power of perseverance, skills and innovation. Her journey from a determined farmer to a key figure in Bohol's agricultural community serves as a powerful reminder of what can be achieved through hard work and a strong sense of community. Anabella continues to inspire others, proving that with the right mindset and support, it's possible to overcome any challenge and create lasting, positive change.

“As an ordinary farmer, I keep striving and improving to achieve the fruits of my labor. Through hard work, commitment, sacrifice, sincerity, and dedication to my mission and vision, I aim to do this for everyone, especially my family. I believe that success is not about having a high level of education but about finding ways to uplift our rice fields and livelihoods. Our community will surely progress if we all help each other and unite for our country.” – Annabella Villabeto.



19 Agricultural Extension Workers Complete Basic Meat Inspection Training in Central Visayas

Nineteen (19) Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) from across Central Visayas have successfully completed the Basic Meat Inspection Training Course held from August 5 to 30, 2024, at the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) Conference Room in Sudlon, Maguikay, Mandaue City, Cebu.

The training, organized by the NMIS and the Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI RTC 7), aimed to equip the participants with the essential knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience in meat inspection, crucial for ensuring the safety and quality of meat products.

During the course, the AEWs learned about key topics including the vision, mission, and mandates of NMIS, the procedures for operating meat establishments, environmental management, and food defense measures. Other important areas

covered included the anatomy and physiology of food animals, general principles of diseases affecting livestock, proper handling and slaughtering techniques for food animals, and post-slaughter meat establishment control. Participants were also introduced to laws, regulations, and other relevant issuances related to meat inspection.

The training focused on preparing the AEWs to conduct critical tasks such as antemortem and post-mortem inspections, laboratory sampling, and the management of post-meat establishment control. Additionally, the trainees were tasked with assessing cold storage facilities and formulating practical re-entry plans, which are essential for the safe handling and storage of meat products.

Leading the training were experts from the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) Central Office

and Region 7. Dr. Alvin A. Leal, NMIS-RTOC VII Center Director, spearheaded the training team, alongside other experienced instructors, including Sheila S. Cepedoza, DVM; Jasper James C. Jumadiao, DVM; Hannah Lou C. Ejercito; Jude N. Padasas, DVM; Iris Angeli C. David; Geovannie Roy C. Quintas; Alain A. Taronas; Laarnie S. Abragan; and Ma. Gretta G. Valledor.

The training team from ATI Central Visayas was led by Engr. Rizaldy C. Mercadal, Ph.D., Agriculturist II and OIC-PAS Chief, who served as the Project Officer, along with Engr. Aljo R. Mahumot and Ms. Danelyn A. Enero, who provided technical support throughout the program.

The completion of this training marks an important step in enhancing the capabilities of agricultural extension workers in the region, enabling them to play a vital role in ensuring the safety, quality, and regulation of meat products within their communities.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM activities

by shanemie carelle d. pradera

Poultry Farmers Undergo Training on Broiler and Layer Production

by shanemie carelle d. pradera

The Agricultural Training Institute (ATI) Central Visayas successfully conducted a three-day Training on Broiler and Layer Production from September 24 to 26, 2024, at Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. The training aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills on poultry farming, particularly in broiler and layer production.

A total of 31 participants attended the training, which included poultry farmers, agricultural enthusiasts, and agricultural extension workers.

The participants gained valuable insights into the latest practices and techniques in poultry management, focusing on improving production efficiency and sustainability in broiler and layer farms.

The training was conducted with the expertise of trainers from the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian

(OPV) of Negros Oriental. Dr. Melody Dulce Amor L. Vilan, OIC Provincial Veterinarian; Ms. Erlinda L. Vilan, Agricultural Center Chief I; and Mr. Orlando P. Cabugnason led the sessions, sharing their knowledge on various aspects of poultry farming, including animal health management, feeding systems, and farm management best practices.

In addition to the training, ATI Central Visayas also provided start-up support for four local poultry associations. This support includes day-old chicks, feeds, chicken nets, and other essential materials to help boost the participants' poultry farming initiatives.

