

SIBYO

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF ATI IN EASTERN VISAYAS



Team Spirit Captured ATI-RTC 8's GREATness Focused

SKILL BOOST: GOAT MANAGEMENT
FOR COCONUT FARMERS

NURTURING COCONUT
FUTURES

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Table of Contents

04

TWO NORTHERN SAMAR
YOUNG FARMERS ACCEPTED
INTO TAIWAN INTERNSHIP
PROGRAM

05

TRAINING ON NUTRIENT
MANAGEMENT FOR
CASSAVA PRODUCTION, A
DIGITAL APPROACH FOR
REGION 8

06

CULTIVATING
EXPERTISE: GAP
JACKFRUIT TRAINING

07

LIVESTOCK FARMERS
BOUNCE BACK WITH
INSPIRE

08

SKILL BOOST: GOAT
MANAGEMENT FOR
COCONUT FARMERS

09

NURTURING COCONUT
FUTURES

10

A SHIFT FROM THE SEA TO
THE SOIL: URBAN AND PERI
AGRICULTURE FOR GIPORLOS

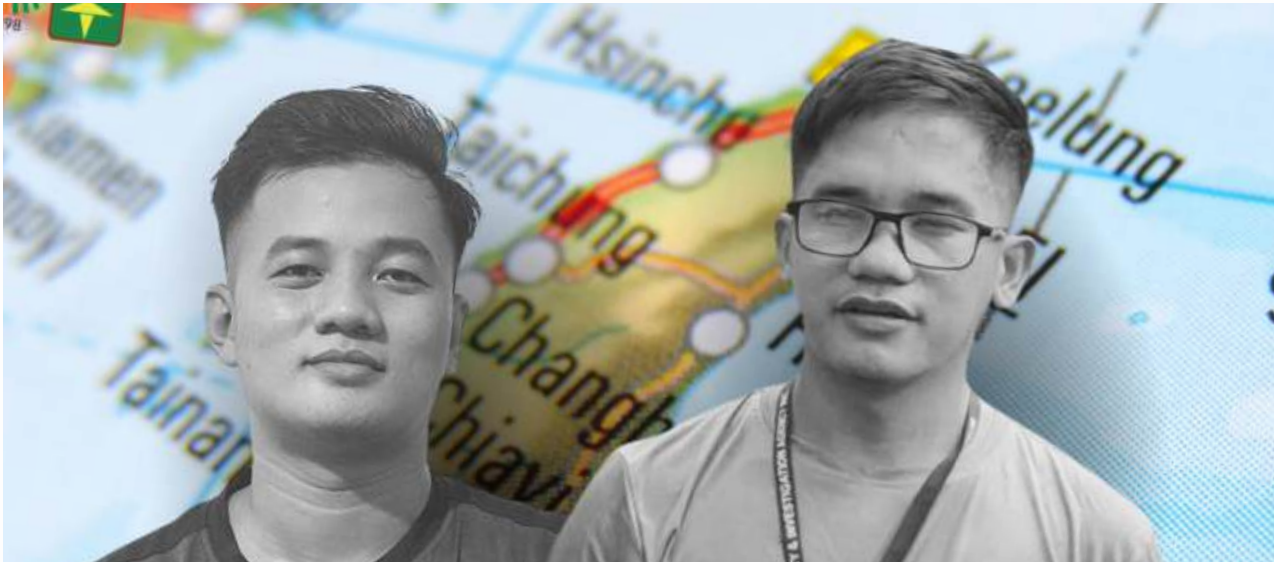
11

TEAM SPIRIT CAPTURED: ATI-
RTC 8'S GREATNESS
FOCUSED

14

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION
WORKERS COMPLETE
TRAINING ON GMP FOR
JACKFRUIT POST-HARVEST
HANDLING AND PRIMARY
PROCESSING

Two Northern Samar Young Farmers Accepted into Taiwan Internship Program



Two promising young farmers from the Province of Northern Samar have been selected to participate in the prestigious Filipino Young Farmers Internship Program in Taiwan (FYFIPT) Batch 4. Mr. Ariel R. Turla from Brgy. San Jose, Catubig, and Mr. Virgilio S. Surio, Jr. from Brgy. Genagasan, Silvino Lobos, have been chosen to represent the region in this unique opportunity.