The event is part of ATI Central Visayas' ongoing efforts to support local agricultural communities and enhance the skills of poultry farmers and extension workers in the region. By providing technical training and start-up resources, the institute aims to improve the productivity and sustainability of poultry farming, contributing to the local agricultural sector's growth.



LEED Goat Fattening Successfully Conducted in Dumaguete City

The Agricultural Training Institute-Regional Training Center 7 (ATI-RTC 7) successfully conducted a three-day training on Livestock Economic Enterprise Development (LEED): Goat Fattening Production from July 30 to August 1, 2024, in Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental. The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of agricultural extension workers and farmers in goat fattening as a viable livelihood option.

A total of 24 participants, consisting of agricultural extension workers and farmers, successfully completed the training. The event covered various practical and theoretical aspects of goat fattening, with a focus on improving farm productivity and income through better livestock management practices.

One of the key highlights of the training was the hands-on practicum, which included silage making, forage identification, deworming, and vaccination practices. The practical sessions were conducted at the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (OPV) in Piapi, Dumaguete City, providing participants with valuable experience in the proper care and management of goats.

The training was led by a team of expert trainers from the OPV-Negros Oriental and ATI Central Visayas. The resource speakers included Ms. Erlinda L. Vilan, Agricultural Center Chief I; Mr. June Rey P. Cabildo, Market Specialist II; Mr. Orlando P. Cabugnason, Agricultural Technologist; and Mr. Andrew M. Macaambac, Planning Evaluation Officer from ATI Central Visayas.

The LEED Goat Fattening Production Training is part of ATI Central Visayas' ongoing efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices and improve the livelihoods of local farmers. By equipping agricultural extension workers and farmers with the necessary skills and knowledge, the training aims to support the growth of the livestock sector in the region and contribute to food security and economic development.



Gender-based Feeds Production: An ESP-run Training

ATI Central Visayas' accredited Extension Service Provider (ESP), Egay's Hidden Cove Inc., successfully conducted a three-day training on Feeding Within Your Reach: Gender-Based Feeds Production for Better Nutrition at Egay's Farm Integrated Organic Farm in Barangay Bingag, Dausi, Bohol. The training, which took place from September 24-26, 2024, gathered 31 participants, including Agricultural Extension Workers (AEWs) and farmer-leaders from around Bohol.

The primary goal of the training was to equip participants with the necessary skills and knowledge to formulate their own livestock and poultry feeds using locally available ingredients. Special emphasis was placed on utilizing corn by-products, which are often readily available in the region, as well as adopting natural and organic farming technologies in crop production. This initiative is designed to help farmers improve farm sustainability by reducing dependence on commercially produced feeds and increasing the nutritional value of their livestock and poultry.

Resource speakers for the training included Mary Faith N. Penales, EdD, a Gender and Development (GAD) advocate from Bohol Island State University; Dr. Carl Leonard M. Pradera, DVM, Assistant City Veterinarian from the City Agriculture and Veterinary Office in Tagbilaran City; and Mr. Johnny Samson, a retired Provincial AI Coordinator. Their expertise provided participants with in-depth knowledge on the formulation of feeds and the integration of gender-responsive and sustainable farming practices.

The event was managed by Mr. Edgard T. Escalona, cooperador of Egay's Hidden Cove Inc., along with farm staff members Ms. Jade Geraldine Polo and Ms. Jessa Valentos, who assisted in facilitating the training sessions.

LIVESTOCK PROGRAM activities

by shanemie carelle d. pradera

CD Arado Spearheads SWAIB Turnover to OPV Bohol

by merrian piquero-soliva



BILAR, BOHOL. The ATI in Central Visayas successfully turned-over the Swine Artificial Insemination sa Barangay (SWAIB) Building located at the Bohol Biodiversity Complex, Roxas, this town, to the Province of Bohol through the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian in August 6, 2024.

The project took off from the “Artificial Insemination (AI) sa Barangay” Project. It aims to produce good quality genetically superior processed semen. The package includes AI laboratory equipment, tools, boars, and bio-secured housing for qualified applicants.

The SWAIB Project will be implemented by the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian (OPV) as the lead entity along with the municipal and barangay LGUs, respectively.

The farm specifically will produce boar semen that would be made available to farmers. Thirty percent (30%) of the semen produced will be provided for free to the identified direct beneficiary community, institution of Farmer's Cooperative and Association (FCA) in the first three (3) years or until the DA investment cost is fully repaid in value of animals/products provided as a livelihood.

The turnover is spearheaded by ATI-7 Center Director, Dr. Gracia Fermentira Arado together with Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian, Dr. Meydallyn D. Paman. Also present are representatives of LGU-Bilar Local Chief Executive, Mr. Leonardo Tabel; Roxas Barangay Captain, Eduardo Jarlione, Bohol Governor representative, Ms. Nonila M. Pinat together with personnel from the Partnership and Accreditation Services (PAS) of ATI-7, Development Management Officer I, Ms. Jessa P. Maglangit, and Technical Staff, Engr. Aljo Mahumot.



Empowering Local Farmers: 30 Participants Complete 10-Day Training on Farm Business School in Bohol

A total of 30 participants composed of Local Farmer Technicians and Agricultural Extension Workers completed the 10-day Training of Trainers on Farm Business School for Rice-based Enterprises at Pachecos Inn in Poblacion, Ubay, Bohol from September 3 to 12, 2024.

The training enhanced the knowledge, skills, and attitude of participants on entrepreneurial and fundamental management of farm business or enterprise.

Likewise, their learning derived from the training includes basic knowledge, skills, and attitudes of successful entrepreneurs; the importance of farm business school by formulating a vision and goal for the farm business, understanding business profitability, risk management, and financial literacy and they also learned the different key elements of marketing and its process and different strategies for marketing

products through market survey. Their agreement is to apply the learning in their respective LGUs as stated in the re-entry plan.

The pool of trainers for the said activity includes: 1) Engr. Jonathan O. Sumagang, Development Management Officer II at the same time as the Project Officer; 2) May Joy P. Luzon, Technical Support Staff II of ATI-7; 3) Eloiza Marie Patac Flores, Project Assistant IV of Agricultural Credit Policy Council, Tagbilaran City; 4) Jessa Polo-Maglangit, Development Management Officer I of ATI-7; 5) Rocky D. Tidon, Insurance Underwriter of PCIC Extension Office, Ubay, Bohol; 6) Eduardo L. Escaboza, Administrator of IYAAH Eco Farm, Tugas, Candijay, Bohol, 7) Dr. Merrian Piquero-Soliva, Information Officer III of ATI-7, and 8) Wendel Agosto Taladua, Account Officer of Landbank of the Philippines-Bohol Lending Center.

Meanwhile, Ms. Gertrudes Grace Solijon, is the Technical Support Staff of the activity.

RICE PROGRAM activities

by merrian piquero-soliva, ph.d

MUFA Receives Package of Technology

CARMEN, BOHOL. The ATI in Central Visayas hand over the Package of Technology, under the Digital Farmers' Program (DFP FarmTech) to Matin-ao United Farmers Association (MUFA) of Matin-ao, this town, through their President, Mr. Pablo Perbis, and Mr. Nilo S. Cempron, Cooperator of Don Alberto's Farm, a certified RCEF Learning Site for Agriculture of ATI-7 and TESDA Accredited Training Center last August 15, 2024.

This ICT equipment will support the association and LSA's DFP rollout. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding is also held at the same time.

Meanwhile, Ms. Marylou B. Gocotano, Manager, Smart Corporate Communications - VisMin together with her team, is also

present and very supportive of the region's DFP implementation.

Spearheading the handover is Dr. Merrian Piquero Soliva, Information Officer III, together with the full support of the personnel of the Information Services who form-part of the DFP Team Central Visayas.