The FYFIPT, a joint initiative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (MECO) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in the Philippines (TECO), seeks to nurture young Filipino farmers into skilled agricultural entrepreneurs. The program provides participants with hands-on training and exposure to advanced farming techniques in Taiwan.

To prepare for their internship, Turla and Surio completed Mandarin Language, Culture, and Tradition classes virtually in May 2024. They

also engaged in self-paced learning, focusing on various agricultural technologies such as dairy and beef cattle production, rice production and farm mechanization, swine production and management, aquaculture, and vegetable production.

Before departure for Taiwan, the interns underwent a comprehensive orientation and medical examination at the ATI-Central Office on June 9, 2024. They also received training on smart farming, agri-processing, and mental health coping mechanisms.

The interns are scheduled to leave for Taiwan on July 15, 2024, and are expected to return after completing an 11-month training program. Their participation in the FYFIPT is a testament to their dedication to agriculture and their potential to contribute to the development of the farming sector in the Philippines.

by BJLSinon

Training on Nutrient Management for Cassava Production, a Digital Approach for Region 8

Nutrient Expert® for Cassava (NECPh) application is a digital tool designed to provide site-specific fertilizer recommendations for cassava farmers. NECPh, available on both desktop and Android platforms, assists local experts in formulating fertilizer recommendations tailored to specific cassava varieties. Following the 4R nutrient stewardship principles, NECPh helps farmers optimize fertilizer use and improve profitability.

On May 6-8, 2024, Agricultural Extension Workers in the Eastern Visayas participated in a three-day training on Nutrient Management for Cassava Production at the PhilRootcrops, VSU Campus. The ATI-led training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and skills needed to improve cassava yields through effective nutrient management.

The participants learned about various topics, including digital agriculture, e-Learning, cassava management practices, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), and the principles and results of Site-Specific Nutrient Management (SSNM).

During the training, participants had the opportunity to download and familiarize themselves with the NECPh application. They also conducted one-on-one farmer interviews at the CCF Integrated Farm in Brgy. Bobon, Baybay City to gather data for fertilizer recommendations. Additionally, the participants

explored the e-Learning platform, completed online courses, and learned about mobile applications like SPIDTech, which assists in insect and pest management.

Ms. Tessie Albarico, an Agricultural Extension Worker (AEW) from San Ricardo, Southern Leyte, expressed the relevance of the training for her municipality. Given its mountainous topography, San Ricardo is not suitable for rice production. However, cassava cultivation has potential in the area. Albarico hopes that the training will help revive the cassava industry in her municipality by providing valuable knowledge and tools for effective nutrient management.

The training also included a visit to the PhilRootcrops facilities, where participants learned about the services offered to cassava and root crop farmers. Moreover, the training was accredited by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) with nine (9) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) credit units to licensed agriculturists.

By equipping participants with the skills to use digital tools like NECPh, ATI-RTC 8 aims to contribute to the modernization of agriculture and the enhancement of cassava production in Eastern Visayas. *by BJLSinon*

Cultivating Expertise: GAP Jackfruit Training



In line with the Department of Agriculture Regional Field Office 8's vision for Eastern Visayas to become the "Jackfruit center in the country" and the regional effort to promote sustainable and high-quality jackfruit production, ATI-RTC 8 provides jackfruit-related training to its stakeholders in the region.

Thirty-one participants, primarily agricultural extension workers from Eastern Visayas, attended the 5-day training on GAP-Anchored Jackfruit Production and Post-Harvest Operations from May 6-10, 2024 at Abuyog Experimental Station, Abuyog, Leyte.

The participants gained a deep understanding of the jackfruit industry in the Philippines, pest management practices, the principles of Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), and the PhilGAP certification process through a combination of lectures and practical exercises.

Further, the training included topics on jackfruit plantation establishment and management, harvesting techniques, and post-harvest handling. During the practical sessions, participants actively engaged in various activities, such as grafting jackfruit seedlings, planting grafted seedlings, sowing seeds, ring-weeding and fertilizing jackfruit trees, and potting soil medium. These hands-on experiences reinforced their learning and provided valuable insights into jackfruit cultivation.