With its strong partnership and collaboration, Engr. Jane Noculan, Municipal Agrucultural Officer of LGU-Carmen, Bohol is present together with the graduates of the Digital Farmers' Program.

To learn, MUFA underwent a three-day Training of Trainers on Digital Agriculture Program-Package of Technology last May 7-9, 2024.





500 Farmers Graduate from SOA-CFIDP in Cebu

A total of 500 National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS) registered farmers from the municipalities of Alegria, Badian, Moalboal, and Samboan in Cebu celebrated their successful completion of the SOA-CFIDP (Coconut Farmers' Inclusive Development Program) by receiving farm tools and diplomas during the graduation ceremonies held at the Alegria Sports Complex.

The event, which marked the culmination of the program's training and development activities, was attended by key local government officials, including Alegria Mayor Margarito Magallon, Vice-Mayor Verna Magallon, and members of the Sangguniang Bayan. Their presence underscored the municipality's strong support for the development of its agricultural sector, particularly in coconut farming.

The SOA-CFIDP program, which ran from September 4-30, 2024, also featured a radio farm program aired on 93.1 ka Alegre FM. This initiative was an essential part of the CFIDP's advocacy and awareness campaign, aimed at educating farmers on modern coconut production technologies. The radio program served as an informative platform to reach a wider audience, providing valuable insights and updates on best

practices in coconut farming. The graduation ceremony was organized by Project Officer Jun Bungabong Oliver, with assistance from Limuel Patrick Borbano and Danelyn Alkuino Enero. These individuals played a critical role in ensuring the smooth implementation of the program, providing guidance and support to participants throughout its duration.

The program also benefited from the expertise of key trainers, including Ronnie L. Baisac, a Livestock Technician from the Department of Agriculture in Alegria, and Bessie B. Camello, the Community Coconut Development Officer from the Philippine Coconut Authority (PCA) Cebu. Their knowledge and practical experience helped equip the participants with essential skills and insights to further enhance their coconut farming practices.

The SOA-CFIDP graduation event not only celebrated the participants' achievements but also highlighted the importance of continuous education and training in the agricultural sector. With the support of local government units and agricultural agencies, the program aims to further empower farmers, improve coconut production, and contribute to the sustainable development of rural communities in Cebu.

CFID PROGRAM activities

by doris isabel j. racho
merrian piqero-soliva & jun alguin b. oliver

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Coco Farmers Undergo Food Safety-training

Nearly thirty (30) National Coconut Farmers Registry System (NCFRS) registered coco farmers who are into processing all over the region successfully completed the training dubbed as Safer Food, Better Health: A Food Safety and Market Regulations Training on August 6-8, 2024, this city.

The training capacitated participants knowledge, skills and attitude on food safety, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), Food and Drug Administration (FDA) License to Operate (LTO) and Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) and other market regulations.

Resource Speakers were Doris Isabel Racho, Food Safety Focal of ATI-7 and a member of the Bohol Food Safety Team, Ms. Anne Michelle Ramirez of DOST-7 & Laurecia Matugas of FDA-7.

To give participants an idea on how an FDA approved processing site looks and operates, a visit was conducted at Bauhinia Brewery in Mandaue City.



30 NCFRS Registered Farmers Undergo Native Pig Production

A total of thirty (30) NCFRS Registered farmers from Getafe, Tubigon, and Buenavista, Bohol successfully completed the three-day Training on Native Pig Production and Management (Batch 2) on August 6-8, 2024 at ATI-RTC 7 Training Complex, Cabawan District, this city.

The training aims to enhance knowledge and skills in coconut-based native pig production management.

Spearheading the activity is Information Officer II, Mr. Jun Bungabong Oliver as the Project Officer cum Resource Person with Technical Support Staff, Ms. Hannah Cosicol.

The pool of resource speakers are Mr. Jonas Buñao, an Agriculturist from the Philippine Coconut Authority, Dr. Carl Leonard, Assistant City Veterinarian from the City Agriculture and Veterinary Office, Tagbilaran City, and Mr. Johnny M. Samson, a retired AI Technician.



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