Nerilyn Gubatana, an agricultural technician from Gamay, Northern Samar, expressed her enthusiasm for the training. She noted that jackfruit production in her area was low due to inadequate care and management practices. Gubatana further shared that the training empowered her to increase production and meet the growing demand for jackfruit, both domestically and internationally.

As part of their re-entry plans, participants intend to conduct training in their respective local government units (LGUs), establish jackfruit nurseries, and guide farmers in implementing GAP practices to achieve certification. *by BJLSinon*

Livestock farmers bounce back with INSPIRE

On May 2021, former President Duterte declared a “State of Calamity throughout the Philippines due to the African Swine Fever (ASF) Outbreak. Despite the joint efforts of the Department of Agriculture, LGUs, the private sector, and all stakeholders, the disease spread to many areas around the country, causing massive damage to the swine industry.

With agricultural economic damage brought by African Swine Fever, the Department of Agriculture crafted the “Integrated National Swine Production Initiatives for Recovery and Expansion” (INSPIRE) Program. The program aims to repopulate and enhance the local swine industry by modernizing and re-structuring the industry for efficiency, sustainability, disease resiliency, and enterprise development.

As part of the INSPIRE Program implementation in Eastern Visayas, ATI-RTC 8 conducted the Swine Project Enterprise Development Training to 22 participants on June 24 - 28, 2024 at ATI-RTC 8, VSU Campus, Baybay City, Leyte. This is aimed at providing the project beneficiaries with essential knowledge and skills in the organization’s management and the swine enterprise development towards project sustainability.

Further, seven beneficiary organizations of Swine Clustering under the INSPIRE Project gained fundamental knowledge on swine management and enterprising. Further, participants crafted a simple business plan anchored to their swine clustering project.

Danilo Lagado, a member of the Campagal Farmers’ Association in Jaro, Leyte, shared: “This is my first time attending the ATI training and it is very comprehensive and enjoyable. Thank you for the training, especially to ATI management, resource persons, and as well as the very interactive and cooperative participants who shared their experiences and knowledge. Our benchmarking at SANCRIFA cooperative was a big help to us, an eye opener in making business more profitable and managing the organization effectively.”

The beneficiaries visited the SANCRIFA Cooperative at San Isidro, Leyte, a beneficiary of the 2023 Swine Multiplier Farm which is currently operational. Chairman Donald Yparraguerre shared their learning experiences on managing the building construction and acquisition of the animals. He also shared his experience as a lead person in handling the cooperatives’ farms and business stalls. He further highlighted that before engaging in the project, everything should be put in a plan.

The INSPIRE program has four main components, namely: Calibrated repopulation, Recovery of breeder-base through the establishment of swine nucleus, multiplier, & production farms, Enhanced insurance program for small-hold/commercial farms, and Credit/Loan program. *by JGSaulan with reports from APGoroy*

Skill Boost: Goat Management for Coconut Farmers

Twenty-five (25) members of the Calaguise Agriculture Cooperative completed the Training on Native Goat Production and Management (Batch 2) held on May 8-10, 2024 in Leyte, Leyte.

The three-day training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of coconut farmers in the production and management of native goats. With the knowledge they gained, they assured to impart the learnings to their fellow coop members.

“I am thankful for this opportunity given to me. Indeed there are a lot of things that we have learned especially in the care of our goats more importantly how to feed them the proper way.” said Lina Baculi, a member of the coop.

The participants were provided with comprehensive insights into various aspects of goat farming. Moreover, they learned about the Coconut Farmers and Industry

Development Plan (CFIDP), the current status of the goat industry, and the latest production technologies. The training also covered stock management, good practices, animal breeding and genetics improvement, animal health care, ruminant nutrition, identification of common diseases, and feeding management.

Additionally, participants were taught to identify suitable forages for small ruminants, farm layout preparation, and demonstrated the use of the FAMACHA Chart to detect anemia levels in goats, which is a crucial indicator of internal parasite infestation.

Overall, the training provided coconut farmers with valuable knowledge and practical skills that they can apply to improve native goat production and management in their respective communities. *by BJLSinon*



Nurturing Coconut Futures

The Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan (CFIDP) is a government initiative that seeks to improve the livelihoods of coconut farmers in the Philippines by revitalizing the coconut industry. There are sixteen (16) implementing agencies (IAs) or government agencies involved in this initiative. One of these IAs is the Agricultural Training Institute, the capacity builder of the Department of Agriculture.

ATI-RTC 8 conducted the Training of Trainers on Coconut Nursery Establishment and Management (B2) with 30 participants on June 10-14, 2024 at VSU Hostel Function Hall, VSU Campus, Baybay City, Leyte. This aimed to equip trainers with the necessary skills and knowledge to establish and manage coconut nurseries effectively. Graduates of the training are expected to pass their knowledge as resource persons and deliver topics on coconut nursery establishment and management to farmers and other stakeholders involved in coconut plantation establishment.

Participants of the training prepared a raised plot seedbed, set coconut seed nuts in a seed bed, sorted and potted good coconut seedlings, identified pests and



diseases of coconut seedlings at the nursery stage, installed log traps, and identified good quality seed nuts.

Raymund Lego, General Manager of KAMMPIL Agri. Corp shares, “I would like to take this opportunity to give my warmest thank you to the facilitators at sa lahat ng bumubuo ng ATI. I believe this training was conducted as mandated by President Bongbong Marcos to uplift the coconut farmers in the Philippines, especially in Region VIII since our area was devastated by Typhoon Yolanda years ago. For us at KAMMPIL Agri. Coop, this is a big opportunity because we

already have our nursery. Our journey here at ATI training was of great help to us.”

Coconut nurseries play a vital role in the coconut industry. They are the starting point for the growth of healthy and productive coconut trees. Training the trainers on proper nursery establishment and management ensures the growth of high-quality coconut seedlings, which is crucial for the success of coconut plantations. This is a critical step towards achieving the CFIDP’s objectives of improving the coconut industry in the region. **by JGSaulan**

A Shift from the Sea to the Soil

Urban and Peri Agriculture for Giporlos

Aligned with the Department of Agriculture's Administrative Order No. 03, Series of 2022, training under the National Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture Program (NUPAP) sought to address global challenges such as food security, climate change, and rising fuel costs. This encouraged alternative livelihood opportunities and provided support to urban and peri-urban agriculture projects.

The third batch of the training on Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture was conducted on May 22-24, 2024 in Giporlos, Eastern Samar. The training aimed to equip participants with the latest technologies and knowledge to promote sustainable food production in urban and peri-urban areas.

The participants, primarily from fishing communities, expressed their gratitude for the training as it introduced them to the possibilities of vegetable production. They learned about innovative techniques like plastic mulching, communal gardening, and hydroponics. The hands-on activities, including hydroponic setup, seed sowing, land preparation, and nursery establishment, sparked the participants' interest and enthusiasm.

Evelyn Duevo, one of the participants, expressed her appreciation for the training and the knowledge gained. She emphasized the potential for additional income through backyard gardening and expressed gratitude



for the support provided by the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI), LGU, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).

To ensure the practical application of the training, participants were provided with personal protective equipment (PPE) and farming inputs to establish their communal garden. The participants planned to sell their produce in neighboring barangays and use the rest for their own consumption, addressing food availability and sustainability issues in their community.

Two more batches of the training are scheduled to be conducted in Southern Leyte and Biliran Provinces by the end of July 2024, completing the five batches of Training on Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture under the NUPAP. **by BJLSinon**

Team Spirit Captured ATI-RTC 8's GREATness Focused

ATI-RTC 8 recognizes the significance of cultivating a strong team culture to achieve its mission of promoting sustainable agriculture through empowering and building capacities for its stakeholders in Eastern Visayas. With this, it is also necessary to explore new learning opportunities through benchmarking and observing good practices in neighboring regions, one of which is Region 7, home to innovative Learning Sites and a powerhouse of tourism in the Visayas.



On May 1-4, 2024, ATI-RTC 8 conducted its annual GREAT (Global Responsiveness Thru Empowerment of the Agri-trainers) entitled: "GREATness in Focus: Capturing Team Spirit, One Click at a Time". The activity is centered around exploring tourism opportunities in Bohol, with particular focus on farm schools. The goal is to strengthen team dynamics while deepening understanding of sustainable

agriculture and agri-tourism. A key component of the team building activity is the culmination of the month-long "Smart Snapping" activity focused on smartphone photography. This will serve a dual purpose in these contexts: It captures the essence of experiences during farm school visits, providing valuable documentation for reflection and learning, and it enhances

participants' visual communication skills, vital for effective training and organizational activities.

One learning site that was visited during the activity was the Greenthumb Farm, well-known for its mushroom production in the island of Bohol. Participants gained insights into Ms. Rona Denque's journey and Greenthumb Farm, learning about its

utilization of its components: vegetables and herbs supply the restaurant, coconut products contribute to ice cream production, and even washed-out sea garbage is transformed into artwork. Moreover, the farm plays a crucial role in supporting small-scale farmers by purchasing their products for value addition.



inception, the process behind their mushroom products and value addition. Ms. Denque also imparted strategies for product marketing and emphasized the significance of prioritizing health.

ATI staff also visited the Bohol Farm. Previously known as Bohol Bee Farm, the farm stands out as a prominent organic farm in Region 7. During the farm tour, participants witnessed the farm's diverse

South Farm is one of the farm-tourism sites in Panglao developed during the pandemic. It provided a livelihood for South Palms Resort employees during the halt in resort operations due to community quarantine. During their visit, ATI staff witnessed basic farm activities that hold potential for replication in Learning Sites across Region 8.



The visit to ATI-RTC 7 stood out as a major highlight of the activity. Dr. Gracia Arado, the Center Director, warmly welcomed the ATI-RTC 8 staff. Subsequently, benchmarking sessions took place across different sections and units of the center. Topics ranged from procurement, planning, and partnerships to effective training methods and information



For their outputs, ATI 8 staff and were assigned to capture photos using various focus techniques discussed during the Smart Snapping activity in April 2024. This challenge showcased their artistic and photography talents over the four-day event. The resulting outputs from this activity are due for submission on May 6, 2024.



Through a blend of hands-on learning and photography training, ATI-RTC 8 aims to enhance team unity, knowledge, and equip participants with practical skills applicable in their work, including documenting progress and crafting engaging training materials. *by BJLSinon*

Agricultural Extension Workers Complete Training on GMP for Jackfruit Post-Harvest Handling and Primary Processing


Jackfruit undergoes various postharvest losses and training farmers to eliminate these is an important consideration. Thus, jackfruit growers must be equipped with sufficient knowledge of jackfruit postharvest, processing, tools and equipment handling, and familiarized facilities, which is vital in marketing jackfruit products.

Thirty agricultural extension workers from Eastern Visayas attended a three-day training on Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) for Jackfruit Post-Harvest Handling and Primary Processing on June 5-7, 2024 at Balay Alumni, Visayas State University Campus, Baybay City, Leyte.

The training included both lectures and practical sessions. Through the lectures, participants gained a comprehensive understanding of good manufacturing practices, food safety, and food hygiene. It also emphasized the importance of Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs).

Participants expressed particular interest in the concept of primary processing. They learned various strategies to extend the shelf life of fresh-cut jackfruit, techniques for controlling jackfruit latex, and methods to prevent discoloration. The concept of blanching was especially well-received and participants were thrilled to learn that simple blanching could not only prolong the shelf life of freshly cut jackfruit but also control latex and prevent microbial activity responsible for jackfruit deterioration.





“It is a very nice training indeed.” said Mr. Socrates Patosa, Jr. He appreciated the application of GMP in the post-harvest handling and primary processing of jackfruit. “We will share all the learnings, experience, and knowledge that were imparted by our Resource Persons to our jackfruit farmers. With the procedures on primary processing of jackfruit, we can assure the good quality and safety of the food product,” he added.

The training was a resounding success, achieving its objectives of enhancing participants' knowledge and skills in jackfruit primary processing. Participants expressed their gratitude for the additional knowledge and updated information they gained, which they are eager to share with jackfruit farmers in their respective localities. As part of their re-entry plans, the participants intend to re-echo the training in their respective Local Government Units (LGUs).

by BJLSinon



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